

Parish News

St Mary's Church, Saffron Walden

St John, Little Walden and St James, Sewards End

Part of Saffron Walden & Villages Team Ministry

November 2024

FREE

Hilary Walker's ordination to the Priesthood



Rev'd Hilary Walker and fellow candidates from the Stansted Archdeaconry after her ordination at Great Notley Church on Saturday 28th September by the Rt Rev'd Roger Morris, Bishop of Colchester.

Below (L to R) Ven. Kate Peacock (Archdeacon), Nicola Horsley, Bishop Roger, Tayrina Ferguson, Hilary, Rev'd Tim Goodbody Diocesan Director of Ordinands, and Canon Janet Nicholls, Diocesan Rural Adviser and Agricultural Chaplain.



Contents for November 2024

THE RECTOR'S LETTER	4
NOTICEBOARD	
Hilary Walker's Ordination	2
Christmas Fair	5
Friends Iraq Presentation	9
Calendar	16
From the Registers	20
Saffron Walden Town Band recital	30
REPORTS	
September PCC Meeting	6
Update on Lighting Project	12
Friends of the Parish Church	14
Farewell to Matt Williamson	20
St Mary's Music News	21
FEATURES	
A Prayer for November	17
You in the Pew	18
Gelio	23
Simon Potter's Ride & Stride	24
Archive Group	27
What's In A Name?	28
The Hundred Parishes walks	29

PARISH NEWS - EDITORIAL DEADLINE

The deadline for contributions for each issue is the 1st Sunday of the previous month. Hence, the deadline for the **December/January** issue is **Sunday 3rd November**.

Copy to Parish Administrator:

email: office@stmaryssaffronwalden.org
01799 506024

or the editor, John Pickthorn:
jejpickthorn@gmail.com
01799 523311

Advertising:

Email: office@stmaryssaffronwalden.org

PARISH NEWS IS A FREE PUBLICATION and can also be viewed (**in full colour**) online on our parish website:

www.stmaryssaffronwalden.org/parishnews

Cover photograph by Gilly Hayes

St Mary's Church Facebook:



[www.facebook.com/
stmaryschurchsaffronwalden](https://www.facebook.com/stmaryschurchsaffronwalden)

St Mary's Church Website:

www.stmaryssaffronwalden.org



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:

Saffron Walden: Vivian Falk: 01799 513128; vivian@brackendalehouse.co.uk

Saffron Walden: Simon Potter: 07913 898248; simoncpotter@gmail.com

Sewards End: Michael Dean: 01799 523388; michaelevelyndean@gmail.com

Sewards End: Lynne Ketteridge: 01799 523898; lynneketteridge@hotmail.com

Little Walden: Helen and Dave Nash: 01799 524265; davenash390@gmail.com

© 2024

All parts of this publication
are subject to copyright.

The Rector's Letter

From The Rev'd Jeremy Trew

Jeremy writes...

This month we will be gathering outside our local church to remember those from our communities who died serving in our armed forces in the wars of the last century and of this one. Some of you may recognise names recorded on the Roll of Honour. For more and more of us the names are those of strangers. Nevertheless, we may be moved by the number of names lost from just one small community, and sense the scale of loss through war; or, we may hear more of people with shared surnames, reminding us that whole families were and are affected by conflict. That, of course, is the whole point of Remembrance Sunday. It is intended to provoke us; to awaken us to the lasting significance of events which happened further and further in our past.



As I write this the war in the Middle East is rapidly expanding as the suffering nation of Lebanon is drawn once again into its role of punch-bag, caught between greater powers, and talks of strikes on Iran intensify. The war between Ukraine and Russia rumbles on with neither side being able to land the crucial blow. The combined economies of the West seemingly unable to out-supply the “industrial might” of the tiny land of North Korea. Politics is, of course, at the root of this, with more European nations turning to extreme right-wing ideologies. We will gather and read names of those who gave their lives opposing such ideology. That is true patriotism, not the hate filled messages of the nationalists. And we should go further; Sudan, Myanmar, Somalia, and the fifty-plus other nations where there is conflict. Where is God in all this? Especially when many claim to fight and kill in the name of their divinity.

When things go wrong we understandably look for someone to blame; it might be God, it might be the “system”, and we might be right. But, if we fail to acknowledge our own role in what has happened then we can never understand why things keep going wrong. It is one of the complex ironies of humanity that all too often we are both part of the problem and part of the solution. I am convinced that the careful use of armed force can help bring lasting peace. But I am just as convinced that if this Remembrance Sunday we fail to hear the names being read, to learn the lessons from the past, and to acknowledge our own contribution to the sins of this world, both as a nation

and individually, then such missions will ultimately fail. That would be tragic, both for the people of these distraught nations, and for all humanity.

So, at this time of Remembrance, let us listen and let us learn.

Best wishes

Jeremy

Christmas Fair at St Mary's—Helpers Required!

The annual Christmas Fair will take place in St Mary's on Saturday 30th November. The opening will be at 10 am and it will last until 1pm.

Many kind friends have already signed up to run or help on the 30 or so stalls we have for our visitors.

There will be all the usual fun of the fair! It is an important day to welcome visitors from the town and enjoy fun, food, fellowship and fundraising. If anyone would like to offer additional help and support, including setting up the stalls and tidying up afterwards, that would be very welcome. We always need items to sell, including cakes, crafts, children's toys, books, plants, jigsaw puzzles, tombola gifts and Grand Draw donations. Many other things are also gratefully received.

There will be a sign up sheet at the back of church, but if anyone wishes further information, please feel free to contact Sue Birchall on 07813 947157 or email sbirchall29@gmail.com



Christmas Barn

Stocking a selection of locally grown Christmas trees, decorations & wreaths

Open daily from

9.30 -4.30pm

22nd November to 19th

December

Now at: The Old Grainstore, Rectory Farm,
next to Animall (Stalleys Barn),
Littlebury, Saffron Walden

CB11 4TL

Tel. 01799 541354

www.audleyendestate.co.uk



"...and don't forget we're coming into Nativity Play season – make sure we have extra tea-towels in stock!"

Summary of items from the PCC meeting on 11th September 2024

1. St Mary's Primary School John Westnedge, Chair of Governors, and Christopher Jarman, Headteacher, described the governance of the school. There were close links with the church: every half term pupils visit the church. St Mary's is an inclusive school: 20% of pupils get extra support, there are high numbers of children with Special Education Needs. The most important pupil admissions policy criterion was to give priority to applicants from church families. The next criterion related to special needs, followed by whether applicants lived in the catchment area. With respect to the PCC supporting the school, John Westnedge said that his being invited to talk to the PCC was a good start and offered to return regularly to answer any questions and have a chat. He reminded the PCC that he sits at the front of the church on Sunday mornings and is willing to be consulted.

2. Parish Rooms It was agreed that a group be set up to investigate maintenance issues concerning the Parish Rooms, which have attracted an increasing number of bookings. All church user groups would be consulted over any major proposed changes.

3. Safeguarding (with Parish Safeguarding Officer Nathan Colley) The Safeguarding webpage (www.stmaryssaffronwalden.org/safeguarding) had been updated and was to be made live with the PCC's approval. The page provides contact information and links to the diocese **Safeguarding Policy and Guidelines** and **Training Courses**. We were reminded that everyone running a church activity should undertake basic safeguarding training. The Diocesan Safeguarding training page indicates who needs to do courses. Anyone who gets an online certificate should send a copy to Nathan. The PCC approved a Pastoral Care course to provide lay people in the Saffron Walden Deanery with an introduction to pastoral care skills, as part of a Diocesan course.

4. Property Group It was agreed to install an information "left turn only" sign at the Museum Street exit. Some lead on the South Aisle roof is cracked. At a visit by the DAC, they were enthusiastic about a proposal from the Saffron Walden Heritage Development Group for a statue in the churchyard to commemorate the Saffron Walden debate, partly in St Mary's Church, in Spring 1647, on the nature of governance of England after the Civil War. There would be no cost to the church. The DAC was also enthusiastic about a scheme for a proposed (probably wooden) nave dais - there is already a working committee for this. It was agreed to review the policy for keyholders.

5. Lighting Project The detailed design for the proposed lighting and a proposal to make a faculty application were agreed. It was further agreed to put the project to tender and to hold a Gift Day.

6. Finance Outward Giving – Due to the deficit, Outward Giving has been restricted to St Mary's School and the Friends of Essex Churches.

We need to retain at least 3 months of our annual expenditure in the General Fund Reserves.

The PCC agreed to ring fence capital held in the Fabric and General Funds for the following: Lighting Project, North Aisle Roof and other Quinquennial work, Nave Altar Project, Organ fund, a possible deficit this year, and the Parish Rooms refurbishment.

7. Worship: Director of Music's report. There are several conclusions from the Listening Project about understanding the acoustics in the church and it was agreed that the results be used to update the statement of needs for the organ.

8. Children and Youth Members of Aftershock and youngsters from the Community Church attended *Dreaming the Impossible* in the summer.

Matt will leave St Mary's to become Diocesan Youth and Children Advisor at the end of September. He has identified leaders to continue Aftershock for the rest of this term. Hilary Walker may help Katie with the midweek bible study.

Preliminary discussions have been held and a group appointed to oversee the replacement of Matt Williamson as the Children and Youth Officer.

The PCC endorsed the Standing Committee's approval of a children's Sunday Club activity in the Parish Rooms during the 10:30 Communion service.

9. Health and Safety. The PCC policy and guidelines will be updated.

10. Daughter churches: St James: Youth work will continue and be reviewed at Christmas.

St John's: there have been two very successful outdoor services, one in the rain in the grounds of the church. The church has accommodated a baby grand piano and have now raised the funds to buy one.

11. Future events The next PCC meeting is on 6th November 2024.

Carol singing in two of the new Saffron Walden estates - this will be open to the congregation and choir and is being led by Hilary Walker.

12. Other business. Denis Tindley resigned from the PCC in April. The PCC gave a vote of thanks for his many years of service on the PCC, as a church warden and particularly during the interregnum.

The UDC Local Plan includes pedestrianisation of Church Street. A response should be made indicating what vehicular access the church needs.

PEASGOOD & SKEATES



INDEPENDENT FAMILY
FUNERAL DIRECTORS & MONUMENTAL MASONS

Serving the Community since 1847

SHIRE HILL
SAFFRON WALDEN
01799 523314

66B HIGH ST
SAFFRON WALDEN
01799 513513

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

Also in Duxford, Sawston
Haverhill and Cambridge

www.peasgoodandskeates.co.uk

enquiries@peasgoodandskeates.co.uk





DATE FOR YOUR DIARY- ADVENTURES IN IRAQ

The Friends are hosting an evening where, very kindly, Richard and Paula Winter will give a presentation on their recent trip to Iraq.

This event will be in the Parish Rooms on Wed 13th November starting at 7.30pm and will include a free glass of wine, nibbles and coffee. There will however be a donation basket on exit, sadly we will not have a card machine.

The evening is open to all so please come and join us, you might even consider becoming a member and you would be most welcome.



YOUR PHONE & LAPTOP REPAIR SPECIALIST

 01223 375690

 www.itechmobile.co.uk

 38 High Street Saffron Walden,
Essex, CB10 1EP

**CAMBRIDGE | LONDON | SAFFRON WALDEN
BRIGHTON**



Radwinter Road Cemetery, Saffron Walden, CB11 3HU

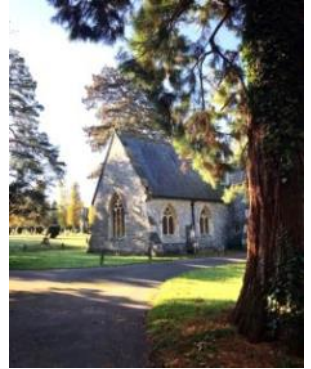
Are you looking for a final resting place for a loved one? The Cemetery at Radwinter Road is an oasis in the town which is open 24/7 and there is tranquillity within.

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/>



R FISHER & SON

Est. 1959

Chimney Sweep

All aspects of chimney work

Master member N.A.C.S.
HETAS regd.

www.chimneys.demon.co.uk

01763 838360

Rothwell's
Carpet & Stone Floor Cleaning

Carpet Cleaning & Stone Floor, Upholstery, Rugs

A few points that make us stand out,

Rothwell's has been in business since 1993

We're an honest local family firm.

Our large truck mounted machines mean more cleaning & drying power for the best results possible.

Members of both the NCCA and TACCA.

We will move the furniture.

100% satisfaction or it's FREE.

Call Oliver and Max Campbell for expert help today.

01223 832 928

www.Rothwells.biz



SAFFRON

Launderers & Dry Cleaners

We specialise in the following areas:

Dry Cleaning

Personal Domestic Laundry

Linen Rental

Wedding Dress Cleaning

Occasional Table Linen Hire

Repairs & Alterations.

13-17 Gold Street
Saffron Walden
Tel: 01799 522588

9 Snowley Parade
Bishop's Stortford
Tel: 01279 652128

15 The Traverse
Bury St Edmunds
Tel: 01284 724077

www.saffronlaundry.com



Update on the Lighting Project

Faculty, Bats, Tenders, and the Lighting Gift Day

A lot has happened since the update on the Lighting Project published in the October Parish News. Our PCC approved the detailed design for the new lighting at their meeting on 11 th September and they also decided that we can submit an application for approval to install the lighting, a petition for Faculty.

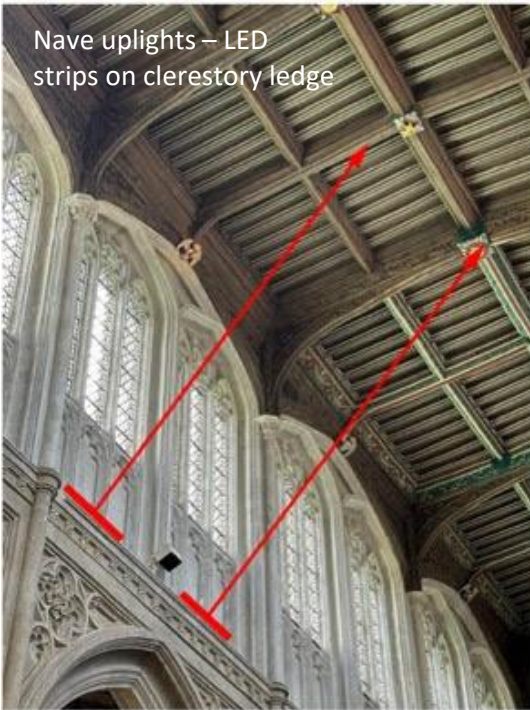
We will submit the Faculty application, which has to be reviewed by the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC), as soon as we can. Our Lighting Designer is working on the various drawings and specifications that we need

for the application and we are updating various documents which are our responsibility to produce. We are aiming to submit our application for the November or December meeting of the DAC.

The main item holding up our application relates to the bats which live in the church or, more specifically, the report from the bat survey which we are required to submit. We have a small maternity roost of bats which live under the church roof from May to September. There are only 30 to 40, some churches have hundreds, but as they are a protected species ecologists carry out a survey for us and report, via the Bat Conservation Trust, what their presence means for any work being done in the church. The survey was carried out in August and we are still chasing for the report. The most likely outcome is that we will be required to carry out the installation when there are no bats in the building. Ever wondered where



Nave uplights – LED strips on clerestory ledge



the bats go in and out of the church? They aren't in the church from October to April, they hibernate somewhere else. In the summer they enter through strips of glass in the windows right at the top of the chancel which were placed there in the 1970s instead of full panes of glass.

The PCC also approved that we go out to tender to contractors who will install the new lighting. The tender package is just about ready to be issued and we will have responses before the end of the year.

The Gift Day for the Lighting Project was held on Saturday 21 st September and by the Monday after we had raised just over £30,000 including Gift Aid. With

the £25,000 matched funding that gives a remarkable total of over £55,000. And this will have gone up further, some other donations have come in recently but I can't yet give you a total because our Treasurer is on an extremely well earned holiday. Thank you to all who came along on the Gift Day, all who donated to the project and to all who helped on the day.

When might we install the new lighting? That depends on how quickly we get Faculty approval and the final cost and how long the installation will take which we'll find out from the tenders. Most likely, the work will be started as soon as the bats leave the church in September 2025.

Our prayer meetings for the project have now finished. Please hold the project in your prayers and continue to pray for our Lighting Team, for our Lighting Designer and his team, for all who will work to install the equipment, for God's wisdom and encouragement in all of our discussions and giving thanks for all who have supported the project financially or with their time and expertise.

Steve Hasler
3rd October 2024



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

THE FRIENDS' PATRONAL SERVICE The Friends banners were put back up in the Church in time for the service, and will remain on the pillars for you to enjoy and to remind everyone of some of the projects which we have funded, or part funded, over the years. Three kneelers (see below) were dedicated: one, with a touch of gold, for the late Queen Elizabeth; one for the late Tim Hardingham, who not only taught at the County High but was also a member of our Clergy Team; and one for our late Chairman, for over 40 years, Lawrence Gooderham. I am sure that you will all take the time to have a good look and to remember these three people who meant a lot to us all.



AGM ON 8TH SEPTEMBER We were delighted to see so many members, 40 in total, the best turn-out for many years. Members have already received minutes, but in summary :

- ◆ Subscriptions have had to be raised to £10 for a single member and £15 for a couple, which was still felt to be very reasonable.
- ◆ We now have 111 members and rising.
- ◆ Following the sad loss of Robin Betser and the resignation of Gill Lovegrove after many years of dedicated service, two new council members were elected: Rebekah Auty and Vivian Faulk, who were welcomed on board.
- ◆ Denis Tindley gave a summary of the works involved in the Lighting Project and announced that the Friends would make an initial donation of £30,000.

Here's to another busy year!

FUND RAISER: We are hosting a talk by Richard and Paula Winter on their Iraq trip on Wednesday 13th November—see inside back cover for details.

ARONSOHN PRINT FOR AUCTION David Aronsohn a British artist living in Saffron Walden has very kindly donated to The Friends one of his Artists Print copies of an etching of St Mary's. The etching is 30cm x 23.5 on a board measuring 51cm x 41cm and is unframed.

David has made work for public and private collections, he also taught art for many years including senior lecturer at Central Saint Martins. He has been mentored and learned from the sculptors Philip King, Fritz Kormis, Paul Neagu and Phyllida Barlow. His initial teaching came from Patrick Symons and Euan Uglow.

The Friends are offering the etching on blind bid which will close on 31 st December 2024. As a guide one of David's similar etchings sold for £100. The etching will go to the highest reasonable bid.

Offers should be left at the Parish Office, Church Path and marked Friends Etching Bid.

Report by Pamela Mugliston.

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

Sunday 3 November - All Saints

- 8.00am BCP Holy Communion
- 9.15am Wiggle Church
- 10.30am Holy Communion [Y] & Sunday Club
- 4.00pm All Souls Service
- 6.30pm H2H (tbc)- Youth-led service for all in Parish Rooms

Thursday 7 November

- 10.00am Silent Prayer in the North Chapel

Sunday 10 November

- 8.00am BCP Holy Communion
- 11.15am Service of Remembrance [Y]
- 4.00pm Words, Music and Compline for Remembrance Sunday

Thursday 14 November

- 2.00pm Mothers' Union: *A visit to Assisi* by Lesley Lancaster

Sunday 17 November

- 8.00am BCP Holy Communion
- 10.30am Holy Communion [Y] & Sunday Club
- 6.30pm Living Stones service (tbc) at St Mary's, Saffron Walden

Sunday 24 November - Christ the King

- 8.00am BCP Holy Communion [Y]
- 10.30am Family Service
- 4.00pm Taizé service

Saturday 30 November

- 10am—1pm Christmas Fair



Regular weekday services at St Mary's

Tuesdays

5.00pm Evening Prayer by Zoom, see weekly bulletin for login details

Wednesdays

8.00am Morning Prayer

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

St James', Swards End

Sunday 3 November

10.30am Holy Communion

Sunday 10 November

3.00pm Remembrance Service

Sunday 17 November

10.30am Morning Praise



St John's, Little Walden

Saturday 9 November

10.45am Remembrance Service

Sunday 24 November

10.30am Holy Communion



A Prayer for November

Provided by the Prayer Team

Dear Lord,

Pease don't let me mistake your silence as an absence in response to my prayers.

Help me to remember that you are with me in all I do and say.

Thank you Lord for always being there.

Amen

YOUinthe**PEW** interviewed by Chris Bishop

Lesley Sibson



Lesley's parents were originally from Manchester but she and her older brother were born during the war in North Wales and began their education in a Welsh speaking school. The family moved south after the war and they soon lost what little Welsh they knew. All the family enjoyed sport and outdoor activities, but family church going did not feature.

During her primary school years, Lesley and a friend took themselves off to a Methodist Sunday school and later Crusaders. She attended Watford Grammar School for Girls for a year before her father's work took the family to Cambridge, so she continued her education at the Cambridgeshire High School for Girls in Long Road. At this time, the school had an active Scripture Union and it was during a memorable week sailing on the Norfolk Broads with the group that she asked Christ into her life. The family lived in Stapleford where she and her brother were prepared for confirmation - quite a lengthy process in those days!

At the end of one tennis season, a friend invited Lesley to join the Little Shelford badminton club. She describes herself as a "rubbish badminton player", but on her first evening there she met John who was home from National service - so she kept up her membership! Lesley moved to London to train as a physiotherapist at Kings College Hospital and still meets up with the group that trained with her. John was in the midst of his theological training at this time.

During the first term, Lesley and a friend attended a meeting of the hospital's Scripture Union. On leaving at the end of the meeting to go to the rugby club Friday night Hop they were dismayed at the vocal disapproval of others in the group - so they never went back!

On qualifying, Lesley's first job was at the newly opened Harlow hospital. John was serving his title at Great Parndon and they were married in 1967. It was an exciting time to be in this parish as each week young families were moving from London in to the new housing. A new church was needed at the other side of the parish and this became a joint ministry with the Methodist Church.

Lesley came to Saffron Walden when John was serving his second curacy and their second son was born here. Having two babies under two, she felt

‘nappy bound’ but has clear memories of Joan Towers and the Young Wives group being a great source of encouragement.

The following years were spent in four different parishes in Essex and were busy, but enjoyable - raising 3 sons, part-time work in the NHS, sharing fully in the many activities of parish life (and Oh!-the fund-raising!) and keeping an ‘open house’. Holidays were a lifesaver and were always spent camping or caravanning in the UK, usually somewhere remote.

On retirement in 2004, Lesley and John came ‘home’ to Saffron Walden and enjoyed a slower pace of life. She still values being a volunteer in a few local charities.

The boys and their families are spread around the UK. With eight grandchildren between the ages of 6 and 24, nothing quite beats the rowdy times when they all manage to get together. Lesley says she tries to see the positives in situations, to acknowledge and be grateful for her many blessings, and to keep active.

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 and like and follow.



St Mary's Church Saffron Walden

3 likes • 4 followers

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

From the Registers

Baptisms

1st September Ruth Ayah Plant
15th September Saylor Ann Gregory

Weddings

7th September Harry O'Malley and Megan Goddard

Funerals

21st August Sheila Manning
17th September Benjamin Buckfield

FAREWELL TO MATT WILLIAMSON



The photo above shows Matt, with his Aftershock Youth Group at their last meeting. He will be much missed by them especially for the annual Summer residential youth festivals and for the fundraising dinners which in his time have raised over £25,000 for Jimmy's Homeless in Cambridge. Matt has worked in the Team for 11 years as our Youth and Children's Leader, engaging with young people of all ages, in our churches, schools and the wider community. He goes to be Youth, Children and Families Advisor for this Diocese.

St Mary's Music News

Due to the (very few) hot days at the end of the summer break, choir rehearsals were initially held in church, rather than the Parish Rooms. These were enhanced by the bats flitting overhead as we sang. Sadly their donations to the choir stalls, which always seem to foil the best efforts of volunteer cleaners, were somewhat less appreciated!



The term started with the Patronal Festival and SMMA Festal Evensong on 8 September, with a rousing rendition of Haydn's "The Heavens are Telling the Glory of God" concluding the evening.

The following week, friends and family were treated to the annual Choral Scholars concert. The first part featured solos and duets, with songs and instrumental pieces played on the piano, violin and cello. The music ranged eclectically from Handel and Debussy to Edith Piaf. Part two started with seven Scholar members of the SWCH Chamber Choir singing "The Field" by David Malloy, a tender, haunting piece. The mood then changed dramatically with a tribute to Queen, opening with a stunning (in every sense) rendition of "We Will Rock You" by all 10 current Scholars, plus 4 alumni. The annual performance of "Love Call Me Home" by Peggy Seeger, which always brings a lump to the throat, was followed in fine style by the very appropriate "We Are The Champions", as indeed they are. Very many thanks are due not only to the Scholars, especially as we say au revoir to Eden who is off to university and Hayden who is graduating to the adult choir, but also to those who supported the event, notably Kate and Ellie Beare, Jeremy Allen, Patrick Li and of course Oli.

The SMMA's event on the following day on the theme of Love and Loss was performed by Edward Gildea reading poetry by Marvell, Arnold, Eliot and Duffy, with Iestyn Edwards (bass baritone) and Sioned Williams (harpist) playing music by Handel, Schubert and Wagner. This somewhat unusual event raised over £300 for SMMA funds. The summer lunchtime concert series raised over £1500, so there is enough in the kitty for new music, robes etc etc.

By the time you read this, the autumn coffee morning concerts will have started and finished, with performances by pupils from SWCHS, soprano Karin

Fischer-Buder, and organ concerts by Thomas Hawkes and former organ scholar Elliot Randall. The first of these concerts, given by students from SWCHS, was a great success; both performers and audience were delighted. The second concert was a beautiful programme of Early Music and not only featured our very own Karin, but also there were accompaniments and solo performances by Stephen Penton on piano and harpsichord, and a guest flute performance from Jo Byers, who has sung with our choir. On Friday 4 October, the SMMA welcomed just shy of 200 children from four local primary schools to attend an organ outreach concert. The audience were treated to organ music ranging from Bach to Mons Leidvin Takle, were given a video tour of the organ (thanks to Peter De Vile), and enjoyed a performance of Prokofiev's Peter and the Wolf, arranged for organ. It seemed to be a great success, and special thanks to Poppy Razzell for the comedy duck-calls from a hidden spot up in the pulpit! We also welcomed Alison Knights back to lead all the children in a very lively and heart-warming rendition of God's People Aren't Superheroes, and the event ended with our three organists: Oli, Jeremy and Philip Sunderland playing



Widor's Toccata. The choir also led a service of Choral Evensong in Norwich Cathedral, with a preview of the music for Norwich at St Mary's.

In

November we

are looking forward to supporting the All Souls service at 3pm on Sunday 3rd, and the British Legion service on Sunday 10th. December starts with the Advent Carol service at 18.30 on Sunday 1st. And of course the Juniors and the Choral Scholars, as well as the adult choir, will be running stalls for the Christmas Fair. Reports on all of this, if space allows, next time.

Ottillie Lefever

Photographs by Hannah Razzell and Martin Hugall



Gelio's Anthology of Obscure Proverbs

Here are three proverbs for you to mull over, all on the subject of 'old age'!

From England we have **"The older the fiddle, the sweeter the tune"**

From Germany comes **"The old forget, the young don't know."**

From Greece comes **"The old age of an eagle is better than the youth of a sparrow."**

Ross Nursing Services Ltd.

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



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

What you can expect:

- * Well trained, well presented carers who undertake continuous training.
- * Carers with DBS checks and good references.
- * A close working relationship with local GPs, District Nurses and other Health and Social Care professionals.
- * We continually monitor our services using Quality Assurance surveys.
- * We can deliver all aspects of personal care, palliative care, specialist respiratory care and other specialist care needs.
- * In addition we can accompany clients on hospital visits or visits to the GP, we do respite sitting services, client shopping and basic household management.
- * We also have someone who can help with tasks such as setting up the internet.

For further information please contact Ros Darton or Rita Williams on 01799 551046

Simon Potter's Ride & Stride

I've known about Ride & Stride for a number of years, promising myself that one day I'd take part. It was a hasty decision to do a circuit of the twelve churches of our team ministry, one that presumed I'd be feeling fit. I felt the evening before that I was coming down with something, only realising afterwards that it was Covid. The ride wouldn't have helped but it was for the better that I didn't know this when I set off. If I had, I'd have probably bailed.

I haven't done a sponsored *anything* since I was in the Scouts, and fundraising has changed a lot since then. Nowadays, one is also expected to have a 'page' and to create a 'story'. You are asked if you want to donate in memory of anyone. Being new, I hadn't previously considered that. However, I did lose a dear friend earlier this year; one who would have approved of the effort and the cause. About twenty years ago, he and foster son Craig cycled by tandem from Land's End to John O'Groats, raising money for church funds.

I got to know Rev'd (later Canon) Gary Philbrick nearly thirty years ago when a graduate student at Southampton. Whilst training for ordination, he formed the Keble Choir, one of those occasional visiting choirs. I joined when it performed Tallis's forty part motet "*Spem in Alium*" as part of its tenth anniversary celebrations (performed at big anniversaries ever since). He named the choir after the hymn writer and member of the Oxford Movement, John Keble, a former vicar of Otterbourne in Hampshire where Gary had been organist. It was a fortunate coincidence, meaning his choir could have a name with a story. (Learned though he was, he couldn't abide Latin names, and the choir had an in-joke about *Voces Pretentiones*).

The choir has sung in a majority of England's 42 cathedrals as well as occasional visits abroad. Many members live in Hampshire, the choir's spiritual home and where Gary spent most of his working life (his last post being at Winchester Cathedral), but we have people who travel from the USA and Japan. We don't make a bad sound, considering the choir only meets twice a year, but the priority is having fun (when recruiting, social fit generally trumps musical ability). I've had a great time, singing super music in our wonderful cathedrals, making good friends with some priceless memories on the way.

Gary died in July aged 67 after contracting Malaria on a trip to Germany, a year before the choir's fortieth anniversary, and two weeks before our week in Norwich. The annual cathedral week was a highlight in his life but he recognised its importance to others and maintained that it should go on without him. Our day off, which might otherwise have been a trip to the coast or the broads, was to go to Winchester to sing for his funeral.

Thank you to all who sponsored and supported me. We have raised around £800, half of which goes to The Friends of Essex Churches Trust and half to St Mary's.

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



Tuesday to Saturday 9 - 5
8 Station Street
Saffron Walden
Essex CB11 3HE
01799 522328
www.bandrcarpets.com



Christopher THE LOCKSMITH

ARE YOUR LOCKS BEHAVING BADLY?


We Value Old Fashioned Customer Service
A Local Trusted Family Business Since 1989

 Specialist in UPVC & Wooden Doors

 No Call Out Charge

 No Fix No Fee

 All Work Fully Guaranteed

 10% Senior Citizen Discount



For More Advice & Help Call Christopher:

07772 111 222

www.christopherthelocksmith.co.uk

Please mention Parish News when responding to an advertisement.

Bentens

Chartered Certified Accountants Registered Auditors

Friendly, well established local firm dealing with all your audit, accountancy and taxation matters.

For a short free consultation (without obligation) please contact

Abbey House 51 High Street Saffron Walden

Telephone : (01799) 523053

info@benten.co.uk

www.benten.co.uk

www.SAFFRON WALDEN MOTORS.co.uk
CAR SALES - SERVICING & REPAIRS - M.O.T. TEST CENTRE

QUALITY LOW MILEAGE CAR SALES

Fully inspected - Serviced - 12 month M.O.T - Cleaned & Valeted

*** £10.00 off M.O.T. tests for the life you own the vehicle ***

TOWN CENTRE M.O.T TEST CENTRE

Book a while-you-wait appointment or leave your car with us

**SERVICING
REPAIRS
MOTS**

**DIAGNOSTICS
WHEEL ALIGNMENT
AIR CONDITIONING
TYRES - EXHAUSTS - BATTERIES**

Family owned business Est. 1938
66 HIGH STREET - SAFFRON WALDEN

Tel: 01799 523597
info@saffronwaldenmotors.co.uk

The Grange Care Home

Our family caring for yours

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

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



01799 243 005



Fallow Drive, Newport, CB11 3RP



www.countrycourtcare.com





Muniments
Room

Archive Group

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

Compiled by our Archivist, the Rev'd Canon Chris Bishop

From Parish News, November 1951

Parish Church Christmas Fair

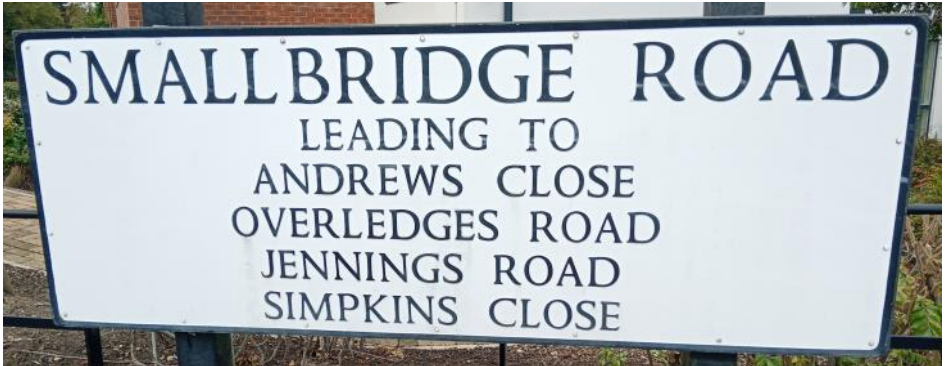
The Annual Christmas Fair is to be held in the Town Hall on Saturday December 1st, from 2 pm to 5.30 pm. The Fair will be opened by Mrs Frank Travers of Debden, followed by a Christmas Fair Dance at 7.45 pm. Modern dancing to the music of John Goddard's Band, tickets 2/6 to be obtained at the door or at Messrs. Harts, King Street, Saffron Walden.

As last year there will be no charge for admission to the Fair and we hope to have a good supply of goods for sale; we also hope that a good crowd of people will support us, as Church expenses this year are very high. There will be plenty to suit all tastes, and a good supply of Christmas Presents at reasonable prices.....This year's new venture will be the China and Glass Stall.....as usual gifts of cakes, tea, sugar and milk will be gratefully received by the Tea Committee and Working Party.....We hope to have a Children's Gift Service in the Parish Church on Sunday afternoon at 3 pm on November 25th , when we hope to receive gifts from the children for the Sunday School Household Stall. Here as usual are a few suggestions, coffee, tea, cocoa, salt, pepper, mustard, custard powder, cake mixtures, floor polishes, boot polishes, honey, jams, in fact any thing one would use in the home.....Last year we nearly made £400, so this year the Vicar hopes we will reach the target. We certainly shall if everyone gives of his best to make the Fair a huge success.



What's in a name? (3)

Another month and another new estate to explore. This time I have chosen the rather smaller estate that lurks off Radwinter Road, behind Cornell Court, and which comprises Smallbridge Road, Overledges Road, Simpkins Close, Andrews Close and Jennings Road.



At first, I must admit, I was somewhat stumped as to what the origins of these road names might be. Simpkins, Andrews and Jennings are all surnames and there are certainly references to people with the surnames of Andrews and Jennings in the baptismal and burial records and I am sure there will probably be some Simpkins too, but I could find no reference to a Smallbridge or an Overledges.

It suddenly occurred to me that Smallbridge might well be a location rather than a family name and this led me to consider place names that might have been used to provide names for the new roads. I headed off to the Gibson Library on the first floor of the public library which contains a positive treasury of books and pamphlets about the town. If you haven't been there and such things interest you, it is well worth a visit.

And there I found a field book dated 1758 compiled by Thomas Butler who was deputy steward of the manors covering the town. This beautiful handwritten book contains details of the many fields and plots of land within the manors. The index showed me that all of the street names were also the names of patches of land. The location of each is given, but not necessarily in a way we would find easy to follow, by relating it to the other areas it adjoins. The 1842 and 1877 Ordnance Survey maps show the fields, (all to the east of what was then the Union Work House, now the Community Hospital) as belonging to Lord Braybrooke, apart from Overledges, which lists Anne Archer as owner.

Overledges is said to cover three acres, for example, but in 1495, when it was in the hands of Thomas Overledges, it only contained two acres. Simpkins, Andrews and Jennings fields were, probably, also named after their owners back in the time of the early Tudors, but Smallbridge abutted the Slade to its north at a place called 'Smallbridge'.

Field names from the past are, therefore, retained by giving the same name to modern roads in approximately the area in which those field were once upon a time.

Hilary Walker

Thanks to the Library and to Audley End Estate in researching this article
Pihotograph by Sarah Pickthorn

THE HUNDRED PARISHES SOCIETY

One of the best ways to enjoy and appreciate our wonderful area is on foot, so the Hundred Parishes Society's website has always included a selection of walks. They have generally been focused on footpaths but last winter's exceptional rain made many paths difficult. This prompted us to develop a new series of walking routes that do not use any footpaths. We hope our "Quiet Lane Walks" will appeal to anyone who does not like cleaning boots and also perhaps to families, people with mobility problems or less-energetic cyclists.

Our website now has almost 40 Quiet Lane Walks in addition to over 100 established routes. Find the one that suits you by either scanning the lists of walks or by going to a specific parish introduction to see which route numbers go there – the Quiet Lane Walks start with the number 3. We have put together quiet lane routes that visit 41 of our hundred parishes but we would welcome suggestions for more - just email a simple route outline to hundredparishes@btinternet.com and we will put together a full route description.

The new routes range in distance from 1 mile to 12 miles and pass through typical Hundred Parishes territory: lovely villages and attractive countryside, often with an inviting café or pub.

Route descriptions can be freely downloaded from our website (www.hundredparishes.org.uk) and then printed. The descriptions should ensure that nobody gets lost and they include snippets of information about places along the way.

If you do not have access to the Internet but would like some walk suggestions, please write to The Hundred Parishes Society, 2 Greenfields, Stansted Mountfitchet CM24 8AH. We will send you a list of available routes and then print some for you. There is no charge.

Ken McDonald, Secretary

Happy Birthday Holst!

Following the success of *Rhapsody in Blue* at their concert in St Mary's Church last May, **Saffron Walden Town Band** are now working on a new programme for an autumn concert.

To celebrate the 150th anniversary of the birth of English composer, Gustav Holst, the band will be performing *Jupiter* and *Mars* from *The Planets*, *Second Suite in F*, *First Suite in E b* and *March* from *A Moorside Suite*.

Holst (1874-1934) came from a musical family and learned to play the piano, violin and trombone. To support himself during his studies Holst, played the trombone professionally, at seaside resorts in the summer and in London theatres in the winter. Even when composing in later years, Holst played trombone in theatre orchestras, was organist in several London churches and took teaching posts because, 'man cannot live by composition alone.'

Holst composed *The Planets* between 1914 and 1916; each planet having its own distinct character. The stately theme from the middle section of *Jupiter* was later developed by Holst to fit Sir Cecil Spring Rice's patriotic poem, *I vow to thee my country*. In 1926 this was included in a new Songs of Praise hymn book (at the suggestion of his friend, Ralph Vaughan Williams) and named 'Thaxted' after the village down the road where Holst lived for several years.

The Town Band's concert – **Happy Birthday Holst** - will be held at **The Baptist Church** (High Street, Saffron Walden CB11 3HD) on **Saturday 23rd November**, starting at 7pm.

The programme also includes modern classics: Neil Diamond, Elton John, Taylor Swift and Adele fans will not be disappointed!

Entry for adults is £10, entry for children (16 and under) is free. Refreshments (likely to be tea/coffee and a slice of birthday cake) are included in the ticket price. Tickets will be available online at www.swtb.org.uk, at the Tourist Information Centre, or on the door. Any proceeds will be donated to Essex and Herts Air Ambulance.

If you play percussion, or a brass or woodwind instrument, Saffron Walden Town Band would love you to join them. The band currently has over 40 members and meets each Wednesday evening to rehearse. You can find out more about the band and contact us through the band website: www.swtb.org.uk .

Alison Trew

Clarinet Player in SWTB



Members of SWTB performing in St Mary's Church



Simon Potter starting his Ride (see p24)

Pamela Mugliston shows Stas our new Ukrainian Church Guide, translated by his mother





*St Mary's Church
Saffron Walden
Christmas Fair*

Saturday 30 November 2024

10am – 1pm

Stalls to include:

Refreshments, cakes

Mulled wine and mince pies

Christmas gifts

Handicrafts and children's stalls

Tombola and Grand Draw

Visits to Bell Tower

Christmas music

Free admission, wheelchair access