

The Quarterly

St Mary's Church, Ware Community News & Views



LISTEN!

It's the end of term: teachers breathe a sigh of relief and spend a few days resting their voices. Parents on the other hand find a new need to distinguish between the "outside" and the "indoors" voice.....

Learning and teaching have traditionally depended on oral transmission of facts and skills. How else could generations of people have learned from their mums and grannies about household skills and child-rearing? Women were, of course, the holders of household lore, and others would come to them for advice and to hear the wisdom of the past generations.

Throughout history, opinions, views, information have been spoken by those who wanted their message to be heard: the generals in warfare giving orders to the massed troops, the bard in the mead hall telling his stories of heroes and monsters, politicians on the stump, charlatans selling quack medicines in the medieval marketplace, heralds in the court – these have all needed the attention of their audience. So we have the traditional calls, *Oyez, Oyez* (the town crier), *Hear Ye!*, *Now Hear This*, and the Anglo Saxon *Hwaet!* which has a suggestion of *shushhh* as well as *Listen*. There are many other ways to attract the attention of a group, often used by teachers in their daily lives.



And then, to speak, to deliver the message.....which brings us to the other side of any communication, the hearer!

For a message to be received, somebody has to be listening in an active way, absorbing and accepting the words (and/or pictures for many modern lectures). Our 21st century minds aren't trained to listen as our pre-literate ancestors had to listen; we hardly learn by heart – it requires a different skill which few of us still use. But be thankful that in the past, absolute remembrance of things heard was a norm. When Jesus wanted people to hear his Word, he SAT DOWN and taught them, and the memory of his words, maybe as actually heard, comes to us in the Gospel. He expected people to hear and remember – "you who have ears to hear, hear this!"



And we all need to listen to the still small voice: God is often speaking (without trumpet, megaphone or ringtone) and we let other sounds prevail in our consciousness.

This Quarterly is full of music, sacred and secular, and in many ways that is also a form of communication: to quote St Augustine (possibly), "He who sings, prays twice". Many hymns are also prayers, praise, sermons – which can be offered to God in worship, and we can hear his message as we sing.

Ysmena's letter

August 2025

August is traditionally 'holiday time' when routines change; September, and the start of a new school year, still marks the beginning of new routines, whether or not schools are still part of our personal lives. Both points are good points to take stock of the routines of our lives of faith. Not necessarily in huge ways, but just to note what those routines are and whether there are opportunities for a little change here and there.

So this is my occasional reminder to you of the opportunity to share in the routine of the Daily Office: Morning or Evening or Night Prayer. Morning and Evening Prayer are a key part of any clergy person's routine but are not their exclusive preserve!

Here we share Morning and Evening Prayer on Monday - Thursday. Morning Prayer is at 9:15am in the Lady Chapel and usually on facebook (through the St Mary's facebook page). Evening Prayer is at 5pm, again in the Lady Chapel, but not online. Books are available in the Lady Chapel, or, if you use a smart phone you can download the free Daily Prayer App (image below left), which helps you navigate the service more easily and means you can adjust the print size to suit you. The app



also means you can of course choose to pray the Office at any time you like by yourself if you prefer. There is usually a recording available so you can also listen along to that.

Night Prayer (Compline) is different. Again it is available on the app for use at any time. Here we offer the service from time to time, for particular seasons of the church's year or as part of particular events.

These services are all based on scripture. In Morning and Evening Prayer we read through the book of Psalms several times a year, and read through pretty much all of the rest of the Bible over the year. The other elements of the services are also mostly taken from scripture. And yet, pretty much every day, there is a surprise: a reading seems to reflect something in the news; a psalm reflects a local need; there is a challenge, a little treat, or something that despite continual reading seems entirely new. The different voices of the readers emphasize something different even in the most familiar of texts. We trip over awkward words, get the giggles, find something suddenly silences the room - as scripture speaks and we listen.

You don't have to come every day or even very often, but remember the Office is offered and if you can - join in from time to time, in person or online. All welcome. No-one has to read out loud unless they want to!

And another thing -

After discussion with the PCC, we will trial a slightly earlier **Midnight Mass (24 December)**. The service will start at 11pm and be timed to finish at or just after midnight. We hope this will make attending more manageable for those who wish to take part. Please make a note and spread the word.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ysmena".



CHORAL EVENSONG with Former Choristers

Sunday 21st September 2025

If you have EVER sung with **St Mary's Church Choir**, you are invited to join a service of Choral Evensong with current and former choristers.

All Singers welcome

We'd love to have singers & congregation from as many eras as possible

Find old friends and make new

Remember your place in the choir stalls

Celebrate the gift of music and share your memories

- Singers arrive from 2pm – refreshments will be served

- 3pm rehearsal
- 4.30pm refreshment break
- 5pm Choral Evensong
- 6pm Reception for all singers and congregation



If you would like to attend Evensong but not join the choir, you are welcome to gather for refreshments from 4pm and then come to the service and reception.

To sign up or find out more contact Norah on norah@henryhickman.com

St. Mary The Virgin and Ware Brass present....

ANGELS AND DRAGONS

the music of myth and fantasy

Musical Director: Jonathan Lockwood

WARE BRASS



Sunday 28th September 2025, 4.00pm
St. Mary The Virgin, Church Street, Ware SG12 9EH
fancy dress encouraged, prizes for best dressed child

Tickets: Adults £10, Child 10–17 years £6,
Child under 10 FREE, Family Ticket** £25.00
buy online at <https://warebrass.eventbrite.co.uk>
for more information visit: warebrass.com
*Each online ticket includes a non-refundable booking fee
**Family Ticket is based on 2 adults and 2 children



28 September at 4.00pm

Ware Brass – a concert for all the family!

This concert on **28th September** will feature the music of myth and fantasy.

It starts at 4.00pm and is for all the family – if you can dress up in any fantastic, dramatic or imaginative way, you will be extra welcome! And there will be prizes for the best dressed child.

Adults could also dress up, but no prizes for them.....

Please book tickets online at <https://warebrass.eventbrite.co.uk>

Music at St Mary's: A year in review

Continuing the theme of music, our Director of Music Stephen Crookes offers us an insight into his first year with us

As the choir year ends, it is appropriate to reflect on our journey since I began in August 2024, and to look ahead to the future. It has been a privilege to work with the passionate and dedicated musicians at St Mary's, who welcomed me warmly and endured my high standards. Likewise, the congregation has embraced me and enabled St Mary's to become a happy new musical home.

This year, we were pleased to welcome new singers, whose contributions were felt immediately. We also mourned the loss of Paul Hickman, a cherished choir member and driving force behind the St Mary's Arts programme. His legacy continues to connect our church with the wider community, offering performance opportunities to local and national artists alike. We were especially glad to host young performers this year and hope to expand this performance opportunity to more schools.

The choir has grown musically by exploring new and familiar repertoire, and has launched exciting collaborations. A highlight was our joint Evensong with Presdales School's Chamber Choir—38 voices filled the stalls with an inspiring sound. It was a chance to share our work and introduce young singers to the beauty of Evensong, many singing with a full choir for the first time. Christmas and Easter, especially Passiontide, were other musical highlights where the choir rose to the demands of the season.

St Mary's upholds a musical tradition that few churches are able to maintain, expecting near-professional standards from volunteer musicians. To preserve this, we are focused on engaging young people. Next academic year, we aim to launch a new choir for children, giving them not only a free musical training but also key life skills like discipline and leadership, and an experience that leaves them with a lifelong joy in music and enduring friendships.

To rekindle past connections, we invite all former choir members to join us for a special Evensong on 21 September 2025, featuring, also, a former Director of Music, Michael Smith. If you have sung with our choir, or know someone who has, please spread the word and contact Norah Hickman at norah@henryhickman.com to attend or to join our mailing list.

We are always recruiting new singers—adults and children from age 8. If interested, please email me at music@stmarysware.co.uk to learn more about joining our music programme.

St Augustine is thought to have said: 'He who sings, prays twice.' The dedication and musical leadership shown by our choir this past year has deeply enriched worship at St Mary's. I am truly grateful for their inspiring contribution to our musical ministry.





Christian Aid Week: our challenge - 70k, in a day, in the churchyard, 10th May!



Left, Mary, Shirley, Rory and Jess the dog

Right, Rory pointing out his scooter feat



The old and the young combined to cover far more than 70K during the Christian Aid challenge. Rory completed 100 circuits of the churchyard on his scooter, and this was measured as 22k – a phenomenal distance, over 10% of the total 200K achieved by a number of people during this very enjoyable fundraising day.

“I’m not just here for the beer, honestly!” - a reflection on Pub Theology

Many of the pubs in the East End of London, where I misspent my youth, had ground rules about what were considered to be fit topics for conversation. Some even had cards pinned up bearing the admonitions “No swearing! No politics! No Religion!”

The last was waived to allow entry to the Salvation Army stalwarts selling the *War Cry*. Somehow, they always managed to appear shortly before closing time when, mellowed by alcohol, clients would press half a crown* into a proffered hand, pick up the paper and gruffly mutter “keep the change”. Did anyone ever read the *War Cry*? **note to younger readers: this was a pre-decimal coin worth 2 shillings and sixpence, or one-eighth of a pound.*



Thoughts of 60+ years ago were in my mind when the idea of Pub Theology was first floated. I do admit to feeling more than a little sceptical about the proposed group. Won over by the thought it would unite two of my interests – beer and religion - I decided to join.

There is no entry requirement. You don’t have to have profound theological knowledge or a deep thirst for any form of alcohol. Our group was ably led by Fr. Jake in the Maltings (pictured above) and considered some deep issues in relaxed fellowship. Laughter was no stranger to our proceedings and I often wondered what other customers made of us.

Ysmena has taken up the baton from Jake and it will be interesting to see how the group will develop. Why don’t you give it a try?

Look out for dates and venues.

Ian Little

St Mary's lunchtime concerts since May

Thanks to everyone who has contributed reviews of the many and varied concerts in the last quarter!

Ambrose String Quartet: One would have been barking mad to miss the Ambrose String Quartet recital in May. The lawyers and doctors, accompanied by their dogs, performed a diverse and lively programme on this early Spring bank holiday. However, new seasons bring reminders of what has gone, and the late Paul Hickman – a founder of the group and longtime organiser of St Mary's Arts concerts – was firmly on the performers' minds when selecting the programme, even if this recital was not a memorial to him.

Opening with the *String Quartet no. 12 in F major* by Antonin Dvořák, the group conveyed a pastoral scene with a sense of a burbling brook and persistent birdsong. Titled the *American Quartet*, it was written shortly after the New World Symphony, and the optimism of the American Dream soon became apparent with whimsical tunes, but also with the darker undertones of the angst of a developing industrial nation. This was brought to life with superb expression and dramatic variety in tonal colour.

My Funny Valentine by Richard Rodgers and Lorenz Hart introduced the lighter part of the programme, where the viola solo conveyed a sonorous and lyrical line, tinged with wistful sadness of their lost colleague who had played that very part. *Cock Linnet* by Charles Collins and Fred W. Leigh, a favourite of Paul's, was filled with a mischievous and exuberant energy. Finally, *Por Una Cabeza*, a tango by Carlos Gardel, was full of passion and desire: a hint at the heat of Summer to come.

Stephen Crookes

Students from Sherrardswood School: A few days before this concert I heard a speaker on Radio 3 bemoaning the poor health of musical education in British state schools. I wish he had heard this concert, because our visitors from Welwyn Garden City gave a sharp rebuttal of his gloomy diagnosis.

This programme was ambitious and varied; instrumentalists, a talented young soprano and a chamber choir combined to give a performance which had the young children from St Catherine's listening with rapt attention (further evidence of state schools taking musical education seriously).

The concert opened with a presto for piano by Pescetta, performed with commendable panache and brio by Aaron Cherchian. Two vocal items followed – Ivor Gurney's *Desire in Spring* sung with tenderness and clarity of diction by Emily Bolton. The choir then gave us *May it Be*. This enabled the singers to demonstrate their grasp of a range of *a capella* techniques.

Another talented young pianist, Louise Pollard, played two pieces. The second was a fluent account of Chopin's Waltz in A Minor.

That great friend of music in Ware – Barbara Manning – took over at short notice to accompany the last four works. We heard the clarinet's role in a Mozart quintet stripped of its usually busy strings. The *Andante* is technically demanding and Elliot Rees rose to the challenge admirably. Mozart wrote his *Exultate Jubilate* in his teens so it was perhaps fitting that it was sung by Emily. The Alleluia is four and a half minutes of reiteration of a single word, but just as in her earlier piece it was sung with clarity and conviction.

Remaining in the eighteenth century, we came to Haydn's *Trumpet Concerto*. James Hedges gave us the andante. I suspect most people are familiar with the rondo but will be delighted to learn there's so much more to enjoy. With only a short pause for breath he brought the concert to a foot tapping finale with Tchaikovsky's take on a Neapolitan song.

The school should be proud of all its performers and the music staff who put the concert together and to them all – Thank you and do come back.

Ian Little

Andreana Chan – Organ: Andreana, Assistant Organist at St Mary Magdalene, Richmond, London is a recent Law graduate and Organ Scholar of Pembroke College, Cambridge. She planned this recital around the structure of Evensong, beginning with two pre-service *Preludes*, one very reflective and with a bell-like accompaniment by Nadia Boulanger. All the components of Evensong were there: responses, psalm, canticles, sermon, prayers, hymns in musical form, ending with a wonderful, stirring *Festival Toccata* by Percy Fletcher, demonstrating Andreana's mastery of the instrument. The *Psalm Prelude* by Herbert Howells, Psalm 34:6 was quiet, reflecting the words with good use of tone colour, often dark but with a finish in the major. The *Magnificat* was the contribution of JS Bach with distinct lines of fugue, gradually growing with some wonderful chord progressions. Rachmaninoff's *Nunc Dimittis*, reflective and slow with repeated chord progressions ended with a very low, descending scale. The sermon theme was *Where Does Your Faith Lie?* by the young Cheryl Frances-Hoad: a rather uncomfortable piece contrasting low and slow with upper broken chords. The familiar *Nun Danket Alle Gott* by Karg-Elert has variations on the hymn tune and shows off the organ and organist's skills. This recital covered four centuries and music from several countries.

Celia Higson

Rebekah Yinuo Tan – piano: For the Thursday concert in June we welcomed a new performer, the talented young pianist Rebekah Yinuo Tan. Rebekah has been studying piano since the age of seven-and-a-half, first in her native Shanghai and now, aged eighteen, at the Royal College of Music in London. She has won many piano competitions, the latest being the Watford International Piano Competition (2025). Rebekah began her programme with JS Bach: *Prelude and Fugue* in Bb minor, Book 1, BWV 867, a beautiful and meditative piece which carried a sense of calm and reflection. For the main part of her recital, she chose Sonata No 3 in F minor, Op 14 by R. Schumann, and played this long and technically demanding work with style and sensitivity. Her final item was the *Prelude*, Book 2 no 12 *Feux d'artifice* by Debussy, which ended the recital with real keyboard fireworks. As an encore Rebekah played an *Impromptu in Ab* by Schubert. Each piece was played with confidence and maturity, completely from memory. It was a beautifully balanced and very impressive recital, and we look forward to welcoming this talented young pianist back in the future.

Linn Parker

Axel Krogness – Guitar: For the Monday concert in July we welcomed another new performer, Axel Krogness, who gave a classical guitar recital. Axel is a Swedish classical guitarist living in London, who combines performing and teaching, and is also a composer for classical guitar. Some of his own compositions were included in the recital. Axel also played four pieces by well-known composers for guitar, *Campanas del Alba* by Eduardo Sainz de la Maza, and Preludes 1, 3 and 5 by Heitor Villa Lobos. Interspersed with these we heard four of Axel's own pieces, *Flowing Water*, *Brother Barnabas*, *Reflections* and *Streets of Cordoba*. Axel's own works mirrored the styles of both del Albe and Villa Lobos, which gave a feeling of continuity across the whole performance.

Please turn the page

The audience was delighted to be informed that the performance of *Reflections* was a world premiere. As an encore, Axel played a piece called *Lamentos do Morro* by the Brazilian composer Garoto (Anibal Augusto Sardinha). The peaceful and reflective sound of the classical guitar, expertly played, provided a calm and tranquil midday concert, perfect for a warm and sunny Summer's day.

Linn Parker

Malcolm Pentelow – organ: His welcome return visit in July gave us music ranging from JS Bach to today. He started with the Second *Rhapsodie on Breton Folk Songs* by Camille Saint-Saens, written for his student Gabriel Fauré after a holiday in Brittany. The folk tunes were cleverly re-used in different pitches and interwoven. Next came seven variations by William Spark, one of the foremost concert organists of the 19th century, on the hymn tune *Jerusalem the Golden*. Malcolm introduced *Prelude and Fugue in C BWV 547* by JS Bach, by singing the main theme, *Hickory Dickory Dock, the Mouse ran Down the Clock*, which was repeated in various permutations weaving its way around the music in the Fugue, the



Prelude having joyfully danced along in C major. A fun piece of music with a grand finale. A great contrast in the form of *Alleluias* by acclaimed organist Simon Preston was next, his ecstatic response to a hymn from the ancient Liturgy of St James, the final verse of *Let all mortal flesh keep silence*. This was very modern and complex, with huge final chords and an abrupt ending. Continuing the theme of Angels we heard Judith Bingham's *St Bride assisted by Angels*: the Celtic goddess Brigid, who according to legend, visits the Nativity and witnesses the rebirth of time. A mysterious beginning, contrasts between higher chords and lower rhythms, very atmospheric; the closing stages incorporate a Celtic melody: a memory of the saint's former incarnation. Finally, Malcolm played a Toccata written as the theme tune to BBC *Songs of Praise* by Robert Prizemann. The tune lurching along in 7/8 time works well with orchestra and a battery of percussion instruments, all very well for many players, but the organist has to do it alone!

Celia Higson

Positif choir is directed by **Jill Knight**. They brought us **Songs of Summer** as a lovely Saturday evening performance in June. A very lively short song *Viva la Musica* by Hungarian-Austrian composer Ivan Erod opened the concert. They looked - and sounded - as though they were really enjoying their music. The concert continued with song arrangements all beautifully sung: *Java Jive* which dates back to the post-war Ink Spots, *Sounds of Simon and Garfunkel* and *Mr Blue Sky*. Next we were treated to *Desire in Spring* by the early 20th century English composer, Ivor Gurney, sung by Sophie who had prepared it as an advanced examination piece. Then came a quartet of folk songs from each of the countries in the United Kingdom, lovely to hear each represented: *I love my love*, *Loch Lomond*, *Suo Gan* and *Whiskey in the jar*. After the interval, we heard Gershwin's *Those Lazy, Hazy, Crazy Days of Summertime*, the children's song *Teddy Bears' Picnic*, then three English part songs held our attention: *Linden Lea* by Vaughan Williams, Edward Elgar's *As Torrents in Summer* and *My Spirit Sang all Day* by Gerald Finzi.



To commemorate 80 years since the end of WWII, Rebekah played the evocative violin melody from the film *Schindler's List*, ably accompanied by Jill. The choir then sang Jill's arrangement of *A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square*.

After that we had audience participation, with Jill Sergiou singing the verses and the choir and audience enthusiastically singing choruses of a Vera Lynn medley. The final item, *A Clare Benediction* by Sir John Rutter, was written for Clare College, Cambridge where he had studied and been Director of Music.

All the music chosen was very melodious, mostly very popular and well known, but with a few lesser-known pieces and composers, making me want to learn more. Celia Higson

What's On? Lunchtime Concerts, August to October 2025

Both musically and financially I can report that 2025 so far has been a great success, with a wide variety of keyboard players and instrumentalists of all ages. I am now looking forward to the rest of the year with an equal, if not greater mixture of performers and genres to entertain us.

On **Monday 4th August** we welcome back for - - - I cannot tell you how many times this generous and talented pianist and organist has honoured us with her presence! - - - it is of course **Barbara Manning**. Her programme will, as usual, be so varied, displaying her virtuosity and tunefulness.

On **Thursday 21st August**, we welcome back **Arwen Turner and Anna Le Hair**, with a programme displaying their prowess with violin and piano.

Monday 1st September has a very special and unusual group.

We announce: **The Mezzacapo Mandolin Ensemble** (pictured, right).

This comprises Stuart McGowan - mandolin, Steven Watson - guitar and Roberto Garcia – Mandola. The trio will perform music written and arranged for Mandolins and guitar, including works by Chaminade, Mezzacapo, Mussorgsky and others.

A treat not to be missed.



Thursday 18th September; to be announced.

The Lunchtime Concert on Monday **6th October** will feature **Sarah Boxall (cello)** (pictured left)

Another group of musicians will entertain us on **Thursday 16th October** : **Rebecca Watts (harp), Hugh Legg (tenor) and Michael Smith (piano)**.

All these concerts begin at **12.30** and last about forty minutes. Tea, coffee and cake will be available in St. Mary's Hall from 11.30.

There is a retiring collection in aid of church funds after each event. Please do come if you can, and bring a friend if you are able. I look forward to meeting you there.

Best wishes.

Mark

Summer Picture Gallery

Photos from lots of events – celebrations, events, lots of people doing “St Mary’s Things” such as the Plant Fayre. Thanks to our photographers, Sarah, Sue, Belinda, Ysmena, Bonnie, and there are some pictures I can’t credit but thanks for these as well.

Liz and Mary had beautiful raffle prizes, right



Marion and Linn (left) shared a wide variety of courgette-based recipes – something all vegetable growers need for the annual glut – lovely and surprising dishes from pickle to cake!

Small photo but maybe the MOST important – the Tea stall, right



The Buswell Burger Bar – very tasty



Malcolm and Dorothy taking their ease, above



Celia and Belinda, nearly sold out



Matt helps Shania paint her flowerpot

Jake's institution at Waltham Cross was a lovely service which produced a few pictures:



Bishop Jane and Jake at the altar for the Eucharist after his licensing and institution



Jake was supported by Royal Navy and Reserve colleagues, left

We are reassured that there is CAKE in Waltham Cross – Jake cut it and it was soon handed round, right



Snowdrop Care Home has a choir, left, who came to St Mary's for a short concert. It was very lovely to hear them.

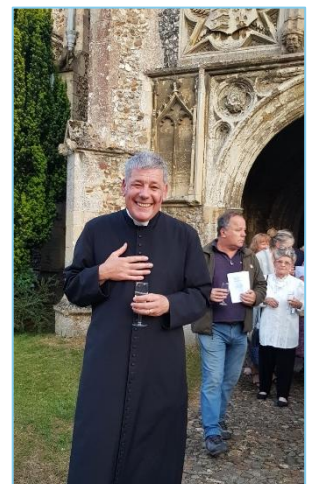


The St Magnus virtual pilgrimage was celebrated by a walk from Waltham Cross to London – pilgrims stand in front of St Magnus the Martyr church, above



Bev's ordination was a huge celebration. Here she and Eugene [left] are greeted by friends outside the Cathedral.

Right, former curate David Sheppard was instituted to a new parish at Thaxted in Essex. Our warm congratulations!





Count on Nature June 2025: a summary

This year's **Count on Nature** at St Mary's Ware recorded 74 plant species, 16 different trees, 12 species of bird, 9 types of insects, spiders or invertebrates, 1 moss and 3 lichens on Saturday 14th June as people called in at the churchyard at different times of day.

This was a lower count of plant species, as well as of insects and invertebrates, than last year which could have been because of the very dry spring.

As yet no swifts have used the Ware Swift Group nesting boxes inside the tower louvres, but it can take a couple of years for new nest boxes to be used. Swifts normally return to the same nesting areas each year, arriving in late April or early May, and adults fly south again in July with juveniles following a month or so later.

The data we collected has been submitted to and verified by the naturalists on the Caring for God's Acre team or by iNaturalist, an App that has worldwide coverage and verification. It is then submitted to the National Biodiversity Atlas <https://burialgrounds.nbnatlas.org> where we should then be able to compare our area with others.

Count on Nature are keen to have recordings of nature at other times of the year so if you see any plants or wildlife of interest, please let me know and I'll submit it - last year we had a grass snake.

Update – Chauncy students' survey

As part of the Chauncy "Community Day" which involves all the students in different activities in the whole community of Ware, we were delighted that a group of sixth formers, with their science teacher, came to St Mary's in July and carried out a survey mostly of invertebrates. They spent the first half of their visit doing a much-needed litter pick in the churchyard and were very thorough about this.



Then we went to every part of the churchyard in search of creepy-crawlies! We found several butterflies, including the spectacular Jersey Tiger moth and lots of "white ones" (Large and Small Whites), ants by the dozen, flies, bees and hoverflies, and once we were all in observation mode, we could see many spiders and ladybirds. An interesting find was a Harvestman, (not a spider but looks like one), which was happy to stand still on a student's arm to be photographed.



It was great to welcome the students, who were enthusiastic and helpful and enjoyed finding out that there is much more life in the churchyard than just grass and the roses!

August activities: All Creatures Great and Small

Extra children's and family activities during August will include colouring, crafting, nature-watching, lots of things connected to the Church of England's summer campaign.

And check this link: <https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/digital-labs/blogs/celebrating-all-creatures-great-and-small-get-involved-summer-social-media-campaign>

THE VERY REVD TREVOR BEESON Vicar of St Mary's 1971-1976

Trevor Beeson, who was well known for his writing, broadcasting and obituaries, who died in 2023, was encouraged to come to Ware so he would have more time for his important public communicating, but St Mary's was a growing parish which involved a great deal.



However, he managed to write *Discretion and Valour*, describing Christianity behind the Iron Curtain which continued despite being banned by the Communist regime. I typed a lot of it for him. Trevor received data smuggled out of the countries involved, which formed the basis of this very encouraging book.

At its launch in London, I first met Hugh Wilcox who was then Secretary of the British Council of Churches; he gave Trevor a manuscript which could have cost the life of the man who got it to England.

After Ware, Trevor [above] was appointed a Canon of Westminster Abbey, so his daughter Jean was married there. His second daughter, Catherine, was also married there, twice as her first husband was tragically killed in a road accident after only a few months of marriage. Each wedding saw large numbers of St Mary's present thanks to their generosity.

At Westminster Abbey Trevor became its Treasurer and Chaplain to the Speaker of the House of Commons, where he had an office and met with MPs from all parties. He wrote *Window on Westminster - A Canon's Diary* which covered 1976-1987.

He became Dean of Winchester Cathedral, in the understanding that its finances were in good health. But that was not the case, and he was instrumental in using a professional firm to raise funds which saved the tower. [*The tower roof bears a plaque commemorating his work in saving it. Ed*] Afterwards he wrote *A Dean's Diary - Winchester 1987-1996*.

He and Jo retired to Romsey where he continued writing, despite visiting Jo each day in a nearby nursing home as she had Alzheimer's. She had been such a good partner and was well known at St Mary's for her catering and hospitality. It was to Winchester that Mary Millett and Ann Sandford went for his funeral in 2023. When he rang me about a month before his death, he said how much he had enjoyed his time in Ware at St Mary's.

If anyone would like to borrow my signed copies of his books on Westminster or Winchester, I should be happy to lend them. It was a privilege to know him. Zara Kimber

Saturday 13 September

St Mary's is taking part again! Get your bike – or boots - out and look for posters giving full details.



It's an incredible way to see

other churches in the diocese and also raise money – half to St Mary's and half to churches cared for by the Beds and Herts Historic Churches Trust.

A Lasting Gift to St Mary's

Roger Hawkins (Chair, St Mary's Giving Committee)

Have you considered leaving a gift to our church in your Will? Such an act can be an expression of our gratitude and thanksgiving to God, for all the blessings we have enjoyed and shared in our Christian Community life at St Mary's, and elsewhere.

Such a gift will help to keep the mission of St Mary's alive and has the potential to transform its future. The PCC's policy is that legacies will be used to make a real difference to the future of our church life and not be absorbed to fund day-to-day expenditure. *Please turn the page*

Thank you to everyone who has already taken and read our legacy leaflet, and thank you to those who have made a gift to St Mary's in their Will. If you have not, please take and read the leaflet entitled *A Lasting Gift to St Mary's* from the tabletop near the south porch of the church and give it your consideration. If you wish to speak to someone in confidence about such a gift in your Will, please contact our parish giving officer, David Horner on 07768105387 or email on: dvd.horner@googlemail.com

It Does Matter

This poem by Helene Williams, published in the Royal National Institute for the Deaf magazine, was pointed out to us as a very accurate response to the way many people try to communicate with those with hearing loss - thoughtlessly, expecting the deaf to make accommodation for the hearing. We are thinking about sound, music, LISTENING, in this issue – but our delivery needs to be clear or we can not be heard.

I cannot be hurt if I don't hear thoughtless words.
But I can be hurt by thoughtless words and phrases
That people say without a thought
Like "It doesn't matter",
When you ask them to repeat what they have said,
Maybe with their hand over their mouth
Or their head turned away from you.

But it does matter.
To you.
Because you matter.
Even though they cannot see it and it's just trivial to them.
But it's not to you.

It does matter.
So try it again.
Say it again,
To my face.

Because it matters.
Because I matter.

Dates and times to note!

November

Sat 8 7.00pm Friends of St Mary's Quiz
Sun 9 AFTERNOON town service of Remembrance (details tbc)
Sun 30 Service of music and readings for Advent

December

Sunday 7 4pm Christingle
TUESDAY 23 7:30pm. Nine Lessons and Carols (*note the day*)
Wed 24 4pm Crib Service; **11pm** Midnight Mass (*note earlier start time*)
Thu 25 Christmas Day - 10am Eucharist



What's on (not an exhaustive list – do keep looking out for any additional events).

August

Sun 3 8.00 & 10.00am Eucharist
Mon 4 11.30am churchyard café
 12.30pm Lunchtime concert:
 Barbara Manning, piano
 2.30pm Board Games café
Wed 6 11.00am Eucharist
Thu 7 Wedding
 8.00pm "Space"
Sun 10 8.00am Eucharist
 10.00 Eucharist
Mon 11 11.00am Hertfordshire
 Welcomes Refugees
Wed 13 11.00am Eucharist
Thu 14 8.00pm "Space"
Sat 16 2.00pm Service of Celebration
Sun 17 8.00 Eucharist
 10.00am Eucharist
 Family picnic! To celebrate the
 Feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary
 – our patron saint – bring a
 picnic, a rug, family and friends,
 and we'll picnic together after
 the 10.00am service
Mon 18 7.30pm Pub Theology – check
 for venue
Thu 21 11.30am churchyard café
 12.30pm Lunchtime concert:
 Arwen Turner and Anna Le Hair,
 violin and piano
Sun 24 8.00 Eucharist
 10.00am Eucharist
Mon 25 **Bank Holiday**
Wed 27 11.00am Eucharist
Sat 30 Drop-in "pet blessing" – times to
 be confirmed
Sun 31 **Back to school theme**
 8.00 Eucharist
 10.00am Eucharist
 To include blessings on those
 who are going back to school or
 to any other education

September

Mon 1 11.30 churchyard café
 12.30pm Lunchtime concert:
 Mezzacapo Trio (guitar,
 mandolin and mandola)
 2.00pm Board Games café
 7.30pm PCC
Wed 3 11.00am Eucharist
 3.45pm Rota convenors meeting
 8.00pm "Space"
Thu 4
Fri 5
Sat 6 **Choir practice resumes**
 Morning visit from Chingford
 Local History Society
Sun 7 8.00am & 10.00am Eucharist
Mon 8 11.00am Hertfordshire
 Welcomes Refugees
 7.30pm Study group, 15 Warner
 Road
Wed 10 11.00am Eucharist
Thu 11 8.00pm "Space"
Sat 13 **Herts and Beds Historic
 Churches Trust – Bike n Hike**
 (see poster)
Sun 14 8.00 Eucharist; 10.00am
 Eucharist
Mon 15 Pub Theology – check for time &
 venue
Wed 17 11.00am Eucharist
Thu 18 11.30am churchyard café
 12.30pm Lunchtime concert: to
 be confirmed
 8.00pm "Space"
Sun 21 8.00 & 10.00am Eucharist
5.00pm "Reunion" Choral
 Evensong, with former choir
 members invited (practice from
 3.00pm)
Mon 22 11.00am Herts Welcomes
 Refugees
Wed 24 11.00am Eucharist
Thu 25 8.00pm "Space"
Sun 28 8.00am Eucharist
 10.00am Eucharist
 4.00pm "Angels and Dragons" –
 Ware Brass concert for all the
 family

October

Wed 1	11.00am Eucharist
Thu 2	8.00pm Space
Sat 4	7.00pm concert, in aid of Beds and Herts Historic Churches Trust. Performed by the Galliard Trio (woodwind with harpsichord /piano), refreshments after the concert.
Sun 5	Harvest Festival 8.00am Eucharist; 10.00am Eucharist with children's church
Mon 6	5.00pm Choral Evensong 11.30am churchyard café 12.30pm lunchtime concert: Sara Boxall, cello 2.00pm Board Games café
Wed 8	11.00am Eucharist
Thu 9	8.00pm "Space"
Sun 12	8.00 & 10.00am Eucharist
Mon 13	11.00am Herts Welcomes Refugees 7.30pm Study group 15 Warner Road
Wed 15	11.00am Eucharist
Thu 16	11.30am churchyard café 12.30pm Lunchtime concert: Hugh Legg, Rebecca Watts and Michael Smith (voice, harp and piano) 8.00pm "Space"
Sun 19	8.00 am Eucharist; 10.00am Eucharist with children's church 3.30pm Tea and cake for those attending the: 5.00pm All Souls memorial service
Mon 20	Pub Theology – check for details
Wed 22	11.00am Eucharist
Thu 23	8.00pm "Space"
Sun 26	Clocks go back! 8.00 & 10.00am Eucharist
Mon 27	11.00am Herts Welcomes Refugees
Wed 29	11.00am Eucharist
Thu 31	All Hallows' Eve

November

Sun 2 **5.00pm** Choral evensong for All Saints

Get in touch...

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Usual services at St Mary's

Sunday: 8.00am Eucharist (live on facebook)
10.00am Eucharist, also on Zoom, with children's church offered on 1st and 3rd Sundays

5.00pm Choral evensong once a month
Wednesday: 11.00am Eucharist
Monday – Thursday:
9.15am Morning Prayer (also on facebook)
5.00pm Evening Prayer

Regular services in care homes:

Hillview 2.30pm, first Monday in the month
Ashwood 3.00pm, last Monday in the month
Snowdrop 11.00am every Thursday (all are welcome to this eucharist)

