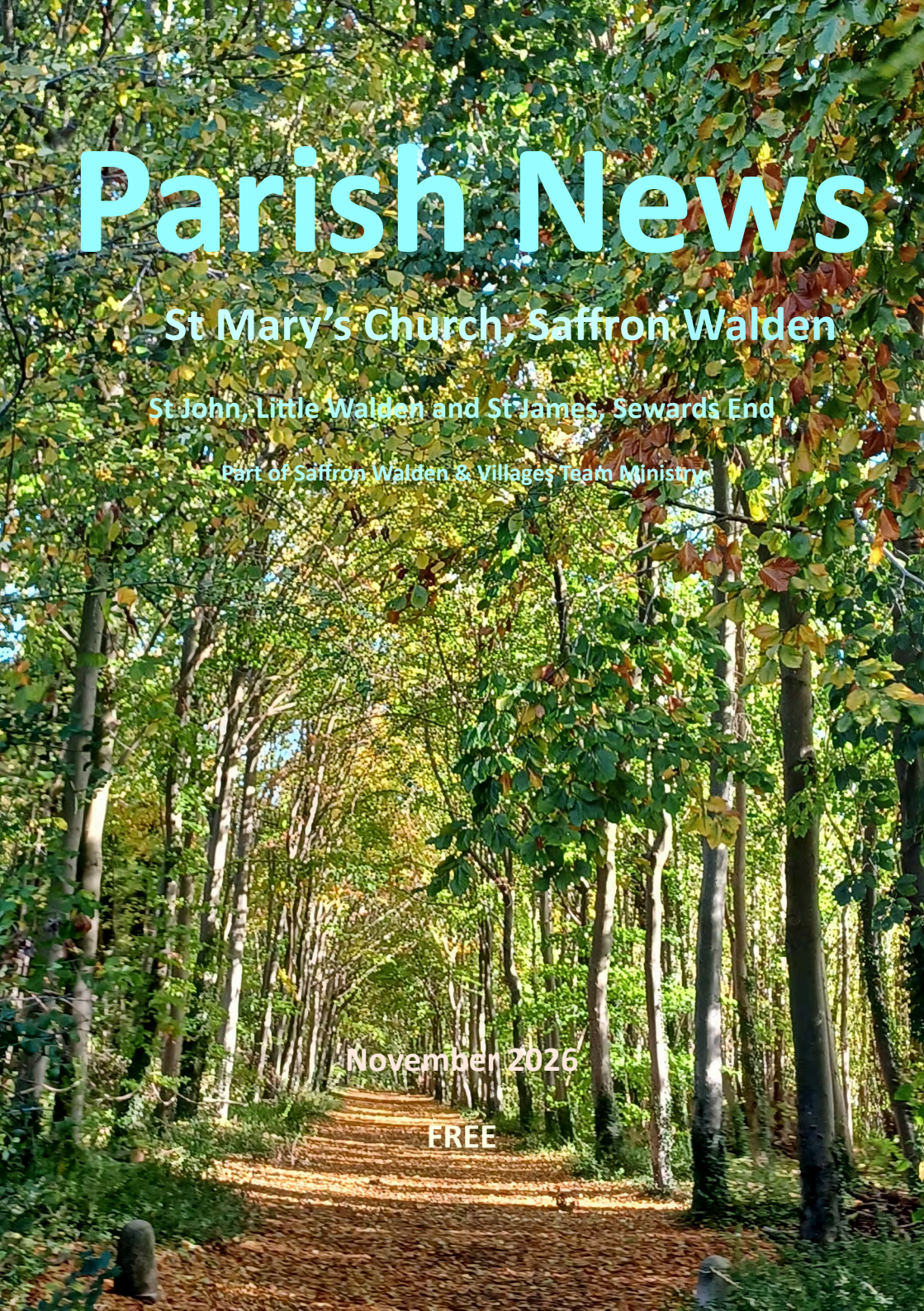


Parish News

St Mary's Church, Saffron Walden

St John, Little Walden and St James, Sewards End

Part of Saffron Walden & Villages Team Ministry

November 2026

FREE



Harvest Festival 2026

Members of St Mary's Choristers, Joyful Noise, St Mary's Guides, Brownies, Rainbows and Sunday Club surrounding the harvest gifts at St Mary's Church.
The donations for the Uttlesford Foodbank were a mixture of essential food and toiletries, as requested by the Foodbank.

Katy Mendes-Day, Director, said, "Thank you for your incredible efforts in support of Uttlesford Foodbank this harvest. You collected an amazing 139kg of food and toiletries!"



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Front cover photograph by Lesley Green

PARISH NEWS - EDITORIAL DEADLINE

The deadline for contributions for each issue is the 1st Sunday of the previous month. Hence, the deadline for the **December-January** issue is **Sunday 1st November.**

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The Rector's Letter



From The Rev'd Jeremy Trew

Jeremy writes…

November brings us to a month of change as Autumn gives way to Winter. Although, as the weather we are experiencing at the time of writing suggests, all bets as to which season we're actually in, are off.

In the Church calendar we also experience change, and with it, uncertainty. The slow plod of Ordinary time gives way, first to the Kingdom Season, and then to Advent.

Kingdom Season was introduced into the liturgical calendar in the 1980's but has only slowly been adopted. God's Kingdom, as opposed to the kingdoms of this world (to which we should add republics, etc), is a theme often spoken of by Jesus. We even find it in his verbal sparring with Pontius Pilate at that critical moment when his fate was decided (John 18:28-40). Jesus spoke often of this "now but not yet" kingdom, and we hear it referred to in several of the readings set for this time. We also encounter it in some of our key services: as we experience the co-joined feasts of All Saints and All Souls we meet a rescuing and redeeming kingdom that is both of this world and beyond. As we remember and reflect on the wars of the last and current centuries at Remembrance, we wrestle with the questions of a "just war" and where our allegiance as Christians, and therefore firstly citizens of God's Kingdom as well as our earthly kingdom, should rightly lie. There are no easy answers in this Kingdom Season, nor should there be. Like Jacob, we wrestle with an angel (Genesis 32:22-32), and leave the experience changed, but maybe still without clear and simple answers. An alternative, and slightly cynical view, is that the Church realised that we got very little use out of our red vestments, and so created a season with red as the liturgical colour. I think there is mileage in both views.

At the end of the month, we move into Advent, and the Church's New Year. At St Mary's we host the dramatic, and for me very moving, Advent Carol Service. Heralds announce that God is on the move. The hopes and fears, the joys and frustrations of God-seeking people are to be realised. However, as we know from the subsequent stories, the way God answers humanity's needs is not how we

might expect, and not as we would always want. Many of Jesus' fellow countrymen desperately wanted a Messiah, just as many people today hope for the same. However, the Messiah they wanted, and the ones we seek today, often had a very different mode of operation than what Jesus offered and offers. "Turn the other cheek." "Do good to those who persecute you." "You are all one in Christ Jesus," setting aside the distinctions or race, creed, gender and status. It's been said that two thousand years ago Jesus turned water into wine, and that ever since the Church has been trying to turn it back again. Advent challenges us as to who our hoped-for Messiah is, and how this figure relates to the person and *praxis* (faith in practice) of Jesus of Nazareth.

So, I hope that you will find these two seasons both challenging and problematic. That's how they should be. They are there that we might wrestle with ourselves, our faith and how we live it out, and with our God. In truth we are all, at least a little bit, heretics. We all have misunderstandings as to who Jesus is, to at least a small degree. More importantly; this is how we properly prepare for Christmas and to welcome the Christ-child into our lives once again.

So, have a blessed Kingdom Season and a blessed Advent, that we may celebrate a truly blessed Christmas.

Yours

Jeremy



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There are many cleaners on the high street but when you have an important meeting or interview you may want to be a little more discerning. When you need to feel and look your best, choose Saffron Launderers and Dry Cleaners. From washing, ironing and repairing shirts to dry cleaning and altering suits, we offer a professional service that suits your lifestyle. With five stores across the Cambridge area, you have plenty of choice to drop off your suits and shirts, and we can offer a same day service if you have an important meeting next day. Now that is the business!

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Summary of extracts from draft minutes of a PCC Meeting on 9th September 2026

1647 Sculpture in the Churchyard: Mat Lester and Judith Rodden from the 1647 Saffron Walden Heritage group said that following a well-attended consultation, the group now proposed to site the statue further down the churchyard next to the path on the south side. The agitator figure would now be clutching a bible as he spoke to the Parliamentary Commissioner. There would be no expense to the church. The PCC confirmed its support for the project and the faculty application.
PCC secretary: Anna Martin intends to resign at the next APCM and a new secretary is sought.
Finance Committee: the budgeted deficit for this year is approximately £9k but could be more than £20k by the end of the year: one of the main reasons being a reduction in the number of regular givers. Stewardship Sunday is in September this year but holding the Stewardship Sunday in the spring next year would be more appropriate.
Service Planning Committee: new liturgies will be brought before the PCC for consultation and piloted in ordinary time after Christmas.
Communications Committee: Jeremy Trew commented that it was good to have smarter boards near the church entrance. There is now a music leaflet; one about the Bell Ringers is being planned and they now have a page on our website. The change ringers are planning a freestanding noticeboard about the bells.
Property Committee: The lighting system designers and installers will return and refocus the lights over some pews and in the chancel steps area. The PCC has received a quotation for making good. Recent problems with the sound system for services in the south aisle have been resolved. An Energy Audit for the Parish Rooms was done as part of the energy footprint by Chris Knight. Following problems with parking at a wedding in June, some underground pull-up bollards are being considered: one could be installed at the Museum Street entrance and one at the churchyard end. DAC was informally consulted and were also positive about speed-bumps. A faculty would be required. The Town Council have placed white stones to keep cars off the verge. Vivian Falk suggested that an official one-way system in the churchyard would be helpful.
Children and Youth: Over the summer Julie Lester and Hayden Rocks organised a summer picnic and the summer Tinies session also went well. In the autumn there is a youth café planned. The PCC agreed that the Parish Rooms will be open 3.30 to 5.30 on Wednesdays for young people in passing to have a drink and something to

eat as an outreach to the town's young people and a hospitality venture. The team have asked for safeguarding advice from the Diocese and are acting on that advice.
Events publicised in the Grapevine: it was agreed that the Churchwardens be given discretion to publicise items that are not run by a church group, that might be of interest to church members.
Treasurer's Report: Running at a deficit of £17,000 over the first six months is quite alarming. Not only the General Fund but also the Fabric Fund expenditure is far exceeding income. In the past we have had some legacies. The finance committee will have to make some difficult decisions this year if the deficit persists. Any suggestions would be gratefully received. David Birchall, the Treasurer, will work with the Churchwardens to decide a strategy for determining charges for letting the church.
Daughter Churches: St John's has a bee themed Saturday activity in the Autumn. There have been some summer activities and Forest Church was to be on the following Sunday. There is a Forest Church WhatsApp group.
Heritage Open Day: there is a bell ringers' initiative on Saturday 19 September 2026, from 10.00 to 12.30 and 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm and on Sunday 20 September from 2:00 – 4:00pm.
Future PCC dates: November 11, and for 2027: January 13, March 17, April 18 (APCM), June 23, September 8, November 10.
Dave McLellan's Peregrine Falcon Nesting Project: There are a pair of falcons which visit and which may be persuaded to nest but there would need to be a nesting box to attract them. The downside would be that access to the roof would be limited at times and a mess would be created by the birds so the PCC were unable to support this proposal.

Clifford Want and Martin Hugall

Recycled Spectacles.

A note just to say a huge THANK YOU to you all and to everyone in Saffron Walden as another 50 boxes make their way to Birmingham for sorting and export to third world countries. That is the 2nd deliver this year making a total of 90 boxes, we are guessing there be 100 by the end of the year.

A big WELL DONE EVERYONE from Saffron Walden Lions.

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Ask us about... Funeral Plans



At Care UK's Bailey Lodge in Saffron Walden, every resident is supported to live their life the way they choose. Our experienced team takes pride in offering quality residential, dementia and respite care.

Angela, a Care UK care home resident, shares how the team works hard to help keep her connected with loved ones near and far.

'My daughter feels reassured'

Angela's daughter moved to New Zealand more than 30 years ago. She has always kept in close contact with her over WhatsApp, but since moving into a Care UK care home, the team has supported both Angela and her family to stay connected. "My daughter feels reassured, and we've discussed it together several times that it's best if I live here," Angela explains.

While Angela manages phone calls on her own, the team are there to step in whenever she needs a helping hand. "The team help me to send parcels and letters to my family in New Zealand," she says.

And on the other side of the world, Angela's daughter stays engaged with what Angela is doing in the home through regular updates on the Relish app. Care UK care homes use Relish to record the activities



residents are involved in. Relatives can also use the app to share pictures and build their loved one's life history, helping the team to get to know residents even better.

'My friends enjoy their visits'

As well as supporting Angela to stay connected with far-flung family, the care home team helps to arrange trips out around the local community. "My niece takes me shopping or out for lunch sometimes, and to church on Sundays quite often." Recently, team members helped Angela to take a whole day out to visit her sister who lives in another county.

Friends and family also visit Angela in the home. "I've had my nice to Sunday lunch, and she's really enjoyed the food," Angela says. "My friends enjoy their visits. They've taken part in the quiz at the prosecco club on Fridays, and one friend greatly enjoyed one of the garden parties last year."

Trust us to care

We work hard to support residents to keep connected with their loved ones. We help families and friends to continue sharing special experiences whether that's in the home, through special trips and outings, or maximising technology so that distance is no longer an issue.

Care UK is a leading independent care home provider with some of the highest quality ratings of the UK's larger care providers, and over 40 years' experience of delivering high-quality care to older people.

For more information about Bailey Lodge in Saffron Walden, call 01799 420 198 or visit careuk.com/bailey-lodge

Welcomers Reception, new and old. Why not come along and join us?

There will be a glass of Prosecco waiting for you, over by the South Door, after the 10.30am service on Sunday 1st November. A small token to thank you for all the hard work you have put in over 2026.

It will soon be that busy time again when all the Christmas services start and I am sure you will respond again to Vivian's email requesting your help. Our regular teams have been great again over the last year, stepping in at 8am and 10.30am services when cover was needed, all very much appreciated.

It would be great to have a few more people on the teams and we invite anyone interested in joining us for the Christmas services, which are fun, and for the regular 10.30am services giving you the opportunity to meet and greet more people than you might otherwise do. Do come along and talk to the regular Welcomers and get a flavour of what Welcome duty is all about. Yes, there are jobs to do but it is a social task too, a chance to have that quick catch up and maybe make new friends.

See you there. Sincere thanks from Vivian and Pamela.

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Our Prayer for November is the Prayer of St Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me bring love.
Where there is offence, let me bring pardon.
Where there is discord, let me bring union.
Where there is error, let me bring truth.
Where there is doubt, let me bring faith.
Where there is despair, let me bring hope.
Where there is darkness, let me bring your light.
Where there is sadness, let me bring joy.
O Lord, grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love,
for it is in giving that one receives,
it is in self-forgetting that one finds,
it is in forgiving that one is forgiven,
it is in dying that one awakens to eternal life.

Provided by the Prayer Team

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Annie Bishop



I am writing this piece myself as it would be weird to be interviewed by my husband (Canon Chris Bishop, one of the retired clergy) who knows me quite well!

I grew up in Upminster and attended St Laurence church which is where I met Chris when he became Curate in 1975. I was working for Barclays International in the City when we married in 1980. We lived in Upminster until our daughter was born at Christmas in 1984, then in Chelmsford for eighteen months while Chris was the Diocesan Youth Officer and finally in Manuden for 27 years, during which time our son was born in 1987. We had brought up our family there so it was ideal to move only twenty minutes away to Saffron Walden when Chris retired in 2013 so that we could keep in touch with the many friends we had made in that time.

Once our children started school, I had a couple of part-time jobs based at home. The first one was offered to me by a gentleman who saw me pestering people into buying raffle tickets – he thought I would be good at selling plastic hydrant plates to the fire services and water companies! The second job involved marketing for an IT consultancy which gave me a great education in IT. In order to finance our children's university education in the early 2000s, I worked full time for the Rural Housing Trust, a charity which built affordable housing for local people in small villages. There are many such schemes in Uttlesford. Unfortunately, the charity had to be wound up in 2009 but that gave me an opportunity to work part-time again in the offices of three primary schools – I currently work two days a week at Ashdon Primary School in finance and HR which I love.

Chris takes services twice a month at St. James, Sewards End where I feel so at home but, when we are not there, we like to worship at St Mary's when we can. It's such a welcoming place and a spectacular building in what I believe is a lovely place to live. One of my favourite moments was when Chris was celebrating

the 50th anniversary of his priesting in St Mary's and I was able to take our little granddaughter to the altar rail for a blessing from her Grandpa!

I don't have a motto but, if I did, it would have something to do with keeping in touch with your friends which is really important to me. I am lucky enough to have several groups of friends who meet socially for meals and one group in particular, called the Jolly Girls, involves an annual weekend away. Next year will be our 28th ! I love being with my family - we now have two granddaughters - and friends, watching sport, seeing shows in London, playing badminton and I have always supported West Ham – that hasn't always been easy!



The Spring and Summer are traditionally the times to arrange weddings, so as we move through Autumn, here are two marriage related proverbs to reflect upon.

From France:

'A good husband should be deaf and a good wife blind.'

And from Russia:

'Don't praise marriage on the third day, but after the third year.'

The Bishop Walker Pocket Guide to Church History

On Wednesdays November 19th, November 26th and December 3rd, Chris Bishop and Hilary Walker will be presenting the first 3 of 6 sessions on The History of the Christian Church.

These will take place in the North Chapel from 2 pm to 3pm
Session One. The Early Church and its problems

Session Two. Monasteries, Cathedrals & Churches

Session Three.' Unrest' and Reformation

If you would like to join us please tell the Parish Office, so that we have an idea of numbers.

Friends of the Parish Church

Welcome back, we hope that you had an enjoyable summer despite or because of the sunshine and extreme heat.
Twenty-five members enjoyed their visit to the Cambridge Central Mosque. This was an addition to our programme which, as you know is two Cathedral visits a year. We plan to visit a Synagogue next year.
We also enjoyed a lunch together in July, an opportunity to socialise and relax together.
The talk by Edward Gildea on Penguins, Whales and Icebergs was enjoyed by over 40 people. It also included walks and sailing trips from around the world. The session that followed afterwards raised some thought provoking questions.
In September 33 of us visited the Cathedrals in Coventry, see the photo and report on page 22.
The Friends strive to help the Church in as many ways as we possibly can, not just financially. Did you know that once a month we spray certain areas of the Church to prevent moths laying their eggs and possibly causing a great deal of damage. Almost 50% of our members help the Church in so many other ways:- as Welcomers, on Coffee rotas, as Sidesmen and in the Office etc
With over 100 members we have quite a presence in the Church as we have had for almost 100 years. If you would like to join The Friends there is a form on The Friends' Bookstand. You will be most welcome.

Friends of St Mary's: Dates for your Diary

Not quite there with the **Recipe Book**, the Printers have been inundated with work but, dare I say, have promised delivery in October giving us plenty of time to sell at the Christmas Fair.
Do come and talk to us at the **Christmas Fair**, our table will be next to our Bookstand at the West door.
News of the first **Cathedral trip** for 2027 will be out soon, along with the next talk in the spring, watch this space.

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

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WHITE POPPIES FOR PEACE

For many years now St Mary's has offered the white peace poppy to wear during the Remembrance period as a symbol of that genuine peace we all strive and pray for.

The red British Legion poppy echoes the poppies of Flanders fields in Belgium and the many who gave their lives in the First World War and supports all armed service people and their families, even to the present day.

The white poppy carries a message of peace—and of "never again"—for everyone caught up in wars around the world. The United Nations reports a surge in civilian deaths, with one person killed every 14 minutes across conflict zones. Civilians account for 90% of wartime casualties. Attacks increasingly target infrastructure, cutting off energy and food supplies and displacing more than 122 million people from their homes. Bots and drones are also being used with cruel precision to identify and attack targets.

Please think about and pray deeply for lasting peace in these war-torn countries of our planet – your White Poppy will be available at both west and south doors, to wear with your red or on its own, on 1st and 8th November.

Diana Hoy

Crackers for Christmas

Would you like handmade Crackers for the Christmas Festivities this year?

They will contain a decorated hat, a snap, a joke or motto, a present and 'something to play with'.

You can make your own colour choice with an early order.

I will have a few for sale at the Church Fair but due to our circumstances will not have the customary large stall.

Cracker Price for this year is held again at £3.50 each – it's always helpful to know numbers; male, female, non-specific; ages if not an adult; your contact details for delivery – and colour choice.

All orders to be with me by 28th November – Church Fair date.

Wishing you all a Blessed and Happy Christmas.

Diana Hoy – dd.hoy@ntlworld.com

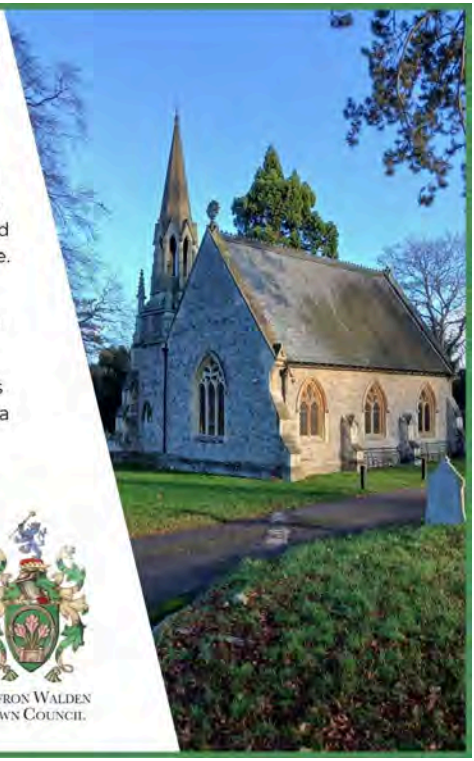
Radwinter Road Cemetery Saffron Walden

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.



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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 10:30 services

Sunday 1 November - All Saints

8.00am BCP Holy Communion
10.30am Holy Communion [Y] & Sunday Club at 10.20am
4.00pm All Souls Service [Y]

Thursday 5 November

10.00am Silent Prayer in the Parish Rooms

Sunday 8 November

8.00am BCP Holy Communion
11.30am Service of Remembrance [Y] following the Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial at 11am
4.00pm Words, Music and Compline for Remembrance Sunday

Thursday 12 November

2.00pm Mothers' Union Meeting

Sunday 15 November

8.00am BCP Holy Communion
10.30am Holy Communion [Y] & Sunday Club at 10.20am

Thursday 19 November

2.00pm Bishop Walker Church History – session 1

Sunday 22 November - Christ the King

8.00am BCP Holy Communion [Y]
10.30am Family Service
4.00pm Taizé service

Saturday 28 November

10.00am – 1pm Christmas Fair



Thursday 26 November
2.00pm Bishop Walker Church History – session 2

Advent Sunday 29 November

8.00am	BCP Holy Communion
10.30am	Team Communion Service [Y] with Sunday Club at 10.20am
6.30pm	Advent Carol Service

Regular weekday services at St Mary's

Tuesdays

9.30am	Tinies Service for Babies and Toddlers
5.00pm	Evening Prayer by Zoom, see weekly bulletin for login details

Wednesdays

8.00am	Morning Prayer
9.30am	Holy Communion (with Prayers for Wholeness and Healing on the 1st Wednesday of the month)

St James', Sewards End

Sunday 1 November
10.30am Holy Communion



Sunday 8 November
3.00pm Remembrance Service

Sunday 15 November
10.30am Morning Praise

St John's, Little Walden

Saturday 7 November
10.40am Remembrance Service -
Start at the war memorial



Sunday 22 November – Christ the King
10.30am Family Service

St Mary's Music News

At the end of September, a successful recruitment evening for the choristers took place during normal choir practice time. While prospective choristers did some singing and then were given a tour of the church by the choral scholars, Hannah provided prosecco and nibbles to the parents and gave them a talk about the required level of commitment as well as the benefits of singing in the choir. Let us hope we will be able to gain some new recruits.

October was an especially productive month for music in the church. On Saturday 3rd the choir enjoyed a successful visit to sing Evensong in Chelmsford Cathedral. There are numerous people to thank for organising travel, liaising with the cathedral and to those who transported choir robes. It is wonderful that our choir can take the musical tradition of St Mary's far and wide and demonstrate their commitment to high-quality singing. It also meant a considerable time commitment for choir members, with Friday night practice, Chelmsford on the Saturday and a splendid Choral Eucharist the next day. The SMMA is so grateful to them all for their hard work.

At Evensong on the 11th the music was chosen by the family of Gordon and Susan Smith. Gordon was the first Chairman of the SMMA and instrumental in getting the society 'up-and-running'. The two were active members of the choir and the brass group, and had many friends in Saffron Walden.





A spectacular outreach event saw pupils from many of the local primary schools attend a workshop taken by Lynsey Callaghan. Lynsey is director of the Dublin Youth Choir and the junior National Youth Choir and her energy, humour and rigour captivated the young people as she taught them several songs over a two-hour period. The event culminated in a performance given to a church packed with parents. The primary schools were all very grateful for this fantastic opportunity to sing with such a highly rated conductor and an enormous thank you goes once again to Hannah for organising a slick and seamless event.

November the first is All Saints Day, and as well as Choral Eucharist in the morning, the choir will sing the All Souls Service at 4pm with music including *The Funeral Icons* by Tavener and *Thou Knowest Lord* by Purcell. The 8th of November is Remembrance Sunday where the introit will be *Holy is the true Light* by Harris and *For the Fallen* by Irving. The 29th is of course Advent Sunday and the Advent Carol Service is at 6.30. Remember to get to the church early as the service is very popular and seats will be at a premium!

Philip Sunderland. Photographs by Hannah Razzell



Friends visit to Coventry

Over thirty members of The Friends visited Coventry Cathedrals in September on a bright sunny day. The contrast between the ancient, the bombed and the new Cathedrals was quite striking and, in a way, moving. As you can see from the photo we entered via the new Cathedral overlooked by the angel. With three knowledgeable guides we made our way learning as we went. The Cathedral which was bombed during the war completely lost its roof but the spires at each remain to this day. The tallest was actually at an angle following the bombing but engineers managed to straighten it to the extent that you can now climb to the top for a magnificent view of Coventry and the surrounding area. There are photos on the website and on the noticeboard for you to admire thanks to Martin and Tony.

We had lunch out of town at The Greyhound pub, right next to the canal so after a delicious lunch we had a leisurely walk along the towpath in the sunshine. To end the day, we were treated to the most amazing sunset. A perfect day.

Pamela Mugliston. Photograph by Martin Hugall



Music to Remember

Sunday 8th November at **7.00pm**
Saffron Walden Baptist Church

Join us for an evening of **music**, **remembrance** and **reflection**, as we play traditional British tunes and songs from times of war in memory of those who served.

All profits go to the **Royal British Legion.**

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SAFFRON WALDEN TOWN BAND

News from the Younger members of the Church

Our September family service was the Harvest Festival and had a high youth contingent, a photo made it on to the front of the Walden Local, showing many of them, along with the donations to the Uttlesford Foodbank that were gifted during the service. The singing was excellently guided by Joyful Noise and St Mary's Choristers who also treated us to a performance of a Harvest song. We had church parade for the St Mary's Guiding units, with Rainbows, Brownies and Guides carrying their flags. Members of Sunday Club also attended enjoying the activities, a collage using rainbow colours, decorating a mirror with flower and leaf stickers, and icing a biscuit, which proved to be the most popular, though that was not a surprise!



Sunday club

Reflecting the readings in the church, Sunday Club has been looking at Matthew and has done some activities based on those. We thought about forgiveness and had a try at signing some words from the story in Makaton and British Sign Language. We also heard about how in the Kingdom of God all is shared fairly, and played a game where all was not, to see how it feels. During one session we read part of Psalm 149, which inspired us to dance and play in Praise of the Lord, so we made instruments and dancing ribbons.

Tinies

Tinies started back after the summer break at the beginning, that is by going to the first story in the Bible, and the children made a world mobile and heard the story of how God created the world. The following week we moved to the story



of Noah, and the children had fun adding animal stickers to an ark craft, then heard the story of how Noah collected them two by two. We then moved onto God's promise to Abraham that he would have as many descendants as stars in the sky, so the children did star potato printing. The children have been enjoying the normal range of activities available including simple trikes and a sand tray some weeks.

Other activities

At St Mary's Primary, the "Open the Book' team also started at the beginning and presented the story of the creation, assisted by four students, who held up the various elements as the story mentioned them, from soil to grain, to a hippopotamus. Seward's End Youth club, supported by St James's, started back with some new year 5 members, allowed to come for the first time, the weather being good, lots of games were played in the garden at Seward's End Village Hall. Our new venture for Youth was given the go ahead by the PCC and we will be starting our **Youth drop-in sessions** on Wednesday 4th November. Anyone who is in year 7 upwards in high school can come to a warm welcoming space, straight after school until 5.30, and enjoy a hot drink and some toast. There will also be tabletop games available and a quiet area for homework or reading. This is being led by the Children and Youth team, but we are in need of some extra volunteers. ***If you are available on a Wednesday afternoon and would like to help out on a rota, please see the website for further information. As this is a role with children, any volunteers would need to go through the safer recruitment process, which we can help you with..***

Julie Lester

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Muniments / Archive 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

November 1964

The Silver Tree

The opening page of this Parish News highlighted the upcoming Parish Church Christmas Fair.

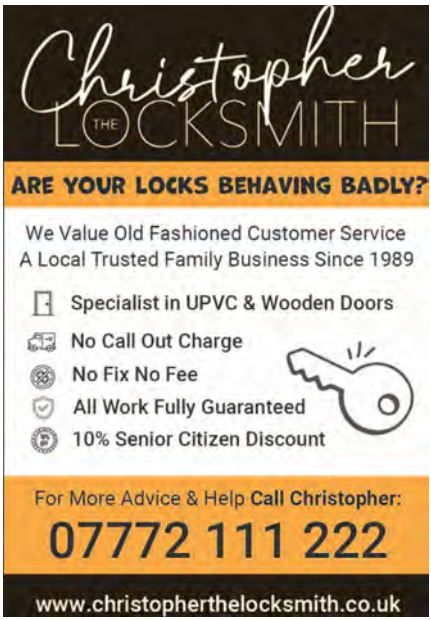
Attached to an inside page by a pin was a brown envelope and a loose pink sheet addressing the needs of one of the many stalls at the impending Fair.

This year we are going to introduce a competitive element into the contributions for the Silver Tree. A brace of pheasants will be won by the contributor who estimates the correct or nearest total amount collected. Simply write your name, address and the amount you estimate on the envelope. The last two years raised £34.17s 6d and £36.

Please may we have your continued support by placing your contributions in the attached envelope.

Please return envelope to Mr J.D.Comins, 5, Saxon Way, or bring it to the Christmas Fair.

(Does anyone have a memory of how this Silver Tree attraction at the Christmas Fair actually worked? Please let me know. Chris Bishop)



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Update on Stewardship Letters

Many thanks to all of those who have responded to the Stewardship Letters circulated in September (56 at the time of writing). They have resulted in an increase in annual income of £7,500, which will help towards reducing our deficit.

St Mary's needs a regular income to:

- contribute to the cost of ministry across the Diocese and pay and house our clergy;
- maintain our church building as a welcoming place and open every day;
- provide regular services of worship and teaching;
- fund our music, an important part of our worship;
- run youth and children's groups and take school assemblies;
- conduct weddings, baptisms and funerals, including preparation;
- visit the sick and housebound and comfort the bereaved;
- support missionary and outreach work, both locally and further afield.

This costs more than £750 a day!

Most of our money comes through regular Planned Giving from our church members by standing orders. If we do not meet our running costs, we risk eating into reserves which could soon run out.

This year, our deficit is likely rise to as much as £37,000 which means further depletion of our reserves, and this cannot be maintained without making drastic cuts. Please see the pie charts overleaf.

Apart from Gift Aid, we receive no Government subsidy, and we must raise all the funds we need ourselves.

Our financial situation can only be rectified if more parishioners are able to contribute on a regular basis, or if those that already do so are able to increase their contributions.

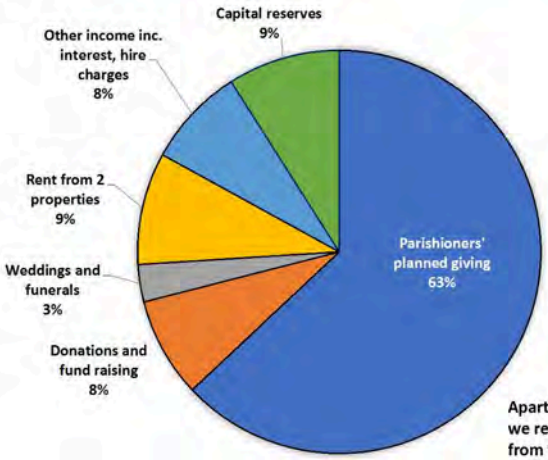
If you have not yet responded to the Stewardship Letter, please pick up a Planned Giving leaflet at the back of the church or contact our Treasurer David Birchall at treasurer@stmaryssaffronwalden.org.

The Communications Committee, in consultation with the Treasurer

What St Mary's spends its money on and where it comes from.

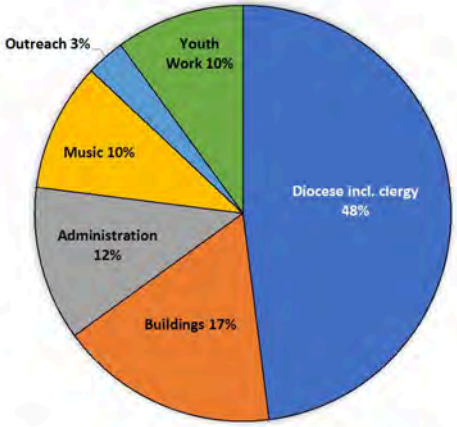
It costs more than £750 a day to run this church

Where the money comes from:



Apart from Gift Aid we receive no money from the State.

Where the money goes:



See the display in the west porch for details of our income and expenditure

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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.

theartssocietysaffronwalden.com

What's in a Name (21) ?

King Street - part 2

In the forty-five years that I have lived in Saffron Walden I have seen many changes in the shops to be found along King Street. Some businesses have changed their location in the street and others have vanished altogether. There are too many to consider all of them, so let's take the building that still bears the name of Post Office as an example. Built in the late nineteenth century, the new Post Office building was one of a line of buildings hosting the Saffron Walden Post Office over the years.

The Saffron Walden Post Office was inaugurated in 1635 and was a well-used if sometimes rather inefficient service. In 1765 Saffron Walden was designated a postal town with its own postmark, but the original Post Office was not in King Street. More recently, the building has been occupied by many different businesses including Cleales, which dealt in Ford motor cars and accessories, W.H.Smith and Son, and is now White Stuff.



Opposite where Monsoon used to be is a range of much older buildings. Number 13, for example, dates from the seventeenth century. In the eighteenth century this part of King Street was home to Richard Burrows who was a cabinet maker, and the Kent family who were clockmakers. The end of this row abuts Cross Street. The final building was once The Hoops. The Hoops as an inn has probably had many names over the years but the name The Hoops dates from at least 1740, although it seems likely that in mediaeval times it may have been a merchant's house with shops on the ground floor. If you have never looked closely at the windows looking on to Cross Street, please do, the spandrels are well worth a look.

The other side of Cross Street is a late fifteenth century Hall House now split into three properties. A careful look at the woodwork will prove rewarding since there are more mediaeval windows looking onto Cross Street.

Slightly further towards the High Street, but on the other side of the road, Hart's Yard is reached by passing under the archway which still bears Hart's name. The land here was once Hart's yard and garden. The archway links numbers 22 and 26 and is described as part of a late fifteenth century house. Do look up if you ever walk through the archway and you will see a door in a most unusual place. It seems likely the arch is all that remains of an early coaching inn and passengers travelling on the top of the stagecoach may well have entered the inn through this door. Cottages which had been in the yard were Henry Hart's original printing works but may have been involved in brewing in the eighteenth century. They were destroyed by a fire in 1930.

There are many other buildings in King Street with interesting pasts, but I will leave you to investigate those. The Cross Keys, although part in King Street, faces onto the High Street and will have to wait its turn.

Hilary Walker

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Sugar Beet

Whilst walking, cycling or driving in our beautiful and mainly rural area you will come across a variety of crops at various stages of their life cycle. One of these is sugar beet, a plant that is harvested during the colder months, from September to March.

When my wife and I were checking out one of The Hundred Parishes quiet lane walks last winter, we came across great mounds of root vegetables. The farmer explained that they were recently-harvested sugar beets that were about to be transported to the local sugar beet factory in Bury St Edmunds, around 35 miles away.

Bury St Edmunds is one of just four UK processing plants, all in the East of England and run by British Sugar. In total, they produce over a million tonnes of sugar each year, around half of the UK's consumption (the rest is imported).

Sugar beet is sown in spring and harvested in autumn and winter. Sugar in the form of sucrose is produced by photosynthesis in the leaves and is stored in the root. An average mature root weighs about a kilogram or 2 pounds. About 20% of this is turned into sugar.



The sugar content of the beet deteriorates if it freezes so the farmer must judge when best to harvest and then get the beet to the factory as quickly as possible. The harvesting process first removes the leaves and then lifts the beets from the ground into a truck driving beside the harvester. The truck deposits the beets into giant heaps.

On the day we watched the operation, the already-harvested beet was being loaded onto a fleet of large lorries for transport to Bury. Once in the factory, the beet is washed and processed to extract the sugar. The residue pulp is turned into animal feed.

Ken McDonald, Secretary

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St Mary's Church Saffron Walden Christmas Fair

Saturday 28 November 2026

10am – 1pm

Stalls to include:

Refreshments, cakes

Mulled wine and mince pies

Christmas gifts

Handicrafts and children's stalls

Tombola and Grand Draw

Visits to Bell Tower

Christmas music

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