

Parish News

St Mary the Virgin, Saffron Walden

St John, Little Walden and

St James, Swards End

Part of Saffron Walden & Villages Team Ministry



June 2020

FREE

Welcome to Magdalene Rose!

Sam and Rachel Prior are delighted to welcome their daughter Magdalene Rose into their family. Magdalene was born on Monday 27th April 2020 at 11am, weighing 7lb 3oz. All are doing well and are very grateful for all your prayers and good wishes.



Rachel and Sam write: -

"Thank you all so much for your emails, cards and gifts. We are so touched by your kindness and generosity, and though we may be far apart from you, we feel you are very close. Please do continue to pray for us as we adjust to life as a family of three. We so look forward to the time when you can meet Magdalene face to face!

Love, Rachel and Sam

Contents for June 2020

THE PASTORAL LETTER 5

NOTICEBOARD

Calendar - Major Festivals	7
Calling all photographers	17
From the Registers	6
Friends' visit to Lincoln - update	29

REPORTS

Welcome to Magdalene Rose!	2
St Mary's Music News	28

FEATURES

Choosing a new Rector for St Mary's	9
Prayer of the month	11
Gardening Notes	13
So this is what an emergency looks like	15
Archive Group: June 1940	17
All things bright and beautiful	18
Personal reflections from week 4	20
A Psalm of Lament	21
Edwin Hatch	23
You in the Pew	25
Book review: The Morville Hours	31
Scotland's Einstein	32
Mind of the Spirit	33
Gelio	34
'I am the vine'	34

PARISH NEWS - EDITORIAL DEADLINE

The deadline for contributions for each issue is the 1st Sunday of the month. Hence, the deadline for the **July** issue is **Sunday 7th June** and for the **August-September** issue **Sunday 5th July**.

Copy to Parish Administrator:

Dawn Saxon

email: office@stmaryssaffronwalden.org
01799 506024

Editor: Andy Colebrooke

01799 732970

Advertising: Gillian Brace

Email: office@stmaryssaffronwalden.org

PARISH NEWS IS A FREE PUBLICATION and can also be viewed (**in full colour**) online at our parish website:

www.stmaryssaffronwalden.org/parishnews

Front Cover: *The Kingfisher*

Photograph by Gilly Hayes

During the lockdown...

If you would like to be added to our weekly mailing list, email: -

office@stmaryssaffronwalden.org

TEAM RECTOR: Vacancy

ASSISTANT CURATE: On maternity leave

CHURCHWARDENS: Denis Tindley; 01799 524436 (Saffron Walden)
Gill Caswell; 01799 520485 (Saffron Walden)
Michael Dean; 01799 523388 (Sewards End)
Lynne Ketteridge; 01799 523898 (Sewards End)

© 2020

All parts of this publication are subject to copyright.

Bentens

Chartered Certified Accountants Registered Auditors

Friendly, well established local firm dealing with all your audit, accountancy and taxation matters.

For a short free consultation (without obligation) please contact

Abbey House 51 High Street Saffron Walden

Telephone : (01799) 523053

info@benten.co.uk

www.benten.co.uk

www.SAFFRON WALDEN MOTORS.co.uk
CAR SALES - SERVICING & REPAIRS - M.O.T. TEST CENTRE

QUALITY LOW MILEAGE CAR SALES

Fully inspected - Serviced - 12 month M.O.T - Cleaned & Valeted

*** £10.00 off M.O.T. tests for the life you own the vehicle ***

TOWN CENTRE M.O.T TEST CENTRE

Book a while-you-wait appointment or leave your car with us

**SERVICING
REPAIRS
MOTS**

**DIAGNOSTICS
WHEEL ALIGNMENT
AIR CONDITIONING
TYRES - EXHAUSTS - BATTERIES**

Family owned business Est. 1938
66 HIGH STREET - SAFFRON WALDEN

Tel: 01799 523597
info@saffronwaldenmotors.co.uk

Pastoral Letter

From The Rev'd Michael Lovegrove

Dear friends,

Nearly all of my secular working life was spent in the financial City of London, most recently as an Ombudsman with the Financial Ombudsman Service. I continued in that capacity for three years after ordination, sometimes wearing my clerical collar. Inevitably one biblical text was frequently quoted at me, namely 'No servant can serve two masters. Ye cannot serve God and mammon' (Luke 16.13 AV). I now find myself as Chairman of our PCC Finance Committee and so I thought that I would say something about God and money.



To talk about money at the time of a pandemic may seem odd but it is of particular concern to many, especially the self-employed, those running a business and all those struggling to make ends meet. Others more fortunate turn to their 'Wealth Platform' or investment schedule and look with dismay at the drop in value of their investments.

The first thing I want to say is that because of prudent planning over the years as a church we have a contingency fund which, for the time being, enables us to meet all of our financial commitments, including to those whom we employ.

Is money a bad thing? Even to ask this question would sound like the height of stupidity to many. Money is not a bad thing, that is to say in itself, but the love of money certainly is. 1Timothy 6.10 (so often misquoted) puts the matter plainly 'For the love of money is the root of all evil'. Wealth can beguile and not only the wealthy can be 'hooked' on money. It can happen to the poor as well if everything is judged in terms of money.

The Christian is not required to go penniless. We are not called to go about in rags or live in a hovel. Some like St Francis of Assisi have been set apart to a life of extreme poverty. We are not all called to such a life but those who are should be honoured. Wealthy Christians, however, and they do exist, are called to a modest style of living, they are not to flaunt their wealth and should make it their business to be humble in manner and to seek out those less fortunate than themselves.

We have to live with mammon. Mammon is around every corner, but for the Christian the necessity is to dethrone money and keep it dethroned. Let us as Christians be charitable people and guard against this particular snare, whatever our bank balance.

I cannot conclude without expressing my gratitude to all in our church family for giving so generously to the funding of our ministry and witness. Over the past few years we have broadened the base of our stewardship giving and in total committed giving has risen steadily to £199,000 pa. Stewardship giving including Gift Aid continues to finance over 70% of our total annual expenditure, for which I give thanks. In broad terms our total income for 2020 was expected to be around £262,000, a shortfall of £3,100 of budgeted expenditure.

That may well change as the result of the lock down, but I pray that God will help us to use wisely what has been entrusted to us so that neither wealth or poverty may hinder our Christian discipleship.

With love,

Michael Lovegrove

From the Registers

Funerals

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

1st April	Barbara Bull
3rd April	Irene Elliott
9th April	Moira Dick
20th April	James Cochrane
22nd April	Valerie Lester
24th April	Sylvia Banks

*Praying for them and for those who mourn
"May they rest in peace"*



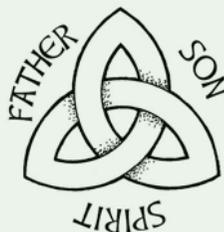
Calendar for June 2020

For information about online Services and resources see our Church at Home page at www.stmaryssaffronwalden.org/churchathome

Major Festivals

Sunday 7th June: TRINITY SUNDAY

Almighty and everlasting God,
you have given us your servants grace,
by the confession of a true faith,
to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity
and in the power of the divine majesty to worship the Unity:
keep us steadfast in this faith,
that we may evermore be defended from all adversities;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.



Holy God,
faithful and unchanging:
enlarge our minds with the knowledge of your truth,
and draw us more deeply into the mystery of your love,
that we may truly worship you,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

Doctor, Doctor

A man was seen fleeing down the hall of the hospital just before his operation.
'What's the matter?' he was asked.

He said, 'I heard the nurse say, "It's a very simple operation, don't worry, I'm sure it will be all right."'

'She was just trying to comfort you, what's so frightening about that?'

'She wasn't talking to me. She was talking to the doctor!'



Planning an Event or Celebration?

Friar Tucks



CATERING EQUIPMENT HIRE

can supply crockery, cutlery,
glasses, linen and lots more!

Call us on
01245 231819

to request a brochure, or visit our Showroom.
We offer delivery, washing up and table laying services

www.friar-tucks.co.uk

**Friars Grange, Keers Green,
Aythorpe Roding, Gt Dunmow CM6 1PG**

Please mention Parish News when responding to an advertisement.

Choosing a new Rector for St Mary's

During the last few months, members of the PCC have had to learn how the replacement to David Tomlinson is to be chosen. In times of yore, our forebears didn't have to worry about parish profiles, adverts in the Church Times or Section 11 Meetings. For almost all the time that there has been a church where St Mary's now stands, the appointment of a new vicar was the responsibility of the patron, (usually a rich and powerful man who 'owned' the living,) who had the right to appoint (and even dismiss) the parish priest, to be paid a fee on appointment, and to charge rent. In the aftermath of the Norman Conquest, English parish churches became the personal property of wealthy, powerful patrons either prominent in the established church or noblemen.



There has been a church on the site of St Mary's for more than a thousand years. The conversion of the East Saxons to Christianity by the followers of St Cedd probably resulted in a wooden church, which was superseded by a stone one in Norman times. From early times, the revenues, and the rights of appointment, were connected to Walden Abbey, which was established in or around 1140, initially as a Benedictine priory. The list of "Incumbents of Walden" at the west end of the church records Geoffrey Fitzchancellor as Rector in 1138. A vicarage was instituted in Walden town by Reginald, the first abbot in about 1174. In 1365, the abbey needed to raise money to repair damage caused by "a great storm" (probably not a consequence of climate change), and the monks persuaded the Bishop of London to appoint a commission for re-uniting the vicar's portion to their revenue, with them providing a secular priest. In 1435, a vicarage was again appointed, to be the gift of the convent, and an agreement was made between the vicar and the abbot setting out what tithes needed to be paid by the church. This continued until the dissolution of the monasteries under Henry VIII, when the patronage was placed in the hands of Thomas, Lord Audley

continued on page 11



Carpet Cleaning &

Stone floors, Upholstery, Rugs

A few points that make us stand out,

Rothwell's has been in business since 1993

We're an honest local family firm.

Our large truck mounted machines mean more cleaning & drying power for the best results possible.

Members of both the NCCA and TACCA.

We will move the furniture.

100% satisfaction or it's FREE.

Call Oliver and Max Campbell for expert help today.

01638 428 060 / 01223 832 928

www.Rothwells.biz



Mens Day Wear Formal Hire Personal Tailoring School Uniform

01799 522159

Info@graypalmer.co.uk

www.graypalmer.co.uk

47 High Street

Saffron Walden

Essex, CB10 1AR

R FISHER & SON

Est. 1959

Chimney Sweep

All aspects of chimney work

Master member N.A.C.S.

HETAS regd.

www.chimneys.demon.co.uk

01763 838360



Come and visit our brand new showroom to discover an extensive collection of quality flooring, beds and furniture.

Image: Setby design by Alternative Flooring



Monday to Saturday 9 - 5

8 Station Street

Saffron Walden

Essex CB11 3HE

01799 522328

www.bandrcarpets.com



(who built his palace where the Abbey had been) and in 1538, William More, suffragan Bishop of Colchester, was appointed Rector of Walden. The living remained in the hands of Audley's descendants, the Earls of Suffolk and, eventually, Lords Braybrooke until well after the Second World War.

The choices that these patrons made were not necessarily bad or selfish ones. Although Anthony Trollope parodied the potential for favouritism, and PG Wodehouse has a number of curates who look for a living on the strength of an ability to bowl leg spin and a friendship with the squire's daughter, the practice was not generally abused, and the patron usually took account of the views of the parishioners as well as the advice coming from the diocese administrators. However, in the interests of fairness and transparency, it is probably sensible that we now have a procedure designed to ensure that the strongest candidates be appointed to one of the most attractive jobs in the Church. It's just a pity that it takes so long...

John Pickthorn

Prayer for the Month *provided by the Prayer Committee*

O God, King of kings and Lord of lords,
 We pray today for statesmen and women, leaders and rulers.
 May they be quiet in spirit, clear in judgement,
 able to understand the issues that face them.
 May they think often of the common people on whose behalf
 they must speak and act.
 May they remember that in keeping your laws is mankind's only
 good and happiness.
 Grant them patience, grant them courage,
 grant them foresight and great faith.
 In their anxieties be their security,
 in their opportunities be their inspiration,
 by their plans and their actions may your kingdom come,
 your will be done.
 Amen.



SAFFRON

Launderers & Dry Cleaners

We specialise in the following areas:

Dry Cleaning

Personal Domestic Laundry

Linen Rental

Wedding Dress Cleaning

Occasional Table Linen Hire

Repairs & Alterations.

13-17 Gold Street
Saffron Walden
Tel: 01799 522588

9 Snowley Parade
Bishop's Stortford
Tel: 01279 652128

15 The Traverse
Bury St Edmunds
Tel: 01284 724077

www.saffronlaundry.com



Gardening Notes

It's the beginning of May and last week's colder weather gave me concern for the tomatoes transplanted outdoors to their final position last week: I keep cloches at the ready and they're often used even this late in spring. My runners and climbing French beans, started in the greenhouse, are out and doing well and I'm putting supporting canes in position.



A couple of years ago one of my Christmas presents was a selection of bulbs: these were subsequently planted and now are coming to their best, some in pots, some in beds, and all a delight.

I shall start on my flowerbeds now: although mostly perennials there is room - after spring cleaning and when the bulbs are finished - for some gap filling. For this I've a tray of mesembryanthemums raring to go: they are various colours and will flower 'til autumn with minimal attention; occasional dead heading is sufficient.



Image by Penstones from Pixabay

And now it's raining and time to hide in the greenhouse!

Charles White

SUMMIT

LANDSCAPES
PAVING
DRIVEWAYS
BRICKWORK
CARPENTRY
GROUNDWORKS



www.landscapingpaving.co.uk
PHONE: 0 1 2 2 3 - 9 2 9 3 9 4



Support Workers

Do you want a job that is different every day?
Do you want opportunities to develop and progress?

We are looking for enthusiastic and hardworking people to join our teams in Silver End, Cressing, Thaxted, Hatfield Peverel and Southminster.

In this rewarding role, you will support young adults with autism, learning disabilities and complex behaviours to lead fulfilled and independent lives.

No experience necessary.

Benefits include a competitive salary and ongoing training program.



For an informal chat call Lili or Michelle on 01376 574150
or email: recruitment@zerothreecarehomes.co.uk
www.zerothreecarehomes.co.uk



So this is what an emergency looks like

So now we know what an emergency looks like. Government takes swift and decisive action; they listen to the scientists, basing their policies and strategies entirely on the science; they pass swift laws that compel the public to radically change their lifestyles; they scrap the budget they had planned and break all their fiscal discipline, spending countless billions of pounds in the attempt to save lives and safeguard a future economy. Yet in May 2019, after passing a motion of Climate Emergency, none of these things happened.

After decades of equivocation, lip service is being paid to the scientists, but the few policies set out in their manifesto do little to enable us to reach our carbon zero target; the budget offered little incentive to clean energy and nothing to promote any changes of lifestyle amongst the electorate; there are no daily, weekly, or even annual briefings to inform the public of what progress we are making towards our targets; no charts, no graphs, no ministers held accountable on prime time television...

So what is the difference? The pandemic is sudden, acute and threatens life over a period of days and months. A vaccine is likely within a year or a few months, after which we can return to normal.

Global heating develops over years and decades; the lives lost are mostly a long way away and we feel insulated from them, but there is no technological quick fix and there will be no 'normal' to return to if we don't take far reaching actions now.

The secret of beating the coronavirus was listening to the science from the outset; taking swift and dramatic action; showing leadership to persuade the public to make immense sacrifices in the short term. The costs in lives, money, wrecked businesses and unemployment are far greater if our leaders fail in this.

The secret of halting the destruction of our environment would have been to listen to the science 25 years ago; to have taken steady, incremental action from that time, led by the science; and to have incentivized the public to switch to more sustainable lifestyles for the benefit of their children.

So why has there been this massive difference? Maybe because there is no powerful lobby speaking up for the virus, while there has been a very powerful lobby, deeply invested in fossil fuels, that have manipulated our politicians and controlled much of our media.

The one thing both the virus and environmental catastrophe have in common, though, is that our children will be paying the cost.

Edward Gildea

**NICK SHUTES
PAINTING AND
DECORATING LTD**

High quality interior and
exterior redecoration

All woodwork repairs and
replacements including
fascias, soffits and cladding

**01799 542385 or
07885 778213**
www.nickshutesdecorating.co.uk



Kristina Coleman
ARCM

Piano Lessons

Close to Saffron Walden
Town Centre

Children (7+) and Adults

All levels from beginners to
Grade VIII Royal Schools of
Music

Telephone:
01799 526977



Email:
colemansafwalden@aol.com

Ross Nursing Services Ltd.

We are a Clavering based, family owned and run care company, covering north west Essex. We maintain the highest level of care and support for all our clients by continually monitoring standards and ensuring that individual needs are met.



We value client's dignity, independence, privacy, choice and rights.

What you can expect:

- * Well trained, well presented carers who undertake continuous training.
- * Carers with DBS checks and good references.
- * A close working relationship with local GPs, District Nurses and other Health and Social Care professionals.
- * We continually monitor our services using Quality Assurance surveys.
- * We can deliver all aspects of personal care, palliative care, specialist respiratory care and other specialist care needs.
- * In addition we can accompany clients on hospital visits or visits to the GP, we do respite sitting services, client shopping and basic household management.
- * We also have someone who can help with tasks such as setting up the internet.

For further information please contact Ros Holder on 01799 551046

Archive Group *findings...*

June 1940

Dear Parishioners,

...Never in the world's history was there a time when it was so imperative to show Whose we are and Whom we serve. Germany and Russia make no secret of their service of Satan and are not too abashed to own the Devil as their lord and master. Cannot we similarly have the courage of our convictions and show that we are not ashamed to confess the faith of Christ Crucified and manfully fight under His banner? The savage attack on Holland and Belgium is evidence enough and an unmistakable object lesson of the vile barbarism to which repudiation of the Gospel so easily leads...

L. Hughes.

Sewards End.

The Knitting Guild of the hamlet which only started work on March 15th has sent to the Comforts Depot no less than seven helmets, sixteen scarves, two pullovers, one pair of gloves, eighteen pairs of socks, and in addition has sent £1 to the Comforts Fund and spent 30/- on wool and still has 7/- in hands, all being contributed or collected from workers and sympathisers.

Calling all photographers

The Editor is looking for pictures for the front cover.

If you have taken your own, good resolution, photographs of local scenes, appropriate to the summer season, why not submit them for inclusion in the July or August-September editions?

Selected pictures will appear in both the printed magazine and on the parish website.

Don't be shy!

All things bright and beautiful

'All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small, all things wise and wonderful the Lord God made them all'. This famous hymn written by Cecil Frances Alexander in 1848 shows how she appreciated our natural world. We too must learn to love and care for the special world God created.

We are all taking time to stop and wonder at God's creation in its amazing diversity. Our gardens have become a joyful sanctuary and a welcome relief from our anxiety. Prayer and contemplation in natural spaces is good therapy, helping reduce our fears and bewilderment of Covid 19 which has altered our world as we know it. We marvel at the amount of blossom, buzzing with bees and unfurling vibrant green leaves bursting forth from the tree branches. Our hearts joyfully see the mauve haze of masses of bluebells carpeting the ground. Miraculously these flowers return faithfully each spring, reminding us of God's faithfulness to us. His love is constant whatever is happening in the world. We in return must have faith, trust and love in him.



As humankind is in this strange lockdown world, nature has taken this opportunity to flourish. This is uplifting to see. The birds appear to be singing more loudly, or is it that their sweet tunes are more noticeable as we take time to listen? As fewer cars are on the road, air pollution levels have dropped. Fewer planes flying across the skies have already proved what climate change scientists have been saying about carbon emissions and have noted that air quality has

improved. Strange sightings of nature breaking into communities have been seen around the country, including sheep roaming down once busy streets in Oxford! I myself had a surprise with a grass snake, never seen before, taking up residence in my pond.

We do not know why flood, fires and now pestilence have been sent to the world. Is it a warning for man to repent for the evils, greed, materialism, corruption and immorality of recent years? When this uncertain time passes can we move forward to being a fairer, kinder, more thoughtful, compassionate society? A less selfish future in all aspects of our lives, our community, our country and the world? We have to hope for a positive future with the Lord at the centre of everything.

If you wander into our churchyard we hope you'll see changes too. Our newly planted primrose and cowslip bank, like us, might be struggling to survive but the cowslips are seeding so this cheerful yellow bank should come up again next year. Whilst socially isolating, pockets of wild flower seeds have been planted in the corners of the front lawn. We are hoping for a colourful show this summer. This is part of the plan for creating greater biodiversity,



encouraging more insects and pollinators, small mammals and birds to bring more life into St Mary's grounds. Why not let part of your own lawn grow tall, allowing nature free reign too?

I believe all this is a sign that we must respect God's world, that our natural world is God's creation to be remembered as such and be cherished. Humans are mere custodians of the planet and we are surely being shown that man is not invincible and certainly not in control. Our world is God's world, he is in control and his **WILL** be done.

The hymn ends 'He gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell, how great is God almighty who has made all things well.'

Jackie Damary-Homan, Eco team

Personal reflections from 4 weeks into lockdown

Over the past weeks the dawn walks have become an oasis, a place that I am most aware of God's presence and echo Diego De Estella (a 16th Spanish Franciscan) when he exclaims at the start of 'Meditations on God's Love':

'All the creatures declare to me, O Lord, that I should love Thee and in every one of them I discover a tongue which proclaims Thy goodness and greatness.'

Each walk I take opens my eyes to new wonders of God. Most consistent have been the ancient trees that are still standing strong and tall. Until recently they have been without their foliage laying bare their true shape, the twists and dives of their branches, open to all and for all to see their essence. They speak of the steadfastness of God, holding an ancient wisdom and deeply rooted in the ground in which they have been planted. Through all seasons they are a place of rest, a refuge for those birds, providing nourishment, a source of food, a place of shelter and safety to nest and rear a family. They are a look out for watching over their new family as well as for those looking for prey. They welcome all, regardless of the reason they are coming to dwell in their branches.

As I read the gospels I see Jesus welcoming all too, especially those on the margins deemed unworthy. Indeed Scripture is full of 'outsiders' bringing God's love, influence and guidance to all. Rahab, a pagan gentile and prostitute saved the Israelite spies in Jericho; then there is Ruth, the grandmother of King David, a Moabite; or Cornelius, a Roman gentile soldier, instrumental in breaking Peter out of his Jewish exclusiveness. This challenges my attitudes towards others: am I really open to offer a place of refuge (both in my home and church) to all, most especially to those on the margins?

The trees have withstood every conceivable sort of weather from violent storms to intense heat with long periods of drought and have been willing to be shaped by all that comes their way. What has kept them and allowed them to be such a symbols of hope and steadiness? I wonder if it is their unseen roots going deeper and deeper into the rich dark earth that keeps them steady. I also noticed as the foliage grows back on, bringing colour and beauty, it also hides their winter shape. While I love the greenness of spring, bringing hope with its beauty, I miss the shape of their twists and turns.

These magnificent trees are inviting me to let the love of God shape and form me which in the winter season leaves me open and vulnerable but true to who I am. They challenge me to let go of the masks I wear in order to hide my vulnerability and remind me of my dependence on the creator God, being open to all. I want to leave the last word on trees to Catherine of Sienna who writes a

beautiful reflection: -

The trunk of the tree is love
 The core of the tree is patience
 The roots of the tree are self-knowledge
 The many branches are discernment

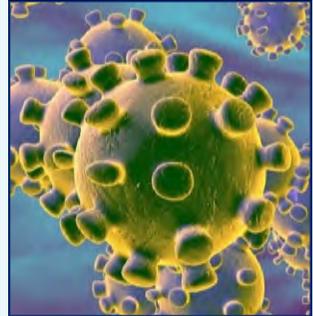
In other words, said Catherine, love does not happen without patience, self-knowledge and discernment. One of my hopes is that, long after the lockdown has passed, this pattern of walking and being alive to the creator's word in creation will only deepen, so that my life will speak of God's love proclaiming 'the goodness and greatness' of God.

Sue Walker

A Psalm of Lament

Students on the Course in Christian Studies have been thinking about prayer. One twenty minute exercise was to write a topical prayer in the style of a psalm of lament. Two students collaborated on the following: -

O God, in the past you have provided for us.
 Where are you now in the midst of our trials;
 and the trials of those in war,
 in poverty,
 the homeless and dispossessed?
 Where are you now every nation has the virus?
 Why have we lost so many people?
 Families mourn, families grieve in great sadness.



We put our trust in you.
 Protect those on the frontline who put their lives at risk.
 Protect the key workers.
 Protect their families.

May all governments collaborate to achieve a safe exit
 from international lockdown.
 Give scientists wisdom to discover a vaccine.
 Give strength to all.

May we learn from this the error of our ways,
 so we can praise you for all the good things around us.
 May we cherish the beautiful world that you, great God, have given us.

(Used with permission)

Paddy McKeown



WALDEN
Sweeps

- ◆ Services offered include:
- ◆ Chimney and Flue Sweeping
- ◆ Wood Burning Stoves
- ◆ Open Fires
- ◆ Aga/Rayburn
- ◆ Bird Nest Removal
- ◆ CCTV Examinations

t: 01799 599981
m: 07956 099788
e: paddy@waldensweeps.myzen.co.uk

WWW.WALDENCHIMNEYSWEEPS.CO.UK



"Mike composes all his sermons on his iPhone – he uses something called Predictable Text..."

Right Price



Kitchens

Unit 39, Shirehill Industrial Estate, Saffron Walden, Essex, CB11 3AQ



Telephone: 01799 513782
E-mail: sales@rightpricekitchens.co.uk
www.rightpricekitchens.co.uk

Opening hours: Monday - Friday 8:30am - 5:00pm
Saturday by appointment only (8:30am - 12:00pm)

Please mention Parish News when responding to an advertisement.

Clifford Want continues his series on Hymn writers

Edwin Hatch (1835-1889)

'Breathe on me Breath of God'

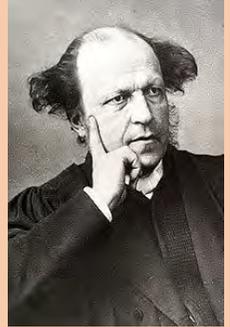
'Breathe on me Breath of God' is the only hymn written by Edwin Hatch which is still widely sung. It was issued privately in 1878, published in 1886 and republished posthumously by his widow in 1890.

Edwin Hatch was born in Derby and spent his childhood in a non-conformist background before graduating from Pembroke College, Oxford in 1857, after undergraduate studies at Cambridge. He was ordained in the Church of England in 1859, working first in East London slums before accepting a position to teach classics at Trinity College in Quebec. After also serving as Rector of Quebec High School, he returned to Oxford to become the vice-principal of St Mary's Hall.

Hatch was recognized as an authority on the early church as a result of his Bampton Lectures, 'On the Organization of Early Christian Churches.' He is apparently best known in theological circles as the author of a paper entitled 'Influence of Greek Ideas and Usages Upon the Christian Church'. Hatch's faith was referred to 'as simple and as unaffected as a child'. The United Methodist Church reportedly wrote: 'The simplicity of this profound hymn belies the education and knowledge of its author'. However, the simple words have profound meaning with references to the Genesis account of the breath of God used in the creation of man and in the spiritual breath of God which came to Christians via Jesus at Pentecost. The hymn draws for its inspiration on John 20:21-22, following John's account of the Resurrection: 'Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even, so send I you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit."'

Using the first-person perspective throughout the hymn adds to the hymn's power. The text is a prayer for renewal by God's Spirit, a renewal that is to be expressed in a life of love, in purity of heart and will, and in an intimacy with God that heralds the perfection of eternal life. Summarizing the message of the hymn, British hymnologist J.R. Watson suggests that it epitomises that the breath of God 'brings new life and love, purity and obedience, surrender and inspiration, and finally eternal life, as the hymn moves through various stages of Christian experience and discipline towards a unity with God.'

Clifford Want (with acknowledgements to the Internet)



PEASGOOD & SKEATES



INDEPENDENT FAMILY
FUNERAL DIRECTORS & MONUMENTAL MASONS

Serving the Community since 1847

Purpose built funeral homes with private chapels of rest

Arrangements can be made in the comfort of your home

Pre-paid funeral planning

Free professional bereavement support
available to all our clients

SHIRE HILL & HIGH STREET
SAFFRON WALDEN
TEL: (01799) 523314

45 MOORFIELD ROAD
DUXFORD
TEL: (01223) 833463

617 NEWMARKET ROAD
CAMBRIDGE
TEL: (01223) 415255

12-14 QUEEN STREET
HAVERHILL
TEL: (01440) 840140

***A personal, caring service from
a local business, day or night***

www.peasgoodandskeates.co.uk



Ask us about...
Funeral Plans



YOUinthe**PEW**

interviewed by Chris Bishop

Rufus Barnes

Rufus was born and brought up in north London. He was an only child and went to boarding school, also in north London, where he made a number of life-long friends.

After university in Swansea and a further period in London he moved to Great Chesterford in 1980. Having been brought up in a family which went to an Anglican Church little more than on

'High Days' and 'Holidays', Rufus was rather taken-aback to find himself giving his life to the Lord at Wellspring – a free, evangelical, charismatic Church then in Great Chesterford! His surprise was however nothing like the consternation of his parents who thought he had joined some sect that was going to take all his money!

At Wellspring Rufus met Margaret and after a short time (just 8 months after they started going out together) they were married in February 1992, again to the consternation of his parents who were convinced the marriage would not last! They set up home in Saffron Walden and after nearly 30 years, they remain happily together.

Later in 1992 Rufus and Margaret went to Bible School in Jerusalem for one semester. It was a life-changing experience. Their eyes were opened to the Jewish roots of the Christian faith and God's continued love and plans for the Jewish people. They got involved with a wide range of Christian organisations involved with Israel and Jewish ministry. Rufus became a Trustee of the Church's Ministry amongst Jewish People and is currently its Vice-Chair. He also spent four years as Chairman of Love Never Fails, an organisation bringing together over 20 ministries standing alongside God's promises to Israel and the Jewish people. Rufus has led a number of study tours to Israel and has arranged and led Passover Seders at churches in Saffron Walden, Great Chesterford and other churches around the country.

On their return from Israel the leadership of Wellspring was unimpressed with their new found interest in Israel (a stance for which they later apologised) and Rufus and Margaret left and started attending All Saints, Great Chesterford



continued on page 27



Hearing Help Essex
Walk-In NHS Hearing Aid
Maintenance Session Dates

**Uttlesford District Council Offices, London Road,
Saffron Walden, CB11 4ER**
3rd Monday of each month

- Have your NHS hearing aid cleaned & re-tubed
 - Learn about specialist equipment
 - Receive help and advice

For more information please check website
www.hearinghelpessex.org.uk or call **01245 496347**

Registered Charity Number: 1113488

Hearing Help Essex is a Company Limited by Guarantee. Registered Number: 064877



P+H Body Repairs

LIMITED

Motor Vehicle Accident Repair Specialists



Private and Insurance repairs undertaken

Established 1965 Tel: 01799 527189

www.phbodyrepairs.co.uk Email: info@phbodyrepairs.co.uk

4 The Shires, Shire Hill Industrial Estate, Saffron Walden, Essex. CB11 3AN

and later the Saffron Walden Baptist Church. Rufus and Margaret started attending St Mary's church in about 2005. He soon became involved with the annual Holocaust Memorial Day service, which he believes is one of the most important outreach activities in the Church calendar regularly bringing in over 200 local school children. Rufus' contacts have enabled St Mary's to have such interesting speakers as Canon Andrew White, the former Vicar of Baghdad and Tass Saada, formerly a Muslim assassin working for Yasser Arafat, now, having had an encounter with Jesus, a Christian working for reconciliation between Jews and Arabs in the Middle East.

More recently Rufus has joined the PCC and at David Tomlinson's request has taken on the role of Chair of the Communications Committee, a role he finds quite challenging, but made easier by the exceptional qualities of the Communications Team at St Mary's. Believing that more prayer in the Church was important, Rufus was instrumental in the setting up Evening Prayer services on Tuesdays.

Rufus's other interests include stamp collecting (you are unlikely to meet another person who has given stamp displays in Yangon, Myanmar!), the National Trust and history. A late convert to the benefits of exercise, in normal times, he (and Margaret) can be found at the Lord Butler Leisure Centre gym three mornings a week. They have made a wholly new group of friends who have become an important part of their support group in the Covid pandemic.

If he had a Coat of Arms and a motto, after the Covid experience, Rufus would like his motto to read 'Life is better together.'

LOOKING FOR WORK?



The Transition Project provides a free service to help those who are looking for work. **Our Weekly Clinic is currently cancelled** but we can still provide support by volunteers who have first-hand experience of job hunting and can provide practical support with internet searching, CV writing and interview technique. Advice also available on the website: -

www.transitionproject.co.uk

St Mary's Music News

Two individual achievements for the SMMA to celebrate this month. First, our organ scholar, Elliott Randall, has been awarded a highly prestigious place to study the organ at the Royal College of Music Junior Department in September. This is tremendous news, and a great tribute not only to Elliott but also to all those who have been giving him training and support during his scholarship, both in St Mary's and at home. Second, and rather belatedly, we also congratulate James Razzell from the Junior Choir who obtained a distinction in his Grade 3 piano exam back in March.

On a less upbeat note, it was decided at an Emergency General Meeting of the SMMA that it was regrettably necessary to cancel the planned summer concert series this year.

In these difficult times, the St Mary's choir has been a great source of inspiration and support. Virtual Friday evening Zoom choir practices have continued under the direction of our Director of Music, Oli King, ably supported by leaders for each voice. During lockdown we have been rehearsing parts of The Messiah, as well as motets by Byrd, Tallis, Wesley and Ralph Vaughan Williams. This week we have individually laid down tracks of 'If ye love me' by Tallis, which Oli is hoping to incorporate into the online service in the second week of May. It is quite daunting singing alone into a smart phone which is perched precariously on an ironing board, while trying to listen to a guide track through headphones, keep time to a metronome, and not drop the music. However, I am sure that by the time you read this, Oli's technological wizardry will have transformed the nearly 40 individual recordings into one harmonious whole. You will already have heard musical contributions to services from various members of the choir and other musicians, and these will be continuing.

In addition to these serious musical matters, the choir has been having fun in other ways. This week an excellent virtual vestry (aka pub) quiz was organised by Caroline and Peter De Vile after choir practice. Sample questions (answers at the end of this note – no peeking!) included the following 4 questions (out of a total of 60). Good luck!

- 1 Name a hymn or carol referring to the following parts of the body:
a) Head; b) Feet; c) Heart
- 2 Name a hymn or carol referring to the following animals:
a) Lamb; b) Cattle
- 3 The choir often have to learn to sing in languages other than English. Name 4
- 4 Name the hymn which is sung to the tune Saffron Walden.

As 8 May is the VE Day Bank Holiday, there will be no choir practice. To fill the gap in the Friday evening schedule, Patrick Li has organised a dramatic Zoom reading of Under Milk Wood. It should be a most entertaining event.

Meanwhile, the Junior Choir has also been busy. They of course have not met face to face since lockdown, but it was decided that it was time we re-engaged with them as by now they are more than used to working from home! Oli introduced a new piece he has written for them at their first Zoom session. After that most of them stayed online to take part in the Voice for Life Ribbon training. This is definitely a first for us! Normally we offer ribbon training only to the Juniors, but we decided to see if any of the choral scholars would also like to take part, and four have taken up the opportunity. The youngsters have been put in very small groups at the different levels and we currently have no fewer than nine adults each teaching one group in the online breakout rooms, with Oli moving round from room to room to help out as needed. All great fun – and it means that although we can't physically meet we can at least still be part of the choir virtually. Practice one complete: we'll update you as to how this is working in a future edition...

Otilie Sefton

+++++++

Answers to quiz questions

1 Lots of options, but could include a) O sacred head sore wounded; b) Jerusalem – And did those feet;
 c) In the bleak midwinter – Give him my heart
 2 Again, lots of options including a) Little lamb who made thee; b) Away in a manger – The cattle are
 lowing
 3 Any 4 of Latin, Greek, Welsh, French, German, Russian and Spanish
 4 Just as I am without one plea

Friends of Saffron Walden Parish Church

A Revised Date for your Diary

Due to the current situation the trip to Lincoln Cathedral planned for 8th June has been postponed until 10th September when we hope that life will be back to normal, or at least getting that way. If you were not on the first list to attend but feel that you would like to join us then please let me know as we could arrange a larger coach.

Best wishes to you all, stay safe and keep well.

Pamela Mugliston, Secretary of the Friends



The Grange Care Home

The Grange Care Home in the picturesque village of Newport close to Saffron Walden will provide affordable luxury care with a warm family feel. As a family-run company, our care is the kind we'd want all of our loved ones to receive. Set in the grounds of Debden Grange retirement village the care home will specialise in residential care, short-term respite care and specialist dementia care for up to forty people. To find out more call our friendly team today.



The Grange Care Home, Saffron House,
Fallow Drive, Newport, Saffron Walden CB11 3RP



01799 282 093

Book Review: The Morville Hours by Katherine Swift

I always enjoy Charles White's 'Gardening Notes' in the Parish News - although I am no gardener. But I do love gardens, so this account by Katherine Swift of the creation of her garden at the Dower House, Morville in Shropshire was a delight to read. It is a joyful celebration of the beauty to be found in a garden and also of the rewards and pleasures in gardening itself.

Here she describes, season by season, the planning, planting and nurturing of her twenty-plus years spent building the garden at Morville. Using her knowledge of ancient manuscripts (she previously worked in the rare books department at Trinity College, Dublin) she sets out her project in the form of a medieval book of hours, and this is supplemented with delightful illustrations by Dawn Burford in the style of these ancient books.

In the beautifully crafted prose the reader is led through the history of the garden and its surrounding countryside; it is a well researched book, which ranges over many subjects from architecture to geology, astronomy to sheep shearing and more. But principally, of course, the book is a feast for plant lovers; the creation of the garden over many years is described in great horticultural detail - and there is even mention in the text of our own Saffron Walden crocus!



Saffron Crocus Sativus

And the story of the creation of this remarkable garden is not without human interest, too, as Katherine Swift introduces us to her friends and neighbours in the village and beyond, who assist in the project and become part of the garden story: she writes about them with a gentle fondness. We learn, too, a little of her own family history, not always happy, but shared with openness, empathy and understanding. One of the by-

products of gardening is the time it gives the gardener to pause, ponder and reflect; the author manages to convey this beautifully as she leads the reader around her garden and through the days and seasons. We are left with the impression of someone who thinks deeply about her own journey through life.

I love this book (thanks to my friend for recommending it!) and I feel a trip to Shropshire coming on - after the lockdown, of course!

Hazel Colebrooke

Scotland's Einstein

James Clerk Maxwell was born in Edinburgh in 1831 and lived for only 48 years, yet he made the profoundest contributions to nineteenth century science. Through his work on colour perception he created the first colour photograph; he determined the structure of Saturn's rings 150 years before the space-probe Cassini visited the planet; he made ground-breaking advances in the theory of gases; and his crowning achievement was to show how electricity, magnetism and light are intimately related. The theory of electromagnetism, now summarised in four elegant equations bearing his name, underpins all modern information and communications technologies from radio to radar, television to mobile phones. The physicist and Nobel laureate, Richard Feynman, remarked: 'From a long view of the history of mankind, seen from, say, ten thousand years from now, there can be little doubt that the most significant event of the nineteenth century will be judged as Maxwell's discovery of the laws of electromagnetism.'



Just why Maxwell is so little known today is a bit of a mystery. A partial answer lies in the highly mathematical nature of his work, making it difficult for the general public to understand. Another is that he didn't live in an age of celebrity, unlike today, when figures such as Stephen Hawking (another mathematical physicist) can come to such prominence. What makes Maxwell of interest to me are the ways in which he found a harmony between his science and his deeply held Christian faith, something that the new atheists of our time, like Richard Dawkins, vehemently reject as being possible.

Maxwell was confident that the pursuit of science was God's call on his life; he believed that the coherence and interconnections he found between electricity and magnetism were glimpses of a deeper reality. Indeed, if St Paul is right and 'all things have been created through Christ and for Christ, and in him all things hold together' (Colossians 1.16,17 NRSV), then interrelatedness between fundamental physical forces is to be expected. And so, from a Christian point of view 'a theory of everything' - the holy grail for today's physicists - far from being the final nail in God's coffin, would actually be the most compelling indication of coherence and intelligibility at the heart of the universe: the ultimate sign of a rational creator.

Andy Colebrooke

For more see: *Science and Religion, The Spirituality of James Clerk Maxwell*, by Andy Colebrooke, Grove Books Ltd 2020, S152

Mind of the Spirit

'We do not know what we ought to pray for but the Spirit intercedes for us through wordless groans.' (Romans 8.26)

The Jesus Prayer began when Christians in Egypt and Syria were being persecuted and they felt that the Orthodox liturgy was too traditional. They wandered to the desert groaning wordlessly and hoping to find a way for their hearts to know more deeply the mind of Christ. Simon Barrinton-Ward (former General Secretary of CMS and Bishop of Coventry) who died recently, introduced me to the Jesus Prayer in 1970 when he visited Leicester. Reading his book again makes the present lockdown isolation lifestyle meaningful and the reading from Romans 8:25-28 a truly hopeful reality of the need to repeat the Jesus Prayer so that the devastating groaning in the world will know the mind of the Spirit. Also that God will work for the good of those who love Him and are called to wait and follow Him.



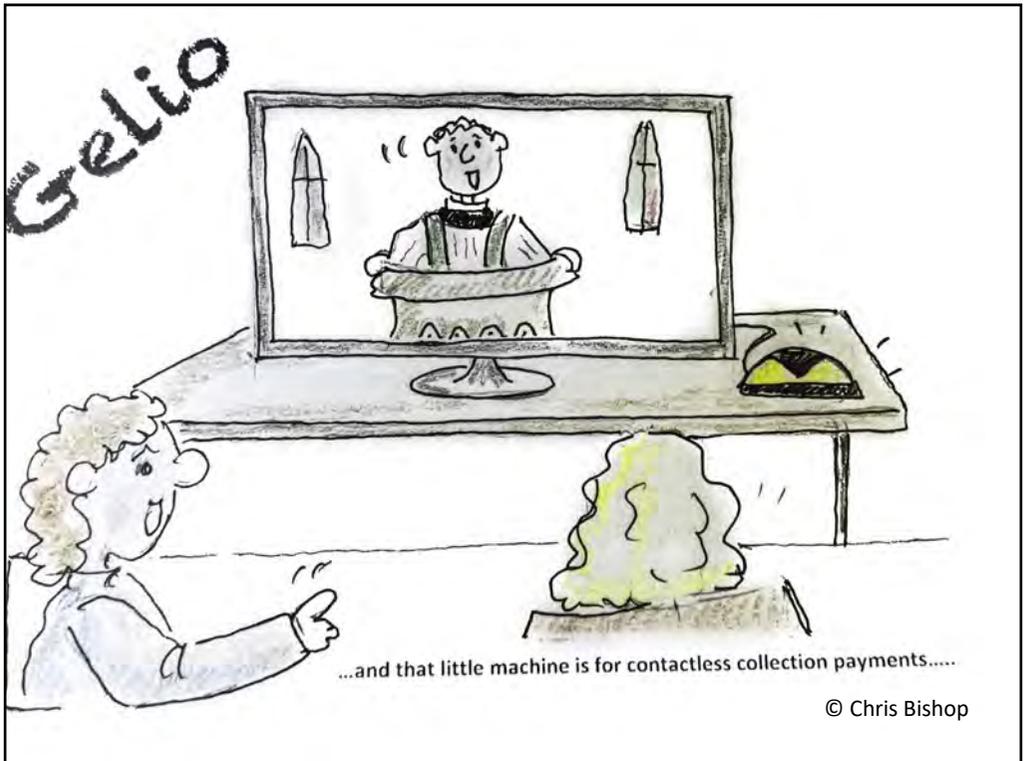
Christianity and its way has been a learning experience over time; what is happening to us now is that there is a new way in the waiting. In dark times God is there and we cannot see Him - but going through it step by step, having everything we are used to taken away - brings us into the very presence of the living God.

As I have learned to use this prayer, I begin by being thankful that I have been drawn to pray - no matter how far away I have been - by being ready to pray and knowing I am loved no matter how stressed I have been. This makes me realise that God is with me and I can start The Jesus Prayer. I follow the simple way taught me by Simon and I breathe slowly and normally. This is it:

'Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me.'

I then feel that Jesus's presence is with me, enabling me to be healed and redirected. When I feel I should pray for a person in need or for the world needs, I say 'Have mercy on the person or a situation' - instead of 'have mercy on me'. I use it at night, as I walk, as I swim, in the garden and after my morning reflection on the daily bible reading. I keep to the same format - this is a personal choice. Others add 'have mercy on me a sinner', but this is how I was taught and advised by Simon Barrington-Ward, a wonderful good friend.

Sheila Girgis



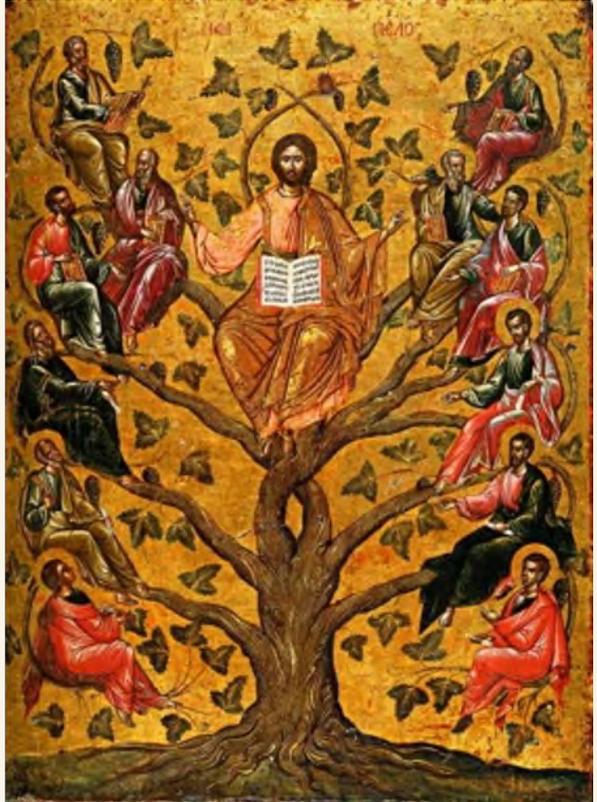
'I am the true vine'

Jesus the vine has been a popular inspiration for artists from the earliest days of Christianity. We think of grapes and the vine as symbols of the Eucharist and the sacrifice of Jesus, but early artists borrowed their inspiration from Greek and Roman sources with Dionysos (or Bacchus), the god of wine. For pagan believers, wine was a sign of intoxication and renewal of life, and Dionysos was a god who died and rose again. Under that influence, sculptors would carve vines on Christian tombs as a sign of that promise of new life.

But those artists were also influenced by the vine as an image of the people of Israel in the Old Testament, with God as the vintner tending his vine, as they were influenced by our Lord's own words in St John's Gospel. When Jesus talked of Himself as the vine, He was pointing to two truths. The first was the connection between the vine and the grapes: it was a symbol for the intimate relationship between Jesus and His followers. They are the grapes, because they receive their fruitfulness from Jesus. Without Him, there would be no growth, no maturity, no fruit. 'Whoever remains in Me, with Me in him, bears fruit in plenty.'

The second truth in this image is the wine that can bring life a new taste. Just as Jesus changed water into wine, His whole life was one of transformation – bringing water to the thirsty, sight to the blind, light to those in darkness, forgiveness to the sinner, and eternal life to those burdened by this world and the reality of death. The wine is a symbol of that goodness and flavour, both in creation and in salvation – the wine at the dinner party, and the wine in the chalice in communion. Jesus as the true vine brings that flavour and goodness to us.

Both truths speak out to us from this month's image of Jesus in an icon. In the Orthodox Church the icon is a window into the kingdom of heaven. As we stand and pray before the icon, if we can bridge 'the distance of the heart' (the space between the human eye and the icon), then God can reveal His glory to us. Here we see the face of Jesus in a 16th century icon, which is in the Byzantine and Christian Museum in Athens – the icon of Christ the true vine. He looks out at us, the Gospel book in His lap and His hands outstretched to bless the 12 disciples. The icon illustrates very vividly that metaphor of Jesus when He says that He is the vine and they are the branches. But those hands are also welcoming us to be with the 12: they invite us to offer our lives to live in Jesus.

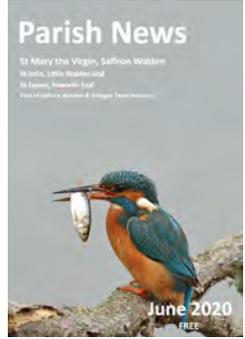
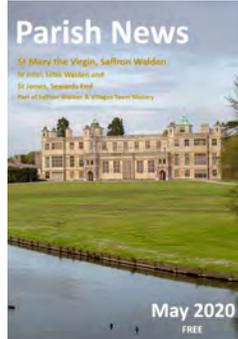


Anselm Grün, a German Benedictine, tells how one of his fellow monks wondered what a difference there would have been if Jesus had said, 'I am a slimming camomile tea.' But no, He says to us in the Gospel and in the icon, 'I am the true vine': live in Me like my 12 disciples and your lives can be fruitful in my service.

The Revd Michael Burgess (Parish Pump)

Parish News - online since October 2019

Back copies can be viewed at www.stmaryssaffronwalden.org/parishnews



Missing the printed version?

When the Covid-19 shutdown is relaxed and the Diocesan Print Unit is up and running again, a limited number of this and any subsequent issues will be available in printed form.