

Parish News



St Mary's Church, Saffron Walden

St John, Little Walden and St James, Swards End

Part of Saffron Walden & Villages Team Ministry

December 2024 - January 2025

FREE

Lynda Sebbage's licensing in Debden

Rev'd Lynda Sebbage was welcomed as Team Vicar with responsibility for Debden and Wimbish at a service of licensing and installation on October 24th at St Mary the Virgin and All Saints, Debden.

The presence of the Bishop of Chelmsford, the Archdeacon of Stansted, the Bishop's Chaplain and the team clergy - all robed - set the scene for a meaningful and uplifting service. The congregation comprised representatives from Saffron Walden and all the villages. Jeremy Trew, in his roles as Area Dean and Team Rector, welcomed everyone and presented Lynda to Bishop Guli who presided over the licensing. The Venerable Kate Peacock, Archdeacon, installed Lynda. Bishop Guli's sermon focused on new beginnings, challenges including searching out and making welcome those on the sidelines.

The service was a fascinating mixture of historical and religious significance with oaths of allegiance and canonical obedience being declared and a formal licence being handed over by the bishop. Lynda was then led by the Archdeacon and the churchwardens to the font, the pulpit, the lectern and the altar. At the end Lynda rang the bell to announce her arrival and the west door was flung open to welcome all. The buffet afterwards provided a chance for people to mingle, reflect and to welcome Lynda and her husband, Peter, to the Team. A total of £425 was collected for the Bishop's charity for Licensed Ministers in the Diocese of Chelmsford.



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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 **February** issue is **Sunday 5th January 2025**.

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The Rector's Letter

From The Rev'd Jeremy Trew

Jeremy writes...



One of the important themes in the Christmas story is that of silence. The Gospel tells of Mary's silence being broken by the angel who appeared to her with world-shattering news, and then the long silence as the Baby grows in her womb. There is the night-time silence of the fields above Bethlehem which was shattered as angels appeared to tell the shepherds of the Child born in the stable, and, above all, the silence of God's action in bringing Jesus into the world, a silence which was broken by the cry of a newborn Baby.

Silence is characteristic of the way God works in our world. People who think they are important and mighty never do anything without making sure there will be a blaze of publicity, but God doesn't work like that in our world. When He came among us, it was not in a royal palace, as the Wise Men discovered, but in a stable; not among courtiers and glittering furniture but in a manger surrounded only by the beasts that were sheltered there. Jesus' coming was announced to a group of shepherds out in the fields, not in the corridors of power. God acts quietly, behind the scenes, and we need to be alert and watchful to recognize the truth of what is happening. I believe that we can detect the activity of God behind all sorts of events in our everyday lives - if we are prepared to stop and look and listen.

God acts in our lives through the love of those close to us, and He speaks to us through the events which go on around us, through the words of friends and colleagues, even in the silence of our own minds. The Christmas story reveals to us a God who is passionately concerned about what goes on in our world and in our own lives, a God who is constantly seeking to take the mess we make of things and to make something good out of it all. Today's world is full of the tragic consequences of evil, ignorance and stupidity, and God is looking for us to work with Him to sort it out. I believe that is one of the things we are talking about when we pray "Thy kingdom come" and if that prayer is to be real it needs to be accompanied by a willingness to get involved in the problems of our community, our nation and our world (as well as the difficulties and problems in our own lives) and try to identify God's solution and work together to attain it. There won't be flashing lights and trumpet blasts to rally us to the cause. God works silently behind the scenes,

and challenges us to work with Him to make the world a better place. And Jesus shows us that love is the transforming power through which God seeks to achieve His purpose, love which can make all things new.

This is where the familiar Christmas story holds out hope for the world. If we want 2025 to be better than 2024, it is no use just waiting for a miracle to happen. The miracle has happened already - at Bethlehem, two thousand years ago. What is needed now is for us to take its message seriously, listen again to the promise of "peace to people of goodwill", and make up our minds to do all we can in the spirit of goodwill to help build that peace of which the angels sang. It may seem a tall order, but we have to start somewhere, and for us that somewhere is here.

May God grant you all a joyful and peaceful Christmas, and many blessings in the coming New Year.

Best wishes
Jeremy



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"I'm sorry Michael – even if you HAVE changed your ring-tone to 'Away In-A-Manger', it's still ALL mobiles OFF!"

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

Margaret Collingwood

A vicar is expected to up sticks and go somewhere else in retirement. It is often a brutal uprooting, leaving behind parish, community and friends. When Jeremy stepped down from his post as Rural Dean at Guildford, he and Margaret took a map and a pin, as she dreamt of looking at houses and gardens all over the country. They wanted a small market town with history, good with the elderly with lots going on. First stop: Saffron Walden. Last stop: Saffron Walden. It has everything retirees could hope for, including several lively and caring churches.

Moving in was a New Now. No constant phone calls and knocks on the door, being given special treatment and huge welcome hampers on arrival as previously. Two old age pensioners had to find their own way. Jeremy found a purpose in writing 'Mr Saffron Walden' about George Stacey Gibson, playing tennis and joining the Historical Society and Margaret started her psychotherapy practice. Jeremy was soon swallowed up to take Sunday services in the many local churches.

St Mary's has a particular charm. Margaret and Jeremy liked to worship there when they could and attend the outstanding musical treats the church is renowned for. Food was also a big

draw – the women's breakfasts for Margaret and the men's brunches for Jeremy. Perhaps their greatest contribution was opening their home to the men's group for supper and wine and Bible Study. The men cooked the food, washed up and served Margaret, and then gave her flowers. She liked that! Debden and Wimbish held a special place in their hearts, too. Of course it was the cakes, the meals - with no kitchen, the warmth, the Flower Festivals but also the congregation's acceptance and appreciation in the small things that allowed both Jeremy and Margaret to feel accepted and "seen". They may never know how important that was.

The next New Now for Margaret was learning to live alone. Her husband of nearly sixty years had died, and she no longer had the role of clergy wife. Here again the church community and her new friends were wonderful. Her three daughters and family have been awesome. A small bossy dog has also made a huge difference.

So, what does a widow in her eighties have to contribute? Margaret says





she is apparently not insured to help on the coffee rota and her cake making skills have waned. She just tries to have a thankful heart and be far more mindful of each encounter and experience, she has pondered this question for three years. The answer seems to be around faithfulness and trust. She said, “Jesus made outrageous and ridiculous claims about peace in our hearts, forgiveness and eternal life, unless they are true. He is no liar”.

Margaret wants to live this latest New Now as if it is the most meaningful stage of her long, busy and happy life. She would choose A New Now as her motto on a family coat of arms, as each day is given to us, fresh and unexplored. Tomorrow is in God’s hands, though Jesus assured us He would be with us, with ‘Welcome’ on the mat.

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QuinquaQuiz 2025

Dear QuinquaQuiz goers and those who might be interested in becoming one. There will be yet another quiz on Saturday **March 1st 2025** in the Parish Room. 7pm for a 7.30pm start. (Money raised always goes towards **the Bishop's Lent Appeal.**)

As usual, I ask that each team has 6 members with each player paying £5 to join their team. (Please bring your own drinks and nibbles.)

If you would like to take part, all you have to do is to give your name and hopefully the Team Name you wish to enter to the PARISH OFFICE by Monday February 24th .

The QuinquaQuiz is what I might call a light-hearted quiz with a slight difference! I very much look forward to hearing from you.

Canon Chris Bishop (Quiz Master)

07810 851002 chrismitre@hotmail.com



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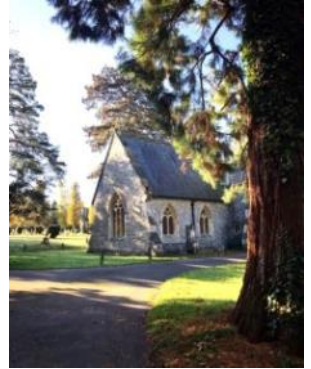


Radwinter Road Cemetery, Saffron Walden, CB11 3HU

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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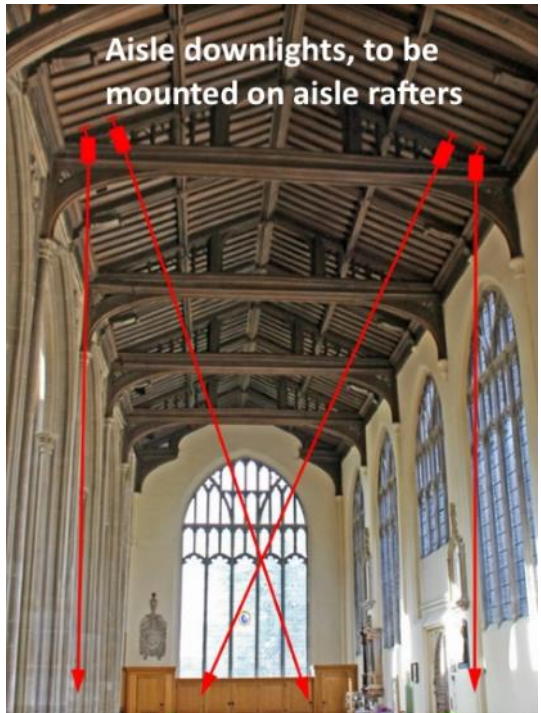
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Brief Update on the Lighting Project

The installation of the lighting has gone out to tender and a number of the possible contractors have visited St Mary's. We've been guided by our lighting designer on the five contractors to approach, this includes installers who've worked on the lighting at large church buildings such as Chichester, Westminster, Norwich and Ely cathedrals and St George's Chapel, Windsor. We expect to receive the bids by the end of November which will allow us to confirm the final cost, to select the preferred contractor and to start to plan the installation with them. We've been told that all of the installers will be on at least a six-month lead time and so we are definitely looking at the work taking place from September 2025 unless we have any unforeseen delays.



The application for approval to install the lighting has now been written and will be submitted this week. Historic England and the Church Buildings Council will be consulted during the review of our application because this is a significant change in a grade I listed church. In view of this, it will take approx. five months before we get the approval document in our hands, as long as all goes well.

Finally, I reported in the November edition that the Gift Day raised over £55,000. Since then, the £25,000 matched funding has been received so all of the £55,000 is now in St Mary's bank account.

Here's hoping that we'll have the new lighting in place by Christmas 2025!

Steve Hasler
4th November 2024

Trees

The Admiral's OAK was a noble tree
It kept us safe to roam the seas
To guard our coasts and to foster trade
That's how our sailing ships were made.

The YEW tree's fruit so long ago
Gave fighting men the feared longbow
And joined its use to the fletcher's craft
Transforming ASH into arrow shafts.

The WILLOW weeps beside the stream
The artist loves such rural scenes
And the sportsman too will echo that
As he loves the sound of ball on bat.

The CHESTNUT, horse or sweet by name
Gives rise to autumn's conker games
While sweet on embers scents the air
And adds this food to Yule-tide fare.

While OAK is king the BEECH is queen
Throughout the land her Grace is seen
And everywhere at pastures edge
The Queen of trees might lay a hedge.

SPRUCE and PINE and BALSAM FIR
Will ev'ry year our senses stir
For gifts and lights will always be
The treasures of the Christmas Tree.

There's HAWTHORN, HOLLY, HAZEL too
And CHERRY tops this woody crew
ROWAN, BIRCH and the tall old ELM
Dominate this rural realm.





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

NEWS FOR 2025

Visit us at the Christmas Fair and take a look at our albums of events. We will have a table at the West door right beside our bookstand. If you haven't already joined then that would be an ideal opportunity or a gift idea for a friend, it's only £10 a year.

We look forward to a busy 2025 with two Cathedral trips which will be announced in the new year so we hope that you will join us.

The Adventures in Iraq evening was a great success, so please let us have your ideas for a similar event in 2025.

We will have our Summer Lunch in June so as soon as the date is announced get that in your diary.

The Friends Council members would like to wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and every best wish for 2025.

Report by Pamela Mugliston

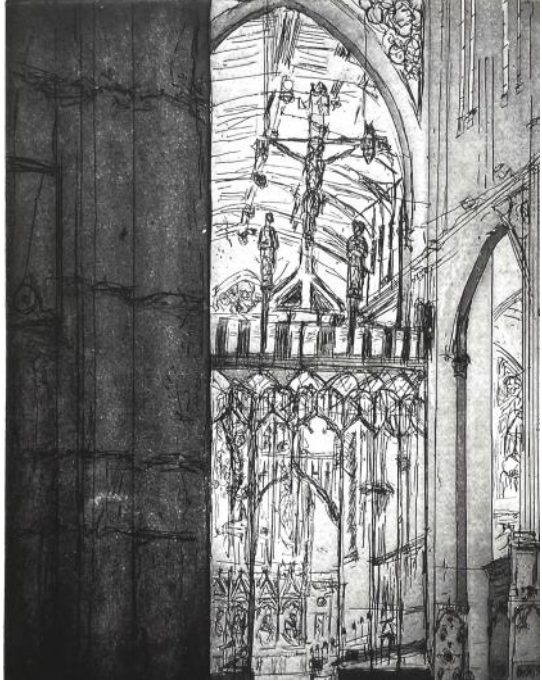


ARONSOHN PRINT FOR AUCTION David Aronsohn, a British artist living in Saffron Walden, has very kindly donated to The Friends one of his Artists Print copies of an etching of the chancel of St Mary's. The etching is 30cm x 23.5 on a board measuring 51cm x 41cm and is unframed.

David has exhibited in 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 a blind bid which will close on 31st 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.



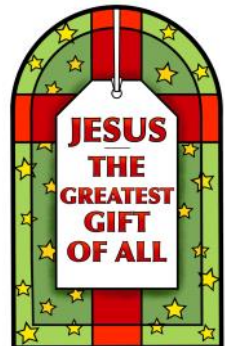
Advent Quiet Morning

There will be a Morning of Quiet Reflection on Saturday 14th December between 9.30am and 12.30pm in St Mary's Parish Rooms, led by The Ven. Kate Peacock, Archdeacon of Stansted.

These are wonderfully refreshing and reflective mornings, if you are interested, please contact Hazel Colebrooke.

Postponed until Saturday 8th March 2025.

hazel.colebrooke@gmail.com



The Calendar

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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 1 December - Advent Sunday

8am BCP Holy Communion
10.30am Holy Communion [Y] & Sunday Club
6.30pm Advent Carol Service

Thursday 5 December

10am Silent Prayer in the North Chapel

Sunday 8 December

8am BCP Holy Communion
10.30am Second Sunday Holy Communion [Y] & Sunday Club
4pm Christingle Service

Sunday 15 December

8am BCP Holy Communion
10.30am Holy Communion & Sunday Club [Y]

Thursday 19 December

7.30pm Blue Christmas Service

Sunday 22 December

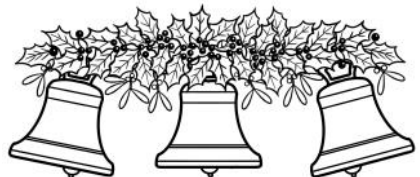
8am BCP Holy Communion
10.30am Holy Communion [Y] & Sunday Club
6.30pm Service of Nine Lessons and Carols [Y]

Tuesday 24 December - Christmas Eve

4pm Lighting the Christmas Tree
6pm Lighting the Christmas Tree
11.30pm Midnight Holy Communion

Wednesday 25 December - Christmas Day

10.30am Christmas Family Communion [Y]



Sunday 29 December

10.30am Team Holy Communion [Y]

Thursday 2 January

10am Silent Prayer in North Chapel

Sunday 5 January

8am Holy Communion (BCP)

10.30am Holy Communion [Y] & Sunday Club

6.30pm H2H Youth led Service for all

Sunday 12 January

8am Holy Communion (BCP)

10.30am Second Sunday Holy Communion [Y] & Sunday Club

4pm Epiphany Choral Evensong

Sunday 19 January

8am Holy Communion (BCP)

10.30am Churches Together United Service **at the United Reformed Church**

4pm Living Stones Service

Sunday 26 January

8am Holy Communion (BCP)

10:30am Deanery Confirmation and Holy Communion [Y]

6.30pm Service of Light

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)

A prayer for the Christmas season

Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child,
Make thee a bed, soft, undefiled,
Within my heart, that it may be
A quiet chamber kept for thee.

Martin Luther

Translated by Catherine Winkworth

St James', Swards End

Sunday 1 December - Advent Sunday

10.30am Holy Communion

Sunday 15 December

10.30am Morning Praise

Saturday 21 December

5pm Carol Service

Wednesday 25 December Christmas Day

10.30am Holy Communion

Sunday 5 January

10.30am Holy Communion

Sunday 19 January

10.30am Morning Praise



St John's, Little Walden

Sunday 8 December

10.30am Family Service

Saturday 21 December

5pm Carol Service

Wednesday 25 December Christmas Day

10.30am Holy Communion

Sunday 12 January

10.30am Family Service

Sunday 26 January

10.30am Holy Communion



A prayer for Advent

Christ, saviour of humankind,
Where the life of the world is burdened by our sin,
where your people are broken-hearted,
you call us to repentance.
Help us to prepare the way for you,
Build highways for you
And clear the rubble from our own doorstep.

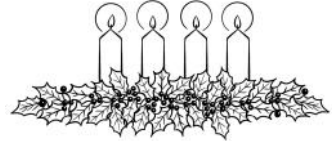
Kate McIlhagga

JUST ONCE A YEAR

Music still plays but some are close to sleep.
Excitement fades now into satisfied relief.
One star, significantly brightest in the sky,
still winks to catch the eye as curtains close
against its light.

Its imitation shimmers in the room,
where this year's trend in cool designer balls
adorn a tree immune from needle-drop,
whose presence here today is next year's
only certainty,

A crib-scene, Grandma's token of the past,
is on the shelf beside the paperbacks,
between the cards depicting Santa Claus,
proclaiming Season's Greetings from old friends
remembered annually.



Today, this glowing house played host
to warmth of loved-ones gathered in
for feasting, gift exchange, shared laughs
at cracker jokes and memories. Antagonism
put aside, for now.

Too soon the calendar dictates return
into the everyday. The star is packed away
in tissue-paper clouds, the crib scooped up.
Inside its battered box: an empty manger,
a broken lamb.

Christine Ractliff

CHRISTMAS CRACKERS

I will be handcrafting my crackers again this year with all proceeds going to St Mary's.
In each cracker there is a hat, a snap, a motto/joke, a gift - and "something to play
with".

The price will remain at £3.50 each cracker. Orders must be to me by Sunday 1st December please - or see me with your order at the Church Fair.

As always it is helpful if you can let me know adult/teenagers/children
and male/female/non-specific.

Wishing you all a Blessed Christmas.

Diana Hoy - dd.hoy@ntlworld.com'

From the Registers

Baptisms

20th October

Ryan James

Felicity Green

Maurice Stephen Green

Arnold Lee Green

27th October

Idris Osgar Eira Lumbard-Smith

Weddings

5th October

Marc Forrest and Megan Downes



Choristers assembling in Norwich Cathedral

St Mary's Music News

The enjoyable and successful autumn morning coffee concert series closed in October with a highly impressive organ recital by former scholar Elliot Randall, and plans are already underway for the spring series.

One of the many highlights of the past month was the opportunity to lead a service of Choral Evensong in Norwich Cathedral. Some of us went on a fascinating free tour of the Cathedral before rehearsals in the Song School, whose motto is appropriately "They shall laugh and sing". Then we moved into the choir stalls for instruction from the duty vergers in how to process and recess, before working out the best balance between the organ and the singing. This was particularly tricky because of the enormous distance between the 2 groups of musicians. Oli and Jeremy engaged in an incomprehensible (to non-organists, especially the many passing tourists) debate about the multifarious options available. The team photo before the service



of course shows everyone on their best behaviour. It is not clear whether the Juniors were influenced by a misericord carving, sadly defaced during the Reformation, of the fate awaiting naughty choir-boys in the Dark Ages.

The service was very moving, and we are grateful to Caroline Goulder and Peter De Vile for organising this, as well as to the many robe transporters, chaperones, and other helpers. The period from October to January is always busy for the church musicians, but there has still been time for Choral Scholar Eleanor to be commissioned. November began with the All Souls service on Sunday 3rd and the British Legion service on Sunday 10th. At the end of the month the Juniors with their ducks and the Choral Scholars with mulled wine, as well as the adult choir, will be running stalls for the Christmas Fair.

Meanwhile we are practising several new pieces as well as some old favourites for the Advent Carol service at 18.30 on Sunday 1st December and the Service of Nine Lessons and Carols at the same time on 22nd December. At the moment we are working on our Russian pronunciation, which is proving

almost as challenging as Welsh has been in the past. I am always impressed by how well even the youngest members of the choir manage to sing in a wide range of languages.

It is very encouraging to see that the ranks of the Junior Choir have been



swelled by the summer recruitment programme. 6 new joiners will be attending their first service in robes at Christingle at 4pm on Sunday 8th December. The Juniors will also be leading the services most appropriate for younger children at 4 and 6 pm on Christmas Eve for Lighting the Christmas Tree. And then after a very short break we shall be looking forward to Choral Evensong for Epiphany on Sunday 12th January. Happy New Year!

Ottlie Lefever (who took the photograph of the misericord)

Choir pictures by Ya-Hsiang Huang



Gelio's Anthology of Obscure Proverbs

With Christmas in mind, I have three proverbs for you on the theme of 'giving'.

Two from England are **"Give and spend, and God will send"**, and

"He gives twice who gives quickly."

From Denmark comes **"He who gives to me teaches me to give."**



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From the Archives

**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, December 1941

My Dear Parishioners,

1941, now rapidly drawing to a close, has been a year of exceptional difficulty. Thanks however to the strenuous and loyal support of two of the best colleagues I have ever had and the equally valuable help of many lay workers in many directions, we have pulled through it much better than I ever ventured to hope. The black-out, the coupon system, income tax at 10 Shillings in the Pound, and last but not least, the heavy war insurance premiums have been formidable foes to face, stopping many of our usual activities and sadly curtailing others. We have felt the benefit of the few legacies which have been left to us in recent years and invested all of them in government securities, the interest on which has helped not a little to pay our way. I am glad to think that the need for permanent and substantial endowment to which I have more than once called attention is beginning to be realised, though we have still a long way to go before it can be considered anything like adequate for such a Cathedral-like Church as our one, with its necessary organisations, staff and unavoidable expenses.

It is not a time now for starting new developments, all our energies are directed to keeping old institutions if not in the full sense alive, at any rate in suspended animation. Hardly a week passes, but an important worker is called up and where are successors to be found? We want them in the Church Lad's Brigade, the Sunday School and elsewhere. I sometimes see letters in the paper saying there are too many elderly persons doing the local work. I only wish I could find a few veterans who for the duration would lend the Church a hand.

Yours sincerely

L. Hughes

(The Rev'd Leonard Hughes had been vicar of St Mary's since 1917)

What's in a name? (4)

This time I am turning my attention to the estate which lies to the south of the Ashdon Road, opposite De Vigier Avenue and reaching down to the Slade.

I must admit that the names here didn't exactly jump out at me presenting their origins, so I have had to make a few assumptions and am happy to be proved wrong if any one can correct me. Once again, I have not been able to cover all the street names.

I am starting with Gabriel Street. Much as it would be good to find a street named after an archangel, I think it is far more likely that this street is named after Gabriel Harvey. We already have a Harvey Way so this time his Christian name has been used. Gabriel Harvey was a Saffron Walden lad. There is a blue plaque to him on the building that houses the laundry in Gold Street. He was born the son of a master rope maker and was educated at Saffron Walden Grammar School, then located in Castle Street,

before matriculating at Christ's College. Cambridge in 1566.

He later became a fellow of Pembroke Hall.

He is best known for his work on English verse forms and for his feud with a fellow scholar, Thomas Nashe, culminating in Nashe's attack on him 'Have with you to Saffron-Walden' in 1596. Harvey, however, went on to retire to Saffron Walden after a controversy laden career. Saffron Walden Museum holds a selection of material, some by Gabriel Harvey himself.

Strachey Close probably takes its name from the Strachey family who were significant figures in Saffron Walden society in the 16th century. They were prosperous farmers with property in various parts of the town. Thomas Strachey was involved with Katherine Semar in the founding of the Guild of the Holy Trinity, one of the earliest forms of town government and the family were clearly part of the ruling clique of the town as they were also involved in the chantry Guild of Our Lady of Pity which administered the town's alms-house. In 1587 Thomas received a grant of a coat of arms



which enabled him to describe himself as a gentleman.

Clutton Road is named after the Reverend Ralph Clutton who was vicar of Saffron Walden between 1844 and 1870. His name is inscribed on the tenth of St Mary's bells: C.&G. Mears, Founders, London 1849. Ralph Clutton, B.D. Vicar. Thomas Frye, Henry Smith, Churchwardens 1849. It was during Rev'd Clutton's incumbency that the churchyard at St Mary's was closed to all except special burials in 1857.

Hilary Walker
With thanks to the Gibson Library
Photograph by Edward Juxon



We here at Uttlesford Foodbank would like to thank the congregation of Saint Mary's Parish Church, Saffron Walden for your very generous Harvest Festival collection which weighed 56.8kg. This is enough to provide around 120 meals and will also give much needed hope and comfort to those in need.

Every month we hand out on average 5 tonnes of food and without the support of people and organisations like yourselves and our amazing community, we couldn't do the work that we do. Harvest donations are becoming increasingly important to help refill our shelves after a busy summer and keep us going until the Christmas rush.

This year with the continuing pressure on household finances we have seen a marked increase in the need for our services together with a decrease in the level of donations so this makes your generosity particularly welcome. The food you have given us will go a long way to making the lives of those living in poverty that little bit more bearable.

Once again thank you so much for your generous donation.

Best wishes from everyone at Uttlesford Food Bank.

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The Hundred Parishes Society

Until the 19th century, education in England was mostly linked to religious institutions or funded by wealthy donors. The Education Act of 1870 made a commitment to the provision of education to all on a national scale. The Hundred Parishes has some fine examples of schools that were founded prior to this time and continue to educate young people today.

Felsted School was founded in 1564 by Richard Rich, the first Baron Rich. Under Henry VIII, he accumulated immense wealth whilst overseeing the dissolution of the monasteries, and he was later appointed Lord Chancellor of England under King Edward VI.



Gatehouse to Rye House, Stanstead Abbots, the home of Joyce Frankland

Dame Joyce Frankland, 1531-1588, lived at Rye House in Stanstead Abbots, the wife of the lord of the manor. Her son was killed by a fall from his horse. In her will, Dame Joyce remembered him by providing funds for the education of boys at many locations including the “free grammar schole” in Newport, now The Joyce Frankland Academy.

St Edmunds College in Standon parish is the oldest Catholic college in England. The main building dates from 1769. The school chapel is Grade I listed, built in the mid-19th century and designed by A.W.N. Pugin whose best-known work is the Elizabeth Tower housing Big Ben in the Houses of Parliament.



Memorial to Sir John and Lady Leventhorpe in Sawbridgeworth Parish Church

Some schools built after 1870 have adopted the names of notable locals. For example Leventhorpe Academy in Sawbridgeworth was established in 1965 and named after the Leventhorpe family. Sir John Leventhorpe died in 1625 and has one of the finest memorials in Sawbridgeworth parish church.

Ralph Sadleir School in Standon was founded in 1971 and named after Sir Ralph who was born in 1507 and knighted in 1543 by Henry VIII. When Queen Mary I came to the throne, Sir Ralph retired to live quietly in Standon.

Ken McDonald, Secretary

Editor: The Hundred Parishes Society aims to increase awareness, enjoyment and care of an area of 450 square miles of northwest Essex, north-east 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.

Everyone at St Mary's Church wishes you a peaceful and blessed Christmas

We warmly invite you to share in our Christmas services in 2024.
Details of all the services for the Christmas period can be found at stmaryssaffronwalden.org/christmas

Advent Carol Service 6.30pm Sunday 1 December.

Join with members of all the local churches for this special service of readings and carols by candlelight.

Christingle Service 4pm Sunday 8 December.

Oranges decorated with red tape, sweets and a candle are lit during this service. Children are especially welcome.

Blue Christmas Service 7.30pm Thursday 19 December.

A quiet service for anyone who finds it hard to buy into the forced merriment of Christmas, or wants space, or for whom this might be a difficult time of year.

Christmas Carol Service 6.30pm Sunday 22 December.

A traditional service of bible readings and carols sung by the congregation and choir. Also on YouTube.

Christmas Tree Service 4pm and 6pm Christmas Eve Tuesday 24 December.

These services are particularly suitable for children. Children are welcome to dress as shepherds or angels to take part in the Christmas story. A collection will be shared between the Mayor's charities. Presents will be donated to children in a women's refuge – please don't wrap.

Midnight Communion 11.30pm Christmas Eve Tuesday 24 December.

The first communion service of Christmas.

Christmas Day Family Communion 10.30am Wednesday 25 December.

Join us to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ on this special day.
Also on YouTube.

