

Parish News

St Mary's Church, Saffron Walden

St John, Little Walden and St James, Sewards End

Part of Saffron Walden & Villages Team Ministry

May 2024

FREE



Public Consultation on Lighting Project



Photograph: Iain Walker

Public consultation meetings have been held on a proposed re-design of the lighting in St Mary's Church, Saffron Walden. Steve Hasler, the Project Leader, explained:

“The existing lighting was installed in the 1970s and is now in need of replacement. Much of the nave lighting has failed, the chancel and sanctuary are now poorly lit and there is no highlighting of other areas, such as the font. The fittings which hold the bulbs are failing, and it is proposed to take the opportunity to provide a new versatile lighting design, while moving to low energy LEDs, cutting the carbon footprint of the church. The proposed new lighting installation will respect the historic nature and fabric of the church and will be much more in keeping with its magnificent architecture.”

Consultation meetings were held in the church on the following dates:

Wednesday 17 April	11 am
Wednesday 17 April	7.30 pm
Thursday 25 April	11 am
Thursday 25 April	7.30 pm

Anyone from the congregation and users of the church from the town and community were invited to attend one of these meetings, where there were opportunities to find out more about the project, ask questions and make views known.

Details of the new lighting proposal are available on the church website at www.stmaryssaffronwalden.org/lighting.

Clifford Want

Contents for May 2024

THE RECTOR'S LETTER 4

NOTICEBOARD

Public Consultation on Lighting Project	2
The New Editor of Parish News	5
Friends of the Parish Church	14
Calendar	16
From the Registers	29

REPORTS

Aftershock raises over £3140	18
St Mary's Music News	23

FEATURES

Prayers for May	5
Whatever happened in the Boat Race?	6
May Bank Holidays	9
The Hundred Parishes Society	12
Gelio	15
You in the Pew	19
The Courtyard of a House in Delft	21
Archive Group: May 1965	27
Light Up the World in Prayer	28
Saffron Walden Town Band Concert	30

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 5th May**.

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www.stmaryssaffronwalden.org/parishnews

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www.stmaryssaffronwalden.org

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The Rector's Letter

From The Rev'd Jeremy Trew
Jeremy writes...



By the time you read this progress will be well underway towards recruiting clergy to fill the current vacancies in the Team. With the gradual departure of Caroline, then John, then Alex, we have had to work hard to maintain the life of our Church communities. My thanks to all who have done so and given so much effort and grace.

These appointments will end an extended period of recruitment across the Deanery. Since I arrived just three years ago every beneficed clergy post in the Deanery has changed. That is an enormous amount of change. I have also attended a considerable number of induction services for new clergy. At those services (and also at ordinations) the liturgy reminds us of a task we hold, "to proclaim afresh the Gospel in each generation." This phrase is not just directed at the clergy present, but at the whole church. This is what it is to be a traditional Christian; one who helps recast their Church community to best respond to the needs of the wider community in their current time and place. That can take many forms, and I am glad of the diversity of tradition and belief we share across our Team. It enriches us in so many ways that we are not all the same.

Rev'd Ella will be spending the remainder of her curacy focusing on working with the Parishes of the Chesterfords, Littlebury, and Wendens Ambo. Those Parishes have agreed to suspend recruitment until January 2025 to allow Ella to do this, and for her to be eligible to apply for the post of Team Vicar with them should that seem right. This means that we are focusing our efforts on recruiting for the two House for Duty posts, based in Ashdon and Debden. Such posts can prove problematic to recruit to, but we have the strength of being a Team, and some wonderfully supportive Church communities. Please pray for those looking for such posts. We hope to be shortlisting this month, with interviews a couple of weeks after this.

Again, my heartfelt thanks to all who have gone the extra mile supporting our Church communities in these times of vacancy and change.

Best wishes
Jeremy

Prayers for May

provided by the Prayer Team

Ascension

King of Glory,
whose Son was raised into the heights of heaven
and sits at your right hand to reign over all,
grant us your grace,
that inspired by this vision of hope
we may find the confidence to do your will
and the freedom to offer our whole lives in your service,
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Pentecost

Holy Spirit of God
wind of inspiration,
fire of language,
guardian of truth,
breathe anew on your waiting Church.
Refresh within our community your many gifts,
that seeking out love with patience, genuineness and commitment,
we may be re-formed each day
into the glorious body of the eternal Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.



The New Editor of Parish News

It is with great pleasure that I can announce John Pickthorn will be the new editor of Parish News. John will take over the reins this September, in preparation for the October 2024 issue.

I am pleased to know that the magazine will be in good hands and I look forward to seeing how it develops in the future.

Andy Colebrooke

Whatever happened in the Boat Race?

Traditions are an important part of any culture and one tiny part of our national identity is the throwing in of the victorious coxes at the end of the Oxford and Cambridge Boat Races. They were particularly dramatic races this year, but neither the cox of the Women's Race nor the Men's was thrown in. Why? Because levels of E.coli were far too dangerous and several crew members had suffered from sickness before the race. In 16 tests around Hammersmith Bridge there were an average of almost 3,000 E.coli units in each 100ml of water. Ten times higher than the level graded as 'poor'! This is symbolic. Symbolic of a deeply damaged relationship between Man and Nature; Man and God's creation.

Christianity is not alone in the religions of the world in attaching profound importance to water: Moses striking the rock for water to supply the Israelites in the desert; the baptismal water of Jordan; the water used by Christ to wash his disciples' feet; the water that flowed from His side alongside His blood, which we now mix with communion wine.

Water is about cleansing, purification, spiritual healing, life and rebirth. When we send rockets to our moon or the distant moons of Jupiter, the search for water is often at the heart of the mission. It is fundamental to our existence.

So what has happened to make our rivers and beaches so dangerous? I remember when the water boards were being privatised in 1989, I decided not to buy any shares. Apart from some ethical scruples, I thought "Our water and sewage infrastructure is largely Victorian. It has done brilliantly but is now a liability. It will cost a fortune to replace. How will shareholders ever make a profit?" How incredibly naïve of me!

Taxpayers generously wiped out all existing debts so the new companies could start with a clean sheet. Since then, shareholders have taken £57 billion in dividends while at the same time running up debts of £60 billion. Last year, when the Environment Agency reported half a million discharges of raw sewage into our rivers, averaging 3 billion litres a day, the companies blamed the rain. We have all witnessed increased rainfall and flooding as a consequence of climate change, but this has been widely known for 25 years and predicted by scientists for far longer. There has been ample time to prepare.

The issue is deeper than politics. It is about the mismatch between the care we should show for Nature and God's Creation and the fundamental trajectory of capitalism. The prime objective of capital is to make profit. Massive profits have indeed been made, whether out of water or oil – but at great expense! Paul was profoundly accurate when he wrote to Timothy: 'The love of money is the root of all evil.' Somehow, if we want to live in harmony with Nature and



The flooded bridge by Bridge End Gardens.

build a future for Humanity, we will need to take the greed out of Capitalism.
That is going to take a great deal of prayer!

Edward Gildea, Eco Team Leader

Photograph: Edward Gildea

Quote, Unquote

With Pentecost on 19th May...



“A Christian may not always be conscious of the Holy Spirit’s presence, but he would not even be a Christian in His absence.”

John Blanchard

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May Bank Holidays

One wonderful thing about May is that it has not one, but two Bank Holidays! Some complain that they are too close together, but you know, May's a lovely month for some time off!

Who doesn't enjoy the fair month of May?
Not one day but two we can spend time away;
With workbags and satchels left under the bed
We sing as we pack up a picnic instead!

The sun in the sky and the wind in our hair
As we eat our lunch in the fresh open air;
The river chants secrets to daisies nearby
And birds sing their anthems beneath the blue sky.

Replete, we can take to our feet, or a bike
Instead of a schedule we can do what we like!
Catch up on a novel, or stroll 'neath the trees
Our laughter transported on warm summer breeze.

From two days of duty we are thus relieved
And so we should judge them a blessing received;
A pause in life's rhythm, a gift from above
To substitute stresses with laughter and love.

Nigel Beeton
Parish Pump

Photograph: Donghwan Kim from Pixabay

Radwinter Road Cemetery, Saffron Walden, CB11 3HU

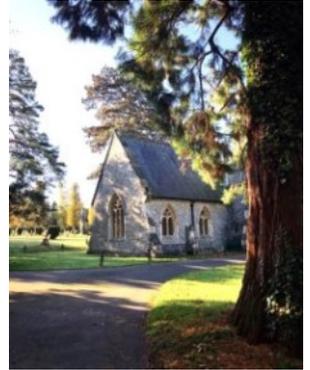
Are you looking for a final resting place for a loved one? The Cemetery at Radwinter Road is an oasis in the town which is open 24/7 and there is tranquillity within.

Further information on burials is available from The Cemetery Officer at Saffron Walden Town Council, Saffron Walden, CB10 1HR Telephone: 01799 516501 or email enquiries@saffronwalden.gov.uk

Our local Cemetery is a peaceful space which offers a natural environment for all types of wildlife and as a result is an important nature conservation resource in the town. Daily maintenance and gardening are carried out which ensures the space is both clean and tidy, where residents and visitors can visit for peace and reflection.

The Cemetery is divided into different areas; Lawn cemetery, Traditional area, Garden of Remembrance, scattered ashes, and areas for children and young people. There is also a separate section for War graves which is cared for by The Commonwealth War Graves Commission. A small well-appointed Chapel is available to hire.

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



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The Hundred Parishes Society

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

The Society's logo is a wood-cut by Eric Ravilious. Eric Ravilious and Edward Bawden were both Royal College of Art students when, on a cycling holiday, they happened upon Great Bardfield in Essex. There, they rented Brick House, starting a fascinating period for the village.



Over the next two decades, numerous artists came to live there; they became known as The Bardfield Artists.

In 1932 Bawden married fellow student Charlotte Epton, a potter, and his father bought Brick House as a wedding present for them. In the same year Ravilious married Tirzah Garwood, an artist and engraver, and they lodged for a while with the Bawdens at Brick House.

Bawden's work can be seen today on three Victoria Line stations - Victoria, Tottenham Hale and Highbury & Islington - for which he designed the logos.



Tottenham Hale Station



Highbury & Islington Station



Another artist, John Aldridge, bought Place House in Great Bardfield in 1933 and soon became friends with Bawden. They produced Bardfield Wallpaper together for the company Cole & Sons to distribute.

In 1952, painter Stanley Clifford-Smith moved into Bucks House and later to the Old Bakehouse. He was very involved in Open House exhibitions that

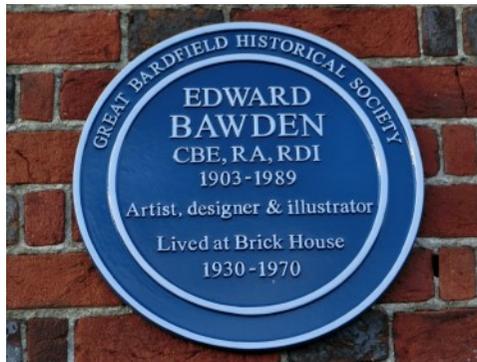
were held in the 1950s when the public could view and buy art in the studios and homes where it had been created.

Marianne Straub, a textile designer, moved to Great Bardfield in 1953, buying Trinity Cottage. She was the senior designer for Warner & Sons of Braintree.

Other Bardfield Artists included Kenneth Rowntree, Michael Rothenstein and Walter Hoyle. A good selection of the Bardfield Artists' work can be seen at Fry Art Gallery in Saffron Walden (see <https://fryartgallery.org/> for opening hours). In Great Bardfield, books and other information about the artists can be purchased at the new premises of Between The Lines bookshop.

Ken McDonald, Secretary

a) *The Society's Logo* b) *Brick House* c) *Place House*





FRIENDS OF THE PARISH CHURCH

The Friends of the Parish Church is a very active group who have been working hard for St Mary's for 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.

Almost 40% of our members also help on a regular basis with the various activities in the daily running of the Church; you will note Welcomers wearing Friends' badges at the 10.30am service. We have a bookstand offering postcards, prints and books for sale to our many visitors as well as our own congregation. On the social side, twice a year we travel around the country to visit different towns and cities to tour Cathedrals.

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 updates, news and activities. Should you wish to help the Friends further by leaving a Legacy there are leaflets to assist you in that process, also on the bookstand.

Chairman: Denis Tindley, Secretary: Pamela Mugliston, Treasurer: Sandra Marsh

THE FRIENDS CATHEDRAL TRIPS: On April 8th we went to Rochester Cathedral in the morning, the 2nd largest Cathedral in the UK. Rochester is a town with lots of history which we explored in the afternoon. Full report and photo in the June edition. The next trip will be on 30th August to St Albans Cathedral in the morning followed by lunch in Ware and then an afternoon on the river. Places on that trip sold out in a few days despite arranging a larger coach, but we will keep a reserve list just in case.

MEMBERS BRING & SHARE LUNCH: There will be a Members Bring & Share lunch after the 10.30am service on Sunday 30th June. We would particularly like all our new members to attend so that we all have an opportunity to meet you properly. Please watch the Friends notice board where you will be able to list what item/s you will be bringing to share. A glass of wine and soft drinks will be available.

FUND RAISER: We are looking for ideas for a fund raiser in the summer; do you have any? Would you like to take part? Please let Pamela know on pjmteddybear@btinternet.com

LATEST EDITION OF OUR FRIENDS NEWSLETTER: We hope that you enjoyed this year's Friends' Newsletter and found some information of interest. Please bear in mind the AGM in September, after the Patronal service, where we would love to see you and hear any ideas you have for our future. Date to be confirmed.

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For further information please contact Ros Darton or Rita Williams on 01799 551046

Please mention Parish News when responding to an advertisement.

Gelio's Anthology of Obscure Proverbs



*Now that Spring is with us a couple
of proverbs
that also have that feel about them: -*

From England comes

'Deeds are fruits, words are but leaves.'

From Germany comes this delightful proverb

'He who likes cherries soon learns to climb.'

The Calendar

This calendar is provisional. See The Grapevine or the church website for the latest information.

St Mary's, Saffron Walden

One service in church each Sunday is streamed on YouTube [Y]: details on the church website. Coffee is served after the Sunday 10.30am services.

Thursday 2 May

10am Silent Prayer in North Chapel

Sunday 5 May - Rogation Sunday

8am BCP Holy Communion

9.15am Wiggle Church in Parish Rooms

10.30am Holy Communion [Y] followed by APCM

6.30pm H2H: Youth-led Service for all in Parish Rooms

Thursday 9 May Ascension

2pm Mothers' Union Deanery Service

7.30pm Solemn Eucharist

Sunday 12 May

8am BCP Holy Communion

10.30am Second Sunday Holy Communion [Y]

6.30pm Choral Evensong

Sunday 19 May - Pentecost

8am BCP Holy Communion

10.30am Holy Communion [Y]

4pm Living Stones location: tba

Sunday 26 May - Trinity Sunday

8am BCP Holy Communion [Y]

10.30am Family Service

6.30pm Taizé Service

Thursday 30 May - Corpus Christi (Institution of Holy Communion)

7.30pm Choral Eucharist



Regular weekday services at St Mary's

Tuesdays

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

Wednesdays

8am Morning Prayer

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

St James', Swards End

Sunday 5 May

10.30am Holy Communion

Sunday 19 May - Pentecost

10.30am Morning Praise



St John's, Little Walden

Sunday 12 May

10.30am Family Service

Sunday 26 May Trinity Sunday

10.30am Holy Communion



Aftershock raise over £3140 for homeless people



There were 60 guests at a dinner and soiree organised by the Aftershock Youth Group at St Mary's Church, Saffron Walden, to raise money for Jimmy's, in Cambridge.

Two young comperes introduced renditions on the piano and trombone, an acoustic duo, a quiz, a comedy sketch and a vocal soloist. Barry Griffiths from Jimmy's gave an update on the work alongside a volunteer Alison Morris.

Matt Williamson, the Youth Worker at St Mary's said, "What a brilliant evening and an amazing total of over £3,140 raised for the work of Jimmy's! We are blessed to have such talented and servant-hearted young people who did so well serving and entertaining the guests. Aftershock would like to extend a massive thank you for all those who came and supported this year's JIMMY'S MEAL and gave so generously. A big thank you also has to go to Tracey Nicholls and Helen Nash for the amazing cooking and to our extremely talented young people who served and entertained the guests."

Barry Griffiths said, "Having the support of St Mary's and the wider community provides critical support to Jimmy's. We are very grateful for their continued support and for the wonderful evening that Matt and Aftershock provided to us all. They were wonderful."

There is more information about Jimmy's at www.jimmyscambridge.org.uk.

Clifford Want

Photograph: Martin Hugall

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

My basic childhood roots were challenged at 12 years when my father died, leaving no pension for my mother to raise me and my younger sister. He had high hopes for his family and we were proud of his 1st world war achievement helping to save lives on the front line, and winning the military cross. As university was an expensive option, I applied for training as a general nurse in Belfast, Northern Ireland, then Midwifery in Scotland. I put all my training into practice when I was sent by the Church Missionary society to nurse in Egypt and Sudan. I was married in Cairo, where I lived for 25 years. My husband, Badie, was a professor of medicine in Cairo University. We had 2 daughters who learned so much from their father and life in Egypt.



Sheilah visiting the Pyramids with her granddaughter

When we returned to Ireland they both attended the local school, then got University entrance to Cambridge. We all moved to England to be together. Our home was in Leicester, a busy multicultural city. One Sunday we listened to the morning service, which was from St James the Greater in Leicester. We joined that Church and both girls were married there. I retired at 65 and loved the final

years of life with Badie, he died aged 96 in March 2007 at home and was well cared for. My daughters encouraged me to leave Leicester and furniture was moved to Radwinter. My bungalow was sold and I said my goodbyes to friends and neighbours. I drove to Teddington, London, which was so busy I eventually drove to Essex and stayed with my younger daughter. Both families were busy, but were concerned about my future and searched for the best accommodation. They found a semi-detached bungalow which was quite old and needed updating to make it safe, comfortable and homely.

My new home was in The Wayback, Saffron Walden; neighbours were friendly and as it was Lent I was invited to a United Church Bible Study. Togetherness helped and I was invited to attend St Mary's Sunday service, where I enjoyed the uplifting music and fellowship.

Being a new member I shared my story with some of the congregation after the service. "I have just recently lost my husband who I met when I went to work as a nurse in Egypt. I learned to speak and understand Arabic." I was invited to go to Jerusalem with a group - I agreed: this helped them and uplifted my grieving heart.

My token to remain with me as I continue my life here is:

I heard the voice of the Lord saying, Whom shall I send?
Then I said. "Here I am Lord! Send me."
Isaiah 6:8

Junior Choristers and Joyful Noise taking part in St Mary's Family Service on Palm Sunday



Photograph: Martin Hugall

The Courtyard of a House in Delft

Pieter de Hooch 1658



I love this painting of the most tranquil domestic scene set in a courtyard in Delft. Dutch painters in the 17th century were masters of such tranquil domestic scenes. Pieter de Hooch here brilliantly captures the texture of brick, paving stone, rickety wood and weathered paint; all rendered in stunning detail. Add to that the tenderness of the mother holding her daughter's hand as they go about their chores. The mother has fetched something in a dish to take back to her kitchen, while the girl has something in her apron. There is beautiful communication between them!

Other details catch my eye: the broom, worn out with house-proud sweeping; the water glistening on the rim of the bucket; the gloss on the red bolts of the window shutter; the light filtering through the rambling overhead shrub.

These compositions are all the more remarkable for their context. The Eighty Years War against Spain had only just ended in 1648, ten years before this was painted. It had been the most brutal war, fired by politics and religion, with Philip II of Spain attempting to maintain his Catholic grip in the face of the Calvinism of a new Dutch Republic. There had been grotesque sackings and pillaging of cities such as Antwerp and Maastricht. Tens of thousands of violent deaths. No wonder paintings such as these celebrate the peace and middle-class values of the new Republic!

But while the relationship of the mother and daughter draw our attention, they are not the heart and soul of the painting. There is a woman in the shade of the passageway, contemplating the courtyard beyond. That's another thing the Dutch loved to do: lead our eye through doorways and windows to scenes beyond!

Having noticed her we are drawn to the inscription over the archway which translates as, 'This is in Saint Jerome's Vale, if you wish to withdraw to patience and meekness. For we must first descend if we wish to be raised.' The space beyond is a spiritual place; brighter and neater than our immediate courtyard.

Is the second woman lost in prayer or contemplation? There is a wonderful stillness and poise about her. Lost in a moment of awe, she does indeed seem to be gathering her patience and meekness before venturing further. In the end, perhaps, this is a painting about our journeys of personal faith.

Edward Gildea

Editor: To view the image in the best light and full colour, why not look at our web-edition at www.stmaryssaffronwalden.org/parishnews

Photograph: The National Gallery, used under a Creative Commons agreement. <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/>

St Mary's Music News - May 2024

Much of the music you hear in church is familiar, though of course the choir and organists are always learning new pieces. Rarely, however, are the motets experimental. Kerry Andrew's "O nata lux" was a striking exception. This requires 1 soprano to start singing these words in Latin, and then all the others join in turn, staggering their entries to ensure that they are singing independently rather than together, with liberty to vary the length of the notes. In due course there is a change to the English "O Light born of Light", while the lower parts sing in a conventional manner, so each performance should be different. We look forward to singing it again.

In Holy Week the choir was involved in supporting 6 services. These started with the Family Service on Palm Sunday, led by the Junior Choir, together with the youngest singers from Joyful Noise, encouraged and trained by Kate Beare. In the afternoon the adult choir took over for Choral Evensong, performing William Byrd's Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis and his motet "Ave Verum Corpus". On Maundy Thursday traditional music by Merbecke and Anerio preceded the silent stripping of the altar.

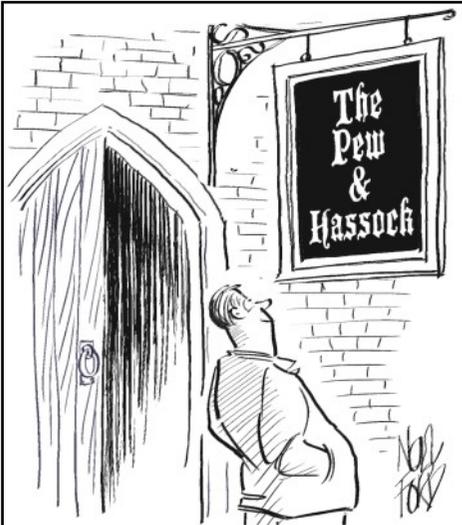
On Good Friday the Devotional Offering spanned the centuries, starting with Antonio Lotti's 8 part motet Crucifixus a 8 written, probably, at the turn of the 17th century. This was followed by James Whitbourn's "Were you there when they crucified my Lord?", particularly poignant this year as he had sadly died just a few days earlier. The centrepiece of the evening was Gabriel Fauré's well-loved Requiem written towards the end of the 19th century. Alongside the choir were Krassimira Jeliaskova on violin, Patrick Allen on cello and Jeffrey Dyball on harp, as well as Jeremy Allen on the main organ and Ziyi Wing, the Michael Swindlehurst organ scholar, on the chamber organ.

Finally, on Easter Sunday, as ever, the congregation, choir, organist and brass group joined together enthusiastically in morning service, finishing with a rousing rendition of Handel's Hallelujah Chorus, and a delightfully jazzy version of Amazing Grace by the brass group. For the first time ever all the Junior Choristers were female. The day concluded with Choral Evensong in the afternoon. After all this all musicians took a well earned break! We are very grateful to Oli and Jeremy for encouraging, persuading and sometimes perhaps even badgering us to perform to the level St Mary's Church deserves.

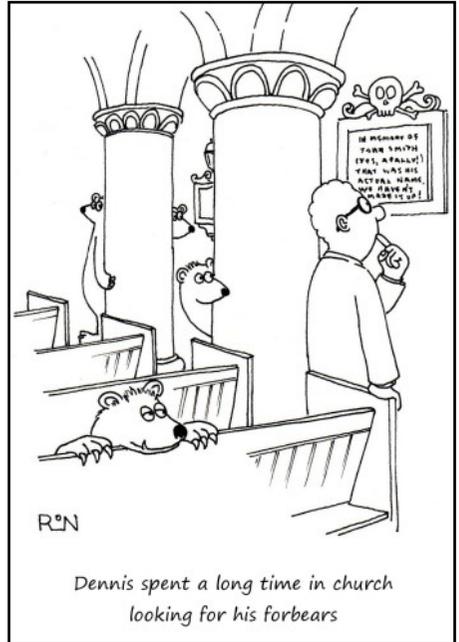
While this newsletter is awaiting publication, the SMMA will be holding its AGM on 21 April. A report of proceedings will be available in due course.

By the time this newsletter is published, Choral Evensong on 14 April will already have taken place, but the next Choral Evensong is on 12 May at 6.30pm, followed by Choral Eucharist for Corpus Christi on 30 May. So far as secular music is concerned, although the very successful spring coffee concert series is over, the lunchtime concerts will be starting on 5 June. More on these next time.

Otilie Lefever



Changing the name from 'St Mark's Parish Church', resulted in a big increase in the number of men attending services



Dennis spent a long time in church looking for his forbears

Children's exam papers

The following real-life answers to various exam papers explain why teachers need long holidays...

Name one of the early Romans' greatest achievements.

Answer: Learning to speak Latin.

Name six animals which live specifically in the Arctic.

Answer: Two polar bears. Four seals.

What is a nitrate?

Answer: Cheaper than a day rate.

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Muniments
Room

Archive Group

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

Compiled by our Archivist Canon Chris Bishop

May 1965

Eric Raynor (Vicar) I add a note from the Town Clerk which will be of interest to our readers!

Dear Vicar,

The following might interest readers of the Parish Magazine. The February issue of "Essex Countryside" contained a photograph taken in Southern Rhodesia of a signpost '**to Saffron Walden**'. As a result of enquiries through a friend in that country, the Director of the National Archives writes:-

"On a diagram in a provisional title issued in 1895 the area Saffron Walden included certain African villages named Unyamwenda's, which were visited by Bishop Knight Bruce in 1888. 'A Map showing the relation of the English Church to the Chiefs in the more habitable parts of Mashonaland and the Manicaland, October 1891' shows Unyamwenda's as 'Ministered to by the Church of England'. During 1892 and 1894 Bishop Knight Bruce was active in establishing mission lands and obtained grants of 3,000 acres. This particular area, unofficially known as 'Church of England Hills' first appeared as **Saffron Walden** on the provisional title issued in 1895 and a final title after survey was issued in 1905. It may well have been named by D. R. Pelly, Commissary to Bishop Gaul in 1895, whose father, Canon R. P. Pelly held the living of Saffron Walden in Essex".

Saffron Walden, Southern Rhodesia, curiously enough, is about 16 miles from Salisbury where my friend lives.

Perhaps an opportunity here presents itself of renewing the connection of 70 years between the two Saffron Walden Churches.

Yours sincerely.

H. C. Stacey, Town Clerk.

Canon Chris Bishop, Archivist



Many years ago I recall a meeting where the vicar was encouraging us always to remember: “Prayer is the breath of the church”. This phrase has often returned to me over the years; I have pondered over the words and asked what he was trying to impress upon us: that without prayer the church will die? Prayer should be as natural to us as breathing? Both probably! I don’t know about you, but I find prayer at times to be both a struggle and a mystery. How do I pray, are there some ways of praying that are “better” than others, how often and for how long should I do it, does God really hear me? Though I haven’t got simple answers to these questions it is good to know that we are not alone in struggling with prayer - even St Teresa of Avila, a renowned mystic of the church in the 15th century, is said to have had “decades-long difficulties with prayer”. So prayer seems to be a lifetime’s work!

The Prayer Team at St Mary’s hope to offer help in the form of two prayer spaces in church for the period from Ascension to Pentecost, 9th - 19th May. The first space near the South Door is designed to help us be still and draw us into reflection, which is surely a gateway into God’s presence and to hearing the prompting of the Holy Spirit. It is hoped the second space will then offer a chance for us to write down people or places we feel God has laid on our hearts. This is our part of the “Thy Kingdom Come” movement (TKC), which was started in 2016 by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, and now covers nearly 90% of countries around the globe. He says: *“In praying ‘Thy Kingdom Come’ we all commit to playing our part in the renewal of the nations and the transformation of communities.”* In addition there will also be copies of a TKC booklet entitled “Novena” available in church to aid our prayers, with Bible

passages and reflections to read over the time between Ascension and Pentecost. It specifically encourages us to pray for five people we know to discover the love and friendship of Jesus, but it can also be used simply as a way of learning more about the Bible and what it means to pray. We hope you will find these prayer spaces helpful in your own prayer journey.

Hazel Colebrooke
Prayer Team

And it came to pass, that, as he was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his disciples said unto him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples. And Jesus said unto them,

*When ye pray, say,
Our Father which art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come...*

Luke 11.1,2

From the Registers

Weddings

24 February Harold Quansah and Angela Addae

Baptisms

17 March Kai John Peter Roberts

17 March Joy Norah Violet Cornwell

Funerals

7 February Julie Start

22 February Georgina Start

18 March Eva Ewing

Saffron Walden Town Band Concert at St Mary's



Some of you will know that I play the clarinet in Saffron Walden Town Band. But I'm not the only member of St Mary's church in the band. Well, now you can come and hear us play in St Mary's Church, Saffron Walden on **Saturday 18th May, 7pm.**

Saffron Walden Town Band is a community-based ensemble of woodwind and brass players. We currently have around 30 members who meet each Wednesday evening to rehearse with Musical Director Simon Mariner-Goff, former conductor of the University of Cambridge Concert Band. The band enables musicians of all ages and abilities to come together to make music, have fun and share their musical knowledge and enthusiasm with others. We perform at least two concerts each year and you may have seen us in the town band stand (we'll be back there this summer).

This season we're very excited to be joined by pianist Daniel Leung for a performance of Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue*, and other pieces for piano and band. Daniel will also be performing two Preludes by Rachmaninov.

Daniel began piano lessons at an early age and his musical interests developed throughout school years. He was awarded a Kellaway Instrumental Scholarship by St Catharine's College, Cambridge, where he

was an undergraduate student. This allowed him to broaden his performance experience and improve his technique under Philip Fowke. He is very excited to have the opportunity to play with the Saffron Walden Town Band.



It's exactly 100 years since *Rhapsody in Blue* was first performed, with Gershwin himself at the piano. Gershwin wrote a two-piano score in just over a month combining classical and jazz in a way that no other composer had achieved before. *Rhapsody in Blue's* most iconic moment, however, wasn't written by Gershwin. He'd started his piece with a simple scale for solo clarinet, but his clarinettist Ross Gorman played a dramatic glissando up to the top note. Gershwin was immediately impressed and asked him to repeat the technique in the premiere performance.

Originally called American Rhapsody, why is the piece called *Rhapsody in Blue*? Ira Gershwin (George's brother) had recently seen Whistler's *Nocturne In Blue and Green*, of the Thames at Chelsea. He suggested to his brother, why not call the new piece *Rhapsody in Blue*?

So, we hope you'll join us on 18th May at 7pm for a wonderful, relaxed evening of music. Come and see how many SWTB faces you recognise! You can purchase tickets using the QR code (on the back cover), or via our website (see below), or on the door. Drinks will be available to buy. Any proceeds will support the Town Band to put on future concerts and purchase new music.

Alison Trew

<https://www.swtb.org.uk/events.html>

Photographs supplied by Alison Trew



RHAPSODY IN BLUE

AND OTHER PIECES WITH SOLO PIANO

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featuring solo pianist Daniel Leung

drinks and snacks available for purchase



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