

Parish News



St Mary's Church, Saffron Walden

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March 2025

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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 **April** issue is **Sunday 2nd March 2025**.

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*Cover photograph of St Mary's by Simon Potter
Confirmation photograph by Martin Hugall*

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www.stmaryssaffronwalden.org



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The Rector's Letter

From The Rev'd Jeremy Trew

Jeremy writes...

The point of Lent is not denial.

But for a long time I thought it was. Everything I heard about Lent revolved around the acts of self-denial. It was all about what object or habit one would give up and how hard it was to deny oneself of that thing. Of course that denial was meant to help one think about God and Christ's sacrifice, but in truth the focus was always on the act of denial itself. The question always is, "What are you giving up for Lent?" as if that is what the season is about.

On one hand it's understandable that we miss the point of Lent. In our religious traditions, rituals and legalism are far easier to promote, understand, and implement than spirituality and faith. We can grasp rules. It is far easier to tell kids to obey rules than to explain to them why they should desire to act rightly. They then end up following the rules simply because the rules exist. When it comes to Lent we often do the same – denying ourselves something for the sake of denial. We give up chocolate thinking that act of denial is the purpose of Lent. And we end up missing the point.

But Lent isn't about denial, it is about transformation. It is the season in which we prepare to encounter Christ's sacrifice by endeavouring to become more Christ-like ourselves. Transformation is about letting ourselves be filled with God's presence so that we can be shaped by God's grace. Our acts of *kenosis* – denying ourselves in order to empty ourselves enough to allow God to fill us – are means to an end. They are disciplines that prepare us to be transformed. We deny ourselves so that we can be reborn as new creations – to live more fully as the Kingdom citizens God desires us to be.

So I am very tentative in choosing what disciplines I will follow during Lent to open myself up to God's transforming power. I've discovered that for me personally, legalistic denial for the sake of denial often achieves the opposite purpose. Giving up coffee doesn't make me a better follower of Christ, it just makes me more irritable. Such disciplines don't assist me in emptying myself in order to let God in; they simply fill me with more of me.

I've come to learn that in order to become more fully the person God wants me to be, I instead need to make sacrifices that actually allow me to achieve those ends. Often those sacrifices are less about personal denial, and more about following disciplines that encourage me to love others more. In



the past I've attempted to eat more ethically or shop fairly – which of course required discipline and sacrifice on my part (and a bit of denial as well), but the outcome of these outwardly focused changes was far more personally transformative than if I had just eliminated something from my life for forty days.

So for me the question for Lent is not “What am I giving up?” but instead “What can I do to allow God to transform me this season?” The answers to those questions might be the same for some people, for me changing the question shifted how I observed Lent. Whatever the case, I think it is important to understand what the ultimate purpose is behind why we engage in certain disciplines unless we miss their very point.

Best wishes

Jeremy

Welcomer Training and Recruitment.

There will be a Welcomer Training session on Evacuation Procedures at 9am on Sunday 16th March between the 8am and the 10.30am services. This will take place in the Church and will include breakfast.

If you are considering joining the Welcome team then please come along and I can talk you through the regular welcome duties after the training. It is an important role within the full Church Team and one where you meet all of the congregation over a period of time. You have time for a quick chat, a vital part of the work, as you may be the only person someone has spoken to all week.

Do think about it and let me know if you feel it is something for you or even if you just want to come along and see what it is all about, we will be pleased to see you.

For catering purposes please contact me on 01799 521697 or email pjmteddybear@btinternet.com

Pamela Mugliston

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

The Garveys



Marion and Richard arrived in Saffron Walden with the Beast from the East at the beginning of 2018.

They had met at the fledgling University of Lancaster in December 1965. Richard had arrived to read Economics the previous year and Marion came to read History and English. They were introduced by Marion's flatmate who was also Richard's badminton partner and quickly became an item.

Richard graduated in 1967 and went to work at the Bank of England whilst Marion took her degree to London in 1968 to gain a PGCE. They married in 1970 and moved to the village of Little Waltham, just outside Chelmsford, after Marion had been appointed to the History Dept at Chelmsford County High School for Girls.

Their first son, Michael was born in 1974 and Robert followed in 1979. By then they were living in Tolleshunt D'Arcy where Marion became much involved with the Women's Institute (this has continued to the present day, where she is an enthusiastic member of both Gibson and Little Walden WIs). Another move, to Great Waltham, followed when Michael started at Felsted Prep School in 1982, initially as a day boy. He soon decided he was missing out on after-school activities and became a boarder a couple of years later. Robert followed in his footsteps both at the Prep and then the Senior School. With both boys boarding,

the main opportunity to see them was at the Chapel services on Sundays, and so Marion and Richard became regular attendees at the school services.

After a move to Onslow Green in 1992 Marion and Richard attended the “peculiar” church known as Black Chapel in North End. This was run by its Trustees with weekly services but attendance was very limited with an average number barely reaching double figures. The Chapel was fortunate in having ample resources to maintain the Grade 1 listed building and cover its other expenses (the proceeds from the sale of the local pub contributed significantly to the legacy funds managed by the Treasurer (latterly Richard!)).

With the turn of the century Marion and Richard decided it was time to



downsize. Both were keen gardeners and it was a wrench to leave their big house and garden in Onslow Green. They could have managed for a number of years more but decided they wanted to start afresh in Saffron Walden, which had long been a favourite destination, both for the market and the concert hall.

On arrival they joined the Lent course which provided a taster for several of the local churches and settled on St Mary's. After Black Chapel the scale was somewhat daunting and a bit overwhelming but the

welcome was warm and friendly. Within weeks, Rev'd David Tomlinson decided Richard needed a job and, as a good opportunity to get to know more people, Richard agreed to co-ordinate the 2018 Christmas Fair. Who can forget his rather unnerving spectacle as an Ugly Sister that year? Marion played her part on the catering team and soon found her niche on the flower arranging rota, helping with the Flower Festival the following summer. They soon added other roles as Welcomers and, in Richard's case, as Chair of the Finance Committee.

If asked for a motto by which to live, it would be “All will be well” and so far it has been!

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Finding the next “ABC”

The 105th Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, vacated his position on 6th January this year, and there has been some speculation about the procedure to be followed in choosing his successor, at a time when the Church of England is in need of clear leadership. I am writing this at a time when there are continuing questions about the position of the Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell, exacerbated by the news that the Bishop of Liverpool has “retired” following allegations of impropriety.

As it was highly likely that Justin Welby, who will be 70 on 6th January 2026, would be stepping down in the near future in any case, it may seem surprising that the identification of his replacement wasn’t already under way. The process is led by the Crown Nominations Commission, (‘CNC’) whose role is to identify the person they believe God may be calling to this ministry, as unlike a secular recruitment process, one can’t simply apply to be the Archbishop of Canterbury. Generally, candidates will have been occupying senior positions in the Church, and should be aged between 30 and 70, but needn’t be English.

By the time that you read this, the public consultation will have started, and the identity of the 17 or so members of the CNC should be known. Anyone with questions or suggestions is encouraged to email abc106@churchofengland.org. Last December, Lord Evans of Weardale was appointed to Chair the CNC. Jonathan Evans is a former Director-General of the Security Service, MI5, and until October 2023, he was Chair of the Committee on Standards in Public Life. In accordance with the Standing Orders of the General Synod, he is “an active and communicant member of his local parish church.”

The selection process takes several months to ensure the needs of the Diocese of Canterbury, the Church of England and the global Anglican Communion are met. The CNC, consisting of representatives from the Church of England and the Anglican Communion, will meet in May, July and September to pray, reflect and nominate a candidate. The chosen individual must be supported by at least two-thirds of voting members. It is unlikely a list of potential candidates will be officially made public during the process. Usually, the name of the CNC’s recommended candidate is given to the prime minister, who passes it to King Charles. It is expected there could be an announcement by the autumn.

In the meantime, many of Justin Welby’s functions as Archbishop of Canterbury have been delegated to the Archbishop of York. The metropolitan functions will be delegated to the Bishop of London, Dame Sarah Mullally, while the diocesan functions will be passed temporarily to the Bishop of Dover, Rose Hudson-Wilkin.

JOHN PICKTHORN

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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News from the Primary School

Spring term has started well at St Mary's C of E (VA) Primary School, with impressively high attendance records in spite of the cold weather and the inevitable coughs and colds that result. In addition to the 'normal' classroom learning, the range of activities already covered by students this year is remarkable.

In addition to participating in the RSPB's Big Garden Birdwatch, the school has been working closely with the charity 'Cultivating Change', which helps to develop a productive gardening and growing space for the pupils of St Mary's and the wider school community. Through having a functioning gardening space, the pupils will have the chance to be involved in hands-on gardening activities, benefit from spending time outside in nature in a calming growing space and learn to grow crops (primarily vegetable, herbs and flowers). Last year, Cultivating Change kindly donated seeds enabling the school to grow a lot of produce including courgettes, pumpkins, lettuces, chard, sunflowers and potatoes which were enjoyed by pupils, staff and the school kitchen.

Other highlights include an indoor athletics meeting at Dame Bradbury's School, at which St Mary's Years 5 and 6 put in excellent performances to finish second. The following week saw Year 3 and Year 4's team storm the Saffron Walden Family event finishing in 1st place out of 9 teams. As a result, the team will compete in the finals on Wednesday 12th February at the Lord Butler Leisure Centre taking on winners from all the school areas of Uttlesford. Last week, four of the pupils visited Great Chesterford Primary School, to take part in a public speaking competition with children from other local schools. The four Year 4 students were given the topic "Environmental Awareness" to talk about, and answer questions on, and by all accounts, acquitted themselves very creditably.

Ged, the "School Lollipop Person" retired at the end of January after 12 years (he never missed a day in all that time) and was invited to School Assembly to be appropriately thanked by the children and staff. The school is actively looking for a replacement School Crossing Patrol Officer, and anyone interested should visit www.workingforessex.com or phone 0333013 5888.

Pupils from the school attended the Holocaust Memorial Day service in the church. (see page 30)

John Pickthorn

Electoral Roll

Every six years, a new Electoral Roll has to be compiled in accordance with the Church Representation Rules 2022. This means that the Roll needs to be re-compiled in 2025, and plans are already under way for formal notice of this to be given two months before the Annual Parish Council Meeting, scheduled to take place on May 11th.

Everyone currently on the Electoral Roll will need to complete a new application form confirming that they can, and should be entered on the new roll. **Please do not overlook this important task, and let us know if you are aware of anyone who is unlikely to have a form to complete.**

A notice that the new roll is being compiled will be posted at St Mary's, St James' Swards End and St John's Little Walden on 11th March. On 16th and 23rd March, there will be announcements made at the various services, and application forms will be available for everyone to complete. The last date for applications will be 26th April, after which the names will be displayed in the church for corrections.



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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

NEW PROJECT FOR 2025—A FRIENDS RECIPE BOOK

Do you have a favourite recipe, savoury or sweet, or one of each, and would you be prepared to share it and have it published in our new recipe book? Maybe a photo would be great so that we can give the book some colour?

We can not use recipes straight from a published cookbook for copyright reasons so please make sure you make at least 2 substantive changes to your version. We hope to gather all your favourites together and be able to publish in time for the Christmas Fair. Perhaps a taster evening in November would be fun. What do you think?

We hope that this will be a favourite for the bookstand and raise some funds for the Church.

Please send to Pamela pjmteddybear@btinternet.com

THE CATHEDRAL TRIP TO LICHFIELD on 8th April is selling really well and we are hoping for a good day out. Lunch together at Ask and then the afternoon to explore Lichfield with its various museums, the ruins of a Franciscan Friary, Dr Milley's Women's Hospital Museum dating back to 1504 and many other things to see in one of Britain's smallest cities.

Best wishes to you all. Pamela

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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 2 March

- 8am Holy Communion (BCP)
- 10.30am Holy Communion [Y] & Sunday Club
- 6.30pm H2H Youth led Service for all

Ash Wednesday 5 March

- 8am Morning Prayer
- 9.30am Holy Communion and imposition of Ashes
- 7.30pm Choral Eucharist and imposition of Ashes



Thursday 6 March

- 10am Silent Prayer in North Chapel

Saturday 8 March

- 9.30am Quiet Morning led by Archdeacon Kate Peacock in the Parish Rooms

Sunday 9 March

- 8am Holy Communion (BCP)
- 10.30am Second Sunday Holy Communion [Y] & Sunday Club
- 4pm Choral Evensong

Sunday 16 March

- 8am Holy Communion (BCP)
- 10.30am Holy Communion [Y] & Sunday Club
- 4pm Living Stones Service

Sunday 23 March

- 8am Holy Communion (BCP)
- 10:30am Second Sunday style Holy Communion [Y] & Sunday Club
- 4pm Taizé Service

Mothering Sunday 30 March (Clocks go Forward)

8am Holy Communion (BCP) [Y]
10:30am Family Service
6.30pm Celtic Service

Regular weekday services at St Mary's

Tuesdays

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

Wednesdays

8am Morning Prayer
9.30am Holy Communion (with Prayers for Wholeness and Healing on the 1st Wednesday of the month)

PLEASE SEE THE GRAPEVINE FOR ANY LENT COURSES

St James', Swards End

Sunday 2 March

10.30am Holy Communion

Sunday 16 March

10.30am Morning Praise

Mothering Sunday 30 March (Clocks go forward)

10.30am Morning Praise



St John's, Little Walden

Sunday 9 March

10.30am Holy Communion

Mothering Sunday 30 March (Clocks go forward)

10.30am Family Service



From the Registers

Funerals

17th January

Elaine Goff

29th January

Stella Gooderham

.....A COUPLE OF THANK-YOU'S

We have three members of our congregation to whom we owe a big debt of gratitude:

Gerald and Mary Gardner

Many of you will know that Gerald and Mary have been organising the refreshments after the 10.30 Service on Sundays for a very considerable time. In addition, Gerald has made himself responsible for all the mechanical bits of the Servery; coffee machine, dishwasher, etc. They have now decided to retire and we are hugely grateful for all they have done to improve the life of the Church and the congregation. Thank you so much, both of you.

We are very fortunate that Kathryn Bennett has agreed to take on the organisation of the rota, and Andy Robinson will look after the equipment and the supplies. If there is anyone else who would like to join the Coffee Rota, do please let me or Kathryn know.

Pamela Mugliston

Pamela, as I am sure you know, is a force of nature! Not only does she run the Friends of St Mary's, arranging all our Cathedral visits, etc., but more obviously to everyone, she is in charge of the Welcomers for all our Services. Whilst Pamela is, thankfully, willing to continue with the Friends and organising the Welcomers for the normal Sunday services, she has decided she would like to retire from the Special Services (e.g. Advent Carols, Tree-Lighting Services, Holocaust Memorial Day, Good Friday, etc.). If there's anyone who feels they might be able to help by running any of these in future, do please let me know (full training will be given and you don't need to undertake to do them all!).

In the meantime, thank you Pamela; you're an absolute star!

Vivian Falk

07811 165049

PERSONAL INSURANCE FOR VOLUNTEERS

We have been asked to clarify the insurance position for anyone working for the church in a voluntary capacity, e.g. coffee servers, Welcomers, etc. This includes anyone over 80, about whom the query was raised.

In the event of an accident ALL volunteers and paid staff, irrespective of age, are protected from third party claims whilst working for the church.

However, in the event of anyone being personally injured, they would need to prove legal negligence by the church before any compensation would be considered.

Vivian Falk



Gifted Etching Presentation

The Etching gifted by the artist David Aronsohn was presented by The Friends Secretary, Pamela Mugliston, to the highest bidder, Mark Vernon, at St Mary's Church on Saturday 18th January. Sincere thanks were given both to Mark and David for their support to the Church. Also present were Friend's Council members Vivian Falk and Tessa Hawkes, and Friend's member Richard Winter. Photograph: Martin Hugall

A Prayer for Lent

Provided by the Prayer Team

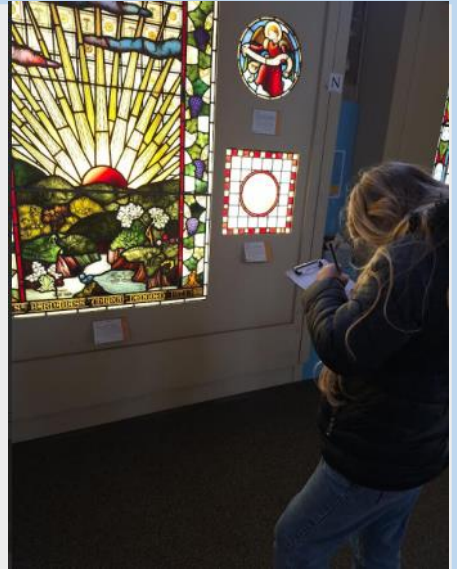
Heavenly Father,
your Son battled with the powers of darkness,
and grew closer to you in the desert:
help us to use these days to grow in wisdom
and prayer
that we may witness to your saving love
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen



St Mary's Music News

Early in January, the Junior Choir enjoyed a trip to Ely Cathedral, excellently organised by Alison Lawrence, to see the fabulous stained glass museum and to attend Choral Evensong. They funded this by running a successful cake stall, providing the double pleasures of food and an outing.

A highlight later in the month was the Festival of Light on 26 January. This new addition to the calendar of events included a wide variety of readings and music to celebrate Epiphany and the start of the new year. Feedback has been very positive, not only for the music “especially the quieter pieces”, but also for the opportunity for everyone to mingle afterwards with a glass



of prosecco or 'nosecco'. This has been a treat after recent Evensong services, and will become a feature, once Lent is over. We hope that as many as possible of the regular and occasional congregations will join for both the service and the refreshments.

The next Choral Evensong is at 4pm on Sunday 9 March, during Lent. No refreshments, but a musical feast and an opportunity for quiet contemplation.

Meanwhile, we are very pleased that Choral Scholar Stas has successfully auditioned for the SWCHS school chamber choir, where he joins our other talented scholars. Singing at St Mary's is often a springboard to making music in the wider world, as well as excellent training in the multifarious skills required, including reading music, growing in faith, self-discipline, learning foreign languages and teamwork.

There is a treat to look forward to on Saturday 22 March at 6pm when we welcome to St Mary's the excellent choir of Gonville and Caius who will be performing Faure's Requiem and other music. This performance is free, but as always donations will be gratefully received. These can be given in cash, or on the card reader, or by scanning the QR code on the programme.

Then it is the turn of our home-grown choir again, performing the SMMA's Eastertide Devotional Offering. This year we, with the addition of 2 very talented soloists, shall be singing Stainer's Crucifixion at 6.30pm on Palm Sunday 13 April. This will be followed by Choral Eucharist at 7.30pm on Maundy Thursday 17 April. Of course the choir and brass musicians will be supporting morning worship on Easter Sunday 20 April, followed by Choral Evensong at 6.30 that evening.

There is a lot of background work involved in running the SMMA, and we hear about this, as well as highlights of the year, from our Chairman Hannah Razzell and our Director Oli King at our AGM. Steve Cass also keeps us all up to speed on the finances. Preparations have started for this event, which is likely to be in May to ensure it follows the PCC's AGM. Further details will be published when we have a fixed date, and everyone at St Mary's is very welcome to attend.

Ottilie Lefever

Photos from Ely Cathedral by Alison Lawrence

Our Replacement Lighting – Good Progress and a New Challenge

I reported in the December 2024 Parish News that the application for approval to install the lighting had been submitted to the Diocesan Advisory Committee and they have since recommended the application for approval. There were also no objections from the bodies which needed to be consulted, Historic England and the Church Buildings Council, and the period of public consultation on our plans ended on 13th February. We expect the final approval, the Faculty, to be issued as soon as we have selected the installation contractor.

We received the bids from the contractors bidding for the installation late in January. This was far later than expected because of illness at two of the companies bidding for the work. Our Lighting Team is now reviewing the two lowest bids in detail and will interview both of these companies in late February or March so that we can recommend the preferred installer to the PCC in March. The costs have come out higher than estimated by our lighting designer and we are assessing where we can save cost if possible.

However, that is not the new challenge which I referred to in the title of this article, that comes from a change made by the government. For repairs and improvements made to listed places of worship across the country, the government has run a scheme since 2001 which allows the VAT on such work to be recovered. There has been no limit on how much each listed place of worship can recover each year, unless the overall budget for the scheme is exceeded but that has not happened as far as I can recall. Unfortunately, in January of this year, the government announced that there will now be a limit, from April 2025, of a maximum of £25,000 VAT that can be recovered per place of worship. The VAT payable on the replacement lighting will be up to £50,000 and after taking into account of up to £5,000 of VAT that will be recovered on other works in St Mary's, that will be done before the lighting work, this decision by the government has increased the cost by approximately £30,000.

If you had considered donating to the project, but had decided not to because we had all the funding, that is no longer the case. Details how to donate are still on the church website at "www.stmaryssaffronwalden.org/lighting" and all donations are very welcome.

We are still hoping to have the new lighting in place by Christmas 2025 but that's now going to be quite a (new) challenge.

Steve Hasler—3rd February 2025

Gelio's Anthology of Obscure Proverbs

Having started the year wishing everyone health and happiness let me continue that theme with a few **Health** proverbs.

An **Arabian** proverb:- 'He who has health has hope; and he who has hope has everything'

Now, there are two from **England**.

'Health Is better than wealth'

'Health Is not valued till sickness comes'



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HMS Lapwing - Never to be forgotten

As churches and charities frequently discover, people can be remarkably generous with their own money if they deem the cause important enough. It is often forgotten how, in the darkest days of the second World War, members of the public were asked to volunteer their own money to help provide arms and equipment for the troops, and in February 1942, the government ran a 'warship week' to aid the Royal Navy. Saffron Walden was given the stiff target of raising £120,000, but such was the generosity of the people living in and around the town that £252,221 eight shillings and five pence was contributed. Initially, it was expected that this would be used to help fund a Flower-class corvette, HMS Marjoram, but for reasons that are unclear, it was later decided to use the town's money for an escort vessel, HMS Lapwing. A Black Swan class sloop weighing 1,350 tons, she was launched in July 1943 and took part in the D-Day expedition (taking US troops to Omaha Beach) in the following year.

Towards the end of the War, HMS Lapwing had the important job of



accompanying merchant navy ships taking supplies to our allies in the USSR, the so-called 'Arctic Convoys'. She was captained by Commander John Alexander Binnie (Rtd) RN, and had a crew of 219. On 20th March 1945, the convoy was attacked by U-Boats, and HMS Lapwing was torpedoed off Kola Inlet in Northern Russia, north of Murmansk. The ship broke in two, but the stern section remained afloat for long enough for some survivors to escape and be rescued by HMS Savage and HMS Allington Castle. However, 158 members of the crew were killed.

On 5th April, 2008, this memorial stone in the Close Garden (underneath St Mary's churchyard) was unveiled. Remarkably, 4 of the 61 survivors were present, together with some of the crew of the rescuing vessels and relatives of some who died. The eightieth anniversary of the sinking will be marked in the Close by the Mayor of Saffron Walden at 2.30pm on 22nd March 2025.



Muniments
Room

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, March 1947

My dear Parishioners,

Nearly all the material things of life are either rationed or in short supply and so perhaps we shall not be moved to give up many things for Lent. But there is one offering which most of us can make and that is a little more of our time to be set aside for God. If it really be true, and it is, that the purpose of life is to glorify God and enjoy Him for ever, it will be rather sad and humiliating at the end of our life suddenly to realise that we have misspent so much of our lives – so far away from its main purpose. Lent is our re-call to THE way of life. May I suggest one or two things we might do extra to our weekly act of worship in the Church?

Might we not come regularly to the Thursday evening 7.30 pm Lent Services which will be held in the Parish Room by the fire if the severe weather and fuel scarcity continue? Perhaps we might manage to come once a week to one of the mid-day celebrations of Holy Communion or to week-day Matins or Evensong. These latter are now being held in the Chancel as it is considerably less draughty than the North Chapel.

It is also in the Chancel that the people now gather Sunday by Sunday for the 9am Sung Celebration: our nearness to the altar and to one another helps a great deal towards the spirit of corporate worship: we are beginning to feel that we are a real fellowship : we hope as the better weather comes that many more will join us there. If any people who come at 8am, find themselves rather far off or find it difficult to hear, I hope that they too will take their place in the Chancel.

On the table by the font there are several copies of Bible Reading Fellowship Notes: May I commend to you the excellent series of readings – a few verses daily – on the life of our Lord: it would be such a great thing if all those who have neglected their Bible reading would start again this Lent. It is a sure and certain means – if we are persistent in it – of causing our love towards God to grow.

Yours very sincerely,

M. ROY SKINNER (Vicar of St Mary's 1946-1963)

What's in a name? (6)

This month I have turned my attention to the north of the town and I have chosen one of the developments to the east of the Little Walden Road.

When I first moved to Saffron Walden some forty years ago this area was the home of the Squash Club and the golf driving range, both now long gone. They have been replaced by Limefields, Crocus Fields and St Mary's View.

The name St Mary's View is fairly self-explanatory. Indeed, there are not many places in the town which cannot claim to have some sort of view of St Mary's, located as it is on the highest part of the centre of town which it shares with the castle ruins.

And I suspect that many of you will understand why a new road in Saffron Walden might be called Crocus Fields. The town crest is a play on the two words Saffron and Walden. The Saffron element is represented by three saffron crocuses which are quite literally 'walled in'. Saffron crocuses played a major role in the development of the town in the Middle Ages since the crocuses were a source of the valuable spice saffron. Indeed, before saffron became a source of Saffron Walden's wealth, the town was known as Chepyng Walden. Chepyng Walden meant 'Market' Walden since the town had had a market since 1141. The saffron was used not only as a spice but also, possibly, as a dye for the woollen cloth produced.

There were many saffron gardens in mediaeval Walden but from the later part of the sixteenth century the growth of saffron was declining until by 1726 the only place growing saffron in the area was Littlebury and by the end of the century saffron had to be procured from over the border to Cambridgeshire.

The third road, Limefields, is named after the Limefields Pit which it adjoins. The Limefields Pit is a disused chalk quarry, now a nature reserve, which was in active use until 1932. Although some trial trenches were dug before the area was developed for housing, no evidence of lime kilns was found but the land had been much disturbed. There were many chalk quarries and lime kilns in the Saffron Walden area. The kilns turned the calcium carbonate into quicklime (calcium oxide) which could be used for building purposes.

So, St Mary's View refers to the church, Crocus Fields to the growing of saffron, an agricultural product, and Limefields to the burning of lime/chalk, an industrial process. If anyone is interested in finding out more about saffron, the Museum has produced a helpful booklet.

Hilary Walker

2025 Spring Coffee Concerts
Music at St Mary's
Saffron Walden

Wednesday 26 February, 11.30am
SWCHS Students

Wednesday 5 March, 11.30am
Philip Sunderland *Organ*

Wednesday 12 March, 11.30am
Krassimira Jeliaskova *Violin* Elizabeth Mucha *Piano*

Wednesday 19 March, 11.30am
Sarah Lamont *Soprano* Derek Scurll *Piano*

Wednesday 26 March, 11.30am
Bob Goldsmith *Piano*

Concerts last approximately 40 minutes
Refreshments available from 10.45am
Free admission, retiring collection



Quiet Morning for Lent

On Saturday 8th March from 9.30am to 12.30pm in St Mary's Parish Rooms

Led by The Ven. Kate Peacock, Archdeacon of Stansted, whose theme is
"Fasting & Feasting".

Open to all churches across the Team. These are wonderfully refreshing and reflective mornings. If you are interested, please contact Hazel Colebrooke

Hazel.colebrooke@gmail.com

Holocaust Memorial Day

Holocaust Memorial Day on 27th January was marked by a service at St Mary's Church, Saffron Walden. The congregation included pupils from RA Butler Academy, Dame Bradbury's School, St Mary's C of E Primary School and St Thomas More Catholic Primary School. The Saffron Walden County High School sent its Chamber Choir to sing.

The service remembered the 6 million Jews murdered during the Holocaust and also commemorated millions more people murdered through the Nazi persecution of other groups and in more recent genocides recognised by the UK government.

The speaker this year was Crina Morteau from the Luton Roma Trust. Luton Roma Trust follows the teachings of Jesus who calls us to love our neighbours, care for children and challenge injustice. The subject of the Roma was chosen this year to commemorate the Roma Holocaust in which at least 500,000 Roma were killed although Crina suggested recent evidence suggests the true figure may be nearer two million. Other participants in leading the service were Leslie Wheeler from the Cambridge Synagogue who sang the Hebrew prayers and blessing, Cllr Petrina Lees, Leader of Uttlesford District Council who led the Coventry Litany of Reconciliation, which is read in Coventry Cathedral every day and Hinei Ma Tov (How good it is for brethren to dwell together in unity) was sung by the SWCHS Chamber Choir.

An Act of Commitment was led by the Mayor, Cllr Deryk Eke, and Prayers were led by Rev'd John Goddard of Saffron Walden Baptist Church with a Reflection by the Rector Rev'd Jeremy Trew.

Clifford Want

Photos by Martin Hugall



Above, back row left to right: Cllr Richard Freeman (Town Council), Leslie Wheeler (Cambridge Synagogue), Cllr Petrina Lees (Uttlesford District Council), Mayor, Cllr Deryk Eke
Front row, left to right: Rufus Barnes, Crina Morteau (Luton Roma Trust), Rev'd Jeremy Trew



Fauré Requiem

with works by Purcell and Walton

The Choir of Gonville & Caius, Cambridge
Director: Matthew Martin

Saturday 22 March 2025, 6pm
St Mary's Church, Saffron Walden



Free admission with retiring collection in aid of St Mary's Music Association