

## THIS WEEK'S SERVICES IN CHURCH AND ONLINE

The following services are available across the team - full details on the website and email bulletin.

### SUNDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> MAY

#### St Mary's Saffron Walden

8.00am Holy Communion 1662 President: Jeremy Trew  
- in Church/YouTube

6.30pm H2H Youth Led Service  
- in Church Leader: Matt Williamson

#### St Botolph's Hadstock - in Church

9.30am Family Service Leader: Paula Griffiths

#### All Saints Ashdon - in Church

9.30am Holy Communion President: Caroline Curren

#### All Saints' Wimbish - in Church/Zoom

9.15am Sunday Praise Leader: John Saxon

### CAM VILLAGES ONLINE

#### Wendens Ambo - Zoom

9.30am Family Service Leader: Home Team  
Talk: Alex Jeewan

#### Great Chesterford - Facebook

11.00am Morning Prayer: Leader: Elizabeth Marshall

### TUESDAY

5.00pm Evening Prayer Leader: Rufus Barnes  
Zoom

### WEDNESDAY

9.30am Holy Communion President: Caroline Curren  
Zoom

### THURSDAY

1.00pm Healing Service Leader: Jeremy Trew  
in Church

## NEXT SUNDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> MAY SERVICES IN CHURCH AND ONLINE

#### St Mary's Saffron Walden - in Church/YouTube/Zoom

10.00am Holy Communion President: Jeremy Trew  
Preacher: Rachel Prior

#### St James' Searoads End - in Church

9.30am Holy Communion President: Chris Bishop

#### St John's Little Walden - in Church

11.15am Family Service Leader: Tracey Nicholls

#### St Botolph's Hadstock - in Church

9.30am Holy Communion 1662 President: Paula Griffiths

#### All Saints Ashdon - in Church

9.30am Holy Communion President: Caroline Curren

#### St Mary's Debden - in Church/Zoom

9.15am Sunday Praise Leader: John Saxon

### CAM VILLAGES ONLINE - Zoom

10.00am Holy Communion President: Alex Jeewan

See St Mary's Church, SW, website at  
[www.stmaryssaffronwalden.org](http://www.stmaryssaffronwalden.org) to find out more.

Please 'Like' our Facebook page so we reach more people! Click on the link on our website, or go to:  
[www.facebook.com/saintmaryschurchsaffronwalden](https://www.facebook.com/saintmaryschurchsaffronwalden)



## SAFFRON WALDEN & VILLAGES TEAM MINISTRY

# The Grapevine

COVERING THE PARISHES OF SAFFRON WALDEN,  
WIMBISH, DEBDEN, ASHDON AND HADSTOCK

Welcome to our services today

Fifth Sunday of Easter

2nd May 2021

### Collect

Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: grant that, as by your grace going before us you put into our minds good desires, so by your continual help we may bring them to good effect; through Jesus Christ our risen Lord.

### First Reading: Acts 8.26-40

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Get up and go towards the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over to this chariot and join it.' So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?' He replied, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?' And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: 'Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.' The eunuch asked Philip, 'About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?' Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, 'Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?' He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

### Gospel: John 15.1-8

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.'

### Post Communion

Eternal God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life: grant us to walk in his way, to rejoice in his truth, and to share his risen life; who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

## PLEASE PRAY FOR:

In May please pray for: **Sewards End & Little Walden C of E, Radwinter Primary School**

Those whose wedding banns are being called at St Mary's, Saffron Walden: **Jonathan Irving and Sophie Parkin**

The family and friends of those who have died recently:  
**Richard Parry-Jones, Margaret Rowell**

## REFLECTIONS - ANDY COLEBROOKE

Fans of *Gardeners' World* will know that everyone's favourite gardener, Monty Don, has been encouraging us to go out with the secateurs to do some pruning. This is a necessary task that will ensure healthy growth, hopefully resulting in glorious blooms and tasty fruits. Jesus takes this well-known aspect of garden husbandry and applies it to our life with him: Jesus is the vine, and we are the branches. The vine provides life-giving sap to course through its branches, enabling them to bear fruit. Branches can't bear fruit alone; they must remain connected to the vine. The point is well made: if we want lives that are fruitful for God, we must stay close to Jesus. Clearly, the apostle Philip did just that, for our reading from Acts records a most productive incident in his life: his close association with Jesus resulted in the gospel being taken to Ethiopia where it has remained firmly rooted ever since.

### Going deeper...

In his book *Being Christian* Rowan Williams gives a simple meaning to sharing in the Eucharist: 'In Holy Communion, Jesus Christ tells us that he wants our company.' And at that service we sometimes ask the Lord 'that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us'. This is vine and branches imagery. We are guests at the Lord's table, called to dwell, to make our home in Jesus, before being sent out in his name, to bear the fruit of that partnership.

### I wonder...

Jesus says the vine-grower strips the vine of unproductive growth and trims the rest to encourage further fruiting. Can I think of times when God has 'pruned' me for greater fruitfulness?

## PRAYER FOR THIS WEEK

Come! Spirit of Love! Penetrate and transform us by the action of your purifying life. May your constant, brooding love bring forth in us more love and all the graces and works of love. Give us grace to remain still under its action, and may that humble stillness be our prayer. Amen.

*Evelyn Underhill*

## BIBLE READINGS FOR THIS WEEK

<b>Mon 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	Morning Psalm 145 & 1 Peter 1:1-12 Evening Psalm 105
<b>Tue 4<sup>th</sup></b>	Morning Psalm 19 & 1 Peter 1:13-end Evening Psalm 97 & Luke 5:1-11
<b>Wed 5<sup>th</sup></b>	Morning Psalm 30 & 1 Peter 2:1-10 Evening Psalm 99
<b>Thurs 6<sup>th</sup></b>	Morning Psalm 57 & 1 Peter 2:11-end Evening Psalm 104
<b>Fri 7<sup>th</sup></b>	Morning Psalm 138 & 1 Peter 3:1-12 Evening Psalm 66
<b>Sat 8<sup>th</sup></b>	Morning Psalm 146 & 1 Peter 3:13-end Evening Psalm 118

## NEWS

**SERVICES IN CHURCH** Services are taking place in all our churches this week. Numbers are restricted to be COVID safe. If you wish to attend St Mary's SW in person, please book your place in advance by telephoning the Parish Office by noon on Friday or by booking online using the bulletin link.

**SERVICES AVAILABLE ONLINE** are listed on the back page and in the weekly bulletin. Zoom services can be accessed by telephone - please contact the Parish Office for further details.

**PRIVATE PRAYER** St Mary's, Saffron Walden is open on Sunday and Wednesday afternoons from 2pm - 4pm. Ashdon is open every day and Hadstock is open by appointment.

**SMMA AGM:** This will take place on **Zoom on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> April at 7:30pm**. The SMMA supports the music of the church and we are hopefully starting to emerge from one of the most challenging times during peace time. This will be in place of the usual 7:30pm choir practice. All members and others who may be interested are welcome to attend. Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86390097625?pwd=M1o0UTRhVm51MDk5WHpZTkdlVLzNBQT09> Meeting ID: 863 9009 7625 Passcode: 930100. *Bron Ferland*

**A SERVICE WITH PRAYERS FOR WHOLENESS & HEALING** will take place on **Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> May** at 1 o'clock in St Mary's Church, Saffron Walden. All welcome whether you seek healing for yourself or another.

**MOTHERS' UNION DEANERY FESTIVAL SERVICE 13<sup>th</sup> May**, 2.00pm St Mary's Church, Saffron Walden. Rev'd Canon Chris Bishop will take the service and Rev'd Alex Jeewan will be Guest Speaker. *Helen Hawkes*

**ANNUAL MEETINGS - RESULTS OF ELECTIONS** At our Annual Meetings on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> April, the following were elected: Denis Tindley and Gill Caswell - Churchwardens, Bill Rose, Jan Siewertsen, Pamela Jenner and Pam Russell - Assistant Churchwardens, Shawn Martin - Deanery Synod rep for a 2 year term and Anna Martin, Bron Ferland, Hannah Razzell, John Pickthorn and Richard Freeman - PCC for a three year term. *Lisa Brook, PCC Secretary*

Foreign and British commemorative **STAMPS, CURRENCY, BRITISH COINS** and notes that are no longer in circulation, please put through the post box outside St Mary's Parish Office. All proceeds go to Hearing Dogs for Deaf People. *Margaret Walter*

**PARISH OFFICE HOURS** The Parish Administrator is available by phone or email on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays 9.30am - 12 noon. The office is not currently open to personal callers.

**THE MAY EDITION OF PARISH NEWS** is available on the website at <http://www.stmaryssaffronwalden.org/parishnews>

Please send items for the **GRAPEVINE** to [secretary.swrectory@ntlworld.com](mailto:secretary.swrectory@ntlworld.com) by 9.00am on Wednesday.

## MINISTRY TEAM

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