

Parish News

St Mary the Virgin, Saffron Walden

St John, Little Walden and St James, Sewards End

Part of Saffron Walden & Villages Team Ministry



April 2021

FREE

The Rev'd Jeremy Trew instituted as the new Team Rector of the Saffron Walden and Villages Team Ministry



The Rev'd Jeremy Trew with the Rt Rev'd Roger Morris, Bishop of Colchester

The institution, induction and installation of Jeremy Trew took place on 3rd March 2021 at St Mary's Church, and was followed by Jeremy's commissioning as the Area Dean of Saffron Walden Deanery. Because of Covid restrictions, the congregation was limited to leaders of the ministry team but the service was streamed live on YouTube.

Jeremy was presented to the bishop in a recording by Helen Dimmock, Ecclesiastical Secretary to the Crown and Lord Chancellor, on behalf of the Patron, Her Majesty the Queen.



Left: Jeremy making The Declaration of Assent, affirming loyalty to the faith revealed in the Holy Scriptures and set forth in the catholic creeds.

The new Rector was welcomed by the lay chair of the Deanery, Graham Cook and by recorded messages from members of the local community: the Mayor, Councillor Heather Asker; Katrina Thurlow, Chairman of Churches Together in Saffron Walden; Chris Jarman, Headteacher of St Mary's CoE Primary School; Margaret Jacobs, on behalf of Girl Guiding Saffron Walden District; Faye Jeffs, St Mary's Church Pre-school; Councillor John Lodge, Leader of UDC; Caroline Derbyshire and Polly Lancaster, Headteachers of Saffron Walden County High School and Kemi Badenoch MP.

More pictures on the back cover.

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PARISH NEWS - EDITORIAL DEADLINE

The deadline for contributions for each issue is the 1st Sunday of the month. Hence, the deadline for the **May** issue is **Sunday 4th April**.

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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 Photograph by Parish Pump

During the lockdown...

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

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St Mary's Church Website:

www.stmaryssaffronwalden.org

TEAM RECTOR:	The Rev'd Jeremy Trew
ASSISTANT CURATE:	The Rev'd Rachel Prior (<i>currently on maternity leave</i>)
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)

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From the editor...

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

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

Please note:

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



...rumours that we would be giving out easter eggs are unfounded - er, there aren't any left!

The Rector's Letter

From The Rev'd Jeremy Trew

Jeremy writes...

Firstly, let me thank all of you for your warm welcome to the parishes; your encouragements, your practical gifts and support, and mostly your prayers. My only frustration is that I can't really meet people face to face; it's facemask to facemask at best, and usually outdoors, which means we're dependent on the weather.

My first few weeks here have focused on a range of online meetings, preparing for, and delivering, services, and wading through the vast amounts of emails which seem to arrive with a greater frequency than my capacity to answer them. So, if you have contacted me on some urgent matter, please do not think I am wilfully ignoring you. I simply need time to better comprehend how things run here. As things hopefully ease after Easter I hope to be able to spend more time with actual people. In the meantime I gain my understanding of Saffron Walden and its surrounding villages as best I can.

One of the themes occurring again and again is the way people view their communities; whether they be pessimists or optimists or whatever. There's a lot of this about right now with the debate over what our communities, and also our churches, will be like post-Covid. The way we view a place or a person, or even a process, shapes the experience we gain from them. Hence, two people can be in the same situation. For one it is heaven, for the other hell. Now I know both the optimists and the pessimists would claim to be the actual realists in any situation, but I suspect neither grasps the whole picture. The Christian is called to a third way, this is the way of faith; a belief that despite our worst, or our paltry best, there is still a better way. That in partnership with the God of Easter and one another there is always the opportunity for resurrection; the building of something new and better. This is a 'big picture' view and it requires us to suspend our own prejudices for the sake of something better. That's quite a challenge.

Of course, I'm gaining my perspective from a distance, to some degree. My relationship with you needs to move from my head towards my heart, and that is hindered by the restrictions we are working under. I should really hold my comments until I'm better able to get to know you. Judging without the

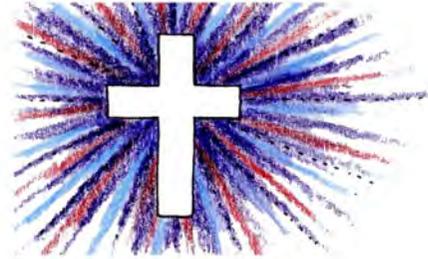


knowledge of experience can be dangerous. So, I'll hold my peace and wait until I'm more invested in your wonderful communities.

Incarnation and resurrection, all in one letter. Of course, you can't separate the two, and neither should we try.

Warmest wishes

Jeremy



From the Registers

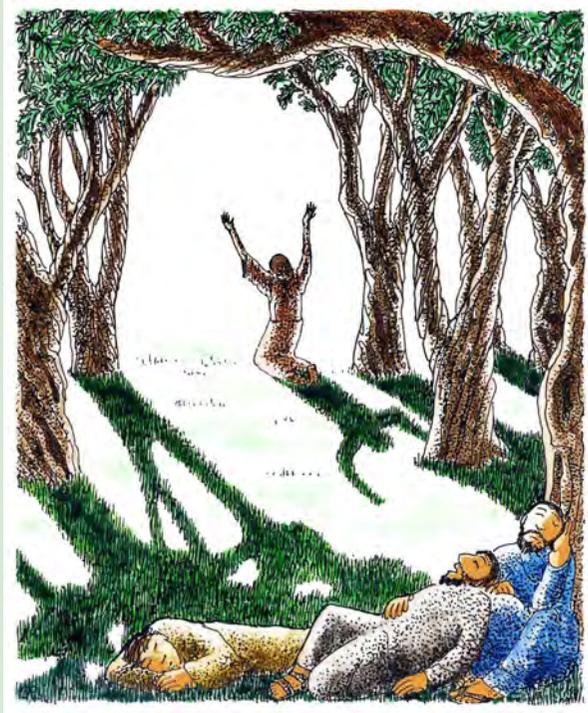
Funerals

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

- | | |
|---------|----------------|
| 3 Feb. | Betty Brown |
| 4 Feb. | Ronald Thorn |
| 9 Feb. | John Bullen |
| 9 Feb. | Joyce McGeehan |
| 16 Feb. | Agnes Boreham |
| 19 Feb. | Jane Benson |
| 25 Feb. | Lisa Webber |

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





Prayer for the month of April *provided by the Prayer Team*

Lord, in our fearfulness, we remember the intense fear of death and separation you faced in the Garden of Gethsemane.

Lord, in our loneliness, we remember how your own friends let you down when you needed them, sleeping whilst you wrestled in agonising prayer.

Lord, in our anger at injustice, we remember the mockery of a trial that you endured, with its lies and manipulations and abuse of power.

Lord in our avoidance of pain, we remember the flogging and tearing of your gentle flesh, as you were hammered and nailed and hoisted to die.

Lord in our emptiness, we remember the draining away of your life, as you emptied yourself on the Cross, saying, 'It is finished'.

In remembering, we recognise the ultimate power and victory of Love; that your compassion for us overruled the evil of the world, and your death for us brings hope and salvation.

Lord, help us to see that when we face our own loneliness, fear, anger and emptiness with open trust in you, we too will know the power of your resurrection.

Eco Friendly Virtual Balloon Race

Leaving St Petersburg on 1st May



Raising funds for Holy Trinity, Littlebury, a departure from our usual fundraising activities due to COVID.

We have signed up to join a virtual mega seven day Balloon Race to raise funds for the ongoing upkeep of our village Grade I listed church in Littlebury. Though our doors are sadly closed the bills continue to roll in!

Each balloon costs £3

Buy as many balloons as you wish. £2.40 from each balloon purchased goes to the church.

The race organisers provide the prize for the one that goes the furthest - you could win an Apple iPad, £500 or a book token.



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Graphology

I first became interested in graphology when I was still at school. One of the Prefects wrote all his 'g's and 'y's in the form of a figure 8. I found myself interested in this and bought a book on graphology to try to discover any possible interpretation.

Graphology is the art of determining a person's character from his handwriting. A graphologist believes that in some degree a person's handwriting reflects his or her character and personality. Every person's handwriting is unique – no two people write in exactly the same way. Everybody has his or her own personal, individual, distinctive and easily recognisable way of writing.

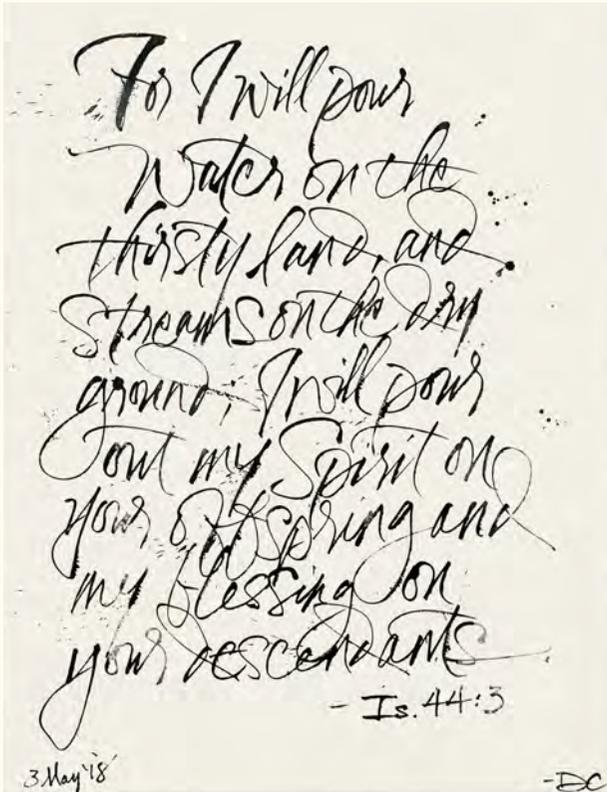


Photo by Jon Tyson on Unsplash

The notion of a link between handwriting and personality has existed for some time. It was Disraeli who said: 'Handwriting bears the character of the writer as all voluntary actions are characteristic.' Walter Scott wrote: 'I could not help thinking that something of a man's character may be conjectured from his handwriting.'

Continued on page 11.....

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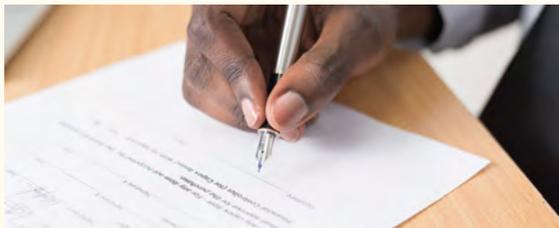
The upper lengths which are the 'l's, the 't's and the tops of 'f's.

The middle lengths which are the 'a's, the 'e's, 'n's etc.

The lower lengths: the 'g's, 'y's, and sometimes the 'q's and the 'z's.

The graphologist maintains that the upper lengths reflect the intellectual, spiritual, artistic and moral consciousness of a person. The middle lengths reflect the daily routines and the individual's adaptation to life. The lower lengths reflect the material and unconscious physical desires and instincts. These, like the roots of a tree, are hidden and powerful. The graphologist will pay attention to the size, the angle of writing, the amount of pressure on the paper, the speed, the spacing and margin, the shape and use of the capital letter and signature.

The signature is possibly the most revealing part of a person's handwriting. It displays his personality: it might be called his psychological visiting card. That is why some people take so much care over writing their signature. Often the quality of a person's signature is very different from his ordinary handwriting because the signature is how he would like himself to be seen, whereas his actual handwriting may give a truer picture of himself.



There is much that I have left unsaid about graphology: for example its history, objections, limitations and use in recruitment. But it is important to remember that graphology is not fortune telling nor palmistry and it has nothing to do with astrology. It can be dangerous for those with little knowledge to make harsh judgments about themselves or others.

When Lord Robert Blake first published his biography on Disraeli I wrote to him and asked him if he used graphology in his history. In his reply he quoted Sir Lewis Namier who had written, 'To write a life of Disraeli it is essential to be both a psychoanalyst and a graphologist.' Lord Blake wrote: 'Can one draw valid conclusions about a person's character from his handwriting? If it really is possible then graphology is a tool which no historian can neglect. I must confess that I am a sceptic.' I have a copy of this letter if anybody would like to see it!

This interest in handwriting (mine has always been poor – what is yours like?) has led me on to take an interest in collecting original letters, autographs and writing calligraphy.

Graeme Walker



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Archive Group *findings...*



April 1890

Dear Readers

This year we are producing Items of interest that came from Churches within our Deanery during 1890.

Ruridecanal Chapter

(Agenda for the meeting included)

What steps can be taken in view of the decreasing incomes of the Clergy to ameliorate their condition. The need of greater publicity in cases of marriages to be performed by the Registrar.

In the event of the secularisation of Elementary Education, what steps can the Church take for the religious instruction of the young?

The Tithes Question etc etc

Saffron Walden

The Bishop of Colchester held a Confirmation in Saffron Walden Church on Tuesday March 25th, when 100 persons received the "Imposition of Hands". The service was very reverend and impressive, and was well attended.

Langley

We are glad to say the health of the parish has greatly improved the last week or two, but we have to record a sad calamity which has befallen two families, rendering them almost destitute through the cottages they inhabited being burnt down, the flames spread with such rapidity, that only a few trifling articles were saved, much sympathy is felt for them, several friends have kindly sent them clothing, we sincerely hope by the next issue we shall be able to state they have received permanent assistance.

Great and Little Chesterford

The Church is warmed by a 'Haden' stove, in which a fire is kept up daily during the winter months and comfort and economy in this instance are happily able to be combined.

Continued on page 15...

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Littlebury

H.M. Inspector paid his annual visit to the Schools on March 6th. Happily almost all the children were able to be present at the Examination. No very great results could be expected this year considering all that the teachers had to contend with. Twice during the last year was the School reduced to almost one third of its usual numbers for nearly two months in each case by epidemics, first of Measles, then of Influenza.

Canon Chris Bishop. Archivist

Littlebury Plant Sale

Sunday, 18 April - 2.30pm - 4pm
outside the Church - free entry
You're invited to bring your mask with you
Contactless payment is available

Gelio



The Church Warden's staff was also once used to make sure members of the congregation didn't fall asleep....hence the newly designed 2 metre long version now in regular use.

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Calendar for April 2021

This calendar is provisional and subject to change with government restrictions, see The Grapevine, the church website or weekly bulletin from the Parish Office for the latest information and login details and for services streamed from village churches.

St Mary's, Saffron Walden

Most services, except family services, are broadcast on YouTube [Y] and some on Zoom [Z] - details from the website. Restricted pre-booked congregations can currently be accommodated in church [C] for some services under compliance with current restrictions. The church is currently open for private prayer 2pm - 4pm on Sundays and Wednesdays

Maundy Thursday 1 April

9.30am Holy Communion [Y] [Z] [C]
12pm Reflection – words & music [Y]
6.30pm Plainsong Compline [Z]

Good Friday 2 April

2pm Hour at the Cross [Y] [Z] [C]
6.30pm Reflection – words & music [Y]

Easter Eve 3 April

6.30pm Reflection – words & music [Y]

Easter Sunday 4 April

8am BCP Holy Communion [Y] [C]
10am Family Communion [Y] [Z] [C]
6.30pm Reflection – words & music [Y]

Sunday 11 April

10am Holy Communion [Y] [Z] [C]

Sunday 18 April

10am Family Service [C]

Sunday 25 April

10am Holy Communion [Y] [Z] [C]
11.30am APCM [Z]



Streamed weekday services - See weekly bulletin for sign-in details.

Tuesdays

5pm Evening Prayer [Z]

Wednesdays

9.30am Holy Communion [Z]

St James', Sewards End

Easter Sunday 4 April

9.30am Easter Sunday Family Communion [C]

Sunday 25 April

9.30am Morning Praise [C]



St John's, Little Walden

Easter Sunday 4 April

11.15am Easter Sunday Family Communion [C]



Easter Morning

(John 20:1-18)

Who is it you are looking for?
Who?

Mary,
Looking for her Lord,
Early in the morning,
While it was still dark,
Looking for Jesus,
Expecting His death-wrapped body,
Finding, instead, the stone of
surprises and loss.

The men come and go,
But Mary stays and weeps
For the love of her Lord.
Looking, looking into the darkness,
She weeps.

Angels in white turn her to the light,
And the possibility of grace.

And in the speaking of her name, the
world changes.

Mary.
Looking, looking no longer,
The Lord lives, gloriously,
For Mary.

He lives for all who look.
Who is it you are looking for?
Who?

By Daphne Kitching (Parish Pump)

Paddy McKeown



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Church Mission Society Southern Conference: on Zoom

The CMS had its annual Southern Conference on Zoom this year on Friday evening, 19th February and on Saturday morning, February 20th. It proved to be a very inspiring time as we listened to the discernment process that CMS are going through on the Friday night, and then on Saturday we heard how that is coming about in various parts of the world. The scripture they have 'dwelt in' through this year has been Mark 4: 35 – 41 when Jesus and the disciples get into the boat to get away from the crowd and 'Go to the other

'Go to the other side.' They have been particularly drawn to and therefore asking what does 'going to the other side' mean for CMS. This seems to be about developing local partnerships within the countries and areas in which they are serving.

What does it mean for CMS?

On Saturday morning we heard some very inspiring stories from around the world as to how this is taking shape, building on the relationships that have been grown over the many years of service. Now both Asia and Africa have developed their own CMS networks, which means that CMS in this country is developing a partnership with them.

We heard from Tanis Alqassis about the various ups and downs of being in the Middle East, but were inspired by stories of reconciliation, and of online bible courses with growing numbers of people from across the Middle East signing up. We also heard about work enabling those who needed refuge from war and conflict to get to safety, as well as aiding those who need urgent medical help.



We then heard from Anne-Marie Wilson who started up a charity called 28 Too Many, which aims to put an end to the 'Violence being done to women and girls', specifically across Africa and the diaspora where FGM (Female Genital Mutilation) is practised. CMS has partnered this charity which aimed to reduce FGM by 10 per cent in 10 years. They have, in fact, reached this before their 10 year target. This has meant talking with governments, including ours and the UN, to get laws changed. Anne-Marie felt that it was part of the pioneering mission of the church to engage in Justice



Issues and she felt called to do so. This has not been an easy calling by any means, not least because she has had serious health problems, as well as the fact that FGM is largely unknown and unheard of in the West.

Continued page 21

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Before the coffee break we heard from Ben and Katy Ray who have been serving in Tanzania running Neema Craft, which has given employment to those with disabilities. In much of Africa those with disabilities are often discriminated against so this is another pioneering project. The growth of Neema Craft has been able to offer employment to many with disabilities

and take them out of poverty - they now employ 100 people. However, the pandemic put them in jeopardy as they went into voluntary lockdown and closed for about 3 months. Gradually, as they emerged from this and with the threat of another lockdown, they diversified and started making PPE kit and wooden furniture, which in fact has kept them busy and in business, enabling them to give



meaningful employment to all those who were working there.

After the coffee break we heard from Partners in Asia. In a rapidly changing world it can no longer be business as usual for those engaged in God's mission: the church is growing fast BUT under tight scrutiny. Suffice it to say, as with all the others we had heard from we were inspired, challenged and envisioned by what we heard.

We came away from the conference feeling very uplifted by the sheer dedication, vision and passion of everyone who works in CMS, and by the imaginative ways they continue to live the Gospel wherever they are and in whatever situations they find themselves.

Please do continue to hold CMS in your prayers, especially for Lynn Treneary whom we partner with, as she has had to return to England due to disc problems in her back. She was due to have an X Ray at the end of February/early March after she came out of quarantine and I will keep you up dated as soon as I know what is happening. Please do pray for all those in Maridi and Chaima that the peace would continue so that healing, restoration and reconciliation, which are currently taking the place of war and conflict, would grow and flourish.

Pray for all those in Maridi and Chaima.

Sue Walker



Hearing Help Essex **NHS Hearing Aid Support Service**

Due to Covid-19 we cannot resume our Hearing Help Sessions at our community venues just yet, but the good news is we're able to offer appointments at our new Resource Centre on Moulsham Street in central Chelmsford, and also offer a door-step service for those who are Housebound, shielding, or have reduced mobility.

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St Mary's Music News

During February the choir has again been represented in Sunday services either by soloists or by small family groups, as well as by home recordings. We are very grateful to everyone who takes part in musical worship virtually or in real life. Neither is the same as singing together in a full choir, but we know that we are very fortunate to have a church which has continued to support music during the past very difficult year, and many individuals within the St Mary's Music Association who contribute their time and talents to this aspect of the religious life of our parishes.

On 21 February Marisa Baltrock led a livestreamed plainsong service of Compline. This presented a series of musical and logistical challenges, especially as singers in their separate homes had to pick up where the previous chorister had stopped, sometimes against the background of a weak Internet connection with somewhat unreliable sound, or an unintentional alteration in pitch with no discreet piano to guide us back to the right path, and on occasion a failure to unmute. Nevertheless, the quiet, reflective nature of the service triumphed over these vicissitudes, and it was a privilege to take part.

On a more frivolous note, one choir practice was replaced by a terrific quiz organised by Diana and David Hoy. The musical round required us to identify musical instruments from a few bars played. The more conventional instruments included a theramin, a kazoo and the musical saw – this last apparently expertly played by Marlene Dietrich. Even less obvious music makers were a vegetable orchestra and a sea organ played by the waves in Croatia. If you would like to join in the quiz, here are some questions from the round entitled "How much do you really know about St Mary's?", the church otherwise known, according to the Bishop at Jeremy's Induction, as "the cathedral of the Colchester episcopal area". (Answers at the end.)

- 1 Which is the greatest
 - a) the height of St Mary's to the top of the spire;
 - b) the length of St Mary's?
- 2 In which year did the toilet in the church come into operation
 - a) 2017; b) 2018; c) 2019?
- 3 Which animal is carved in the screen between the nave and the chancel
 - a) young rabbit; b) young fox; c) young hare?

Continued on page 25

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The Induction of Jeremy Trew as Team Rector on 3rd March was the next special occasion for the whole choir. Thanks, again, to Peter De Vile for his technical wizardry, we contributed 2 recordings to the service. Our organist, Jeremy Allen, wrote a new descant for the hymn 'Will you come and follow me' to the tune of Kelvingrove specially for the purpose. We also recorded the anthem 'Jesu the very thought of thee', composed by Edward Bairstow in 1911 to accompany words attributed some 800 years earlier to the 12th century Burgundian abbot, St Bernard of Clairvaux.

Sadly, due to the continuation of lockdown, the planned Good Friday devotional offering of Faure's Requiem will have to be postponed. However, the choir will be contributing virtually to services during Holy Week, as well as with live solo and family duets. Meanwhile, in anticipation of being able to sing in small groups in services in the near future, we have ordered individually tailored 'public speaking' masks in Marian blue, decorated with musical notes. These are being crafted for the choir by a couturier making imaginative use of the lockdown pause to her usual business.

Otilie Lefever.



Answers to quiz

1 a) Height is 193 feet, the tallest in Essex. b) The church is 183 feet long

2 b) 2018

3 c) Young hare, i.e. leveret. Leverett was a churchwarden, whose name is said to be recorded on a tomb in the churchyard on which the wood carver sat to have his lunch.

Quote, Unquote..

It is the person who most knows himself liable to fall that will be most ready to overlook any offences from his fellow men. - *Alexander Auld*

Those who say they will forgive but can't forget, simply bury the hatchet but leave the handle out for immediate use. - *D L Moody*

When we take least notice of our good deeds ourselves, God takes most notice of them. - *Matthew Henry*

It's easier to fight for one's principles than to live up to them. - *Anon*

Some people's religion reminds me of a rocking-horse, which has motion without progress. - *Rowland Hill*

The hurrier I go, the behinder I get! - *Anon*



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YOUinthe**PEW** interviewed by Chris Bishop

Marisa Baltrock

Where were your roots and when and why did you come to live in Saffron Walden? My parents had me here! My father is from Saffron Walden, and his mother's family were in Ashdon and the surrounding area for generations. My mother came to Saffron Walden for the teacher training college. I was lucky to spend my childhood with loving grandparents here, they were the best sort of grandparent as well as my first Christian role models. I moved around a bit in my late teens and early twenties, but when I had my own children I wanted them to have the privilege of growing up with grandparents nearby as I did, so they have grown up here before spreading their wings, like many generations before them.

What brought you to St Mary's? It was a point in my life when I was praying to get closer to God, seeking to know Him better, asking for a Church where I could journey in the right direction and be able to start fulfilling God's purpose for me. One of my daughters joined the choir here, but to begin with I didn't see how this had anything to do with my spiritual journey.... I soon learned! St Mary's is a community where spirituality is expressed in so many ways, and I began to see how it was a place where I could discover and be nurtured in my journey and purpose.

Apart from being a member of the congregation what other events etc have you enjoyed, or still enjoy here? As I have just said, there is a lot of rich stuff going on at St Mary's. I love that we regularly have traditional BCP services as well as the newer style. The music here is particularly high quality, and it is a treat and a privilege every time I am able to enjoy a musical event here. I've enjoyed and felt lucky to be part of the Julian group as well.

What event in Saffron Walden sticks in your mind as being the most enjoyable/ thought provoking/or moving since you have lived here? The more apposite memories do not spring to mind immediately. But something which happened to me on the way to work at 8 o'clock this morning does: a car had broken down near the traffic lights on East Street, and while the driver was attempting to push it out of the way gridlock was setting in. Half a dozen strangers leapt out of their own vehicles or dropped what they were carrying to work, and joined in to help him push the car to safety, and he said 'I love Saffron

Walden!’ It reminded me that overall this is a good town to live in, and helped me feel more cheerful about the day ahead!

If you had a family coat of arms what motto would you like to have on it?

Families go through many ups and downs, and their fortunes fall and rise.

Proverbs 3 v5 is something to rely on at all times: ‘Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding!’

Being ethical isn't easy



Being ethical isn't easy, but as Christians, we should try harder than most. Last month, Uttlesford District Council were put on the spot by their investment in a property that is going to be leased by an American Company with a wide variety of technical products, a significant proportion of which have applications in the arms trade. Did that constitute an ethical investment?

The Investment Board were strongly in favour, as were most councillors, but they were hampered by not having an ethical investment policy. It was certainly an interesting debate and is worth watching on-line. One of the more shocking contributions was from a councillor who said ‘We all buy stuff from China and Amazon every day, who have no ethics...’ and while his argument petered out, the implication was clear: We are all unethical anyway, so why worry about connections with the defence industry?

This statement was particularly ironic because the council had just unanimously signed up to the seven Nolan principles of public life, the last of which is leadership. To my mind leaders hold themselves to the highest possible standards in order to set an example that is worth following.

A great many of us actually do try to be ethical. We avoid using Amazon and think twice about the origins of the products we buy. I was once invited to a dinner with friends at Ask. I agreed enthusiastically but wanted a moment to check Ask out on Ethical Consumer. Ethical Consumer is an organisation that rates businesses against dozens of criteria covering Environmental issues, Human and workers' rights, Humane concern for animals and Politics: their use

ethical
consumer

of tax avoidance strategies. Out of a possible 15 points, (with 5 a possible bonus points for sustainability) Ask, or at least their parent company, scored just 4 points, so I called my friends back and asked if we could go somewhere else! We had a delightful evening in a local, independent restaurant which I suspected did not use an offshore bank account!

Some decisions can easily become habitual. It's easy to avoid Amazon because we have a great, friendly bookshop here. Waitrose (4.5) and Aldi (3) beat ASDA which scores 0/20 and Tesco which only just gets off the ground at 1/20. That suits us in Saffron Walden! Being ethical about coffee shops is also easy: we have so many characterful independent coffee shops! Costa coffee (0.5/20) and Starbucks (1.5/20) don't get a look in from me. Caffe Nero is better at 5.5.

I'm afraid that I use an Apple computer and phone, because they teach you how to use their products and help out remotely when I am stuck. They have appalling ratings for tax avoidance and environmental reporting, but do well in not sourcing conflict minerals and have a good toxics policy. Overall they score 6.5, which isn't bad.



In terms of our climate and biodiversity crises, the ethics are now very clear. Diet plays a huge part. I call myself an 'antelopian': I eat meat about as often as I could have caught an antelope, in true hunter-gatherer style! Nuts, fruit, roots and berries in season (from Liz's local veg stall near Market Row), with meat as a very special treat. As I get older the antelope seem to be getting harder to catch! They certainly don't come from Texan factory cattle ranches and I don't want to be complicit in the destruction of the Amazon rainforest for ranching or soya animal feed.

It's harder to be sure that your pension fund is ethical. It is likely to include investments in oil and gas industries and others, like Rolls Royce, with connections to defence. But if you can switch to a fossil free and ethical pension, now is probably a good time. I divested my pension about 5 years ago, and it feels as if I am riding a bow wave of ethical, carbon free investment!

We have immense power as consumers.

We have immense power as consumers. We effectively cast a vote with every purchase. So as Covid restrictions are eased, the shops re-open and we re-discover the joy of meeting friends in our local shops, or plan our longed-for holiday, we all have the opportunity, as Christians, to show true, ethical leadership and send a message around the world.

Edward Gildea

Photograph by Alexander Dummer from Pexels

Science and Society

How Can We Approach New Ethical Issues?

Science tells us how the world works, and technology offers applications of that knowledge, but neither can tell us what we *ought* to do. All scientific discoveries or new technologies can be used to either help or harm others. For example, a smartphone can be used to stay in touch but also enables bullying.

It is important to get past our initial reactions: the 'yuk!' or 'wow!' These feelings may well change once we learn more about the science and other factors behind a new development.

Ethical thinking can be divided into three main categories. The **consequentialist** approach is demonstrated in Proverbs, when Wisdom calls young men to consider the outcome of their actions. Utilitarianism is a form of consequentialist ethic that tries to maximise the greatest good for the largest number of people affected, but unchecked it leaves minorities out in the cold.

Duty or law-based ethics start with intrinsic values, asking what is the correct course of action, or our duty? These values might be God-given, such as the ten commandments, or worked out by human reason. It is possible, however, to do harm while obeying the law, especially if someone asks 'What can I get away with?' Also, what happens when rules collide? For example, who should be treated first when resources are limited?

Virtue ethics are about building character, growing in wisdom and the fruit of the Spirit. There are plenty of biblical principles to guide virtuous living, such as the idea that we are 'made in the image of God' which supports the value of every human life (e.g., Genesis 1:26–27, Genesis 9:6, James 3:9–10), but the right decision can vary depending on circumstances.

So how can we make ethical decisions about new technologies? **The five Cs** bring together a number of different types of ethical thinking into a helpful framework for decision-making.

Clarify the facts and key questions.

Consider our choices: what could we achieve?

Constraints: External - what must we do? ; Internal - how should we behave?

Compare the pros and cons of each approach.

Choose what is best, with all parties in mind.

Finally, we have to recognise that the information available to us will change over time, our knowledge of God and His word will keep growing, and we cannot avoid making mistakes - so our ethical decisions will need to be revisited and revised from time to time.

Come, risen Lord, and deign to be our guest

For the two disciples treading the road to Emmaus, their minds and hearts must have been numb with the sense of loss and failure. They had seen their Lord tried and crucified. As Luke recounts that walk in his Gospel, he shows how it began with absence and loss, but journeyed to presence. It was a road that took the disciples from blindness and despair to sight and insight. They talked over past events with the stranger who joined them, and Luke uses ten different Greek words to describe that conversation – all stages in their understanding. And when they share a meal with the stranger, who becomes the host, taking the bread and giving thanks, then the understanding becomes vision and insight.



That meal is the theme of Caravaggio's painting of 1601, 'The Supper at Emmaus.' Caravaggio had a reputation for being a violent, irrational artist, given to bouts of anger and forced to spend part of his life in exile in Naples and Sicily. His paintings as well as his lifestyle shocked and provoked comment. This portrayal of Jesus with a plump, youthful face and his depiction of the apostles as ordinary labourers upset the church authorities. But by giving Jesus a beardless face, Caravaggio was trying to show Him in the new likeness of Resurrection – an Easter image of our Lord. The light from that Easter Jesus fills the scene as the two disciples look on, astonished and finally understanding.

When we read the Gospel, we are drawn into the scene. For Caravaggio the movement is the other way: the scene reaches out to us from the canvas. Look at the outstretched hand of Jesus, the elbow of one disciple and the left hand of the other: they are being projected into our world. And that basket of fruit, full of apples and figs and grapes, symbols of the fall and the eucharist: it is about to topple off the table and into our laps. It is an Easter encounter two thousand years ago, reaching out to us through light and shade and the skill of the artist.

In many ways the Gospel story in Luke is of an ordinary encounter between travellers and a stranger. But it is made extraordinary by the transforming power of the risen Lord, talking with the disciples in the open air and then going inside for a meal. However, the doors are not shut to us. For Caravaggio shows how that special moment of encounter for the two disciples can reach out to enter our world. And he shows the hand of the risen Lord beckoning us to step into that Easter world of sacrament and new life.

The Rev'd Michael Burgess (Parish Pump, abridged)



Archdeacon Robin King inducts Jeremy Trew into his Parish Churches



Jeremy Trew with his wife Alison (right) and one of their daughters, Rachel (left)



Bishop Roger commissions and blesses the Ministry Team after they have welcomed Jeremy



Bishop of Colchester (centre) with Rev'd Jeremy Trew (fourth from left) and his wife Alison (seated with him right) and daughter Rachel (seated left) with Saffron Walden and Villages Ministry team