

# Parish News

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

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

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



**May 2025**

**FREE**



## THE REAL MARGARET THATCHER



**Join us for a talk by Sir John Coles**

**Wednesday 7th May 7.30pm in the Parish Rooms**

**ALL WELCOME—Donation only**

Sir John Coles GCMG was Private Secretary (foreign & defence affairs) to the Prime Minister from 1981 to 1984. This period saw the Falklands War, and negotiations with China about the future of Hong Kong. Sir John later became Permanent Under Secretary at the Foreign Office and Head of the Diplomatic Service.

*To assist us with the catering, please contact Pamela on email  
[pjmteddybear@btinternet.com](mailto:pjmteddybear@btinternet.com)*

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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 **June** issue is **Sunday 4th May 2025.**

### Copy to Parish Administrator:

email: [office@stmaryssaffronwalden.org](mailto:office@stmaryssaffronwalden.org)  
01799 506024  
or the editor, John Pickthorn:  
[jejpickthorn@gmail.com](mailto:jejpickthorn@gmail.com)  
01799 523311

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

*Cover photograph by Lesley Green*

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## St Mary's Church Website:



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

### TEAM RECTOR:

The Rev'd Jeremy Trew: 01799 500947  
Email: [rector@stmaryssaffronwalden.org](mailto:rector@stmaryssaffronwalden.org)

### ASSISTANT CURATES:

The Rev'd Ella Harris: 01799 571023; [revellaharris@gmail.com](mailto:revellaharris@gmail.com)  
The Rev'd Dr Hilary Walker: [hcwalker55@gmail.com](mailto:hcwalker55@gmail.com)

### CHURCHWARDENS:

Saffron Walden: Vivian Falk: 01799 513128; [vivian@brackendalehouse.co.uk](mailto:vivian@brackendalehouse.co.uk)  
Saffron Walden: Simon Potter: 07913 898248; [simoncpotter@gmail.com](mailto:simoncpotter@gmail.com)  
Sewards End: Michael Dean: 01799 523388; [michaeevelyndean@gmail.com](mailto:michaeevelyndean@gmail.com)  
Sewards End: Lynne Ketteridge: 01799 523898; [lynneketteridge@hotmail.com](mailto:lynneketteridge@hotmail.com)  
Little Walden: Helen and Dave Nash: 01799 524265; [davenash390@gmail.com](mailto:davenash390@gmail.com)

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## The Rector's Letter

**From The Rev'd Jeremy Trew**

**Jeremy writes...**



May is when the last of our annual meetings occur across the Team. More than the simple receiving of reports; this is when we reflect on the previous year; have the opportunity to look ahead with faith; and give thanks for, and appoint, people to roles of service within the Church.

So, firstly; my thanks to all who make our churches live, both in roles that are public, and in those many roles which go on behind the scenes but are no less important. My thanks to you who are continuing in these roles; my thanks to you who are stepping down; and, my thanks to you who are stepping up. The Christian Church has always been a team of people in a variety of roles, together making Church happen.

Secondly; I hope that all of us, whatever our role, can view such service as part of our worship of God. At a certain level, these acts of service may be just jobs or duties, but if we allow them, they can be so much more. It isn't just the Vicar who "does God", but all of us separately and together. This service bears witness to the greater work of God in this world, and can be part of our prayer, our offering.

Thirdly; we can sometimes despair that we just don't have enough volunteers. It's certainly true that with more volunteers we could do more. It's also true that without volunteers in key roles the life of any particular Church can be somewhat limited, even threatened. Our annual meetings are not the only time that people can volunteer to serve. So, if you missed the opportunity, well, it's still there.

Most importantly, we can remember that whatever we have to offer in service to God, it is more than matched by what God is willing, and is doing, amongst us and the communities we serve already. Could God use even me? The answer might be a surprising, "yes." After all, God called me to be a Vicar, and equipped me to be so. If God can do that with me then let me assure you that you are no challenge for the Almighty whatsoever.

Best wishes

Jeremy

## The Mystery of John: Reflections on the Fourth Gospel

*Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb... (John 20:1)*

Those of you who have heard me preach will know my deep love for St John's wonderful, profound Gospel. Longstanding members of St Mary's congregation may recall that some years ago I wrote a short paper on my reflections, leading to a presentation with some lively and enjoyable discussion in the Parish Rooms.

When I retired in 2021, I felt there was more to add to this and have spent time expanding these reflections into a book. Who was St John the Evangelist? Why is his Gospel so different from the other three? What is his special message, and what does he tell us about Jesus? And how does his Gospel relate to our own lives?

I'm delighted to say that the book will be published by Instant Apostle in June (paperback £13.99, or e-book 6.99). Please look out for the June edition of Parish News for full details of the publication date and events to launch the book.

As with my poetry book *This is the Only Moment*, all my personal proceeds will be given to the churches of the Team Ministry.

Paula Griffiths

## A May Prayer

*Provided by the Prayer Team*

May your health improve.  
May your friends be blessed.  
May your family be loved.  
May your finances multiply.  
May any pain be less.  
May your worries fade.  
And may you be blessed.

Amen





## Ways in which you can have a say in the running of our church.

**1. Come to our Annual Parochial Church Meeting** that takes place just after the 10.30am service on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May, where you will be able to hear more about the different church groups and have **a chance to ask questions.**

**2. Join our Parochial Church Council (PCC).** The PCC meets 5 times a year on Wednesday evenings in addition to the Annual Meeting mentioned above. This is where a lot of the decisions about the running of St Mary's are made such as the new external notice boards, the appointment of a new Youth Leader, the repair of the Chancel roof, new lighting system and the Nave Altar, as well as matters such as keeping us safe, outreach and worship. Members have found the experience very interesting and have valued the chance to be able to help our church in this way.

If you are over 16, please think about it, as there are several vacancies to be filled this year. Before you can join us, you should have been on our electoral roll for 6 months and be a regular attender at church. A Nomination Form to be on the PCC can be downloaded from our website and is also available at the back of the church. Just complete the form and pop it into the Parish Office letter box on or before 9<sup>th</sup> May.

A list of present PCC members can be found on the notice board in the west porch. Summaries of our meetings can be found in the various editions of our Parish News.

If you want to chat about what is involved do phone me on 07562 506 867

**Whether you decide to join or not, do come to our Annual Meeting after the 10.30am service on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May which is open to all on the Electoral Roll.**

Anna Martin, PCC Secretary

## VE DAY—80 YEARS ON

It is planned that we should mark the eightieth anniversary on victory in Europe in 1945 (see article on page 30) with a celebration in the Church on the afternoon of 5th May. The occasion will be open to all. Offers of homemade cakes, biscuits etc will be very gratefully received, and help on the day will also be much appreciated.

Please contact me for further details.

Vivian Falk

07811 165049

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

### **Diana Tyler**

Born at Stanmore, Middlesex during the war, Diana's arrival completed the family, her sister having arrived 5 years earlier. At two years old, she moved with her family to Leigh-on-Sea where her recently widowed grandmother came to live with them.

The happiest of childhoods followed, sunny summers spent playing on the cliffs, marshes and cockle sheds, with snowy winters always providing enough snow for sledging. Family life was orientated around West Leigh Baptist church where she attended girls' brigade and was baptised as a teenager. She became Akela of the Cub pack only managing to escape this position by getting married and leaving the country.

She met Peter in 1964 following a friend's wedding – he was an articled clerk pursuing his final accountancy exams. With the £25 limit in force, they had a fun holiday driving down to the Costa Brava in a mini with two friends.

Before her marriage Diana converted to Anglicism, being confirmed at Chelmsford Cathedral in 1966, and they were married at St Mary's Prittlewell in May 1967 by the same vicar who 24 years earlier had christened Peter in Leytonstone. The couple immediately emigrated to Switzerland living frugally to save enough for a house deposit - working at CERN for Diana and Esso for Peter and became part of the Anglican Church in Geneva. Diana remarked that it was noticeable that morning services were well attended in the summer whilst in the skiing season it was the evening services which benefitted.





They would have stayed longer but the Esso office closed down, and so they returned to the UK and secured a derelict cottage at the Elsenham Hall Estate auction. The house needed new plumbing and electricity throughout so it took a couple of months to get those installed before moving into what was still a near building site in the summer of 1969. However, Elsenham Church tower was visible across the fields and the congregation there gave the newly married couple a warm welcome – especially when Peter volunteered to be

treasurer, and Diana taught in the Sunday school, and organised flower festivals.

Baby Katherine followed a year later, arriving at the cottage on a snowy day 3 days before Christmas, followed by noisy brother Neil 15 months later. With the arrival of Sarah in 1976 the family was complete. The cottage and its garden were still very much an ongoing project and, according to Diana, remained so until they left some 17 years later...!

By 1986 it was time to move up the road to Swards End where Peter Harlow gave

them a warm welcome. This was the first time Peter and Diana had experienced being in a village without its own parish church but without hesitation became members of both St James and St Mary's, with Sarah joining St Mary's choir, and both Katherine and Sarah marrying there in the early 2000s.

Friends from both churches were and remain extremely important and supportive especially during the hardest times such as Peter's death in 2015. Over the past 39 years Diana sees both churches as particularly special for their ability to adapt to the changing congregation, perhaps helped by their excellent refreshments.

Diana looks forward to serving God further for years to come – trusting in God and serving with humility.



## Radwinter Road Cemetery, Saffron Walden, CB11 3HU

Are you looking for a final resting place for a loved one?  
The Cemetery at Radwinter Road is an oasis in the town  
which is open 24/7 and there is tranquillity within.

Further information on burials is available from The  
Cemetery Officer at Saffron Walden Town Council, Saffron  
Walden, CB10 1HR Telephone: 01799 516501 or email  
[enquiries@saffronwalden.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@saffronwalden.gov.uk)

Our local Cemetery is 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  
also a separate section for War graves which is cared for by The Commonwealth War  
Graves Commission. A small well-appointed Chapel is available to hire.

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



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## A Night at the Musicals

After a very successful concert last year, **Saffron Walden Town Band** is returning to St Mary's Church, Saffron Walden on **Saturday 17th May 2025, 7pm** for A Night at the Musicals. The programme includes songs from a wide range of musicals over the decades and will be accompanied by an exciting visual composition of images and video. We think there is something to suit all tastes.

*You'll Never Walk Alone* is a show tune from the 1945 Rodgers and Hammerstein musical **Carousel** that is often sung at football clubs around the world (a tradition that developed at Liverpool FC after the success of the 1963 single by local group Gerry and the Pacemakers). It is regarded by some as a religious song.

From the 1950s, we have *Jump in the Line*, a calypso best known from a recording by Harry Belafonte in 1961 and used in the 1988 Tim Burton comedy horror film **Beetlejuice**. Also, from the 1957 musical **West Side Story**, we have comedy song *Gee, Officer Krupke*, composed by Stephen Sondheim (lyrics) and Leonard Bernstein (music).

We have two American musicals that were set in the 1960s: a selection of songs from **Jersey Boys** – a musical based on the success of a 1960s rock 'n' roll group, includes favourites such as *Oh, What A Night* and *Big Girls Don't Cry*; from **Hairspray** - *You Can't Stop the Beat* by Marc Shaiman.

From the 1970s we bring you *Don't Cry for Me Argentina* from the musical **Evita** (you might have seen the recent production by Saffron Walden Musical Society). Written and composed by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice, it reached number one on the UK Singles Chart. We will also perform highlights from the 1975 American musical **Chicago** including jazz favourites such as *All That Jazz*, and highlights from Stephen Sondheim's 1979 musical **Sweeney Todd** – a complex score with a blend of syncopated rhythms and operatic elements, creating a haunting style of music.

From the 1980s, we have the show tune *Memory* composed by Andrew Lloyd Webber with lyrics by Trevor Nunn (based on poems by T.S. Eliot) and written for the 1981 musical **Cats**. From **Les Misérables** (the longest running musical in the West End) we will play a lament, *I Dreamed a Dream*, by Claude-Michel Schönberg.

We will perform some songs from Walt Disney films. In 1991, Walt Disney Pictures released **Beauty and the Beast**, a musical romantic fantasy film, later adapted into a Broadway musical with many catchy tunes that you will probably recognise. From **Frozen** (released by Disney in 2013) we will play *Let It Go*.

We also have highlights from **Wicked**, the smash hit musical by Stephen Schwartz currently showing in London that explores the relationship between the witches featured in The Wizard of Oz.

Saffron Walden Town Band is a community-based ensemble of woodwind and brass players. We currently have over 30 members who meet each Wednesday evening to rehearse with Musical Director, Simon Mariner-Goff, former conductor of the University of Cambridge Concert Band. We welcome musicians of all ages and abilities to come together to make music, have fun and share their musical knowledge and enthusiasm with others. We perform at least two concerts each year and you may have seen us in the town band stand (we'll be back there on Saturday 21 June).

We hope you'll join us on 17th May for a wonderful, relaxed evening of music. Tickets are now available at <https://www.swtb.org.uk>, at Tourist Information, or on the door (£10 or £12 including a drink, free to U16s). Any proceeds will support the Town Band to put on future concerts and purchase new music.

Alison Trew



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## **FRIENDS OF THE PARISH CHURCH**

The Friends of the Parish Church is a very active group and has been so for over 90 years. We are able to help financially with minor and major projects at St Mary's. They range from the new Advent candle which we have just purchased to a substantial sum to help the proposed Lighting Project.

Almost 40% of our members have active and varied roles in the Church. We have a bookstand with an assortment of items on sale and next to that a dedicated noticeboard which will keep you up to date on our many activities. We are also on the Church website under "Groups" so do take a look.

If you would like to learn more, pick up a leaflet from the bookstand which also includes an application form to **join us**. Just hand it to any of the Friends' Council members or pop in the Parish Office letterbox. If you feel that you would like to leave us a legacy, there are forms available on the bookstand for this too.

Chairman: Denis Tindley, Secretary: Pamela Mugliston, Treasurer: Sandra Marsh

### **Dates for Your Diary**

Wed 30th April, closing date for submission of your recipes for our Friends book. Please keep them coming as we are hoping for a good variety.

Wed 7th May "The Real Margaret Thatcher" a talk by Sir John Coles GCMG. See full details on page 2. Do let me know if you are able to come so that we can cater sufficiently. Open to all!!

Sun 13th July The Friends Bring & Share Lunch. This will be in the Parish Rooms after the 10.30 service. More details to follow later and we do look forward to seeing as many of you as we can fit in.

The AGM will, of course, follow the Patronal service which is normally the 2nd Sunday in September. We will keep you posted and again look forward to seeing you and to hearing your views on the progress of The Friends. Please bring along any fund-raising ideas you may have.

End of September A trip to Canterbury Cathedral is being planned. More details will follow.

Some time in the autumn there will be another talk on again a completely different subject. We hope we are keeping you interested!

*Pamela*

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*This calendar is provisional. See The Grapevine or the church website for the latest information.*

## St Mary's, Saffron Walden

One service in church each Sunday is streamed on YouTube [Y]: details on the church website. Coffee is served after the Sunday 10.30am services.

### Thursday 1 May

10am Silent Prayer in North Chapel  
7.30pm The Bible Course

### Sunday 4 May

8am BCP Holy Communion  
10.30am Holy Communion [Y] & Sunday Club



### Monday 5 May

2.00pm Tea party to commemorate the 80th anniversary of VE Day

### Wednesday 7 May

2.00pm The Bible Course  
7.30pm "The Real Margaret Thatcher", a talk by Sir John Coles in the Parish Rooms, organised by the Friends of the Parish Church but ALL ARE WELCOME

### Thursday 8 May

7.30pm The Bible Course

### Sunday 11 May

8am BCP Holy Communion  
10.30am Second Sunday Communion [Y] and Sunday Club  
11:45am Annual Parochial Church Meeting followed by PCC  
6.30pm Choral Evensong  
Canticles: Stanford in C; Anthem: *Give us the Wings of Faith* – Bullock

### Sunday 18 May

8am BCP Holy Communion  
10.30am Holy Communion [Y] and Sunday Club, followed by SMMA AGM  
6.30pm H2H café-style contemporary worship service

*Saturday 24 May*

11am Mayor-Making Service

*Rogation Sunday 25 May*

8am BCP Holy Communion [Y]

10.30am Family Service

6.30pm Taizé Service

*Ascension Day, Thursday 29 May*

7.30pm Choral Eucharist

Service setting: Wood in C minor (Gloria – Malcolm); Motet: *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring* – JS Bach

*Friday 30 May*

2pm Mothers' Union Deanery Simple Communion 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 (with Prayers for Wholeness and Healing on the 1st Wednesday of the month)

## St James', Swards End

*Sunday 4 May*

10.30am Holy Communion

*Sunday 18 May*

10.30am Morning Praise



## St John's, Little Walden

*Sunday 11 May*

10.30am Family Service

*Rogation Sunday 25 May*

10.30am Holy Communion



**Selective summary from draft minutes of the PCC meeting on 19th March 2025**

The Rector welcomed **Lynda Sebbage**, new Vicar of Debden and Wimbish, as a member of the PCC.

The Rector congratulated **Ella Harris**, who will be licensed as Team Vicar for the Cam Villages, probably in June. Prior to that, she will move into the Vicarage in Great Chesterford and the curate's house will be let.

The group progressing the replacement for our full-time **Youth Worker** have advised that the role be split into two part-time posts; a Youth Worker (20 hours) (ages 11-17), to work across the Team with support from all churches involved, and a **Children and Families Worker** (15 hours) (ages 0-11) primarily for Saffron Walden Parish. It was agreed that the post for a Children and Families Worker be advertised.

Helen Nash was appointed as chair of a reconvened **Children and Youth Committee**

**Lighting Project.** The Petition for Faculty was approved on 17th March 2025 with standard provisions. The presence of a maternity group of bats in St Mary's prevents work in the Chancel roof until 15th September. The tender responses from the four bidding contractors were received on 26th January. Two contractors were asked to re-price the installation to account for cost saving changes that have been identified. Subject to the completion of a re-pricing exercise, the team recommends that we proceed with Tom Flynn Electrical for the installation. Following re-pricing, the total cost from TFE is now £282,000. The next step will be to issue a Letter of Intent which will allow TFE to order the new fittings at a cost of up to £100,000.

The Rector thanked the Friends for a second donation of £30,000, making a total of £60,000. At the date of the PCC there remained a gap which it was proposed to meet by fundraising and continuing to look for cost savings. The installation will take until mid-March 2026 but the south and north aisles and nave lighting could be working before Christmas 2025. More details should be available for the June PCC. The Lighting Team proposed that we start the installation in September, and that work elements are prioritized according to how much additional funding had been received. The PCC approved the recommendation to contract with TFE for the installation of our replacement lighting, and that the team now work with them to plan the installation.

Steve Hasler noted that there are some optional items that the Lighting Team recommend are installed if we raise sufficient money: lighting the bosses on the nave and chancel roofs and the statues in the south and north aisles. The PCC agreed to continue to progress the project, including additional fundraising, and start the installation on 15th September.



A new **Electoral Roll** is being prepared as required by the Regulations and reasonable steps are being taken to inform every person on the current roll that a new roll is being prepared and that people on the existing roll who wish to be on the new roll must reapply.

The Treasurer indicated that there was nothing extraordinary to report on the **Finances**. The annual report and accounts have been signed off by the auditors, Bentens, without any changes. They have also been reviewed by the Finance Committee, who have included some additional wording in the trustees' report. The General Fund turned out much better than expected – a surplus of £14,790; the first surplus since 2019 (mainly due to a saving on the Youth work and the decision to move the rental income from the Verger's Cottage from the Fabric Fund to the General Fund). The audited accounts for 2024 were approved by the PCC.

An **Updated Health and Safety Policy** was adopted.

The Communication Committee offered to investigate the suggestion of an **Instagram** account which would be more attractive to the younger age groups. The PCC approved the replacement/renovation of the external **freestanding display boards**, taking Jim Butler's design into account and financed by the Friends. The PCC also agreed that an application be made under the faculty legislation for the replacement of our **external fixed noticeboards** with materials that are more weather resistant. This will also provide an opportunity to update the information on the boards and to make them attractive, clearly visible and welcoming. The PCC approved a sum of up to £5,000 for the work and agreed the PCC has sufficient funds to pay for this work. The PCC noted a possible requirement for approval from Uttlesford District Council for the noticeboards and this will be investigated and progressed if needed.

It was agreed that an application under the faculty legislation be made for the installation of six **heaters** under the front three pews at **St John's, Little Walden** at an approximate cost of £3,100. The cost will be met from St John's funds and hopefully installed before December 2025.

The license for the **Team Council** expired some time ago. The legislation allowing for the creation of similar bodies has changed to "Joint Councils". The current Team Council is asking all PCCs of the Team to agree to the formation of a Joint Council with, as yet, no delegated powers. Judith Hasler requested that the draft scheme be put before the PCC for formal approval prior to being submitted to the Area Mission and Pastoral Committee for consideration. The PCC agreed in principle to the formation of a **Saffron Walden and Villages Joint Council**, and to become a member of that Council.

**Date of the next meeting:** 11th May 2025, following the APCM.

## St Mary's Music News

The Spring term has been a busy one for the musicians of St Mary's and also for the Musicians of Bremen: a wonderful performance given to us by Joyful Noise under the watchful eye of Kate Beare who gives tirelessly of her time to nurture the youngest voices in preparation for the rigours of Junior Choir.

The Choral Scholars represented the church admirably in the wider community, performing in Jonathan Dove's new opera 'Uprising', semi-staged in the Saffron Hall with notable professional soloists and accompanied by the Scottish National Orchestra. It was an enormous honour to be involved in an opera written by one of the world's leading composers. Eleanor, James, Harry and Stas sang beautifully and Hayden swapped his role as crucifer to don a helmet, wield his truncheon, and represent the long arm of the law. Oli King was a member of the elite music staff who helped to prepare the music and teach it to the students and adults.

Easter services were as busy as ever, the choir singing Stainer's Crucifixion on Palm Sunday with two of the country's finest up-and-coming soloists, Rob Folkes and Tom Butler, and on Easter Day both Eucharist and Evensong - the morning service with brass and sing-a-long Hallelujah Chorus. Harry also sang the first of Five Mystical Songs by Ralph Vaughan Williams.

The Spring coffee concerts have now finished – the programme of lunchtime recitals starting in June is on page 31. Many thanks to all who have contributed cakes and scones for refreshment, and it should be noted that the lunchtime concerts will also feature the finest (and cheapest) sandwiches made in Saffron Walden.

Looking ahead to May, Choral Evensong on the 11th will see the resumption of post-service prosecco. Listen to the world's finest choral music within the splendour of St Mary's and then feel free to wash it down with a glass of fizz – donations for fizz are welcome! On the 18th all are welcome to attend the event of the year, the SMMA AGM, held after the morning service, although fizz will not be served. On the 29th of May we have an Ascension Day Eucharist at 7.30pm.

Looking further ahead into the summer, on the 12th of July, international recitalist Wayne Marshall will be giving a recital at St Mary's at 5pm. Wayne is one of the greatest organists of our time and you will be able to hear him COMPLETELY FREE OF CHARGE, so please jump at this astounding opportunity. Fizz will be served after the recital (I detect a common theme emerging here) and donations will be received gratefully. Philip Sunderland



# Ashdon Open Gardens

## Sunday 15th June 2025

### 11am - 5pm

Proceeds to All Saints Church, Ashdon

Tickets - £10 per adult, Children FREE. Refreshments and lunches available

*(All Payments Cash or Cheques only)*

*Tickets from 'The Cart' in the centre of the village on the bridge - **CB10 2ET**  
and All Saints Church Rooms in Church Lane - **CB10 2HG***





Muniments  
Room

## From the Archives

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

**Compiled by our Archivist, the Rev'd Canon Chris Bishop**

### **May 1945 - May 2025**

As many different communities will be holding activities remembering the 80th Anniversary of the ending of World War 2, VE Day on May 8th, I was asked if there was anything in our Church Archives that could be displayed.

There were two interesting letters written by the Vicar in both May and June of that year which I passed on to the Wardens, which they will have enlarged and displayed in the church so that you can read how the first News of that ending of the war was received.

As you will be able to read them in church I have not reproduced them for the Parish News.

When talking about our Archive and having just written my report to the Annual Report may I say a big thank you to all of you who have been subjects of our monthly 'You in the Pew' interviews. I say this because with all our Parish News copies in the Archive from the 1800s to the present day we now have a valuable archive of today's congregation.

Thank you.

The Rev'd Canon Chris Bishop. Archivist

## **Summer Welcomers**

If you have ever wandered into our Church during the week, you will know that it is rare to be there for more than about ten minutes without some people coming in to have a look around; especially on summer Saturdays, when we can easily get upwards of one hundred visitors in the day. Some of these are locals, who have never ventured into our wonderful building, others come from every corner of the globe. All are fascinated by our beautiful Church and its history.

We would therefore like to reintroduce the idea of Summer Welcomers at St Mary's, which I believe we had before the pandemic and which we started again on a small scale last year, and we are looking for people to join

the team. You would be given full training (& a crib sheet); you would not be expected to be the equivalent of 'Blue Badge Guides', just to make people feel welcome, probably offer them tea or coffee and a biscuit (which they very rarely accept!) and answer any questions to the best of your ability. You could commit to as much or as little as you want – there will be a sheet to sign up for two hour sessions (or more, if you would like) – there will be a chair to sit on and you can bring a book! Hopefully there will also be two of you.

If you feel this is something you could offer the Church, I can promise you will find it very rewarding; you get to meet some fascinating people and at the same time have the satisfaction of knowing you are helping to make our Church a warm and welcoming place, open to all (including dogs!).

Please add your names to the list at the back of the Church if you are interested.

Vivian Falk

07811 165049

## Gelio's Anthology of Obscure Proverbs.

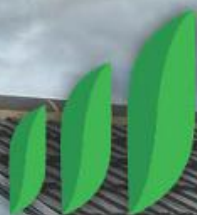


Here are a couple of wise proverbs on the subject of our consciences:

The first one comes from France and says **“there is no pillow so soft as a clear conscience.”**

The other, rather chilling, Yiddish proverb runs **“a bad conscience is a snake in one’s heart.”**





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## **£20,000 Matched Funding - Our Replacement Lighting**

We received the wonderful news at the start of April (not on April 1st !!) that an anonymous donor has indicated that they will match £ for £ any funds raised from now until September. This includes sponsorship for my cycle ride from Holyhead to Cardiff in May, plus any donations received and money from successful grant applications. So, £1 sponsorship to spur me on up those Welsh hills will bring £2 to the project as long as I complete the ride. And if you are minded to donate to the project, any donation will be doubled until the full £20,000 is matched. Meanwhile the first grant application has been made to Friends of Essex Churches Trust and a number of others will follow in April and May.

On 6th March, members of the Lighting Team interviewed the two contractors with the lowest bids and recommended to the March PCC that we appoint Tom Flynn Electrical to carry out the installation. Part of the final selection process was for the final two contractors to re-price the project to include some cost savings that we had identified. Both contractors are experienced in lighting work in churches of our size and in some of the cathedrals in the country. TFE were still the most cost-effective and their price, before VAT, is now very close to the cost estimated by our Lighting Designer when he developed the initial concept design late in 2023 despite building cost inflation over the intervening 15 months. Unfortunately, mainly due to the change made by the government in February on how much VAT we can reclaim annually, we are now clear that our funding gap is £38,000. £28,000 of this is VAT that we can no longer reclaim.

At the March PCC, it was agreed to appoint TFE, to progress more fundraising and to start the installation in mid-September. PCC acknowledged that if we don't have all the money required, the last parts of the project, which will probably be the north and south chapels, won't get new lighting. However, we plan to avoid this and the matched funding will help a great deal.

On the installation, we are starting to get some information on the programme. The work will start in the side aisles on 15th September and it is hoped that the new lighting will be in place by the second half of October. The work in the side aisles will start with the removal of the existing lighting and the rigging up of some temporary lighting and a similar approach will be taken for each area of the church. The nave will be next and the target is to have this finished before the contractors take a break for Christmas from 10th December. When they return in January, they will tackle the chancel

and sanctuary followed by the chapels and the project should finish in mid-March.

For now, it's back to training for my cycle ride from Holyhead to Cardiff and working with our Fundraising Team to get a number of grant applications made. If you would like to sponsor my ride, sign-up sheets are now on display at the back of St Mary's. Donations can also be made by electronic bank transfer using the details on the church website at "[www.stmaryssaffronwalden.org/lighting](http://www.stmaryssaffronwalden.org/lighting)". Please use a reference which includes the word "Lighting". If you want to follow my ride, you can do so at "[lonlascymrumay2025.blogspot.com](http://lonlascymrumay2025.blogspot.com)" which will be live nearer to the start date of 6th May and updated with a report at the end of each day's ride.

Steve Hasler  
April 6th 2025



## HOLIDAY COTTAGES TO LET NORTH NORFOLK



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## Grove Lodge Open Garden

Come and enjoy the wonderful summer display at Grove Lodge, Chater's Hill,



Saffron Walden CB10 2AB on **Sunday 15th June** between 14:00 and 17:00. About 10 minutes walk from St Mary's, Grove Lodge faces the Common on the east side, 100 yards from the maze. A large walled garden, with unusually high bio-diversity. Semi-woodland on light free-draining chalk soil allows bulbs, hellebores and winter-flowering shrubs to thrive. Geraniums, roses, hydrangeas and salvias should be looking their best. Tea and cakes will be available and live music (clarinet and piano) will be performed.

Full details are available on the National Garden Scheme website. All money raised goes to charity, and already this year almost

£2,000 has been raised for various nursing charities.





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## Remembering VE Day – 80 years on

80 years ago, on 8<sup>th</sup> May 1945, VE Day took place – marking Victory in Europe at the end of World War 2. It was celebrated as a public holiday, and came exactly a week after German radio announced the death in action of Adolf Hitler.

In reality, Hitler had committed suicide on 30<sup>th</sup> April. His successor, Grand Admiral Karl Dönitz, quickly negotiated an end to the war with the Allies – at the same time trying with some success to prevent as many Germans as possible from falling into Soviet hands.

Field Marshal Montgomery accepted the unconditional surrender of German forces in the Netherlands, north-west Germany and Denmark at a ceremony near Hamburg on 4<sup>th</sup> May. All German forces then surrendered to Supreme Allied Commander General Eisenhower on 7<sup>th</sup> May at Reims, France. Soviet leader Josef Stalin had his own ceremony, in Berlin.

The announcement that the war had ended in Europe was broadcast to the British people by the BBC late on 7<sup>th</sup> May. It was decreed that there would be a national holiday the next day, and the stage was set for huge celebrations. Prime Minister Churchill had been assured that there was enough beer in the capital, and commemorative items, including VE Day mugs, were quickly produced.

St Paul's Cathedral held ten consecutive services giving thanks for peace, each one attended by thousands of people, and churches throughout the country rang their bells. The Royal Family played a central role, appearing eight times on the balcony of Buckingham Palace while huge numbers of people flocked down The Mall.

In the United States, VE Day coincided with President Harry S Truman's 61st birthday: he dedicated the victory to the memory of his predecessor, Franklin D Roosevelt, who had died of a stroke less than a month earlier. But both Truman and Churchill pointed out that the war against Japan had not yet been won. That final victory was still more than three months away.

We will be honouring the bravery and sacrifice of the second world war generation with a **special tea in St Mary's from 2pm to 4.30pm on Monday 5th May**. There is no charge, but donations can be made to our lighting project.

By Tim Lenton, for Parish Pump

# 2025 Lunchtime Concerts

## *Music at St Mary's*

### Saffron Walden

*The following concerts start at 1.10pm and last approximately 40 minutes. Refreshments available from 12.30pm*  
*Free admission, retiring collection*

**Wednesday 4 June**

Caroline Law *Soprano* & Elis Reed *Piano*

**Wednesday 11 June**

Veronica Henderson *Cello* & Liz Mucha *Piano*

**Wednesday 18 June**

Oliver King *Organ*

**Wednesday 25 June**

Arwen Newband *Violin* & Anna Le Hair *Piano*

**Wednesday 2 July**

Joanna Lam *Piano*

**Wednesday 9 July**

Derek Scurll *Piano* & Stephanie Reeve *Clarinet*

**Wednesday 16 July**

Joanna Byers *Flute*

**Wednesday 23 July**

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