

Parish News

November 2021

FREE

St Mary the Virgin, Saffron Walden

St John, Little Walden and St James, Swards End

Part of Saffron Walden & Villages Team Ministry

New Organ Scholar Appointed

The churches of St Mary's Saffron Walden and St Mary's Wendens Ambo have appointed the second Michael Swindlehurst Organ Scholar.



Yechan Yun is a 16-year-old pupil in the sixth form at the Perse School. Yechan says, "I was motivated to start playing the organ 6 years ago after singing "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" with the organ at Great Saint Mary's (Cambridge) for Christmas as a chorister there, and have loved it ever since."

Scholars receive a grant and the scholarship provides organ tuition and opportunities for the successful applicant to develop a range of musical skills in a supportive environment. The Organ Scholar will be based at Saffron Walden, with the exception of one Sunday per month being spent at Wendens Ambo.

Also...

Oliver King, the Director of Music at St Mary's said, "We are also very happy that Eleanor Game, a Choral Scholar, has been awarded a privately-funded bursary to assist her in developing her skills as an organist and church musician. We hope that she will be supporting other local churches during this year. Many congratulations to them both."

He added, "I am thrilled about the appointment of Yechan and Eleanor and very much look forward to working with them over the coming year!"

Clifford Want

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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 **December** issue is **Sunday 7th November**.

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The Rector's Letter

From The Rev'd Jeremy Trew

Jeremy writes...

The autumn is a time of endings and beginnings, to my mind much more so than the New Year. At its start the summer holidays come to an end and children return to school, some start for the first time. Even for those without children there is a tangible change in tone as the roads are busier at different times, the town centres that little bit quieter during the day, and so on. A few weeks later and we mark harvest with our celebrations giving thanks for the crops gathered in and, nowadays, for all that people offer in their providing for the many daily needs of a modern society. We see around us an agricultural industry that seems to lurch from crisis to crisis, yet which contrasts heavily with the seeming changelessness of the British countryside; a contrast which is more than a little naïve. Moving on we come to the festivals of All Hallows and All Souls; celebrated by most as a rather banal Halloween, but used by Christians as an occasion to remember all those loved ones who have died and we still miss. It is a time to mourn afresh and have our faith restored in a hope which is yet to come.

And then we arrive at November. On Remembrance Sunday (Service starts 10.45) we recall all those who have given their utmost for the safety and freedoms we enjoy so blithely today. I am struck each year as we read out the lists of names, held in trust for the whole community by our churches of those who were killed, that these lists represent not just the deaths of individuals, but of a way of life. So many were lost from communities like ours that victorious Britannia could never be the same again. So much good came from their sacrifice, yet we still pay a price to this day. Sadly, a century of remembering seem to have done little to diminish our human folly with regards to conflict. Yet we must remember those who offered us so much by surrendering everything. Finally, as everyone around us joins the mad rush of Christmas preparation – as we do too, let's be honest – the Church celebrates its New Year. Advent is not just a time to switch to a new set of Sunday readings, nor a handy four week warning of the impending celebration. Advent is also a time for new starts. It tells of the story of God's new start for the human race. After the futility of humanity straining to reach God through the devices of religious laws and holy kings and lands, God finally breaks



through to humanity and a new story begins. Advent recounts the beginning of that story and takes us to the wonderful mystery of Christmas.

So that's the Autumn: A time of endings and beginnings. And, a time to remember and give thanks to and for those who have made these transitions possible; thank you then to all who nurture children and who teach them; thank you to all who farm our lands and bring us food to eat; thank you to all who prepare our churches for their celebrations; thank you to all who have touched our lives for good and whom we will remember; thank you to the many who went to fight for our freedoms; and, thank you God that you overcame whatever anger, sadness and frustration you must have felt at humanity's repeated folly in order to send your Son into this world and offer to everyone a truly new beginning.

Yours

Jeremy

Christmas Fair Cancellation

At its meeting on September 23rd, the PCC reluctantly agreed that we would be unlikely to meet the requirements of our risk assessment and ensure the safety of all at the Fair. This is disappointing but the COVID situation remains uncertain and a number of people have expressed reservations about holding the Fair this year. Organising and running the Fair demands the wholehearted support of a large team, and unfortunately there are still too many uncertainties.

Many of the stallholders have been working hard during the last two years making items and it has been agreed that these can go on sale in the Church on the following dates: Sundays 28th November, 5th, 12th and 19th December. Please support them. Reminders will be in The Grapevine.
Denis and Gill, Churchwardens

Crackers for Christmas?

Of course I respect the PCC's decision to cancel Christmas Fair this year at St Mary's – but I can still make your crackers to order, as I did last year. So if you would like some, we have held the price down at £2 each. They contain a decorated hat, a snap, a joke or motto, a present **and** 'something to play with'! For your peace of mind we buy in the rolls. Please send your order by email to dd.hoy@ntlworld.com by Sunday 28th November, as I won't take any orders after that date. I need the number, any preference for colour of cracker and division of children to adults. **ALL** proceeds to the church as usual.

Thanks.

Diana Hoy

Ring out for Climate!

When this edition of the Parish News gets published, the UN Conference on Climate Change in Glasgow will be about to start, and I will be in a state of extreme nervousness!

Back in the summer I was appointed as a Christian Aid Climate Campaign Organiser, with a brief to raise awareness and mobilise local churches as much as possible in the run-up to COP 26. It has been a great pleasure to address several Climate Sunday services and, by organising Great Big Green Week in Saffron Walden, I hope that I have had some impact on people's hearts and minds.

In August I thought how great it would be if every church and cathedral bell in the country were to ring out a warning on the eve of COP 26. It's what church bells have traditionally been used for and the warning couldn't be more urgent! So I set about writing to every diocese in the United Kingdom and suggested that the bells ring for 30 minutes from 6pm on Saturday 30th October to sound 'Code Red for Humanity'.

I was delighted when the idea was endorsed by Graham Usher, Bishop of Norwich and Lead Bishop for the Environment, who included the idea in his C of E Environment Bulletin. The Central Council for Church Bell Ringers were more circumspect, being worried that the bell ringing for COP 26 constituted a political campaign. That raises all sorts of questions about what politics is and the role of the church in it.

Politics is simply what happens when people gather together in communities or cities and organise themselves (polis is Latin for city and gives us cosmopolitan etc). So when the future of humanity is at stake, and nation states have to come together to negotiate, it can't help but be political.

But the threat of the climate crisis and the fate of all humanity surely takes us onto a whole new level. One which far transcends party politics to a realm where Christians, and people of all faiths, must surely exert all their influence as stewards of God's creation and as living examples of God's love for his children.

Having emailed every diocese twice, a bell ringer from Cornwall wrote to say she'd had the idea of ringing bells around the world, and soon I was getting messages from the US. So why not invite Australia and New Zealand too?

Soon I had a heart-warming reply from Bishop Matt Brain of Bendigo, full of enthusiasm for the idea, but describing 'the sad political reality in Australia where we are enmeshed in harmful policies which are being used to score



political points. Coal mining has become something of a shibboleth which has then avoided the actions which can be made.' In such a toxic atmosphere I can well understand bishops being nervous of following in the footsteps of Thomas à Becket!

Earlier this summer I visited Rev'd John Goddard, our Baptist minister, to encourage him to hold a Climate Sunday service or embark on the Eco Church journey. Towards the end he told me that God had clearly placed the burden of environmental activism on me. I had never thought of it that way, but his words sank in and it certainly does feel to have become a burden, and sometimes a very frightening one.

I would much rather not be an activist! I'd love to get on with a contented retirement, but first I would like to hear the bells of St Mary's ring out on 30th October. Then, in response to voices around the world, to learn that serious, hope-giving actions were being pledged and taken in Glasgow. Perhaps when the world starts to dramatically reduce its emissions and devise an economic system that works in harmony with nature, I will be able to relax.

Edward Gildea, Eco Team Leader



' Hello, hello...is that the ' Store-What-You- Like' Depot ?
 Good, we have at St Mary's a mountain of festive goods we
 would like to store until this time next year....yes....yes
So everyone is doing the same are they ? '



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Daughters: News from St John's, Little Walden

The Gibsons and Little Walden

Mr and Mrs E B Gibson, of Elmgrove, Audley Road were married at the Friends' Meeting House, Chelmsford, on 9th May, 1860. Fifty years later in 1910 they celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary at the mission chapel in Little Walden, built by Edmund Gibson as a place of worship for those employed on his Little Walden Hall estate. The following extracts are from an article written on this occasion and archived in Saffron Walden Town Library.



“Mr and Mrs Gibson thought it fitting that a service should be held there [Little Walden] in thanksgiving. Mr Gibson also considered that he could not celebrate the happy event in a better way than of handing over the little church to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for the benefit of the parish... Mr Tuke [warden] undertook that the churchwardens and their successors would maintain it for the inhabitants of the hamlet of Little Walden and others for the worship of God.”

“At six o'clock, by invitation of Mr Gibson, those employed on the Little Walden estate, and their wives, numbering about 120, sat down to dinner at the Central Hall, High Street, the catering being entrusted to Mr A G Edward, of the Abbey Temperance Hotel... Mr Gibson addressing those present as his friends and fellow labourers, said he would begin by thanking them most warmly for himself and Mrs Gibson for their beautiful present and for the kindly feeling that had prompted the gift.... . It seemed to him that they were all fellow labourers, only in different senses. He could not manage without them, and they could not manage without someone to pay them. They had all different responsibilities, but he felt that they were all working one way. He hoped the same good feeling would exist till the end.”

Dave Beare

Operation Christmas Child Shoebox

You can help bring unimaginable excitement and joy to children in need around the world by filling a shoebox with gifts! If you feel you can share God's love in this way, please pick up a shoebox from the back of church and inside you will find a "How to Pack" leaflet. Or, if you don't have time to pack a box, you can pack a box online in less than 5 minutes, and it will be sent off for you! Please return your filled box to church by Sunday 14 November. Thank you.

Judith & Mike Felgate.

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YOUinthe**PEW** interviewed by Chris Bishop**Pamela Mugliston****Where were your roots and when and why did you come to live in Saffron Walden?**

I was brought up by an Austrian mother and English father just 7 miles north of Saffron Walden but went to school and mainly worked in Cambridge. However I did learn to swim in the old swimming pool that used to be here in George Street. When I was first married we lived north of Cambridge for some years. We moved to Saffron Walden in 1988 during a short break from a 10 year working spell in Lesotho, Southern Africa. I think that experiences there made us want to be nearer home again. It was a great move and I am so happy here in this lovely town.

**What brought you to St Mary's?**

Being a regular Church goer it was wonderful to have such a beautiful Church almost on our doorstep. We were made to feel really welcome and soon settled into Church life and all the ancillary activities as well as making new friends. I did a spell on the PCC which broadened my knowledge of Church life at St Mary's. I am Secretary of the Friends, a role I really enjoy and look forward to more activities in that role, pandemic permitting. Being a Sidesperson and Server allows me to meet everyone which is a great joy.

Apart from being a member of the congregation what other events etc have you enjoyed or still enjoy here?

I get a great deal of pleasure from being a member of the Baptism Team and consider it a privilege to be present when children of all ages, and occasionally an adult, join the Church. I also enjoy the Special Services with the uplifting music and seeing the Church full to the brim. The Christingle Service is a special favourite as I am sure it is for many of us. The Christmas Fair has always been a favourite of mine, an opportunity to have fun and to invite people from the town to come in and receive a welcome from us all.

What event in Saffron Walden sticks in your mind as being the most enjoyable/thought provoking/or moving since you have lived here?

There have been many over the 30 years or so but an annual event that used to move me immensely was seeing almost 500 children in the large marquee at Vacation Bible School all singing and dancing and praising Jesus with complete and utter delight on their faces. There are many adults in the town who hold those weeks in their memory.

If you had a family Coat of Arms what motto would you like to have on it?

The words *Love Conquers All*, surrounded by loving arms.

White Poppies - actively seeking and praying for peace

As Remembrance Sunday approaches we will buy, and proudly wear, our red poppies as a sign of respect for our military of past and present wars – over 1,346,000 in WW1 & WW2 and over 11,000 since.

It is a great sadness that with advanced technology, conflicts across the world are not solely played out in the battlefield but now in cities, towns and villages, which all directly affect men, women and children and their homes. United Nations High Commission for Refugees believes that at the end of 2020 there were 48 million people displaced in their own countries and 20.7 million refugees as a result of conflict or persecution.

We live in an interconnected world and as Christians we should work and pray for peace, understanding and reconciliation in the name of Christ. In our services we offer one another a sign of peace and as we go out into the world we take with us the prayer and blessing that peace may be amongst us and remain with us always.

Since 2018 – 100 years since the end of WW1 – a white poppy wreath has been placed at the Cenotaph and at our Memorial in Saffron Walden. The children's author (War Horse) Michael Morpurgo said, 'I wear a white and a red poppy side by side because – they died for my peace, our peace - and I believe the nature of remembrance is changing, and will change, as the decades pass since those two World Wars'.

The white poppy has been worn as a symbol of peace over the Remembrance period for nearly 90 years. Please feel free to collect yours, free of charge, from the west and south doors on both Sunday 7th November at 10am service and on Sunday 14th November.

"Mankind must remember that Peace is not God's gift to his creatures; Peace is our gift to each other" – Eli Wiesel – Nobel Laureate

Diana Hoy

Joyful Noise Restarts After Covid-19 Break

Joyful Noise, the choir open to all children in Years 1-3 (ages 5 to 8), at St Mary's Church, Saffron Walden, restarted recently with a taster session. Regular sessions run from 4pm to 4:45pm, on Fridays, in the Parish Rooms during school term time. Activities include musical games, handbells and percussion, action songs and rounds, with songs from around the world. There is no charge although donations towards the costs are always welcome! For more information please contact Lizzie Bennett: - choirsmw@gmail.com.



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From the Registers

Baptisms

5 September Aoife-Luna Olive Cann
26 September Jacob Paul Walker

Funerals

3 September Dawn McLaren
9 September Audrey Greenaway
28 September John Barker
29 September Molly Schoop



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MOTHERS' UNION

Abundant Celebrations

On Thursday 9th September '21, Mothers' Union Members gathered together in St Mary's Church for the celebration of our annual corporate communion, by our Chaplain Rev'd Canon Chris Bishop. Our guest preacher was Rev'd Lydia Smith who was previously our curate at St Mary's for 3 years. It was a cause of celebration to be reunited with her.

Her sermon was based on Exodus Chapter 2 verses 1 – 10, Moses in the bullrushes, and particularly how 3 strong women were responsible for the survival and protection of Moses as a baby. They were Moses' mother, his sister and the Pharaoh's daughter who showed care, resourcefulness and courage. Lydia also commended us to give help and support to each other and those in the community following the isolation and separation experienced during the covid pandemic.



We also celebrated the admission to the Mothers' Union, by our MU Chaplain, of 'the two Pams' Pamela Mugliston and Pamela Russell and welcomed Sonia Palmer to our branch. At the end of the service our small MU choir sang a beautiful version of the Grace before the final blessing.

Because it was a special occasion, we celebrated with tea and cake in the parish rooms joined by Lydia and suitably distanced. Everyone enjoyed meeting again and the chance to catch up. A big thank you to all those who took part in the service and all those who were involved in any way in the organisation of the tea afterwards.

Mothers' Union Garden Party

On 12th August the Mothers' Union held their annual garden party at the kind invitation of Joe and Gwynneth Nicholas. The meeting commenced

with prayer and notices. Members sat in their lovely garden at tables under the shade of umbrellas and enjoyed a wide choice and variety of delicious cakes with their tea or coffee and conversation flowed.

We were pleased to welcome Rev'd Jeremy Trew who called in and circulated among members for a while. Also welcomed was Rev'd Margaret Davis from St Nicholas church, Berden where we visit at Advent and Holy week for a service of meditation.

The weather was warm and dry and the occasion was enjoyed by all.

Brenda Sheath, Branch Leader



From the editor...

Although the pandemic has severely restricted many of our Church activities, PARISH NEWS continues to need news items and interesting articles from local sources.

Whilst we are fortunate to have material available from the excellent website 'Parish Pump', what is most prized is material from within our parishes. Your editor will be pleased to receive copy on any topic of general interest to our readers. These can be sent at any time and will be considered for inclusion in future editions. Many thanks in anticipation!

Please note:

1. The opinions expressed in the articles in this magazine are those of the authors.
2. The Editor reserves the right to edit, or exclude, any article submitted. **Please be aware when submitting articles 400 words fits comfortably onto a page and that any article over 800 words will need to be edited to ensure readability.**
3. Illustrations and photographs are the property of the copyright holders and should not be reused without permission.
4. The Parish News cannot accept responsibility for the goods or services advertised in this magazine - advertisements are accepted in good faith.

Calendar for November 2021

This calendar is provisional and subject to change due to Covid restrictions. See The Grapevine or the church website for the latest information.

St Mary's, Saffron Walden

All services now 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 4 November

1pm Service with Prayers for Wholeness and Healing

Sunday 7 November

8am BCP Holy Communion

10am Holy Communion [Y]

6.30pm H2H Youth-led Service for All



Sunday 14 November: Remembrance Sunday

8am BCP Holy Communion

11am British Legion Remembrance Service [Y]

4pm Words and Music for Remembrance followed by Compline

Sunday 21 November: Christ the King

8am BCP Holy Communion [Y]

10am Family Service

4pm Evening Communion with Prayers for Wholeness and Healing

Saturday 27 November

10am Advent Quiet Morning

Sunday 28 November: Advent Sunday

8am BCP Holy Communion

10am Holy Communion [Y?]

6.30pm Advent Carol Service [Y?]

Regular weekday services at St Mary's

Tuesdays

5pm Evening Prayer in church on first Tuesday, 2 November, other Tuesdays by Zoom - see weekly bulletin for login details

Wednesdays

8am Morning Prayer

9.30 Holy Communion

St James', Swards End

Sunday 14 November: Remembrance Sunday

3pm Remembrance Service

Sunday 28 November: Advent Sunday

9.30am Holy Communion



St John's, Little Walden

Saturday 13 November

10.45am Remembrance Service starting at war memorial

Sunday 28 November: Advent Sunday

11:15am Holy Communion



November



Prayer for the month *provided by the Prayer Team*

Lord,
teach me how to still my racing thoughts.
Help me to come to you
arguing nothing,
pleading nothing,
asking nothing,
except to be still
in your presence.
Give me the faith
that will enable me
to lay my burdens at your feet,
and to leave them there
in exchange for the peace
which passes all understanding.

Frank Topping

Repairs to the Chancel Roof – A Slow Start

At the time of writing, a small part of the scaffolding has been erected, the scaffolding towers from ground level up to the north and south aisle roofs. Having reached these roofs, the work temporarily stopped while a structural engineer considered the right place for scaffolding feet on these roofs.

The first design for the temporary scaffolding roof was received in mid September and, in view of the weight of the structure, our architect requested that we consult a structural expert to ensure that the loads would not damage the side aisle roofs. The roof, when fully constructed, weighs 3 tonnes and the plan is to ensure that the scaffolding feet sit right on top of the arch, that can be seen inside the church, between the north aisle and north chapel and the same on the south side. That sounds simple, except that it is very difficult when on the north or south aisle roof to know exactly where this arch is positioned. So, on Tuesday 28th September, a portion of the lead on the south aisle roof was lifted to allow the structural engineer to investigate and a small camera was inserted under the copper on the north aisle roof to look there too. Thankfully, this allowed the engineer to advise the scaffolders where to place the loads although a re-design of the scaffolding was required. Following approval of this new design, the scaffolding build was able to start in earnest in early October.

Despite this slight delay of about 5 working days, the repairs should be finished before Christmas although the scaffolding might be in place until January because, with all the school carol services and other activities in the church in December, it might not be possible to take it down then. As you'll have seen, this should have little impact inside the church.

We also opened up a small section of the chancel roof in September to investigate the state of repair of the boarding underneath. With the roof copper



Copper stripped back from chancel roof (plus one of our architects)



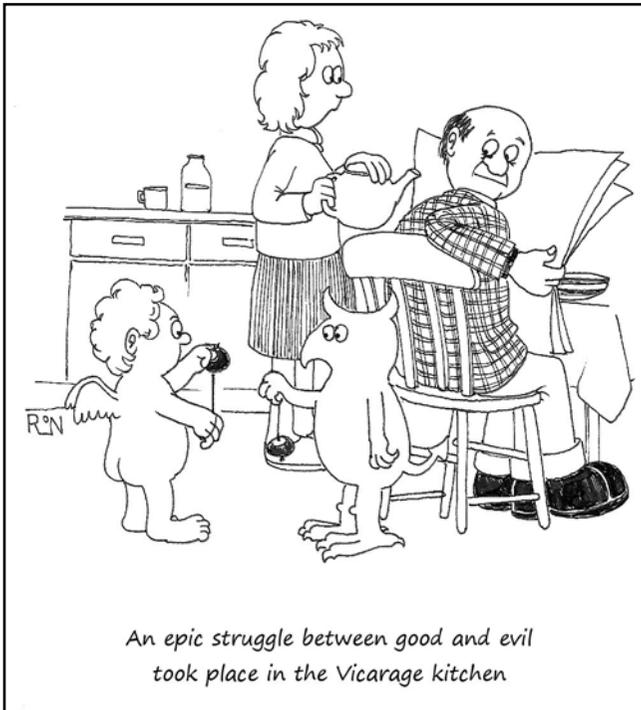
Upper side of ceiling timbers are visible on left (with bolt through)

stripped back, the upper side of the chancel ceiling is visible and is only about 2 inches below the copper. Even though we chose one of the areas with most holes and rips in the copper, the boarding and ceiling timbers underneath were in good condition. This is great news although we won't know whether this is replicated across the whole of the roof until all of the existing copper is removed.

One other challenge that we've had to deal with is the huge, extraordinary increase in material costs since the tender bids were submitted in May. Normally, there would be little or no change in material prices between May and September, but this year is not normal – as if we didn't already know that! Prices for timber have gone up by 63% in this period, scaffolding boards by over 100%, lead by 17% and insulation by 23%. Having asked our architect to check that these figures were correct we have re-negotiated the price for the work. Thankfully, we also received a grant for £10,000 from Friends of Essex Churches Trust and so the overall cost to St Mary's is projected, currently, to stay the same.

I hope that by the time you read this the work will have moved up to the chancel roof and the temporary roof will be keeping us dry. If you have any questions about the works, please do not hesitate to ask me or the churchwardens. We will keep you updated as the work progresses.

Steve Hasler



Pleshey Retreat for Mothers' Union

The theme of this year's Mothers' Union Retreat in September was 'Encounters with God and with One Another'. It was led by Rev'd Mike Ketley, husband of a former MU President (Marion Ketley), of the Chelmsford Diocese. Thirteen Mothers' Union members were able to come.

Before lunch we sat together in a back room overlooking the garden: a time to relax and introduce ourselves. There was a sense of peace and joy as we shared together. These first encounters ended with Midday Prayers.



After lunch the session was about Old Testament encounters with God, beginning with Abraham, tested by being asked to sacrifice his son Isaac. The prophets, who suffered but managed to live through difficult times. Then the stories of Naomi and Ruth; Eli, Hannah and Samuel, all of whom experienced many ups and downs, just as we do. We understood that our own painful journeys teach us to follow God's way of trust, leaving behind anger and failure, to reach out in faith. Finally, we heard about David's encounters with God through the Psalms, and we were challenged to create our own psalm.

Gill Caswell responded with 'God's Creation': -

I was moved by the industry of the bees,
What they did- one flower at a time!
The one which was purple was there with the pollen
to bless the whole colony-
And then the bee went back for more.
I saw the butterflies feasting on the rotten fruit.
Nothing of God's Creation got wasted.
It was made to be used and transfused
For His Glory.

Margaret Frank and Sheilah Girgis composed the following: -

Thank you God for the NHS
For all it does to prevent a mess.
You are the Way- it needs you there.
Guide us to follow your light.
We will follow your light
And can do everything in Your Strength.

Jenny Kirkaldy wrote 'A Psalm for today': -

Lord, I hear your call
to lay my burdens down;
Still my busy mind,
focus on one task at a time,
rest in You,
give glory to You;
Thank you for the journey,
retracing your blessings,
cherishing memories.
Guide me forward to new tasks
one at a time!

The second session was about New Testament figures encountering Jesus, leading to faith, including: Nicodemus; Martha; Peter's mother; the Syrophenician woman; Mary, his mother. We reflected on the barriers that are stopping us from sharing our faith today.

The following day, after breakfast, we shared in groups of four our own personal encounters, which were very meaningful. After a short break with coffee, we had a second personal encounter session. Some were ready to share what they had said in the first session- others preferred not to as it was quite emotional. This Retreat has given us an enlightened experience and a chance to share and understand each other. We had a time when some handicrafts material could be used, or we could take a short walk.

We then had a Mediterranean salad lunch before celebrating Holy Communion in the Chapel. We did not drink from the Chalice, but we each held it and then returned it to the Celebrant. It was different but meaningful as we have not been able to use the Chalice and sip the wine over the COVID period.

We then gathered in the Garden room for refreshments and farewell. Some signed up for next year's Pleshey Retreat on 27th-28th June 2022!

Sheilah Girgis



Rev'd Mike Ketley with his wife Marion

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In memory of a great Russian novelist

Two hundred years ago this month, on 11th November 1821, Fyodor Dostoevsky, the Russian novelist, short story writer and journalist was born. He is best known for his novel *Crime and Punishment*, and many critics rate him one of the greatest novelists in all of world literature.

His mother used the Bible to teach him to read and write at the age of four, and this – together with a nanny who read him fairy tales from an even earlier age – led him to a lifelong devotion to literature.

He was brought up as an Orthodox Christian and maintained his belief throughout his life, though he had doubts about certain Church practices – especially those of the Catholic Church and Pope Pius IX. But he viewed Christ with great love.

He narrowly escaped death in his mid-twenties when he became involved with a group that criticised the Tsar and the political system. He was condemned to death but reprieved at the last moment and sentenced to hard labour in Siberia. This probably aggravated his epilepsy, which led to his death many years later.

He was married twice and had several affairs. On his deathbed he requested that the Parable of the Prodigal Son be read to his children.

Doctor Livingstone, I presume?

It was 150 years ago, on 10th November 1871, that Welsh journalist and explorer Henry Morton Stanley located the missing missionary Dr David Livingstone near Lake Tanganyika, in present-day Tanzania. He may or may not have greeted him with the words: “Doctor Livingstone, I presume?”

Stanley’s real name was John Rowlands. He was born in Denbigh to an unmarried 18-year-old who abandoned him. He ended up in a workhouse until he was 15, then went to America, where he changed his name and became an American citizen. When he found Livingstone, he was working for the *New York Herald*.

Known for his strength of will, Stanley also had an African name – Bula Matari – Breaker of Rocks. Much of his life was spent in Central Africa, and his reputation was mixed: he was said by some to be violent toward Africans, but by others to have treated them well. His feats as an explorer were impressive: he played a big part in locating the true source of both the Nile and the Congo, and he helped open up the Congo on behalf of King Leopold of Belgium.

Though not overtly religious, he felt he was engaged in a “sacred task”. He was re-naturalised a British subject in 1892, following his marriage.

Tim Lenton, Parish Pump



St Mary's Music News

From the beginning of September, the Adult and Choral scholar choir has been enjoying its first rehearsals in St Mary's. All those lockdown Zoom practices have borne fruit, though Oli did seem a little pale after some of the efforts during the first week. However, the choir is enjoying getting back into the routine of regular, in person services, including not only Holy Communion and Family Services, but also the Patronal Festival and choral evensong, with plans for All Saints and All Souls.

Yechan Yun, the second recipient of the Michael Swindlehurst Organ Scholarship, has been taking an active part in services at St Mary's since the beginning of September. At the conclusion of his first service at St Mary's he played Langlais's Hymne d'action de grace Te Deum No 3, which had been his audition piece for the Scholarship. He has also played in his first service at Wendens Ambo. Meanwhile bursary recipient Eleanor Game is taking organ lessons and has played at a Taizé service. It is also very pleasing to learn that Elliott, the first MSOS scholar, is doing really well as a student at the Royal College of Music and is undertaking a number of recitals.

On 18 September representatives of the choir were honoured to contribute to the Memorial Service for the Rev'd Jeremy Collingwood, including Stanford's Nunc Dimittis in G and Stephen Rutter's Gaelic Blessing. The service ended with a rousing rendition (twice round!) by congregation, choir and organ of O When the Saints Go Marching In.

Following the success of the "Come and Sing" Fauré Requiem in July, which raised an impressive sum in excess of £700 for church funds, Oli King and Martin Huggett performed a piano duet concert on 25 September, and raised a further £600 for St Mary's. This was the first SMMA sponsored concert since lockdown, and it was a joy to attend. Prosecco was available for an appreciative audience who enjoyed a lively programme of pieces. As the composers and the works are very well known and loved, instead of an introduction to the music each item was prefaced by eclectic information about worldwide events in the year it was written. For this month's quiz, match the music and the events to the relevant year: 1787, 1830, 1874, 1892 and 1951. (answers at the end): 1 Tchaikovsky's Nut Cracker - CocaCola is incorporated in Atlanta, USA; 2 Mozart's Overture to Don Giovanni - the first convict ships were sent to Botany Bay to "found" Australia; 3 Poulenc's L'embarquement pour Cythere - in England, the first Goon Show is broadcast on the wireless; 4 Mendelssohn's Hebrides Overture - the

fountain pen and the lawn mower are patented; 5 Saint-Saëns' Danse Macabre - the game of lawn tennis is introduced.

On a more mundane note, the SMMA Committee has finally met face to face for the first time since February 2020. The pleasure of discussing musical matters in real life more than outweighs the opportunity afforded by Zoom to accompany meetings with a surreptitious cup of coffee, or perhaps even something a little stronger. Plans for 2022 are necessarily still somewhat uncertain, but will be reported in this Newsletter as soon as practical.

Meanwhile, the SMMA is proud to report the world premiere performance of our very own Jeremy Allen's haunting Missa Brevis, written in lockdown.

The Senior Choir is now pretty full, though we could do with another bass or two, but we are looking to increase the number of younger singers. To this end taster sessions are being run for the Junior Choir on 8 October, and for Joyful Noise on 15 October. There is always room for more, however, so if you know of anyone who might be interested in having fun and enhancing their musical talents, please contact Bron Ferland for Juniors (aged 7 ½ to 13) or Lizzie Bennett for Joyful Noise (school years 1 – 3), both on choirsmw@gmail.com for more information.

Otilie Lefever

Quiz answers according to Martin and Oli:

1 1892; 2 1787; 3 1951; 4 1830; 5 1874.



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News from our Mission Partners, David & Sári Gardner, working with Wycliffe Bible Translators in Romania.

How Many Bibles in Your House?

Wycliffe (Hungary) recently set up a challenge for children to discover how many Bibles there were in their home.

As you might guess there were higher than average numbers in the homes of those associated with Bible translation and teaching.

Erik (David & Sari's youngest boy) took this question seriously and went searching all the shelves, nooks and crannies of his home in Romania. How many do you think he found?



He found 147 and built them into a miniature fort. Erik, Emma, Aniko & Mark can read the English, Hungarian & Romanian versions of the bible, but as you would expect Sari and David can read even more!

This is probably a large number of bibles for even the average Wycliffe translator. David & Sari's Rromani translation work requires access to multiple modern versions as well as Greek and Hebrew texts to check translation accuracy. David is also involved in writing computer programmes which must be compatible with many other languages and scripts and several of the Bibles illustrate the complexity of this task. And of course, many of the Bibles were already published portions in different dialects of Rromani spoken around the world.

Gerald Gardner

Archive Group *findings...*

November 1890

From churches within the Saffron Walden Deanery
Great and Little Chesterford



Hyll's Charity

The serious attention of the Trustees was given to the diminution of the funds now in hand, and consequent necessity of shortening the supply of coal, and a resolution was passed that the distribution for this winter should not exceed fifty tons or three tons less than the last year. The list of Recipients in both classes, A and B, was submitted to the Meeting, and finally settled, the names in Class A being two less than last year, whilst to those in B Class thirteen names were added.

Debden

Debden Rectory. Oct 21st 1890

My Dear Parishioners.

For the last time I so address you. With this month's issue of the Parish Magazine my connection with you will be severed. I now wish you all an affectionate farewell .

My shortcomings during my long sojourn amongst you are doubtless many, my intentions toward you all have always been of the best and the most faithful. Evil-disposed persons have come between you and me and made that which ought to have been beautiful, hideous. God will requite those malicious mischief-makers according to their deserts.

For my part I forgive them and wish to have no further communication with them.

For you, my loving and beloved friends, I pray that God may strengthen you in all goodness and support you in all your conflicts until he bring you to His Everlasting Kingdom.

One word of admonition. Be not so ready to believe evil ; and bridle your tongues.....WM. C. Muriel

Littlebury

The Vicar hopes that the Night School which Mr Brown has begun again at his request will be well attended this winter. Such an institution is of the greatest benefit to the village. Lads who have left school and gone on the land may very likely lose a great deal of what they have learned, unless some means of this kind is taken to keep their knowledge fresh.....Perhaps some quiet instruction in reading and writing might be arranged for married men by themselves, if the Vicar should hear of a few who desire it.

Canon Chris Bishop. Archivist

Daughters, from Swards End

Festivals and Celebrations - Swards End in the 1940's

In September it was Harvest Festival time. Mrs Mead was wife of the Reverend Mead. The Meads lived at Hopwood's in the village. She would invite the children to come and help decorate the church. Mrs Mead was a very kind lady. She always wore Wellington boots (I never saw her wear shoes) and would wear a hat with a rose on it. She rode by bicycle through the village to the shop most days. On the Saturday morning we would take vegetables, apples, pears and flowers to the church. There was always plenty of fruit and vegetables, as most people grew their own in those days. We packed any space we could find with the produce and there was always a sheaf of corn set by the lectern. On the Sunday, the church was full; it was the only occasion during the year when my father Mr Ketteridge (who farmed), would attend a service!



In October we were asked by our school teacher to collect conkers for the war effort. My friend Margaret's father was gardener at the Towers, and we were given permission to collect the conkers from under the trees in the garden. The starch from them was to be used to produce cordite for munitions, though I don't remember being told that at the time!

Halloween was not celebrated as it is today, though at night we used to put laurel leaves under our pillows so that in the morning the first (handsome) boy we met would be our future husband! November 5th during the war years saw no fireworks and bonfires. The blackouts were in force so fires or flashes would

advertise us to passing German bombers!

Before school term broke up for the Christmas holiday, a party was held for the children at Swards End School, which was within the church building. An educational gift was given to us all! There were no special services at Christmas, unlike today.

Christmas Eve at home would see us leave a large sock by the fireplace for Father Christmas. When we came downstairs presents would be on the breakfast table too; small things like pencils, colouring books and reading books. Christmas dinner was always a large chicken or goose, always home grown on the farm, followed by Christmas pudding, with cake for tea. Sometimes the vital ingredients of dried fruit did not come into our village shop until a few days before Christmas. My mother would rush to the shop to get her ration and quickly make the pudding and cake!

My aunt and uncle would come on Boxing Day. It was great fun as we had several cousins. We would walk to Pounce Hall Meadows to play on our sledge and build snowmen, as of course it always snowed at Christmas!

Before our return to school, we had the Sunday School party, organised by Mrs Lord and her daughter (who also ran the village shop) in the old village hall. This was despite all the food rationing currently in place. We played games of 'squeak piggy squeak, musical chairs and pass the parcel. My sister Cynthia would play the piano. We were given a gift of a secondhand book too. We were very happy children.

Kathie Lester



Paddy McKeown



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O Come, O come Emmanuel

Advent Quiet Morning

Saturday 27th November 10am - 12noon

The Prayer Team is excited to announce that the
Advent Quiet Morning is back!
In the Church and Parish Rooms, led by Andy Colebrooke.
More details to follow in the Grapevine.
Please do put the date into your diaries
and we look forward to welcoming you.

For more information please contact Sue
Walker: suewalker619@btinternet.com