

St Mary Without-the-Walls  
Chester

# ST. MARY'S MAGAZINE

Sept/Oct  
2025

£2

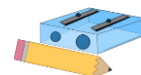
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Lord of creation,  
whose glory is around and within us:  
open our eyes to your wonders,  
that we may serve you with reverence  
and know your peace in our hearts,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## What is in this issue?

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former Rector of St Mary's
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Paul Judson



All advertising enquiries to be made through the Parish Administrator, Doris Keen by email: [office.stmaryschester@btconnect.com](mailto:office.stmaryschester@btconnect.com) or via the website [www.stmaryschester.co.uk](http://www.stmaryschester.co.uk) All Editorial enquiries to be made through the Editor, Catherine Jones email: [stmaryseditor@gmail.com](mailto:stmaryseditor@gmail.com) Articles, letters, funny jokes and photos to be submitted to Catherine by 10<sup>th</sup> of the month for the following month's magazine, so **10<sup>th</sup> October** for the **November/December** edition of the magazine please!

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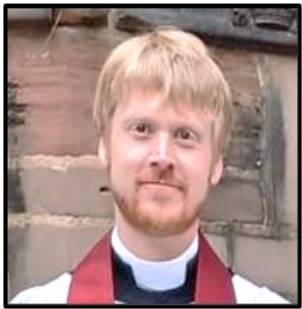
Some tourists touring the north of England stopped to visit a Priory. The Prior gave them a tour of the buildings, ending in the kitchen, where one monk was making fish and chips. One tourist said brightly: "You must be the fish friar," to which the monk gravely replied, "No, I am the chip monk."



After cleaning his young patient's teeth, the dentist accompanied the five-year-old boy to the reception area, only to see him struggle with the oak door. "It's heavy, isn't it?" asked the dentist. "Yes," he said. "Is that so children can't escape?"



## Letter from Revd Antony Dutton, Rector



A patron saint is a saint who has been chosen as a particular protector or intercessor of a place, group of people, or a person. St George is the patron saint of England (and many other countries), St Anthony is the patron saint of lost things, Jude is the patron saint of lost causes, and Patrick is the patron saint of Guinness. Then there are more obscure patron saints, like the seventeenth century friar, Joseph of Cupertino, who was said to be 'remarkably unclever' but did have the power of levitation. It is therefore no surprise that he has ended up the patron saint of aviators and astronauts. There is a saint for every conceivable occupation and location.

In the Church of England, parish churches having a patron saint is one of those things that could quite easily have fallen out of favour at the Reformation, when images of saints were being destroyed in iconoclastic rage, but we did continue to dedicate churches to honour holy individuals. Prior to the Reformation, the days on which patron saints were remembered were big events. There would be processions with statues, fairs, and church services. We get some idea of what it might have been like in countries with a Roman Catholic heritage. In Spain, there is the Festival of St Fermin in Pamplona with its (in)famous running of the bulls. Meanwhile, in Naples, there is the feast of St Gennaro when the people hold a three-day celebration and pray that the blood of their saint liquifies as a sign of his continued protection. It was thought on several occasions to have protected the city from the eruptions of Vesuvius. Not all Protestants may agree.

Saints are remembered on particular days associated with their life or death. Most of them just get the one day, but our patron saint, Mary, has always had a special place in the ranks of the holy ones, and so she gets multiple feasts. 25th March, the Annunciation; 15th August the Assumption (not called that in the Church of England lectionary); 8th September, Mary's birthday; and 8th December, the Conception of Mary. Whatever we think about some of the more apocryphal elements of saints' lives and their ongoing traditions, patronal festivals are a great opportunity for a church to celebrate its life together. It is also a moment to remember the life of a particular holy person and return to the roots of the story that led to their veneration – their faith and trust in Jesus Christ.

And so, we are going to have a weekend of patronal fun at the beginning of September, with the Rector's Back-to-School Quiz Night on Friday 5th September, and then a Bring and Share lunch after a patronal service on Sunday 7th September. Hopefully, the intercession of our Blessed Lady will encourage the sun to come out, and we will be able to bring our food and games and sit on the lawn outside the church. In these two months of September and October, we will also celebrate our Harvest Festival, and we will be thinking about the gifts that God has given us and how we care for them. Stewardship will be at the forefront of our minds. We will also look forward and consider how we are to be faithful managers of what he has given us here at St Mary's. How we might prayerfully and generously use our gifts and talents, possessions and resources, for the glory of God and the building up of his mission and ministry here. It is perhaps something we have not thought about for some time, and it is incumbent on me and the PCC to make sure that everybody knows about the demands and challenges that we face, so that we can ensure the presence of a church dedicated to St Mary in this city for another nine hundred years.

**Antony**



### A couple more Saints to read about



#### **11<sup>th</sup> Sept      St Deiniol of Bangor - bringing disagreeing bishops together**

St Deiniol was a 6<sup>th</sup> century monk of Wales who came to be the 'first bishop of Bangor'. And a mighty bishop he was, too: Deiniol founded the two monasteries of Bangor Fawr (on the Menai Straits) and Bangor Iscoed (Clwyd), which, according to Bede, became the most famous monastery of British Christianity and came to number over 2,000 monks. Sadly, they were defeated at the battle of Chester by the pagan Aethelfrith, king of Northumbria. Deiniol is also remembered for his skill in getting disagreeing bishops to come and talk things over at a Synod... surely a skill which his 21st century successors have had to put to great use! He died about 584 AD.

#### **14<sup>th</sup> Oct      Donation - North Africa Christian martyr**

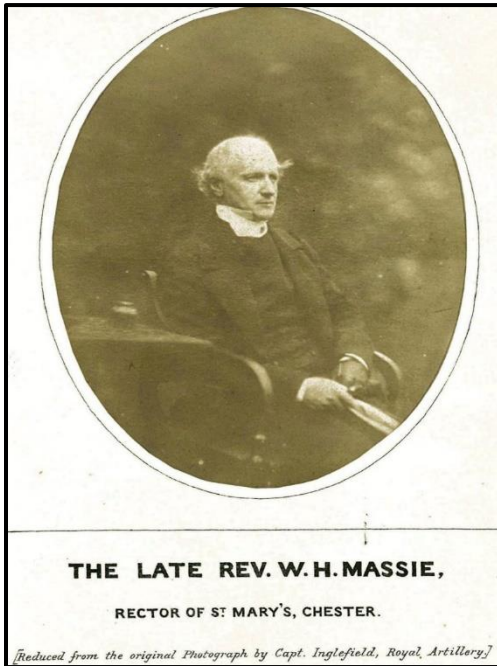
Some Christians today have the curious idea that being a Christian guarantees a prosperous life in this world. St Paul was more realistic – throughout his epistles he urges Christians to pray for patience and endurance in this world. Donation (martyred c 484) is a timely reminder that we are called to be witnesses, and that that may not be easy.

When Hunneric, the King of the Vandals, closed all the churches in North Africa in the late fifth century, Donation and his friends were tortured, driven into the desert, and left to die of exposure. Many Christians in Muslim Africa today face similar dangers for Christ. Pray for them, that they find the courage and endurance they need.

**Parish Pump**

# Featured Article

## The Revd William Henry Massie (1806-1856; Rector of St Mary's 1848-1856)



Now that my name has been added onto the board which records all of the Rectors of St Mary's, I began to wonder at the lives behind those names. What challenges did they face in their ministry? Where did they come from and where did they train? Were they from Cheshire like me or had they parachuted in from afar?

I picked one name at random, the Revd William Henry Massie, and began digging.

The Massies were an ancient Cheshire family from Coddington, able to trace their history back to the reign of Richard II. Our William Henry Massie was son of the Revd Richard Massie (1771-1854). Richard was Curate at Coddington, Rector of St Bridget's Chester, then Aldford and Goostrey, before finally becoming Rector of Eccleston where he died in post. William was born in No. 3 Stanley Place, the tenth of 22 children! William was schooled at Overleigh Hall, and it was here that his love of history began. He then moved to the Free Grammar School of Macclesfield where he excelled at sports.

On leaving school in 1826, William joined the East India Company as a cadet in the 39th Regiment of Bengal Native Infantry and set off for

India. He was well-known for tending to those who had succumbed to dysentery and fever, and for his love of archaeology and antiquaries which he spent many hours drawing.

In his third summer in Bengal, William was struck down with a fever and inflammation of the liver. He was described as a shadow of the man who had gone out to India and sent home. It was at this point that William began to feel called to ordained ministry and went to Trinity College Dublin where he won prizes for Classics and Ethics. In 1834 he was ordained by the Bishop of Chester; he was twenty eight years old 'but in outward appearance and shaken constitution at least a dozen years older'.

At this time, patronage still had a lot of clout in the Church of England, and William's brother-in-law, who was the Vicar of Sandbach, gave William a curacy in the parish of Goostrey, a daughter church of Sandbach, which had been kept warm by William's dad.

So far, the impression that we have received of William is a man who is fully committed to his duty. We can picture him, a newly ordained curate, heading to his parish, full of zeal and earnestness about his future responsibilities. But when he arrived at Goostrey, he found the parishioners burning an effigy of him! The people of the parish had their hearts set on somebody else for the vacancy and the patron had chosen differently.

William quickly changed the minds of his parishioners with his dedication and care. He was very concerned about how far they had to travel to church and so organized the fundraising and plans for the construction of a new church for the people of Byley-cum-Lees, completed in 1846. It was then that the Marquess of Westminster, who was well acquainted with the Massie family, appointed William to the parish of St Mary's-on-the-Hill.

William was also made a Minor Canon at the Cathedral. This added to his numerous duties but also gave him some financial wiggle room which enabled his benevolence. This spirit was also shown during the cholera outbreak of 1849, when he was noted as serving the sick with particular devotion, and with his own hands helping the dead and dying.

William's preaching was famed for combining a convincing persuasiveness with the "simplicity of Christ". Much of his ministry centred around house-to-house visiting and according to his obituary, 'many a poor soul in the dark purlieus of Handbridge, mercifully restored from sin and degradation, still gratefully dwells on the fruits of that intercourse'. Handbridge sounds like an interesting place in the late 1840s!

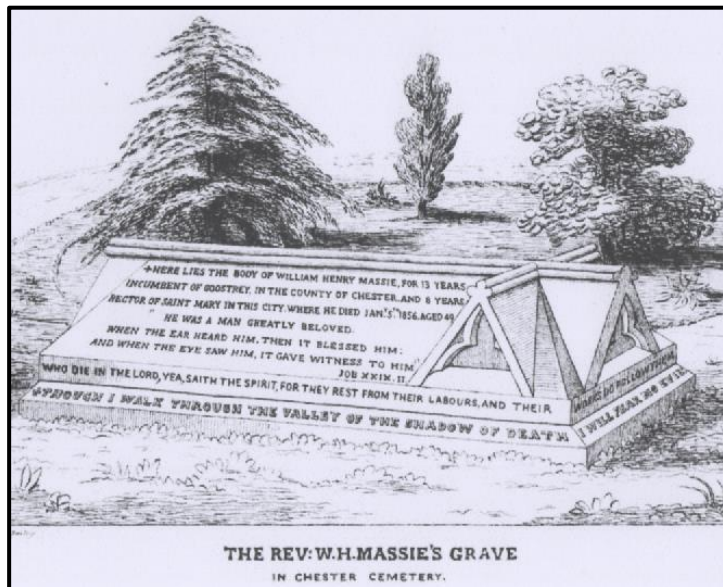
The Rector was a founder of the Chester Archaeological Society. Out of the first 32 lectures given by the Society, a third of them were delivered by William. This interest in heritage led him to make changes to the fabric of St Mary's, including removing the whitewash from the walls of the church, uncovering the paintings underneath.

William was also Chaplain of the Garrison in Chester. Many of the men of the 23rd Royal Welsh Fusiliers had worshipped at St Mary's before being sent to the Crimea, where scores were killed at the battles of Alma and Inkerman. On hearing this news, he organized a subscription for a new memorial window in the church.

Having built a new church for the people of Byley, William was now motivated to build two further churches: Holy Ascension Upton (1854), and Holy Epiphany Saltney (1855). The Rector was on the building sites every

day, which must have taken some commitment and time in addition to his regular parish work. In order to endow these two churches, William also gave up some of his own income.

Before the first edition of the *Journal of the Chester Archaeological Society* had been published, the obituary for William was being written and added to the journal. In November 1855, on the way back from Upton, William found himself caught in a heavy shower and by the time he returned home he was completely soaked. But a poor man was waiting for him at the Rectory and begged him to go and visit his wife who was dangerously ill. William did as requested and stayed some time at the house before finally returning to the Rectory and changing clothes. His obituary records that 'it was too late, the mischief had been done, the plague was upon him'. The Rector never left the house again. He was visited by the Marquess and the Bishop; parishioners stood outside the gates, day and night, waiting for news of the Rector. He died on 5 January 1856.



William was buried in the cemetery on 11 January with soldiers lining the road playing drums, and muffled bells sounding from St Mary's; hundreds of mourners lined the way and gathered in the cemetery. The services continued on the following Sunday, in St Mary's and the new daughter churches, both morning and afternoon. Memorials were installed in Saltney and Upton, and a new stained glass window was installed in St Mary's, which was deemed to be an 'appropriate record of the willing homage of an affectionate people to the memory of a pious, active, and faithful minister'.

**Antony**

### Knitting thanks



Grateful thanks from the hospital in Liverpool Women's Hospital to ALL the hard working, dedicated knitters, who keep those needles flying and in doing so keep premature babies warm. However, they are not only knitting for these babies, but also cardigans and jumpers for bigger children in Sierra Leone at the orphanage at the Houses of Promises – HOPE.

**THANK YOU EVERYONE**



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liverpoolwomenshospitalcharity.co.uk

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The Knitters of St Mary's  
The St. Mary's Centre  
Overleigh Road  
Handbridge  
Chester  
CH47 7BL

Phone Number: 0151 702 4044  
Email: fundraising@lwh.nhs.uk

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Dear the Knitters of St Marys,

On behalf of everyone at Liverpool Women's Hospital Charity, we'd like to extend our heartfelt thanks for your beautifully knitted baby bonnets.

Thanks to generous donations like yours, we're able to run our *Little Woollens* shop—raising an incredible £25,000 each year for our neonatal unit. Your knitting not only helps fund vital care for our tiniest patients but also brings joy to the many families who stop by and purchase a little handmade gift during such a special time in their lives.

Your kindness makes a lasting difference, both in the quality of care we can offer and in the smiles you help create.  
With warmest thanks,

Very best wishes,

*Katie Bragg*

Katie Bragg,  
Fundraising Admin Apprentice.

# Overleigh St Mary's CE Primary School



We had a wonderful week celebrating Refugee Week this year where the overall theme mirrored our collective experience: **Community Is Our Superpower!** Many activities were completed during the week that were all designed for our children and staff to be outward looking and continue to strengthen our contribution to community, local as well as global. The week culminated in an 'all day' event on the Saturday where some of our parents of refugees, who are now very settled in our community, taught other parents and community members how to cook traditional dishes from their home countries. We were really pleased by the take up of the offer to come and cook and had a very hectic but productive morning. At 1pm we were ready to serve over 150 invited

guests with a banquet of dishes to enjoy. Our guests included some of our former pupils and their families who are refugees and now are settled elsewhere in Cheshire West. It was wonderful to hear about their progress and share fond memories of their time with us. Guests joined us who have made an especially strong contribution to the support in the community for those seeking sanctuary. We were also honoured that the Lord Mayor of Chester Cllr Sherin Akhtar and her daughter were able to join in with the cooking and share the meal with us. The photos below will give you a flavour (pardon the pun) of the celebration and this link provides a fuller glimpse of the day if you paste in your browser.

<https://youtube.com/shorts/hDZuiSQKyS4?feature=share>



*Love God,  
Love Ourselves,  
Love People*

**Emma Drew - Headteacher**  
[admin@osm.cheshire.sch.uk](mailto:admin@osm.cheshire.sch.uk)

**Prayerful Poems written by Roy, sent in by his daughters Rosalind and Helen**

**THOUGHTS ON GOING TO THE GRAVE**

When I draw my departing breath  
Will I pass through the veil of death?

Pray that my faults do not follow me

But leave memories as I used to be  
Then will I from my fear flee  
So they will no longer frighten me  
Will my kindness always remain clear

That my lingering love may bring a tear  
May the selfishness that I had shown  
Be forgotten for traits that had outgrown  
Will my new life be full of bliss  
That my time on earth I'll never miss  
If life's worst aspects now have died  
Then truly in paradise I shall abide  
Having passed through the portal of life  
May pleasantness and peace be rife  
Then there'll be no night to end each day  
But lasting light, that forever will stay



**DON'T CRY FOR ME**

Don't cry for me when I'm no longer here  
For I tasted life's banquet and did revere  
Its blessings and bounties as they came my way

And now in old age, I've outlived my stay  
Don't cry for me when I'm no longer here  
But bring to mind our life distant and near  
Remember us when in the promise of our prime

Recall the family life in our summer time  
Don't cry for me when I'm no longer here  
Wipe away the tears, be of good cheer  
Our lives were rich, well blessed and bright  
Think on these things for warmth at night  
Don't cry for me when I'm no longer here  
Dwell on many memories, don't shed a tear  
Think of me now, released from nature's hand  
Freed, to join the joyful and everlasting band  
Don't cry for me when I'm no longer here  
I'm drawn away from this spinning sphere  
Borne aloft and along a path I trace  
To a heavenly haven, where I take my place

Our father, **Roy (Royston) Loveluck**, was a poet as well as a painter and had many poems published in the magazine. He died 7<sup>th</sup> July, his funeral being 6<sup>th</sup> August at St Mary's.

**Rosalind & Helen**

**Glimpse of St Mary's garden which is lovingly tended to by The Unlicensed Lay Weeders - Alison McLellan**



This lovely red rose is called 'Hope'. It can be found by the south wall of the Lady Chapel and was planted in memory of **Simon Price's mother**.



In the northeast corner of the church grounds, you can find 'The Lark Ascending' - a David Austin rose which was planted in memory of **Sandra Teasdale**



A Bumblebee appreciating the lavender bush by the church door. By the time you read this, the lavender will have been harvested to fill bags which will be on sale at the Christmas Fair

# Incredible Edible Handbridge The Arches Community Garden late summer update

by Liz McGrady



## NEWS FROM THE PLOT

🌱 Hello everyone! 🌱

The weather has continued to treat us so well! What a summer 🌻 🌻 Brilliant for progress at our community well-being and wildlife garden at the Arches (between Devonshire and Prenton place).

It's a well-used space which now benefits from the accessible large picnic table, in addition to a companion seat and bench. Great places to sit and watch the world go by, whilst helping yourself to fresh produce 🍓 🍓

We've planted a variety of veg, including an 'edible fence' inspired by the folk tale of the "3 sisters", with runner beans, squash and sweetcorn companion planted. We invited a 4th sister, sugar snap peas too! We also have courgettes, salad leaves, squash, apples and pears (although many apples have been taken a tad early).

We meet mostly **every Saturday at 10.30 am** so please do come along and get involved 🙏 🧑 🌱 🧑.

This community project can only happen with the strength of the community behind it 🙏 🌱 🍎 🍌

Upcoming event: 🍌 🍌 🍌 🍌

Our **GREAT BIG SOUP AND VEG GIVEAWAY** at The Arches, will be held on **Saturday 20th September** from 12-3! Come along to find out more about what's happening and our future plans (exciting and creative); enjoy fresh soup, takeaway veg, and try your luck at the tombola 🌱 🌻.

As always, we invite you to sign up to our 'easy fundraising' page which allows donations from companies with each purchase. It's a great way to raise funds to buy equipment and materials, and to plan for further developments along the gardens and passageways of the area.

We have new flyers and posters to reflect our evolving venture. You can also follow us on our IEH and Arches Facebook pages, and IEH Instagram.

Find more details on our incredible edible website and join our mailing list by emailing [ie.handbridge1@gmail.com](mailto:ie.handbridge1@gmail.com)

In these challenging times, it's helpful to have spaces like The Arches to connect with nature and community.

It's a little oasis where body and soul can feel nourished 🍎 🍌 🍌 🍌 🌱

Best wishes from Liz and all the Incredible Edible and Arches gang 🙏

**Instagram: [incredibleediblehandbridge](https://www.instagram.com/incredibleediblehandbridge) Email at: [ie.handbridge1@gmail.com](mailto:ie.handbridge1@gmail.com)**

## Aussie memories by Wendy Gorman

Many of you know that I was a 'ten pound Pom' in 1965. Here is a little verse that I wrote last year;

In the Aussie Outback, the 'Roo's are jumping free,  
The snakes bask in the sun and it's too hot for me.  
The dunny\* is in the garden, the mozzies are there too,

Nothing to see for miles, so not much of a view.  
But go to the Blue Mountains, in New South Wales,  
the view is unrivalled,  
With its cliffs, waterfalls and bush walker trails.  
Or stand and marvel at the harbour bridge or the  
beautiful houses for the rich.

Take the ferry to Manly and sit on the beach, eating  
sarnies and ice cream, for in Paradise you've  
reached.



*Used to take us 2 hours each to work, so we bought this!*

\*loo!



*The garden was just dead grass and had a septic tank where 100s of cockroaches would breed*

## A Cancer Diary: Finding Faith

### Chapter 1 by Bells

"Do you have anyone with you?" A sentence in the context of a consultant's office that you absolutely know precedes the worst sort of news. My cancer diagnosis was the proverbial bolt from the blue. I only went to the doctors because I had a day off and therefore time to spend with my finger on the redial button to get an appointment! Three days later, I was sent for a scan but was woefully unprepared for what came next. And so, all my aims, ambitions and plans went out of the window: for the last two and half years, life has been defined by cancer. I am a planner – and to be honest, a bit of a control freak! I like to know what's happening and when, and to be totally 'in charge' of my own life. But I've had to learn to rely on the expertise and dedication of the medical teams, the unbelievable care and devotion of family and friends. My children have turned from those I look after into my carers – a lot to ask of teenage boys. I should have had more faith in them. And that very thought has started me on another journey. What does the word faith mean to me? It's a word I've used a lot in the last two years – but in such a different context. As I'm faced with a terminal diagnosis, it suddenly matters a great deal. Do I need it? How important is it in the timescale of my life? I have faith in life and in the people I love. I have faith that my oncology team know what they're doing and have my life in their hands. But do I need more? I don't think I'm "religious" as such. I've often wondered if I'm "grown up enough" to get religion! Until this point, I would describe myself more as spiritual. I've realised that I find spirituality in singing, in listening to music, through art, and in the great outdoors rather than conventionally through the church and through prayer – but that it is a great starting point as, without thinking about it deeply, spirituality has always been a part of me. I used to wake up every morning and start each working day with the determination to be a better person – but would get caught up in my professional world and kid myself that that was the 'real me'. Of course, my work persona was part of my "whole self", but I'd lost sight of balance: achieving things in the working day wasn't the "be all and end all". Time spent with people who make you laugh and love, who challenge you to be the best you can be, who give you new experiences and perspectives, who give you faith that people can truly be inspiring as awful things happen around the world: that's what I need. Working hard is a 'cheat's way' of knowing where you're going as you have a career path. But now I need to believe that I know where I'm going on a different path. I hear people in the sunshine saying "Isn't this heaven on earth!" and I'd love to think that this green and pleasant land is what heaven might be. But, of course, I don't know. No-one can answer that question for me! But I need to believe it's what it might be. So, a new challenge begins. Finding faith. What's right or wrong? Is there, in fact, a right or wrong way to 'have faith'? So far, it feels intensely personal, and I haven't linked it up with Religion. But maybe that's OK. It's a start. And so again, the question comes back "Do you have anyone with you?" I do now. I hope you do too. *To be continued...*



### Changing Prayers

#### **One liner prayers, for Strength and Guidance:**

- "Lord, give me strength when I feel like giving up."
- "God, fill me with your power today."
- "Lord, help me let go of what I can't carry anymore."
- "Lord, help me to pray, hope, and not to worry!"
- "Lord, help me to serve you with laughter!"



# News & Notices



## Registers June 2025

### Funeral

Janet Anne Hutcheson

### Baptisms

None

### Marriages

None

## Registers July 2025:

### Funerals

Janet Vera Chessell

David Richard Williams

John Stephen Smith

Sarah Geoghegan

### Baptisms

Stanley Joseph Williams

Florence Anna Coomber

### Marriages

None

*We hold all those named above in our prayers as well as those loved ones known to us personally.*



## Church Flower Arranging

### Rota for September/October

**September:** Team 5 . Hilary Egan,

Judy Palmer, Pat Spencer,

Elizabeth Bennett.

**October:** Team 1. Margaret Lawson,

Catherine Parkes, Liz Young,

Lynne Barritt.

Details for decorating the Church at Harvest Festival, will be on the weekly news sheets in due course.

Hilary and Elizabeth can be called on to provide cover, when possible, for holidays and sickness.

***Are there any more volunteers to help on a Friday morning with the church flowers? Come and try - you might enjoy it! Each team is made up of experienced arrangers and some new. We have all been novices at some time and the experienced are still learning new techniques. We all help each other out and each team is only on for 2 months in the year. Elizabeth Bennett tel: 01244 67850***



## Lache and Westminster Local History Group

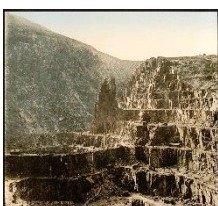
### **THE WELSH SLATE INDUSTRY: FROM TOIL TO LEISURE**

**By Lyn and Ian Law**

**Lache Community Centre**

**Hawthorn Road, Chester, CH4 8HX**

**Wed 17<sup>th</sup> Sept 2025 at 7.30pm**



Following the recent renovations, we have returned to the Lache Community Centre for our meetings.

All welcome, no need to book. £2 per person on the door. Refreshments will be included as usual.

**Linda Shuttleworth**, Secretary on 01244 679791

shuttleworths@talktalk.net or text 07726 425847

## St Mary's Social & Events Diary

**September 5<sup>th</sup>** Back to School Quiz

**September 12<sup>th</sup>** Music by the Bridge – Deva Wind

**September 26<sup>th</sup>** Macmillan Coffee Morning

Trevor Dennis Genesis 1 Talk

**October 10<sup>th</sup>** Music by the Bridge – Queens School

**October 11<sup>th</sup>** Harvest Supper

**November 14<sup>th</sup>** Music by the Bridge – Vale Royal

**November 22<sup>nd</sup>** St. Mary's Christmas Fair

## Tea & Coffee Rota (after 10.30am service)

### 7<sup>th</sup> Sept Team 7

Lyn Barritt

Klaus Armstrong-Braun

Janet Davies

### 14<sup>th</sup> Sept Team 8

Joy Barton

Diana Morgan

Catherine Jones

### 5<sup>th</sup> Oct Team 2

Elsie Scott

Alistair Jones

Joan Morgan

### 12<sup>th</sup> Oct Team 3

Wendy Gorman

Margaret Davies

Julie Pickett

*We would love more people to join this merry band on the rota! Please contact the Parish Office 01244 671202 to let us know that you are happy to help.*



### 21<sup>st</sup> Team 9

Margaret Rushton

Betty McLoughlin

Helen Brophy

### 28<sup>th</sup> Sept Team 1

Alma Hukin

Pat Jones

Margaret Teasdale

### 19<sup>th</sup> Oct Team 4

Liz Young

Sue Dickinson

Sue Fryer

### 26<sup>th</sup> Oct Team 5

Gill Carroll

Wendy Gerrard

Helen Pritchard

## Handbridge Flower Club July & August 2025

Our September meeting will be held on **Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> September**, beginning at **1.45pm** at St Mary's

Handbridge Centre. Due to illness, we have a change of demonstrator as published in the Club Programme. Our wonderful President Dawn Weaver has kindly agreed to step in, and the title of her demonstration is to be a surprise for everyone who attends. Dawn never disappoints with her creative designs and beautiful choice of flowers, so it will be a lovely afternoon.

This will be followed on **Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> October**

when we welcome **Karen Schofield** who will present her demonstration "Come Fly With Me".

As always, the floral designs will be raffled at the end of the meeting and there is an opportunity to enjoy refreshments including home baked cakes.

Current members, new members and visitors are guaranteed a warm welcome. If anyone needs any further information, please contact **Janet Edwards on 07952 778542**, or check the Facebook page, "The Handbridge Flower Club".





# News & Notices

## Chester Cathedral's Creation Window:

An extraordinary treasure

**Afternoon tea: Café 1092**

**Cathedral Refectory with Trevor Dennis**

**10<sup>th</sup> September 2025, at 5.00pm**

The Friends of Chester Cathedral invite you to afternoon tea beneath the wonderful Creation Window, when Trevor Dennis will share his thoughts on it, and tell some astonishing stories. The window was designed and made by Rosalind Grimshaw and installed in 2001. Its theme is Genesis 1, the six days of God's creation of the world. Trevor asks, 'Is there another stained-glass window in any other church or cathedral in the land as exuberant, as joyful, as witty, as profound, as courageous, as humbling as this?' By any token it would be remarkable, but what makes it truly mind-blowing is that when Rosalind Grimshaw made it she was suffering from Parkinson's disease. She was diagnosed with the disease in her 30's, and she had been suffering from it for 20 years when she presented her designs to the Cathedral Chapter. Trevor was a member of the Chapter at the time, and wondered how she could hold a pencil, let alone cut precious glass.

He remembers her telling him about how she had used her Parkinson's to enhance her creativity, waiting for one of her bad days to do a particularly tricky procedure. He also remembers running up Abbey Street to the Refectory after he'd been told someone had thrown a cobble stone through the window. (That story has a happy ending.) So do come and drink your tea, eat your cake, listen, look, look again, and be amazed.

Tickets for the tea are £15 each, via the Cathedral website or 01244 324756 pressing 2 for Box Office, or from the Cathedral Reception Desk.

*Trevor retired as Vice Dean of Chester Cathedral 2010.*



## Genesis 1: An exhilarating poem; a radical vision; a profound challenge for our troubled times

**Trevor Dennis, St Mary's Without-the-Walls,**

**Friday, September 26<sup>th</sup>, at 7.00pm**

The Bible begins with a magnificent poem on the creation of the world. It presents us with God's manifesto, his dream of a world free from violence and fear.

Trevor Dennis has been studying, teaching and writing about Genesis 1 since the early 1980's. In lockdown in 2020 he sat down and wrote 10,000 words on it, adding at the end, 'for the sheer fun of it'.

But now he's been encouraged to give it an airing at St Mary's. He will work his way through the passage 'day' by 'day', offering a fresh translation of his own. During the discussion, he will touch upon an exquisite Rembrandt etching of Christ preaching, the Chester ravens, astrology, and the great green text of the Bible in the book of Job. He will explore the brutalities of the war that provided the original background to the poem, and which, alas, ring a whole bell tower set of bells in our own day.

There will be time for questions and a glass of wine in the St Mary's Centre afterwards. You don't need any prior knowledge of the passage. Just come with an open mind . . . and be prepared to be blown away. There will be plates at the back of church for donations: all moneys raised to St Mary's church. Here's how Genesis begins in Trevor's version. The words in italics are transliterations of the Hebrew and give you a glimpse of the beauty of the original text.

*At the start of God's creating the heavens and the earth,*

*when the earth was tohu va-bohu,  
bleak, barren, bare,  
with darkness, raven-black,  
thick upon the face of the tehom,  
that fathomless Deep with a capital D;  
when the spirit of God,  
the gentle ruah Elohim,  
rolled like a mist over the face of the waters,  
cradling them beneath her shuffled feathers,  
then God SPOKE, and said . . .*

## Handbridge WI meetings September & October

Handbridge WI will be meeting on **Tuesday 2nd Sept at St. Mary's Handbridge Centre.**

We will be welcoming **Erin Lloyd Jones** who will tell us all about **Lay Lady Lay -**



**Working Women in Medieval History.** On **Tuesday 23rd Sept** member will be going on a trip to **Liverpool's Walker Art Gallery** to see the **Vivienne**

**Westwood, Designer in Focus** exhibition followed by lunch at **Salthouse Bacaro.**

**Chat and Craft Group** will be meeting at St Mary's Handbridge Centre on **Monday 8th Sept** to make **Fantasy Flower.** **Book Group** meets

on **16th Sept** to talk about **Someone Else's Shoes** by **Jojo Moyes.**

Our **October meeting** will be on **Tuesday 7th** when **Sue Foy** will be coming to talk about **Adventures in DNA Testing.** We will have our usual staff and raffle and time for refreshment and a chat after our speaker.

All visitors and potential new member are made welcome. Please contact **Maureen** on **07410450177** for any further information.



## September and October pages from the Book of Remembrance at St Mary's

### September

1997  
14th Emlyn Hughes aged 73  
1998  
16th Rodney Selbourne Gerrard aged 80  
2006  
19th Roy Stanley Wilbraham aged 68  
2006  
13th Lewis Leonard Parkes aged 80  
2011  
29th Olive Anne Thomas aged 89  
2001  
9th Winifred Stote aged 88  
2017  
24th Arthur Kavanagh aged 99  
1986 1st  
Arthur Johnson aged 69  
1999 5th  
Maud Johnson aged 99

### September (cont'd)

Cecil Martha McNeile  
Minton - Senhouse  
1960 9th Aged 76

### October

1993  
9th Anne Lavery aged 72  
1997  
15th Robert Teasdale aged 59  
1999  
14th Captain James Edward Lavery aged 73  
1983  
15th John G Raymond aged 59  
2000  
2nd Josephine Anne Jago Jandoo aged 37  
2004  
3rd Kenneth Holland aged 78  
2001  
9th James Bewley aged 76  
2014  
10th Michael Baldacchino aged 79  
2014  
18th John Cryer aged 81

### October (cont'd)

2015 22nd Aged 97  
Lucy Joan Speed  
1984 6th Aged 29  
Elizabeth Clarke  
2017 3rd Aged 94  
Freda Kavanagh  
2021 11th Aged 21  
Adam Jones Datar M/E  
2021 20th Aged 74  
Anne Lammie  
2023 16th Aged 86  
Roy Norman Greenhalgh

If you are wanting to have the name of a loved one added into the book of Remembrance, please speak to either Lynne or Mavis, our churchwardens. Alternatively, the information can be dropped off at the Parish Centre office. Information needed: **name, age, and date of death**. There is no charge, but donations are gratefully received.



**Michael Reynolds, St Mary's Musical Director**



would love to hear from any 7-11 year olds who would like to join **St. Mary's Youth choir**. We meet 6.45pm - 7.30pm every Thursday. The Youth Choir is invited to sing with the choir once a month during the Sunday 10.30am Family Eucharist service. If you are interested, please contact **Michael Reynolds, 07786 323946** [michaelreynoldsmusic@googlemail.com](mailto:michaelreynoldsmusic@googlemail.com)



## News from the Community, Mission and Charities Cluster



St Mary's once again took a stall at the Handbridge Summer Festival on **Sunday 29th June**. The event was organised by the Handbridge Community Association (HCA) and welcomed over 8,000 people during the day. The stall enabled us to showcase the work of



the church and promote events such as Music By the Bridge, Messy Church and Baby and Toddler Group. **Refreshments** were served in the St Mary's Handbridge Centre which together with a raffle raised nearly **£700 for St Mary's funds**. The church was open to visitors, and a trail had been arranged to encourage **children** to explore different aspects of St Mary's. The **ringing team** also welcomed visitors to the bell tower and managed to recruit a couple of potential ringers! Gazebos and outdoor games



in the church grounds provided a place to rest, away from the crowds.



### Macmillan Big Coffee Morning



St Mary's will be hosting another Macmillan Big Coffee morning in **St Mary's Church, Handbridge, on Friday 26th September 2025 between 10am - 12noon**. Join us for

coffee/tea and delicious home baked cakes to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support. If you are unable to attend please consider supporting the event through our dedicated Just Giving page: [justgiving.com/CM25000235](https://justgiving.com/CM25000235) (or by scanning the QR Code to the right).

Thank You!

**MACMILLAN  
CANCER SUPPORT**



**St Mary's Christmas Fair Saturday 22nd November 2025 12 - 3pm** We are

requesting the following items for the Christmas Fair:

Bottles of wine

Hand crafted items

Complete jigsaws

New or regifted items for the general tombola

Nearer the time - homemade cakes and produce



In addition, we have a programme of fundraising events over the coming months, often featuring a raffle! We would be grateful for new or 'as new' quality raffle prizes which may be offered at one of these events, although not necessarily the Christmas Fair.

**Many thanks from Alice & the rest of the CMC Cluster**

### Church Funds Coffee Morning

A very big thank you to Margaret Teasdale who organised and hosted a Coffee and Cake event in August which raised over £500 for church funds. Thanks, are also due to those who helped and those who supported'.

Margaret  
Teasdale  
the Hostess





## **Pimms and Hymns 6<sup>th</sup> July**

Here are the full results for our Pimms and Hymns event held in July! There were 1,341 votes for 104 hymns. I think this list is predictable and surprising in equal measures! The number of votes is on the left, hymn name on the right, with tune names in brackets where



applicable. Once again, thank you to everyone who supported this event and made it such a fun and successful fundraiser for St Mary's. A staggering £2,280.

55 **Jerusalem**

53 **And can it be**

45 **In Christ Alone**

44 **Who would true valour see**

43 **I the Lord of Sea and Sky; Lord the light of your love is shining**

42 **God is our strength and refuge (Dambusters); Judge eternal, throned in splendour (Rhuddlan)**

37 **Be thou my vision (Slane) The day thou gavest (St Clement)**

33 O thou who camest from above (Hereford); To God be the glory; Guide me O thou great redeemer

30 Thine be the glory; Angel Voices ever singing; Come sing the praise of Jesus; Lift up your hearts (Woodlands); Thy hand, O God, has guided; Lift high the cross (Crucifer)

29 Dear Lord and Father of Mankind

27 Be still for the presence of the Lord

25 Let all mortal flesh keep silence; Christians lift up your hearts; O Lord my God when I in awesome wonder (How great thou art)

24 Blessed Assurance

23 As deer pants for the water; I vow to thee my country

21 Praise my soul the king of heaven

20 You shall go out with joy; We are marching in the light of God; Crown him with many crowns (Diademata); Stand up stand up for Jesus (Morning light) Ye holy angels bright; Onward Christian pilgrims

19 Love Divine (Blaenwern)

17 My Song is Love Unknown; O Jesus I have promised (Thornbury)

13 Morning has broken

10 Immortal, Invisible; Do not be afraid; Eternal Father strong to save; Make me a channel of your peace; O Jesus I have promised (Hatherop castle)

8 Lord of the years

7 I danced in the morning; Lord of all hopefulness; The Lord's my shepherd; Let all the world in every corner sing

6 Now thank we all our God; Walk in the Light; Abide with me; For the beauty of the earth

5 There's a wideness in God's mercy; Through all the changing scenes of life; At the name of Jesus; Blessed are the poor in heart; Great is thy faithfulness

3 Teach me my God and king; Jesus God above all other; When I needed a neighbour; Thou whose almighty word; Praise to the holiest (Gerontius); Be still my soul (Finlandia)

2 Glorious things of thee are spoken; God is love: let heav'n adore him; Faithful one, so unchanging; Fight the good fight; All heavens declare; All hail the power of Jesus name; Firmly I believe and truly; I bind unto myself; Lead us heavenly father lead us; Jesus Christ is risen today; Jesu Lover of my soul; O Come, O come, Emmanuel; All things bright and beautiful; All my hope on God is founded (Michael); From heaven you came, helpless babe; O God our help in ages past; When I survey the wondrous cross; Give me joy in my heart; Come down O love divine

1 Father, hear the prayer we offer; For all the saints; God of mercy, God of grace; Breathe on me breath of God; Lord Jesus Christ, you have come to us; All people that on earth do dwell; King of glory, king of peace; Jesus shall reign wher'ere the sun; All glory laud and honour; Tell out my soul; O worship the king, all glorious above; Rock of ages; Praise the Lord, ye heavens adore him (Austria); Alleluia, sing to Jesus (Hyfrydol); Take my life and let it be (Nottingham); Brightest and best (Epiphany); Come thou Holy Spirit come; Amazing Grace; Just as I am (Saffron Walden); Love divine (Stainer); Lo, he comes with clouds descending; All for Jesus



## LETTERS

### Hitching a ride



Linda Manning brought a passenger to church on 29th June (could his name have been Peter, for St Peter's Day?). The issue which the church wardens had was 'Do we include him in the number of worshippers?'

Sent in by David Gilburt

### **Dear Readers,**

I would like to share with you about a concert which took place on **5<sup>th</sup> August** as part of 'Encore' at **Eisteddfod Genedlaethol, Bowling Bank, Wrexham**. The concert celebrated NEW Sinfonia's Wrexham roots with a chamber concert featuring music from composers who call Wrexham home amongst other NEW Sinfonia favourites!

Their programme featured classics such as Ralph Vaughan William's *Rhosymedre*, the quirky and contemporary music of Jon Guy, as well as Mared Emlyn, Grace Williams, Robert Arwyn, and a world premiere by Phanil Ibragimov - *Cerdded Stryddoedd Wrecsam* (Walking the Streets of Wrexham). This piece was his

love-letter to the city of Wrexham which became his home after he and his family were forced to flee their home due to the conflict in Ukraine. The concert was on BBC 4 the following week!

NEW Sinfonia was founded by Wrexham born brothers Robert and Jon Guy in 2011 with the aim of ensuring that classical music experiences of the highest standard are available to all in North Wales. They provide a platform for North Wales' freelance professional musicians and ignite, inspire, and engage youngsters with a drive to pursue their musical journeys through their education programme - NEW Academi. In 2021, they founded a community chorus - NEW Voices - a community of singers from all walks of life including members of the Wrexham refugee Hub UareUK.

NEW Voices member **Klaus Armstrong-Braun** (that's me!) was orphaned during the Second World War when he was taken in by several families in Ireland before settling near Chester and finding the NEW Voice community. His song, *O Erin!* is an ode to his time spent in Ireland and featured soprano Kathy Macaulay.

**Klaus**

### **O Erin! O Erin!**

O Erin! O Erin! Thou beatiest Isle.  
. Whose body is covered with a mantle of green.  
Thy bosom riseth above the plains.  
With wild golden hair beauty to be seen.  
The chieftains of old have fought over thee.  
Killing thy sons, thy mantle turned red  
. Until an Ard Ri on Tara's great hill,  
brought a little piece to a son in his bed.

I cry for thee, O Erin my love.  
For thou art now scarred by the works of mankind.  
Dying from poison and concrete so grey  
Thy thoughtless people do not seem to mind.  
Rise up ye sons of the chieftains of old.  
Show pride in that isle, the fairest of all.  
Take up your swords against plunders so vile.  
That again may her beauty be enjoyed by us all.

Klaus Armstrong-Braun 1970

### **FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK**

This magazine is, hopefully, packed with a variety to suit everyone. At the Pimms & Hymns event, I literally bumped into Bells who asked if she could write a regular column in the magazine. It is both moving & a thought provoker. Antony's article about Revd Massie, busy man or what?! And so, life, ordinary and extraordinary, weaves its varied way through the parish and beyond. A collection of individuals making up a wonderfully diverse community.

**Catherine**



# WHAT'S ON AT ST MARY'S IN SEPTEMBER?



The 10:30am Sunday Service will usually also be accessible via the St Mary's YouTube Channel. Please follow St Mary's Facebook Page for updates. Below, bold type denotes an event, not a service.

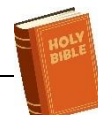
Monday	1	7:30pm	<b>Julian Meeting</b>
Thursday	4	10:00am	Said Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
Friday	5	7:00pm	Back to School Quiz in St Mary's Handbridge Centre for 7:30pm
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>The Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary</b>	
		8:00am	Holy Communion (followed by bacon baps in St Mary's Handbridge Centre)
		10:30am	Patronal Sung Eucharist followed by bring and share lunch and games on the lawn
Wednesday	10	12:00pm	<b>Luncheon Club in St Mary's Handbridge Centre</b>
Thursday	11	10:00am	Said Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
Friday	12	10:00am	<b>St Mary's Baby &amp; Toddler Group in St Mary's Handbridge Centre</b>
		7:00pm	<b>Music by the Bridge with Deva Wind</b>
Saturday	13	4:00pm	Wedding: Seren Challand & Josh Henney
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity</b>	
		8:00am	Holy Communion
		10:30am	Family Eucharist
		12:30pm	Holy Baptism
		6:30pm	Choral Evensong
Monday	15	7:00pm	<b>PCC Standing Committee Meeting</b>
Wednesday	17	12:00pm	<b>Luncheon Club in St Mary's Handbridge Centre</b>
Thursday	18	10:00am	Said Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
Friday	19	10:00am	<b>St Mary's Baby &amp; Toddler Group in St Mary's Handbridge Centre</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity</b>	
		8:00am	Holy Communion
		10:30am	Sung Eucharist
		3:00pm	Messy Church
Wednesday	24	12:00pm	<b>Luncheon Club in St Mary's Handbridge Centre</b>
Thursday	25	10:00am	Said Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
Friday	26	10:00am	<b>St Mary's Baby &amp; Toddler Group in St Mary's Handbridge Centre</b>
		10:00am	<b>Macmillan Big Coffee Morning in Church</b>
		to 12:00pm	<b>MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT</b>
		7:00pm	<b>Genesis, Chapter 1: talk by Trevor Dennis</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity</b>	
		8:00am	Said Service of Holy Communion
		10:30am	Sung Eucharist
Monday	29	7:00pm	<b>PCC Meeting</b>



**Church Cleaning Team – needs YOU!** Would YOU like to help with fun cleaning on **Tuesday mornings** in Church wielding a duster, running round with the Hoover or brushing chairs? **10.00– 12.00 every Tuesday** (or just the Tuesdays when you can!) and afterwards with a well-earned cuppa in the Centre; far more fun than cleaning at home! You will love it!!! Just turn up!

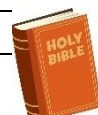


## Weekly Bible Readings for September and October 2025



Bible readings for September	First Reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel
<b>7<sup>th</sup> September 2025</b> <b>Twelfth Sunday after Trinity</b>	<b>Either</b> Deuteronomy 30:15-end <b>Or</b> Jeremiah 18:1-11	Psalm 1	Philemon 1-21	Luke 14:25-33
<b>14<sup>th</sup> September 2025</b> <b>Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity</b>	<b>Either</b> Exodus 32:7-14 <b>Or</b> Jeremiah 4:11-12. 22-28	Psalm 51:1-11	1 Timothy 1:12-17	Luke 15:1-10
<b>21<sup>st</sup> September 2025</b> <b>Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity</b>	<b>Either</b> Amos 8:4-7 <b>Or</b> Jeremiah 8:18-9:1	Psalm 113	1 Timothy 2:1-7	Luke 16:1-13
<b>28<sup>th</sup> September 2025</b> <b>Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity</b>	<b>Either</b> Amos 6:1 a. 4-7 <b>Or</b> Jeremiah 32:1-3a. 6-15	Psalm 146	1 Timothy 6:6-19	Luke 16:19-end

Bible readings for October	First Reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel
<b>5<sup>th</sup> October 2025</b> <b>Sixteenth Sunday of Trinity</b>	<b>Either</b> Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4 <b>Or</b> Lamentations 1:1-6	Psalm 37:1-9	2 Timothy 1:1-14	Luke 17:5-10
<b>12<sup>th</sup> October 2025</b> <b>Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity</b>	<b>Either</b> 2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c <b>Or</b> Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7	Psalm 111	2 Timothy 2:8-15	Luke 17:11-19
<b>19<sup>th</sup> October 2025</b> <b>Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity</b>	<b>Either</b> Genesis 32:22-31 <b>Or</b> Jeremiah 31:27-34	Psalm 121	2 Timothy 3:14-4:5	Luke 18:1-8
<b>26<sup>th</sup> October 2025</b> <b>Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity</b>	<b>Either</b> Sirach 35:12-17 <b>Or</b> Jeremiah 14:7-10, 19-22	Psalm 84:1-7	2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18	Luke 18:9-14





# St. Mary's Choral Scholarships -

## *Sponsor a Scholar!*



St Mary's church has a strong tradition of choral music, with a Soprano, Alto, Tenor and Bass choir made up of a dedicated group of volunteers, as well as 12 Choral Scholars, aged 11-18 recruited from local schools. The project enables young people to learn to read music and experience the joy of making music in a wonderful setting.

Our Choral Scholars were initially funded by several grants, but regular fundraising is required to safeguard the project into the future. Our monthly series of 'Music by the Bridge' concerts helps to raise some of the money, but regular giving will enable us to secure the necessary funds to continue our work.



Senior Choral Scholars (aged 15-18) are paid £600 per annum, and Juniors (aged 11-14) are paid £300, making a total of £6000 per year. If you would like to know more about how you could sponsor a scholar for a year or make a regular donation of another amount please contact the church treasurer at [finance.stmaryswithoutwalls@btinternet.com](mailto:finance.stmaryswithoutwalls@btinternet.com)



# 2025

# MUSIC

## *by the Bridge*



**FRIDAYS, 7PM**  
(lasts around 1 hour)



**12<sup>th</sup> September - Deva Wind**  
**10<sup>th</sup> October - Queen's School**



*Free Entry*

(Donations gratefully received to support our choral scholarship fund)

Followed by wine or soft drink in the Parish Centre



[www.facebook.com/stmaryshandbridge/](https://www.facebook.com/stmaryshandbridge/)



[www.stmaryschester.co.uk](http://www.stmaryschester.co.uk)

Adding into the above poster **Nov 14<sup>th</sup> -Vale Royal**



# PARISH DIRECTORY



<b>Rector</b>	The Revd Antony J Dutton	<a href="mailto:stmarysrector.handbridge@gmail.com">stmarysrector.handbridge@gmail.com</a>	01244 671202
			and/or 01244 913898
<b>Parish Administrator &amp; Centre Manager</b>	Doris Keen	<a href="mailto:office.stmaryschester@btconnect.com">office.stmaryschester@btconnect.com</a>	01244 671202
<b>Centre Coordinators</b>	Michael Mitchell	<a href="mailto:michael.stmaryschester@btconnect.com">michael.stmaryschester@btconnect.com</a>	01244 671202
	Joanna Polanczyk	<a href="mailto:joanna.stmaryschester@btconnect.com">joanna.stmaryschester@btconnect.com</a>	01244 671202
<b>Centre Assistant</b>	John Rose	Contact via Centre Manager	
<b>Hon. Assistant Clergy</b>	The Revd John Carhart	<a href="mailto:jcarhart@nepc.co.uk">jcarhart@nepc.co.uk</a>	01244 380923
	The Revd Trevor Dennis	<a href="mailto:trevordennis11@gmail.com">trevordennis11@gmail.com</a>	01244 638441
	The Revd Maureen Pickering	<a href="mailto:revmapickering@gmail.com">revmapickering@gmail.com</a>	01244 749112
<b>Hon. Parish Reader</b>	Linda Manning	<a href="mailto:lindamanning@uwclub.net">lindamanning@uwclub.net</a>	01244 682143
<b>Churchwardens</b>	Lynne Jones	<a href="mailto:lynnejones623@hotmail.com">lynnejones623@hotmail.com</a>	07713 167332
	Mavis Sellers	<a href="mailto:mavissellers@gmail.com">mavissellers@gmail.com</a>	07715 050850
<b>PCC Secretary</b>	Hailey Mason	<a href="mailto:pccsecretary@btconnect.com">pccsecretary@btconnect.com</a>	01244 674517
<b>PCC Treasurer</b>	Tom Hardcastle	<a href="mailto:treasurer.stmaryschester@gmail.com">treasurer.stmaryschester@gmail.com</a>	01244 671202
<b>Director of Music</b>	Michael Reynolds	<a href="mailto:michaelreynoldsmusic@googlemail.com">michaelreynoldsmusic@googlemail.com</a>	07786 323946
<b>Music and Worship Cluster Chair</b>	Michael Reynolds	<a href="mailto:michaelreynoldsmusic@googlemail.com">michaelreynoldsmusic@googlemail.com</a>	07786 323946
<b>Community, Mission, Charities Cluster Chair</b>	Alison McLellan	<a href="mailto:avej97@btinternet.com">avej97@btinternet.com</a>	01244 676772
<b>Children and Young People Cluster Chair</b>	Maureen Pickering	<a href="mailto:revmapickering@gmail.com">revmapickering@gmail.com</a>	01244 749112
<b>Communications Cluster Chair</b>	The Revd Antony J Dutton	<a href="mailto:stmarysrector.handbridge@gmail.com">stmarysrector.handbridge@gmail.com</a>	01244 671202
			and/or 01244 913898
<b>Buildings and Environment Cluster Chair</b>	John Scott	<a href="mailto:jande.scott@btinternet.com">jande.scott@btinternet.com</a>	
<b>Finance Cluster Chair</b>	David Gilburt	<a href="mailto:bonduca@hotmail.com">bonduca@hotmail.com</a>	01244 630917
<b>Churches Together Rep</b>	Peter Collins	<a href="mailto:pcollins943@btinternet.com">pcollins943@btinternet.com</a>	
<b>Deanery Synod Reps</b>	Christine Dukes	<a href="mailto:teeneel@live.co.uk">teeneel@live.co.uk</a>	
	Emma Degg	<a href="mailto:emma.degg@nwblt.co.uk">emma.degg@nwblt.co.uk</a>	
	Alison McLellan	<a href="mailto:avej97@btinternet.com">avej97@btinternet.com</a>	01244 676772
<b>Electoral Roll Officer</b>	Alison McLellan	<a href="mailto:avej97@btinternet.com">avej97@btinternet.com</a>	01244 676772
<b>Planned Giving Recorder</b>	Helen Brophy	<a href="mailto:finance.stmaryswithoutwalls@btinternet.com">finance.stmaryswithoutwalls@btinternet.com</a>	01244 629111
<b>Safeguarding Officer</b>	Sue Fryer	<a href="mailto:safeguarding.stmaryschester@btconnect.com">safeguarding.stmaryschester@btconnect.com</a>	07754 894748
		<b>PLEASE NOTE above email and phone no. are for Safeguarding purposes ONLY. Thank you</b>	
<b>Health &amp; Safety Adviser</b>	Parish Office		01244 671202
<b>Bellringers</b>	Fiona Harrison	<a href="mailto:fiona.harrison1@btinternet.com">fiona.harrison1@btinternet.com</a>	01244 314712
<b>Church Flowers Lead</b>	Elizabeth Bennett	<a href="mailto:bennettstimes5@tiscali.co.uk">bennettstimes5@tiscali.co.uk</a>	01244 678504
<b>Church Flowers Treasurer</b>	Linda Schofield		01244 659149
<b>Church Cleaning</b>	Helen Pritchard	<a href="mailto:helenpritchard5858@gmail.com">helenpritchard5858@gmail.com</a>	07522 477605
<b>Intercessions Rota</b>	Jackie Hirst	<a href="mailto:jgshirst@protonmail.com">jgshirst@protonmail.com</a>	01244 371083
<b>Server Rota</b>	Sue Dickinson	<a href="mailto:dickinsonsue28@gmail.com">dickinsonsue28@gmail.com</a>	01244 678328
<b>Magazine Editor</b>	Catherine Jones	<a href="mailto:stmaryseditor@gmail.com">stmaryseditor@gmail.com</a>	07730 584510
<b>Magazine Distributors</b>	Bill & Jaqi Yates	<a href="mailto:yatesb@hotmail.co.uk">yatesb@hotmail.co.uk</a>	01244 681349
	John & Melissa Grundy	<a href="mailto:johngrundy819@gmail.com">johngrundy819@gmail.com</a>	07821 425469
<b>Julian Meetings</b>	John & Denise Parkin	<a href="mailto:parkinjohn@tiscali.co.uk">parkinjohn@tiscali.co.uk</a>	01244 676009
<b>Meditation Group</b>	Jackie Hirst	<a href="mailto:jgshirst@protonmail.com">jgshirst@protonmail.com</a>	01244 371083
<b>Luncheon Club Leader</b>	Maureen Evans	<a href="mailto:evansrogers@yahoo.co.uk">evansrogers@yahoo.co.uk</a>	01244 676123
<b>Baby &amp; Toddler Group</b>	Sue Fryer	<a href="mailto:sue.fryer55@outlook.com">sue.fryer55@outlook.com</a>	07799 862828
<b>The Well (Youth Group)</b>	Maureen Pickering	<a href="mailto:revmapickering@gmail.com">revmapickering@gmail.com</a>	01244 749112
<b>Gardening Group (Unlicensed Lay Weeders)</b>	Alison McLellan	<a href="mailto:avej97@btinternet.com">avej97@btinternet.com</a>	01244 676772
<b>Christian Aid Representatives</b>	Helen Pritchard	<a href="mailto:helenpritchard5858@gmail.com">helenpritchard5858@gmail.com</a>	07522 477605
	Christine Duke	<a href="mailto:teeneel@live.co.uk">teeneel@live.co.uk</a>	
<b>Beavers, Cubs &amp; Scouts</b>	Susan Jones		01244 675538
<b>Rainbows</b>	Grace Hamilton	<a href="mailto:graceshamilton@gmail.com">graceshamilton@gmail.com</a>	07943 811854
<b>Brownies</b>	Krystina Littlehales	<a href="mailto:krys14_uk@yahoo.co.uk">krys14_uk@yahoo.co.uk</a>	07860 845402
<b>Guides &amp; Rangers</b>	Helen Williams	<a href="mailto:helen_williams82uk@yahoo.co.uk">helen_williams82uk@yahoo.co.uk</a>	07951 959007
<b>Overleigh St Mary's C of E Primary School Head</b>	Emma Drew	<a href="mailto:admin@osm.cheshire.sch.uk">admin@osm.cheshire.sch.uk</a>	01244 267525

**PLEASE NOTE:** The Parish Office hours are as follows: **Monday - Friday: 9:00am - 3:00pm**

Website: <https://stmaryschester.co.uk/contact-st-marys/>

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I used to play piano by ear, but now I use my hands, it's actually easier.



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When a minister rehearses his sermon, is he practising what he preaches?

