

Parish News

St Mary's Church, Saffron Walden

St John, Little Walden and St James, Swards End

Part of Saffron Walden & Villages Team Ministry



June 2025

FREE

The Rev'd Ella Harris, who has completed her curacy here, and has now been accepted for a post in the Team with particular responsibility for the Cam Villages. She has moved from Saffron Walden to Great Chesterford. The Licencing service will take place on 11th June at St Mary's, Saffron Walden.

Another new member of the team will be the Rev'd Romey Poston, who will be responsible for the Ashdon and Hadstock villages from the autumn. She joins from the Oxford Diocese, where she has served as a curate in the Langtree Ministry Team.

Photograph: Martin Hugall




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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 **July** issue is **Sunday 1st June 2025**.

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www.stmaryssaffronwalden.org/parishnews

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Links to both can be found at the bottom of our website pages

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The Rector's Letter

From The Rev'd Jeremy Trew

Jeremy writes...

The Diocese of Chelmsford is currently prevaricating over whether or not to run a clergy conference. These events used to be a regular feature of clergy life; a good opportunity to be updated on Diocesan matters; receive some training and spiritual input, and have a moan about parishes (I think that's called networking). Such conferences don't happen so often these days. In fact, the last one I attended was in 2018. The ability to keep in touch by other means, "gather" large numbers via the internet, and the simple cost have meant they are rarer now. I don't know if this proposal will get off the ground. It sounds like we feel we ought to, but we can't really make up our minds if we want to.



The first time I attended one of these though things were quite different. I was a green curate with just a few months' experience under my belt. Most of the faces were still strange to me and, not knowing if all the senior clergy had a sense of humour, I was a little intimidated. That's where the accommodation at the conference centre came in handy. You see, it was quite an old place and few of the rooms were en-suite. Meeting an unshaven Archdeacon stumbling down the corridor in their pyjamas early in the morning immediately undermined any sense of intimidation that either they wished to project, or I perceived. Here they were, mere mortals like me. Sadly, the accommodation has been upgraded, and new curates no longer get the benefit of the primitive bathroom arrangements.

Self confidence is a tricky thing. Most of us tend to be either lacking in it or possessing too much – self deprecating or arrogant. Either way we suffer from a misapprehension of our own worth and standing, and others do too as a result. Christianity has what I believe is a helpful response to all this; "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace" (Romans 3:23). It acknowledges a simple and honest truth; that we have all done wrong and made a mess of things. Yet this is not the end of the matter, for our wrongdoing is undone by God's own goodness. Because of that we may think well of ourselves with some justification. The public perception of Christianity is often that it simply pulls people down with all its "thou-shalt-nots", and the Church has certainly been guilty of this at times. Sorry. The deeper truth is that the Christian message both pulls us down to earth with its uncompromising truth about wrongdoing, but also exalts us with a message of restoration and new hope. That's why we call the

Gospel message the “good news”. It is good news for all of us; irrespective of our lack of confidence or arrogance; and, irrespective of what we look like in our pyjamas.

Please don't dwell on that last image.

Best wishes

Jeremy

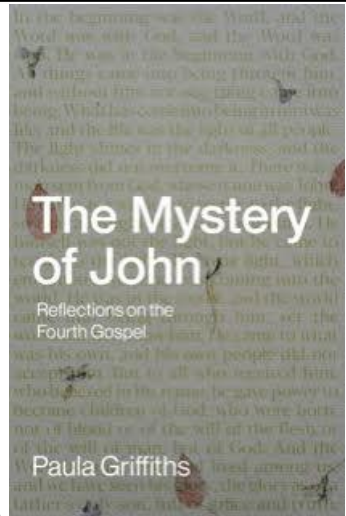
The Mystery of John: Reflections on the Fourth Gospel

Author: Paula Griffiths

Publisher: Instant Apostle

ISBN: 978-1-912726-87-5

Price: £13.99



The **Mystery of John** is due for publication on 20 June. All the author's personal proceeds will be divided between the churches of the Saffron Walden and Villages Team Ministry.

Two events are being held in Saffron Walden to launch the book:

Wednesday 25 June, Hart's Bookshop, 24 King Street, 6.30-8pm

Come to hear Andy Colebrooke interview Paula about the book, and enjoy an evening in Hart's, with a free drink.

Wednesday 2 July, St Mary's Church, 6.30-8pm

A further opportunity to hear Andy and Paula talk about the book.

Drinks available: no charge, but donations welcome towards the Lighting Project.

Copies available to buy and for signing at both events, but no obligation to buy!

What's in a name? (8)

Winstanley Road

So, why do we have a road called Winstanley Road in Saffron Walden?

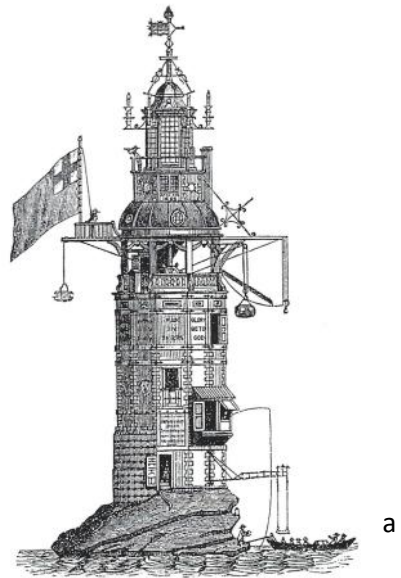
Henry Winstanley was born in Saffron Walden in 1644, probably on the site of a house in what is now Museum Street. He was the son of Henry and Anne Winstanley and his father was the land steward to the Earl of Suffolk, the then owner of Audley End House. Henry was educated at Saffron Walden Grammar School and then began a career at Audley End where he worked as porter before becoming a secretary.

He spent time touring the continent and developed an interest in continental architecture and the engravings made of the buildings. On his return to England, it is believed he studied engraving with the noted engraver Wencelas Holler before being employed as assistant Clerk of Works at Audley End. In 1676 he began a series of etchings of Audley End House and became Clerk of Works in 1679. The engravings show Audley End House in its full glory before parts of it were dismantled during the Countess of Portsmouth's ownership.

As well as his interest in engraving, Henry was also fascinated by mechanical and hydraulic gadgets and filled his house in Littlebury to which visitors were invited with such mechanisms, as well as opening 'Winstanley's Water-works' in Piccadilly, London. He also became interested in ways of preventing shipwrecks since he had lost money invested in ships which were lost on the Eddystone Rocks.

He designed a lighthouse built of wood and granite which was completed in 1698. The first lighthouse suffered some storm damage and so a larger one was built and from 1698 to 1703 no ships were lost on the rocks. However, in 1703 during a huge storm, Winstanley, who was effecting repairs to his construction, was drowned.

There are many good books available for anyone wanting to find out more about Henry Winstanley.



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YOU in the **PEW** interviewed by Sue Birchall

Joan Towers

I was born in 1932 at Alpha Place and have lived all my life in Saffron Walden. My brother David and I lived a happy childhood often being cared for by “Granny Ketteridge”, when we played in the fields around Landscape View’s Waterworks and in the Plantation.

Schooling was in South Road, where I had many friends. Aged 14, I went to work at the Talbot Press learning bookbinding where my skills with a needle were started.

Wartime brought evacuees to stay and we had great fun knitting copious scarves and gloves. There was lots of music in our home, and I still love to sing to this day. I have many memories of my youth in the amateur dramatic and operatic societies.

1955 was memorable as I met my dear husband Ernie at a dance in the town hall. We had 3 children and I have lived in Hollyhock Road ever since moving there in 1963. I worked hard bringing up the family with Ernie and had a variety of jobs along the way. St Mary’s school kitchens, domestic work in the General Hospital (where the UDC offices are now) and then latterly using my sewing skills in the hospital linen room, making curtains, mending patient’s clothes and all sorts of other vital needlework jobs. I retired in 1992.

St Mary’s was not the first church that I attended. Initially I went to the Baptist Church as it was nearer to my childhood home in Pleasant Valley. I have very happy memories of singing the part of the Angel Gabriel. I first attended St Mary’s when I started attending the young wives group run by the Rev’d Sinker’s wife. This was followed by membership of The Mother’s Union which I have continued to this day. Fellowship and shared values have been very important to us all, and this group has given it to me for many years.

These days, I love the “knit and natter” gatherings at the URC and any events and outings organised by the MU. I have knitted countless small items and am still very busy. My small figures and animals for illustrating bible stories seem to be loved by the St Mary’s Tinies group and many other people who have bought them at our Christmas fairs. Working on teddies for Baptisms, making hats for Ukraine and creating anything for the babies in the Rosie Hospital keeps me from falling asleep! I love to be busy with my hands, and the challenge of another little figure for the Tinies



collection still gives me much enjoyment.

My marriage to Ernie, especially following the death of my mother, gave me enormous support, and we enjoyed many happy years together. Latterly I cared for him as much as I could whilst he suffered from dementia.

I can think of lots of favourite sayings but I always feel that I am still learning how to be a Christian. "A pilgrim on life's journey" would be my motto.

Sue Birchall adds..." In the 5 years that I have known Joan, it has been a privilege to have her as a treasured friend. She has written down many of her life's memories and the foregoing is a small extract. Joan is one of our oldest church members and surely one of the most cheerful. A kinder, funnier and more faithful person you could not wish to meet"

FRIENDS VISIT TO LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL

33 of us from the Friends of St Mary's Church visited Lichfield Cathedral on 8 April 2025 and explored the medieval cathedral on guided tours. We were amazed at the many life-sized sculptures on the west entrance, from St Chad to Queen Victoria. The Cathedral has three spires, one of them being the same height as St Mary's. The history of the Cathedral gave everyone lots to talk about as we enjoyed lunch at a restaurant close by. A walk around the city, taking in the pool and parks in the sunshine, was really enjoyable.



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

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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Corpus Christi: Choral Eucharist

Thursday 19 June at 7.30 pm

What is Corpus Christi? The words are Latin for 'the Body of Christ', and the Church celebrates this each year on the first Thursday after Trinity Sunday. It's a special time to give thanks for what Jesus did at the Last Supper as he took Bread and Wine, blessed them, gave them to his disciples as his own Body and his Blood, and commanded them to 'Do this in remembrance of me.' That, of course, was the origin of the Holy Communion service, or Eucharist (Greek for 'Thanksgiving'), which is still so fundamental to our worship today.

We also remember the Last Supper on Maundy Thursday – the evening before the Crucifixion. But so much else is happening on that momentous evening: Jesus washing his disciples' feet; the mounting tension as Judas Iscariot leaves the Upper Room to betray his Master; Jesus' agony in Gethsemane, and his arrest. We can't quite take it all in.

As far back as the 14th century, the Church felt that this great event deserved its own festival, and placed it on this day - the first Thursday after we have celebrated the joy of the Resurrection, the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, and contemplated the mystery of the Trinity, one God in the three persons of Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

A Choral Eucharist is particularly fitting for this precious opportunity to pause, reflect and give thanks in loving reverence for Jesus Christ's continuing presence with us. The hymns for the service will reflect the Eucharistic theme. The setting for the service will be Darke in E, the choir will sing the motet Ave verum corpus (Hail, true body) by Nixon and the organ voluntary will be Le Banquet Céleste (The heavenly banquet) by Messiaen : just a few of the many musical offerings by composers through the centuries who have sought to reflect the wonder of Jesus' great gift in their music. Do come and be with us.

Paula Griffiths

A Prayer for June

An ancient Celtic prayer for peace and sleep, provided by the Prayer Team

May the peace of the tallest mountain and the peace of the smallest stone
Be your peace

May the stillness of the stars watch over you

May the everlasting music of the waves lull you to rest.

Amen



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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

30th April was the closing date for the Recipe book but if you are still checking your granny's notes, I would be happy to receive them in the next couple of weeks while I sort them all into categories. I will let you know if I am short in any particular areas. Thank you all for your submissions.

Sun 13th July after the 10.30am service, our annual Bring & Share lunch for all Friends members to get together and catch up with each other whilst enjoying some delicious food. Hopefully we will be able to meet our new members who have joined since last year. More details to follow.

Last year we had a wonderful turnout for the AGM so we look forward to seeing you again this year. The Patronal Service is **7th September** followed by the AGM at 11.45am in the Parish Rooms.

The visit to Lichfield (see page 9) was most enjoyable. **End of September** will be our trip to Canterbury Cathedral, I will let you know as soon as I can confirm a date.

Following our successful evening with Sir John Coles (see page 19), look out for details of our next talk which will be in the autumn.

In **November** we will launch the Recipe book with a social event. We hope to make some good sales at the Christmas Fair and then the book will be available from our bookstand.

Pamela

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The Calendar

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.

Sunday 1 June

8am BCP Holy Communion
10.30am Holy Communion [Y] & Sunday Club
12pm Organ Recital by Ziyi Wang, organ scholar



Thursday 5 June

10am Silent Prayer in North Chapel

Sunday 8 June Pentecost

8am BCP Holy Communion
10.30am Second Sunday Communion [Y] and Sunday Club
6.30pm Choral Evensong
Canticles: Ireland in F ; Anthem: *For lo, I raise up*, op145 – Stanford

Wednesday 11 June

7.30pm Licensing of Rev'd Ella Harris in St Mary's Saffron Walden

Trinity Sunday 15 June

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

Corpus Christi Thursday 19 June

2pm Mothers' Union Wave of Prayer
7.30pm Choral Eucharist
Service setting: Darke in E (Gloria – Rawsthorne)
Motet: *Ave verum corpus*—Nixon

Note also Wednesday Lunchtime Concerts—see back page for details

Sunday 22 June

8am BCP Holy Communion [Y]
10.30am Family Service
7.00pm Taizé Service (note new time)

Tuesday 24 June

7.30pm Archdeacon's Visitation

Sunday 29 June

8am BCP Holy Communion
10.30am Team Communion Service [Y]
6.30pm Celtic 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 1 June

10.30am Holy Communion

Trinity Sunday 15 June

10.30am Morning Praise



St John's, Little Walden

Sunday 8 June Pentecost

10.30am Family Service

Sunday 22 June

10.30am Holy Communion





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***



Friends Talk: The Real Margaret Thatcher

Sixty two people attended this talk by Sir John Coles, (the Prime Minister's Private Secretary for Foreign & Defence Affairs 1981-84) and there was a real buzz afterwards as people made their way out. We now have a much better insight into Margaret Thatcher, not the Iron Lady, as the press named her, but very much a hard-working, caring, sometimes openly emotional lady who gave her all for her country. We learned how those around her, including Sir John, also worked the long hours that she did, 7 days a week in times of crisis. We heard more about the Falklands War and how Margaret (only ever "Maggie" in the Press) travelled there, strapped in a Lancaster with everyone else, to visit and talk to all the people in residence. We heard how she cried when hearing of the crash of 2 helicopters and the probable loss of life.

We learned of her visit to Beijing during the Hong Kong discussions, a huge issue which took years to resolve but she did it. She was the first Prime Minister to visit many countries including, surprisingly, Australia where she was appreciatively received. Margaret was invited to too many countries to list and was really popular but her favourite place was America which she visited many times and where, of course, she had regular meetings with Ronald Reagan.

An enlightening evening and we thank Sir John for his time with us. There will be another talk in the autumn, details to be announced.

Pamela Mugliston. Photograph by Tony Downing



St Mary's Music News

The end of June marks the deadline to apply for the Michael Swindlehurst Organ Scholarship. Our current scholar, Ziyi Wang, has been an invaluable asset to the music team and she will mark the end of her tenure with a recital at St Mary's. This will take place on Sunday 1st June, at approximately 12pm, after the morning service. Please make a note of the date and come and support her.

Other dates for the diary in June include Choral Evensong on the 8th June, after which drinks will be served. Drinks are served at no charge, although an appropriate donation will be received gratefully! There will be a Choral Eucharist at 7.30pm on the 19th June for Corpus Christi. (see also page 12)

June is indeed 'Bustin' out all over' as the much-celebrated summer lunchtime recital series begins again on the 4th June. The first recital will be given by two musical giants within the community, soprano Caroline Law (Head of Music SWCHS) and her deputy, one of the finest musicians in the County, pianist Elis Reed. Lunchtime concerts commence at 1.10 pm and lunch is available from 12.30pm. There are no finer lunches available anywhere and the meal deal, still under £5 per person includes a hot drink, a choice of gourmet sandwiches and a selection of incredible cakes. Audience numbers are growing steadily, largely because of the fantastic catering provided under the critical eye of the Mary Berry of St Mary's, Hannah Razzell.

Concerts continue every Wednesday at 1.10pm. On the 11th we have Veronica Henderson (cello) and Elizabeth Mucha (piano) and on the 25th, Arwen Newband (Violin) and Anna le Hair (piano).

On the 18th June our Director of Music, Oliver King, will put what's left of our organ through its paces. Oli's recitals are always breathtaking, so please do come and support him.

Looking further ahead to July, a reminder that world-famous organist Wayne Marshall is giving a recital on the 12th July at 5pm. This concert will be followed by drinks at the back of the church. The considerable cost of this concert is being covered by SMMA fundraising and so there is no charge for tickets. This really is an incredible opportunity to hear one of the greatest organists alive today for free!

Philip Sunderland

*Do you play
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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

June 1965

The Vicarage Garden Party will be held on Saturday, June 12th at 3pm and will be opened in the afternoon by Mrs Stuart-Johnson of Mole Hall, Widdington. I have invited them to bring along a suitable animal (not too wild) from their Wild Life Reserve. This would be an added attraction ! (Eric. W. Raynor).....

For those who wonder what we do with the money collected for waste paper ...with your kind help we have given donations to Church Funds, bought a projector for Church use, provided Table Tennis Equipment, Crockery, spoons etc. and bought new cleaning materials for the new Parish Room Caretaker.....

Our Three One Act Plays which were held in the Parish Room on April 21st and 22nd, were very successful,. We had quite good houses, and the Plays were enjoyed by all who saw them., making a profit of over £6..... We were very grateful to our two producers Mrs Barnard and Mr Hatton. We would welcome new members male and female, subs 5/-, under 16 1/-.

Infants' Sunday School. We welcome all children ages from 3 to 7 years, we have a very flourishing school and a very good band of teachers. During Lent, we have collected over £4 for Church Funds and our Missionary Project to send a Nurse overseas to India.

We were delighted on Sunday, May 9th , to have visiting us the black Bishop of Uganda, who spoke to the Children of his Sunday School abroad, and gave us his blessing. M.B., Supt

From the Registers

Baptism

27th April Mary Emma Davies

Funerals

25th March Brian Kerrison
3rd April Major Henry Crosby R.E.
30th April Archie Trimnell

Gelio's Anthology of Obscure Proverbs



Here are three challenging old proverbs on the subject of Youth. Do they 'ring any bells'?

Who that in Youth no virtue useth, in age all honour him refuseth. *(English)*

Youth and age will never agree. *(English)*

Praise youth and it will prosper. *(Irish)*

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Our Replacement Lighting – Good Progress on Finding the Remaining Funding

As I mentioned in the May Parish News, earlier this year we were presented with a funding gap of £38,000, mainly due to the change by the government on the level of VAT which we can reclaim. There has been a lot of work in April and May to address the gap.

The Lighting Fundraising Team have made three grant applications in April and three more are about to be submitted and the Lighting Team has been working with our designer and installation contractor to see where we might make some cost savings. And there has been fantastic support for sponsorship for my cycle ride, I'm writing this just before the ride, and with new and additional donations. Thank you all so, so much for your support with sponsorship and donations and to all members of both of the above teams who have put in a lot of hard work and time.



David Birchall, our Treasurer, and I will check continually how we're doing to "close the gap" and we will provide an update through a display at the back of the church and in The Grapevine in late May or early June, just about the time you'll be reading this. The July Parish News will have an update too.

I'm hoping that by the time you read this that I'll have completed my cycle ride across Wales. Assuming I have and if you haven't sponsored me but would like to do so, you can find more details on the church website at "www.stmaryssaffronwalden.org/lighting". Please use a reference which includes the word "Lighting" or "Cycling". If you want to see how the ride went, you can do so at "lonlascymrumay2025.blogspot.com".

Steve Hasler

May 1st, 2025



Above: Steve Hasler, Tim Mills, David Tomlinson and Ray Haynes prepare to leave Holyhead. Left: Steve, before he left for his Welsh expedition.

Details of the ride will appear in July

All set for recasting the 7th bell

Almost a year has passed since the 7th bell of our world class ring of 12 bells cracked. We've been busy during this time and now have a firm date for the recasting of the bell on Thursday 26th June. A fitting date as it is the anniversary of Great Ringing Day – a Saffron Walden tradition dating back to 1623.

How did the bell crack?

The cracking of the bell is not explained by the common causes of failure (metal fatigue etc.). Investigation by bell experts linked the crack to the bell being struck by the clapper of the 8th bell which broke during service ringing. The clapper is a large piece of wrought iron weighing about 18 Kg that swings inside the bell, striking it as the bell turns through a complete circle. When the clapper broke it flew out of the 8th bell and stuck the 7th, which was probably swinging towards it, this extraordinary impact caused; a deep gouge in the 7th bell on its sound bow, and the integrity of the 7th bell to be compromised leading to a full crack developing on 28th May 2024.

Removing the 7th Bell

We contracted John Taylor & Co. of Loughborough, the UK's last bell foundry, to remove the old bell, recast a new one that will match tonally the existing ring and install it.

At 8:30am on 6th May, Andrew Mills of Taylors arrived to start work removing the old 7th bell. We organised a team of 6 volunteers to help and under Andrew's expert guidance the bell weighing in at 6 ½ cwt (that's 330Kg in 'new money') and all its fittings – including the 70Kg cast iron headstock were safely removed from the tower.

We should make special mention of Andrew, as we are very lucky to have him working on our project. Andrew has worked all his life with bells, he is an outstanding



bell engineer with a deep knowledge of this heritage skill, outside of work he is one of the country's leading bell ringers. The day before our work, he rang in a record peal lasting over 7 hours at Exeter Cathedral (the second heaviest ring of bells in the world) and after leaving us on Monday afternoon, he was off to help a band ringing at a local tower. By contrast, after the hard day's work in the tower we volunteers could not do more than support the local Indian restaurant...

Recasting the bell – 'Great Ringing Day' 2025!

After the success of removing the old bell and getting it to the foundry, the project feels very live. We are all excited by the prospect of witnessing the recasting of the bell at Taylor's foundry on Thursday 26th June. Members of the church and town are welcome to join us that day (numbers permitting).

As part of the planning for the new bell, we have been working with the bell foundry and a national bell expert, Nigel Taylor, to create a specification for the new bell. Bells are always made from bronze (usually 80% copper and 20% tin) but the size, shape and tuning specification varies for each installation. We want our new bell to blend in with the existing bells dating from 1798, which are less 'bright' (more mellow) than modern rings - think of the contrast between some modern pianos from the far east with older European instruments...

Our new bell will weigh in at around 7cwt (using all the metal from the old bell topped-up with about 1cwt. of new bronze). Its mould will be designed and made to give a profile (shape) that allows tuning to match the existing bells.

The new bell will produce many frequencies of sound. Once cast, these partial frequencies are tuned by removing metal in annular rings, from the inside. In fact, it is usually not possible to tune a single partial in a bell. The bell-founder's skill is in accurately bringing the partials into tune with themselves, and the overall bell in tune with our existing ring.

Rehanging the bell

We are now planning for the rehanging of the new bell, probably during the last two weeks of July. It will be blessed and dedicated at a Sunday service that will give everyone an opportunity to view the bell and its inscriptions.

For further information, please contact Chris McCarthy at keeper@saffronwaldenbells.org.uk

Chris McCarthy of the St Mary's Saffron Walden Society of Change Ringers
Picture of Andrew Mills preparing the 7th bell for removal by Oliver Clinton

Details of the recasting will appear in the Grapevine.

The Hundred Parishes Society—Parks



June is the month when many gardens open to the public. We know that being outside is good for our wellbeing, both mental and physical. Besides the open countryside, we are fortunate in The Hundred Parishes to have parks and gardens where we can walk, sit and enjoy nature. I will mention just a few.

Bridge End Gardens in Saffron Walden was created by a local businessman and Quaker, Francis Gibson, in the 1840s. It is now managed by Saffron Waldon Town Council. Delights to explore include the hedge maze, rose garden and Dutch garden.

The Gardens of Easton Lodge in Little Easton have limited opening hours which can be found on our website www.hundredparishes.org.uk or eastonlodge.co.uk. They were designed by Harold Peto in 1902 for the Countess of Warwick who lived at Easton Lodge.

In Stansted Mountfitchet, the **Aubrey Buxton Nature Reserve** is a 25 acre woodland with six man-made ponds. It was originally part of the park and garden of Aubrey Buxton's house. He was a co-founder of the World Wildlife Trust and donated the land to Essex Wildlife Trust. Today you can enjoy circular walks passing the ponds through the wood.

We hope you enjoy the summer and explore some of our wonderful parks and gardens.

Ken McDonald, Secretary



VE80 celebrations—5th May 2025



We can't know how St Mary's would have celebrated the 75th anniversary of the ending of WW2 in Europe, but it is hard to imagine that the party would have exceeded that given for the 80th last month. Vivian Falk ensured that this important anniversary should be marked properly, and with Gill Caswell and many other loyal helpers, gave a tea party of which our church should be extremely proud. No sign of ration cards! A continuous stream of visitors made counting impossible, but there were probably around 400 guests in total. "It was lovely to see how many visitors we had, and how well they melded with the congregation members. People were chatting happily - some about their own war memories or the stories handed down by their parents; at least one had brought some of their own family's wartime documents. But they were also chatting more

generally, and clearly enjoying the afternoon - and feeling comfortable in the church building." Although the aim was solely to provide a welcoming afternoon for residents and visitors to Saffron Walden, we ended up raising £579 from voluntary donations for the lighting fund.

Photos by Martin Hugall



Music at St Mary's

Saffron Walden

Lunchtime Concerts

The following concerts start at 1.10pm and last approximately 40 minutes. Refreshments available from 12.30pm

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 Scurl *Piano*
Stephanie Reeve *Clarinet*

Wednesday 16 July

Joanna Byers *Flute*

Wednesday 23 July

Mitchison Ensemble

Evening Concert

Saturday 12 July, 5pm

Organ Concert

Wayne Marshall *International Concert Organist*

All concerts are free with retiring collection

