



Parish News

St Mary's Church, Saffron Walden

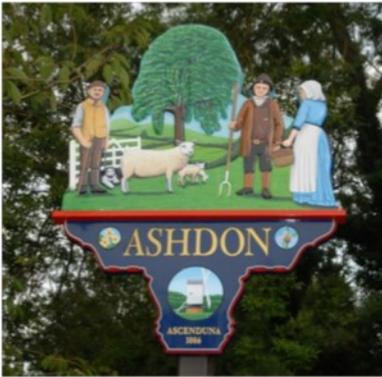
St John, Little Walden and St James, Swards End

Part of Saffron Walden & Villages Team Ministry

May 2023

FREE

Ashdon Open Gardens



Proceeds to All Saints Church, Ashdon
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and All Saints Church Rooms in Church Lane - **CB10 2HG***

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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 **June** issue is **Sunday 7th May**.

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www.stmaryssaffronwalden.org/parishnews

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St Mary's Church Website:

www.stmaryssaffronwalden.org

The Rector's Letter

From The Rev'd Jeremy Trew

Jeremy writes...

Dear All

The songs and celebrations of Easter are still ringing in my mind as I write this magazine entry for May. I wonder how we will be living out our calling as "Easter People" by the time this makes it to print? It was wonderful and moving to walk the story of Holy Week with so many of you once again. My grateful thanks to all who made the great variety of services happen and those who served behind the scenes to clean and prepare for these celebrations.



It was good also to draw our Lent courses to a close. Several groups met across the Team, each with its distinctive purpose. Feedback was positive, and I hope that we have done more than merely entertain, as we sought to deepen that call God makes on all Christians to be disciples. We are called to know and understand our faith better that we might live it more effectively for the good of all and the glory of God. As a Team we will be looking to offer further opportunities for groups to get together and do just that. Let's not wait until next Lent!

Of course, May brings with it the celebrations of the Ascension and Pentecost. These great festivals work, with Easter, to herald the model of Church intended by God. At Easter the power of sin and death is destroyed. At Ascension Jesus returns to the Father, having instructed and enthused his followers. At Pentecost the Holy Spirit comes that the Church may have the power and authority that was once vested in Christ so that it may continue in God's work. This positions the Church, not as an assembly in waiting for God to act and us to follow, but as the dynamic instrument of God at work in this world. So, what should we turn our energy and focus to. True, we may not have all the resources we would like. We may feel we could do with some more volunteers. But I am sure that we have both all the people and all the resources to do whatever God would have us be doing right now; to be disciples and to make disciples and to pray, "thy kingdom come."

Yours

Jeremy

Recycling Points in Saffron Walden, for Small Items

- LIBRARY:** Batteries; home printer cartridges; small electrical items such as hair dryers, irons, electric kettles etc.
- BOOTS:** Batteries
- WAITROSE:** Batteries at Welcome Desk
Left of entrance: Brita water filters; spectacles for the Lion Club
Near self-checkouts: clean flexible plastic including crisp packets; sweet wrappers; plastic film; animal and human food pouches
- SPEC SAVERS:** Contact lenses and spectacles
- TESCO:** *Opposite petrol station:* 2 large containers for used clothes and paired shoes
Lobby main entrance: any clean plastic bags including crisp packets; sweet wrappers; plastic film; animal and human food pouches (no hard plastic or plastic bottles)
Behind checkouts: recycling of makeup (no glass, wood, polish or brushes)
Separate containers for: spectacles; ink cartridges; water filters; light bulbs
- CHARITY SHOPS:** most will take good condition clothes and paired footwear in good condition; bed linen (not duvets and pillows); curtains; table cloths and cushion covers; books; DVDs; CDs and bric-à-brac
- In addition Oxfam will take clean material from any source not fit for wear/use and send it for 'ragging'. It also has another shop taking only books, DVDs, CDs, tapes, maps etc.
- CLARKS SHOES:** will take shoes, slippers and wellington boots for recycling
- ROBERT DYAS:** will take any brand of water filters; batteries and light bulbs
When purchasing small electrical appliances from them, they will take back for recycling the one that is being replaced.

Thanks to Paula Griffiths who spotted this helpful list in The Library.

An unthinkable legacy

“Humanity is on thin ice and the ice is melting fast.” Antonio Guterres, the UN Secretary General, doesn’t mince his words when he speaks to world leaders. You remember his ‘Code Red for Humanity’ in 2021?

His latest warning came as the IPCC (International Panel on Climate Change) published its most recent report in March. It makes for grim reading.

Yet still I hear politicians say glibly that ‘Technology will save us.’ That is the most irresponsible myth! Technology has for years been producing brilliant solutions to the crises we face, and they are getting ever better. But we have lacked the political will to invest enough in them and make the urgent transition from our fossil fuel economies to the new clean solutions.

The massive international fossil fuel companies, which exert powerful pressures on global decision making, have been in the real driving seat.

Let’s take the oceans. The equivalent of 5 Hiroshima bombs’ worth of energy goes into our oceans every minute. 300 bombs every hour. This is heat from the sun which should be bounced back into space but is trapped by our Greenhouse Gases. I felt the heat of the oceans as I sailed around the world and experienced the massive weather events that result from all that energy.

There is no little gizmo we can dangle in the sea to extract all that heat. The only solution is to massively reduce our emissions, get them to zero by 2050 or sooner and then, over the next few centuries, with the sun’s energy bouncing once more back into space, allow the oceans to cool and bring down the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events as they do so.

But while we wait for the world to move away from fossil fuels, we have set some massive positive feedback loops into operation. One is Arctic Ice. As it melts and retreats, it exposes more deep, blue-black ocean. The oceans absorb the heat that was previously reflected by the ice, and so more ice melts, revealing even more ocean... The process is accelerating and I have no idea how it will ever be reversed. There is no technological gizmo for that either!

Another positive feedback loop is Siberian and Canadian permafrost. Ice that has lain under the vast swathes of tundra for millennia but which is now melting. Whole towns that have been built on the solidity of the ice are now buckling and collapsing as the ground turns to mush. The problem is that as it does so, it releases vast quantities of methane. Methane is 80 times more powerful as a greenhouse gas than CO₂. It does indeed break down in the atmosphere in about 20 years, turning into CO₂, but that is time enough to have heated more tundra, melted more permafrost, released more methane and accelerated the warming process yet again.



Buildings collapsing as permafrost melts.

It is the stuff of nightmares. The Emissions Gap report estimates that the world will warm by 2.8°C this century if countries keep their promises; if we carry on as we are, the IPCC estimates that we will warm by 3.2°C. Neither of those outcomes is survivable. Our ecosystems will have broken down with repeated droughts, floods, hurricanes, biodiversity loss and harvest failures long before then: within the lifetimes of the children in our nurseries and infant schools. An unthinkable legacy!

Edward Gildea, Eco Team Leader

A Prayer for May

provided by the Prayer Team



Risen Christ,
you filled your disciples with boldness and fresh hope:
strengthen us to proclaim your risen life
and fill us with your peace,
to the glory of God the Father.
Amen

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An Easter message from Bishop Guli

One of the most famous post-resurrection appearances of the risen Jesus is his meeting with two of the disciples on the road to Emmaus. The two of them are downcast as they talk about all that has happened in the preceding days, and they relate this to the unknown traveller who joins them. The friend and teacher in whom they had invested so much had been taken away from them, and his band of followers had broken up in defeat.



But Jesus unpacks Scripture for them and when he breaks bread for them, their eyes are opened, and they suddenly recognise him. The encounter is so transformative that they rush back to Jerusalem to find the eleven: “Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of bread” (Luke 24: 13-35).

Many Christians today still have similar experiences. We meet with Christ when we dwell in the Scriptures, when we meet with one another, and when we break bread together. But there are also times when, like the disciples on the road to Emmaus, we fail to recognise Jesus even when he is walking alongside us.

Do we see him in the face of the person with whom we profoundly disagree, or the face of someone completely different from us?

Do we treat one another as if we are meeting with Christ? What the story of the encounter on the road to Emmaus expresses is our need of one another and the importance of travelling well together. The very word ‘companion’ has its meaning in the Old French ‘compaignon’, literally ‘one who breaks bread with another’.

The Christian journey is not one that we can undertake alone, but only with God and with one another. Through God’s grace, we are part of one body and each part of that body needs the other. It is together that we are sent out to love and serve the world, together that we build the kingdom of God, in the name of our risen Lord.

+ Guli

We praise and bless you, our risen Lord Jesus, King of glory,
for you breathed new life into your astonished disciples.

As you turned unutterable grief into unshakeable joy,
so renew and refresh your turbulent world
and establish now your reign of peace.

To you, Lord Jesus,
transforming the pain of death into the fullness of life,
be honour and glory, now and for ever.
Amen.

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FRIENDS OF THE PARISH CHURCH

St Mary's Friends is a very active group who are The Friends of the Parish Church and have been working hard for almost 90 years. We are able to help financially with minor and major projects, the last major funding paid for the beautiful oak Welcome Furniture that greets you at the West door.

We have a bookstand offering postcards, prints and books for sale to our many visitors. We visit Cathedrals around the country twice a year. Why not join us and feel part of the process and feel that sense of pride in the work we carry out. There are application forms on our bookstand, and on the website so **come and join us**. Watch this space for update news and activities.

Chairman: Denis Tindley, Sec.: Pamela Mugliston Treasurer: Sandra Marsh

Newsflash ... The Friends' Cathedral Trip

Our next trip is to Southwark Cathedral on Tuesday 25th July. Limited places were released on 1st May 2023 to members of the congregation. For booking and further information please contact Pamela Mugliston Secretary 01799 521697 or pjmteddybear@btinternet.com.

We will be having a 90 mins tour of the Cathedral in the morning, lunching together at The George and then a free afternoon to visit places close by eg The Golden Hinde, Winchester Palace, The Globe Theatre, The Clink Prison Museum and Borough Market and of course there are other tours available at the Cathedral should you wish to book them.

The cost of the Coach and the Tour will be in the region of £35 to £38 depending on numbers and payment will be due by Sunday 4th June.

Newsflash to members ... Summer Event

Don't forget to sign up to help with a Summer Event, it's your opportunity to be involved in Fund Raising to help with the many projects requiring funding at St Mary's. See note in the latest Newsletter.

Contact Pamela : pjmteddybear@btinternet.com

Newsflash ...

The Friends received two prints from the family of the late Rev'd Sinker, a previous incumbent here at St Mary's. We have had these prints framed and they now hang in the back meeting room of the Parish Rooms for your enjoyment. Should you wish to purchase a copy of the left hand side print there are some for sale at £5 each. Sadly they are too large to display on the Bookstand but please ask Pamela Mugliston, Sandra Marsh or any Friends Council member and they will make one available for you.

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

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

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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

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You can also book appointments online at www.hearinghelpessex.org.uk

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Mothers' UNION March Meeting Report

Mothers' Union members welcomed our Diocesan President, Maxine Paul, on 9th March at 2pm. Her subject was 'My First Year as President of Chelmsford Diocese Mothers' Union'. Maxine was commissioned in January 2022 by Bishop Guli in Chelmsford Cathedral. She had not worked at Diocesan level before and it was a steep learning curve.

Maxine explained her many new responsibilities as part of a team of Diocesan trustees. She also emphasised the current MU theme, 'Transformation Now', which aims to make the MU relevant for the 21st century. It will run for three years.

Next, she spoke enthusiastically about the MU projects in the UK: 'English for Women' for new arrivals to this country with no English language; the campaign '16 days activism' against gender-based violence; 'AFIA short break caravan holidays' for struggling families. Also, overseas 'The Summer of Hope' appeal to train MU leaders overseas, in literacy and numeracy training and 'The Big Give' appeal which finances a peace project run by women in South Sudan.

In addition, Maxine has been attending MU council meetings and conferences and visiting branches such as our own. She congratulated us for resolving the problem of having no branch leader, by continuing to be run by committee. We found her both challenging and inspiring.

Brenda Sheath

Gelio's Anthology of Obscure Proverbs

Three sobering Proverbs on the theme of Endurance

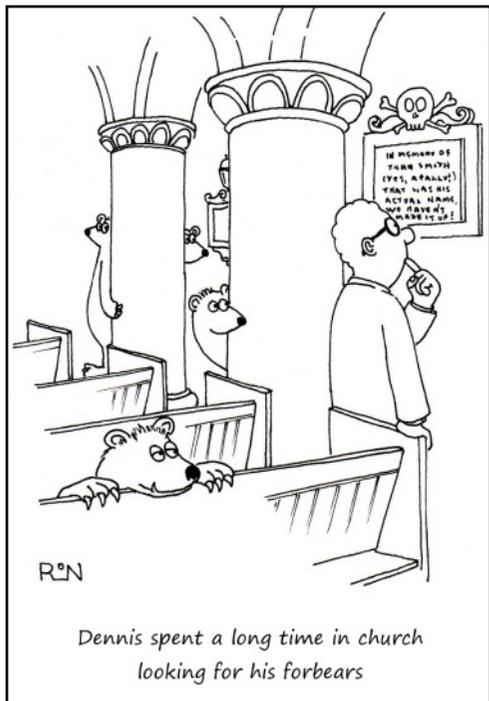
Yiddish Proverb

'He who can't endure the bad, will not live to See the good' and so, an English Proverb 'He that Endures is not overcome'

And likewise another English Proverb

'What can't be cured must be endured'





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For further information please contact Ros Holder on 01799 551046

Calendar for May 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 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.

Tuesday 2 May

5pm Evening Prayer by Zoom

Wednesday 3 May

8am Morning Prayer

9.30am Holy Communion

Thursday 4 May

10am Silent Prayer in North Chapel

1pm Service with Prayers for Wholeness and Healing

Sunday 7 May

8am BCP Holy Communion

10.30am Holy Communion & Coronation Thanksgiving [Y]

12pm Annual Parochial Church Meeting

6.30pm H2H - *not happening*

Tuesday 9 May

5pm Evening Prayer by Zoom

Wednesday 10 May

8am Morning Prayer

9.30am Holy Communion

Sunday 14 May

8am BCP Holy Communion

10.30am Holy Communion [Y]

6.30pm Choral Evensong - *Smart in B flat; Wood: Glorious and Powerful God*

Tuesday 16 May

5pm Evening Prayer by Zoom

Wednesday 17 May

8am Morning Prayer

9.30am Holy Communion



Thursday 18 May - Ascension Day

2pm Mothers' Union Deanery Service

7.30pm Choral Eucharist - *Harwood in A flat; Finzi: God is Gone up*

Sunday 21 May

8am Holy Communion (BCP)

10.30am Holy Communion [Y]

4pm Living Stones Service at All Saints Church, Great Chesterford

Tuesday 23 May

5pm Evening Prayer by Zoom

Wednesday 24 May

8am Morning Prayer

9.30am Holy Communion

The Living Stones Service will be held in different churches during the summer months. This month, it will be in All Saints Church, Great Chesterford.

Sunday 28 May - Pentecost

8am Holy Communion (BCP) [Y]

10.30am Family Service

6.30pm Taizé service

Tuesday 30 May

5pm Evening Prayer by Zoom

Wednesday 31 May

8am Morning Prayer

9.30am Holy Communion

1.10pm Lunchtime Concert - Titika Maragoula *Soprano*; Richard Carr, *Piano*



St James', Swards End

Sunday 7 May

10.30pm Festival Service

Sunday 21 May

10.30am Holy Communion



St John's, Little Walden

Sunday 14 May

10.30am Family Service

Sunday 28 May

10.30am Holy Communion

The Coronation of King Charles III

On 6th May His Majesty King Charles III will be crowned alongside Camilla, The Queen, in Westminster Abbey. How can we pray for him, as he approaches this important event? Paul says:

'I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.' (1 Timothy 2:1,2).

For God's presence - to guide every aspect of King Charles' life as he prepares for his Coronation and future roles. At his Accession, he was proclaimed Defender of the Faith, the Supreme Governor of the Church of England. Charles has talked about *'the Sovereign's particular relationship and responsibility towards the Church of England - the Church in which my own faith is so deeply rooted.'*

For God's wisdom - as he provides leadership that will honour God and promote the wellbeing of our society. King Solomon prayed for wisdom for himself: *'So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong.'* (1 Kings 3:9).

For God's love - to strengthen all relationships within the Royal Family; for reconciliation, understanding, forgiveness and good communication.

For God's purpose - to be fulfilled through the work of the King and Queen and their family in the years to come. He has said: *'and whatever may be your background or beliefs, I shall endeavour to serve you with loyalty, respect and love, as I have throughout my life.'*

A Prayer for the new King:

Everlasting God,
we pray for our new King.
Bless his reign and the life of our nation.
Help us to work together so that truth and justice,
harmony and fairness flourish among us;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Canon Paul Hardingham (Parish Pump)



BUCKINGHAM PALACE, have written thanking St Mary's Saffron Walden for their messages written in the Book of Condolence following the death of King Charles' beloved mother, Queen Elizabeth II. 'The King was greatly touched by your kindness in expressing your sympathy and profound gratitude to The late Queen for her extraordinary life of service'. This letter will be kept in the church's archives.

YOU in the PEW interviewed by
Chris Bishop



Helen Hawkes

Although Helen's parents are Welsh, she was born in Wakefield, Yorkshire, where her father taught French. Later the family moved to Rowhedge, in Essex, and then back to South Yorkshire, to live in

Rotherham. At the age of 18 Helen went to Hull to train as a teacher. There she met her future husband, Alan. For some years they both taught in Rotherham and then, in 1978, moved to Bishop's Stortford, when her husband became the deputy headteacher at St Michael's C of E Primary School. In 1982 they moved to Saffron Walden, when Alan became a Headteacher.

Although Helen's father was a member of the Society of Friends, which was a big influence in her life, with Alan's work at a C of E school Helen attended services at St Michael's and being part of St Mary's was a natural continuation for both of them.

Helen has a degree in science and, after her child started school, Helen worked at the British Antarctic Survey, in Cambridge. After her time at BAS Helen then spent several very happy years teaching at St Mary's Primary School on Castle Street. There were also twenty years as a volunteer at Oxfam, on King Street. She particularly enjoyed maintaining the 'Fairly Traded' food. In recent years Helen has been a committee member of St Mary's Mothers' Union where she enjoys the company of friends who work together.

Having stayed-put in the town since 1982 Helen has gained a circle of close friends: several of whom refer to themselves as, "the Gates-Mates", because they met whilst waiting for their infant children at the gates of R A Butler Schools. The son for whom she waited, Owen, is now living and working in Singapore, so some time each year is spent there: an arrangement that was interrupted by Covid, but that happily can now begin again.

Helen greatly enjoys concerts and films at Saffron Hall and Saffron Screen. She is also a keen gardener and rambler. At home she has devoted a lot of time to a large herbaceous border. The town is also in a beautiful area with attractive villages, which enable Helen to enjoy walks through the countryside, followed by a rest in a café. Tea and cake at the Village Museum at Ashdon is a favourite. In Saffron Walden itself the display of daffodils on The Common every Spring is a welcome sight, signalling the end of Winter. Helen finds this blaze of yellow very uplifting.

If Helen had a coat of arms, it would probably feature a hand fork and trowel, crossed in one corner, and walking boots in the opposite corner. The motto would be, *Unum Diem Ad Tempus*: One day At A Time.

Processing Recycled Spectacles

Lions Clubs throughout the UK collect unwanted and damaged spectacles. These are sent to central processing depots where they are examined by a team of Lions and other volunteers. Sorted pairs of spectacles are sent for grading and distributed by Medico France in Le Havre.



Many are sent directly to contacts running eye clinics in Papua New Guinea, Sri Lanka, Ghana, Nigeria and Nepal. Also volunteers from *Unite for Sight* charity take them on missions across the world.

The Lions Birmingham Headquarters send them to the *National Police Army Charity* to be sent to The Gambia for eye camps, the Army working in Mali and through a variety of independent charities working in Nigeria, Chad, Tanzania and Bangladesh.

Scrap metal salvaged from broken and unsuitable spectacles has raised over £486,000 which was donated to sight-related charitable causes since the project started. For the story of how these collections first started see the laminated sheet with the box.

St Mary's have a box at the back of Church for you to donate your spectacles in whatever condition, just pop them in the box. No cases though please. This is an ongoing project so let's help those in other countries around the world with sight problems and let's save tons of waste going into landfill too.

THANK YOU

Pamela Mugliston

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St Mary's Music News

The Choir and the Brass Group, supported by the increasingly frail and temperamental organ, have been very busy participating in worship during Lent and through to Easter, not only on Sunday mornings, but also in the evenings in 4 services of Choral Eucharist or Evensong, and a Devotional Offering. The music has ranged from the mid 1500s to the present day. We have sung Byrd, Arnerio, Purcell and Mozart, as well as Bob Chilcott's 21st century St John Passion for our Good Friday Offering. This Passion, enhanced by brass, timpani and strings, with participation from the congregation, was by turns a rousing and mediative experience for musicians and audience alike.

Of course, behind the music enjoyed weekly in St Mary's, ably led by Oli King as Director of Music and Jeremy Allen as Assistant Organist, there has to be an administrative underpinning, which culminates in the SMMA's AGM held in March. This year Jeremy Trew thanked the SMMA particularly for the support it gives to young musicians. This starts with Lizzie Bennett's Joyful Noise sessions for the very youngest, progresses to the Junior Choir whose social activities are organised by Alison Lawrence, and graduates with our accomplished Choral Scholars supported by Noel Starr, Ellie Beare and Lewis Colley. We are very grateful to all of them.

Serendipitously, in joyous spring news, Helen (soprano) and Matt (bass) have welcomed the arrival of Flora Isobel, the first choir baby in over a quarter of a century. Lizzie has already earmarked her for Joyful Noise.

On a sadder note we said goodbye on Easter Sunday to Yechan, the second Michael Swindlehurst Organ Scholar, who is now concentrating on his forthcoming exams. Although he was already an accomplished organist when he took up the scholarship in autumn 2021, he has developed and thrived as part of the SMMA musical team, and we wish him all the best for the future. Information about the next Scholarship will appear in due course.

The AGM started with a report from Hannah Razzell as Chair. She admitted this was the first she had written since her university dissertation, appropriately on Plato's and Aristotle's view of music. This year Mo Pullen stood down from both the Committee and the choir, following an amazing 35 years of involvement with music at St Mary's. Nell Hardingham also leaves the Committee, but happily remains in the choir as a soprano. Replacing them are Bron Ferland, who returns after a one year "sabbatical", during which she has nevertheless been working very hard as the choir administrator, aka the mother hen to whom everyone turns for advice and organisational memory, as well as new joiner Rosie Kennedy Cadell. Rosie is also the mother of one of

our lively Junior choristers. The draft Minutes of the AGM, including a full list of Officers and members of the Committee, as well as tweaks to the Constitution, will be published shortly.

The SMMA's new venture in 2023 has been the series of 3 Coffee (and cake) Concerts on Wednesday mornings. These have starred students from SWCHS, Gail Ford and Edward Dodge on oboe and piano respectively, and St Mary's own Karin Fischer-Buder, accompanied by former Assistant Organist Stephen Penton on piano. This new format has been a great success and the events have raised more than £550, even before the addition of Gift Aid.

They will be followed by our popular summer lunchtime concerts, starting on 31 May with a performance by soprano Titika Maragoula and pianist Richard Carr. The concerts take place on Wednesdays until 19 July. They begin at 1.10pm and last for approximately 40 minutes. Refreshments are available from 12.30 pm.

Finally, as Hannah reminded us at the AGM, may we continue to live out Psalm 21:13 as we say: 'Rise up, O Lord, in all Your power. With music and singing we will celebrate Your mighty acts.'

Otilie Lefever



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Milestones

Milestones have been part of our heritage for centuries. They were an important element of the Roman road network, positioned to indicate the distance travelled or to be travelled. In 1767, milestones were made compulsory on all turnpikes, the toll roads managed by turnpike trusts, although many local milestones were in place before then.

There are around 40 surviving milestones within The Hundred Parishes, mostly along three highways that run between London and Cambridge. These highways are now called B1383 (formerly A11), B1368 and A10. The milestones are marked on Ordnance Survey maps as “MS”.

One of the earliest and most visible milestones can be seen in Barkway, a historic coaching village. It was installed in 1728, one of 16 milestones funded at that time by a trust established in 1586 by a former master of Trinity Hall, Cambridge. Additional milestones were added by the Wadesmill Turnpike Trust in 1742, some along the old Roman road, Ermine Street, now A10, and others along the alternative route, now mostly called B1368. Over time, the inscriptions became weather-worn and many stones were upgraded in 1804 by the addition of a cast iron plate.



Most milestones in Hertfordshire and Cambridgeshire are listed but only one in Essex is included on the National Heritage List - the large, three-sided iron milepost in the centre of Stansted Mountfitchet on the B1383. This is probably the newest in the Hundred Parishes, having been installed in the early 1900s. The earlier milestones along the old A11 would have been installed by the Hockerill Turnpike Trust which was responsible from 1744 to 1870 for 28 miles of highway between Harlow and Stump Cross.



Ken McDonald, Secretary of The Hundred Parishes Society

Some of the information for this article came from The Milestone Society, established in 2001. Their website is <https://www.milestonesociety.co.uk/>

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28th May - Fire of Pentecost

"You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you and you will be witnesses to me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth" Acts 1:8



We all get tired and battle weary sometimes. The disciples of Jesus had just been through a three-year long roller coaster adventure with Jesus that had culminated in His death, resurrection and ascension into heaven.

The range of emotions would have been hugely taxing in the days leading up to Pentecost, as they remembered Jesus weeping in the garden of Gethsemane, betrayed by Judas, brutally beaten and crucified, and then dead and buried. Then there had been the shock and awe of finding out that He was alive again! But then He had left them again, to return to His Father. By the time the day of Pentecost arrived, the disciples would indeed have welcomed some fresh spiritual fire!

For us today, many of us have felt emotionally drained with the uncertainties caused by Covid 19, the worry of prices rising at an alarming rate, and now the pain and uncertainty of what will happen in the war in Ukraine.

So, what better day to pray for fresh spiritual fire for each of us? As we celebrate the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and birth of the Church, let us thank God that He will never leave us or forsake us.

(Parish Pump)

From the Registers

Baptisms

12th March	Edward Henry Byrne Charles James Percy Byrne
26th March	Poppy Maisie Dorothy Harris Jack Stephen Patrick Harris

Funerals

7th March	Doreen Casbolt
17th March	Pauline Wombwell
30th March	Janet Fuelling



Muniments Room

Archive Group

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

Compiled by our Archivist Canon Chris Bishop

May 1942

My Dear Parishioners

I am asking your help in a matter which has troubled me for some little time. The war has brought us many problems, among them an influx of strangers from the coast and capital into what are called reception areas. Walden is one of such districts and regular residents have been delighted to welcome so many of these refugees and visitors to the services of the Parish Church. I share this feeling to the full, but what goes against one's grain is the fact that I have rarely or never been able to come into personal contact with them. No one seems able to put me on their track so that I can call on them and make their personal acquaintance. For the time being I am their pastor and realise, I hope, my responsibilities as such and do not wish to regard them merely as weekend outsiders, here today and gone tomorrow. At the west end of the church is a box which seems to have escaped notice though it has been there for some time in which people who wish clergy to call are requested to put their names and addresses, only one response to this invitation has so far been received so I am obliged to renew the request here and ask those of you who know where these temporary parishioners are to be found to be kind enough to send me tidings of their local habitation and name.

Yours sincerely

L. Hughes

Smile Lines....

Five exercises that clergy should avoid – at all costs

Beating your head against the wall; climbing the walls; beating your own drum; dragging your heels; jumping to conclusions; grasping at straws; fishing for compliments; throwing your weight around; passing the buck; using clichés.

Can Science Prove God Exists?

To risk sounding like a smart aleck seven-year-old, technically speaking you can only prove things mathematically. If you need to know that one plus one equals two, don't go to a chemistry lab. The natural sciences only deal with things that can be observed and measured. Science has been so successful that it's tempting to get carried away, valuing science above any other kind of knowledge, but there are other ways of knowing that are equally important. For example, art conveys ideas, experiences or emotions that provoke us to think or do something in response.

In fact, to find answers to any of the really important questions about meaning and purpose that affect us throughout our lives, we always have to go beyond science. Some scientific data might help define the question, for example a farmer facing a drought would probably like to know some details about the current weather patterns and the availability of seeds for more hardy crops before she can start asking "What is the point of trying to grow anything at all?" But in the end, she is asking a deeper question – and so are the rest of us when we go through any significant experience in life.

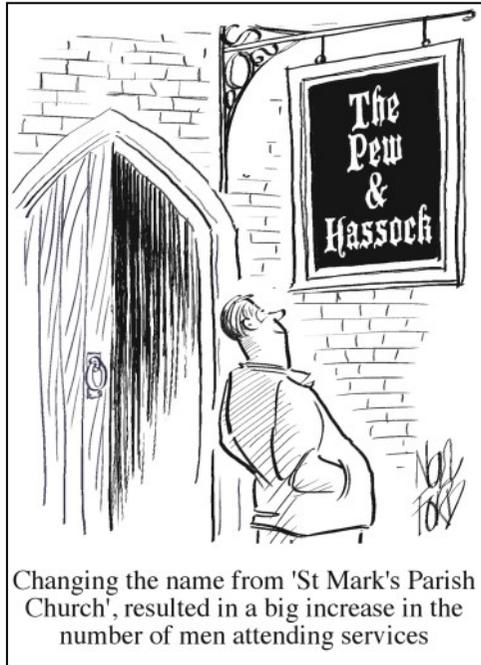
So rather than asking "Can science prove God exists?", what about: "Are the findings of science compatible with the existence of a purposeful Creator?" For many scientists today, the answer to the second question is yes. They have investigated the Bible's descriptions of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and found that they make sense. They have discovered that they can interact with God – especially in prayer – and that this faith has changed their lives.

Professor Christine Done, an astrophysicist at Durham University, writes, "For me the more we know about the vast, yet intricate and beautiful universe we live in, the bigger and more awe-inspiring is the God who made it all." (*Thinking About: The Big Bang*, <https://www.cis.org.uk/resources/thinking/>)

Some go even further, making statements like this: "The way the universe exhibits an ordered structure, which is open to science to investigate, points to a mind behind it." (Rev'd Dr Rodney Holder, astrophysicist, in *Longing, Waiting, Believing* (BRF, 2014))

The question "Can Science Prove God Exists?" turns out to be a category error – trying to use science to answer a non-scientific question. On the other hand, many scientists think there is enough evidence from a wide range of sources to warrant belief in God.

Dr Ruth M. Bancewicz,
Church Engagement Director at The Faraday Institute, Cambridge.



A Bigger Splash by David Hockney (1967 Tate Britain)

Hockney's famous painting 'A Bigger Splash' is commonly regarded as the depiction of the new, idyllic Californian lifestyle he was experiencing: a perfect blue cloudless sky, perfect blue swimming pool, a stylish, modern house, some elegant palm trees and a life of untroubled leisure.

But I find it totally depressing. I spent a while in front of it in Tate Britain and experienced a growing sense of emptiness and loneliness. Where does the loneliness come from?

Firstly, there is only one chair on the veranda. It is conspicuous with the diagonal lines of its frame and its neat shadow. Indeed, that is almost the only shadow in the entire painting. But there is no newspaper lying next to it. No open novel, no suncream or cup of coffee: nothing that would usually occupy our time spent in the sun. It is a very lonely chair.

Even the palm trees and thin strip of foliage look lonely. Not much biodiversity there!

Then there is no one in the swimming pool. We are asked to assume that someone has just dived off the board, but there are no ripples on the surface of the pool; no body visible under the water; no sign of any bounce, spring or vibration of the diving board. I don't believe that anyone has dived in!

Adding to the loneliness is Hockney's use of paint. Disregarding the splash itself for the moment, there are no signs of brushwork on the flat areas that denote the pool, the sky, the veranda or the house. Those surfaces are absolutely flat. As is the beige coloured surrounding of the image. No hint of a brushstroke to be seen. They are totally depersonalised surfaces.

We read the veranda and pool as horizontal spaces, the house wall as vertical and the sky as a distant space, but there is nothing in their treatment that indicates them as such. Those are just our assumptions.

(There are two tiny exceptions to this. If you visit the painting, look out for 2 tiny dots of blue on the painted beige surround. Not mistakes. Quite deliberate imperfections. Rather like the imperfections that have to be included in a Turkish carpet or an Islamic ceramic to indicate that only God can produce perfection. Just a little tease by Hockney?)

So what of the splash itself? Well, it's not much of a splash! It's not a representation of water. Water doesn't behave or look like that. There really should be ripples and waves radiating from the entry point. But here at last is our sign of humanity. A human holding the brush is expressing himself in the white paint of the supposed splash. Anger? Frustration? Whimsy? Delicacy combined with brutality? Emotion at last! A human presence but not *in* the painting. In front of it.

For me, though, the emotion is not one of happiness or fulfilment. Here is an idyllic, Californian world devoid of humanity and soul. It is a depiction of spiritlessness. Which is why I include it in this Parish Magazine: the Christian challenge to a life of such material comfort and affluence is, 'Where is the spirit?' 'What soul lies at the heart of the life you have chosen?'

Edward Gildea



[https://artsdot.com/ADC/Art-ImgScreen-3.nsf/O/A-AE3MFF/\\$FILE/David-hockney-a-bigger-splash.jpg](https://artsdot.com/ADC/Art-ImgScreen-3.nsf/O/A-AE3MFF/$FILE/David-hockney-a-bigger-splash.jpg)

FEAR

NOT

for

I AM

with you

Isaiah 41:10