

Parish News

St Mary's Church, Saffron Walden

St John, Little Walden and St James, Swards End

Part of Saffron Walden & Villages Team Ministry

October 2022

FREE



Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II
1926 - 2022



Fairtrade Stall at St Mary's, Saffron Walden

Questions you have been asking us

Where do you source the items that you sell?

All the products that we sell are purchased from Traidcraft plc. You can find out more about the organisation and what they sell here: www.traidcraftshop.co.uk. Alison places orders online, usually every month, to top up our stock and to try new products.

How do you price the items?

You may have noticed that all our prices are multiples of 10 pence. We sell at or just below the recommended retail price (RRP) set by Traidcraft. Occasionally, the items that we buy are on sale and we can pass this on to our customers at St Mary's.

Why are some items more expensive at St Mary's than in the supermarkets?

When we place an order, we can choose to buy one item (SINGLE) or a multipack (CASE). It is cheaper to buy multipacks but we don't always do this for two reasons: (1) we do not have much storage and (2) food items have a limited shelf-life and we need to be sure that we can sell what we purchase before this expires. This means that our items might be more expensive than other shops that can buy in bulk.

How much do you sell each month?

Since May 2022, we have sold over £100 of products every month.

Does the Fairtrade Stall make a profit and what happens to any funds raised?

We hope to make a small profit. At the end of the year, the PCC has agreed that we will give any surplus to a charity that works to end poverty and injustice worldwide, such as Traidcraft Exchange.

There will be a Fairtrade Stall after the 10am service in St Mary's on the following Sundays this autumn: 30th October and 4th December. We can take cash or card payments.

Alison Trew

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PARISH NEWS - EDITORIAL DEADLINE

The deadline for contributions for each issue is the 1st Sunday of the previous month. Hence, the deadline for the **November** issue is **Sunday 2nd October**.

Copy to Parish Administrator:

Dawn Saxon

email: office@stmaryssaffronwalden.org
01799 506024

or the editor:

andy.colebrooke@gmail.com
01799 732970

Advertising:

Email: office@stmaryssaffronwalden.org

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www.stmaryssaffronwalden.org/parishnews

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1926-2022

TEAM RECTOR:

The Rev'd Jeremy Trew: 01799 500947

Email: rector@stmaryssaffronwalden.org

Assistant Curate: The Rev'd Ella Harris: 01799 571023

Email: revellaharris@gmail.com

CHURCHWARDENS:

Gill Caswell: 01799 520485 (Saffron Walden)

Michael Dean: 01799 523388 (Sewards End)

Lynne Ketteridge: 01799 523898 (Sewards End)

Helen and Dave Nash: 01799 524265 (Little Walden)

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St Mary's Church Website:

www.stmaryssaffronwalden.org

The Rector's Letter

From The Rev'd Jeremy Trew

Jeremy writes...

2022 has been a difficult year for many reasons: The lasting reach of Covid; the first major war in Europe since 1945; rapidly rising prices; shortages of everything, apart from shortages; an excruciatingly slow response to the growing climate and environmental threats; and, rapidly falling trust in our Government and the democratic process. A new, though bleakly familiar, government has been formed and must plan how to respond to all this. Faith is tested.

We also come to that time when leaves on the trees brown and fall. Our American cousins call this season the Fall, and that is how it was once known in this country too. I am writing this, sitting in St Mary's Church. People are coming and going; lighting candles, sitting, praying, remembering. It is the morning after the announcement of the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, and feelings are somewhat numbed. Few of us have been here before, and no-one is quite sure what the future holds.

When Autumn approaches, trees withdraw rich resources from their leaves to be stored, ready for the spring. The leaves are their waste, and must fall, be let go of and be recycled into the soil. It is necessary and it is good. Queen Elizabeth was a faithful, Christian servant who kept what seemed an almost impossible promise made when she was just 21 to give her years in public service.

Whatever our opinions of the benefits of Monarchy (and the Bible sees it as a mixed blessing) Queen Elizabeth was an outstanding public servant. For her now, the work is done. In faith we believe that she has entered into eternal rest in the presence of the King of Kings. Well done, good and faithful servant. In faith we believe that death is not the end, merely life's Autumn. All that is good is withdrawn, and the leaf, its work done, falls to the ground. The goodness, whether it is the Queen's, or yours, or mine, will rise again in the Spring, full of Easter promise, for there is resurrection hope for all of creation.

So please pray for King Charles III. He has a difficult act to follow, although, with God's help...

Best wishes
Jeremy



The Archbishop of York's words on the announcement of the Queen's death:

In 2014, Her Majesty remarked, "Christ's example has taught me to seek to respect and value all people of whatever faith or none." The Queen's gift to engage with everyone whom she met and the ability to make them feel at ease was a remarkable skill and one which showed a deep connection to the people she served and a desire to live out Jesus' teaching. On the occasions I had the pleasure of meeting Her Majesty, I can testify to the warmth and joy she brought to every occasion. But most of all, it was the resolute reality of her faith that struck me powerfully.

In Her Majesty's first Christmas broadcast, ahead of her Coronation she asked the nation, whatever their religion, to pray that God would give her wisdom and strength to carry out the solemn promise she would be making and to faithfully serve God and us all the days of her life. That is most definitely a prayer that has been answered. Her service to our nation and Commonwealth has been exemplified by her devotion to her duty, which has always been offered with joy. Underpinning this has been her deep faith in God and in her we have witnessed God's faithfulness at work.

Her Majesty leaves a remarkable legacy which not only lives on in this country, but stretches across the Commonwealth and the rest of the world. Her desire to bring people together and use her role to build up communities and wider society has been a cornerstone of her reign. Do join me in praying for members of the Royal Family over the coming weeks as the God who sustained Her Majesty throughout her life, guides them and brings them comfort. Above all, we pray also for our new King in the responsibilities that now rest upon him.

The Queen was not shy in speaking of her faith and the hope and strength she found in Jesus Christ. At the heart of the good news of God is that through the death and resurrection of his son Jesus, the promise of new and eternal life is offered to us all. This belief, this hope, sustained our Queen and as she rejoices in that promise fulfilled so we too can draw comfort and hope from it.

Many of us will struggle to imagine the life of our nation without the Queen. Her constancy and faithfulness has been deeply reassuring in a world that has changed so much. We give thanks for the Queen's example, devotion and huge achievements. She found stability, perseverance and confidence in Jesus Christ who was the source of her hope and peace. May that also be true for each of us and for our nation; and may our dearly departed Queen rest in peace and rise in glory.

Stephen Cottrell, Archbishop of York

What the Summer taught us.

The drought and record-breaking temperatures of summer brought home to us all the harsh reality of the climate crisis. The heat was almost unbearable. Farmers struggled. Gardens were scorched. Then the skies broke and the rains came flooding down.

Our experience was just a microcosm of the catastrophic impacts of climate change around the world: floods and droughts acting in tandem to destroy lives and livelihoods.

The Horn of Africa, and Somalia in particular, is suffering an unprecedented drought. Large areas have had no rain for two years; 20 million people are at risk of starvation; cattle and livestock are dying by countless thousands and children, of course, are at the greatest risk of malnourishment.



At the same time the floods in Pakistan have affected 33 million people - half the population of the UK. This is devastation on an unimaginable scale. The current count is 1,100 people dead; 250,000 km², a third of the country, lies under water, with millions of acres of agricultural land ruined; 700,000 cattle drowned and the damage already put at over \$10 billion.



The poorest of the poor are suffering the injustice of the climate crisis, while the costs of our failure to transition away from fossil fuels are going to far outweigh the costs of the transition itself. Massive crop failures, combined with

the war in Ukraine, will drive up food prices here, affecting the poorest most acutely.

We have put 2.4 trillion tonnes of CO₂ into our delicate atmosphere. When you add methane into the mix, the warming influence of the whole basket of greenhouse gases has climbed a staggering 47% since 1990.

In his recent book Hothouse Earth, Bill McGuire says, 'If world leaders had taken purposeful avoiding action in 1990 when the IPCC published its first report, we could be well on top of the problem now, with fossil fuels largely confined to the dustbin, renewables dominant and emissions under control and on the way down.'

'We have been put on notice time and time again about the potentially catastrophic impact of rising greenhouse gas levels, but we have repeatedly refused to listen and chosen not to act.'

'None of the world's biggest economies are on target to keep the promises they made in Paris and current estimates put the global average temperature rise at 2.7° when anything over 2° will seriously threaten the stability of global society.

In the face of this we are all likely to feel powerless. 'What can I do?' 'How will anything I do make a difference?' And indeed, I am haunted by the same sense of futility. But there are reasons why we should all take action:

For the sake of our integrity. We will be able to look our children in the eye and they will know we did our best. Because we should ALL tread more lightly on the planet, and as members of affluent western society, we tread far more heavily than most of the world's population. Because this is how movements grow. Do it. Talk about it. Get others to do it too. Because we live in a democracy with freedom of speech, so ultimately we can push, pull or drag our politicians into taking action.

Unfortunately, far too many people feel that they are exceptional. That their wealth entitles them to live differently. But that is certainly not what Christ taught us. He taught us to open our hearts.

If our hearts are not weeping now, there is something wrong with our hearts. If our politicians are not moved to action, there is something wrong with our politicians.

Edward Gildea, Eco Team Leader

Editor: Suggestions on what we can all do can be found in the Eco Church section of our website: www.stmarysaffronwalden.org/ecochurch



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Mothers' UNION

Mothers' Union Visit to Ashdon Museum Thursday 14 July 2022

This extensive local history resource, housed in the old Labour Hall, is truly remarkable. It is an eclectic mix of domestic and rural bygones, mainly from the Victorian/Edwardian era.

Glenn Miller, the Curator, started collecting things as a small boy and stored his treasures in an old railway carriage situated on Hill Farm. There is just so much to see, that subsequent visits are a must. It brought back many memories from our own childhood.

Ashdon is a remarkable village and has been fortunate to have kept such a record, not just of objects but of events and its politics. It is the attention to detail that is impressive, and that applies also for the refreshments too. The Afternoon Tea we were served was just like I remember as a child. The tea pots had knitted tea cosies to keep the tea hot.

The museum is a charitable trust and entry is free. It opens on Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays from 2.00 to 5.00pm. However, group visits (such as ours) can be made by arrangement. We had a most enjoyable visit.

Their website is www.ashdonvillagemuseum.co.uk and is most interesting.

Helen Eyles
MU Committee Member

Gelio



Post Covid, it was 'Phase One' in the Rector's bid to get congregation members to sit back closely together again.

22

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Archive Group

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

October 1945

My Dear Parishioners,

Our sympathy must go out very strongly to the Bishop of the Diocese in his gigantic task of raising £300,000 for Church needs in Essex, a task which might well daunt the most hopeful spirit. The necessity however is unquestionable. The new towns and villages which will soon be springing up in the county must have Churches ready for them and sites must be secured in good time and priests to serve them. For this purpose alone, £60,000 is required. To bring Church Day Schools up to the standard of the new education act it is estimated to cost £200,000, while the training and pensioning of the ministry calls for £40,000. It is a staggering total indeed and almost every diocese is in the same plight. The Bishop is coming (all being well) on October 18th, at 3 pm, to address a deanery meeting on the subject in the Town Hall. It is greatly to be hoped that the meeting will be full and enthusiastic with every parish in the deanery well represented. We in Walden are having a gift day for it on Friday, November 2nd in the Clergy Vestry from 9 am to 9 pm.....what the Church needs is that every member should learn to regard the making of such a contribution as an essential duty of membership. The Red Cross "Penny a week Fund" has shown a method of collecting small gifts which the church might usefully imitate. At present the average amount contributed by each church member, taking rich and poor together works out at about one shilling a week. Were this average doubled, as well it might be, the Church's annual income would be increased by £5,500,000

Yours sincerely
L. Hughes

Canon Chris Bishop. Archivist



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Prayer for the month *provided by the Prayer Team*

A prayer in uncertain times:

Lead, kindly light,
amid th'encircling gloom,
lead thou me on;
the night is dark,
and I am far from home;
lead thou me on.
Keep thou my feet;
I do not ask to see
the distant scene;
one step enough for me.
Amen.



John Henry Newman (1801-1890)

Quiet Spaces

As things get back to 'normal', we can again find ourselves so busy. Would you like to find a quiet, still space?

There are two areas in St Mary's set aside for quiet prayer. One is in the south aisle where the Remembrance Book's pages are turned daily; there are candles to light and a prayer board where prayer requests can be left. The second area is the North Chapel. To aid prayer in this area there are prayer cards and olive wood palm crosses.

These areas are available at any time that the church is open.

Gill Caswell, Churchwarden

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The Mothers' Union Garden Party and Surprise

On Thursday afternoon 11th August the Mothers' Union held their annual garden party, at the kind invitation of Joe and Gwynneth Nicholas. It took place on a perfect sunny afternoon in their lovely garden. Our Chaplain Rev'd Canon Chris Bishop and Rev'd Margaret Davies from Berden were welcomed as our guests.

Prayers were offered as we gathered together in faith and friendship including the celebration of Mary Sumner Day on August 9th and for our newly elected Diocesan President Maxine Paul.

Our thanks were given for the generous gift offered by members, and others at our MU Ascension Day service in May. This has been given towards our MU national 'Summer of Hope Campaign' for the training of MU leaders overseas.

We also paid tribute to our dearly departed member Bridget Greenough, who we remembered with gratitude and prayed for her family who are mourning her loss.

Following the prayers an announcement was made by Gwynneth that I was shortly to celebrate a very special birthday and I was presented with a beautifully decorated and iced cake, a lovely white orchid covered in blooms and a card signed by our members. What a lovely surprise and I thanked them very sincerely.

Gwynneth and Joe were thanked for their generosity for hosting the occasion and Gwynneth was given flowers to show our appreciation. The rest of the afternoon was devoted to tea and cake and lively conversation.

Brenda Sheath

Miscellaneous observations on life:

A lot of people want to serve God, but only in an advisory capacity.

It is easy to do any amount of work – provided it isn't the work you are supposed to be doing.

Anyone who thinks talk is cheap never argued with a traffic warden.

One reason why a dog is such a lovable creature is that his tail wags instead of his tongue.

Calendar for October 2022

This calendar is provisional. See The Grapevine or the church website for the latest information, particularly for streaming of services.

St Mary's, Saffron Walden

One service in church each Sunday is streamed on YouTube [Y]: details on the church website.

Sunday 2 October

- 8am BCP Holy Communion
- 10am First Sunday Communion [Y]
- 6.30pm H2H Youth-led service for all

Thursday 6 October

- 10am Silent Prayer in the North Chapel
- 1pm Service with Prayers for Wholeness and Healing

Sunday 9 October

- 8am BCP Holy Communion
- 10am Holy Communion [Y]
- 6.30pm Choral Evensong

Sunday 16 October

- 8am BCP Holy Communion [Y]
- 10am Family Service
- 4pm Deanery Confirmation Service

Sunday 23 October

- 8am BCP Holy Communion
- 10am Holy Communion [Y]
- 6.30pm Taizé Service

Sunday 30 October

- 8am BCP Holy Communion
- 10am Holy Communion - All Saints Day [Y]
- 4pm All Souls Service [Y]



Regular weekday services at St Mary's

Tuesdays

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

Wednesdays

8am Morning Prayer

9.30am Holy Communion

St James', Swards End

Sunday 9 October

9.30am Harvest Festival

Sunday 23 October

9.30am Holy Communion



St John's, Little Walden

Sunday 9 October

11.15am Family Service

Sunday 23 October

11.15am Holy Communion



YOUinthe**PEW** interviewed by Chris Bishop

Hazel Colebrooke

Hazel was born and brought up in North London, in a terraced house sandwiched between the Piccadilly Line and the North Circular Road. She is a “cradle Christian”, born into a Christian family; one of her earliest memories is creeping upstairs to peep into her parents’ bedroom and seeing her father on his knees at prayer. As she grew up she became part of the church family – baptised, confirmed and married to Andy in the same church in which her parents and grandparents had also been married – a building which sadly no longer exists! Her Christian faith has always been important to her, though, as for many of us, it has waxed and waned over the years, being a journey of discovery, both of God and about herself. On Andy’s retirement 6 years ago they moved to Saffron Walden, within easy reach of their 3 children and their spouses, plus 7 wonderful grandchildren, now aged between 9 and 17.



Saffron Walden had lots of other attractions too; Hazel no longer has to get in the car just to buy a bottle of milk; doctors and dentists are within walking distance; and St Mary’s, being a large town centre church, was a new experience after nearly 25 years of ministry in smaller, more rural churches. Becoming a member of the PCC (after many years of making cups of tea for other PCCs!) helped Hazel to get to know new people and see how St Mary’s worked. Hazel and Andy have become involved in various church activities: together they assist in leading a homegroup and Hazel has found great joy in being part of the Tinies team and also the “Prospects” team, which, until lockdown, went to the ECL Saffron Walden Day Centre to share fun and Christian worship with a group of adults with learning disabilities.

Saffron Walden is a great town to live in, despite the ever-growing traffic! Audley End is like a beautiful, rather smart, local park and Hazel particularly appreciates Saffron Hall, where the music rivals anything London can offer, but without the hassle of travelling! Berlioz’ “Symphonie Fantastique”, played in a staged production from memory by the wonderful Aurora Orchestra, will live long in her memory.

Hazel loves singing – especially hymns! As a child it was with her mother or father at bedtime, or Ancient and Modern at church, then there were school assemblies and choirs, followed later by community choirs, plus a wide variety of old hymns and modern songs in the churches she has worshipped in. She finds it

difficult to imagine ever having a family coat of arms (!), but if that unlikely event should ever occur, she would choose the motto “The Lord is my Shepherd”. Not only is this part of a most beautiful psalm, but there are many wonderful musical tunes, both old and new. At her wedding she walked up the aisle with her father to the Crimond version and nearly 50 years of happy marriage show that it was a good choice!

Remembrance and Actively Seeking and Praying for Peace

With thanks to the Royal British Legion, many of those with connections to the Armed Forces in the UK have been supported and continue to be so. Almost 1.5 million were killed as a result of WW1 & WW2 – and there have been 11,000 more in the theatres of war since 1945.

Of course, we mourn the loss of family members and others serving in the Forces, but wars today include amazingly terrifying technologies at a disconnected distance and it is civilians, their homes and their history that have become the focus for devastating destruction – as we have witnessed this year in Ukraine.

Across the world millions have been killed, made sick in mind or body or made homeless by war – UNHCR statistics show 89.3 million forcibly displaced people at the end of 2021 – that’s many more than the whole population of the United Kingdom. Families and Communities have been torn apart. Uppermost in our minds and prayers are the populations of Ukraine, Yemen, Ethiopia, Mexico and Afghanistan.

We seek and pray for Peace and Justice for all the peoples of the world and one thing we can do at this time of year, to witness to this Peace, is to wear a white poppy with our red (or on its own) as a symbol of that Peace.

We recognise our obligation to protect our planet, but engaging in war negates our ability to do this by wasting its resources. Let us support and pray for the UN Climate Change conference which runs from the 6th to the 18th November. We pray for Peace and our Faith encourages us to seek Peace in all that we do.

White Poppies will be available Free in church at the West and South doors and in the choir vestry in the weeks before Remembrance Sunday.

In the name of Peace and Hope.

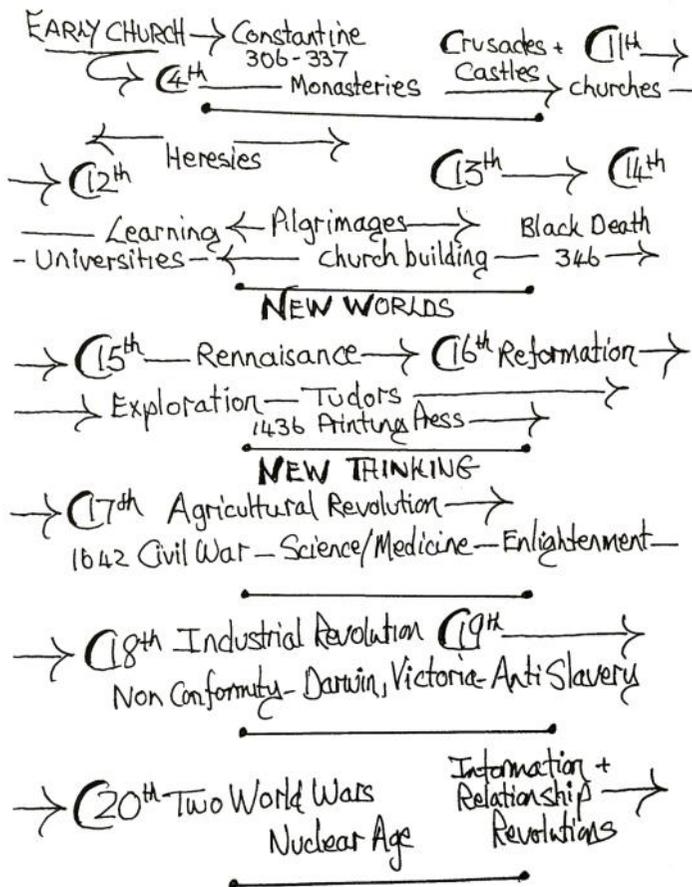
Diana Hoy

A Simple European History Time Line

(created from a 'church' perspective)

To all movements, developments and events recorded on a 'Time Line' there are certain to be blurred edges, as many themes run through or permeate different periods of history. For example, wars, plagues, class struggles, slavery in its many guises, revolutions, and the rise and fall of Empires are all regular features in our history.

Along with moments of enlightenment and new understandings, which are either absorbed into the collective consciousness of society or even change life for the better, these are just some of the elements that have created just one example (my thinking) of a European Time Line.



From the Registers

Baptisms

3rd July	Darcie Eve French Millie Rose French
17th July	Freddie Jonathan How
21st July	Cassandra Eloise Shanley-Grozavu Alastair Paul Shanley-Grozavu Martin Steven Shanley-Grozavu
7th August	Scarlett Ava May Lecky
14th August	Slater Rocks
28th August	Livy Sutton O'Sullivan (at St John's, LW)

Weddings

22nd July	Laurence Tuffin and Katie Devlin Dean Marshall and Charlotte Page
3rd August	Thomas Archer and Gemma Bauer
13th August	Gareth Mason and Jesca Boot
3rd September	Charlotte Ettling and Christopher Plant

Funerals

21st July	Ann Porter
26th July	Jeanette Cardy
2nd August	John Scott
5th August	Alan Plumb
10th August	Phillip Cross
11th August	Jean Moule
19th August	Jennifer Barnes
24th August	Lesley Peirson

Coffee Break +

On Wednesdays from September, join us for refreshments.

On the first and third Wednesdays there will be a short craft activity, so if you have a craft that you would like to share, please contact me. If craft is not particularly your thing, board games will be available.

On the second Wednesday there will be a relaxation/mindfulness session.

The sessions are from 10:15 till 12 noon, starting with refreshments.

All welcome.

Gill Caswell





St Mary's Music News

The end of the summer SMMA "term" was properly celebrated with 2 very different musical events.

The more prestigious was the Organ Plus concert on 24 July, with Director of Music Oli King on the organ, Kate Llewellyn on trumpet and Guy Llewellyn on French horn. They played an eclectic mix of pieces, from Gershwin to Bach and from Purcell to Saint-Saens. This very enjoyable concert raised £521, to support music at St Mary's, and was a fitting coda to the successful summer concert series, which in turn raised over £2,500, all excluding Gift Aid. These events could not take place without a lot of hard work, most obviously by the performers, but also by the back room helpers in organising, publicising, acting as front of house, sandwich making etc. We are very grateful to all of them.

Somewhat less elevated was the mermaid and pirate themed musical party, complete with visiting octopus and jelly fish, courtesy of the Beare family, who also performed suitably sea-themed songs.

Musical contributions by members of the SMMA included guitar and keyboard pieces, as well as numerous shanties, ranging from laments for absent or lost lovers to more rousing songs to assist the crew in working together in their tasks on board. Noel Starr provided a songbook from the early 1920s, some of which contained lyrics which are completely beyond the pale a century later, and were hastily edited out. Not only the decorations, but also the refreshments had a nautical theme, with goodies in the shapes of fish and shells. Many thanks to everyone who played a part in organising this delightful end to a busy year, especially to Nell and Hannah, and to Noel and Judith as hosts.

Now we are looking forward to the Choral Scholars concert, which this year will include Scholars who graduated from the choir during Covid restrictions, so did not have a chance to showcase their talents. We are not quite sure what to expect, though songs from Abba are rumoured to be on the programme.

Meanwhile, the choir got back to work at the beginning of September,



starting to rehearse for the regular Sunday services, and also for the Patronal Festival on 11 September, followed by Choral Evensong later that evening. It is a pleasure to welcome Patricia, the former Head Chorister of the Junior Choir, to the first sopranos as a Choral Scholar, as we say *au revoir* to Jo, who has gone on secondment to the Isle of Skye for a year. Congratulations, too, to Alex who has taken over as Head Junior Chorister. More on future musical events in the next newsletter.

Otilie Lefever

A Recipe for 'Cheesy Things'

After David Gardner's recent talk about their work in Romania, a number of people enjoyed some "Cheesy things", made by Sari. Several people have requested the recipe which is of Hungarian origin and was acquired from Sari's mother.

250 g butter/margarine
 300 g flour
 salt
 250 g grated cheese for the pastry (cheddar or some other hard/hardish cheese, though it works with soft/white/cottage cheese as well)
 1 egg
 50 g grated hard cheese for topping (eg. cheddar)

Crumble margarine and flour and add salt (to taste) and cheese. Lightly beat egg and add most of it to the mixture, leaving some for brushing the top. Knead until you get a uniform dough (adding more flour if necessary). Let rest for half an hour.

For baking, it's easiest to use upside down baking trays, unless you have pizza trays without sides.

Roll out about a quarter of the dough to 2-3 mm thickness (1/8"), put on ungreased baking tray, brush with remainder of egg, cut into squares, sprinkle with the cheese for the top and bake at about 200 C / gas mark 6 until it starts to brown.

It bakes fairly quickly, 5-10 minutes. You can start working on the next quarter and even put it on a lower shelf in the oven while waiting for the previous lot to bake.

Cool on wire rack. It keeps for weeks, but it's best while still cooling.

Sari Gardner

A camp on the wild side

In 2003 the Scots passed a law, the so-called “right to roam”, that gives anyone unrestricted access to the land. There are conditions - that this is typically for recreational use, excludes motorised transport, expects responsible behaviour - but otherwise grants access without needing the consent of the landowner. This freedom extends to walking, cycling, horse riding, wild camping and access to inland waterways.

Unfortunately, in England the rights are rather more restrictive (another reason, as if one needed one, to exit the Southeast and move north). Here there is no universal access and activities can generally only take place in designated areas or on specific routes (camp sites and bridleways, for example). Wild camping is only permitted in Dartmoor (where, sadly, one of the landowners has recently suggested some rights could be challenged).

There are parts of England, however, where wild camping has largely been tolerated - such as the Lake District and Snowdonia. Strictly, one needs the permission of the landowner, but how one obtains this - or even finds the identity of the same - is anyone’s guess. Some landowners will hold people to the law and ask them to move on; yet others are, apparently, content for people to use their land - provided they do so responsibly. Being responsible here means respecting the environment and leaving no trace afterwards (a far cry from the ‘fly camping’ which was a concern post-lockdown).

What if someone wants to try this out and isn’t sure how to get started? That’s easier said than done. After all, you need a fair bit of quite specialised equipment: light weight/low volume camping gear (and know how to use it); weatherproofs (that are weatherproof); and enough food to survive the trip (those who know me will know that I can eat for England) - and be able to carry all this comfortably. You might also lack the confidence to do it all solo.

Enter Camp 404, a ‘retirement’ project of Dave Beare. Dave is a trained mountain leader and founded his company to provide others with the skills he’s acquired as a wild camper over the years and to share his love of hill walking and the benefits of being ‘off grid’. Camp 404 provides all the support and training a novice wild camper needs - Wild Camping 101. With his partner company, Emma Holland Mountain Training, he runs guided hill walking and wild camping trips to the Lakes. Nothing is assumed (you get lots of information on what to take and how to prepare). Nor is there a requirement to go out and buy much in the way of equipment (the



company freely loans most of the kit you will need - you won't have to provide much beyond your own clothes, food and other consumables). There's financial support, too, via a bursary scheme operated by St John's, Little Walden.

And so six of us set off in mid June for three days in the Lakes. We travelled, mostly by rail and bus (sustainability is one of the principles of Camp 404), to Stonethwaite, near Keswick, to follow a circular route of about 11 miles, taking in Stonethwaite Fell and the Langstrath valley, peaking at High Raise (762m). That distance doesn't sound much but you have to factor in terrain, ascent (over 800m), all the while carrying a pack of around 12kg. (And how exactly does one practise serious hill walking while living in East Anglia?) No, no one expected this to be easy. We all had our highs and lows. There was no single highpoint for me, but I certainly felt a satisfaction at living, albeit briefly, a very minimalist life. The latter part of day two was the low: an interminable zigzag descent to a valley floor. Nevertheless, we were blessed with fine weather (certainly not a given in that part of the country), good views and great company.

Interested? Dates for 2023 have already been released. For each trip there is a training day, usually two to three months ahead, where Dave goes over the theory, the kit list and how to prepare for the expedition. To find out more, contact Dave via the Camp 404 website (<https://www.camp404.org.uk/>).

Simon Potter

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SO LOVED THE WORLD
THAT HE GAVE HIS
ONLY
BEGOTTEN
SON, SO
THAT WHOEVER
BELIEVES IN HIM
SHALL NOT PERISH
BUT HAVE ETERNAL
LIFE.



JOHN 3:16

Provided by Dawn Saxon

Radwinter Road Cemetery, Saffron Walden, CB11 3HU

A peaceful space which offers a natural environment for all types of wildlife and as a result is an important nature conservation resource in the town. Daily maintenance and gardening are carried out which ensures the space is both clean and tidy, where residents and visitors can visit for peace and reflection. The Cemetery is divided into different areas; Lawn cemetery, Traditional area, Garden of Remembrance, scattered ashes, and areas for children and young people. There is a separate section for War graves which is cared for by The Commonwealth War Graves Commission.



If you are looking for a final resting place for a loved one, please bear in mind Radwinter Road Cemetery where the gates are always open and there is tranquillity within. For further information please contact Elaine Baynes, Cemetery Officer, at Saffron Walden Town Council, Market Street, Saffron Walden, CB10 1HR. Telephone: 07769 167 179 or email elaine@saffronwalden.gov.uk

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

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Continuing the Celebration!



On 9th-16th October this year many people around the world will be celebrating the Jewish festival of Tabernacles, or Sukkot. They will celebrate the Harvest, and also remember God bringing the Israelites out of Egypt and through 40 years in the desert.

The biblical book of Deuteronomy contains a description of what Tabernacles should have been like back then. “Celebrate... for seven days. Be joyful... you, your sons and daughters, your male and female servants, and the Levites, the foreigners, the fatherless and the widows who live in your towns.”

These festivals were not just a celebration, but also an expression of gratitude to God: “celebrate the festival to the Lord your God...For the Lord your God will bless you in all your harvest and in all the work of your hands, and your joy will be complete.” Tabernacles was a proper holiday, with two whole days off normal work and seven days of feasting.

Farming looks very different today. Very few of us have had to sweat long hours over crops, so we’re not as ready for (or deserving of) a rest and a party as our ancestors were at this time of year. That might be even more the case in future, as the agri-tech revolution unfolds. For example, small autonomous tractors are already becoming available that do less damage to the soil and make better use of steep or oddly shaped fields.

Many arable farms already hire contractors to do the routine work with large specialist GPS-equipped machinery. In future years those people might find themselves using very different kinds of high-tech kit, acting more as land-management advisors, helping farmers to gather data and to find ways of improving soil quality, biodiversity and the water cycle.

I’m very grateful for the food that arrives on my shelves. Instead of worrying about whether or not we earned it, our modern-day Tabernacles or

Harvest celebration could include ways of encouraging those involved in agriculture and developing new agricultural technologies, as well as enjoying how we can learn about and benefit from God's creation through Science.

So, after you celebrate Harvest at church, why not follow it up with a trip to a local farm this month? Why not learn from the ancient Israelites, and follow it up with a meal together? It stands to reason that those of us who live in countries where food is plentiful and cheap could do with being proportionately more generous in our gratitude and giving. Should we throw better parties? Probably!

Dr Ruth Bancewicz

The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge.

LATER...

What a wonderful word! 'Later' means I am going to do it, but not yet. There's even a frisson of pleasure at the thought of achievement.

'Later' means the intention is there, but I don't have to face the fear of failing or what people will think. There's no effort, no risk, no financial loss. So I can still feel good about those worthy intentions. It will all come to pass 'Later'. I can talk big but keep it safe.

Covid was a breeding ground for 'Later'. We had every excuse imaginable to avoid those little daily challenges of going out, meeting people, and getting those jobs done that help us thrive and flourish. Climate change and inflation don't help either.

I bought a book 'The 15 Invaluable Laws of Growth' by John C. Maxwell to tackle my own torpor and lack of drive. The excuses he mentions to delay transforming intentions into deeds are predictable: "I don't know how"; "It's not the right time"; "I don't feel like it"; "Others are better than I am"; "I have to find the best way" etc!

My personal thought - post-Covid and post-bereavement - is to cherish those good intentions and not waste them. Would anyone else like to foster their personal growth by looking at these 15 Laws with me?

Of course we could always do it 'Later'.

Margaret Collingwood (529055)

I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills

“The artist should not only paint what he sees before him, but also what he sees within him.” These are the words of a German romantic painter, Caspar David Friedrich, who lived from 1774-1840.

The inspiration for most of his paintings was the countryside and the world of nature around. As he looked at its beauty and grandeur, it awoke in him feelings of wonder and awe, which he expressed through his art.

At the age of 34 he painted a cross in the mountains as an altarpiece for a church in Dresden: the first time a pure landscape had been used for an altar. Later in 1811 he painted a similar, but more profound and more moving work: ‘Morning in the Riesengebirge.’

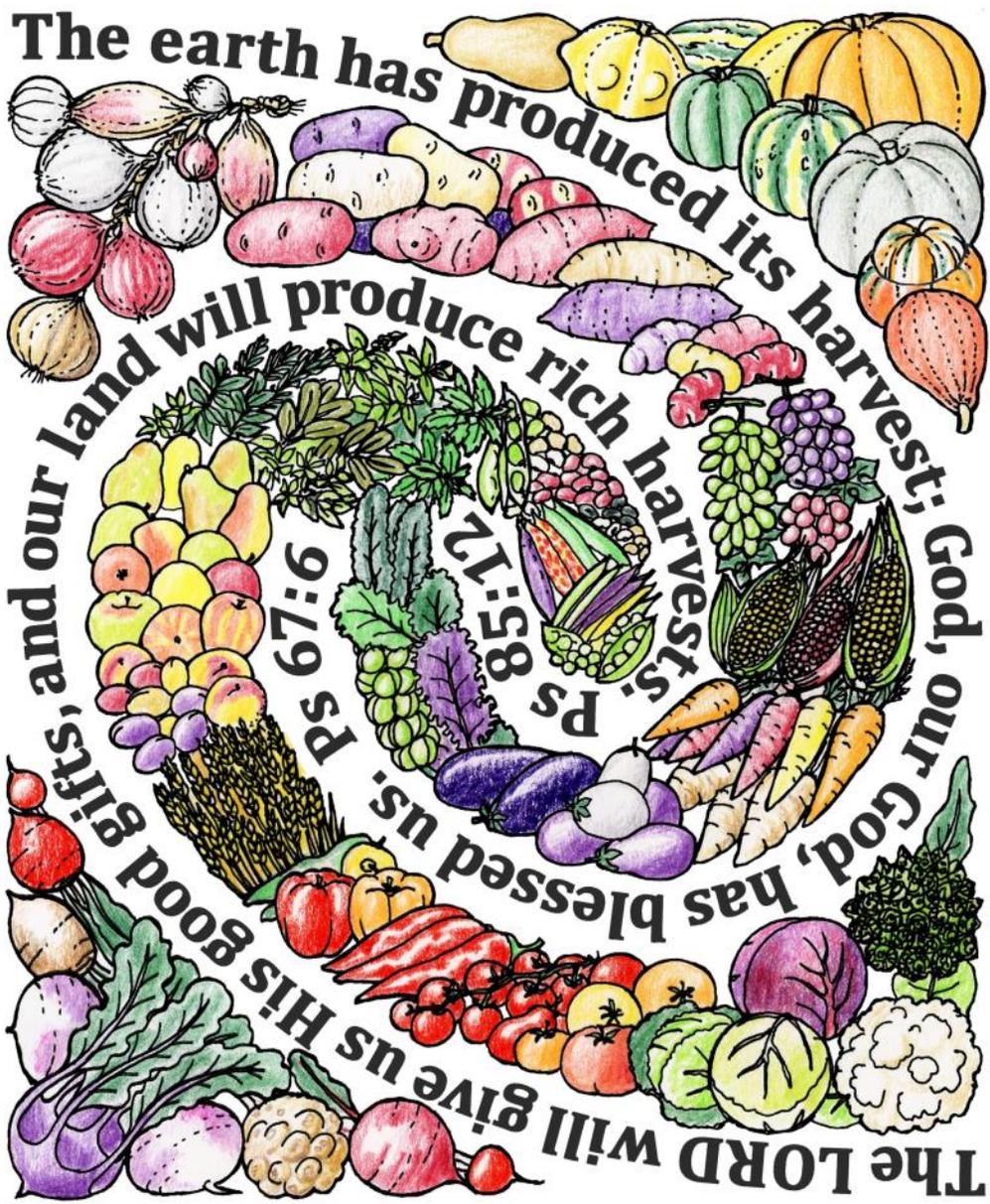


Friedrich was a great walker and climber, and he loved the mountains of East Saxony depicted here. The first rays of the sun are coming over the horizon to illuminate both the beauty of the hills, and the tall crucifix placed on the mountain top. Friedrich looked at the glory of nature at sunrise and saw there a sign of God the Creator, and God the one who sent His Son to redeem that Creation.

Like Caspar David Friedrich, and like the psalmist, we can look to the hills and see the glory and greatness of God. This will be the theme for many of us this month with Harvest celebrations. But we give thanks for creation and the bounty of the world at a time when we hear reports of glaciers melting, water levels rising, greenhouse gases warming up our planet, and resources of food and fuel wasted and depleted. It is too easy to take this world for granted and imagine it is here solely for us.

Caspar David Friedrich invites us to look at the world, its beauty and greatness, as a gift to cherish, not to manipulate and exploit for our own use. As we look at this earth with eyes of wonder and gratitude, then we shall find the God who created and redeemed it, and ask what service and stewardship we can offer Him in the world.

The Rev'd Michael Burgess (Parish Pump)



The earth has produced its harvest; God, our God, has blessed us. His good gifts, and our land will produce rich harvests. The LORD will give us His good gifts, and our land will produce rich harvests.

Ps 67:6

Ps 85:12