

# Parish News

**St Mary the Virgin, Saffron Walden**

**St John, Little Walden and**

**St James, Swards End**

**Part of Saffron Walden & Villages Team Ministry**



**April 2020**

**FREE**

## 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the St Mary's Branch of the Mothers' Union

On 9<sup>th</sup> February 2020 Members of St Mary's Mothers Union, Saffron Walden, celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of their branch. At the ten o'clock communion service the first lesson and the gospel were read by members. Our president Judith Meaden was the guest preacher and shared the occasion with us. The intercessions were taken by the Branch leader with a Mother's Union theme.

After the service a group photograph was taken on the chancel steps flanked by both the old and the new banners. It was a pleasure to welcome Eileen French to join us. Many members were wearing the colourful Mothers Union blue scarves and the branch leader was wearing the blue hat bequeathed to us from a Mothers Union branch in Kenya.

Next, we had a special cake with a large blue Mothers Union emblem on the top, from which Judith made the first cut. More photographs followed. The celebration cake and two smaller cakes were made by a gifted young person from our congregation. These were shared enthusiastically with everyone.

Finally, members and guests transferred to the Parish rooms for delicious homemade soup and a bring and share lunch, enjoyed by all.

It was a privilege to share our anniversary celebrations with the whole congregation and to play such a special role in the service.

Brenda Sheath, Branch Leader, Saffron Walden Mothers' Union



Photograph: Martin Hugall

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## PARISH NEWS - EDITORIAL DEADLINE

The deadline for contributions for each issue is the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month. Hence, the deadline for the **May** issue is **Sunday 5th April** and for the **June** issue **Sunday 3rd May**.

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

Front Cover: *A Wren*

Photograph by Gilly Hayes

### Important notice for print-copy readers

As our Parish Magazines are free we will no longer name individual copies – please pick up a copy each month. However, if you kindly distribute and deliver copies please pick up your 'bundle' of magazines as usual. Dawn Saxon

**TEAM RECTOR:** Vacancy

**ASSISTANT CURATE:** On maternity leave

**CHURCHWARDENS:** Denis Tindley; 01799 524436 (Saffron Walden)  
Gill Caswell; 01799 520485 (Saffron Walden)  
Richard Peet; 01799 521482 (Little Walden)  
Michael Dean; 01799 523388 (Sewards End)  
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# Pastoral Letter

From The Revd Alex Jeewan

Dear friends,

## It is finished

A few weeks ago, I was listening to Desert Island Discs on Radio 4. Ian Wright, the former footballer turned TV presenter, was the guest and he broke down in tears as he talked about the impact of his PE teacher, Sydney Pigden's encouragement to develop his skills, to concentrate and focus on his future. This teacher had changed the course of the direction of Ian's life and he was extremely thankful. Sadly, Mr Pigden passed away in 2017 but his legacy lives on in Ian Wright and, I imagine, all those others that he influenced.



I couldn't help but be reminded of my own teaching experience of seventeen years as a primary school teacher. Had I made a similar impact on any of my former pupils I wondered? I don't know the answer and I'm not sure I'll ever find out. But who knows the impact of what we do in this world?

One person who understood only too well about the impact of his words, his life and his ministry was Jesus. As he breathed his final breath, while dying on the cross, he said 'It is finished'.

But what did he mean? What was finished? There are many possible answers. It could be Jesus' work and ministry here on earth and the end of what the Father had called him to do or it could be that the power of sin was vanquished by Jesus' sacrificial act on the cross. You may have other ideas about what was finished and many theologians debate this even today.

Whatever we believe, it certainly signifies the successful end to a particular course of action. It's the word you would use when you climb to the peak of Mt. Everest; it's the word you would use when you hand in a long overdue essay; it's the word you would use when you make the final payment on your new car; it's the word you use when you cross the finish line of your first 10K run. The word means more than just "I survived." It means "I did exactly what I set out to do."

However, when Jesus cried out "It is finished," he meant "It was finished in the past, it is still finished in the present, and it will remain finished in the future." This is the Easter message of hope and redemption for us all. We celebrate the lamb who was slain because the victory is as true today, as it was 2000 years ago and as it will be still in 2000 years' time.

*P.T.O.*

So, I encourage you this year to truly be Easter people and spread the hope and joy of the risen Christ with those around you. You may never know the impact of your words, but you could help change lives through the grace of God by telling them about Jesus.

May I wish you all a blessed Eastertide.

With love,  
Alex.

## Guidance for parishes on Coronavirus (COVID-19)

This is likely to be regularly updated, so for the latest information from The Church of England please go to the website:

[www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-churches](http://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-churches)

For non-web-based update options access news bulletins, or call 111 if you need to speak to someone.

## LOOKING FOR WORK?

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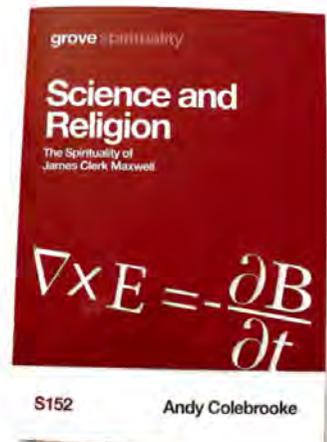
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## Science and Religion

### The Spirituality of James Clerk Maxwell

The debunking of religious belief by scientific fact is a well-worn motif in today's culture. Yet the curiosity of the scientific method owes much to the Christian worldview from which it emerged.

This booklet counters the notion that science and religion are incompatible by exploring how James Clerk Maxwell found harmony between his science and his Christian faith. It calls for a Christian spirituality that embraces a critical approach to both science and faith, enabling us to glimpse the unity and purpose at the heart of creation.



Copies available from Grove Books ([www.grovebooks.co.uk](http://www.grovebooks.co.uk)) for £3.95 or from the author - at a handsome discount! ([andy.colebrooke@gmail.com](mailto:andy.colebrooke@gmail.com))

## Is it already too late?

For someone living on the banks of the River Severn, who has been flooded several times and can no longer get insurance; for an Australian whose home has been burned down and for the 80 million animals who died in the fires; for the farmers of Kenya or the Sudan whose crops have failed and whose cattle have died.... it is already too late.



Image by ArtTower from Pixabay

Maybe when people ask that question, they are asking from a perspective in which relative wealth, privilege and education will provide some sort of buffer against the crisis. The climate emergency will affect the poorest nations most profoundly first. That's what made the Australian fires so shocking: a wealthy, developed nation was suffering the impact of climate change and was powerless to stop it.

The Climate Emergency is not a hypothetical future; it is here now. These are the effects of just 1 degree of warming. Imagine how much worse 1.5 or 2 degrees of warming will be, which are the best scenarios.

Is there a moment, though, that might really constitute 'too late' for the bulk of humanity? The thing to watch is sea level. We know that glaciers and ice shelves are melting fast. The Thwaites glacier alone, now melting at an alarming rate, would raise sea levels by 0.5 metres, but is holding back other glaciers of the western Antarctic ice sheet that could raise sea levels by 3 meters.

Vast cities such as Mumbai, Kolkata (Calcutta), Shenzhen, Shanghai, Osaka, Bangkok, Alexandria and Rio de Janeiro are some of the most vulnerable to sea level rise, which will result in massive migration and political destabilization. I think that is when the real 'too late' scenario kicks in...

As I write, though, the news has just flashed on my screen that the third runway at Heathrow has been deemed illegal because the Climate Emergency and Paris Agreement were not considered. This may be the moment that climate, public health and our survival on this planet are beginning to take precedence over business interests.

And we can be proud of our UDC councillors who did it first! We can also be proud that the Church of England has brought forward its target for carbon neutrality from 2045 to 2030.

*P.T.O.*



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Proposing the amendment, Canon Professor Martin Gainsborough, said, 'The seriousness of the situation facing the earth cannot be overstated, especially across the world, away from the UK. There are theological reasons for the move as well. Christianity is about sacrificial life: Faith is risky.'

So, yes, we are already suffering the effects, but it is surely our duty not to give up hope and not to be inactive. We have still time to limit the worst effects. As Christians, parents, voters, consumers and caring human beings, we must add our weight and influence in confronting the greatest challenge of our age.

Do visit the Eco church pages on the Parish website to find out more about what you can do. [www.stmaryssaffronwalden.org/ecochurch](http://www.stmaryssaffronwalden.org/ecochurch)

You can read the Church Times report on the decision to go carbon neutral by 2030 here: <https://www.churchtimes.co.uk/articles/2020/14-february/news/uk/ten-years-to-be-net-zero-after-synod-rips-up-original-target>

Edward Gildea Eco team leader

## Times of Prayer during the Interregnum



We have now had four evening prayer times and one afternoon prayer time during the interregnum where we pray for the current needs of the month as well as for the appointment of the New Rector and feel very encouraged by them. They have been led by a variety of people therefore offering differing ways of praying so hopefully there is something for everyone. We have four others planned, two in April and two in May (see below). As the time for the short listing and interviews approaches then we might also be adding more times to the ones below. All are welcome!

<b>Afternoon</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> April</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>3.15-3.45 pm</b>
Evening	27 <sup>th</sup> April	Monday	8.00 – 8.30 pm
<b>Afternoon</b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>3.15 pm – 3.45 pm</b>
Evening	20 <sup>th</sup> May	Wednesday	7.30 – 8:00. pm

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## St Mary's Music News

A final highlight of the Epiphany season was the singing of Bethlehem Star, music composed by one of our Junior Choristers, James Razzell. The words for the first verse came from Gerald Manley Hopkins' poem which begins 'Moonless darkness stands between'. James also wrote the words to the second verse.

Choral evensong on 9 February was a homage to Herbert Sumsion, with the service featuring his Responses, one of his 3 versions of the Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis in G, and finally the motet They That Go Down to the Sea in Ships. This was particularly well timed, referring as it does to the trials of sailors being battered on the stormy seas, while Storm Ciara thundered on the church roof.

During February the choir and the brass group normally enjoy something of a pause between the festivals of Christmas and Easter, while preparing for the latter. Lenten services began with Choral Eucharist on Ash Wednesday, with the choir singing Purcell's Hear My Prayer.

This year the choir will again be making a Devotional Offering, singing Bob Chilcott's St John Passion at 7.30 pm on Good Friday, 10 April. In the meantime, we shall all be re-familiarising ourselves, with congregational hymns and choir motets from this setting during Holy Communion services in Lent, starting on 1 March.

By the time this edition of Parish News goes to print the annual AGM of the SMMA will have taken place (on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March). This year we hope to have amended the Constitution to make it clear that parents of Juniors and Choral Scholars are automatically members, as well as to revert to the four year term of office for Officers and to deal with the usual elections to the committee and the re-election of Steve Cass as our treasurer for a further term.

Looking further ahead, the choir is all set to sing evensong in Birmingham Cathedral on 20 June. This will not only give us the opportunity to sing in the cathedral, but also of course to see David and Jenny Tomlinson again. More details, including information about transport for members of the congregation, will be available in due course.

Otilie Lefever

### When...

When you dream in colour, it's a pigment of your imagination.

When two egotists meet, it's an I for an I.

When a clock is hungry it goes back four seconds.

When an actress saw her first strands of grey hair she thought she'd dye.



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## QuinquaQuiz 2020

On Saturday February 22<sup>nd</sup> the QuinquaQuiz took place in the Parish Rooms to raise money for the Bishop's Lent Appeal. Eight teams took part, **the Shrinking Violets; M.U. Plus; Tomodachi ; None of your Quizziness ; M.U ; Charismatics ; Six Appeal ; and Not Cottams.** Thanks to their efforts and good humour £315 was raised. The Shrinking Violets won the QuinquaCup and will hopefully be back again to defend it next Quinquagesima!

Thanks to all involved.  
Chris Bishop, Quiz Master.

## Prayer for the Month *provided by the Prayer Committee*

### A prayer for Easter

Lord Jesus, as we face the cross today, we wonder at your love for us. We can never deserve what you did for us at Calvary. Looking at the people who brought about your death we can see so many of the same faults in ourselves and we are sorry for them. By faith we gladly take the forgiveness you offer us from your cross and through the door you pushed open then, we come back into God's family where we really belong.

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## **The process and timetable for the appointment of a new Team Rector**

Joint and individual meetings of the PCCs of the nine parishes took place on 20<sup>th</sup> February to provide the legal response to the Notice of Vacancy.

Denis Tindley and Judith Hasler were elected to represent Saffron Walden PCC in the appointment process.

The Parish Profile which provides applicants with details of the needs and challenges of the role has been prepared by all nine parishes and edited by a steering group of Denis Tindley (St Mary's churchwarden), Judith Hasler (team facilitator), Alex Jeewan (team vicar) and Clifford Want (publicity officer). The advertisement will be placed in the Church Times and appropriate websites week commencing 2<sup>nd</sup> March with 19<sup>th</sup> April the closing date for applications.

Shortlisting by the archdeacon will take place w/c 20<sup>th</sup> April and interviews will be held over two days in May. The archdeacon will select the interview panel and there will be opportunities for representatives of each parish, clergy and lay, to meet the candidates and provide feedback to the archdeacon. Helen Dimmock, who is the Lord Chancellor's ecclesiastical secretary and represents the Patron (the Crown) will be visiting all parishes at the end of April.

We are hopeful that the successful candidate will be in post by the late summer/early autumn.

Please continue to pray for the success of this process. Details of prayer meetings will be published in The Grapevine.

Denis Tindley

**Stop Press**

### **New Team Vicar for Ashdon**

The Revd Dr Caroline Currer will be licenced as Team Vicar by Bishop Roger at All Saints Church, Ashdon on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April at 7.30pm



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## Sit, meditate and write what comes to mind

Now is the moment in time. The time for leaving the past behind. To keep on being the person that has been there for the past 49 years– who needs a rest and a plan to change. Does it happen suddenly? Sometimes it seems like that. On the other hand a plan may be started but it takes time to be put into action.

For me this is the beginning of the fiftieth year since I was betrothed in 1970. I realise that there are still years to come, but this time of stillness and meditation is a time of eye opening and reality; although the past 50 years have exposed me to having a family, living in different cultures and four different countries I have certainly become a different person. Being a nurse involves caring. Being a daughter and sister and wife were all different. The caring as a daughter and sister was difficult at times, but it WAS different to being a 'ready to help nurse person'. Being a wife and Mother was a wonderful partnership time when caring was shared, but now, 50 years on and no longer a wife, I believe I am being cared for and my role is the listener and the available person.

And so what is the plan? It began when I thought and thought about driving in my Peugeot car. I could drive and I made myself available to drive others, including grandchildren, whenever necessary. But am I safe here and now? I was safe in Ireland, and driving a Vespa in Scotland, and a right handed Ford in Sudan and Egypt, but now I am vulnerable in the dense traffic and dark nights in Saffron Walden. I have practised and tried to be careful, but with the odd bump and scratch and knocking and breaking of my mirror, I realised that I must change.

How does this affect me mentally and physically? Giving up my car and walking more has helped physically. Searching for bus stops and times has been difficult, but knowing how to find these and being fortunate in having some IT skills, I am more relaxed and feel free. I have experienced joy in walking in the town which I never did before. I love the smiles and recognition of friends and being able to listen and talk and use my caring skills. I must admit that more planning is necessary and patience in understanding and practising the new way - but now 'I' am being watched and cared for in a very wonderful and new way.

Some of this began when I was inspired by the laws of legislation given to Moses on Mount Sinai in the Book of Leviticus. They were given 7 x 7 years, with a year's rest in between. After 49 years the year of rest was the Jubilee year- a year of Celebration.

I look forward to this and to finding the new person that I really am now.

Sheilah Girgis-Hanna

# Calendar for April 2020

See also *The Grapevine* for the latest information

## St Mary's, Saffron Walden

### Sunday services

#### Palm Sunday 5 April

- 8.00am Holy Communion (1662)  
10.00am Choral Eucharist *Rawsthorne; Wood: My God, I love thee (St Mark Passion)*  
12.00pm Baptism  
6.30pm Choral Evensong *Walmisley in D minor; Tallis: O nata lux*



#### Easter Sunday 12 April

- 6.00am Sunrise Holy Communion  
8.00am Holy Communion (1662)  
10.00am Easter Communion *Rawsthorne; Mozart: Laudate Dominum; Handel: Since by man came death; Handel: Hallelujah Chorus*  
6.30pm Choral Evensong *Stanford in B flat; S S Wesley: Blessed be the God and Father*



#### Sunday 19 April (Easter 2)

- 8.00am Holy Communion (1662)  
10.00am Family Service  
11.45am Holy Communion (North Chapel)  
3.00pm Coffee, Cakes & Company  
6.30pm Holy Communion with prayers for wholeness & healing

#### Sunday 26 April (Easter 3)

- 8.00am Holy Communion (1662)  
10.00am Holy Communion + Team JC  
11.30am Annual Parochial Church Meeting  
6.30pm Evensong  
7.00pm Aftershock - Youth Group

### Weekday services

#### Morning Prayer

- 8.00am every Wednesday *except 8 April when 8.30am*  
8.30am every Monday *except 13 April* and every Friday *except 10 April*  
9.00am 4 April Parish Prayer in Parish Rooms

#### St Mary's Tinies

- 9.30am every Tuesday during term time (Parish Rooms)

## Evening Prayer

5.00pm every Tuesday *except 7th April*

## Holy Communion

9.30am every Wednesday

## Thursday 2 April

10.00am Silent Prayer

1.00pm Healing Service

## Prayer meeting for appointment of team rector (Parish Rooms)

3.15pm Thursday 2 April

8.00pm Monday 27 April

## Holy Week and Festivals

### 6-8 April Holy Week

8.00pm Bible Study & Compline

### 9 April Maundy Thursday

9.30am Holy Communion

8.00pm Choral Eucharist *Merbecke;*

*arr Whitbourn: Were you there when they crucified my Lord?*

### 10 April Good Friday

10.30am Procession of Witness

12 - 3.00pm At the cross

7.30pm Devotional Offering *Bob Chilcott: St John Passion*

### 11 April Easter Eve

7.00pm Service of Light and Renewal of Baptismal Vows

### 23 April (St George)

9.30am Holy Communion

### 25 April (St Mark)

9.30am Holy Communion

## St James', Swards End

### Easter Sunday 12 April

9.30am Holy Communion

### Sunday 26 April

9.30am Morning Praise

## St John's, Little Walden

### Easter Sunday 12 April

11.15am Holy Communion

### Sunday 26 April

11.15am Family Service



## Who moved the stone?

*'When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away.'* Mark 16:4

HE IS  
RISEN!



Frank Morrison was an investigative journalist who was a sceptic when it came to religion. He decided to write a book to disprove the claims of Christ, specifically focussed on the last week of His life.

However, when he came to consider the evidence for himself, he was drawn reluctantly to a different outcome than he had imagined. He found that the evidence proved the story to be true, including the fact that Jesus not only died but rose again. In the end he wrote a different kind of book called 'Who Moved the Stone?' with the first chapter entitled, 'The book that refused to be written.'

The veracity of the Christian faith is grounded on historical fact. Not only was Jesus a real person, a figure of history, but His death was real, and so was His resurrection. Examine the evidence for yourself. Read the gospel accounts openly and honestly and see what happens. The truth is there for anyone willing to consider the facts.

Easter reminds us that our faith rests on solid ground. It is why we celebrate Easter Sunday with such gusto. The Resurrection proves that Jesus was who He said He was (the Son of God) and that He did what He set out to do (save us from our sin). But more than that, it reminds us that He can deliver what He promised and help us today because He is alive for evermore.

Jesus is not a figure of history, locked away in the past. No, He is a risen Saviour who is alive today and who invites each of us to receive the gift of salvation, and to live a new life in fellowship with Him.

The Revd Tony Horsfall (Parish Pump)

### Quotations...

Our Lord has written the promise of the Resurrection, not in books alone but in every leaf in springtime. *Martin Luther*

All the armies that ever marched, and all the navies that ever were built, and all the parliaments that ever sat, and all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of mankind on this earth as powerfully as has that one solitary life.

*Anon*

Do not abandon yourselves to despair. We are the Easter people and hallelujah is our song. *Pope John Paul II*

## Our Mothers' Union meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2020

This meeting was combined with our AGM, but first we welcomed our speaker Revd Canon John Sibson to tell us about his time spent editing the Parish Magazine.



The meeting began with the hymn 'How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds' and a reading from Ephesians about being rooted and grounded in Christ's love. This was followed by intercessions.

John began by telling us how he had previous experience of editing Church magazines. When he came to St Mary's the vicar at the time needed an editor, so John went to see him and offered to do the task on a temporary basis until someone who was willing came forward. That situation lasted 14 years!

John brought along with him a variety of old magazines from the archives. The design of the covers varied very much and they were very slim volumes. The colour was quite drab in some cases. I suspect the technology used in printing them did not compare with today.

John told us that in the past St Mary's Church was combined with several of the surrounding village churches to make one big Parish. It must have been quite a task to include all the news from quite a large area. He also said that he had great difficulty in extracting any material from two of the group in particular. More recently a team ministry has been created and St Mary's Church has become a Parish in its own right.

Finally, John brought a photocopy along of an entry in the Parish Magazine of March 1920 giving details of the beginning of the first Mothers' Union Branch 100 years ago. He ended by reading a selection of amusing sentences with grammatical errors submitted to the magazine over the years, which had us all laughing.

Brenda Sheath

## Friends of Saffron Walden Parish Church

### *A Date for your Diary*

Following a successful trip to Peterborough Cathedral last year the Friends are arranging a trip to **Lincoln Cathedral on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June**. Full details and forms are available on the Friends Bookstand.

Pamela Mugliston, Secretary of the Friends





*Paddy McKeown*

 Rodtech UK

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## From the Registers

### Baptisms

2nd February

*We welcome into the family of the Church and pray for:*

Elizabeth Alice Chaffey-Ford

23rd February

Ben Christopher Maurice Broadwood



### Funerals

4th February

*We send our deepest sympathy to the families and friends of:*

Vera Bassett

19th February

Reginald Burton

21st February

Ian Lambert

25th February

Pamela Pinner

25th February

Alan Dawson

26th February

Winifred Head

27th February

Anne Rose

28th February

Alan Stride

*Praying for them and for those who mourn*

*"May they rest in peace"*



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## **YOU**inthe**PEW**

interviewed by Chris Bishop

### **Martin Hugall**

For my interview this month I have spoken to Martin who is the man behind our church website and photographic record.

The son of a clergyman, Martin was born in Cape Town, and at the age of 14 returned to Poole in England with his mother and brother following the death of his father from MND. The Anglican Church in South Africa was very much involved in opposing apartheid and helping its victims, and the Church of England then seemed very tame in comparison.

Martin studied Zoology at Bristol where he also completed his PGCE, during which time he spent a year teaching science in a remote town in Western Nigeria with Voluntary Service Overseas. Inspired by his tutor who was a Quaker, Martin responded to an advert for a biology post at Friends' School Saffron Walden in 1972 where he continued his teaching career until he retired just over ten years ago. Family and his love for the school kept him there but his role varied and he spent a considerable number of years in senior management, and also helped to develop and maintain their website.

Martin says that it is difficult to work in a Quaker school without being influenced by their faith, especially their use of silent worship and their testimony of equality seen in their desire 'to see that of God in everyone'. As a scientist Martin is a questioning person and envies those who never have doubts. He strives to seek the 'truth', but certainly believes that there is a God who very much cares for us, and he hopes that ways can be found to bring more people to the Christian Faith, especially the young. Martin says that being part of the current Christian Studies Course has been stimulating and is filling many gaps in his knowledge.

Martin started attending St Mary's on a regular basis when his two sons were baptised and who later attended Sunday School, the choir and youth club. In addition to the worship, Martin has always enjoyed the high standard of music at St Mary's and the beauty of the building especially the stained glass windows, and has also been most appreciative of the amount of different work undertaken by so many people in the church.

Martin took on the church website soon after his retirement and has enjoyed the challenge of developing it and keeping it up to date, and the opportunity it has provided to incorporate his interest in photography.

*P.T.O.*





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**Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May 14:00-16:00**

**Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June 14:00-16:00**

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Martin says that he has very much enjoyed bringing up a family in Saffron Walden and the friends and acquaintances he has made over the years. His younger son now lives in Oslo and Martin was very pleased to become a grandfather two years ago. His other son lives in Barcelona and Martin enjoys trips to these two destinations each year.

Apart from the church and U3A websites, Martin keeps himself busy with his photography and some private biology tuition. He also rambles each week and swims each morning to help stay fit.

Although not too sure of a motto, Martin feels that it could be "Trust in the Lord", and he certainly does believe in angels!

## Gardening Notes

It's the very end of February and this morning we all saw a fall of snow, nothing significant, but a reminder that this is wintertime and we can use this horticultural holiday to our advantage: there are always wee jobs that need doing and we can take our time - preparing seed trays, for instance.



For anything with a significant root mass I use a deeper than normal tray, thus obviating the need to transplant more than once. My potato bins are being cleaned, then they'll be put out at their proper stations, half filled with my own compost ready for seed potatoes at the end of March. The traditional planting day in Ireland is March 17, St Patrick's Day, but as this area tends to late frosts I favour about a fortnight later: this year I'm repeating Rocket and Cara.

Spring growth in the garden is at that exciting stage, lots of green spikes from the bulbs with promise of the coming explosion of colour: the Daphne Odora and the winter honeysuckle both benefited mightily from a late pruning, now giving perfume and flowering well. A number of our plants and bushes came from cuttings donated by friends and family, giving us continued pleasure and remembrance.

Charles White

## Archive Group *findings...*

April 1940

My Dear Parishioners,

This year in addition to the normal hopes and doctrines of Eastertide comes the longing for the resurrection of sanity in a world gone mad. Blood and money are being poured out like water; time and thought which might be employed to much-needed and helpful purpose are concentrated on the invention and production of more and more deadly instruments of destruction. The wastage of life and treasure, the sufferings of millions of people are ghastly and appalling, especially when we consider that it is all directed not to any beneficent end but to satisfy the reckless, insane ambition of an ex-house-painter and his brother dictators to dominate the world 'Confound their devices' is the prayer the Church bids her members send up to Heaven against the enemies of their country 'in time of war and tumults' and I know of no more fitting words for us to use just now. It has been richly answered in the case of the deadly German magnetic mine against which our naval experts have now found a remedy. To the prayer 'Confound their devices' let us add another that He who is the Lord of life and death will in his mercy be pleased to raise sanity from that deep grave into which at least temporarily it has so grievously fallen and remains so firmly buried.

Yours sincerely

L. Hughes, Vicar.

## 1 April - All Fools' Day

In years gone by, the rules surrounding April Fool were this: between midnight and noon on 1<sup>st</sup> April, everyone is 'fair game' to be made a fool of. It is the morning of the practical joke. But the aim is not just to discomfort the victim: he must be tricked into taking action himself, sent on a 'fool's errand'.

And so children would be sent to the dairy for a pint of dove's milk, or to the bookseller for *The Life of Eve's Mother*. Practical jokes on a bigger scale were played: in 1860 a vast number of people received an official looking invitation to the Tower of London that read: 'Admit the Bearer and Friends to view the Annual Ceremony of Washing the White Lions.' Precisely the same trick had been played in 1698.

(Parish Pump)

## **St Mary's Book Club: Educated by Tara Westover**

In her vivid, highly readable and hugely successful memoir, *Educated*, Tara Westover describes both growing up in a severely dysfunctional family in rural Idaho and how, without having received any formal education and only sporadic home schooling, she nevertheless got to Brigham Young University and then to Cambridge, where she gained a PhD.

Her family were strict Mormons, but more important was the influence of her father's paranoia. (She describes him as bipolar.) He believed in some great impending catastrophe, and that the state, schools, doctors and hospitals were manifestations of Satan. To that end he had accumulated stocks of food, petrol, guns and ammunition, and was ready to fight "the Feds" when they came for his family, to the death. There were seven children, and her elder brother, Shawn, who was clearly severely disturbed, physically abused Tara and her other siblings. She was set to work in her father's scrapyard from the age of ten, with no safety precautions, and both she and her brothers suffered regular injuries, always treated at home.

Tara's mother, an unauthorised midwife and faith healer who also compounded 'essential oils' (later a highly successful business) gave her some education, as did one of her brothers, and there were books in the house. But when, aged sixteen, she decided to go to college, she had to work alone to pass the university qualifying examination. At Brigham Young University she felt at first quite out of place, but both there and later she received much encouragement and support from her supervisors, who clearly recognised her talent. From Brigham Young she went on to Cambridge as a Gates scholar, and after her PhD, to Harvard. But the tension between family and education finally took their toll, and she appears to have suffered some kind of temporary breakdown.

The discussion of *Educated* at the February meeting of St Mary's Book Group was animated. Was much of the book invented, or at least exaggerated? The author concedes that the memories of some other members of her family do not always coincide with her own. But our consensus was that in the society in which she grew up, her story rings true. Did her father and mother really love her, despite how she was treated? Her mother, as a good Mormon wife, would never stand up to her father or to Shawn, but on her own, took her to dance classes and encouraged her to go to university. And her father, though reckless of the dangers he subjected his children to and subject to mood swings, never actually stopped them from embracing education or accepting medical treatment even though he shouted against it, and he offered Tara money when she felt she could no longer afford to stay at university. So the answer was, yes; but a final break in their relationship came, however, over their Mormon faith. Recent interviews suggest that Tara now sees her mother again, but not her father.

Robin O'Neill.



## The Grange Care Home

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## Anzac Day 25 April

Anzac Day commemorates all Australian and New Zealander servicemen and women who have been lost in conflicts worldwide. The term Anzac was originally used at the Gallipoli campaign in 1915/16 and has been used ever since.

In Australia the day is a public holiday with various services throughout the day. The first is a dawn service (this mirrors the time of the first attack at Gallipoli). While in Australia I was fortunate to attend the one in Melbourne, which takes place outside the Shrine of Remembrance. The dawn service was very moving. Thousands of People assemble from 5am to await the service. There are readings and both New Zealand and Australian National anthems, with the eternal flame relit as the sun rises. A piper plays a lament from the roof of the Shrine. The reverence and stillness at the service made a great impact on me.

There is a veterans' parade a little later in the day. Before the Aussie rules football games they start with an act of commemoration, again very moving (4000 + at the Melbourne Cricket Ground). Even the smallest towns have lost someone and hold similar acts of commemoration.

In this country there is a dawn service in London followed by laying of wreaths at the cenotaph and a service at Westminster Abbey. I have been fortunate to go to the two latter ones in the past and hope to go again this year (my father was in the New Zealand Engineers during World War 2).

At the service words by Mustafa Kemal Ataturk are read. This is inscribed on the memorial at Anzac Cove in the Dardanelles: -

Those heroes that shed their blood and lost their lives... you are now lying in the soil of a friendly country. Therefore rest in peace. There is no difference between the Johnnies and the Mehmets to us where they lie side by side here in this country of ours... You the mothers who sent their sons from far away countries wipe away your tears. Your sons are now lying in our bosom and are in peace. After having lost their lives on this land they have become our sons as well.

There are 3 New Zealanders from World War 2 buried at Radwinter Road cemetery. May we think of all Anzacs who gave their life so far from home.

Gill Caswell



*Photo: Lou Kelly from Pixabay*

## Men's Breakfast – Hope into Action

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April 8.15am in The King's Arms Saffron Walden

Speaker: Sarah Jorgensen

Hope into Action, is a mission to tackle large and complex social issues. Deep-rooted social problems that compound the trauma of homelessness. Addiction. Crime. Lack of financial security and know-how. Social stigma. And most of all poverty of relationships. Last year they

- housed**250** people in **76** Homes
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82% abstained from crime, 37% gained employment of some form  
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88% improved their physical and mental health  
They help those staying at Jimmy's to find longer term accommodation and support.

**All men welcome to this talk.**

**Add your name to the booking sheet on the Church Notice Board**

Robin Betser

# Gelio



**Nathan, the Study Group leader takes the monthly Old Testament sessions very seriously.**

## **CMS 2020 Conference at High Leigh in 28th February**

This year the theme of the Conference was Sharing the Gospel Here, There and Everywhere. Forty-six members came to hear what was happening and we shared, listened, worshipped and prayed together with a very deep and spiritual togetherness. The Chief Executive Officer, Alastair Bateman, began by speaking to us through a video and urged us to encourage fellowship and prayer. His assistant, Janet Quarry, spoke about how over the past year the staff in Oxford have been dwelling on the Word of God together. This new way was difficult, but it was reaching depths of understanding of God's way for the future of mission everywhere in His world. She illustrated this on two occasions. One was to describe the many different women mentioned through Paul's journeys and how they were always there for him. The second occasion was the sermon at the final worship service, when we had Holy Communion, and it was based on Isaiah chapter 6, which has probably inspired many of us to listen and follow the question- Who will go for us? - with the answer - Here am I, send me.

Our worship was led by the Revd D. Stephenson who is from Jamaica . She spoke slowly and clearly in a very deeply spiritual way. She shared her own difficult life story trying various spiritual ways and which in the end opened her mind and heart to Christianity. This has helped her to deal with problems of prisoners where she works in Reading.

Two gentlemen from Oxford are serving a growing Portuguese population and have a very active church there. They have used a sports activity like wrestling, which has brought men and families together, who have then become interested in Christianity. Nusrat, a converted Muslim from Pakistan, had been forced by her family to marry and she had also been used and abused by her father when her mother died. Somehow she was drawn through God's Spirit to Christianity and she gave her life to Christ; she now helps abused people. These stories of survival and of reaching out after suffering, from ethnically diverse people, were all encouraged through times of worship and fellowship together.

A session led by four previous missionaries gave updates on Congo, and Anne Marie Wilson, who has been inspired to face the problem of Female Genital Mutilation all over the world. Some of the areas have now decreased this practice, but it is still ongoing and, although she herself has cancer, she continues travelling all over the world.

We were all in agreement that Mission is changing and, although most of us who attended had served and shared the Gospel of Christ abroad, it now needs to be shared just where we are - anywhere and everywhere.

Sheilah Girgis-Hanna (former CMS missionary in Egypt)

## Men's Activities Programme for 2020

(For all men in the Saffron Walden & Villages Team Ministry area)

### Saturday Breakfasts:

(Coffee from 8.15am, cooked breakfast at 8.30 am, finish 10am)

Date	Speaker	Venue
Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup> April	Sarah Jorgensen	Kings Arms
Saturday 10 <sup>th</sup> October	TBA	Kings Arms

We have coffee or tea from 8.15am and at 8.30am around 25 of us sit down to a cooked breakfast and a good chat. Then at around 9.30am we enjoy listening to a speaker for 20 minutes or so. After questions and answers we finish at 10am latest. Donations for the cost of the breakfast are voluntary.

### Saturday Walks:

(Meet St. Mary's Saffron Walden 10am and finish with a pub lunch)

Saturday 11th January	Saturday 9th May	Saturday 12th September
Saturday 14th March Led by Peter Cooper	Saturday 11th July	Saturday 14th November

Our walks are around six miles in the countryside. Those who can't make the walk often meet us at the pub for lunch. You should count on the walk involving some hills, muddy uneven terrain and fields with animals as well as stiles to climb over and overhanging vegetation to pass under. So you'll need to wear suitable footwear and have some wet weather gear you can put on if it rains.

### Suppers (at 7.00pm for 7.30pm)

Thurs 26th March	The Crown, Little Walden
Friday 8th May	The Jade Garden, Saffron Walden
Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup> November	The Mogul, Saffron Walden

We ask people to sign up via a sheet at the back of St. Mary's church or by phone or email. That way we book enough places at the restaurant and co-ordinate lifts to and from out-of-town venues.

### M5 Pub Lunches: (Men's Monthly Mid-week Midday Meet)

Jan 1 <sup>st</sup>	Febr 5 <sup>th</sup>	March 4 <sup>th</sup>	April 1st	May 6 <sup>th</sup>	June 3 <sup>rd</sup>
July 1 <sup>st</sup>	August 5 <sup>th</sup>	Sept 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Oct 7 <sup>th</sup>	Nov 4 <sup>th</sup>	Dec 2nd

Informal gatherings for chat, lunch, and a drink at the King's Arms, Market Hill, Saffron Walden at 12.15 pm on the first Wednesday of the month. Over an hour or so we enjoy a pub lunch, a drink and each other's company. It's simple, totally informal, no signing up, no booking, no agenda, no strings and no tab.

**Contacts:** Co-ordinator: Robin Betser

**Breakfasts and Suppers,** Robin Betser (01 223 891 385)

**Walks** Anthony Armon-Jones (01 799 516733)

**M5 Lunches** Bill Rose (01 799 516 609)

*No booking required except Men's Breakfast meetings*

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The Reviews Hub

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