AUTUMN 2026

ISSUE 01

THE WALSGRAVE

PRODUCED BY ST MARY'S COVENTRY



IN THIS ISSUE







In this issue we will be looking at the Heritage Day that happened in September, the emerging board game community in Walsgrave, hearing from one of our local schools, learning about local residents and more.

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WHY DO A MAG AZINE

We want **The Walsgrave** to be more than something you simply read — We hope it becomes a place where our community can share, discover and celebrate together.
There is so much happening across Walsgrave and the surrounding area, and so many interesting people, organisations, groups and stories. Our hope is that each issue will help you discover something new, learn a little more about the place we call home, and perhaps even inspire you to get involved.

We also want this magazine to be shaped by the community itself. If you have a story to tell, a photograph to share, an interesting local fact, an event to publicise, or simply something you think our readers would enjoy, we'd love to hear from you.

If you would like to contribute to a future issue, email your article or idea to hello@stmaryscoventry.org. We can't promise that everything we receive will appear in the magazine, but we'll enjoy reading your contributions and seeing what you come up with!

After all, **The Walsgrave** is about our community — and we want your voice to be part of it.

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



The people who make Walsgrave

Welcome to the inaugural issue of The Walsgrave. Let me start by saying, 'I don't know what I'm doing!'. However, I do have a hope that we can produce a magazine that seeks to celebrate the unique people and places that make up our amazing community.

This is not the first magazine that St Mary's have produced for our area. There is a long history of the church producing magazines for the community.

For a long time there was a magzine called 'The Parish Punch' and there was a local history one called 'The Walsgrave Chronicles' and in the loft of the church we have found other magazines or newletters that go back many years.

Following in these footsteps, we thought we would give it a go. But our deep hope is that this will become a community driven magazine with interesting articles, photos, and stories from you, the people of Walsgrave and beyond.

In 'The Walsgrave' you will find stories of our neighbours, our history, local events and hopefully things that interest you.

We look forward to welcoming your contributions in the future

Revd Tom Cook

Editor-in-Chief (for now)

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOUR

It is with great pride that I introduce your neighbour. Gary has been a Coventry gent for all of his life. A passionate Cov City fan and generous soul.

Gary has spent many years serving the local area. He has volunteered in many different ways for a long time. He is a keen gardener and looks after the grounds at St Mary's Coventry, the doctors surgery, and for many years he served hot drinks as a volunteer in the hospital. Gary is a friendly and welcoming gent who epitimises what Walksgrave can be like.

Many people have encountered Gary's friendly welcome whilst he works the grounds of the church. Myself and my family personally know the welcome and generosity that is possible to show people because of the way he welcomed us as we moved here 4 years ago.



Walsgrave, like Gary, can be such a welcoming and friendly place. My hope is that everyone will show a generous welcome across Walsgrave like Gary does.

CHANGE THIS

As the year begins, our hope is that every child will put down strong roots, grow in confidence and faith, and know that they have a place where they truly belong.

Walsgrave Church of England Academy

Written by the Deputy Head Sarah Ashworth

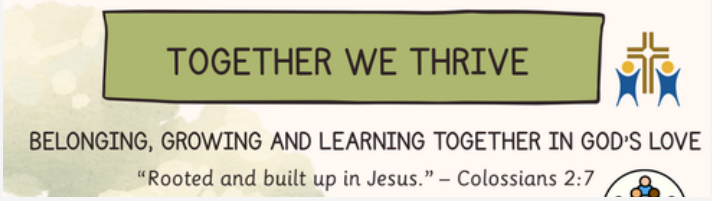
It has been wonderful to welcome our children and families back to Walsgrave for another school year. September always brings a real sense of excitement with new classrooms, new routines, new friendships and lots of opportunities ahead.

At the start of this year, we have spent time reminding everyone of our school vision, **Together We Thrive**, and what it means to belong, grow and learn together in God's love. In particular, we have focused on belonging. We want every child to know that they are an important part of our school family, that they are known, valued, cared for and celebrated.

One way we have brought this to life is through our new class VIP. Every day, each class chooses one child to celebrate. Their classmates share positive messages about them, which are collected on a special poster for the child to take home. It has been lovely to see children noticing the kindness, friendship and unique qualities in one another.

Belonging also means being here. We continue to promote excellent attendance because every day in school matters. Being present helps children build friendships, feel part of their class community and make the most of every opportunity to learn and grow.

Our vision is rooted in Colossians 2:7, which encourages us to be "rooted and built up in Jesus". As the year begins, our hope is that every child will put down strong roots, grow in confidence and faith, and know that they have a place where they truly belong. Together, we thrive.



Go to the school website to find out more about their new vision for the school:

walsgraveacademy.org/Our-Vision/



Getting to know ...

Michelle SMITH

... from Walsgrave CoE Academy

For the past 27 years, I have had the privilege of being part of the Walsgrave C of E Academy community. My journey began in the school office, but as the needs of our school and families grew, my role evolved into that of Pastoral Lead.

Today, I work closely with children, staff and families, providing support, guidance and a listening ear whenever it is needed. My passion is helping families without judgement and ensuring that everyone knows there is always an open door at Walsgrave. No concern is ever too big or too small, and I strive to make sure every individual feels valued, supported and respected.

Alongside my pastoral responsibilities, I oversee safeguarding and wellbeing across the school, supporting both pupils and staff. A key part of my role is signposting families to professional services and agencies when additional support is needed. I also coordinate practical help, including food parcels, working alongside the dedicated Walsgrave team to help ensure that no family goes without essential support.

Walsgrave is especially close to my heart because I attended the school as a pupil and my own children also attended. My Christian faith guides everything I do, inspiring me to serve, support and care for our school community for as long as I am able.



Photo: 3D Castles of Burgendy from Jon Deacons collection

Worlds of fun in Walsgrave

When you think of board games, what initially come to mind? If you think monopoly or boggle is the pinicle of the what board games are, then you are in for a world of discovery!

Board games have developed so much in the past 30 years. My gateway game was Catan, a world where you build towns, cities, and roads whilst collecting resourcese. I enjoyed it so much I even made my own wooden version of the game. But this was the begining of my collection.

Through our games collection we build worlds, explore nature, test our strategy skills, collect gems and so much more.

In Walsgrave there are people who love to play games. A small group that meet together to play games, called Meeples, meets monthly. They play allsorts of different things from Castles of Burgenden to Magical Athletes, Whether it's strategy games, whimsical party games or even a little bit of DnD this group has a variety of games to enjoy.

But there is something new happening in Walsgrave as well. There are those who are not only content to play board games but they want to create their own. This brand new collective of creatives are starting to meet regularly to encourage each other. We are excited to play some new games that are coming out of the hearts and minds of designers from Covetnry.

HOW MANY?

By Revd Tom Cook

If I were to tell you that every year there is an exhibition where people go to discover new board games, compete in tournaments and see what is being developed, how many people would you expect to attend? A few hundred? Maybe a couple of thousand?

Well, this year 51,196 different people went to UK Games Expo at Birmingham's National Exhibition Centre. Across the three days, there were 87,837 attendances. I only went for one day, but even then I was struck by the enthusiasm of the visitors and the incredible creativity of the game designers.

The event filled five massive halls at the NEC, with hundreds of exhibitors, thousands of games, tournaments, demonstrations, role-playing games and, most importantly, lots of opportunities to actually play.

It isn't just an exhibition where you look at games. It is an exhibition where you can play them. UK Games Expo, or UKGE, has grown enormously since it began in 2007, when around 1,200 people attended. By 2024 it had attracted more than 39,000 unique visitors, and this year's figure has passed 51,000. Board gaming is clearly no longer a niche hobby. The UK tabletop games market is estimated to be worth around £500 million. But perhaps the appeal isn't really about cardboard, cards and plastic pieces. Board games give people a reason to sit around a table together. We live in a world where so much of our entertainment happens through screens, yet board games require something wonderfully old-fashioned: talking, laughing, competing and spending time together. That is one reason I am excited about our own Meeples board gaming sessions in Walsgrave.



It isn't just about playing games. It is about creating a space where people can meet, have fun and build relationships. After visiting UK Games Expo, I came away thinking that perhaps the real thing people are coming for isn't just the games at all. It is also about connecting to a community where you share a passion for the same thing.



Photo: Some of Jons personal collection

A life slightly taken over by cardboard

Everyone has a hobby. Some people enjoy gardening. Others like football. I, however, have spent most of my life filling cupboards, shelves and every available space in my house with board games.

My obsession began when I was seven years old. While other children were probably outside kicking a ball around, I was happily sitting in a Methodist holiday home playing card games with a group of lovely elderly ladies. Looking back, it was a slightly unusual social circle for a seven-year-old, but they were patient, competitive and absolutely ruthless when the cards came out. I loved every minute of it.

Then came the game that changed everything: Cluedo. Suddenly, I wasn't just playing cards. I was solving murders, making accusations and confidently blaming Colonel Mustard for crimes he may or may not have committed. From that moment on, I was hooked.



As I got older, my collection grew along with my determination to make every game look ridiculous. One of my favourites was The Really Nasty Horse Racing Game.

Playing it wasn't enough. I had to upgrade it. Soon there were proper poker chips, miniature jockey silks, racing trophies and enough accessories to make it look like the Grand National had moved into my dining room.

Fast forward to today and my collection has galloped to an unbelievable 240 games. Most sensible people stop at buying the game. I apparently stop only after adding metal coins, deluxe components and every unnecessary upgrade known to mankind. Yet despite favourites such as Ticket to Ride, The Castles of Burgundy and Ra, the best part has never been winning. The real magic is sitting around a table with friends and family, laughing until your sides hurt and sharing unforgettable moments. Nothing beats introducing a brilliant new game and watching people light up as they realise just how much fun cardboard, wooden cubes and a few metal coins can create. That's when everyone wins.

QWritten by Jon Deakin

A RETURN TO IMAGINATION

A wonderful introduction to the world of role playing games written by Daniel Flatman

Many of us grew up using our imaginations, we made an imaginary universe in the space between our ears; and yet, when we became adults… most of us seemed to just stop pretending. Let me introduce to you to the world of Role-Playing Games or RPG's for short; a style of game that, in most cases, requires you to play the part of a character in the chosen game world. Many people I have spoken to about these games all gave similar answers: "I'm not a good actor", "It sounds too complicated" and "I'll just make a fool of myself!"; to them I say, "Yes, you could make a fool of yourself… but so will everyone else".

The joy of many RPG's is the fact that, for a short time, you can inhabit a character who is not you, doesn't carry your burdens and can exist in a way that you might not have humanly considered. Is it for everyone?... no; no game ever invented was "made for everyone". RPG's are often centred around group gaming (cooperative or not); you want to have fun? So do the other players, and you will often work, laugh, struggle and play your way through the adventures and lasting friendships can be made.

Growing up doesn't have to be an end to the imaginative fun, more fun awaits! Perhaps you will join us at our monthly Meeples Game Group, See Reverend Tom for more information.
To help you on your way, I can suggest three possible choices for you:

- Dungeons & Dragons: Traditional Fantasy style (think Lord of The Rings).
- Call of Cthulhu: Based on the 1920s style of H.P Lovecraft.
- Warhammer: A Dystopian future of space soldiers and perpetual war.



HAVE YOU EVER WANTED TO MAKE A GAME?



Meet Marcus Gambrill and read a little teaser of his article that will be in the next issue of The Walsgrave

An idea always seems perfect in your head but sometimes you need a few other people to tell you if it really works. That was the thought when making the board game development group and its already got a bit of traction. Seeing multiple groups in the UK already set up and the closest established group in Birmingham I decided to put out the feelers for anything in Coventry. Fairly quickly the responses came back and the group began. Having people at various steps in their game development journey meant that the information shared really helped you see the progress you could make and the friendly nature of the group meant that you felt very easy asking for help.

Contact Marcus Gambrill if you have a passion for board game design and want to attend the meet ups. Call on 07341 551 325

We are excited to see what creativity comes out of this group and what sneak peaks into future games we might be able to see in our next issue. -Comment from the editor



History Re-Written

We have always cared about the history of our community. There have been multiple efforts to record and share it. Many of the attempts are at St Mary's and that we make them available to the public each year at our Heritage Day. I hope one day a brave soul may attempt to unify all the history into one super volume.

We thought it would be a fun idea to reproduce on of the articles from the past in this magazine. It might come from the churches Parish Punch, or the Sowe Wake Recipe Book, 900 years of St Mary's Walsgrave, Remembered, or my person faves The Walsgrave Chronicle. It is in partial tribute to these predecessors that we have called our magazine **The Walsgrave**. We will also throw in a few old photo's in as a bonus.

If you have any old photos of Walsgrave and the surrounding area please do send a hi-res picture of them in to hello@stmaryscoventry.org

*Here you find an unedited version of an article called **'Bullbaiting and Broken Glass'** written in the early 1800's and reprinted in the 1980's.*

Bullbaiting and Broken Glass

During the past centuries the village of Walsgrave has been the home of many vicars who attended to the parish's religious needs.

Perhaps the most outstanding of them all was the Rev. F. D. Perkins, to whom is dedicated a stained glass window in St. Mary's Church. The Reverend gentleman led an interesting and varied life, even his arrival in Walsgrave, then called Sowe, was not without incident as you will see.

In the year 1817 the Rev. Frederick David Perkins left his native Devonshire, where he held the parish of Dawlish, on the long journey northwards to the parish of Sowe. He arrived no doubt a little the worse for wear, at the Craven Arms, a coaching inn situated in the High Street in Coventry. On disembarking he asked directions to Sowe and these duly given he collected his carpet bag and set off on the long trek up the turnpike road. The night was drawing in when he finally reached his destination. Much to his bemusement there was not a soul to be seen. The cottages were empty, some with their doors flung ajar. Stopping to ponder these strange circumstances he heard in the distance the cries of men and women. On looking in the direction from whence they came he could see a hazy glare in the dark sky. Taking all this into account the Reverend came to the conclusion that a house must be ablaze. He quickly made his way to the place from which the commotion came and to his surprise and horror saw the whole of the village involved in what was to him a barbaric sport, bull baiting. As he looked upon the scene the good Reverend must have wondered what he had let himself in for, these people were heathens.

A bull was staked on the village green surrounded by a horde of riotous people carrying blazing torches. Two scruffy women with dishevelled hair had bull-dogs under their arms and were fighting one another for the chance to set their dogs on the unfortunate beast. Perkins was dumbfounded. His first thought was to inform the resident curate, no doubt with the intention of putting a stop to this cruel act, so he pushed his way through the frenzied mass to reach the white gate, which he was informed, led to the vicarage. Yet another shock was in store for him when upon enquiring who was responsible he was told that the curate himself was the instigator of the bull-bait.

On meeting the curate, one Rev. J. Jones, he introduced himself and told Mr. Jones that he had come to Sowe to replace him and the following morning would read himself in at the parish church.

With a look of confusion and disgust Jones shouted to the bull-baiters "put the bull in the vicarage stable till Monday morning", he then turned to the Rev. Perkins and invited him inside. What words passed between them on that night we will never know. What we can be certain of is that the Rev. Perkins, being a man who spoke his mind, would have told Jones exactly what he thought of him and his parishioners.

The following morning he read himself in and on the Monday returned to London to arrange the transportation of his household goods to Sowe vicarage as he intended to move in after a period of six weeks. As the time of his departure from his old benefice approached he decided to write to Jones to check if all was in order; he got no reply. This aroused his suspicions and he once again headed for Sowe. On his arrival he went to the vicarage only to find its doors and windows barricaded ..... by Jones who under no circumstances would allow him to enter. As no entry could be gained he left and took the first coach to Warwick to gain an eviction order from the High Sheriff. Armed with his legal document he once again arrived at the vicarage. Now much to his annoyance Jones had vacated the front of the house and barricaded himself in the kitchen at the rear. Jones shouted through the window that the document was worthless as the house stood on the borderline of the County of Warwick and the then County of Coventry and he was now in the County of Coventry. The Rev. Perkins found himself once again in a dilemma and returned to Coventry where he would once again obtain the necessary eviction order. The order gained he returned to Sowe on which thankfully was a successful mission, as on his arrival he found the vicarage to be empty, empty it was, but intact it was not as all the windows had been smashed and broken glass was everywhere. This may have been the Rev. Jones's last act of defiance or possibly the work of the villagers who may have resented the loss of their sporting vicar. Finally the Rev. Frederick David Perkins had arrived to stay; which is exactly what he did until his death thirty-nine years later.

This account is based on the notes written by the Rev. William Frederick Bickmore, Vicar of Stone in Kidderminster who was a personal friend of the Rev. Perkins.

What's so special about Heritage Day at St Mary's Coventry?



Photo: One of our wonderful volunteers





Photo: Our ancient chalice

National Heritage Day is celebrated annually. It was created to give all people free access to organised events and celebrating its heritage sites and culture; explore hidden places, be curious about its rich history and try new things.

St Mary's Church, Walsgrave has almost 900 years of rich history. With her roots firmly in the Norman era with William the Conqueror, they have been able to tell their story of her history through the reigning monarchs - from WC to Charles III; using pictures, visuals, words, videos and historical artefacts.

One of its remaining and significant treasures from the Norman era is the font which is still used today. Wouldn't it be amazing to have a recorded number of baptisms since that time. As well as this, another notable treasure is a silver Chalice which dates back to Queen Elizabeth I which is still used on special occasions.

The church's heritage is vast. Without its long list of vicars and priests, the lay people and its worshippers (all who have gone before and led the way) would not have been able to connect to Jesus and the church would simply be an empty building.



Photo: History of St Mary's through kings and queens

Today St Mary's has a thriving community of worshippers. The church's mission statement of *Growing Love and Faith that Transforms Lives* is at the core of all they do; welcoming all people, just as they are, who are curious about the church, her history and Jesus.



Photo: Display about music past and future at St Mary's

Collectively, they are creating today's legacy of transforming lives, whilst strengthening the foundations of those who went before them, a person at a time. No one is ever alone and all are welcome in that place. They are in the ministry of open minds, hearts and open hands.

heritage open days

Written by Rachel Hamilton

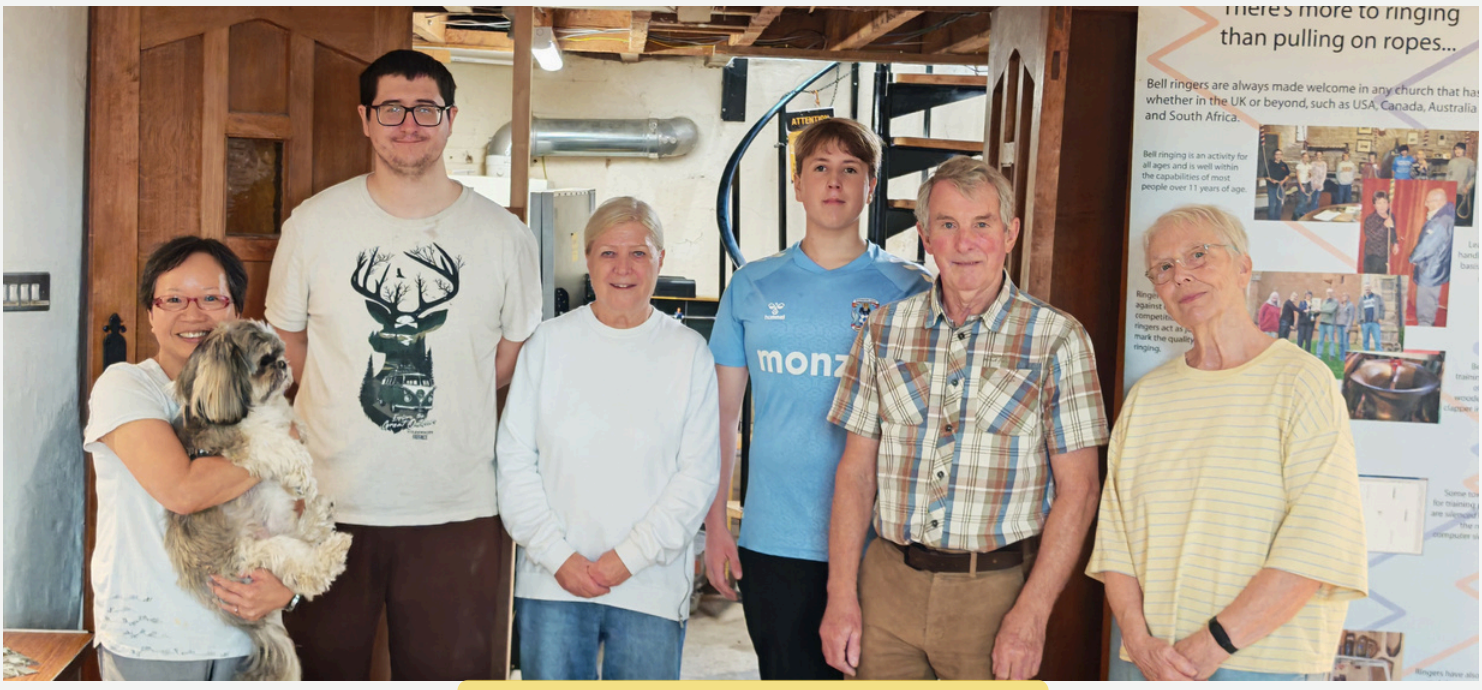
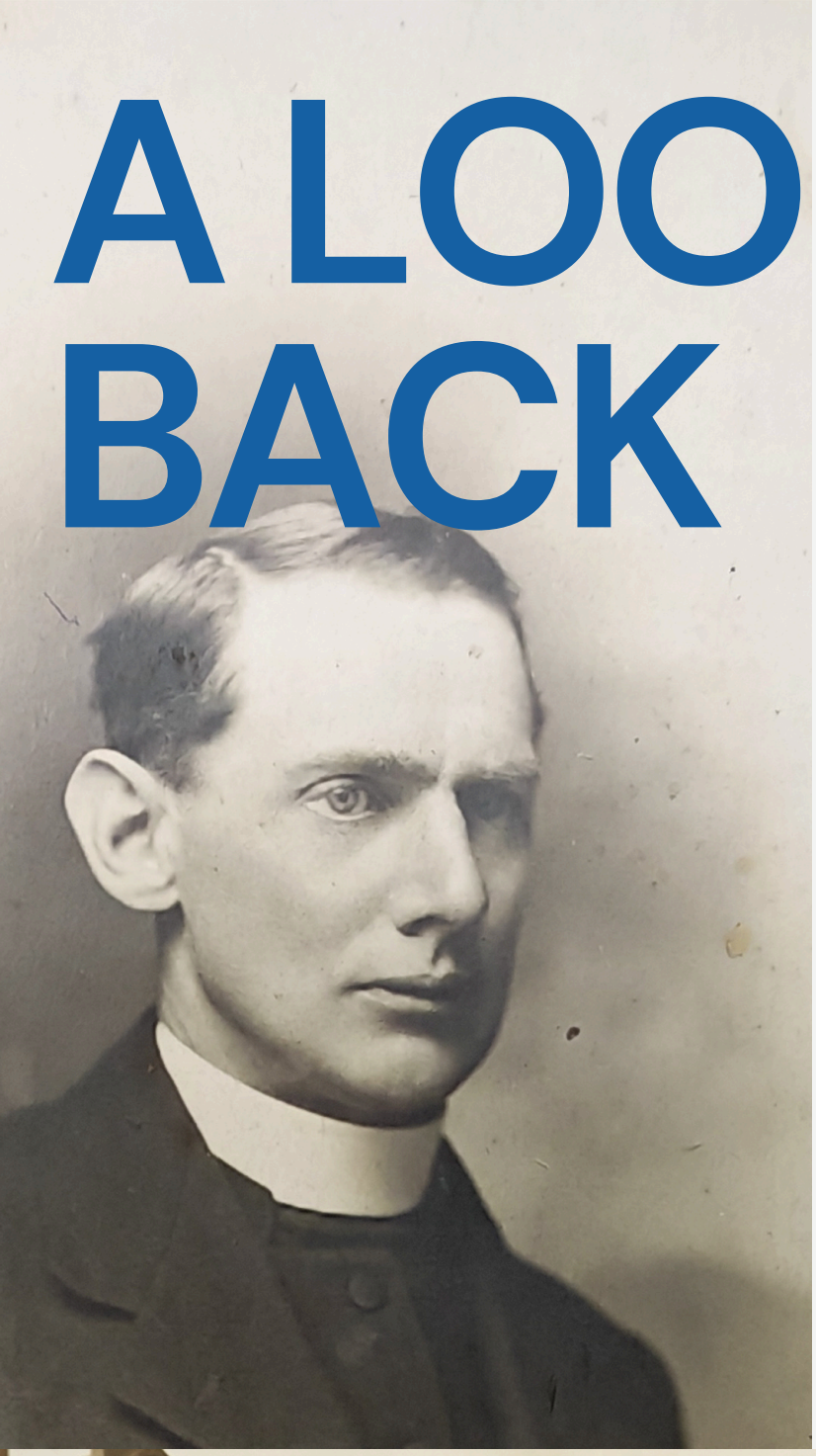


Photo: Some of our fantastic bell ringers at St Mary's

A LOOK BACK



Here are a few old photos from the archives that are held at St Mary's Coventry.

One the Left: This is Revd Frank Taylor who was vicar of St Mary's between 1908-1925. This photo was actually printed on the back of a postcard in 1921. Who wants a post card with the current vicars mug on it?

Below: This gathering was for the Patronal festival of St Mary's on Hall Lane. The picture was taken on Penfold in the middle of the Walsgrave Village. The Patronall festival is celebrated to this day at the begining of September. The date of this processeion was in 1915.

If you have any old photos to share please email them to hello@stmaryscoventry.org

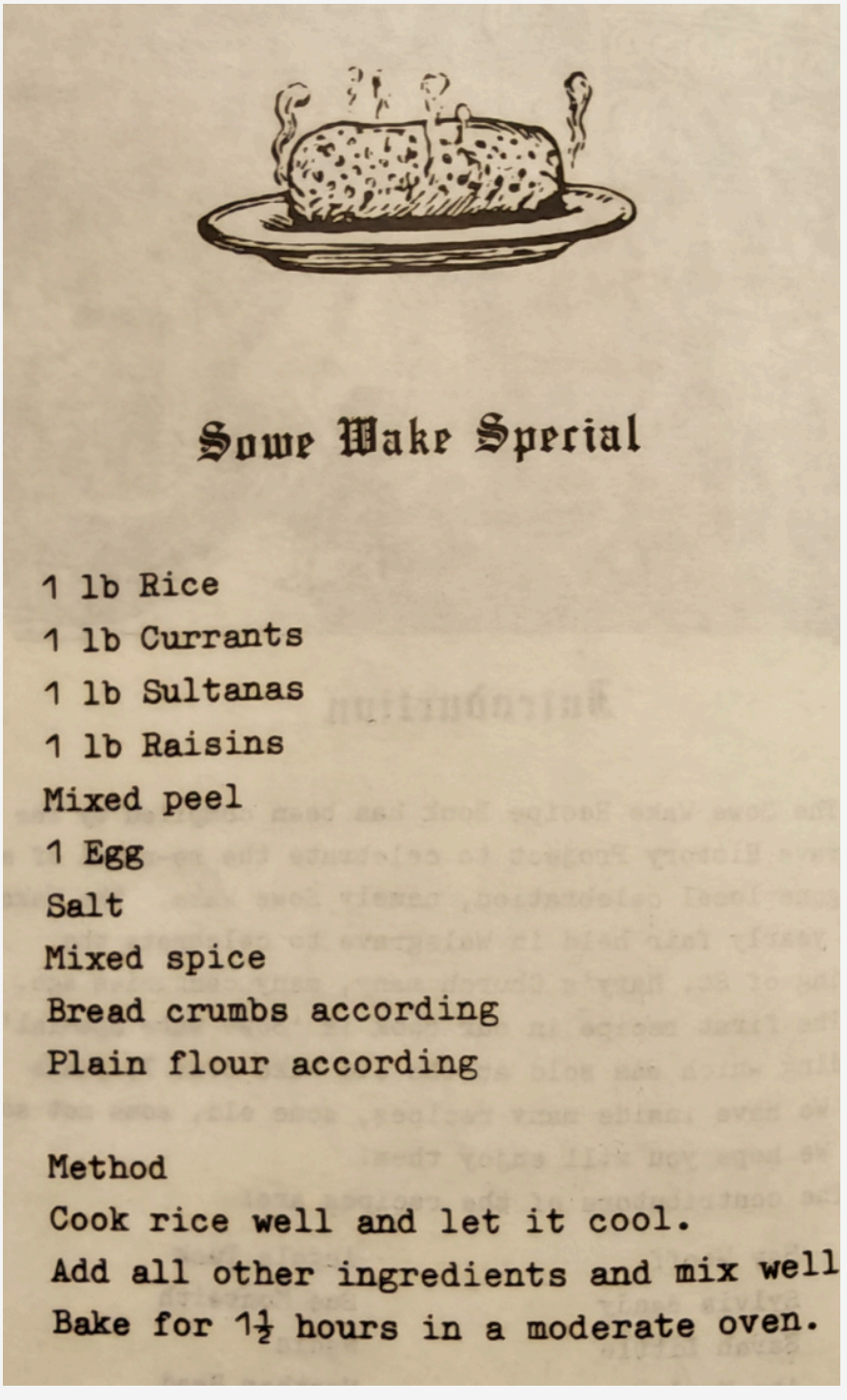


SOWE WAKE CAKE

The Walsgrave History Project wanted to celebrate and hoped for a renewal of the long gone local celebration of the **Sowe Wake**. The Wake was a yearly fair that also celebrated the building of St Mary's Church.

Today we have added a recipe for the **Sowe-Wake-Cake** should anyone want to be bold enough to try and make it. We had a wonderful lady in the church congregation who had a go at the recipe and the results were lovely!

If you have a go at making it we would love to see your photos of it! Email them to hello@stmaryscoventry.org or share them with us on facebook or instagram @Stmaryscov

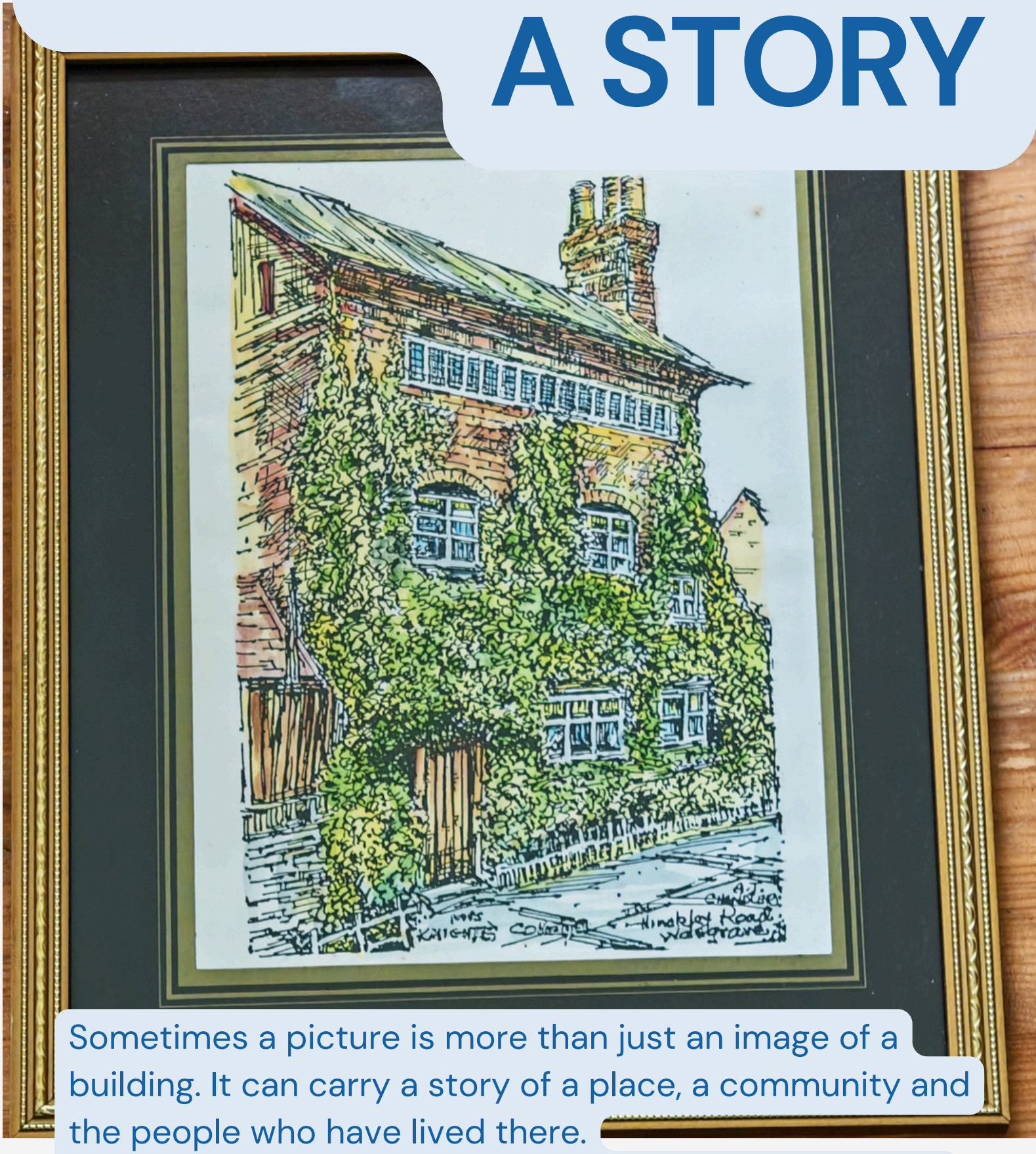


Sowe Wake Special

1 lb Rice
1 lb Currants
1 lb Sultanas
1 lb Raisins
Mixed peel
1 Egg
Salt
Mixed spice
Bread crumbs according
Plain flour according

Method
Cook rice well and let it cool.
Add all other ingredients and mix well
Bake for 1½ hours in a moderate oven.

A PICTURE WITH A STORY



Sometimes a picture is more than just an image of a building. It can carry a story of a place, a community and the people who have lived there.

This painting shows “Mrs Knight’s Cottage”, which once stood on Hinkley Road, opposite the chapel. The cottage was a

weaver's cottage and was eventually demolished to make way for the new road and local development. Sadly, it was one of several historic buildings along Hinkley Road to disappear, including the well-known "Magpie Hall."

According to the story written on the back of the painting, Mrs Knight was a well-built lady who regularly walked to Mr Ward's shop. She was remembered for always wearing a tailored, fitted coat and laced leather-heeled shoes.
The painting was created by Arthur Candler, who was a minister at the Baptist Church on Hinkley Road during the 1950s. He gave the painting to Mrs Brown, who lived in the White House on Hall Lane. It later passed to her daughter, Irene.

After Irene left Walsgrave, she gave the painting to Mrs Christine Goddard, who had lived in Walsgrave for 61 years. Christine has now entrusted it to St Mary's, so that this little piece of Walsgrave's history can be preserved and shared with our community.
We are very grateful to Christine for giving it to us. It reminds us that the history of St Mary's is not just found within our walls, but in the homes, streets and people who have made Walsgrave their community.

Thanks to Christine Goddard for this story and photo.
If you have a story to share please let us know!

Email them to hello@stmaryscoventry.org or share them with us on facebook or instagram @Stmaryscov

Community takes on many shapes. So we are wondering if a cinema might be one of them.



We think spending time together is so important. Sitting side by side sharing an experience. And on top of that, IT'S FREE! There is something special in a shared experience. Experiencing story with your family, sharing the emotional moment with your friend, laughing and uniting the stranger.

At St. Mary's they wanted to help create spaces for the community to gather. To be a space that also tackles lonliness, one of the greatest epidemics in our country.



Because of this desire to use the space within the church more creatively they decided to invest the money from the sale of the church hall to help create space we all can use.

An amazing new sound system, screens, a massive drop down screen for films or presentations, and some lighting all help to create a versatile space. It offers flexibility for different styles of worship, and opens opportunities to be a training/conference space, but also, what we have been talking about, a cinema.

It's such a great opportunity to rewatch classic films together or films that deserve a bigger screen.

So far we have adventured in the Minecraft Movie, sung in the Greatest Showman and Abba, had marmalade with Paddington, been to see Aliens in space, flown with dragons and top guns, seen the action of Spiderman and Transformers. Been moved by To Kill a Mocking Bird & Schindler's List and after nearly 50 years returned to A New Hope. We even had a special afternoon tea whilst watching Pride and Prejudice.

We have plans to continue our community cinema with various films over the coming months. Including, Hotel Transylvania, the classic Hitchcock film Psycho, a double feature of Infinity War and End Game, Christmas Films marathon, and more into the future. If you want to be involved then please do reach out to us on: hello@stmaryscoventry.org



LIGHTS, CAMERA, DRAMA

... films can bring people together.

A SHORT PIECE FROM HERBIE, OUR VOLUNTEER AT THE COMMUNITY CINEAM

Hi! My name is Herbie and I volunteer at St Mary's Community Cinema because I love the way films can bring people together. A cinema is more than just a place to watch a film; it can be a welcoming space where people meet, share experiences and feel part of their local community. As a child, I always struggled to fit in, but as time went on I started to develop friendships over a shared love of specific films or TV shows. My aim here is to bring a bit of that experience to the Walsgrave area.

I enjoy being involved behind the scenes and helping to make sure visitors have a positive experience. Whether I am welcoming people, serving refreshments or simply pressing play on the movie, I feel that every small contribution makes a difference!

Volunteering has also given me the opportunity to share my special interest (film) with others. I particularly enjoy seeing people of all ages coming together to enjoy a movie, sharing the experience with each other.

Most importantly, volunteering gives me a sense of belonging and I am proud to support the St Mary's Community Cinema. For me, volunteering at the cinema is not just about giving my time – it is about being part of something positive in my community. From this, I have started my own Instagram talking all about film! Feel free to check it out on @thereactionguide.



SHOWING SOON...

17th October – 2pm: Hotel Transylvania
– 7pm: Psycho

21st November – 4pm: Avengers Double Bill

12th December – All afternoon: Christmas Flilms

15th December – 5pm: The Lion , The Witch, and the wardrobe







Building Community Together

At St Mary's we are commited to creating community in Walsgrave. It's why we provide free youth work, celebrate our heritage, quiz together, try and bring some joy into the world through our various events, and provide a worshipping space in our beautiful and ancient building.

If you think you could support us with a regular monthly donation it would be received with immense gratitude.

Keep an eye on the website for up-to-date event information

StMarysCoventry.org



CHRISTMAS AS IT WAS

A poem by
Christine Foxon

There was no pork pie in the stable,
No pigs to kick up a stink.
Scented candles? They'd have been welcome!
Prosecco? No! Just makes you think

No baubles, no trifles, just angels.
No turkey (but just the odd lamb).
No cold meats or cheeses whatever,
Except for the innkeeper – Ham.

No cheap plastic toys to get broken
By sulky, ungrateful offspring.
No Fortnite and no Call of Duty
Just fleeing from Herod the King.

This Christmas with families hungry
I just want to stand up and shout
“It's obscene what we have and we grasp for
And they lack – what's Christmas about?”





Walsgrave Baptist Church Activities

Weekly Activities:

Tiny Tots – Monday (term time only) 10.00am-11.30am. Stay and play session for parents and carers with children aged 0-4 years.

Chatty Café – Tuesday 6pm-7.30pm. Drop in for a chat and drink.

Open Door Café – Thursday 10.00am-12.00pm. Come along to have a drink, chat and to play Scrabble.

Open House – Friday 10.00am-12.00pm. Café style drop in for all ages, come along to share a drink, cake and activities.

Coming Up:

Tearfund Big Quiz Night – Saturday 10th October. Tickets £7 per person, which includes soft drinks and deserts in the interval.

Messy Church – Wednesday 28th October and Monday 21st December. 10.00am-12.00pm. Suitable for Primary aged children, but all the family are welcome. Join us for crafts and a Bible Story.

"Connecting People to Jesus and One Another"

WALSGRAVE BAPTIST CHURCH

Christmas at WBC

20th December 10:30 am	All Age Nativity Service
20th December 7pm	Carol Service
21st December 10:30 -12	Messy Christmas
25th December 10:30	Christmas Celebration

Why Narnia?

What do Narnia, Christmas, Easter and the Christian story have in common? More than you might think!

This year, St. Mary's is going on an adventure through Narnia as part of our journey through Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter. We'll meet talking animals, brave children, mysterious creatures, epic battles and, of course, **Aslan.** But beneath the magic and adventure are some surprisingly deep questions about faith, hope, courage, forgiveness, sacrifice and new life.

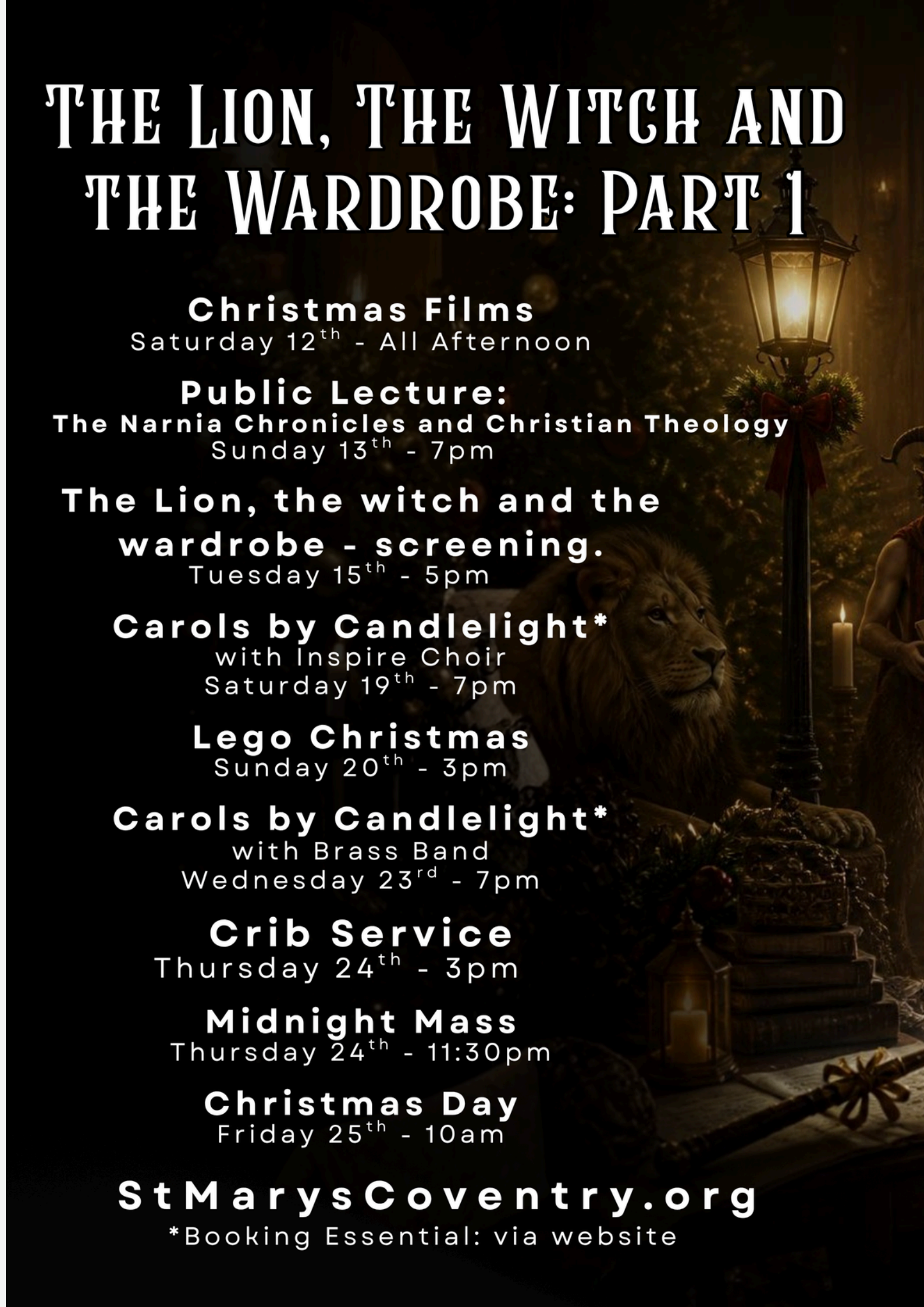
C.S. Lewis wrote The Chronicles of Narnia as stories to be enjoyed, but he also filled them with ideas that echo the Christian story. So, as we journey through Narnia, we'll discover connections with the story of Jesus – from waiting and anticipation at Advent, to the wonder of Christmas, the challenges of Lent, and the extraordinary hope of Easter.

And you don't need to be a Narnia expert! Whether you know every book by heart or have never stepped through the wardrobe, there's a place for you.
Expect stories, imagination, music, creativity, surprises, and perhaps a few things that make you see familiar Bible stories in a completely new way.

So, why Narnia? Because sometimes a story helps us discover something greater in something that may already feel familiar.

Come and step through the wardrobe with us!

The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe: Part 1



Christmas Films
Saturday 12th - All Afternoon

Public Lecture:
The Narnia Chronicles and Christian Theology
Sunday 13th - 7pm

The Lion, the witch and the wardrobe - screening.
Tuesday 15th - 5pm

Carols by Candlelight*
with Inspire Choir
Saturday 19th - 7pm

Lego Christmas
Sunday 20th - 3pm

Carols by Candlelight*
with Brass Band
Wednesday 23rd - 7pm

Crib Service
Thursday 24th - 3pm

Midnight Mass
Thursday 24th - 11:30pm

Christmas Day
Friday 25th - 10am

StMarysCoventry.org
*Booking Essential: via website


ST MARY'S COVENTRY
CHRISTMAS 2026
Step through the wardrobe with us this Christmas as we explore two amazing stories

Sunday Worship

You are welcome to come to one or as many as you like at St Mary's

Holy Communion

A traditional worship time with hymns and Holy Communion.



9:30

Learning

A time to be inspired and challenged by the Bible.



10:00

Refresh

A welcoming time to grow together over refreshments.



10:30

Modern Music

An informal space to join in with modern worship songs.



11:00

Family Time

A fun space for families to worship together.



11:30

We look forward to welcoming you!

For 900 years St Mary's has provided a place for worship in our community.

We would like to invite you to join us some time.

You would be very welcome at any of our events or even on a Sunday Morning.

We have designed our Sunday mornings to offer different styles of worship and allow people to attend as much or as little as they would like.

St Mary's COVENTRY

Ideas for the Future

If you have ideas for future issues of The Walsgrave then email: hello@stmaryscoventry.org