

# Parish News

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

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

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



**August-September 2025**

**FREE**



On Sunday 15th June the Junior Choristers at St Mary's Church in Saffron Walden organised a cake stall after the morning service. The cakes were made by the Junior Choristers and their families and £115 was raised to buy much needed equipment for them. New members in the age range 8-12 are always welcome. The choir provides a unique opportunity to have fun and make new friends whilst learning wonderful music.

Photo (by Martin Hugall) shows the Junior Choristers and their cakes with their mentor Alison Lawrence.



Paula Griffiths signing copies of her new book *The Mystery of John; Reflections on the Fourth Gospel* in Hart's Bookshop on 25th June. A similarly well attended launch took place in St Mary's in the following week, when Paula again discussed her book with Andy Colebrooke. Photograph by Martin Hugall.

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### St Mary's Church Website:

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

## 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 **October** issue is **Sunday 7th September 2025.**

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*Front and back cover photographs courtesy of Loughborough Bellfoundry Trust*

### St Mary's Church Social Media

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[instagram.com/stmaryssaffronwalden](https://instagram.com/stmaryssaffronwalden)

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...



"Tradition" is a funny word. For some it is associated with quality, skill and care; an echo of the "good old days". For others it is what we did last time and we liked it. Claiming to be "traditional" is often like claiming the moral high ground in an argument – it must be right because it is our tradition.

We all have our traditions. When I lived in Nottingham my postman was an avid "Forest" supporter, worshipping from the terraces every Saturday afternoon. He wore the same pair of socks to every match. He always put them on in the same order, and he always turned completely around before leaving the house and sitting on the doorstep to put his shoes on. You see, if he did this his team won! It was his tradition – and a fairly ineffectual one at that.

Likewise, at various times in my early days in this parish I asked people about how certain events had been run in the past. I received back a number of versions of our parochial tradition. Unfortunately it was impossible for all of them to be true given the number of contradictions between them, yet they each made the claim to the infallibility of tradition.

The Church of England is often described as being traditional. I'm not too sure what that means. Our services today follow a format used by Christians for nearly 1900 years. A temporary departure from this tradition in the Church of England was in the form of the Book of Common Prayer – the book preferred by "traditionalists" today. The "traditional" hymns we sing were once lambasted as profane ditties sung to common dance tunes – no change there then.

A tradition is of no value simply because it is a tradition, however quaint and charming it may be. Tradition only has value when it roots us into something which has been tried and tested, like the roots of a tree tapping into bedrock. It can then give us security through the storms and tribulations of life. We need tradition because we need security. In a more and more rapidly changing world the need for tradition grows. This need is reflected in nostalgia. A society that is secure and confident in itself is never particularly nostalgic.

Here is a challenge to Christians. We are called to hold onto our traditions, the system of faith passed down to us. Yet above this we are called to be a pilgrim people; our faith should be “on the move”. It’s not easy to go on pilgrimage carrying a heavy load. So maybe we should not be surprised that many who want to explore faith and spirituality have abandoned the baggage associated with traditional religion. Yet this often means discarding much that is rich and well tested. The answer is, I think, to evaluate the traditions we hold dear and be honest: Which do we hold on to because they are essential to a vibrant faith, and which are merely things we like, for there is nothing wrong with simply liking something for itself? Then we have to recognise there may come a point when we need to discard the latter as it has become a burden encumbering our further progress. Then we can go on, knowing that our pack now contains only those traditions essential to our faith, tried and tested by the saints who have travelled this way before.

Best Wishes

Jeremy

### **Selective summary from draft minutes of the PCC Meeting on 25th June 2025**

The Rector gave thanks, inter alia, for **Ella Harris’** licencing as Team Vicar on June 11th . The **Rev’d Romey Poston** will be licensed as Team Vicar at All Saints Ashdon on Tuesday 2nd September 2025.

**The Bell** - Work to remove and recast the cracked bell is funded and underway; a bat inspection confirmed that the work could go ahead in July. The re-casting and rehanging are opportunities to increase our engagement with the community, celebrate our heritage, and establish St Mary’s, Saffron Walden, as a training centre for ringers in the district. The Town Council granted permission for the town logo on the bell and the names of two change ringers, who have served continuously for over sixty years, John Mumford (from 1961) and Roger Collins (from 1962) will also be engraved. The bell will be on display in the church 12th /13th July and the church will be occupied overnight by the 1st and 5th Saffron Walden Scout Troops. The bell would be first rung on Friday 18th July at 7.30pm.

The freestanding **notice boards** look very grand and the No Parking ones will soon be ready, with thanks to James Butler. Martin is seeking quotes for the external fixed notice boards. The Rector thanked the Communications Committee for their work on this project.

The post of **Children and Families youth worker** had been re-advertised, together with the Youth worker post, with an application deadline of 27th June.

**Lighting Project** - All required funds have been raised and installation will start on 4th August, with work at ceiling level starting on 4th September.

The future of **Christian Aid collections** was referred to Churches Together due to the poor response to the street collection this year.

**Finance** - The Treasurer explained that maintenance of the Curate's house had used up most of the rental income. It was decided that the Curate's house should be inspected every 6 months in future. The Fabric fund balance was up by £23,045 following donations and fundraising for the Lighting Project. Further Fabric fund expenditure had been for repairs and maintenance to the Parish Rooms and church, including the boiler, roof alarm and sound system.

**Safeguarding** – The PCC members were reminded that it is a requirement that every PCC member should undertake the Basic and Foundation level safeguarding courses every three years and it is each person's responsibility to ensure their training is up to date.

**Daughter Churches** - St James Patronal Festival Hymns and Pimm's was to be held on 20th July, celebrating 30 years since the church was named St James. An outdoor service at St John's was well attended. Two new families are regular attenders. All brickwork has been successfully completed. The church is applying for the faculty for the heating. An Eco-church service is planned.

**Future events** – The Annual Church Meetings will be on Sunday 19th April 2026. Gill Caswell and Vivian Falk had attended a course entitled "Leading Your Church into Growth ('LYCiG') run for the Colchester Area and explained that the aim of the course is to inspire and encourage individual churches to look at where they are now and their aspirations for future growth. Gill noted that there will be two follow up sessions. One early result was that a stall in the Market Square was planned for Saturday 16th August, targeting the age group of people between 30 and 40 who are now joining British churches in numbers. The Rector spoke about the possibility of running a local LYCiG course which he proposed taking to the Team Council on 24th September with a view to running a course in the Spring.

The **next Meeting** will take place on Wednesday 10th September.

Clifford Want and Martin Hugall



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



### **Anna Martin**

Anna has lived in 20 houses in her life, but thinks of herself as a Hampstead Garden Suburb girl. Together with her husband Paul, she moved to Walden in 1989 after seeing an advert for a house to rent in a church magazine, when Paul got a job teaching in Bishop's Stortford, near to his parents.

Anna is currently the secretary of the Parochial Church Council (PCC). She tells me, "I joined the PCC because I wanted to make sure that St Mary's continued to be as wonderful as it was. It may sound awful, but it was for selfish reasons, since I get so much joy and support from the church community, and I hope others will be able to share this same joy. I adore singing in the choir, I love to attend the Greenways bible study group, and I am an official welcomer during family services. I find being PCC secretary a bit annoying, and don't get everything perfect, but it is really important to me that somebody does that role. Part of the job is communicating with others in an encouraging way, which is something I enjoy."

When asked what sticks in her mind as being significant since she has been living in Saffron Walden, she replied that she is happiest in church just before a service, when it is quiet and the choir are waiting to enter the aisle. She says: "At those times, my thoughts quieten down and I (usually) start turning towards God, and I feel like I am in exactly the right place at exactly the right time." Her favourite ever event was singing in the choir during Britten's "*St Nicolas*" cantata. She writes "Britten's theology is so weird and different from my own that it was a challenge, but the music was amazing. I guess I was won over by the kettle drum. I had had a lot of problems, so I



was grateful to God that my life seemed to be getting back on track, and surprised and delighted to find myself participating in such an amazing event. I have always felt, like Groucho Marx, that I wouldn't want to be part of a club that would want to have me as a member. Fortunately, God accepts everyone who turns to him/her, and I am overwhelmingly glad about that."

Asked, if she had a family coat of arms, what motto she would like to have on it, she replied "Different but united." Anna commented: "all the members of my family are wonderful and each is unique. I suppose that the church is the same."

## **What's in a name (10)?** Hollyhock Road and Chaters Hill

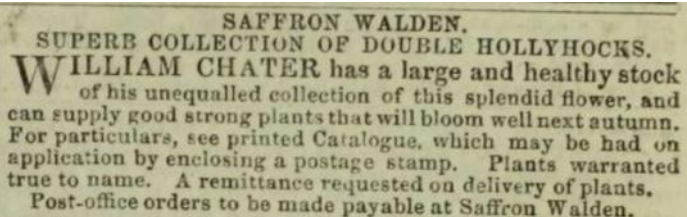
At first sight there is nothing to connect the two roads of this month's 'What's in a name?' other than the fact that they both link the Radwinter and Ashdon Roads, but the link is much stronger than that.

William Chater was a nineteenth century Saffron Walden nurseryman who collaborated with another Saffron Walden nurseryman, one Charles Barron, to cross hollyhocks using the stock of the two nurseries. In 1847 in his seed catalogue Chater offered, for the first time, reliable double hollyhocks. Chater continued to develop other varieties and gradually created a new double flowered strain of hollyhocks.

By 1850, Chater was exhibiting his hollyhocks at the Royal Horticultural Society and even won a Banksian Medal. Chater's success at developing new kinds of hollyhock attracted the attention of Charles Darwin who had been conducting his own hollyhock experiments. Indeed, Chater claimed 117 named varieties of perennial hollyhock before hollyhocks in general were hit by a fungal disease which had spread through much of the world.

There were many other claimants to be the developers of hollyhock strains, but Chater was probably the best publicist of his work and the double hollyhock strain still bears his name. And hence the name 'Hollyhock Road'. Saffron Walden hollyhock seeds can still be purchased and a walk around Saffron Walden in the summer will show many hollyhocks of a wide variety of colours. And both Chater and his hollyhocks are remembered in the street names Chaters Hill and Hollyhock Road.

Hilary Walker



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## 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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## What can we do to look after creation?

This was the question we posed at a service to celebrate Rogationtide held at Hatherley Residential Care home. Members of our Pastoral Care team visit Hatherley each month to bring Holy Communion to the residents, some of whom used to be regular members of St Mary's Congregation. The service takes place in the lounge and is open to anyone who wishes to attend – there are usually between 15 and 20 residents present. Each month we choose a theme relevant to the church season for a short talk, usually with a visual aid, and a simplified communion service to offer bread and wine which has been consecrated at St Mary's for use in the parish.

We thought about the old traditions of Rogationtide, including 'beating the bounds' of the parish where God's blessing would be sought for a good growing season. We considered the importance of insect life in pollinating the crops. Some residents had memories of farm and country life and interesting stories to share. But what can we do to look after creation?

This seems a challenging question for those who are now limited in their physical abilities. But Hatherley has lovely grounds and is happy to encourage



insect life. With some help from the younger generation, a colourful 'bee hotel' was made from recycled materials. It took a while to work out what this strange object might be, but it was correctly identified by one of the residents and they were happy to accept this and its potential occupants.

We concluded the service by singing 'We plough the fields and scatter'. For those living with dementia, the service can be difficult to engage with but the music of familiar hymns and praying the Lord's Prayer together bring a recognition and joy as old memories are renewed. After individual chats with many of the residents we took our leave thanking God for the privilege of being able to minister in this place. The bee hotel is now secured to a large tree in the gardens of Hatherley House - we hope the bees find it inviting.

Judith Hasler

Pastoral Assistant

*Note: the ministry and pastoral team lead monthly services in all the Saffron Walden residential care homes.*

## **Saffron Walden Lions Club – Appeal for volunteers**

The Lions run an Appliance Loan Service from a store behind the Radwinter Road hospital, whereby those in need can hire wheelchairs, rollators, walkers, commodes etc for periods of up to 2 months. Borrowing this equipment is free, but donations are welcomed so that we can support other local charities. We are urgently looking to expand the team providing this important and much appreciated service.

Currently, our volunteers (either full members of the Club or Friends of the Lions) are “on duty” one week in every five. This consists of answering requests for help (on the dedicated Lions mobile), arranging to meet at the store and showing our stock. By expanding the rota, our volunteers will be on-call less frequently, which is why we are looking for community-minded helpers to step forward.

The paperwork is very simple, and you will be given appropriate training. If interested, please contact Pamela Mugliston [pjmteddybear@btinternet.com](mailto:pjmteddybear@btinternet.com) or 01799 521697

### **Message in a bottle**

Lions Club’s ‘Message in a Bottle’ is a simple but effective way for people to keep their basic personal and medical details where they can be found in an emergency on a standard form in their fridge door.

The scheme helps emergency services personnel to save valuable time in quickly identifying an individual, and knowing if they have any allergies or take special medication.

Paramedics, ambulance crews and doctors support this Lions life-saving initiative and know to look in the fridge when they see the Message in a Bottle sticker inside your front door. The initiative provides peace of mind that prompt and appropriate medical assistance can be provided, and next of kin/emergency contacts can be notified.

You can collect a bottle, and sticker, from me at church every Sunday, or contact me, as above.

### **Spectacle collection**

Thank you to all those who have contributed their glasses to this great cause. It is an ongoing project, and the box is on the water table near the servery.





## 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

**The Bring & Share lunch will be on Sun 10th August** after the 10.30am service. We do hope that all Friends will come and take the opportunity for all Friends members to get together and chat. We particularly want to meet as many of our new members as possible and get to know each other.

The Patronal Service is **7th September**. The Sewing Ladies have continued to be busy and there will be kneelers to dedicate in the service. Last year we had a wonderful turnout for the AGM so we look forward to seeing you again this year after the service at 11.45am in the Parish Rooms.

The trip to Canterbury Cathedral will be on **3rd October**. Most of the seats have already gone, but we always have a reserve list, so let me know if you are interested. It promises to be an interesting time to visit this pre-eminent Cathedral, and will be something to look forward to over the summer.

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. Thank you for all your contributions. We hope to make some good sales at the Christmas Fair and then the book will be available from our bookstand, where we are assembling quite a library.

*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 3 August*

8am BCP Holy Communion  
10.30am Holy Communion [Y]

### *Thursday 7 August*

10am Silent Prayer in the Parish Rooms

### *Sunday 10 August*

8am BCP Holy Communion  
10.30am Second Sunday Holy Communion [Y]

### *Sunday 17 August*

8am BCP Holy Communion  
10.30am Holy Communion [Y]

### *Sunday 24 August*

8am BCP Holy Communion  
10.30am Team Holy Communion [Y]

### *Sunday 31 August*

8am BCP Holy Communion [Y]  
10.30am Family Friendly Holy Communion

### *Thursday 4 September*

10am Silent Prayer in the Parish Rooms

### *Sunday 7 September*

8am BCP Holy Communion  
10.30am Holy Communion : Patronal Festival [Y]  
Introit: Locus iste – Bruckner; setting: Harwood in Ab (Gloria – Jones); Motet: A maiden most gentle – Carter; Voluntary: Toccatina and Fugue in F – Buxtehude  
11:45am Friends of St Mary's AGM



*Thursday 11 September*

2pm Mothers' Union Corporate Communion Service in the North Chapel

*Saturday 13 September*

9am—5pm Ride and Stride



*Sunday 14 September*

8am BCP Holy Communion

10.30am Second Sunday Holy Communion

6.30pm SMMA Festal Evensong

Canticles: Stanford in Bb; Anthem: Greater Love hath no man – Ireland; Voluntary: Fanfare-Processional – Bednall

*Sunday 21 September*

8am BCP Holy Communion

10.30am Holy Communion [Y]

6.30pm H2H café-style contemporary worship service

*Sunday 28 September*

8am BCP Holy Communion [Y]

10.30am Family Service - Harvest Festival

6.30pm 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 in the Parish Rooms

9.30am Holy Communion (with Prayers for Wholeness and Healing on the 1st Wednesday of the month) in the Parish Rooms.

**A Summer Blessing**

May we walk with God this summer in whatever we do and wherever we go.

Walking with God means...walking with honesty and with courage,

Walking with love and respect and concern for the feelings of others.

May we talk to God this summer, and every day, and in every situation.

Talking with God means...praying words of praise for the beauty of creation.

Saying prayers of thanks for friends and good times.

Asking God's help in all our decisions, expressing sorrow when we have failed.

May we talk with God every day. Amen.

## St James', Sewards End

*Sunday 3 August*

10.30am Holy Communion

*Sunday 17 August*

10.30am Morning Praise

*Sunday 7 September*

10.30am Holy Communion

*Sunday 21 September*

10.30am Morning Praise, with St Mary's Junior Choir



## St John's, Little Walden

*Sunday 10 August*

10.30am Family Service

*Sunday 31 August*

10.30am Holy Communion

*Sunday 14 September*

10.30am Family Service

*Sunday 28 September*

10.30am Holy Communion



### Thank you Edward

After many years leading St Mary's Eco Group, Edward Gildea is stepping down from this role. At the last meeting of the Eco Group, members decided that, for now, the group would stop meeting, but the legacy of Edward's work continues:

St Mary's church groups will purchase items sustainably,

Edward will continue to maintain the wildlife areas of St Mary's churchyard (scything the long grass during July, leaving the windrows for a few weeks before raking them up in August),

I will continue to organise a monthly Fairtrade stall. One of the reasons I do this is because trade has powerful solutions to fighting the climate crisis. Find out more at [www.transform-trade.org/why-trade](http://www.transform-trade.org/why-trade). 'To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the Earth' is one of the Five Marks of Mission identified by the Church of England as one of its core principles. See more here: [www.churchofengland.org](http://www.churchofengland.org).

In time, perhaps, St Mary's will restart a group focusing on our stewardship of the environment. The climate crisis has not gone away but for now we are doing what we can and I thank Edward for what he has done and continues to do.

Alison Trew 2nd July



## Summer Term at St Mary's Primary School

It has been a busy summer term at St Mary's Primary School, and almost every week has brought memorable highlights. At the start of the term, Martin Shaw was welcomed as the new School Crossing Patrol Officer, replacing the loyal and dependable Ged.

The School celebrated the 80th anniversary of VE Day with an interesting talk by Mrs Potter, and a respectful minute silence for the children. Earlier in the term, Year 2 had paid a visit to the Imperial War Museum at Duxford. The School participated in various local and national initiatives, including 'Walk To School' week between 19th and 23rd May. On Ascension Day, assembly was led by the Rector. Since half-term the Year 6 children have been wrestling with SATs, while their counterparts in Year 5 had a 3-day residential visit to Danbury, developing their team-building skills (and perhaps not getting as much sleep as one might have liked). More recently, Year 5 has received a letter from the Prince of Wales thanking them for their geography project entitled "*Why oceans matter*".

And there is still much to look forward to before the end of term. Parents always look forward to the annual Summer Fair, coming up on 28th June, while most of their children are looking forward to Sports Day, scheduled for 2nd July. Or, perhaps, the Leavers' Disco, on 11th July, by which time we will all be anticipating the holidays.

John Pickthorn    22nd June

### From the Registers

#### Baptisms

15th June	Felicity Manda Rose Viggor-Barnes
22nd June	Albie Alan Steven Banks

#### Weddings

14th June	Kitty Baron and George Rutherford (Sewards End)
21st June	Emily Simou and Joe Hall
28th June	Jodie Willson and Jordan Foster

#### Funerals

10th June	Sean Francis McCormick
26th June	Michael Ernest Lambert



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**

From August 1961...

### **A Nursery Rhyme Up-To-Date**

TEN little Churchmen went to Church when fine  
But it started raining, and then there were nine.  
NINE little Churchmen stayed up very late  
One overshot himself and then there were eight.  
EIGHT little Churchmen on the road to Heaven;  
One joined a rambling club, and then there were seven  
SEVEN little Churchmen heard of Sunday 'flicks'  
One thought he'd like to go, and then there were six  
SIX little Churchmen kept the place alive  
One bought a television, and then there were five.  
FIVE little Churchmen seemed loyal to the core  
The Vicar upset one of them, and then there were four  
FOUR little Churchmen argued heatedly  
Over all the changes, and then there were three  
THREE little Churchmen sang the service through  
Got a hymn they didn't know, and then there were two  
TWO little churchmen disputed who should run  
The next social evening, and then there was one  
ONE faithful Churchman, knowing what to do  
Got a friend to come to Church, and then there were two  
TWO sincere Churchmen each brought in one more  
So their number doubled, and then there were four  
FOUR sturdy Churchmen simply couldn't wait  
Till they found four others, and so there were eight.  
EIGHT eager Churchmen at Communion every week  
Soon encouraged others, troubled souls to seek  
ALL the seats in Church are filled, not an empty pew;  
O God supply this grace and zeal in our own Parish, too.

## Gelio's Anthology of Obscure Proverbs



Here are two pertinent proverbs from England and Germany:

*"Peace within makes beauty without"*, and

*"Peace without truth is poison"*. With those two in mind, comes this from China

*"Patience is power; with time and patience, the mulberry leaf becomes silk."*

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## St Mary's Music News

In the absence of our regular, expert Music Correspondent, the Chairman has had to step in, apologies! The Summer term is never a quiet one, and this year has been no exception. The Junior Choir held a Bake Sale (see page 2) which had the congregation queueing for delicious treats post-service. Our increasingly-popular run of lunchtime concerts came to an end on 23 July. We have enjoyed some wonderful recitals this year, and whilst we had a disappointment in that Joanna Lam had to withdraw from her recital on 2 July, we were fortunate enough to hear from Krassimira Jeliazkova and Svetlana Kalinichenko who played some exquisite violin duets, featuring works by Mozart, Corelli and Saint-Saëns. The second weekend in July was especially busy, in that we welcomed the world-famous Wayne Marshall for a hugely inspiring organ recital and also premièred one of our newly-commissioned motets in memory of Chris Ferland with music by Brian Moles with words by Paula Griffiths, *Love Called For Light*, at Choral Evensong; both these occasions naturally featured wine and nibbles! Our youngest choir, Joyful Noise, also ended their term of music-making with a wonderful concert in the Parish Rooms, having also waved a fond farewell to Poppy who has been helping the group for the last two years, and also to Ruby, who has been an excellent helper and provider of drinks and biscuits to the group for the last three years; to quote one of the children 'the best biscuit lady in the world'! After a social gathering at the end of July, the choir is now on a well-earned break for the month of August, but will be back hitting the ground running for our SMMA Festal Evensong on 14 September (wine and nibbles will be back on the menu following this service). On Sunday 21 September the Junior Choir will be visiting Swards End Church to sing for the morning service, which will be the first such experience for our current choristers.

Looking ahead to October... On Sunday 5 October at 6.30pm there will be a very special Sung Eucharist featuring the World Première of Hannah's Mass, composed by Philip Sunderland. Philip has written this beautiful mass setting in memory of his sister, Hannah, but sees this service as an opportunity for all those who have suffered loss to join together and remember. Philip is fundraising in order to enable this performance which features brass, percussion and organ, and the proceeds will be divided between the hospice which cared for his sister, and St Mary's Church. To support his fundraising, please visit [https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/philip-sunderland-2?utm\\_medium=CR&utm\\_source=CL](https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/philip-sunderland-2?utm_medium=CR&utm_source=CL), or scan QR code on next page. Hannah Razzell



QR code for Hannah's Mass

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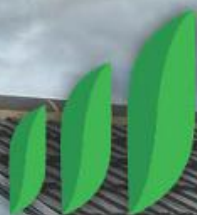
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## Visit to the Bellfoundry and 7th Bell Project

On Thursday 26th June, I found myself in a car with Steve Hasler, Vivian Falk and Margaret Walter driving towards John Taylor's bellfoundry in Loughborough [Yes! Apparently bellfoundry really is one word]. I had woken that morning feeling super-excited. We were visiting the only bellfoundry left in Britain, we were going to see molten metal being poured, just like the British heavy industry scenes I had watched on *Blue Peter* in my youth, by men wearing visors and brandishing long steel rods, and we were going to get a newly remoulded bell for our church, a historic day in the life of Saffron Walden. It felt like I was going to a wedding!

Since working on my book on *Dionysius Lardner*, I have always delighted in Steam Punk fashion, and now we were being taken, together with the Rev'd Jeremy Trew, the Saffron Walden bell ringers and many of their bell ringer friends, led by Chris McCarthy (Keeper of the Bells), around a brick built factory which felt exactly as it must have when it was first constructed in 1839. The foundry itself is a museum and anyone can go, and it is used by film makers too because, with all sorts of fascinating old tools, machinery and crafted bell parts neatly stacked about the place, it was all like a film set!

After a pub lunch and a tour of the premises, we found ourselves standing on a balcony looking down onto an enormous warehouse as a hoist as wide as the room lifted the bucket full of red-hot metal towards us. "Where is the bell?" we had asked ourselves, at first, until we realised that the three bells being cast that day were buried under the black sandy floor, each having just a small part of the attachment area poking out to receive the metal as it was poured in. After some minutes, the hoist moved the bucket back again, and men with rods stepped forward to tamp down any bubbles as the metal cooled. The room was filled with the noise of the grinding metal of the hoist, the clank of chains, the warmth from the activities down below, and the smell of melting tar.

The bell metal alloy has not changed much over the last thousand years; today it is 78% copper and 22% tin. When the original 7th was cast in 1797 the composition was approximately 80/20 (they didn't do things so accurately then, so might have been a slight variance...). Our bell, originally cast by John Briant in 1797, has been engraved with the town Coat of Arms, with the Council's permission, and the names of two change ringers who have served continuously for over sixty years; John Mumford (from 1961) and Roger Collins (from 1962)



The cost to recast the bell has mostly been paid for by insurance, and by the church's VAT allowance. As the 7th bell is re-installed, the Change Ringers are launching the Bells 2025 Project. The aims of this are:

- \* To explain our heritage of bells and bellringing at St. Mary's,
- \* To attract new ringers of all ages, and
- \* To improve the ringing experience.

The total project costs are estimated at £38,000 plus VAT. Generous donations have been made by the Saffron Walden ringers and the wider ringing community and others - and more is pledged. Grant applications

have also been made. Income at the time of writing stands at £22,695.00.

**If you would like to contribute**, please use a bank transfer to: Saffron Walden Society of Change Ringers,

Sort Code: 20-74-21

Account Number: 00775991

Reference: 10984091 - The reference number is very important – it directs payments to the ringer's account at the Saffron Building Society. Gift aid forms are available from [chris.mccarthy@hemsleyshomes.com](mailto:chris.mccarthy@hemsleyshomes.com)

If all goes well, the bell should have been returned to the church in the second week of July, dedicated at the 10:30 eucharist service on 13th July, and installed in the following week. We are expecting the first ringing to be on 18th July.

Anna Martin  
30th June

Photograph taken by John Mumford

## Installation of Our Replacement Lighting

When writing the update for the July edition of the Parish News, I reported that we had reduced our funding gap to £14,000 from £38,000. By the time that edition was published we had reached full funding and the editor helpfully added a Stop Press to note this. In addition to the amazing support from you all, we made 6 grant applications to Trusts and Foundations, 4 of which were successful. We also received an anonymous donation to fund the spotlights for the roof bosses in the nave and chancel, which are not lit at present, and which were an additional, optional item. The other optional item, lighting the statues in the south and north aisles can also now be progressed.

The outline of the programme for the installation is

- *Start Date – Monday 4th August.* Natural England have informed us that no work can be done at ceiling level except in the west tower until Monday 15th September, due to the maternity roost of bats in the church, they visit every summer.
- *Target completion date – Friday 13th March 2026*
- *Break for Christmas – Thursday 27th November or Friday 5th December,* depending on progress. The contractors will leave and take their equipment with them.
- *Storage of equipment –* all of the new light fittings will be locked away in the boiler room until they are installed. The contractor's mobile scaffold tower will be stored at weekends, covered with sheeting, in place of two pews against the north wall of the church.
- *Each weekend.* The church will be "handed back" to us each Friday with all equipment tidied away so that weekend services can continue normally.

### **Approximate more detailed programme:**

- *4th August to 12th September:* Work includes installing the control electronics in cupboards at the west end of the church, shelving out these cupboards to make space, re-cabling the choir stall lights, running a cable across the organ loft and fitting the new lights in the west tower, running a data cable across the steps at the west end of the nave.
- *15th September to 17th October:* Fit lighting in south and north aisles
- *20th October to 27th November:* Fit new lighting in the nave.
- *5th January 2026 to 6th February:* Complete nave works if required, fit new lighting in chancel.
- *9th February to 6th March:* Fit new lighting in north and south chapels.



- *9th to 13th March:* Test and commission.

The existing lighting will be removed when work starts in each area and temporary lighting will be provided during the period when the new lights are being fitted.

For Christmas we may have the new lights in both the side aisles and nave with controls which are just a simple on/off switch.

For the period of the installation the following services and activities have been moved to the parish rooms:

Tinies,  
Wednesday Morning Prayer,  
Wednesday 9:30am Holy Communion, and  
Silent Prayer.

Work will stop for funerals and weddings.

There will be a display in church from late August onwards which I will try to keep up-to-date to show progress, and, of course, updates on the website and in the Parish News. If you have any questions at any time, please do not hesitate to ask.

Steve Hasler 3rd July 2025



I have a lovely double room to rent in a very pretty country cottage just outside Saffron Walden with lots of room and a large garden. There is a separate shower room and toilet for use with the room. There is also plenty of parking. Use of kitchen and other facilities included. I am looking for a mature professional to share with. I have a friendly cat who also shares the house. The property is in council tax band C.

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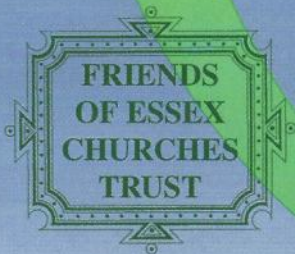


### On your marks . . .

On the second Saturday in September each year, 30 counties across the UK 'Ride and Stride' to raise money to help preserve and improve our historic church buildings

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- Add Saturday 13 September 2025 to your diary
- Source sponsorship from friends and family
- [www.friendsofessexchurches.org.uk/ride-stride](http://www.friendsofessexchurches.org.uk/ride-stride) for further information or scan the QR code



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- Please join us!



**Ride and Stride** (see poster opposite) is an excellent way to raise money, not just for our church here at St Mary's, but also for the many less fortunate churches in our county (extending into the East End of London)

Originally, R+S was intended to appeal to cyclists, encouraging them to visit as many churches as practicable in the course of the day. However, recognising that not everyone who wishes to do this is happy on a bicycle, walkers are similarly encouraged to take part, and information about a walk from St Mary's will be posted in the church during August. There are several churches here in the town...

# Stamp Sale

*In aid of Parish Church Building & Music Funds*



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