

# Parish News

St Mary's Church, Saffron Walden

St John, Little Walden and St James, Sewards End

Part of Saffron Walden & Villages Team Ministry



March 2023

FREE

# LENT COURSES

Four different 'streams' aimed at going deeper into a specific area of Christian living. Jump right into one and see where it leads you, or dip your toe into the different options.



## "Do this in remembrance of me"

The roots, practice, and controversies of the eucharist, and its place in the Church today.

Leader: Jeremy Trew

Tuesdays at 14:00, The Parish Rooms, Saffron Walden  
28th Feb, 7th March, 14th March, 21st March

## "Follow Me!"

An opportunity for us to reflect on what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ in the world today.

Leaders: John Risby and Alex Jeewan  
Wednesdays at 19:30, Church Room, Great Chesterford  
1st March, 8th March, 15th March, 22nd March, 29th March



## The Psalms: Pursuing a posture of praise

Learn how to worship like a modern-day psalmist!

Leader: Ella Harris

Thursdays at 19:30, St Paul's Mission Room, Wimbish  
2nd March, 9th March, 16th March, 23rd March, 30th March



## Travelling Well Together

We learn what it looks like to journey together as one body, made up of many parts.

Leader: John Saxon  
Monday at 19:00, Wendens Ambo Village Hall  
27th Feb, 13th March, 20th March, 27th March



# Contents for March 2023

## THE RECTOR'S LETTER 4

## NOTICEBOARD

Lent Courses	2
From the Registers	9
Calendar	16

## REPORTS

Holocaust Memorial Day	9
Mothers' Union Meeting Report	14
St Mary's Music News	27
Charity Stamp Sale	29

## FEATURES

Prayer for March	5
Juries under crisis	6
Archive Group: March 1948	11
The Lighting in St Mary's	18
You in the Pew	20
My Time in Israel so far	23
Gelio	19
God in the Sciences	28
March Hares	29
The Hundred Parishes Society	30
Youth Group Dinner and Soirée	32

## PARISH NEWS - EDITORIAL DEADLINE

The deadline for contributions for each issue is the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the previous month. Hence, the deadline for the **April** issue is **Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> March**.

### Copy to Parish Administrator:

Dawn Saxon

email: [office@stmaryssaffronwalden.org](mailto:office@stmaryssaffronwalden.org)

01799 506024

or the editor:

[andy.colebrooke@gmail.com](mailto:andy.colebrooke@gmail.com)

01799 732970

Advertising:

Email: [office@stmaryssaffronwalden.org](mailto:office@stmaryssaffronwalden.org)

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

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

Cover Photo: Blackbird by Gilly Hayes

## TEAM RECTOR:

The Rev'd Jeremy Trew: 01799 500947

Email: [rector@stmaryssaffronwalden.org](mailto:rector@stmaryssaffronwalden.org)

**ASSISTANT CURATE:** The Rev'd Ella Harris: 01799 571023

Email: [revellaharris@gmail.com](mailto:revellaharris@gmail.com)

## CHURCHWARDENS:

Gill Caswell: 01799 520485 (Saffron Walden)

Michael Dean: 01799 523388 (Sewards End)

Lynne Ketteridge: 01799 523898 (Sewards End)

Helen and Dave Nash: 01799 524265 (Little Walden)

© 2023

All parts of this publication are subject to copyright.



**St Mary's Church Website:**

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

## The Rector's Letter

From The Rev'd Jeremy Trew

Jeremy writes...



This month we celebrate Mothering Sunday. A bit like harvest it's never been an official Church festival, rather one adopted because of local popularity, and they're maybe the best sort. But what will we be celebrating? Mothers of course; ours specifically, and motherhood in general. But what does that mean? Motherhood and the family mean very different things to different people. For some it is the idealised view of a wife and mother managing the home and raising the children. For others it is quite different.

Mothering Sunday has its origins in something older: 'Laetare Sunday'. Laetare comes from the Latin for the first word of the traditional prayer for the day: 'Rejoice'. It is also known as 'Refreshment Sunday', and was a day when people who had given something up for the Christian fast of Lent (like sweet foods) were allowed to 'break their fast' and have a little of whatever they were missing. And in some places this Sunday is called 'Bright Sunday' or, in others, 'Holy Humour Sunday'.

Humour is found all through the Bible, from beginning to end. For example, in the book of Genesis God tells Abraham and Sarah that they are going to have a child. Sarah is too old to have a child and when she hears what God has said she laughs. This laughter is so important that they call their child Isaac, as the name means 'laughter'. Isaac is one of the great forefathers of the Jewish faith and Sarah, one of the great foremothers of the faith, is the one who laughed.

I suspect that most mothers would go mad if they couldn't sometimes laugh at life's quirks and misunderstandings. The misunderstandings of families and children, if treated with a sense of humour, can make a family joyful and a good deal less stressful. So here goes...

A mother was explaining to her young children how they should behave during a church service. She asked them, 'Why is it important to be quiet in church?' Her bright little daughter said, 'Because people are sleeping.'

A mother had been teaching her three-year-old son the Lord's prayer. For several evenings at bedtime, he would repeat after his mother the lines from the prayer. Finally, he decided to go solo. His mother listened with pride as he carefully recited each word, until he got to: 'Lead us not into

temptation,' he prayed, 'but deliver us from e-mail.'. Amen to that one!

Laughter is an essential ingredient in our family lives (even if you didn't find those jokes funny). So don't come to church morose and full of penitence this Mothering Sunday. Instead put on your best smile and bring your laughter with you.

Have a blessed Lent.

Jeremy



## **A Prayer for March**

*provided by the Prayer Team*

Heavenly Father,

Please help us, during these days of Lent,  
to come close to you and to listen to your voice.

Give us strength to overcome the temptation to  
please ourselves and live life without you.

Teach us your way.

For Jesus' sake.

## Juries understand the Crisis

An elderly vicar and the editor of *Green Christian* were amongst the *Insulate Britain* protesters who were found not guilty of causing a public nuisance in January 2023. The crown court jury returned unanimous ‘not guilty’ verdicts despite having been instructed by the judge to find the protesters guilty.



For over a year before the war in Ukraine and the massive increase in gas prices, *Insulate Britain* had been calling for the UK government to fund the insulation of all social housing by 2025 and the retrofitting of all homes by 2030. They highlight the fact that, after two failed insulation initiatives, Britain has some of the most poorly insulated homes in Europe.

In this bitter winter with rocketing fuel prices, how much we all wish we had invested more in insulation! Good for our comfort and health; good for the climate and good for our pockets!

Among the four defendants was Rev'd Sue Parfitt, an 80-year-old vicar from Bristol who said she didn't want to be treated differently because of her age and was fully prepared to go to prison.

‘Despite all the odds I am thankful that 12 of my fellow citizens were able to see the bigger picture and even when directed by the judge to find us guilty, they were able to understand that the unprecedented times in which we live calls for us all to step out of the box and make courageous decisions.

‘Reasonable people can see that inconveniencing a few on their way to work does not compare with the appalling threat to humanity caused by the blindness, stubbornness and greed of just a few people, including our

government. We must keep on doing our best, giving our all and obeying God's calling to us.'

Amongst the 3 others who walked free, was Ruth Jarman, the editor of *Green Christian*, where you can also find my Parish News articles published. This was not a unique event. In April 2022 another twelve Insulate Britain protesters were praised by their judge, Stephen Leake, who was inspired by their commitment to greener living, even though he was compelled to fine them for their demonstration that disrupted the journeys of drivers on the M25.

Tissues had been passed around by a member of court staff as several broke down in tears and held their faces in their hands while fellow activists voiced their fears over the desperate environmental situation. 'They have inspired me and personally I intend to do what I can to reduce my own impact on the planet,' the judge added.

Speaking personally, I was disappointed last summer not to have been able to take part in a Greenpeace action which successfully prevented a Russian oil tanker from berthing in the Thames Estuary and was relieved to learn in November that my fellow activists were cleared of aggravated trespass.

The prosecutor had argued the case was not about 'what's morally right' but the judge took the view that, 'It's more than likely the Russian war could be described as terrorism. In my view, the unloading of the oil was the potential offence.'

Thank goodness for our ancient jury system, which can appreciate the wider picture, the deeper issues and take a moral and ethical stand when it believes that law is not aligned with justice!

But we still face a deep dilemma. On the one hand, in the words of Antonio Guterres, 'We are in the fight of our lives and we are losing. Greenhouse gas emissions keep growing. Global temperatures keep rising. Our planet is fast approaching tipping points that will make climate chaos irreversible. We are on a highway to climate hell with our foot still on the accelerator.'

On the other hand, are governments which have been totally ineffective, showing pusillanimous leadership of public opinion.

So what legitimate and effective avenues of protest are available to those who care deeply about the future of humanity? If a protest is not disruptive to some degree, it will not make the news, and if it doesn't get into the news, it will not be effective.

Suggestions please!

Edward Gildea, Eco Team Leader

*Photograph: © Insulate Britain*

# 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](http://www.peasgoodandskeates.co.uk)**

**[enquiries@peasgoodandskeates.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@peasgoodandskeates.co.uk)**



## From the Registers

### **Baptisms**

8th January Beatrice Rose North

### **Funerals**

2nd December Ruth Cornell

6th December Michael Start

21st December Patricia Jacob

10th January Stella Snow

11th January

12th January

19th January

Barbara Ann Cooper

Peter Gilder

Anne Wilson

## Holocaust Memorial Day - 27<sup>th</sup> January 2023



Over 250 school children and 60 adults attended a memorial service at St Mary's Church, Saffron Walden, which was an act of remembrance and sorrow for the Holocaust between 1936 and 1945 in which 6.5 million Jews, Gypsies, people with learning disability and LGBTQ+ people were imprisoned and slaughtered. It was also remembered that many "Holocausts" have happened since then. In particular, the great tragedies that are currently being played out in places like, Syria, Myanmar, Yemen, Nigeria and Ukraine, and the refugees who are fleeing from war, hunger and terror.

The guest speaker was Baroness Caroline Cox, who is Founder and President of the Humanitarian Aid Relief Trust (HART). Her humanitarian work takes her to conflict and post-conflict zones, including the Armenian enclave of Nagorno Karabakh, Sudan, South Sudan, Nigeria, Uganda, Syria, the Shan and Chin regions of Burma.

Baroness Cox gave a short talk, followed by questions from local school children, and in the evening, a presentation of her work with HART which again was very inspiring and thought-provoking. A collection was held after both events, raising over £370 for the work of HART.

Clifford Want

(Photograph: Martin Hugall)



Mens Day Wear  
Formal Hire  
Personal Tailoring  
School Uniform

01799 522159  
Info@graypalmer.co.uk  
www.graypalmer.co.uk

47 High Street  
Saffron Walden  
Essex, CB10 1AR



Paddy McKeown



- ◆ Services offered include:
- ◆ Chimney and Flue Sweeping
- ◆ Wood Burning Stoves
- ◆ Open Fires
- ◆ Aga/Rayburn
- ◆ Bird Nest Removal
- ◆ CCTV Examinations

t: 01799 599981  
m: 07956 099788  
e: paddy@waldensweeps.myzen.co.uk

WWW.WALDENCHIMNEYSWEEPS.CO.UK

**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**



Muniments Room

## Archive Group

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

### March 1948

My Dear Parishioners,

The only reason why we know about our Lord and why we have a Church in Saffron Walden is because of the first Easter Day when Jesus by His mighty rising from the dead turned what might have been 'but a ripple on a Galilean lake' to a worldwide energising movement in which nearly 2,000 Years later and several thousand miles away you and I are here and now involved. In our deep gratitude for all that our Lord and His Church means to us we shall not fail to stand beneath the Cross on Good Friday and meet the unseen yet risen Master on Easter Day.

Yours very sincerely,

M. Roy Sinker

.....

### The Choirboys

As the voices of our choristers have been more than usually good this last year or so, one or two friends have suggested that the parish should arrange for a recording of some of their music. Two sides of a twelve-inch recording might be done straight away before the voices of the seniors break. This would be the beginning of perhaps a library of records which could be made from time to time when the performance is in any way outstanding.

We shall need to receive donations towards the cost of travelling to the recording studio and for the actual work itself. The Vicar, the Church Wardens and the Choir Master would be glad to receive the gifts. £1 1s 0d has already been promised.

**Canon Chris Bishop. Archivist**

## Radwinter Road Cemetery, Saffron Walden, CB11 3HU

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 a separate section for War graves which is cared for by The Commonwealth War Graves Commission.



If you are looking for a final resting place for a loved one, please bear in mind Radwinter Road Cemetery where the gates are always open and there is tranquility within. For further information please contact Elaine Baynes, Cemetery Officer, at Saffron Walden Town Council, Market Street, Saffron Walden, CB10 1HR. Telephone: 07769 167 179 or email [elaine@saffronwalden.gov.uk](mailto:elaine@saffronwalden.gov.uk)

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

**Hearing  
Help** Essex

**NHS Hearing Aid Support  
Sessions 2022**

### **NHS Hearing Aid re-tubing, cleaning and basic maintenance**

We are able to offer appointments for NHS hearing aids maintenance, or if the tubs are brittle, cracked, blocked or damaged.



Saffron Community Link, 1b Market Street, Saffron Walden, CB10 1HX

Appointment only. To book please contact us on:

Tel: 01245 496347 / Text: 07950 406173

You can also book appointments online at [www.hearinghelpessex.org.uk](http://www.hearinghelpessex.org.uk)

If you are housebound, please ask about our home visits service.

*As usual our service remains completely free of charge, but as a small charity working hard to support Essex residents living with hearing loss, all donations are appreciated.*





# 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](http://www.saffronlaundry.com)



## **Mothers' UNION** Meeting Report - 12 January 2023

Steve Hasler gave members an interesting talk on Saffron Walden Almshouses **What are the Almshouses?** The King Edward VI Saffron Walden Almshouse is a charity run by a board of volunteer trustees, one of which is Steve Hasler. It consists mainly of 43 dwellings in Abbey Lane and Prime's Close. Originally, it offered housing to residents in the old borough of Saffron Walden who are 'of good character', and who were unable to find affordable housing. Today, we were surprised to hear that residents are a mix of ages.

In addition to retired people; single people, couples or occasionally a family may be accepted. They are usually on benefits and unable to find affordable housing and must have links to the town. In many cases this acts as a temporary stepping stone to help them to move on and become self-sufficient.

**History** There are approximately 5000 Almshouses in England, many dating from medieval times. Our own Almshouses began in 1400 when a charter was granted by Henry VI, following a bequest of £40 from John and Eleanor Butler. This was to provide Almshouses for the sustenance of 13 poor men in most need. Many local benefactors gave gifts of land and money for the cause as well as the famous Mazer Bowl donated by the Butler's daughter. A replica of this may be seen at the Saffron Walden Museum.

In 1547 King Edward VI claimed all land as his own property. After much negotiation the Almshouse property was sold, by the king, to a John Smyth. In 1549, after further negotiations by a second son, the King granted a charter to set up the first Town Council at Saffron Walden. This gave them the right to administer the Almshouses provided they included 'Edward VI', in its title.

The Almshouses were needed to be replaced in 1694 and in 1782. However, in 1834 when the Almshouses were to be rebuilt again, the Trustees decided to build on a new site and they chose the meadow to the north of the Slade River. This provided homes for 30 old people. Over the following years the Gibson Quaker family have generously helped to finance new and extended buildings.

In 1950 a bequest from the Rev'd Joseph Prime enabled the building of the bungalows in Prime's Close after the war. These bungalows no longer meet building regulations and there are plans to replace them. This time the Slade River, which passes in a culvert beneath the road next to the site, will need extensive repairs done before the new buildings can be constructed.

Therefore, from 1400 to the present day, building and rebuilding the Almshouses goes on to provide for those who cannot find affordable housing. We must be thankful for the charitable trust and those who administer it.

Brenda Sheath and Helen Eyles

**NICK SHUTES  
PAINTING AND  
DECORATING LTD**

High quality interior and  
exterior redecoration

All woodwork repairs and  
replacements including  
fascias, soffits and cladding

**01799 542385 or  
07885 778213**  
[www.nickshutesdecorating.co.uk](http://www.nickshutesdecorating.co.uk)



Kristina Coleman  
ARCM

**Piano Lessons**

Close to Saffron Walden  
Town Centre

Children (7+) and Adults

All levels from beginners to  
Grade VIII Royal Schools of  
Music

Telephone:  
01799 526977



Email:  
[colemansafwalden@aol.com](mailto:colemansafwalden@aol.com)

**Ross Nursing Services Ltd.**

We are a Clavering based, family owned and run care company that has been running for 20 years. We maintain the highest level of care and support for all our clients by continually monitoring standards and ensuring that all individual needs are met.



We value clients' dignity, independence, privacy, choice and rights

**What you can expect from us:**

- 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. We also accompany clients on hospital visits or visits to the GP and we do respite sitting services, client shopping and basic household tasks.

For further information please contact Ros Darton on **01799 551046**

# Calendar for March 2023

*This calendar is provisional and subject to change. See The Grapevine or the church website for the latest information particularly for streaming of services. Coffee is **now served after** the 10.30am services at Saffron Walden.*

## St Mary's, Saffron Walden

All services take place in church unless shown otherwise. One service in church each Sunday is also streamed on YouTube [Y]: details on the church website.

### Thursday 2 March

- 10am Silent Prayer in the North Chapel
- 1pm Service with Prayers for Wholeness and Healing

### Sunday 5 March

- 8am BCP Holy Communion
- 10.30am Holy Communion [Y]
- 6.30pm H2H Youth-led Service for All (Parish Rooms)



### Tuesday 7 March

- 2pm Lent course: "Do this in remembrance of me" in the Parish Rooms

### Wednesday 8 March

- 11.30am Coffee Concert  
Students from SWCHS

### Sunday 12 March

- 8am BCP Holy Communion
- 10.30am Second Sunday Communion [Y]
- 12pm SMMA AGM
- 4pm Choral Evensong

### Tuesday 14 March

- 2pm Lent course: "Do this in remembrance of me" in the Parish Rooms

### Wednesday 15 March

- 11.30 am Coffee Concert  
Gail Ford, Oboe; Edward Dodge, Piano

### Sunday 19 March - Mothering Sunday

- 8am BCP Holy Communion [Y]
- 10.30am Family Service

### Tuesday 21 March

- 2pm Lent course: "Do this in remembrance of me" in the Parish Rooms

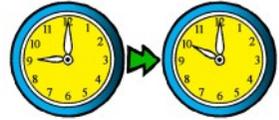
### Wednesday 22 March

11.30am Coffee Concert  
Karin Fischer-Buder, Soprano; Stephen Penton, Piano

### Sunday 26 March

8am BCP Holy Communion  
10.30am Holy Communion [Y]  
6.30pm Taizé Service

CLOCKS GO FORWARD



## 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

## St James', Swards End

### Sunday 5 March

10.30am Holy Communion

### Sunday 19 March - Mothering Sunday

10.30am Morning Praise



## St John's, Little Walden

### Sunday 19 March - Mothering Sunday

10.30am Family Service

### Sunday 26 March

10.30am Holy Communion



## The Lighting in St Mary's

During 2022 the PCC agreed that we should ask a small team to assess the state of the church lighting with a view to replacing it. Why, you may ask, are we looking at this?

The existing lighting is very old and is now failing and it is the units into which the bulbs are placed which are the problem not the bulbs themselves. A significant portion of the nave lighting has failed in this way. You will also have noticed that the cross above the screen is no longer lit up, now you know why!

The Church of England has, as you will have heard, the target for buildings run by the church including schools, parish rooms, clergy houses etc. to be carbon zero by 2030. By a long way the largest consumption of electricity in the church at St Mary's is the lighting. To make it more carbon neutral and cheaper to run, LEDs need to be installed but they won't fit in the existing units even if they weren't failing. Installing LEDs would reduce the carbon which our lighting generates by between 50% and 80%.

LEDs will also reduce our running costs. We have calculated from the size and number of bulbs that each Sunday in the winter with the nave, north and south aisle and chancel lights all on, we consume 57kWh of electricity. What does that mean? On the basis that a standard domestic kettle takes 3 minutes to heat up to boiling from cold, boiling approximately 400 kettles would use the same amount of power. That's a lot of cups of tea! We estimate that running the lighting in St Mary's, allowing for the much lower usage in the week and in the summer, costs around £1200 per year at current prices. Thankfully, we don't pay the current price because David Birchall, our Treasurer, put us on a 3-year fixed price contract for our electricity and gas a couple of years ago. (Hats off to David.) But when this contract ends.....

Next, there's the maintenance. How many people does it take to change a light bulb in St Mary's? At least 3, one to pick up and deliver the cherry-picker which is needed to get up that high, another to help manipulate it around the church and a third to go up and change the bulb. So at present we replace all the bulbs at once every 5 years. LEDs last up to 15 years which would reduce this burden which is becoming increasingly difficult because the availability of the right kind of cherry-picker is reducing year on year. The cherry-picker won't go into the north and south chapels nor the chancel which is why so few of the lights in the chancel work at the moment. It's a brave, if that's the right adjective, person who would change those bulbs from a ladder. Re-designing the lighting could allow the bulbs to

be changed without the need to ascend to a great height.

Our current lighting controls are not flexible and are located all around the church. Also, the current lighting, while it would be adequate if fully working, does not create an ambience or atmosphere which supports our services and activities. The Lighting Team are, therefore, looking at the possibility of redesigning the lighting when seeking to solve the problems mentioned earlier.

The team are now developing a project brief to engage lighting experts to assess our options, including the simple option of replacing everything we currently have with LEDs in the same position. As you would expect the team reports to PCC and PCC will decide if this initiative can move ahead alongside other projects and necessary repairs. We will keep you informed as progress is made and the team will consult on a new lighting design if it is decided to go in that direction. In the meantime, if you have any questions or comments, please do talk with me or Denis Tindley.

Steve Hasler  
3<sup>rd</sup> February 2023

## Gelio's Anthology of Obscure Proverbs

Two proverbs on the subject of love

A Jewish Proverb.

**'Love thy neighbour, even when he plays  
the trombone'**

A Swiss Proverb.

**'Love your neighbour, but don't  
pull down the hedge'**



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

**Edward Gildea**

Edward grew up in South London, was christened in All Saints Church, West Dulwich and was carrying incense for the thurifer almost as soon as he could walk. It was very high church, with a perfectionist sacristan who drilled him on how to walk slowly and smoothly, how to put on the embroidered high collars, polish his black shoes to a shine and arrange them so that they were just visible under the alb. Over the years he graduated to carrying candles, the Bible and serving in the sanctuary when he wasn't singing in the choir.



All that lapsed when he went to university and for a decade after that until his children were born and were christened in Melbourne, Derbyshire. Their births felt like a miracle and he wanted to give them a moral compass and an understanding of the contribution of Christianity to our literature and culture, even if they turned away from it later on, so the family started attending the magnificent Norman church of St Michael's, Melbourne.

Professionally Edward worked as an English teacher and eventually as a headteacher in comprehensive schools in inner city Derby and the former mining areas on the Derbyshire/Nottinghamshire border. He lost his job following a re-organisation but eventually set up his own consultancy specialising in conflict management and school leadership. When his marriage ended after 30 years, he moved to Leamington Spa as a good central location for his work. There he started attending St Gregory's in the village of Offchurch. 'It was the sweetest old church and they were so welcoming. About 2 dozen in the congregation but everyone had to hug everyone else when we exchanged the peace! They still invite me to read a lesson at their carol service each year.'

Edward admits that his own faith is wobbly. 'I 'park God', because I don't feel I can claim a personal relationship with Him/Her and really don't want to slip into anthropomorphism.' He's happy to settle for 'God is Love.'

What he loves about Christianity is the sense of social justice and the overturning of the status quo as expressed in The Magnificat and the Sermon on the Mount. That fight for fairness, justice, selflessness and freedom from all the damaging effects of (mostly male) ego is still a massive 'work in progress'.

Since sailing around the world and climbing various mountains, he has become a committed environmental activist, working through the Church, the Green Party, Greenpeace, XR, giving his own talk to schools, Women's Institutes or the U3A. 'I will use any lever I can for the sake of my children, my four grandchildren and everyone else on the planet. The prospects for humanity could not be more frightening.'

To keep sane he plants snowdrops, daffodils and primroses. He has planted several thousand snowdrops on the south side of the common and, with luck, after 10 years there will be a million for every thousand he plants. Not a bad memorial!

In a conversation with John Goddard, the Baptist minister, he once confessed that he thought he was using God as a lever. 'Oh, I think you will find that God is using you,' John replied. 'Suddenly I felt this awful weight on my shoulders,' says Edward, 'and the sense that John was probably right!'

As for a coat of arms, the Gildea family actually has one: a stag resting under an oak tree. He has a famous forbear, Colonel Sir James Gildea, who founded the Soldiers' Sailors' and (later) the Airmen's Families Association and there is a very short street named after him just by BBC Broadcasting House!



MOLLY MAID Braintree

Keeping your home Healthy

The **HomeSafe** cleaning system puts the health and safety of you, your family and our team of maids at the core of how we work.

- Uniformed and professionally trained staff
- 100% guaranteed and fully insured
- Regular and occasional cleans
- Free in home estimate
- All materials supplied
- No contracts



Call us today to learn more about **HomeSafe** and why you can trust MOLLY MAID in your home.

Please call: **01376 349419**

or email: [julie.ward@mollymaid.co.uk](mailto:julie.ward@mollymaid.co.uk)



See what our customers say at [uk.trustpilot.com](http://uk.trustpilot.com)

Excellent



★ Trustpilot

# 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](http://www.countrycourtcare.com)



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](http://www.bandrcarpets.com)



# JOB HUNTING

## The Transition Project

is back with Remote Working 

Get free practical help with:

- Job searching
- CV writing
- Job applications

Our drop-in sessions are suspended but experienced volunteers have re-organised to provide phone, email, or Zoom support.

To learn more about this free service

**Email:** [swtransitionproject@gmail.com](mailto:swtransitionproject@gmail.com)

**Call:** 07901 173 763

**Web:** [www.transitionproject.co.uk](http://www.transitionproject.co.uk)

## My time in Israel so far

by Eleanor Game



The initial adjustment period when I first arrived in Israel was not as easy as I had expected. In fact, I found the first week, particularly, very difficult. The lack of structure and not yet knowing where I belonged was new to me and I felt exhausted most of the time. I also struggled with a sense of uneasiness and anxiousness which is not at all normal for me. As time went on this improved dramatically and although I still sometimes need to get more sleep, I practically never feel stressed. God surrounded me with good people which has really made the difference. I now feel a part of the Emanuel Centre community and am so grateful for those people who especially went out of their way to get to know me and make me feel wanted. Living in community is now something I really love although it can be tiring. I am pretty much constantly surrounded by people. I share a small room with two other girls which can be challenging at times especially in terms of getting enough sleep. It does mean that I very rarely feel lonely though. I spend most of my time on the compound where I love talking and getting to know people - both those who I see almost daily and the people passing through from all walks of life.

Working on the compound can be chaotic and requires a lot of spontaneity which means it is not easy to describe a typical day, but I will have a go. The schedule for the following week is usually given a couple of

days in advance and varies each week. This means I do not have the same days off each week or the same shifts. If I am working a breakfast shift, I usually wake up at 6am to begin my shift at 6.30 I set up for breakfast: turning on the lights, unlocking the doors, cooking eggs, preparing coffee, and setting everything up. We then serve a buffet breakfast to the guests. I also usually go to the staff and volunteer devotions which are every weekday from 8.15-9.00. I then clear the breakfast and either prepare the food for the next day or spend the time in the dish room. Each shift is 8 hours so I technically would finish at 2.30. I often spend time talking to people and then come home later and take a nap! In the evenings I sometimes spend time with friends, either in a coffee shop or on the compound. I also often spend the evenings trying to learn some Hebrew. I have joined a messianic congregation and try to go to the young adults meeting although do not usually manage it every week. This has been a great way for me to meet people. Just this week I went camping in Masada with some people from the congregation - more on that later. I have also joined a choir which I am so happy about. It is connected to the Lutheran Redeemer Church nearby and is actually in German but fortunately singing together doesn't require so much talking and it seems most Germans speak English. Until recently, Jerusalem has felt very safe, and I have enjoyed being out, walking around and watching the world go by.

Towards the end of October, I returned to England for about three weeks to see my grandad before he passed away. This gave me the opportunity to spend time with my family and allowed me to reflect on my time in Israel so far without being in the midst of it. I decided that I wanted to see more of Israel so focused on this a little more on my return. I spent a very restful weekend in Tel Aviv Yafo where I stayed in Beit Immanuel - another CMJ guest house. I also went with another volunteer and good friend, Britta, to Haifa for a weekend. We enjoyed seeing another side to Israel and taking in the atmosphere. Last week I went independently to Mitzpe Ramon. After going to St George's Monastery in the wilderness near Jericho I knew I wanted to spend more time in the desert, and I thoroughly enjoyed watching the scenery on the bus journey to Mizpe. At the hostel I stayed in I met a German woman who had rented a car, so we decided to drive into the crater away from light pollution and watch the stars. It was very spontaneous and absolutely brilliant. As you all know, I have a large family and would say I am pretty social. I am a little surprised therefore how recharged I feel after going on these weekends away alone. I find it is very good for me to spend some longer periods of time alone and I hope to do

this more going forward. I think this will also help me spend some more time focusing on God as I so easily get busy and distracted by other things. Some people from my congregation invited me to join them on a trip to Masada and I found the fellowship with these Christians also extremely refreshing. We took the bus from Jerusalem to Masada after I finished my shift one evening. Then we found a place in the wilderness and lay down to sleep under the stars. Unfortunately, one of my friends did not have a sleeping bag so we unzipped mine and lay it across the both of us. Praise the Lord I also had a blanket with me, but it was not the warmest night! Something that stood out to me from this trip was their reliance on God rather than focus on themselves. Not worried about where we will eat next or what the rest of the group think of them - an inward confidence.

I have been really blessed with good health whilst I have been here. I was unwell towards the beginning of December which was unpleasant but other than that have been healthy. I would appreciate your prayers that I and the rest of the community continue to stay healthy.

This year was my first Christmas without my family and away from home. I worked in the morning on Christmas day and then the staff and volunteers enjoyed a big meal together. On Christmas Eve we had had an open doors event, giving out mulled wine, Christmas cookies and singing carols. Lots of people came to this event and the hope is that they will return to the compound or at least that it will have sparked their interest into what Christmas is about.

I am very happy here and I think it is good for me to be so busy. I would however appreciate your prayers on this topic. I think that it is a danger for me that I get caught up in things and do not spend as much time as I would like to exploring my faith and focusing on my relationship with God. I would also appreciate your prayer on the violence here at the moment. I pray especially for those such as the Christian Arabs who are stuck in a situation, they can do nothing about.

I hope you have enjoyed this brief overview of my time so far. I miss you at St Mary's and look forward to sharing more with you in the future.

Sending my love and goodwill,  
Eleanor

Eleanor's email address, if you wish to contact her, is:-  
eleanor.game@hotmail.com

**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

# **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](mailto:info@benten.co.uk)

[www.benten.co.uk](http://www.benten.co.uk)

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

## St Mary's Music News - March 2023

A mixture of coughs, colds and exams left the choir somewhat depleted immediately after Christmas, but numbers are now returning to normal. On the second Sunday in Epiphany Ellie gamely held her own as the only alto among a sea of sopranos, tenor and basses, including during the choir anthem.

The Epiphany Carol Service on 29 January marked the end of carols for the current liturgical year. The music was a mixture of the haunting and the comparatively jolly. In the first category were Howells' setting of Frances Chesterton's strange poem "*Here is the little door*", Moles' "*Tribus miraculis*" and Lauridsen's "*O magnum mysterium*". In the second were Crotch's "*Lo Star Led Chieftains*" and the final motet, Mendelssohn's uplifting "*How lovely are thy messengers*".

Two of the Choral Scholars, Patricia and Isaac, have been commissioned. Meanwhile a number of the Scholars are learning the role of Crucifer, under Noel Starr's watchful eye, supported by Lewis.

The Junior Choir has, if anything, been even busier. 4 of them have now earned their surplices, while one group has completed ribbon training, and a second group is due to start shortly. And to cap it all, they held a very successful cake stall on 4 February, supported by Alison, Bron, Oli and Hannah, at which they made just over £250.00. The takings will be used to fund a trip to Ely, where the highlight will be listening to Choral Evensong.

St Mary's own Choral Evensong will be on Sunday 12 March, and Choral Eucharist with ashes will take place on Wednesday 22 March at 7.30 pm as Lent begins. On Good Friday 7 April the choir, with the brass group, will be performing a Devotional Offering of Bob Chilcott's St John Passion at 7.30pm.

The SMMA's AGM will be held in the Parish Rooms at around noon after the 10.30 service on Sunday 12 March. A copy of the Agenda and Minutes of the 2022 AGM will be found on the noticeboard in church and outside the Parish Rooms. Everyone is very welcome to attend.

On a more secular note, the SMMA is undertaking a new venture with a series of 3 short Wednesday morning coffee concerts (with cake!), on 3 Wednesdays in March, 8, 15 and 22. These will start at 11.30 am and last approximately 40 minutes. Refreshments will be available from 10.45 am.

The coffee concerts will supplement the well-loved summer lunchtime concert series which runs on Wednesdays from 31 May to 19 July.

Finally, make a date in your diary for a very special organ concert on 1 July by Anna Lapwood. She is a broadcaster, conductor and director of music at Pembroke College, Cambridge, and resident organist at the Royal Albert Hall.

Otilie Lefever

## God in the Sciences

### A bucket of tadpoles: Springtime, curiosity, and the Theology of Science

When I was nearly three, I knocked a bucket of tadpoles all over the patio. Those unfortunate creatures must have been collected to educate my brother and I on where frogs came from, but a toddler can't just stand by and watch. Can I see up close? Or maybe I was 'helpfully' moving it to another place. I just remember doing something I shouldn't have done, and tadpoles on the ground. I was sad that I wouldn't get to see those creatures grow up.



I might have been great at destroying things when I was a child (my family would probably say I still am), but I absolutely love watching living things up close. The more I learn, the more my sense of wonder grows. For a tadpole to become a frog, large sections of its gut, salivary glands and muscles must die, as well as the gills. The cells in those tissues are programmed to curl up and disintegrate, and are swallowed up by a specialised kind of white blood cell. Legs grow from small sacs of cells on the tadpole's body, and one of my textbooks says that 'The nervous system is also remodelled' - which I suspect is a bit of an understatement.

This knowledge removes a little of the mystery of how a tadpole turns into a frog, but there is plenty more to discover. These few details also reveal the cleverness of the process. Metamorphosis is surprisingly common in the animal kingdom. How is that an efficient way to grow up, or is efficiency not the most important thing for an animal?

Scientists are essentially grown-ups who are still very much in touch with their inner two-year-old self. They refuse to stop asking questions, even when finding an answer becomes decidedly more awkward than opening a textbook.

Many scientists are people of faith, and this also drives their questioning. They believe that God created a world that was very good, that the purpose of all Creation is to praise Him, we are made in God's image, and that we are tasked with looking after Creation. So Christians, of all people, should be enjoying and investigating our surroundings. These are the bones of a Theology of Science which serves some of us very well, and keeps us looking into things like buckets of frogs – that is, until a two-year-old comes and knocks them over.

Dr Ruth M. Bancewicz

Church Engagement Director at The Faraday Institute in Cambridge.

*(Picture by Pixabay)*

## March Hares

The frosty sunlight glistens  
From the ice upon the grass;  
But they who stop and listen  
Know winter, soon, will pass.

The icy grass is rustling!  
Beneath the frozen dew  
Someone is in there, bustling;  
We only wonder – who?

They burst into a clearing  
Dispelling winter cares!  
A sight to set us cheering!  
Two zany, mad, March hares!

They're chasing, leaping, bounding  
As round and round they race;  
Those winter blues confounding –  
Spring stares us in the face!

The cold and dark behind us  
We watch those leopines, mad;  
Their frolics just remind us –  
It's time now to be glad!

*Nigel Beeton*



## Charity Stamp Sale

*In aid of Parish Church Building & Music Funds*

**Saturday 18 March**  
**9.30am until 12.30pm**  
**Saffron Community Link**  
**(next to Saffron Building Society)**

## The Hundred Parishes Society

*Editor: The Hundred Parishes Society aims to increase awareness, enjoyment and care of the Hundred Parishes (450 square miles of northwest Essex, northeast Hertfordshire and southern Cambridgeshire). It is not a church-orientated organisation - "Parishes" referring to administrative parishes. The Society is interested in all things historical and local, including churches. Here the Society's secretary writes about Church clocks.*

Before the middle of the twentieth century most people did not have watches; they relied on public clocks which could be seen at railway stations, post offices and other public buildings - and on church towers. This reminds me of the lines written in 1912 by the homesick poet, Rupert Brooke:

*"Stands the church clock at ten to three  
And is there honey still for tea?"*

The Hundred Parishes has a variety of interesting church clocks. In Furneux Pelham, St Mary's clock is topped by Old Father Time and the words "Time Flies, Mind Your Business". One wonders what prompted those words to be included.

The bell tower at Sheering has two clock faces which were installed in the 1940s to remember those who served in the War. The north-facing one tells us to "Work and Pray" whilst the west-facing proclaims "Today Is Yours".

The church at High Wych was built in 1861 to the design of local architect George Edward Pritchett. Its clock is almost as wide as the thin flintstone tower on which it is mounted.

Hinxton possibly has our oldest church clock, believed to date from 1700 AD, albeit extensively renovated in 1809 when a new face was fitted.

Artist Eric Ravilious lived in Great Bardfield and his wood engraving of the church of St Mary the Virgin clearly shows the enormous clock that was added to commemorate the coronation of King George V in 1912. One assumes the residents of Great Bardfield are never late for work or church. The engraving has been adopted as the logo of The Hundred Parishes.

I hope you will keep an eye open for the variety of clocks to be found around the Hundred Parishes.

Ken McDonald  
Secretary of The Hundred Parishes Society

*(For more information, see [www.hundredparishes.org.uk](http://www.hundredparishes.org.uk) )*



Steeple Bumpstead



Felsted



Great Waltham



Widford



Great Canfield



Hatfield Broad Oak

## Youth Group Dinner and Soirée - 14<sup>th</sup> January 2023



Aftershock, our St Mary's Church youth group, welcomed 56 guests to enjoy a sumptuous 3-course meal and entertainment in the Parish Rooms. They prepared the venue, helped to prepare and serve the meal, and cleared up.

The evening was hosted by duos of young comperes who introduced the guests to a variety of entertainment. The young people showcased their talents including musical renditions on the piano, trombone, violin and a vocal solo. They also had the guests laughing with amusing comical sketches.

Matt Williamson, our Youth Worker at St Mary's Church, enthused 'After a three year break due to Covid, the Jimmy's Meal returned with a bang! The talented and servant-hearted young people did an amazing job raising a great total for Jimmy's. Thank you for all those who came and gave so generously.'

This was the seventh year that Aftershock has arranged such an event in order to raise money for Jimmy's Night Shelter in Cambridge. This year the amount raised was £2,450. Barry Griffiths, from Jimmy's, gave an update on their work. After the evening, Barry said, "Jimmy's Cambridge is very proud to receive such a wonderful amount following our brilliant evening with Aftershock. We would like to thank everyone who contributed to a wonderful evening. Special thanks to the Aftershock youth group, who provided a talented show, with energy and enthusiasm which was enjoyed by all who attended. The support of local communities and community groups is close to Jimmy's heart and highly valued by all of us, thank you to Matt and the crew."

Clifford Want

More information on Jimmy's is available at [www.jimmyscambridge.org.uk](http://www.jimmyscambridge.org.uk)

*(Photograph by Martin Hugall)*