

Parish News

St Mary's Church, Saffron Walden

St John, Little Walden and St James, Sewards End

Part of Saffron Walden & Villages Team Ministry



March 2026

FREE

The return of Lady Braybrooke

Eagle-eyed visitors to the North Chapel may have noticed the welcome return of a plaque that fell off its wall sometime in 2017 or 2018, leaving a bare space above the memorial to the 10th Lord Braybrooke and his parents. The brass plaque is in memory of Florence Priscilla Alicia Maude, daughter of Cornwallis Maude, 3rd Baron Hawarden, widow of Charles Cornwallis Neville, 5th Baron Braybrooke, whose own plaque hangs elsewhere in the Chapel.

Lady Florence was a keen supporter and benefactor of St Mary's Church, and paid for the window in the East End of the Chapel (made by Burlison & Grylls and dedicated by the Bishop of Barking on 27th July 1904). Born (unsurprisingly in Florence) on 27th October 1825, she married the second son of Lord Braybrooke in October 1849. They

inherited the Braybrooke title in 1861 and lived at Audley End House, where

Lord Braybrooke died in 1902. They had no male heir and one daughter (Augusta, who married Richard Strutt, a younger son of Lord Rayleigh, but died in 1903). Lady Florence died in Bishops Stortford on 18th March 1914 and is buried in Littlebury.

It is no longer permitted to affix brass plaques to outside walls, so in order to replace the brass, it has been necessary to mount it on a slab of Kilkenny slate. This was accomplished by Skillington Lacks and made possible by generous assistance from a member of the family.

John Pickthorn, with help from Louise Newman



Contents for March 2026

THE RECTOR'S LETTER	4
NOTICEBOARD	
Calendar	18
From the Registers	19
Running Our Church	31
Lighting Installation	32
Service of Light	34
Palm Sunday Offering	36

REPORTS

Friends' Talk	5
November PCC Meeting	7
St Mary's Music News	11
Friends of the Parish Church	14
Young Groups	22
January PCC Meeting	25
Holocaust Memorial Service	34

FEATURES

The Return of Lady Braybrooke	2
You in the Pew	6
A Prayer for March	11
What's in a Name	12
Star of Bethlehem	16
Gelio	23
From the Archives	24

Front cover photograph by Steve Hasler

PARISH NEWS - EDITORIAL DEADLINE

The deadline for contributions for each issue is the 1st Sunday of the previous month. Hence, the deadline for the **April** issue is **Sunday 1st March**.

Copy to Parish Administrator:

email: office@stmaryssaffronwalden.org
01799 506024 or the editor, John Pickthorn:
jejpickthorn@gmail.com 01799 523311

Advertising:

Patrick Li. Advertising Manager, 07871 184351;
advertising@stmaryssaffronwalden.org or
Email: office@stmaryssaffronwalden.org

PARISH NEWS IS A FREE PUBLICATION and can also be viewed **(in full colour)** on our website:
www.stmaryssaffronwalden.org/parishnews

St Mary's PCC—Charity no. 1128863

Website & Social Media

www.stmaryssaffronwalden.org
facebook.com/stmaryschurchsaffronwalden
instagram.com/stmaryssaffronwalden
Links also at the bottom of our website pages

© 2026 All parts of this publication are subject to copyright.

TEAM RECTOR:

Rev'd Jeremy Trew: 07707 386 238; rector@stmaryssaffronwalden.org

TEAM VICARS

Rev'd Ella Harris: 01799 611 124; revellaharris@gmail.com

Rev'd Lynda Sebbage: 01799 796 193; debden.wimbishvicar@gmail.com

ASSOCIATE PRIEST

Rev'd Romey Poston: 07565 171 582; revd.romeyposton@gmail.com

ASSISTANT CURATE:

Rev'd Dr Hilary Walker: hcwalker55@gmail.com

CHURCHWARDENS:

Saffron Walden: Vivian Falk: 01799 513 128; vivian@brackendalehouse.co.uk

Saffron Walden: Simon Potter: 07913 898 248; simoncpotter@gmail.com

Sewards End: Michael Dean: 01799 523 388; michaelevelyndean@gmail.com

Sewards End: Lynne Ketteridge: 01799 523 898; lynneketteridge@hotmail.com

Little Walden: Helen and Dave Nash: 01799 524 265; davenash390@gmail.com

The Rector's Letter

From The Rev'd Jeremy Trew

Jeremy writes...

Lent is traditionally the time of preparation for Easter. Just as in Advent we prepare for Christmas and the incarnation of Jesus, in Lent we prepare to recall the stories of that first Easter with all their tragedy and hope. It's somewhat easier to move towards Easter in an appropriately spiritual manner than it is towards Christmas. Christmas brings with it all the distractions of the holidays, presents and cards, whilst Easter is more low key for most. Likewise, as we approach Christmas we also approach the shortest days, and Winter is still ahead of us. As we move towards Easter the days are lengthening and new life is returning to our hedgerows. Also, I suspect, we recognise the spiritual value of Easter; our Lord is crucified and raised to life; our salvation is won. But Christmas? Obviously it is a necessary precursor to Easter, but what more?

It's true that many Christians jump straight from the birth of Jesus to the first Easter, glad of the stories in between but not sure what greater meaning to give them. If we do that, we may make the mistake of abridging the Gospel message to something far shorter reaching and less rich and wonderful than it was ever meant to be: Christmas heralds the beginnings of the Kingdom of Heaven, here on earth. The task of the Christian, having received the gift from God that is their salvation, is to live for that Kingdom and see it grow through their love shared, and the service of others. Another word for this is "discipleship".

In Jesus' day any man could simply hand over his responsibilities to his wife and go and spend time learning from a Rabbi. Not good news for the wives maybe, although they might be glad to see the back of such a husband for a while. Jesus, however, was different. This Rabbi moved around a lot. He went from the North, often regarded as a spiritual wasteland by the religious elites, to Jerusalem, where the glory, and tension, of the Temple was found. He travelled from Jewish lands to Gentile ones, and along the borders between dissenting factions. He engaged with the wise and faithful, but also with those who put him beyond the pale of the aforementioned wise and faithful. He led his disciples and taught them to be



encountering differing perspectives and encouraging them to question and wonder at a bigger perspective on God than they had been offered before.

In doing so Jesus established a model for his followers both then and now. That is the key reason I am following several pilgrim routes during my forthcoming sabbatical. The power of pilgrimage is not in the walking, or even in the final destination, but in the encounters on the way. But first, I will repeat that most important pilgrimage of all yet again, and I invite you to join me on it, the pilgrimage into Easter.

Jeremy

Camino De Santiago Talk 26th January 2026

The Friends opened the doors to everyone to enjoy this talk given by Julie Kendall and Mark Vernon. We had over 50 people in attendance and lots of questions during and after the talk.

The well-illustrated presentation took us through their careful preparations and their pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela along the Portuguese route, with excellent photographs, and descriptions of not only what they saw along the way but how they felt, sometimes walking through the pouring rain.

They described it as an excellent experience, staying in Airbnbs along the Way, with an easy to follow route and clear signage. Thanks to John and Alison Forster for organising the event.

Pamela Mugliston



Do you enjoy Art, Music, Dance, History or Literature?

We are the Saffron Walden Arts Society and invite you to join us for a talk on the third Wednesday of every month on different subjects from the Arts. We meet at the Quaker Meeting Hall in the High Street. You can choose to come in the morning and enjoy a chat and a coffee or in the afternoon for tea and biscuits, before the lecture. The Arts Society offers you an excellent way to follow your interests, travel to interesting places, visit historical sites and make new acquaintances.

Please have a look at our website to find out more; see previous talks and special lecture days and our outreach activities, visits and travel. Please contact us via our website.

theartsocietysaffronwalden.com

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

What brought Ralph to St Mary's was a sense of place and community. However, it is our services and preaching that keep him here. He appreciates the quiet of the 8 o'clock Book of Common Prayer service but also loves the church's choral tradition.

Ralph grew up in south-east London. He still keeps in touch with the school he attended, Colfe's, but that is the only link he has with the area now. He came to live in Saffron Walden in 1999. He had moved to Bishop's Stortford after getting the job of managing employee relations at Stansted airport. His background was in employment law and practice with the trade unions of the medical and dental professions, the BMA and BDA.

He moved from Saffron Walden to Newport where he met Sarah, his wife, at the parish church. They took the Bishop's Certificate in Christian Studies course and helped to run the church youth group and confirmation classes. Ralph and Sarah moved into her parents' house in Saffron Walden in 2022 after they passed away. While he was baptised in an Anglican church, he did not come to faith and become confirmed until he was an adult. He has attended Quaker worship as well.

Apart from being a member of the congregation, an event he particularly enjoyed at St Mary's was a talk given by the architectural writer, John Goodall at an AGM of the Friends of Essex Churches Trust, a charity with which he is involved. John lists our Audley tomb in his book, "Parish Church Treasures: The Nation's Greatest Art Collection".

While a church is often defined as a gathering of people rather than just a building, Ralph says that magnificent architecture, such as we have here, not



only reveals the faith of our ancestors but helps to share our faith today. Ralph is privileged to be a member of Steve Hasler's lighting fundraising team. The lighting project has sustainability at its core. Sustainability fits the Church of England very well, says Ralph, because it takes such a long perspective.

Another event he enjoyed at St Mary's was a roadshow in his work with Bishop Stephen Cottrell when Ralph led communications for Chelmsford Diocese towards the end of his career after heading public affairs at the airport.

It is remarkable, in Ralph's opinion, that the gospel has been preached anew at St Mary's across so many generations. He says that our commitment to St Mary's Church of England Primary School is a really practical way in which the church has served our community for 180 years so far. He is proud to be a current governor at the school. The service that sticks in his mind as being the most moving in recent years is the funeral of a young man whose student friends turned out at the church in vast numbers to honour his life.

If Ralph had a family coat of arms, the motto he would like to have on it is "The Lord will provide".

A summary of draft minutes of a PCC Meeting on 12th November 2025

Welcome and apologies: The Rector welcomed visitors Chris McCarthy from the Bell Ringers, Parish Safeguarding Officer Nathan Colley, Electoral roll officer Hayden Rocks and observer Stas Moskalenko.

Fundraising: It was noted that the government Fundraising Regulator has published a new Fundraising Code which took effect on Nov. 1st and included reference to duties of trustees and legal constraints.

Saffron Walden Bell Ringers: Keeper of the Bells Chris McCarthy reported on the Ring 2025 project to celebrate our bellringing heritage, increase engagement with the church and wider community and establish St Mary's as a training centre for new and experienced ringers in the district.

Safeguarding: The PCC approved a Safeguarding Agenda including safer recruitment by creating church role descriptions; monitoring DBS checks and completion of appropriate safeguarding training; and improving information sharing when recruiting. An audit of parish safeguarding procedures is foreseen next year.

Communications Committee: Martin Hugall thanked Steve Hasler for help preparing the faculty application for new external notice boards which has now been approved. The committee had discussed issues of archiving photos and Steve advised that the Parish has ample online storage space to create a digital

archive. Simon Potter is addressing the issue of a digital file management system. Jeremy commented that the Deanery had been examining the issue of improving publicity, including for Christmas services, and has made a submission for a £5,000 Mission Opportunities grant to redevelop and maintain websites.

Worship: Following a request from Jeremy Allen, Assistant Organist, to reduce his hours, the PCC ratified Standing Committee approval of a job share scheme between Jeremy and Philip Sunderland.

The PCC approved Carol singing on the new estates on Tuesday 9th December. The Organ Committee, comprising Lisa Brook, Peter De Vile, Oli King, John Pickthorn, Patrick Li, Steve Hasler, and Bron Ferland is seeking non-musical members to complement existing musical committee members. A discussion followed regarding the Bishop's injunction that the communion bread and wine should be administered separately. Following a trial period, Jeremy advised that this procedure will be used on First Sundays, with intinction by the priest continuing at other 10.30am services. Administration of the common cup requires more servers.

Children and Youth: Children and Youth Intern, Hayden Rocks and Children and Families Worker, Julie Lester have settled in very well. Julie has liaised with the Community Church who have employed a new pastor who will support their youth work. Julie and Hayden have been supporting their Wednesday Youth bible study groups run by the Community Church. It was agreed that a new risk assessment should be prepared for the January PCC for activities such as scavenger hunts. The Rector commented that it was good to see Julie and Hayden growing into these roles.

Lighting Project: Installation is on track, possibly slightly ahead, and on budget. Lighting for the nave, north aisle and south aisle will be switched on for Advent and Christmas, with a full installation by end February. The spend to date is ca. £125,000 before VAT. A Service of Light is planned for 6:30pm, Sunday 8th March.

Quinquennial Inspection: Ideally, the contractors will progress the floor repairs in early December before Christmas. Timing for the rest of the work, much of which is re-pointing on the roof, is under discussion.

The Lightning Conductor: One of the two earthing straps on the spire has broken but the conductors are still effective because they are joined. Simon is waiting for a quote and hoping that two other repairs on the steeple can be done at the same time.

Electoral Roll: During this period three parishioners have died and there are currently 230 members. A campaign to recruit new roll members usually coincides with publicity surrounding the Annual Church meetings in May.

Treasurer's Report: The General fund has risen by £2,719. The Parish magazine should be self-funding next year. The Restoration Fund has risen by £285. The Fabric Fund is down £110,5996 predominantly because of payments for the new lighting. In summary, the accounts show a surplus of £12,553 largely because of the Youth worker vacancy and higher than expected stewardship income. It is likely that the full year will see a surplus, but this may not be the case next year.

Health and Safety: Another First Aid training course is being planned. We have been allocated sufficient funds by the diocese to run three such days across the deanery. One of these will be for St Mary's. A revision session on the use of fire blankets is being organised between the two morning services on the 16th November, prior to the use of candles at Advent and Christingle Services. Julie Lester is running a Fire and Evacuation Training Session for users of the Parish Rooms.

A new Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025 will not come into force until at least April 2027, but will require premises where at least 200 people are regularly present at any one time to have arrangements for evacuation and invacuation, making the premises secure and communicating what's happening. We are waiting for guidance from the diocese on any additional measures we might need to take to comply with this.

Policies Audit and Archives Policy. Jeremy Trew, Anna Martin and archivist Rev'd Chris Bishop are reviewing the parish archives policy to make it more specific to St Mary's but in line with the Church of England Archives Policy.

St James, Swards End: St Mary's Junior Choir had visited. Plans have been made to restart the youth club which had been paused until the appointment of Julie Lester.

St John's Little Walden: There had been good attendance including at a very moving Remembrance Service. Key church members Dave and Kate Beare are planning to move away from the Parish and they will be missed. The church is seeking someone with musical skills to play at services.

Deanery or Diocesan Synod: Many parishes struggle to find churchwardens so a meeting will take place to identify support and training needs. The diocese is funding some first aid training and supporting a trial of "iKnow Church" software for church management.

Future PCC dates: 21 Jan, 18 March, 24th June, 9th September, and 11th November at 7.30 in the Parish rooms.

Correspondence: A letter had been received from Headmaster Chris Jarman thanking us for the grant made to St Mary's School and suggesting where money was being used and would be sought in future.

Clifford Want & Martin Hugall

Radwinter Road Cemetery Saffron Walden

Radwinter Road Cemetery is a peaceful space which offers a natural environment for all types of wildlife and is an important nature conservation resource. There are spaces set aside which are allowed to grow naturally and which provide a habitat where insects and wildlife thrive.

Daily maintenance and gardening are carried out to ensure the space is a welcoming and peaceful place for visitors.

The Cemetery is predominantly laid to lawn, but there is also a Traditional Area, Garden of Remembrance, an area for scattering ashes and a designated section for children. There is a separate section for war graves which are cared for by The Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

The small, refurbished Victorian Chapel is non-denominational and available to hire for both religious and secular services.



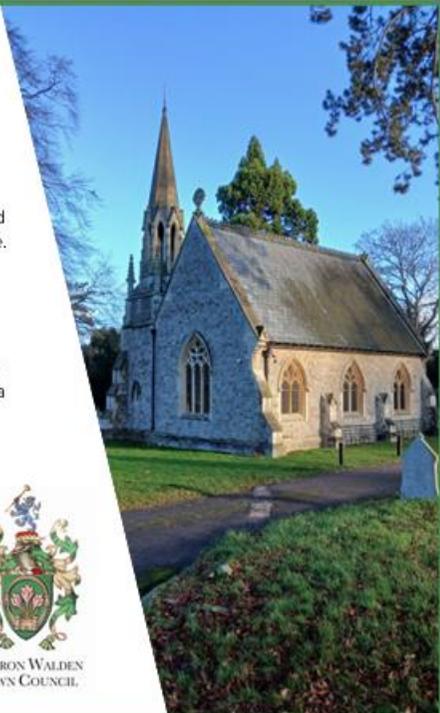
Saffron Walden Town Council

01799 516501

enquiries@saffronwalden.gov.uk



SAFFRON WALDEN
TOWN COUNCIL



R FISHER & SON

Est 1959

CHIMNEY SWEEP

N.A.C.S Registered 88/067

CERTIFICATES ISSUED

Telephone 01763 838360

rfisher@fisherchimneys.co.uk

www.rfisherchimneys.co.uk

HOLIDAY COTTAGES TO LET

NORTH NORFOLK



Two adjoining cottages in the village of Burnham Market, one sleeping 6 and the other 4. To let separately or together. Two miles from Holkham, 1.5 miles from the coast, enclosed south-facing garden, off-street parking. Lovely beaches, golf courses, bird watching etc!

Christine Rhodes - 07831 627678
burnhammarketcottages.co.uk

St Mary's Music News

March will be a music-filled month at St Mary's, starting with the Service of Light on the 8th, when we shall give thanks for the newly installed lighting, of which we have already had tantalising glimpses over the Christmas period. The service will be accompanied by a brass group and the choir will be performing the *Three Spark Motets*, music by Brian Moles and texts by Paula Griffiths. The motets are accompanied by organ and a solo euphonium and are a virtuosic test for the choir and players alike. Well worth a listen - and refreshments will be served after the service. As well as the motets, George Dyson's *Magnificat* and *Nunc Dimittis* in D major has to be one of the most uplifting and joyous settings in existence: it really will be a musical delight and a fitting tribute and welcome to the new lighting system.

The 15th March is Mothering Sunday and the Junior Choir and Joyful Noise will be delighting us with their enthusiasm and talent. Joyful Noise have started rehearsals with Helen Counsell, who is already achieving great things with them.

On the 29th at 6.30pm we have a Devotional Offering from the choir, at which they will perform Mozart's *Requiem*. Mozart departed this world before he finished the *Requiem* but left instructions with his pupil and amanuensis, Franz Xavier Süssmayr, who completed the work in his absence. The Sanctus is all Süssmayr's work as is the opening of the Agnus Dei, but Süssmayr returned wisely to the fugal Kyrie to complete the Mass and it is one of Mozart's darkest and most foreboding in the composer's 'tragic' key of D minor. Please do come and support the performers: it promises to be a memorable evening.

Philip Sunderland

A Prayer For March

Father God, as we see the signs of spring, with bulbs coming into flower and leaves appearing on the bushes and trees, may we appreciate the beauty of nature that you have created.

Every day helps us to value our world. Please give us the means to care for it. Thank you, Father, for your love and provision. May we never take this for granted.

We ask this in Jesus's name.

Amen

Provided by the Prayer Team

What's in a Name (14)?

Hill Top Lane

This month we move away from the central area of Saffron Walden in search of a road name to investigate. We head southward up the Debden Road past the site of former Friends' School until we reach the top of the hill. It may not look much of a hill as one drives up it, but I have memories of pushing a pram up it and it felt pretty steep then.

Hill Top Lane is the turning before Cromwell Road and more or less opposite Rowntree Way. Hill Top Lane seems an entirely reasonable name, but it was originally called after a building that lay along this road. The 1777 Chapman and Andre map shows an isolated building labelled as Pest House and the 1841 Census shows five people living in Pest House Lane, one of them in the Pest House itself. All five were males and listed as labourers.

So, what was the Pest House ? A more modern name would be an isolation hospital, where people suffering from infectious diseases, such as smallpox, were sent for treatment. It made sense to locate such a hospital well away from where most people lived, to minimise the risk of infection. I have found no details of what the treatment was like at the Pest House, probably a converted farmhouse, in its early days, but it seems that care was mostly provided by caretakers who also worked as agricultural labourers when not needed at the hospital. In 1875 an isolation hospital for infectious diseases was opened. The name of the road was changed to Isolation Hospital Lane and later Isolation Lane.

In 1914 there was considerable discussion about whether expenditure on the Isolation Hospital was necessary and whether the necessary alterations and provision of some additional accommodation could be provided cheaply. It was stated that the hospital was never overcrowded, but it was also pointed out that it was ill-equipped, had no proper conveniences or disinfecting room, and that patients were sometimes discharged whilst still infected. Admission to the Isolation Hospital was probably better avoided. In 1932 it was proposed that the Isolation Hospital be closed and any patients transferred to Braintree, but this was successfully opposed by the Town Council.

In 1944 a V1 flying bomb landed in what is now the Ross Close area and caused damage to the Isolation Hospital which was still receiving patients at this point. Today the Isolation Hospital is just a memory of times past in Saffron Walden. The two wards have been converted into flats, and the road has been renamed Hill Top Lane.

Hilary Walker, (with thanks for James Griffin's research into the Pest House).



SAFFRON

Launderers & Dry Cleaners

We specialise in the following areas:

Dry Cleaning

Personal Domestic Laundry

Linen Rental

Wedding Dress Cleaning

Occasional Table Linen Hire

Repairs & Alterations.

13-17 Gold Street
Saffron Walden
Tel: 01799 522588

9 Snowley Parade
Bishop's Stortford
Tel: 01279 652128

15 The Traverse
Bury St Edmunds
Tel: 01284 724077

www.saffronlaundry.com





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 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

Friends of St Mary's: Dates for Your Diary

Our next **Cathedral Trip** on 16th April will be to Derby. The church only became a Cathedral in 1927 when the new Diocese of Derby came into being and the Right Rev'd Edmund Pearce was enthroned as the first Bishop. However there has been a Church on the site since 943, founded by King Edmund of Wessex. The Cathedral has a tower with 189 steps which visitors can book to climb to the top. We will be visiting the Bridge Chapel, next to the Cathedral to learn its history. Have you been to the one in St Ives, Huntingdon?

If you haven't booked already then do get in touch if only to go on the reserve list where you could find you are lucky.

Our **Bring & Share lunch** this year will be 12th July and our **AGM** on 6th September. Following the very successful talk in January (see page 5), look out for the next one possibly in the Autumn.

Pamela Mugliston Secretary



We are now
open

Bailey Lodge care home,
Radwinter Road,
Saffron Walden

Grand Home Launch

Wednesday 18th March, 2pm - 4pm

Come along to our Grand launch where we will celebrate the official opening of our brand new, luxury care home. Explore our spacious and beautifully furnished facilities, meet our friendly team and learn about the quality care and lifestyle.

Trusted to care.



To book please call
01799 420 191 or email
michael.faulkner-dunkley@careuk.com

care UK

Star of Bethlehem



Some might say that the churchyard looks rather barren after the removal, many years ago, of the grave headstones. But look carefully, it holds some gems among the plants.

Most obvious are the cyclamen plants (*Cyclamen hederifolium*) which are visible over winter from their rather rounded and lined leaves but more conspicuously in the autumn when they flower so brightly in patches across the churchyard. Much less obvious are the plants of Star of Bethlehem, a bulbous perennial that is a member of the Asparagus family. These produce their leaves and then much later on the flowers when the leaves are no longer visible or have

disappeared. Because they are so much less visible, the leaves and then the flowers are easily mown and lost for the season.

Look carefully especially during mid-late winter and their leaves can be easy to spot. Rather rigid, deep green with a white central line, and standing stiffly upright unlike the surrounding grass. This is not a grass but the leaves of the plant that will flower in late spring (May-June). The flower is easily missed among taller grasses and other plants because it is only 10-15 cm high although the clusters ('umbels') of flowers are pretty, with six white petals in star formation.

In the churchyard there are several substantial patches to the west of the church, on the south side of the path. Unless they are staked, they will be easily lost when the grass is mown. They also seem to be fairly widespread in the Town. I have them in my own garden and have also noticed them especially on Common Hill.

Apparently they have a number of other common (?) names: Eleven O'clock Lady; Summer Snowflakes; Sleepy Dick; and even Dove's Dung! I think I prefer the previous name, Star of Bethlehem.

Chris Shennan

www.SAFFRON WALDEN MOTORS.co.uk

CAR SALES - SERVICING & REPAIRS - M.O.T. TEST CENTRE

QUALITY LOW MILEAGE CAR SALES

Fully inspected - Serviced - 12 month M.O.T - Cleaned & Valeted

*** £10.00 off M.O.T. tests for the life you own the vehicle ***

TOWN CENTRE M.O.T TEST CENTRE

Book a while-you-wait appointment or leave your car with us

**SERVICING
REPAIRS
MOTS**



**DIAGNOSTICS
WHEEL ALIGNMENT
AIR CONDITIONING
TYRES - EXHAUSTS - BATTERIES**

Family owned business Est. 1938
66 HIGH STREET - SAFFRON WALDEN

Tel: 01799 523597
info@saffronwaldenmotors.co.uk

Please mention Parish News when responding to an advertisement.

NEED A HANDYMAN?

For odd jobs
around the house,
get in touch with
HOWIE
your Busy Buddy!

Phone | Text | WhatsApp
07721 917 236
howieDIY@gmail.com

DBS CHECKED FULLY INSURED



BUSY BUDDY

Small jobs. Sorted.

SERVICES INCLUDE:

- | | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Furniture Assembly | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Hanging shelves | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Installing TVs | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Lights and bulbs | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Installation | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | General fixture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Small repairs | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | And much more! | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

No job too small or too odd!

The Calendar

This calendar is provisional. See The Grapevine or the church website (stmaryssaffronwalden.org/easter) for the latest information about Lent and Easter services.

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 March

- 8.00am BCP Holy Communion
- 10.30am Holy Communion [Y] with Sunday Club at 10.25am

Thursday 5 March

- 10.00am Silent Prayer in the Parish Rooms

Friday 6 March

- 10.30am World Day of Prayer

Sunday 8 March

- 8.00am BCP Holy Communion
- 10.30am Second Sunday Communion [Y] with Sunday Club at 10.25am
- 6.30pm Service of Light



Saturday 14 March

- 10am – 12:45 Windows: A Quiet Morning for Lent in Parish Rooms: please contact hazel.colebrooke@gmail.com

Mothering Sunday 15 March

- 8.00am BCP Holy Communion [Y]
- 10.30am Family Service

Sunday 22 March

- 8.00am BCP Holy Communion
- 10.30am Holy Communion [Y] with Sunday Club at 10.25am
- 4.00pm Taizé Service

Holy Week

Palm Sunday 29 March

- 8.00am BCP Holy Communion [Y]
10.30am Holy Communion and Passion Reading [Y] with Sunday Club
at 10.25am
6.30pm Devotional offering: Mozart's *Requiem in D minor*

Monday 30 March

- 9.30am Holy Communion
7.30pm Compline and Reflection

Tuesday 31 March

- 9.30am Holy Communion
7.30pm Compline and Reflection

Regular weekday services at St Mary's

Tuesdays

- 5.00pm Evening Prayer by Zoom, see weekly bulletin for login details

Wednesdays

- 8.00am Morning Prayer *In the Parish Rooms on 4th March, in the Church from 11th March*
9.30am Holy Communion (with Prayers for Wholeness and Healing on the 1st Wednesday of the month) *In the Parish Rooms on 4th March, in the Church from 11th March*

Lent Course: Travelling Well Together

Tuesdays

- 2.00pm In Parish Rooms

Thursdays

- 7.30pm In North Chapel

From the Registers

Funerals

29th January Danny Brown

St James', Sewards End

Sunday 1 March

10.30am Holy Communion,
followed by Annual Meeting



Mothering Sunday 15 March

10.30am Morning Praise

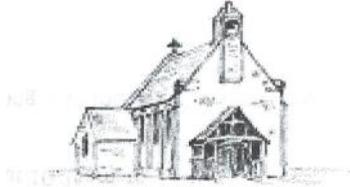
St John's, Little Walden

Sunday 8 March

10.30am Holy Communion

Mothering Sunday 15 March

10.30am Family Service



Windows

**A Quiet Morning
for Lent**

Led by
The Rev'd Andy Colebrooke

**Saturday
14th March 2026**

**The Parish Rooms
10.00 - 12.45**

Doors open at 9.30am

If you would like to stay for lunch,
bring a sandwich, soup will be
provided.

For catering purposes please let us
know if you are staying.

hazel.colebrooke@gmail.com



FENCING WITHOUT BOUNDARIES

Making your outdoor spaces beautiful – and secure

FENCING | CLEARANCE | LANDSCAPING

0800 206 1585

leafandlawn.co.uk



RATED 5/5

Cammas Hall

FAIRYTALE EASTER TRAIL

OPEN FROM
31ST MARCH
UNTIL
12TH APRIL
10AM - 5PM
CLOSED ON MONDAYS

MEET FAIRY TALE
CHARACTERS

MAGICAL EXPERIENCE FOR
CHILDREN

PLENTY OF PHOTO
OPPORTUNITIES

PLAY AREA AND FUN
GAMES TO PLAY

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE DETAILS.
CAMMASHALL.CO.UK



News from the Younger members of the Church

We have had two services in the church with children's activities. During the United Service they were responding to the theme of God showing the way and the children that attended added their own name to a path towards God, and created maps, or pictures of paths with signposts.

During Family Service the week after, the theme was the conversion of Saul and everyone was invited to trust a friend as they walked through 'gates' while blind-folded; to create a colour spinner that when twirled showed us the light as Saul had had; or to create a two sided mask showing the nasty Christian-hating Saul on one side and the happy Paul on the other side when he believed.

Tinies

After covering the story of the wise men on our first week back after Christmas, the Tinies made small paper doves the week after, when they heard the story of the Baptism of Jesus. The following week the children painted a beautiful temple, now on display in the Parish Rooms, as they heard about the 12-year-old Jesus staying behind to talk to the Leaders, after a big family visit to the temple and not being found for several days! We finished January hearing about the first miracle of Jesus, as they saw water turned into wine, though using the cheat of blackcurrant squash as none of the leaders can actually do miracles!

Sunday Club

During January, Sunday club have created pictures of Gold, Frankincense and



Myrrh after hearing the story of the wise men visiting Jesus. The children also heard about the Baptism of Jesus and looked at different types of baptism before making white doves from paper plates.

Youth Bible Study

This is held jointly with Saffron Walden Community Church and we meet there. This term we have looked into the crucifixion and if it would have been possible for Jesus to have actually survived it, and, what Jesus was really like. Was he trustworthy, were the miracle stories true? Topics which have generated some great discussions.

Aftershock

The members of Aftershock had a very chilled games evening with pizza, especially important for those members that were doing mock exams, they enjoyed playing on the Xbox, playing table tennis and a game in the Parish Rooms. Our new Bible study resource, 'Firestarter' led us to look at Mark 1 1-8 and John 1 29-34. The evening also involved playing card games and French cricket.

Julie Lester

Gelio's Anthology of Obscure Proverbs



Two proverbs for Lent from England

"The noblest vengeance is to forgive" and

"They who forgive most shall be most forgiven."



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

March 1950 (part of an unsigned long letter)

A Christian Approach to Education

'Christianity' and 'Education': To-day these two ideas appear to many as completely opposing forces in an age where 'education' has come to mean no more to the average man than the gleaning of factual knowledge concerning the material world, and 'Christianity' no more than the 'opiate' of a primitive people. Yet history has a different tale to tell. Her pages show the Christian Church down the ages, as the chief source and propagator of learning. The founding of schools in our own country was the work of the Church, not of the State. Not until 1870, did state-provided schools begin to supplement the work of the Church Schools.

Until the coming of the 'Machine Age', an educated man was one who was versed in philosophy, divinity and the arts in general. It was an educating of the mind to the perception of the good, the true, and the beautiful in life. The best in our art, in our music, in our literature lies in an apparently bygone age. To-day we appear to have every educational facility, but what is the attitude of mind towards learning in general? For all too many it is a purely utilitarian approach: What is the use of history and geography (least of all, Shakespeare!) if I'm going to be a shorthand typist?

Modern industrialism, the 'make-money-quick' motive has led so many to regard education as solely a means to earning a livelihood and to material advancement. This material basis to the modern mind is reflected in so many ways – in modern art, sculpture, music (if we can so designate the jarring notes of the saxophone), dancing (does not the 'jitterbug' suggest the wild contortions of primitive tribes?) and even in present-day literature. Much seems ugly, crude, appealing more to the animal instincts rather than to the aspirations of spiritual beings made 'in the image of God'...

Summary of draft minutes of a PCC Meeting on 21st January 2026

Bells: Chris McCarthy introduced Oliver Clinton, the new ringing master. The PCC approved submission of a faculty application for changes for the benefit of visitors and bell ringers and the installation of a stationary service bell for services such as the 8am communion service when the bells are not rung. A statement of significance of the ringing environment will need to be drawn up.

Finance: a budgeted shortfall of £7k for 2025 was likely to have been replaced by a surplus of about £6K due to the Youth Worker's post having been empty and year-end gifts. A 2026 budget with a deficit of £9,378 was approved.

Safeguarding: New Safeguarding hub software is being introduced which will make it easier to administer safeguarding. The best possible procedures must be followed to prevent and deal with safeguarding issues, even if such cases are rare.

Lighting project: The Programme continues to go well and on budget and the work is on target to complete full installation, at least inside the church, by the end of February. Invitations were being sent out to a Service of Light at 6:30pm on Sunday 8th March to dedicate the new lighting. The spend to end Dec 2025 amounted to ca. £145,000 before VAT. Scaffolding had been erected in the Chancel where Keystone are doing plastering repairs etc which would be completed by the end of the following week. There have been no lights in the Chancel recently, but the new lights will be focussed and then the choir can move back in. The Rector commented on how well the lights looked at Christmas and thanked Steve and those who were managing the project for us.

External signs: The current "no parking" signs are looking very tatty and a parishioner is willing to pay for new ones. The Town Council have no budget to pay for new ones and are happy for us to adopt them. The PCC approved submission of a Faculty List B Application.

Organ maintenance: Oli King praised Peter De Vile who has now retired and stepped back from maintaining the organ. As well as his paid tuning work, Peter had often stepped in to help when immediate attention was required. Goetze and Gwynn Ltd., organ builders, have quoted £453 per visit including VAT.

Braybrooke Memorial plaque: the North Chapel brass plaque memorial has been rehung.

Deanery or diocesan items: the current triennium ends in June 2026. At the APCM we may elect up to four lay members to serve on the Deanery Synod from 2026 to 2029.

Comments on faculty applications: After a faculty application has been recommended for grant a notice is posted on the outside and the inside notice boards in the tower inviting comments. All those comments are considered by the Chancellor of the Diocese or their appointee who decides whether to grant.

Junior Choir pay: The PCC agreed that Junior Choir honoraria should be raised in line with inflation as backdated to 2013. Jeremy suggested that Junior Choir honoraria be considered every year at the November meeting so that the need to backdate pay rises does not reoccur.

Wedding and funeral fees: Wedding and funeral fees are set centrally but the PCC can control other fees such as organists and heating. Some figures have not changed, and some have changed, in line with inflation. It was agreed that amended wedding and funeral fees should be adopted.

Granta Chorale charity event: because the concert is in aid of the Uttlesford foodbank, a charity that we support, it was agreed to waive the hire fee.

Future events: PCC dates: 2026 dates 18th March, 24th June, 9th September, and 11th November at 7.30 in the Parish rooms; APCM 19th April in church.

Clifford Want and Martin Hugall

Grove Lodge 2026

The garden at Grove Lodge will open again in 2026 under the National Garden Scheme to raise money for the mainly nursing charities supported by the scheme. In 2025, over £3.8 million was donated with major donations to Hospice UK, Marie Curie, Macmillan, Parkinson's UK, Carer's Trust and Queens Institute of Community Nursing. All that money came from garden visits.



The garden will open on **February 22, March 8 and June 14**, all Sundays and all between 14:00-17:00/2 pm-5 pm. Tea/coffee will be available as usual with excellent home-made cakes. All are welcome - the more visitors who come, the more money is raised. The garden is also open to groups of any size throughout the year, by arrangement.

In February, the garden has thousands of snowdrops flowering which are joined by crocuses, winter aconites and hellebores. In March, crocuses and daffodils reach their peak flowering.

Full details are available on the NGS website under Grove Lodge/ Saffron Walden:

<https://findagarden.ngs.org.uk/garden/42216/grove-lodge>

Bentens

Chartered Certified Accountants Registered Auditors

Friendly, well established local firm dealing with all your audit, accountancy and taxation matters.

For a short free consultation (without obligation) please contact

Abbey House 51 High Street Saffron Walden

Telephone : (01799) 523053

info@benten.co.uk

www.benten.co.uk

Please mention Parish News when responding to an advertisement.

Come and visit our brand new showroom to discover an extensive collection of quality flooring and furniture.



B&R
CARPETS & FURNITURE

Tuesday to Saturday 9 - 5

8 Station Street

Saffron Walden



Rothwell's
Carpet & Stone Floor Cleaning

Carpet Cleaning & Stone Floor, Upholstery, Rugs

A few points that make us stand out,

Rothwell's has been in business since 1993

We're an honest local family firm.

Our large truck mounted machines mean more cleaning & drying power for the best results possible.

Members of both the NCCA and TACCA.

We will move the furniture.

100% satisfaction or it's FREE.

Call Oliver and Max Campbell for expert help today.

01223 832 928

www.Rothwells.biz

PEASGOOD & SKEATES



INDEPENDENT FAMILY
FUNERAL DIRECTORS & MONUMENTAL MASONS

Serving the Community since 1847

SHIRE HILL
SAFFRON WALDEN
01799 523314

66B HIGH ST
SAFFRON WALDEN
01799 513513

***A caring and professional service from
a local business, day or night***

Also in Duxford, Sawston
Haverhill and Cambridge

www.peasgoodandskeates.co.uk

enquiries@peasgoodandskeates.co.uk



Aftershock Youth Group

For age 11 – 18
7 – 8.30 pm Sunday Evenings at
St. Mary's Parish Rooms.
Saffron Walden

Spring Term 2026 dates

(Please note the change of March's dates, from the previous poster)

January – 11th; 18th; 25th

February – 8th; 15th; 22nd

March – 1st; 15th; 22nd

For more information, please email Julie
stmaryschildrenandyouth@gmail.com

Games, Guests,
Bible study, Food,
Fun activities,

Christopher
THE
LOCKSMITH

ARE YOUR LOCKS BEHAVING BADLY?

We Value Old Fashioned Customer Service
A Local Trusted Family Business Since 1989

 Specialist in UPVC & Wooden Doors

 No Call Out Charge

 No Fix No Fee

 All Work Fully Guaranteed

 10% Senior Citizen Discount



For More Advice & Help Call Christopher:

07772 111 222

www.christopherthelocksmith.co.uk

ROSS NURSING SERVICES LTD.

We are a Clavering based, family owned and run care company that has been running for 25 years. We maintain the highest level of care and support for all our clients by continually monitoring standards and ensuring that all individual needs are met.

**WE VALUE CLIENTS' DIGNITY, PRIVACY,
INDEPENDENCE, CHOICE AND RIGHTS**



What you can expect from us:

- Professional, well presented carers who undertake continuous training.
- Carers with DBS checks and good references.
- A close working relationship with local GPs, District Nurses and other Health and Social Care professionals.
- We continually monitor our services using Quality Assurance surveys.
- We can deliver all aspects of personal care, palliative care, companionship and specialist care needs.
- In addition we can accompany clients on hospital visits or visits to the GP and we do respite sitting services, client shopping and basic household tasks.

For further information please contact us on **01799 551046**



Our family, caring for yours

The Grange Care Home Residential & Dementia Care

The Grange provides the kind of care we'd want all of our loved ones to receive. Our home is beautifully furnished, whilst retaining a warm family atmosphere that makes The Grange feel extra special.

Call us today

01799 243 005

Fallow Drive, Newport,
Saffron Walden, CB11 3RP



www.countrycourtcare.com



Laptop & Computer Repairs Mobiles & Tablets Repairs



iTech

mobile phone & laptop specialist

15% Discount

Voucher Valid

On Your Next Purchase*
In-Store and Online

☎ 01223 375690 🌐 www.itechmobile.co.uk 📍 38 High St, Saffron Walden CB10 1EP

*Except Phone Sales

Can you help us to run our church?

1. **Come to our Annual Church Meetings** that take place just after the 10.30am service on Sunday 19th April, where you will be able to hear more about the different church groups and a chance to ask questions. Here you can find out what happened in church this year and how we used our resources and how we plan to spend them this year. If you are registered on the Parish roll you can also vote for up to ten new members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) who are responsible for the running of the church, as well as two churchwardens and four assistant churchwardens who help oversee everything. At this year's meeting, we will also be electing four Deanery Synod Representatives.

If you are interested in being elected as churchwarden or a deputy churchwarden, you could even ask somebody to nominate you! But it would probably be wise to chat to us first as experience helps in these important roles. Forms are available on the church website at stmaryssaffronwalden.org/pcc and should be returned to the secretary (that's me) via the Parish Office post-box.

2. **Join our Parochial Church Council.** 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 our church are made such as keeping us safe, outreach and worship issues and repair and maintenance of the church. Members have found the experience most 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 of our church. A Nomination Form for all the vacant posts 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 by Friday 17th April.

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 and on the church website.

If you want to chat about what is involved do phone me on 07562 506 867 or email stmaryssaffronwaldenpcc@gmail.com or speak to anyone who is on the PCC.

Whatever you decide, do come to our Annual Meetings after the 10.30am service on Sunday 19th April which are open to all.

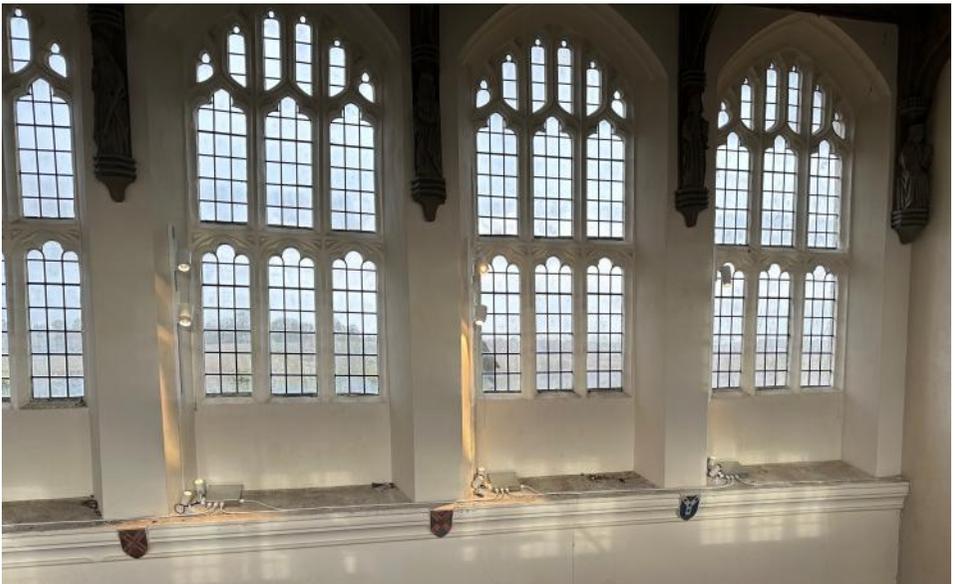
Anna Martin, PCC Secretary

Our New Lighting—Just About Finished!

By the time you read this, we'll be on the final few tasks on the installation of the lighting and we'll be ready for the Service of Light at 6:30pm on Sunday 8th March – all welcome! As I write I've just returned from the church having overseen the removal of the scaffolding in the chancel and sanctuary. The damage to the plasterwork up at the clerestory windows has been repaired and all of the lights in the chancel and sanctuary have been installed, set in the right direction and focussed. The view from the scaffolding (see front cover) was quite something!!

Really good progress has been made in January, in addition to the work in the chancel and sanctuary, the final, new lights were fitted in the north chapel and the rest of the old cabling and lighting removed. The same was done in the north aisle, south aisle and south chapel. The main task for February was to install the rest of the lighting in the nave. I mentioned in my February Parish News update that we handed over a snagging list to the designers, following our experience with the lights in December. They assessed this in detail noting that there are quite a few more lights to fit at the east end of the nave and in the children's corner which will resolve most of our questions. At the time of writing, we estimate that all of the installation at ceiling level will be completed by Friday 13th February.

Other work in February has been to install the equipment needed so





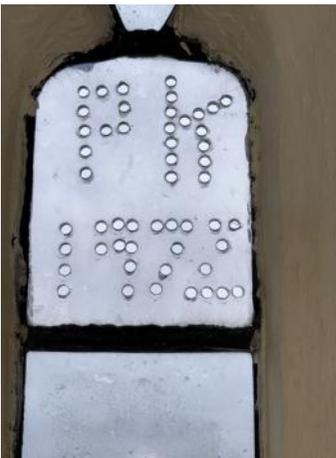
that some of the new lights become emergency lights and come on if the power to the lighting is lost and to focus all the lights installed since the new year. The focussing needs to be done when

it's dark and our designers and installers worked late on most evenings in the week starting 23rd February. They also will be installing the lighting in the clergy vestry, south porch, outside the south porch and west door and at the disabled parking area. It is possible that some of this work might go on beyond 8th March but, as it does not involve the use of scaffolding towers, it won't disrupt services and events in the church.

The first week of March will involve a lot of programming of the control buttons, or scenes. I've mentioned this before, Vivian, Paula and I did a lot of programming in November but now we must adjust the scenes to include the further lights installed since then. We'll also be setting new scenes such as for the Wednesday 9:30am Holy Communion service.

The first chance to see all of the new lighting will be on Sunday 8th March at the Service of Light. . For more information, see next page. And then the Wednesday 9:30am Holy Communion service moves back into the church on Wednesday 11th March.

Finally, there can be interesting finds when there's work in the church. It would seem that "PK" was asked to create some ventilation in the windows at the top of the south side of the chancel when some of the glazing was replaced in 1972!



Steve Hasler
5th February 2026

SERVICE OF LIGHT

St Mary's Saffron Walden

Sunday 8th March, 6.30 pm

Please join us for this special choral service to dedicate ourselves and our new lighting to God, to see it fully in use, and to give thanks for the huge number of people who have helped in so many ways to bring the project to fruition – regulatory bodies, designers, contractors, grant-givers, and all of you who have supported the work with your practical help, your donations, your suggestions, and most importantly your prayers.

The service will include the first full performance of *Three Spark Motets*, with music composed by Brian Moles to words by Paula Griffiths in memory of Chris Ferland, together with well-known hymns and Bible readings on the theme of Light.

Followed by refreshments and a demonstration of the lighting.

EVERYBODY WELCOME!

Holocaust Memorial 2026—Service of Commemoration

St Mary's church was once again packed for the service of remembrance and sorrow for the Holocaust, which took place on 26th January. The service was led by the Rector, Rev'd Jeremy Trew, and the guest speaker was Rabbi Alexandra Wright, who was appointed the first senior female rabbi in England in 2004. She took questions from the many local school children (the local primary schools were well represented). The County High School Chamber Choir performed an Irish Blessing and *Hinei Ma Tov*, the Coventry Litany of Reconciliation was led by Petrina Lees (Leader of Uttlesford District Council), and the Act of Commitment was led by the Mayor, Cllr Ahmed. Prayers were led by Rev'd John Goddard from Saffron Walden Baptist Church, and Leslie Wheeler, from the Cambridge Synagogue, performed *Eil malei Rachamim* and the concluding *Aaronic Blessing*.

In her talk, Rabbi Alexandra drew attention to a book by a member of her synagogue. *The Boy Who Didn't Want To Die* by Peter Lantos tells the story of an extraordinary journey by Peter, a 5 year old Hungarian boy, through war-torn Europe in 1944 and 1945.



Above: The High School Chamber Choir. Below (L to R): Cllr Patrick Hawk-Smith (SWTC), Cllr Richard Freeman (SWTC and UDC), Cllr Ahmed (SWTC Mayor), Cllr Petrina Lees (Leader, UDC) Rev'd Jeremy Trew, Leslie Wheeler, Rabbi Alexandra Wright., Rev'd John Goddard, Cllr Richard Porch, Rufus Barnes, Cllr Jeanette Curtis (SWTC Deputy Mayor) and Cllr Lucy Abercrombie (holding baby) Photographs: Martin Huggall



Mozart

REQUIEM



Devotional Offering

St Mary's Parish Church Choir

Sunday 29 March 2026, 6.30pm

St Mary's Church, Saffron Walden



Free admission, retiring collection