

The background of the entire page is a close-up photograph of several long, yellow, fuzzy catkins hanging from bare, brown branches. The catkins are in sharp focus, while the branches and other catkins in the background are blurred, creating a bokeh effect. The lighting is bright, suggesting a sunny day.

# Parish News

**St Mary's Church, Saffron Walden**

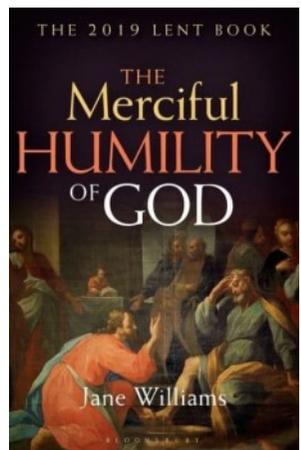
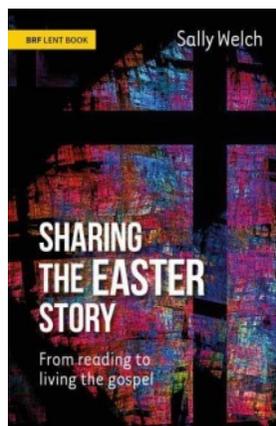
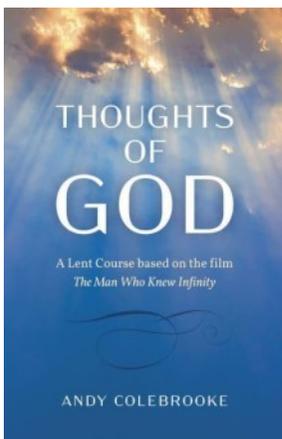
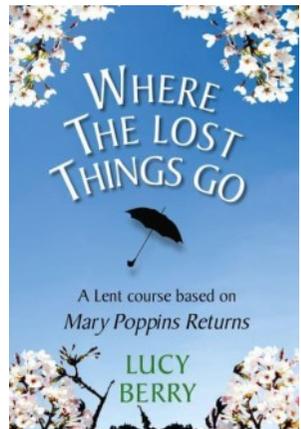
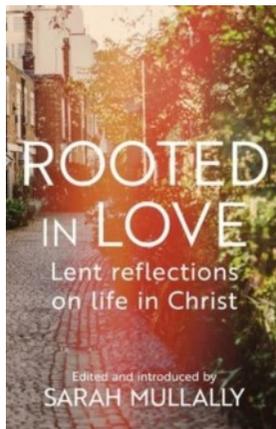
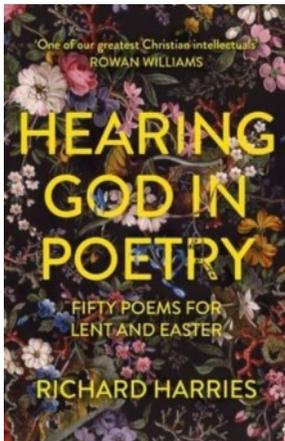
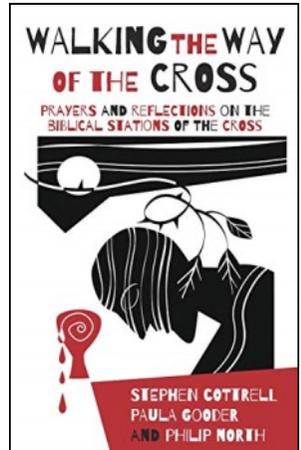
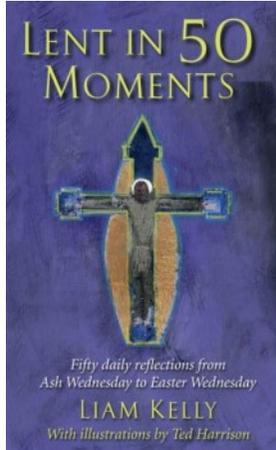
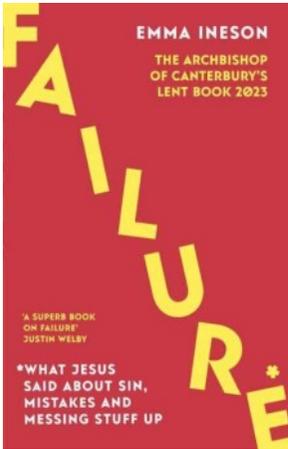
**St John, Little Walden and St James, Sewards End**

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

**February 2023**

**FREE**

## Some Books for Lent



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## PARISH NEWS - EDITORIAL DEADLINE

The deadline for contributions for each issue is the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the previous month. Hence, the deadline for the **March** issue is **Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> February**.

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

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New Year Catkins at Audley End  
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**St Mary's Church Website:**

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

## The Rector's Letter

**From The Rev'd Jeremy Trew**

Jeremy writes...

February sees us reach Ash Wednesday (22nd) and the beginning of Lent. Last year Bishop Guli encouraged us to follow a quiet Lent; minimising meetings and taking time out to reflect and pray on how and where God was leading us. The Bishops of the Diocese have been continuing to do this, along with others, and the fruits of this will begin to be seen this Lent.

Every Diocese has its own strategy. In Chelmsford Diocese this was called "Transforming Presence", and was initiated by Bishop Stephen. When I was looking for what turned out to be this post I read the strategies of many Dioceses. They all have different titles and they all come in different packaging, but they are basically the same thing: The recognition that the Church of England finds itself in a very challenging position where resources are increasingly scarce and where traditional responses no longer seem to work as they once may have done.

Bishop Guli is (for someone who has sat on Bishop's Council, Diocesan Synods, and Boards of Mission) frankly a breath of fresh air. Issues that have been repeatedly kicked down the road are being faced, and there is the welcome recognition that what may work well in outer London may not be the same as what is best for rural Deaneries, or for the commuter-rural area we find ourselves in. "Transforming Presence" as a universal Diocesan strategy is now finished, although we are welcome to use its resources locally if they are helpful to us. The challenge, or vision if you like, is now for the local Church to faithfully and prayerfully form its own sense of calling, appropriate to its resources and its setting. This recognises the belief that God has already equipped the Church to be all that God calls it to be at this moment, and that as the Church grows in its faith, both the calling and the equipping will increase.

We will be working together as a Deanery, and as the Saffron Walden & Villages Team to work out what that means for us. As part of this, we are seeking to work more closely as a Team, sharing our resources and meeting our challenges together. We have recently been given permission to recruit a replacement for Caroline. This person will be based in the Vicarage in Ashdon, and also have a role in Hadstock, but will serve across the Team. This Lent we will be offering a number of Lent courses, looking at



faith from different angles. We hope to continue this after Lent with other courses and with a development of small groups; house groups and the like. I will be offering a course looking at the Eucharist; its meaning and practice down the years. We will be sharing in the Eucharist together each week as we explore this simple but deeply rich act that Jesus commanded his followers to do. Within this you will have the chance to break bread and wine as the early Church did, and also as the Prayer Book (1662) would have us do. One of these will probably be familiar to you. The other I doubt you have ever experienced before. Which is which may well surprise you. This, and the other courses we offer have one purpose; to equip us as Disciples. You will be most welcome.

Jeremy

### **A Prayer for February**

*provided by the Prayer Team*

We commend to your care Lord, all those who find life too much for them.

Those who daily have to face jobs with which they cannot cope;

Those who are daunted by the whole business of living;

Those whose families make demands on them which they cannot meet;

Those who cannot summon up the strength to do the things they know have to be done;

Those who feel they cannot go on.

Lord, giver of life, give them life.

Amen.

## Ethical Procurement

Last Autumn the PCC adopted some guidelines concerning St Mary's procurement. It made this commitment:

*"In our decisions about purchasing products for St Mary's Church, we will aim where possible to be both ethically and environmentally sustainable.*

*"In considering cost, we will assess the long-term costs, both to ourselves and to others, of our decisions, ensuring that we don't pass on a significant burden to others and minimise any damaging consequences to God's creation."*

On one level one would think that, as Christians, we would always have put our concern for God's creation at the heart of our purchasing decisions, but in our commercially driven world, where free markets gravitate towards what is cheapest for the consumer and most profitable for the manufacturer, being ethical is far from easy.

In May, nearly ¼ million people took part in the Big Plastic Count. It revealed that UK households throw away nearly 100 billion pieces of plastic every year, and 83% of that total comes from food and drinks packaging. Of that vast total only 12% of it is recycled in the UK. The rest is either burned, buried in landfill or sent overseas. We thought we had cracked that one with our conscientious recycling, but the pollution continues.

We might think that when treating ourselves to English beef or lamb we would not be having an effect on distant rainforests, but 70% of farm animals in the UK are raised in factory farms and import many of their feedstuffs, which could well contain soya associated with the deforestation of South America. Our purchases are so often linked to long, multinational chains of supply, it's hard to be ethical. But that shouldn't stop us trying.

**Ethical considerations** include whether the workforce in the supply chain enjoys fair rates of pay and humane working conditions; that there is no involvement in repressive regimes and no involvement of slave or child labour.

**Environmental issues** include issues of humane rearing of animals, sustainable fishing, avoidance of links with deforestation, palm oil transparency, low levels of pollution and toxic chemicals in the supply chain, the sustainable sourcing of raw materials and the avoidance of single use plastics.

Environmental issues also include the carbon footprint of any commodity and the chain of disposal of the waste products. The aim is to minimise greenhouse gas emission and other pollutants which will adversely affect the health and wellbeing of current and future generations around the world.

We should also consider **governmental issues**, such as tax avoidance by

companies and their parent companies, excessive rates of director pay, and evidence of political lobbying that does not accord with principles of human rights and justice.

It is a minefield, but there are organisations to help us:

**The Fairtrade Foundation** certifies standards that are met in the production and supply of a product. For farmers and workers, it includes their rights, safer working conditions and fairer pay: <https://www.fairtrade.org.uk/buying-fairtrade/>

**The Rainforest Alliance** aims to stop deforestation of rainforests. They certify ingredients that are produced using methods that support the three pillars of sustainability: social, economic, and environmental: <https://www.rainforest-alliance.org/find-certified>

To make things as easy as possible, St Mary's is taking out a subscription to **Ethical Consumer**, the organisation which researches the business practices of thousands of companies and products. It awards a handy 'ethiscore' to each: <https://www.ethicalconsumer.org/about-us>  
Up to 40 people will be able to have free access to the ethical consumer site when purchasing products for the church.



Just to get you started: Costa Coffee has an ethiscore of 2/20, and is owned by Coca Cola, the world's biggest plastic polluter. Starbucks has an ethiscore of 2.5/20 with a worse rating for palm oil and for operating in oppressive regimes. It is facing a complaint for failing to ensure that its farms are free from forced labour. Caffé Nero has not paid corporation tax in the UK since 2007.

We only get to vote in our democracy once every few years, but we can also vote every time we make a purchase - even of a cup of coffee. Let's make it count.

Edward Gildea, Eco Team Leader

**QuinquaQuiz:** Another year and another QuinquaQuiz to raise money to support the Bishop's Lent Appeal.

**Saturday February 18th 7 for 7.30 in the Parish Rooms.**

Teams of 6 and only £5 a head to enter.

Please bring your own drinks and nibbles.

Only 6 rounds, so not a late night.

If interested please contact Chris Bishop via the Parish Office. Who knows, your Team may win the 'much coveted' Trophy this year!

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## From the Registers

### **Baptisms**

27th November Ruta Jomantaite  
 Florence Edith Harrington  
 Hugo Arthur Harrington

### **Funerals**

1st November	Jill Keen	22nd November	Daphne Bashford
8th November	Juliette Welch	24th November	Susan Sanders
8th November	Anthony Webber	2nd December	Ruth Cornell
14th November	Sandra Eden	6th December	Michael Start
21st November	Kathleen Browne	21st December	Patricia Jacob



## Mothers' Union Advent Service Report

The Mothers' Union Advent Meditation Service was held in St Mary's North Chapel on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> December at 2.15pm. The Rev'd Margaret Davis conducted the service and chose 'O Antiphons' for the theme. These are special prayers said or sung by the church during Advent since the Middle Ages. They are associated with Mary the Mother of Jesus in her final days of her pregnancy, awaiting the birth of her Son.

There were 5 readings, each read by a Mothers' Union member, one from Ecclesiasticus, two from Isaiah, a poem 'The bright field' by R S Thomas and finally one from Revelation. After each reading there was a short period of silence. There was also a Litany 'For the darkness of waiting' by Janet Morley, which included the response for members 'For the darkness and light are both alike to you'.

There were 4 traditional Advent hymns which were sung with gusto, and the final blessing included the words, 'May the Holy Spirit make us steadfast in faith, joyful in hope and constant in love,' which I'm sure we all need to pray.

We thank Reverend Margaret for making a special journey to give us such a thoughtful service. It was such a joy to focus on the meaning of Advent in the stillness and silence of the chapel, and also enjoy the traditional Advent hymns.

We also thank Myrtle Wiseman for playing the piano and those who arranged for the piano to be moved into the chapel for our service.

Brenda Sheath



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## Archive Group

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

### February 1954

My Dear Parishioners,

In the "Essex Churchman" for last month there was set out the programme for the keeping of the thirteen hundredth anniversary of the coming of St Cedd to Essex. He was our first missionary and so we shall join in the great Thanksgiving Celebrations. I have already booked two coaches to take seventy of us to this great gathering of Essex church people, to be held at the West Ham United Football Ground on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> June at 4 pm. There is room for over 30,000 at this meeting and so every parish is expected to come in good numbers. Please book the date in your diaries and enter your name and address on the pad provided on the Literature stall at the West End of the Church. Please do this as soon as possible, as further coaches can only be ordered if we know within the next few weeks.

.....

### St Mary's Guild

Feb, 3<sup>rd</sup>, Live Magazine; 10<sup>th</sup> Dance; 17<sup>th</sup> Music at Random – Miss G Rolph; 27<sup>th</sup>, Tramp Supper; March 3<sup>rd</sup>, Ash Wednesday Service in Church.

The sum of £16 4s 5d was collected as a result of the Carol singing effort and this money has been divided equally between the Parish Room Fund; the Almshouse Improvement Fund and the Inter-Church Aid Appeal Fund for Refugees.

**Canon Chris Bishop. Archivist**

## 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 tranquility 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](mailto:elaine@saffronwalden.gov.uk)

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

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**NHS Hearing Aid Support  
Sessions 2022**

### **NHS Hearing Aid re-tubing, cleaning and basic maintenance**

We are able to offer appointments for NHS hearing aids maintenance, or if the tubs are brittle, cracked, blocked or damaged.



Saffron Community Link, 1b Market Street, Saffron Walden, CB10 1HX

Appointment only. To book please contact us on:

Tel: 01245 496347 / Text: 07950 406173

You can also book appointments online at [www.hearinghelpessex.org.uk](http://www.hearinghelpessex.org.uk)

If you are housebound, please ask about our home visits service.

*As usual our service remains completely free of charge, but as a small charity working hard to support Essex residents living with hearing loss, all donations are appreciated.*





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## Mothers' Union Meeting Report

On 10<sup>th</sup> November the Mothers' Union was given an interesting talk by Sophie Durlacher on the development of the Foodbank, which covers the Uttlesford District Council area with depots in Saffron Walden, Dunmow and Stansted.

In the United Kingdom today, poverty is a reality. It may affect single mums, one-parent families, the disabled, the unemployed, the abandoned or deserted, men or women, YOU or ME. Foodbanks have sprung up all over the country to ease the plight of those in difficult circumstances which should carry no stigma.

The foodbank opens its doors to those on very low incomes who are really struggling. Clients are referred by doctors, social workers, teachers or any professionals who are trained to notice signs of difficulty.

The foodbank provides essential nutritious food, baby needs, sanitary items, household cleaning materials including laundry products. Vouchers may be issued for fresh fruit or vegetables and meat. They may be redeemed at local shops who are very generous in their support. Members of the public are also generous with their donations at local supermarkets.

Cooking facilities can be minimal. A client may find themselves in a hotel room with just a kettle! Slow cookers are ideal and have been distributed when necessary. Plans for cookery sessions are in the pipeline. Finding ways of using as little heat as possible is essential. The rising cost of living is making the problem worse.

During the covid pandemic supplies to clients were delivered in parcels. The contents included, took into account the size and ages of the family and the circumstances of individuals. This system worked well and has continued. Volunteer drivers deliver to clients.

Last year 274 Christmas hampers were prepared in 1½ hours. The occasional bar of chocolate included in a parcel can be an absolute treat!

We thanked Sophie for her enlightening talk. She opened our eyes, our ears and our minds to the plight of those in the grip of poverty. Sophie departed with a generous supply of items, kindly donated by our members.

Helen Eyles/Brenda Sheath

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For further information please contact Ros Darton on **01799 551046**

# Calendar for February 2023

*This calendar is provisional and subject to change. See The Grapevine or the church website for the latest information particularly for streaming of services. Coffee is served from 10am for the 10.30am services at Saffron Walden.*

## St Mary's, Saffron Walden

All services take place in church unless shown otherwise. One service in church each Sunday is also streamed on YouTube [Y]: details on the church website.

### Thursday 2 February

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

### Sunday 5 February

- 8am BCP Holy Communion
- 10.30am Holy Communion [Y]
- 6.30pm H2H Youth-led Service for All

### Sunday 12 February

- 8am BCP Holy Communion
- 10.30am Second Sunday Communion [Y]
- 4pm Choral Evensong

### Sunday 19 February

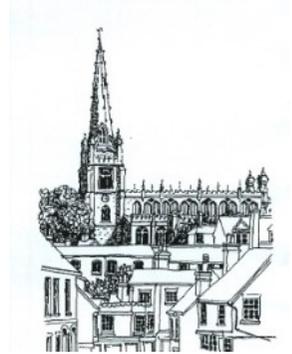
- 8am BCP Holy Communion
- 10.30am Holy Communion [Y]
- 4pm Living Stones - contemporary worship in the Parish Rooms

### Ash Wednesday 22 February

- 9.30am Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes
- 7.30pm Choral Evensong with Imposition of Ashes

### Sunday 26 February

- 8am BCP Holy Communion [Y]
- 10.30am Family Service
- 4pm Taizé Service





## 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 5 February

10.30am Holy Communion



### Sunday 19 February

10.30am Morning Praise

## St John's, Little Walden

### Sunday 12 February

10.30am Family Service



### Sunday 26 February

10.30am Holy Communion



**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT**

**THE ANNUAL GENERAL  
MEETING**

**of the**

**ST. MARY'S MUSIC  
ASSOCIATION**

**Will be held in the Parish Rooms on**

**SUNDAY, 12th MARCH 2023**

**at approximately 12noon  
immediately following  
the 10.30am service**

## Wenden Organfest 2022

The Friends of Wendens Ambo Church exists to provide funds for improvement and maintenance of the church and churchyard. Rather than making direct appeals, it prefers to raise money through events and entertainment. Thus fundraising becomes fun and sociable, a shared cultural experience. Music has often been a feature, as it was at an organ and poetry recital held in November.

The programme featured pieces played by seven local organists interspersed with poems read by Paula Griffiths from her collection "This is the Only Moment" and an interval (wine and canapés provided). It's always good to have balance in a programme and the pieces were well varied in style, with compositions from the renaissance to the present day. Some names (members of the Wesley dynasty) would be familiar to a church audience today; others perhaps less so. Everyone performed well and the event was well received and attended.

I had initially been a little reticent to play. I took up the instrument about fifteen years ago (like Patrick Li, it's something I'd wanted to do since my teens) and have been playing at services for most of that time. This, however, would be my first time before a paying audience; the notion of giving a recital had hitherto seemed something too scary to contemplate. Even for seasoned players, performing in front of people can be nerve wracking. It's less the issue of being exposed, more the worry of failure. And there has certainly been some of that over the years. Some might recall the 9.30 service on Remembrance Sunday 2007 when I crumpled almost instantly playing a prelude by Bach on the hymn 'Vater unser' (Luther's paraphrase of the Lord's Prayer). My dim recollection was that it was just a wrong note with the feet – and the whole thing collapsed.

"Put it behind you," Andrew Malcolm told me. Yet it can be easy to be bogged down by failure. Playing through mistakes (even better, making them sound intentional) is thus an essential skill to acquire. It seems to me that this might be a greater problem on polyphonic instruments. Notes are fingered in the context of a chord as well as the notes either side, so a wrongly played note could dislodge a number of others. Of course, the organ comes with extra hazards such as using your feet in various ways, changing stops and switching keyboards; an error with any of these can throw you. I'm getting better at that, but there is always room for improvement.

Even though I had been looking forward to the event, as it started my legs began to shake. Thankfully, by the time my turn came I'd regained some composure and was even able to enjoy playing my three pieces. I'm very glad I took part. I got quite a confidence boost and passed a milestone I might not have otherwise. I would like to thank FOWAC for organising the event and for the opportunity to be a part of it.

Simon Potter

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

**Gwynneth Nicholas**

The younger of two daughters, Gwynneth was born in Harrogate in Yorkshire and baptised at the Methodist chapel in Beckwithshaw, a nearby village. There her father and grandfather had a herd of pedigree Dairy Shorthorn cattle which they showed widely, including at the London Dairy Show, where in 1931 her father had met Gandhi.

After a later move to North Lincolnshire Gwynneth particularly remembers going with her father on summer Sunday evenings to inspect cattle in outlying fields through which ran a railway line. There they waved ('Railway Children' style) to passengers on steam-hauled day-excursion trains returning from the Lincolnshire coast to Doncaster and the industrial towns of South and West Yorkshire beyond. A piece of social history long gone.

An important event in the late 50's was meeting Joe Nicholas at a school-dance when they were sixth-formers at their respective grammar-schools! At the Girl's Grammar School in Clitheroe an inspirational teacher, with whom Gwynneth and another pupil climbed Helvellyn in September 1960, opened her eyes to the world and the fact that we are part of a global community (something to be reinforced by later travels). This led to her reading Geography at the University of Nottingham, followed by a Diploma in Education at Leicester. For a time teaching followed but then family was to take precedence. In 1966 Gwynneth married Joe at St Ambrose' Grindleton and in 1968, shortly after the birth of their first daughter, Joe's work as an electrical engineer took them to Whitehaven in Cumbria.

This was to be home for the next 22 years and two more daughters were born. It was in Whitehaven that Gwynneth first worked in fund raising for Oxfam, which she was to do for the next 40 years, including five years co-managing the Saffron Walden clothes shop.

In 1990 Joe's decision to change his job brought them South to Saffron Walden. At St Mary's Gwynneth was made welcome and became involved in a number of activities, especially Mothers' Union. She has enjoyed being part of the prayerful fellowship and meetings with subjects ranging from the seriously religious to social and safety issues and even a talk by Mrs Thatcher's Private Secretary!



There has been so much of interest but most importantly there has been support for Mothers' Union overseas in helping families improve their lives through Literacy and Education and fighting violence, poverty and injustice.

Outstanding events at St Mary's, enhanced by the glorious building, music and bells, were the weddings of two of Gwynneth and Joe's daughters in 1997 and 2015. Then on February 9<sup>th</sup> 2020, on a wild, wet and windy day, the 10am Sunday Service was very special as the M.U. branch here celebrated its Centenary and the Chelmsford Diocesan President bravely came from Waltham Abbey to preach. 100 years of support in the Parish, Nationally and for Mothers' Union Worldwide!

As to a family coat of arms, this could be the text from 2. Timothy 2.3 "a good soldier of Jesus Christ". Words that also resonate with her are taken from the Mothers' Union prayer. 'May we in love and service reach out as your hands across the world'. Never more than in these days of the worldwide web and climate change with its humanitarian and geopolitical implications has this been necessary.

A New feature for the Parish News

## Gelio's Anthology of Obscure Proverbs

An Arab proverb about contentment :-

'Better a handful of dry dates and

Content therewith than to own the

Gate of Peacocks and be kicked In

The eye by a broody camel '



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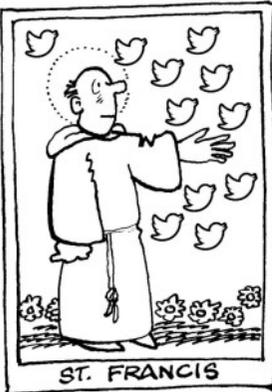
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## God in the Sciences

*This series is written by Dr Ruth M. Bancewicz, who is Church Engagement Director at The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge. Ruth writes on the positive relationship between Science and Christian faith.*

### Fearfully and Wonderfully Made



Every person who ever lived was once a sperm and an egg. Those two cells fused together, and in nine months they turned into a living, breathing, human being. Each of us emerged from this same embryonic development process, which is highly complex and organised, but variable enough to turn out a unique individual every time.

If you like order – such as neat piles of stationery, or tidy colour-coded files – you will enjoy this story. One of the most important stages of an embryo’s development is when each section of the body, from head to rump, takes on its identity. Each part is told what shape to take, and which limbs or internal organs to grow: legs or arms, lungs or kidneys, and so on.

The most beautiful part of this body-patterning process is that it brings the dimensions of time and space together in such a neat way. The DNA instructions for the procedure, known as genes, are organised in the order in which they are needed during development *which is also* the order in which they appear on the body. No other sets of genes are known to be arranged in such a tidy pattern.

So, as the embryo develops, the tissues near the head end activate the first sets of genes. Those active genes then make all the proteins needed for that part of the body to grow and develop in the right way. The tissues just below the head then switch on the second set of genes, and so on. A wave of activation passes down the embryo, specifying each section of the trunk in turn.

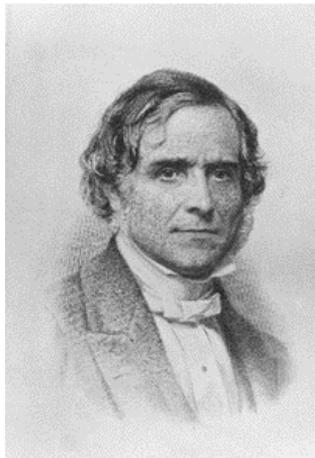
The Wisconsin-based developmental biologist Jeff Hardin often quotes Psalm 139 to express the wonder of embryonic development. The Psalmist did not understand how this process happened, but he knew that it was a marvellous thing. *“For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb...your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth.”*

The story of the tidy genes brings out the hidden beauty in the very early stages of embryonic development. The more biologists get to find out about how we came to be born, the more we can say, *“I am fearfully and wonderfully made”!*

*(Picture from Pixabay)*

## A Victorian Cause Célèbre

Frederick Denison Maurice was born in 1805 in Lowestoft and grew to become a much-loved man, but in his lifetime, a somewhat contentious theologian. His father was a Unitarian minister, but in his twenties Maurice chose to embrace Anglicanism; he was baptised in 1831 and later ordained in the Church of England. He is largely forgotten today, but some may remember this scholar for a notorious incident that occurred in 1853 when he was Professor of Theology at King's College in London. Maurice published a book that year called *Theological Essays*, which was largely a refutation of his previous Unitarian beliefs and a passionate defence of Trinitarianism. However, Maurice closed the book with a chapter entitled: *Eternal Life and Eternal Death*, in which he denied the understanding of eternal punishment that generally prevailed in Victorian England, and still does today in many churches.



F D Maurice

The King's College Council feared that Maurice had become a universalist: someone who believes that in the end everyone will be saved. Fearing that they had a heretic in their midst, Maurice was politely asked to step down, but he refused, challenging the Council to show where in Scripture or the Creeds he was in error. This they did not do, choosing instead to sack him on the spot. His views, they said, amounted to a 'dangerous tendency' and were 'calculated to unsettle the minds of the Theological Students of King's College.' It became a cause célèbre, subjecting Maurice to trial by the press, with papers split both ways over the issue. William Gladstone (the future Prime Minister) was outraged that the College Council had taken such a decision without reference to the bishops, and he called for an inquiry, but none was forthcoming.

The argument all hinged on the meaning of the Greek word *aiōnios*, which in the New Testament is usually rendered *eternal*. The College Principal argued that the simple meaning of the word was 'everlasting, time without end', whereas Maurice was saying this was a misunderstanding and that *eternal* was not a 'temporal' category. Citing Jesus' words: '*Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent*' [John 17.3] he argued that *eternal* really suggests knowledge and completeness. Maurice concluded: 'I cannot apply the idea of time to the word eternal.' He was not denying the prospect of divine

judgement and punishment, but he could not accept that it would be of *everlasting* duration: 'Eternal punishment is the punishment of being without the knowledge of God, who is love, and of Jesus Christ who has manifested it.'

Maurice knew he was writing his own 'death-warrant' when he wrote the book but felt impelled to do it. However, in 1866 Maurice was elected professor of moral philosophy at Cambridge University, a post he held until his death. It is said that he was warmly received at Cambridge, where 'there were no doubts of his sufficient orthodoxy.' His wide-ranging theological writings would later prove to have a huge impact on Anglican thinking.

For the great majority of ordinary Christians today, the plain meaning of *eternal* remains *everlasting*, although ideas about eternal punishment vary greatly. There are three basic approaches:

- i) Traditionalist: everlasting conscious punishment for the unsaved
- ii) Annihilationist: cessation of existence for the unsaved
- iii) Universalist: everyone will be saved

Biblical support can be found for each of these, but, of course, they can't all be true. We are left with a mystery.

More recently William Barclay, of *The Daily Study Bible* fame, has cast more light on the New Testament's use of the word *aiōnios*: 'It is the word which can only really be applied to God. If we remember that, we are left with one tremendous truth – both the blessings which the faithful shall inherit and the punishment which the unfaithful shall receive are *such as befits God to give and to inflict*. Beyond that we cannot go. Simply to take the word *aiōnios*, when it refers to blessings and punishment, to mean *lasting for ever* is to oversimplify, and indeed to misunderstand, the word altogether.'<sup>1</sup>

Whilst I don't believe we can be dogmatic about the future beyond the grave, I do believe in God's unending love and ultimate victory, and hope that one day all will be saved.

Andy Colebrooke

<sup>1</sup> William Barclay, *New Testament Words*, SCM Press 1964

## Smile Lines

I see David Beckham's son has signed for Brentford. David had some advice for him regarding shirt numbers. He told him: 'Wear four out there Romeo'.

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**Please mention Parish News when responding to an advertisement.**

## Finding Stillness

Recently I enjoyed a holiday with a difference: eleven of us staying at the Retreat House at Worth Abbey, a Roman Catholic monastery in Sussex. We were offered a chance to follow the normal everyday routines of services and periods of quietness usually experienced by the monks. In addition, we joined sessions led by Father Peter which included talks about the 'lectio divina' and Being Still.

A typical day:

06:15	Mattins (Abbey Church) Silent prayer
07:30	Lauds (Abbey Church)
08:00	Breakfast
09:30	Lectio Divina
10:30	Coffee
11:00	Being Still
13:00	Midday Office (Abbey Church)
13:15	Lunch in Silence
14:00	Free Time
16:00	Tea
17:30	Community Mass (Abbey Church) Silent Prayer
18:45	Vespers (Abbey Church)
19:15	Supper
20:15	Compline (Abbey Church)

What impressed me during my stay was the beauty of the plainsong especially accompanied by the zither at Mattins and Compline. We went downstairs to the Chapel for services and so coming up into the light of the day felt like the dream of Jacob - his ladder – (Genesis 28.12) especially first thing in the morning when the sun was just coming up, it was beautiful. The regularity of the day also felt good starting the morning with Mattins at 06:15 and ending with Compline at 20:15 with four other short services during the day. We were very well fed with food brought from the school in the grounds - I was always the last to finish eating!!

If you are interested visit [www.worthabbey.net](http://www.worthabbey.net)

Margaret Walter

St Bruno's Retreat Centre, Worth Abbey



# St Mary's Music News

February 2023

This year the SMMA bought a set of 75 new anthem books, Advent for Choirs. Oli King estimated that these would pay for themselves once the choir had performed 7 new pieces from it. The books have already proved a rich resource during 2022, and we shall probably reach the target number of anthems easily by Christmas 2023.

The traditional movement “from darkness into light” during the Advent Carol Service on 27 November was as ever an uplifting reminder that the night is far spent, and the day is at hand. The music matched this trajectory, modulating from the Advent prose, through harking to the herald voice calling, to the triumphant *Lo! He comes with clouds descending*, and closing with Fela Sowande’s organ solo *Obangiji (Almighty God)*.



The service of Nine Lessons and Carols on 18 December was of course a much livelier affair, not least because of the many contributions of the Brass Group, and the presence of the Junior Choir. Everyone who attended, whether congregation, choir or musicians, was to be congratulated on overcoming the rain and ice which followed a week of frozen snow. It would

have been the perfect occasion for singing *In the Bleak Midwinter*, but instead there was a rousing rendition of *Good King Wenceslas*, as everyone present cast themselves in the roles of king and/or peasant. The Brass Group rounded off the service in fine style with *Awake the Trumpet's Lofty Sound* from Handel's *Samson*.

At the post service party for the choir and musicians, where we attempted to warm up with hot mince pies and mulled wine, Hannah Razzell as Chair of the SMMA thanked everyone who had helped the organisation in the past year, including Bron Ferland as Choir Administrator, Lizzie Bennett who runs Joyful Noise for the very littlest singers, Alison Lawrence who looks after the Junior Choir's social time during Friday choir practices and other events, Yechan our Michael Swindlehurst Organ Scholar, Gill and Paul for the party, Jeremy Allen as Assistant Organist, and of course Oli King as Director of Music.

The Junior Choir (with a little help from their friends) led the singing at one of the two Tree Services on Christmas Eve, the other being supported by a small group. In turn the Adult Choir (some fortified by a late evening party kindly hosted by Jim and Yvonne) sang at Midnight Mass. And of course then there was the joyful and well-attended Christmas Day service itself. We were delighted that so many former Choral Scholars returned to participate in these services. After all this, the choir, director of music and organists will have taken a well-earned 2 week rehearsal break.

Meanwhile we are very pleased to report that Angus, one of the younger members of the Junior Choir, has been accepted into one of the National Youth Choirs.

Looking forward from the date of writing this Newsletter, or backward from the date of reading it, there will be Choral Evensong at 4pm on Sunday 8 January, and the Epiphany Carol Service at 6.30pm on Sunday 29 January. February Choral Evensong will be at 4 pm on Sunday 12.

And finally, the SMMA's AGM will be held in the Parish Rooms at around noon after the 10.30 service on Sunday 12 March. Everyone is very welcome to attend.

Otilie Lefever

*(Photograph: Martin Hugall)*

## The Fairtrade Stall at St Mary's Saffron Walden

### Why do we do it?

When we started the Fairtrade Stall at St. Mary's in March 2022, we had two aims:

1. To raise the profile of Fairtrade by showcasing a range of Fairtrade products and explaining benefits of buying Fairtrade items for farmers, workers and shoppers.
2. Use any profit to donate to charities working alongside people in the developing world.



### What have we done this year?

We've held ten Fairtrade Stalls during 2022, usually after the 10 am service. An extra one was at the Christmas Fair. Our total sales this year were **£1,524.55**. The most popular product must be the Ginger Cookies but we also sell a lot of chocolate and coffee. If we sell our current stock, we will have made a profit of **£196.03**.

We have used **£172** of this profit to purchase the following charity gifts from Christian Aid:

#### **Train a Tailor - £23**

This gift provides training to help set up a tailoring business and can make a life-changing difference to women in Nigeria or India. It means that mothers can afford to send their children to school, breaking the cycle of poverty.

#### **Where does the money go?**

This gift acts as a donation to Christian Aid's **Financial Inclusion** fund and will help people around the world.

#### **A beehive - £63**

Beekeeping helps provide a sustainable source of income. The honey produced can provide a nutritious food or be sold at market. In Kenya, a hive can really help someone set up their own business and earn money to help send their children to school.

#### **Where does the money go?**

Your gift acts as a donation to our **Financial Inclusion** fund and will help people around the world.

#### **A sheep - £37**

In Bangladesh, Christian Aid is supporting women by giving them sheep,



which provide wool to sell at the market. These women can then turn wool into money and turn that money into a future for themselves and their families. The extra income provides loans, which pay for essentials such as medical care.

### **Where does the money go?**

This gift acts as a donation to our **Nutrition and Food Security** fund and will help people around the world.

### **Cocoa saplings - £20**

The climate crisis means that farmers who have grown coffee for generations can now struggle to yield a successful harvest with this crop. Cocoa is better suited to the challenges of more erratic and extreme weather caused by our climate crisis. A gift of 20 cocoa saplings can help to give farmers in Nicaragua the skills and resources they need to adapt how they farm, and help increase their income in the years ahead.



### **Where does the money go?**

This gift acts as a donation to our **Climate-resilient Agriculture** fund and will help people around the world.

### **A disaster emergency hygiene kit - £29**

A kit contains 1 plastic jerry can, a 2-litre water container, bathing soap & laundry soap, toothbrushes & toothpaste, a towel & shampoo, sanitary pads and a COVID-19 fact sheet. With this gift, we can help one household in a community displaced by war or natural disaster, such as in Afghanistan.

**Where does the money go?** This gift purchase acts as a donation to Christian Aid's **Preparedness, Humanitarian Response & Resilience** fund. It will be used to help people during an emergency in any of the countries they work with.

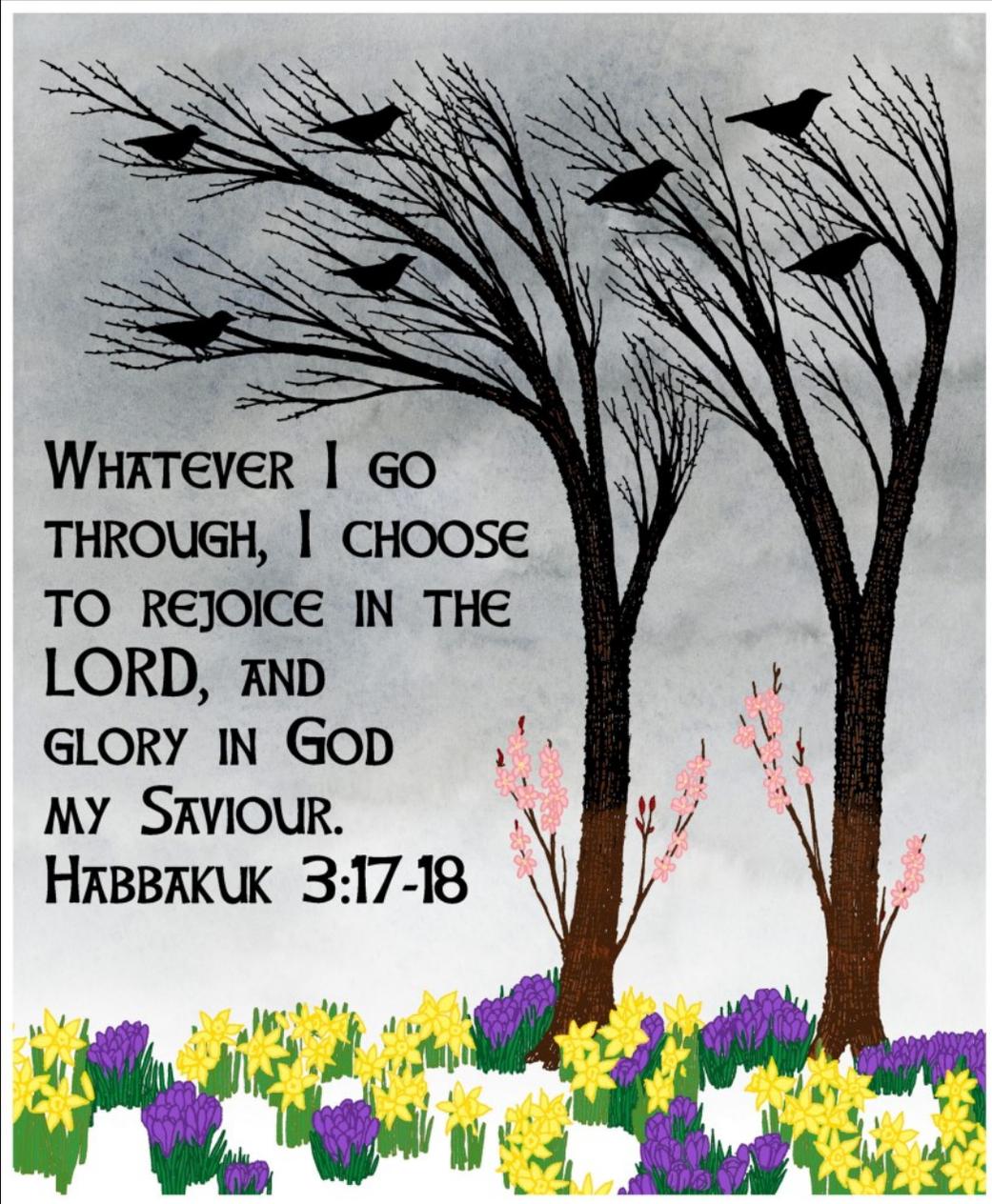
### **What next?**

We will continue to provide a stall at St Mary's, on the **2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday** each month before/after the service. Future stalls are planned for **12<sup>th</sup> February** and **12<sup>th</sup> March**. If there is anything that you would like to buy (food, cleaning products or gifts) please let us know and we will try to get it for you. All our stock comes from Traidcraft plc. You can find out what they sell on this website - <https://www.traidcraftshop.co.uk>

If you want to know more about how Fairtrade works, visit this website. <https://info.fairtrade.net/what>

And finally, we would like to say a **big thank you** to all our customers this year. We really appreciate your support.

Alison Trew & Hazel Colebrooke



WHATEVER I GO  
THROUGH, I CHOOSE  
TO REJOICE IN THE  
LORD, AND  
GLORY IN GOD  
MY SAVIOUR.  
HABBAKUK 3:17-18