

ST. MARY'S MAGAZINE

March/April
2026

£2

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St Mary Without-the-Walls,
Overleigh Road, Chester CH4 7HL

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Message from Bill & Jaqi Yates, John & Melissa Grundy
(St Mary's magazine distributor's team)

Magazine Subscriptions: How To Pay in 2026 Hi Everyone, you will see on the front of this magazine, that the cost of having a subscription to this UNIQUE magazine is £12. The one big advantage is that subscribers have their magazine delivered to their door and there is no charge for the cost of delivery! **A BARGAIN!** Everyone's a winner, especially when you have a St Mary's bi-monthly magazine proudly sitting on your table at home full of interesting facts, information and fun! Therefore, subscriptions of £12 are due for the period from **1st February 2026 to 31st January 2027**. If you have forgotten to pay for your subscription this year, it is never too late!

The five alternative ways of paying your subscription are:

- * A. **Online banking** – Transfer your subscription fee to PCC of St Mary's Without-the-Walls Chester. Sort code 60-40-08. Account number 80005209 using the Reference 'Magazine and your surname' and this will help our PCC Treasurer to identify the payment as a magazine annual subscription.
- * B. **By cheque**, made payable to PCC of St Mary's Without-the-Walls Chester, which you can hand you your local magazine distributor.
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Holiness consists of doing the will of God with a smile. – **Mother Teresa**

Safeguarding Policy

St Mary's Handbridge takes its duty and obligation to protect all extremely seriously. We have adopted the national Church of England's robust procedures and guidelines. Read about the policies and procedures at

www.churchofengland.org/safeguarding

If you or anyone you are in contact with, would like to talk with someone independently, please call the **Safe Spaces** helpline on 0300 303 1056 or email safespaces@victimsupport.org.uk Alternatively, you may contact our Parish Safeguarding Officer

Sue Fryer

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Letter from Revd Antony Dutton, Rector



“There may be, and, as the writer thinks, there certainly is a deep and profoundly historical basis for the that much disputed sentence in the Apostles’ Creed – “The third day he rose again from the dead””.

This is the concluding paragraph of *Who moved the stone?* a 1930 work by Frank Morison (real name Albert Henry Ross). He was sceptical about the resurrection of Jesus and so set out to make some notes in the hope of writing a short book about why it was not true. But in the process of compiling these notes on the biblical texts, he began to be convinced that the resurrection was in fact true. He felt it was the only thing that explained the series of events that had been witnessed and recorded.

The book goes through the narratives almost like testing a case in the courtroom; it is rational, logical and legal. So much so that readers began to think that Morison must have been a lawyer (he actually managed a printing department at an advertising agency). The poet, T.S. Eliot read the manuscript at Faber and Faber publishers and enthusiastically recommended it for publishing, and it has been in print ever since.

I thought about the book the other day because I was talking about the resurrection in a local primary school. The religious studies curriculum encourages the analysis of all the different theories which might explain what really happened, if the resurrection was ruled out as something scientifically impossible. One idea is that the disciples who visited the tomb lied about what they had seen and the others believed their lies.

Another theory was that the disciples had undergone some grief-stricken hallucinations and were convinced that they had seen their dead friend – like many people today who claim to have seen their recently deceased loved ones. Alternatively, the Romans moved the body so that he could not become a focus of veneration – perhaps Joseph of Arimathea or the disciples managed to get past the Roman guards, move the stone and then shift Jesus’ body. Or, maybe, Jesus hadn’t really died, he had just fainted and then after three days he had perked enough to make a reappearance.

There are those who do not want to lend too much credence to the biblical texts, but they are what we have for investigating this story; and what these accounts prove time and time again is that they do not iron out all the creases. For all his gusto, Simon Peter lets Jesus down, betrays him and runs away. But this is not omitted from the story. It is there for all to see, for him to live with publicly forever, presumably because he had experienced the grace of forgiveness, not least when the resurrected Jesus had shared breakfast with him by the Sea of Galilee.

I digress slightly. But the biblical accounts are essential to understanding what is claimed and the logic of the resurrection accounts, and they answer many of our questions. For example, the idea that Jesus had just swooned and passed out, ready for the smelling salts to be brought three days later: the gospel accounts explicitly rule this out. The thieves who are being crucified either side of Jesus have their legs broken, so that they can die more quickly (as they would be unable to push up with their legs and fill their lungs they would suffocate, which was the usual way of dying on the cross). The gospel says that Jesus has already died: ‘But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. Instead, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once blood and water came out. (He who saw this has testified so that you also may believe. His testimony is true, and he knows that he tells the truth.) (John 19:33-35).

Somebody who claims to be an eyewitness tells us about an unusual event which rules out a fake death. But as I have said on numerous occasions, what I find utterly convincing is that our eyewitness, John, does not change his story, neither do any of his friends who claim to have seen Jesus in the garden on Easter Day. They don’t go down to the pub three months later, have a little too much to drink and admit the truth. For that is what happens in reality: people can’t wait to tell people what they have been up to and what they have got away with, what sort of massive fib they told and how many foolish people they convinced. None of the disciples do this. Instead, they stick by what they have been saying; they stick by it even as they are being stoned, decapitated, flayed alive, and burnt at the stake. As somebody was striking the match, I think I might have admitted I had been telling a porkey all along, if that was indeed the case.

We will hear parts of the Passion narrative throughout Lent and Holy Week, and at times we are given the opportunity to hear the whole story in one sitting at Palm Sunday and Good Friday. It is the central part of our faith, the one thing on which it all sinks or swims. I hope that you are all able to come and hear this story of God’s endlessly creative love, revealed in a deep and profound historical truth: that Jesus was raised from the dead on the third day.

Antony



Changing Prayer

Is there someone in your life who has helped you to grow spiritually? This **Mothering Sunday**, thank God for them.

Is there someone your life whom you have ‘mothered’ or ‘fathered’ along the way? This **Mothering Sunday**, pray for them.

Incredible Edible Handbridge, The Arches Community Garden Spring update



from Lisa Rossetti

NEWS FROM THE PLOT 🌱 Hello everyone! 🌱

We do hope this update finds you well, as we move out of winter and into spring.

It has sometimes felt like we were living under a cold grey cloud, both literally and figuratively. Let us hope that spring brings renewed optimism and lighter hearts as well as skies!

It isn't always easy, but there are always things to be grateful for and with which to count our blessings.

We remain grateful to have our lovely Handbridge community across the bridge from such a beautiful city.



We are also very grateful for the opportunities that await us in the Arches community garden. A beautiful space which aims to connect and nourish and welcomes all.

Winter has been a quiet time for the Arches. However, our small but wonderful group of volunteers have continued to open the gates as often as possible during daylight hours. This isn't always possible, but we hope to improve this especially into the new season.

We have also commenced work to clear and rejuvenate the borders of the pathway. This will continue over the next few months, and we welcome new volunteers to help.

Our orchard should be starting to bloom soon, and there will be information on what is growing in the plots, and when and how to pick.

We continue to lock the gates overnight to deter antisocial behaviours and keep our neighbours feeling happy and respected. This is in line with most public parks, and therefore we feel is reasonable. If you would like to be part of the gate crew, please get in touch!

We will resume Saturday morning get togethers in March. 10.30-12 generally. Please do come along and get involved 🙏👤🌱

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

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.

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

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 mind, body and soul can feel nourished 🍎

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

Lent Flower Appeal

Thank you to everyone who supports St. Mary's Church Flowers.

Once again, we invite you to take part in this year's **Lent Flower Appeal**, with a donation of £5 in memory of a loved one. This will ensure their name is in our book on the Memorial table (please note that this is not the same as the Book of Remembrance).

Although there will be Lilies in church, other flowers will be used to decorate for Easter. During Lent we will be available to receive names & donations.

Please leave the details & money in an envelope at the Centre Parish Office before Palm Sunday.

Linda Schofield



Evensong Visiting Preachers 2026

8th MARCH The Third Sunday of Lent: **The Revd Canon Anthony Lees-Smith**, Canon Missioner at Chester Cathedral

12th APRIL The Second Sunday of Easter: **The Revd Canon Dr Michael Leyden**, Principal of Emmanuel Theological College

3rd MAY, The Fifth Sunday of Easter: **The Ven Mike Gilbertson**, Archdeacon of Chester

14th JUNE, The Second Sunday After Trinity: TBC

13th SEPTEMBER, The Fifteenth Sunday After Trinity: **The Revd Sarah Batchelor**, Rector of St John the Baptist, Chester

11th OCTOBER, The Nineteenth Sunday After Trinity: **The Revd Simon Chesters**, Co-Director of Ministry in Chester Diocese and Assistant Minister at St Mark's, Saltney



Mothers' Union Matters This is the name of our Chester Diocesan Magazine, which feels very appropriate given the Mothers' Union is celebrating, this year, in 2026, our **150th Anniversary** since its founding by Mary Sumner whose prayer is:

All this day, O Lord, let me touch as many lives as possible for thee; and every life I touch, do thou by thy spirit quicken, whether through the word I speak, the prayer I breathe, or the life I live. Amen

As I am sure you are aware, our Deanery Banner is now in the Lady Chapel & will be displayed in our Deanery Branches during the Triennium. Chester City Branch, to which Pat Swain & I belong, meets at St. Thomas of Canterbury church, on the **3rd Wednesday in the month @ 2.00 p.m.**

Linda Schofield

Last Autumn a lovely service took place at St Mary's with people from across the **Diocese of Chester** pledging to serve the **Mothers' Union** in a variety of different ways - very often quietly and humbly.

Permission given for photos by Di Waller



Unlicensed Lay Weeders update!



St Mary's [mini] winter garden -with apologies to Dunham Massey which provided the inspiration.

By now the Unlicensed Lay Weeders will have emerged from hibernation and begun the never-ending task of maintaining the grounds of St Mary's.

Dates and times for March & April in the Diary Dates in this magazine (but weather dependent of course). Tea break, always guaranteed! **Alison**

Advent Christmas Tree

Thank you to everyone who sent Christmas cards through our Advent Christmas card tree in church this year we raised an amazing **£611** for **Christian Aid**. The children attending Messy Church on Sunday 18th January all helped to choose what to buy with the money raised. They asked a lot of interesting questions and made some good choices. Here is their shopping list;

- 4 Pairs of chickens £40
- 2 Send a child to school £50
- 1 Space to learn and play £166
- 2 Emergency essentials £120
- 1 Medical care in a crisis £130
- 1 Olive tree £20



Many thanks again for all your prayers, love and support for Christian Aid **Helen & Chris.**





Overleigh St Mary's CE Primary School

What a wonderful and enriching beginning of 2026 we have had here at Overleigh St Mary's from Epiphany to Candlemas we have come to understand that God is for everyone, God meets us wherever we are and draws us to him, showing us the way through the light of Jesus Christ.

We have been enjoying our wonderful world - taking part in the RSPBs annual Big Garden Bird watch across school. Also, our daffodils that we planted as part of our Hope day have started to flower all over school - a sign that warmer days are on their way!



Sign of Spring at school

Pop-up SHOP
 Where? Overleigh St Mary's Canteen
 When? Wednesday 4th February 2.30pm

Come along to our Community Pop-Up Shop

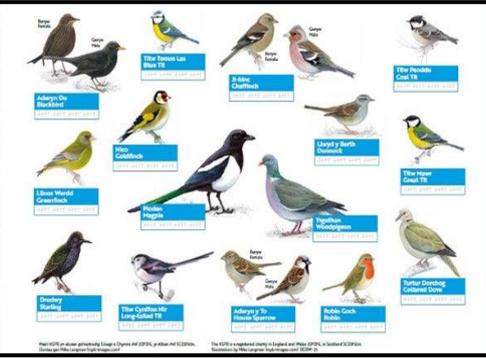
Good quality second-hand clothes available - simply bring along a shopping bag and help yourself!

School uniform will available.

If you can help and have any items at home please drop off at the school office or bring along to the Pop up shop on the day!

How will you Big Garden Birdwatch?

RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch
 23-25 January 2026



A huge thanks to the parishioners who volunteer at our regular Pop-up shop. We are so blessed to see such generosity from those who donate good quality pre-loved clothes and the pop-up shop has been very well attended by lots of our families.

The overarching value of our worship this half term has been Justice. As the Bible tells us we need to "Learn to do right and seek justice" Isaiah 1:17. When we think of Justice we often think of punishment or revenge rather than resolution and reconciliation. Ethos group read an acrostic poem in Worship regarding justice and what it means.

In school, and in life, what is right is that we and everyone have what they need to flourish and live a full life. That may be different for each of us. Over this half term we have been reflecting on the importance of justice in order that there can be equity and peace. It is right that we address injustice when we see it but that we must act humbly and with mercy. "The Lord God has told us what is right and what he demands "see that justice is done; let mercy be your first concern and humbly obey your God". Micah 6:8

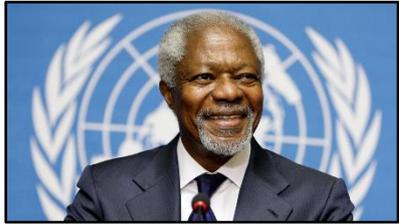
Justice is.....

Judging what is right
Understanding what is fair
Standing up for those who need help
Trying to listen to both sides
Informed and wise decisions
Caring enough to take action
Equal opportunities for all

We have been inspired and encouraged by some significant figures who have had a tremendous impact on all our lives through their works against injustices. We are called to act when we see injustice just as these phenomenal individuals did, but so often we fall short. We look the other way, we are afraid, we seek revenge rather than reconciliation. Yet God gives us his grace and gives us hope. His people failed Him again and again, just as many of us fail Him daily. Yet the story never ends there. Our miracle-working, life-transforming God desires to change our hearts and lives to be a living representation of Him, a light in a world that desperately needs His love and peace.



- Martin Luther King Jr**
 "Power at its best is love implementing the demands of justice, and justice at its best is power correcting everything that stands against love".
- Kofi Annan**
 "We may have different religions, different languages, different coloured skin, but we all belong to one human race".
- William Wilberforce**
 "You may choose to look the other way, but you can never say again that you did not know".



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A Cancer Diary: Finding Faith

Chapter 4 By Bells

I realised, with some surprise, that I've been on the cancer journey for longer than I thought. And I'm putting positive spin on it: I'm still here!

Someone asked me recently if I feel "different". The short answer is 'yes'. I am not the person I was BC (before cancer) and I can't look back and wish to be that person. It's simply not possible. I'm a reinvention. A positive in many ways but faintly exhausting in others – although that could be because I've never been good at sitting still. I've had to scale back just a little. But in so many ways, life is more fulfilling.

Life before my diagnosis was looking after Social Media for a very large corporate company. It was busy, interesting and demanding. A way of communicating that produced the instant gratification that seems to be the way of life these days.

Communication has taken a different path through writing this column: it feels like being an old-fashioned radio DJ... as they broadcast, they must have wondered if there anyone was out there? Was anyone listening? I feel like that in church – particularly in my quest to understand prayer and God. I'm looking for answers, but I don't know where my questions are going! In these days of getting knowledge immediately from typing things into Google, I've realised church, faith and spirituality are akin to the 'Slow Food' movement. Slowing down and the anticipation that comes from having to wait for the good things should be part of the joy of it all.

I get feelings of comfort and contentment from being in church, from music, the arts, being outside in nature and in a lightbulb moment, I realised that all these things came from the joy in the slowness. Cancer has inevitably slowed me down, but in trying to change my outlook, the initial frustration of not being able to race around achieving lots of things has vanished.

This journey to find faith has made me grateful for every moment given. From my determination to understand The Lord's Prayer better, I'm underlining the things I've always tried to be. At the start of this year, I was suddenly overwhelmed by the task I've given myself of understanding faith.



So, as from my last column, the Lord's Prayer is my new baseline: the way to live life. I'm starting with being kind and patient (a trial when spending time navigating the NHS!) just because I can be, without any expectation that it somehow might put me in God's good books for what comes after. I mean, what is life without actually living, and making the most of every moment.

As I was thinking about the previous Me as a Social Media manager, on the radio came the glorious hymn "Dear Lord and Father of Mankind" – and the line O Still Small Voice of Calm leapt out. It made me realise that I'd been looking for a Big Moment, with capital letters... but actually, understanding and faith are more likely to be shown to me as a small voice.

Annual Parochial Church Meetings (APCM)

Sunday 26th April 2026 12 noon in church.

Have your say/listen to what goes on 'behind the scenes' to keep St Mary's the vibrant church that it is! Bravely put your volunteering hat on and JOIN in the fun at St Mary's by getting INVOLVED! Exercise your voting rights by being there to vote on important issues! Finally, show your support and membership by **attending** the meetings! (They don't last long!)



SEE YOU THERE!



Featured Article

15th March – Mothering Sunday & Mother Church 4th Sunday in Lent

There is an old Jewish saying: God could not be everywhere, and therefore He made mothers. Mother Church, Mother Earth, Mother of the Gods – our human mothers – all of them have been part of the celebration of ‘Mothering Sunday’ – as the fourth Sunday in Lent is affectionately known. It has been celebrated in the UK since at least the 16th century.

In Roman times, great festivals were held every Spring to honour Cybele, Mother of all the Gods. Other pagan festivals in honour of Mother Earth were also celebrated. With the arrival of Christianity, the festival became one honouring Mother Church.

During the Middle Ages, young people apprenticed to craftsmen or working as ‘live-in’ servants were allowed only one holiday a year on which to visit their families, which is how ‘Mothering Sunday’ got its name. This special day became a day of family rejoicing, and the Lenten fast was broken. In some places the day was called Simnel Day, because of the sweet cakes called simnel cakes traditionally eaten on that day.

In recent years the holiday has changed, and in many ways now resembles the American Mother’s Day, with families going out to Sunday lunch and generally making a fuss of their mother on the day.

The Fourth Sunday in Lent was called ‘Mid-Lent’ or ‘Refreshment Sunday’, when the rigors of Lent were relaxed more than was normal for a feast day. It is called Mothering Sunday as a reference to the Epistle reading for the Day (Galatians 4:21-31). The Lenten Epistles follow from each other with teaching about our life as Christians and how we are to follow Christ.

On Mid-Lent Sunday the Epistle talks of bondage and freedom; the bondage of the Law and the Old Covenant as compared to the freedom in Christ, “the promised one”, and the New Covenant. Verse 26 reads “But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all.” We gain our freedom from Christ and, as it was seen before the Reformation, the Church.

Thus, Mothering Sunday is about the freedom that we gain through the promise of Jesus Christ delivered through our Mother the Church. People were encouraged to go to their ‘Mother Church’ (their home church or their home Cathedral) to worship and give thanks. Hence apprentices, and others, went home for the weekend and often brought gifts (or accumulated pay) home to their family.

On the other hand, Mother’s Day is a secular festival invented in 1904 and is celebrated on the 2nd Sunday in May in most countries in the world. The UK seems to be the exception. In recent years Mothering Sunday has been hijacked to take the place of a special, secular day to give thanks for our mothers.

1st March – St David (Dewi Sant), guiding the Welsh through turbulent times

On 1st March Wales celebrates its patron saint, David – or, in Welsh, Dewi or Dafydd. He is revered wherever Welsh people have settled. As with most figures from the so-called ‘Dark Ages’ (he lived in the sixth century), reliable details about his life are scarce, but there are enough for us to form a picture of a formidably austere, disciplined, and charismatic leader, who led the Church in Wales through turbulent years and fought tenaciously for the faith.

It’s likely that David was strengthened in his ministry by time spent in Ireland, where the Church was stronger and more confident. Early records tell of a meeting of Irish church leaders with three ‘Britons’, as they were described, among them ‘Bishop David’. His mother, Non, is also celebrated as a saint in Wales, where several churches are dedicated in her name.

That he founded a monastery at Menevia, in Pembrokeshire, seems beyond doubt. It later became the site of St David’s cathedral and the settlement which is now the smallest city in the United Kingdom. From Menevia, David embarked on preaching and teaching missions across Wales, and probably beyond. His eloquence was legendary. At a famous Synod of the Church, held at a Carmarthenshire village called Brefi, he preached passionately against the Arian heresy – indeed, so passionately that he was (according to some accounts) immediately named as Archbishop of Wales. The village is now known as Llandewi Brefi – *brefi* in Welsh is a hillock, and legend claims that it appeared miraculously, in order to provide the eloquent bishop with a pulpit.

His monks avoided wine and beer, drinking only water. Indeed, he and they lived lives of rigorous austerity and constant prayer, in the manner of the Desert Fathers of the Eastern Church. The date of David’s death is disputed – either 589 or 601. It wasn’t until the 12th century that he was generally accepted as the patron saint of Wales, and pilgrimages to St David’s were highly regarded in the following centuries – including two made by English kings, William I and Henry II.

It’s traditional for Welsh people to wear daffodils on St David’s Day (*Gwyl Dewi Sant* in Welsh) – but there seems no particular reason for it, beyond the fact that they tend to make their early Spring appearance round about his day – oh, and they look nice!

On St David’s Day, why the leeks? St David’s Day, and it’s time for the Welsh to wear proudly wear a leek or daffodil. Shakespeare refers to the custom in *Henry V*, Act 5 Sc.1, where Gower berates Pistol for “mocking at ancient tradition begun upon an honourable respect and worn as a memorable trophy of predeceased valour.” According to some sources, the wearing of leeks may be based on a legend that Welsh archers fought bravely at the Battle of Crecy in a field of leeks and, as a reminder of their bravery and loyalty, the Welsh began to wear a



leek in their caps every St David's Day. The legend, true or not, could be a source of the 'honourable respect' which the Welsh had for their valorous archers.

As mentioned we know that David – or Dafydd – of Pembrokeshire was a monk and bishop of the 6th century and that in the 12th century he was made patron of Wales, and was the only Welsh saint to be canonised and culted in the Western Church. Tradition has it that he was austere with himself, and generous with others – living on water and vegetables (leeks, perhaps?!) and devoting himself to works of mercy. He was much loved.

In art, St David is usually depicted in Episcopal vestments, standing on a mound with a dove at his shoulder, in memory of his share at an important Synod for the Welsh Church, the Synod of Brevi.

Standing up to tyrants, no matter what the cost. That kind of courage has been in the headlines since the war in Ukraine began, as many brave people have defied Putin's oppression.

Parish Pump

A and E: A patient's view of the NHS



At 5.00 on a Sunday morning, I awoke to find myself very short of breath. As the morning went on, I continued to be short of breath, and I also got increasingly scared, so I dialled 111 who immediately called 999. An ambulance duly turned up, and I was taken away to A and E. The noise! The huge numbers of people – not all patients, many were family or friends who had come to support the patients, but it made a huge crowd. I had arrived too late for lunch, but I was given a sandwich (and lucky to get it.) I had another one at 5.00 that afternoon at tea time and apart from a few scrounged biscuits and readily available cups of tea that was all I had to eat that day. (I had a perfectly good breakfast and lunch on the Monday.)

I was placed in a waiting room which was already full of people, and we sat and we waited and we chatted. Every now and again one of us would be called for an X Ray or a blood test then returned to our particular waiting room. Given the number of people about, all of us wanting attention, it was amazing how much goodwill and kindness there was in the room. I found myself enjoying the company of a 90 year old man, who had three granddaughters hovering around him. Eventually I discovered that he was in the ancestral position of having grandchildren, great grandchildren and four great great grandchildren!

We stayed in our chairs, and we slept in our chairs. I had been told I might be taken in and given bed for that night but only after I have seen a physician who had a long waiting list of patients to see. I eventually saw him at about 4.00 pm on Monday afternoon and by that time I think they had already decided to discharge me and give me an appointment to come back for further tests.

Sitting and waiting there eventually meant I began to see how the system worked and why there was order, not chaos. A patient is allocated to a waiting room and stays there. There is one nurse who is in charge of that particular room and those particular patients. Nursing there is obviously a demanding job and there seems to be no time to relax during a 12hr hour shift. I did detect some tension in nursing staff as they strove to keep calm and do the excellent job they do. How many of them burn out? (I bet I get into trouble for writing this, but it is my impression.)

There is not enough room, there are not enough staff, and when I was released and was leaving, I had to ease my way down a corridor lined with beds.

A and E works, but only just.

Linda Manning



Daffodils

I wandered lonely as a cloud
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,
When all at once, I saw a crowd,
A host, of golden daffodils.



When I see the Daffodils (Narcissus), I know that spring has arrived (even when it doesn't feel like it!) They come in many shades of yellow, also white, even some with a pink tinge. There are over 50 species and up to 3000 registered hybrids/cultivars. My favourite one is Tête-a-Tête, which you can see growing around the church and car park, they look so delicate. Other notable ones are, Cheerfulness, with its compact yellow blooms, Jack the Lad, with its very unusual flower, almost doesn't resemble a daffodil. The interesting white blooms, with a circle of yellow, edged with a thin red line and a dark centre, this is, Narcissus, Pheasants Eye. (Never been that close to a pheasant to check it out!) The daffodil is the national symbol of Wales, worn on St.

David's Day, March 1st, its Welsh name, Cenhinen Bedra, meaning, Peters Leek, linking it to the older emblem for Wales. It was officially adopted in 1959 but had been used since the 19th. Century as a strong symbol of the Welsh Nation. It is the flower for the month of March and for the tenth wedding anniversary. Did you know that they originated from the western Mediterranean, Spain, Portugal. Morocco and Algeria? It is thought that the Romans brought Daffodils to Britain, using them for medicinal uses. They have compounds,

which are being researched for potential cancer treatments. The Marie Curie Charity uses the daffodil as it's symbol of hope and renewal. Happy Easter everyone.

Wendy Gorman



News & Notices



Registers December 2025:

Funerals

Ian Denis Williams
Constance Wadeson



Baptisms

Hallie Eliza Mae Cobden
Nancy Faith Mitchell
Theodore Augustus Kneale



Marriages

None

Registers January 2026:

Funerals

Gillian Mary Benton
Margaret Winifred Doherty
Vera Maudsley



Baptisms

None

Marriages

None

None

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

St Mary's Social & Events Diary 2026

March 13th Music by the Bridge with Upton Community Choir

April 10th Music by the Bridge with Henry Smith - Organ

May 8th Music by the Bridge with The Dee Ensemble

May 11th Christian Aid Afternoon Tea

May 22nd Ron Iveson Cabaret, The Singing Vicar

June 12th Music by the Bridge with St Mary's Church Choir

June 28th Handbridge Festival

July 10th Music by the Bridge with Chester Cathedral Nave Choir

September 11th Music by the Bridge - tbc

October 9th Music by the Bridge with Kelsborrow Choir

November 13th Music by the Bridge with The Thursday Saxophone Quartet

Tea & Coffee Rota (after 10.30am service)

1st March Team 4

Liz Young
Sue Dickinson
Sue Fryer

15th March Team 6

Margaret Lawson
Elizabeth Bennett

8th March Team 5

Doris Keen
Wendy Gerrard
Helen Pritchard

22nd March Team 7

Lyn Barritt
Klaus Armstrong-Braun
Janet Davies

29th March Team 8

Joy Barton
Diana Morgan
Catherine Jones



5th April Team 9

Margaret Rushton
Betty Mcloughlin
Helen Brophy

19th April Team 2

Elsie Scott
Alistair Jones
Joan Morgan

12th April Team 1

Alma Hukin
Pat Jones
Margaret Teasdale

26th April 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.

Church Flower Arranging Rota for March and April 2026

March - In Lent we have no flowers in church.

April -Team 1 Margaret Lawson, Catherine Parkes, Liz Young and Lynne Barritt

Illness / holiday cover - Hilary and Elizabeth.

We will be decorating church for **Easter** on **Saturday 4th April, from 9.30 a.m.** with anyone available that day.

Any donations of garden greenery that could be brought to church that morning would be much appreciated. Ideally it should have been cut 24 hours before and given a good drink of water.

ALSO, please read, in this issue, Linda Schofield's request for **Easter Lilies**. Thank You.

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

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETINGS (APCM) 26th April 2026 in church

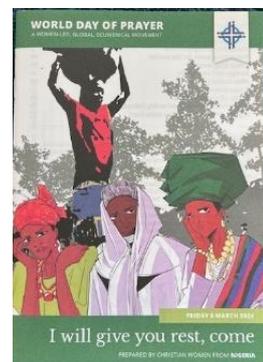
Come along to the meetings!



The World Day of Prayer

This years' service will be held at **10.30am Friday 6th March 2026** at **St. John's Church, Chester.**

All will be welcome to this service prepared by **Christian Women from Nigeria** It would lovely to see you there.

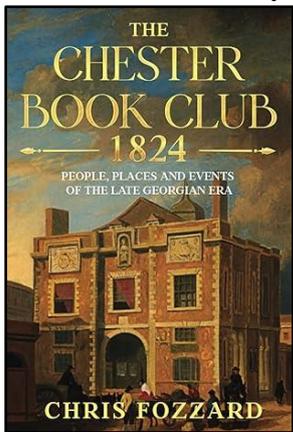




News & Notices



Lache and Westminster Local History Group
Welcome to Chester 1824 by Chris Fozzard
Lache Community Centre
Hawthorn Road, Chester, CH4 8HX
Wednesday 4th March 2026 at 7.30pm



Chris Fozzard is a Chester-based local historian and writer. He's also a regular speaker at venues in and around the city, including at last year's Chester Literature Festival. He's had two books published to date and will talk about the most recent of these, *The Chester Book Club, 1824*, which shines a light on a little known society and the

world they inhabited two centuries ago. Much of the content of the talk is based on newspaper reports of the time. Some of you may recall Chris speaking to us previously about his first book, *A Short History of Newton Hall, Chester*. Chris will have copies of his latest book available to buy on the night.

All welcome, no need to book. £2 per person on the door. Refreshments will be on sale **from Carly at the new Café La-Chez at the Centre.**

Linda Shuttleworth, Secretary,

Lache and Westminster Local History Group

shuttleworths@talktalk.net 01244 679791/07726 425847

Handbridge Flower Club March/April 2026



The demonstration for **March** will be **Lorena Dyer** presenting 'Colour My World', **Thurs 19th March**. This will be followed in **April** by **Sionedd Hughes** presenting 'What a Wonderful World' **Thurs 16th April**. Both demonstrations will begin at **1.45pm in St Mary's Handbridge Centre**. Those people attending the demonstration will have the opportunity to win one of the designs in our raffle. The meeting will end with the chance to chat to friends, old and new, over a cup of tea or coffee and a slice of home-made cake. Existing members, new members and visitors will all receive a warm welcome. For more info, please see our Facebook page, send an email to handbridgeflowerclub@gmail.com or call our Chairman **Jan Edwards** on **07952 778542**.

Handbridge WI meetings March & April 2026

We will be meeting on **Tues 3rd March** at **St Mary's Handbridge Centre** at **7.30pm** when we will welcome speaker **Andrew Kevan** who will talk about **Staying Safe Online**.



 **Chat & Craft Group** will meet on **Monday 9th March** at **1.30 - 4.30pm** and will be making **Fabric Tulips**

Book Group will be meeting on **Tues 17th March** to discuss **The Glass Maker** by **Tracey Chevalier**.

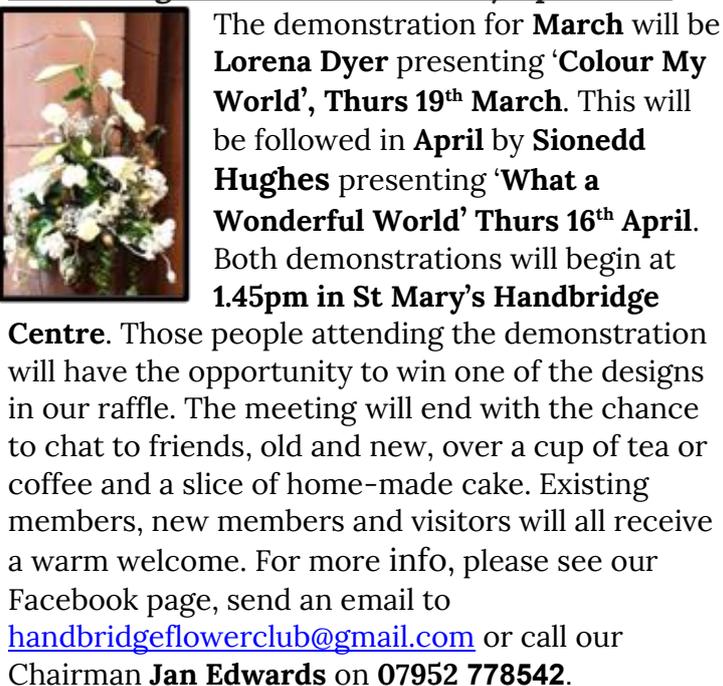
Our April meeting will be on **Tues 7th April** starting at **7.30pm** and our speaker will be **David Atkinson** who will tell us all about **Victorian Chester**.

Chat & Craft will be meeting on **Monday 14th April** at **1.30 - 4.30pm** at **St Mary's Handbridge Centre** and will be doing **Birthday Card Piercing**.

On **Wed 15th April** there will be a **Chester Group Meeting** of ten local WI's when **Matt Baker and A Handbag of Harmonies Choir** will be coming along to entertain us starting at **7.30pm** at **St Mary's Handbridge Centre**. Tickets £5 including refreshments.



We will have our stall and raffle at our meetings and a cuppa and friendly chat after our speakers. Visitors and potential new members made welcome. For any further information please contact **Maureen** on **07410450177** or email handbridgewi@gmail.com



BABY and TODDLER GROUP

A thriving group between 25 to 40 plus children attending. Each session offers play, craft and singing. The sessions are open to children under school age, their parents, grandparents and carers. The sessions are run each **Friday 10.00am to 11.30am**. (There is a suggested donation of at least £2 per child, if you are able. This helps to cover expenses.)

If **you** would like to join our lovely group of **volunteers** to help regularly, **please** contact me Contact: **Sue Fryer: 07799 862828**

Please be aware that during the baby and toddler sessions, access to the Centre may be restricted.

At the pearly gates, St Peter greeted a church minister and member of Parliament and gave them their room keys. "Vicar, here are the keys to one of our nice single rooms. And for you, Mr MP, the keys to our finest penthouse suite." "This is unfair!" cried the minister. "Listen," St Peter said, "ministers are a ten a penny up here, but this is the first MP we've ever seen."



March and April pages from the Book of Remembrance at St Mary's

March +

1991
 Gary Gerrard aged 43

1991
 13th Gordon John
 Pinkstone Bateman aged 75

1998
 23rd Isabel Bateman aged 84

1999
 6th Alexander Dickson Harvey aged 69

2003
 8th Clare Rosemary
 Gerrard aged 50

2005
 9th Leslie Walter Starr aged 98

2006
 31st Evelyn Margaret Price aged 85
 14th Reverend Canon
 Anthony Bluett Martin aged 76



March (cont')

2010
 8th Fred Maslen aged 90

2014
 22nd Ieuan Gwyn Ellis aged 95

2014
 30th Kathleen Jones aged 83

2017
 11th Susanne Ropes aged 82

2019
 2nd Ian Rodney Leyfield aged 77

2020
 9th Mark James Schofield aged 47

2022
 8th John Hebblethwaite Aged 82

2023 17th Aged 92
 Robert Raymond Williams

April (cont'd)

2002
 13th Alex Pickford aged 30

2016
 7th Peter David Jones aged 69
 15th Geoffrey Wotherspoon aged 86

1945
 13th Luiza Braun aged 26

1982
 1st Charles Leyfield aged 70

2008
 17th Mary Chalmers Leyfield aged 98

2018
 16th Brian Cyril Bennett aged 81

2019
 16th Warwick Morrell aged 83

1996
 2nd Peter John Billingshurst aged 65

2020
 17th Mrs Teresa Waterhouse aged 75

April +

1974 2nd Dorothy Mary Bridges aged 71

1994
 3rd Thomas William Dix aged 78
 19th Cyril Dion Morgan aged 76

1980
 8th John Heale, Priest aged 51

1998
 23rd John Noel Jones aged 72

2002
 21st Marion Beaumont aged 81

1996
 1st Thomas Idris Evans aged 83

2005
 8th Angela Hebblethwaite aged 89
 23rd Jill Hasted aged 75

2011
 11th Ian Gerrard aged 41
 8th Vera Jones aged 98

1991
 9th James Rowlandson Aged 81



April (cont'd)

1976 28th aged 28 days
 Catherine Wendy Elizabeth Peters
 2023 aged 83
 22nd Revd. William Hamilton

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, in St Mary's Handbridge Centre, behind the church. Information needed: **name, age, and date of death**. There is no charge, but donations are gratefully received.



Foxhill Retreats; Tarvin Road, Frodsham WA6 6XB, UK 2026 Brochure Foxhill's new events programme for 2026 is awesome. Find out about the exciting new schedule of retreat and residentials from Candlemas to Christmas there's something for all seasons and all tastes.

<https://heyzine.com/flip-book/3096827eec.html>



Foxhill Programme
 2026

Community, Mission and Charities (CMC) cluster
BURNS NIGHT



Our CMC Cluster really pulled out all the stops in **The Centre 23rd January for Burn's Night**. They cooked Haggis, from the one and only place - **Edge's in Handbridge** (who gave a very generous discount for the purchase!), Neeps and Tatties with lashings of gravy for everyone, followed by Shortbread. The toast was drunk, of course, with a tot of the Scottish stuff! Music was provided by the Cambrian Band who instructed and encouraged everyone (almost !!) to take to the dance floor and much merriment and exhaustion was enjoyed!! A great evening of fun and, with the generous raffle by both purchasers and donators, the whole evening raised a massive **£1016!**

Choir Christmas Meal (belatedly on 20th January 2026)



The senior members of the church choir plus clergy, 28 in total, all came together to socialise in a less formal setting than our usual rehearsals or services offers! We enjoyed a wonderful meal in The Centre catered, deliciously, by **Pippa** (Bhupinder Lace). **Joanne Das** (mum of 2 choir members Olivia and Jonathan) provided us with an amusing/taxing and engaging Quiz! The clergy team won - if they had not, perhaps it would not have reflected well on their theological knowledge!! See editor's letter for a taste of the Quiz!



Laughter is a property in man essential to his reason. - Lewis Carroll

Weekly Bible Readings for March and April 2026



<u>Bible readings for March</u>	<u>First Reading</u>	<u>Psalm</u>	<u>Second Reading</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
1st March 2026 2nd Sunday of Lent	Genesis 12:1-4a	Psalm 121	Romans 4:1-5. 13-17	John 3:1-17
8th March 2026 3rd Sunday of Lent	Exodus 17:1-7	Psalm 95	Romans 5:1-11	John 4:5-42
15th March 2026 Mothering Sunday	Either Exodus 2:1-10 Or 1 Samuel 1:20-end	Either Psalm 34:11-20 Or Psalm 127:1-4	Either 2 Corinthians 1:3-7 Or Colossians 3:12-17	Either Luke 2:33-35 Or John 19:25b-27
22nd March 2026 5th Sunday of Lent	Ezekiel 37:1-14	Psalm 130	Romans 8:6-11	John 11:1-45
29th March 2026 Liturgy of the Palms Palm Sunday Liturgy of the Passion	Isaiah 50:4-9a	Either Psalm 118:1-2. 19-end Or 118:19-24 Psalm 31:9-16	Philippians 2:5-11	Matthew 21:1-11 Either Matthew 26:14 - end of 27 Or Matthew 27:11-54



<u>Bible readings for April</u>	<u>First Reading</u>	<u>Psalm</u>	<u>Second Reading</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
5th April 2026 Easter Day	Either Acts 10:34-43 Or Jeremiah 31:1-6	Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24	Either Colossians 3:1-4 Or Acts 10:34-43	Either John 20:1-18 Or Matthew 28:1-10
12th April 2026 Second Sunday of Easter	Either Acts 2:14a 22-32 Or Exodus 14:10-end; 15:20. 21	Psalm 16	Either 1 Peter 1:3-9 Or Acts 2:14a. 22-32	John 20:19-end
19th April 2026 Third Sunday of Easter	Either Acts 2:14a,36-41 Or Zephaniah 3:14 end	Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19	Either 1 Peter 1:17-23 Or Acts 2:14a. 36-41	Luke 24:13-35
26th April 2026 Fourth Sunday of Easter	Either Acts 2:42-end Or Genesis 7	Psalm 23	Either 1 Peter 2:19-25 Or Acts 2:42-end	John 10:1-10

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

2026 MUSIC by the Bridge

FRIDAYS, 7PM
(lasts around 1 hour)

- 16th January - Jill Crossland - Piano
- 13th February - Local Vocals and St Mary's Youth Choir
- 13th March - Upton Community Choir
- 8th May - The Dee Ensemble
- 12th June - St Mary's Church Choir
- 10th July - Chester Cathedral Nave Choir
- 11th September - TBC
- 9th October - Kelsborrow Choir
- 13th November - The Thursday Saxophone Quartet

(Donations gratefully received to support our choral scholarship fund)
Followed by wine or soft drink in the Parish Centre

Free Entry

www.facebook.com/stmaryhandbridge/
www.stmaryschester.co.uk



LETTERS



Jaqi and Bill Yates, Melissa and John Grundy have messaged in to say:

“A Big Thank You” to our loyal Delivery Teams who, throughout the year, deliver the bi-monthly parish magazines to all our subscribers.

Many thanks, and Best Wishes to you All for Year 2026.

I have also received this email,

 ‘Whilst Church Sitting on a Wednesday morning in the last months, I have wondered whether it would be a good idea to have, say a double-sided sheet to give to our occasional visitors. This could detail not only the history of our fine church building, but also a flavour of the (much more ancient) wider parish, of which St. Mary's has been the parish church since 1887. There has, over the century and a bit since then, been some confusion as to the name of the parish and it wasn't until a centenary booklet was published by the P.C.C. in 1987, that the link between the new and the old was clearly set out. A shortened version of this could perhaps be put together to greet visitors to the church or to whet the appetite of regular worshippers to learn more.

I have put this in a letter as there may already be such a document in existence and if so, could it be re-produced?’

Alistair Jones

Reminder from Helen and the Cleaning Team!

 **Church Cleaning Team.** Would **YOU** like to help with fun cleaning on **Tues mornings** in church, wielding a duster, running round with the hoover or brushing chairs? **10.00- 12.00 every Tues** (or just the Tuesday when you can!) Afterwards there is a cuppa in the Centre (and biscuits!) It is **FAR** more fun than cleaning at home! **Helen: 07522 477605**

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Dear Readers,

Being one of the altos in St Mary's Choir, can I say that it is a real education, not only in learning unfamiliar music, learning how notation in singing Psalms works (or doesn't!), working out how a cassock buttons up (or doesn't!) but also seeing how our younger members of the choir genuinely love the music! I heard one of them punch the air in delight when he saw one particular piece of music we were going to be singing.

Apparently, what can keep us 'bright' and 'interested' as our years increase, is Brain Food. Also, still looking at things with new eyes, learning something new each day and still questioning. This leads me nicely onto THIS! - Some of the quiz questions from the Choir Christmas Meal - devised by Joanne Das. Thanks Joanne!

1. How high is the spire at St Mary's in metres?
2. Name the 5 people who Antony prays for by name at every evensong at St Mary's?
3. In which of the 4 compass directions does St Mary's spire NOT have a clock face?
4. Decoratively, St Mary's is noted for its 'reredos'. What is the 'reredos'?
5. How many bells are there in the bell tower?

Which hymn or carol do these commonly missed out verses come from?

6. 'Fear no, then said the angel, let nothing cause you fright.
To you is born a saviour in David's town tonight,
To free all those who trust in him from Satan's power and might.'
7. 'The earth shall soon dissolve like snow, the sun forbear to shine.
But God, who called me here below,
Will be forever mine.'

(Answers can be found on the bottom of the back page!)

And finally, don't forget to check out this Youtube video from Overleigh St Mary's School showing their paper doves (see Jan/Feb magazine) <https://youtube.com/shorts/XNyIKKosN4A?feature=share> **Catherine**

A vicar planning an Easter pilgrimage to the Holy Land was shaken when he found it would cost him £50 an hour to rent a boat on the Sea of Galilee. He protested to the travel agent that the cost was ridiculous. "That might be true," replied the travel agent, "but you have to take into account that the Sea of Galilee is water on which our Lord Himself walked." "Well," said the vicar, "at £50 an hour for a boat, I am not surprised!"





WHAT'S ON AT ST MARY'S IN MARCH?



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.

Sunday	1	Second Sunday of Lent 8:00am Holy Communion (followed by bacon baps in St Mary's Handbridge Centre) 10:30am Sung Eucharist
Monday	2	6:30pm Stations of the Cross 7:00pm PCC Standing Committee 7:30pm Julian Meeting
Tuesday	3	1:00pm Bible Study in St Mary's Handbridge Centre
Wednesday	4	12:00pm for 12:30pm Luncheon Club in St Mary's Handbridge Centre
Thursday	5	10:00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
Friday	6	10:00am St Mary's Baby & Toddler Group in St Mary's Handbridge Centre
Sunday	8	Third Sunday of Lent 8:00am Holy Communion 10:30am Family Eucharist 6:30pm Choral Evensong
Monday	9	6:30pm Stations of the Cross
Tuesday	10	1:00pm Bible Study in St Mary's Handbridge Centre
Wednesday	11	12:00pm for 12:30pm Luncheon Club in St Mary's Handbridge Centre
Thursday	12	10:00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
Friday	13	10:00am St Mary's Baby & Toddler Group in St Mary's Handbridge Centre 7:00pm Music by the Bridge with Upton Community Choir
Sunday	15	Mothering Sunday 8:00am Holy Communion 10:30am Family Eucharist 11:30am Cake Sunday- baked items for sale after the 10:30am service in St Mary's Handbridge Centre 3:00pm Messy Church
Monday	16	6:30pm Stations at the Cross 12:00pm for 12:30pm Luncheon Club in St Mary's Handbridge Centre
Wednesday	18	for 12:30pm Luncheon Club in St Mary's Handbridge Centre
Thursday	19	10:00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
Sunday	22	Fifth Sunday of Lent 8:00am Holy Communion 10:30am Sung Eucharist
Monday	23	1:00pm 'Unlicensed Lay Weeders'- working party in church grounds 6:30pm Stations of the Cross 7:00pm PCC Meeting
Tuesday	24	10:00am 'Unlicensed Lay Weeders'- working party in church grounds 1:00pm Bible Study in St Mary's Handbridge Centre
Wednesday	25	12:00pm for 12:30pm Luncheon Club in St Mary's Handbridge Centre
Thursday	26	10:00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
Friday	27	10:00am St Mary's Baby & Toddler Group in St Mary's Handbridge Centre
Sunday	29	Palm Sunday 8:00am Holy Communion 10:30am Sung Eucharist with procession and dramatic gospel
Monday	30	Holy Monday 6:30pm Eucharist
Tuesday	31	Holy Tuesday 1:00pm Bible Study in St Mary's Handbridge Centre 6:30pm Eucharist





WHAT'S ON AT ST MARY'S IN APRIL?



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

Wednesday	1	Holy Wednesday 6:30pm Eucharist
Thursday	2	Maundy Thursday 7:30pm Sung Eucharist with stripping of the altar followed by The Watch
Friday	3	Good Friday 10:00am Children's Service 2:00pm Last Hour at the Cross
Sunday	5	Easter Day 8:00am Holy Communion (followed by bacon baps in St Mary's Handbridge Centre) 10:30am Sung Eucharist
Monday	6	7:30pm Julian Meeting
Tuesday	7	10:00am 'Unlicensed Lay Weeders'- working party in church grounds
Thursday	9	10:00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
Friday	10	7:00pm Music by the Bridge with Henry Smith - Organ
Sunday	12	Second Sunday of Easter 8:00am Holy Communion 10:30am Family Eucharist 12:30pm Holy Baptism 6:30pm Choral Evensong
Wednesday	15	12:00pm for 12:30pm Luncheon Club in St Mary's Handbridge Centre
Thursday	16	10:00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
Sunday	19	Third Sunday of Easter 8:00am Holy Communion 10:30am Sung Eucharist 3:00pm Messy Church
Monday	20	1:00pm 'Unlicensed Lay Weeders'- working party in church grounds
Tuesday	21	10:00am 'Unlicensed Lay Weeders'- working party in church grounds
Wednesday	22	12:00 for 12:30pm Luncheon Club in St Mary's Handbridge Centre
Thursday	23	10:00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
Friday	24	10:00am St Mary's Baby & Toddler Group in St Mary's Handbridge Centre
Sunday	26	Fourth Sunday of Easter 8:00am Holy Communion 10:30am Sung Eucharist followed by 12:00pm APCM
Wednesday	29	12:00pm for 12:30pm Luncheon Club in St Mary's Handbridge Centre
Thursday	30	10:00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)



You Tube filming at St Mary's

Filming of Services for YouTube at St Mary's. The **10:30am Sunday Service** is being filmed for YouTube for those unable to attend church. If you would rather not be filmed, then please talk to a churchwarden or a sidesperson.



ST MARY'S HANDBRIDGE CENTRE

Rooms To Hire For All Occasions

The Foyer - Communal area available to all groups and individuals who use the Centre's facilities. Fitted with a small kitchen including tea and coffee making facilities, fridge space, cutlery/crockery and microwave.

The Price Hall - seated capacity in rows for up to 100, can be extended to 150 when combined with the Davies Room. Can be hired in conjunction with commercial kitchen, accessible via internal door with serving hatch.

The Davies Room - seated capacity in rows for up to 40.

The Williams Room - seated capacity in rows for up to 40, fitted with a sink.

The Mollie Golder Room - seated capacity for up to 15, fitted with a sink.

The Evans Room - meeting space for up to 4.



Foyer



Price Hall



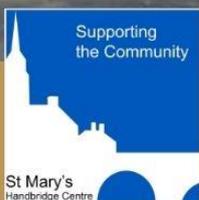
Davies Room



Williams Room

- ✓ Flexible options to accommodate from 1-150 people
- ✓ Fully accessible, clean and modern facilities
- ✓ Dedicated car park
- ✓ Complimentary Wi-Fi
- ✓ Discounts available for regular bookings
- ✓ Ceiling projector, large screen, wall-mounted speakers
- ✓ HDMI/VGA and mini-jack cables provided

Please call or email to discuss your requirements,
or fill in the online enquiry form using the below web address:



01244 671202

Overleigh Road,
Chester CH4 7HL



www.stmaryschester.co.uk/st-marys-handbridge-centre/rooms-facilities/#book-a-room/



centre.stmaryschester@btconnect.com



PARISH DIRECTORY



Rector	The Revd Antony J Dutton	stmarysrector.handbridge@gmail.com	01244 671202
			and/or 01244 913898
			01244 671202
Parish Administrator & Centre Manager	Doris Keen	office.stmaryschester@btconnect.com	
Centre Coordinators	Michael Mitchell	michael.stmaryschester@btconnect.com	01244 671202
	Joanna Polanczyk	joanna.stmaryschester@btconnect.com	01244 671202
Centre Assistant	John Rose	Contact via Centre Manager	
Hon. Assistant Clergy	The Revd John Carhart	jcarhart@nepc.co.uk	01244 380923
	The Revd Trevor Dennis	trevordennis11@gmail.com	01244 638441
	The Revd Maureen Pickering	revmapickering@gmail.com	01244 749112
Hon. Parish Reader	Linda Manning	lindamanning@uwclub.net	01244 682143
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	Mavis Sellers	mavissellers@gmail.com	07715 050850
PCC Secretary	Hailey Mason	pccsecretary@btconnect.com	01244 674517
PCC Treasurer	Tom Hardcastle	treasurer.stmaryschester@gmail.com	01244 671202
Director of Music	Michael Reynolds	michaelreynoldsmusic@googlemail.com	07786 323946
Community, Mission, Charities Cluster Chair	Alison McLellan	avej97@btinternet.com	01244 676772
Communications Cluster Chair	The Revd Antony J Dutton	stmarysrector.handbridge@gmail.com	01244 671202
			and/or 01244 913898
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Safeguarding Officer	Sue Fryer	safeguarding.stmaryschester@btconnect.com	07593 919592
		PLEASE NOTE above email and phone no. are for Safeguarding purposes ONLY. Thank you	
Health & Safety Adviser	Parish Office		01244 671202
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Church Flowers Treasurer	Linda Schofield		01244 659149
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Gardening Group (Unlicensed Lay Weeders)	Alison McLellan	avej97@btinternet.com	01244 676772
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Beavers, Cubs & Scouts	Susan Jones		01244 675538
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Brownies	Krystina Littlehales	krys14_uk@yahoo.co.uk	07860 845402
Guides & Rangers	Helen Williams	helen_williams82uk@yahoo.co.uk	07951 959007
Overleigh St Mary's C of E Primary School Head	Emma Drew	admin@osm.cheshire.sch.uk	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/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/StMaryHandbridge>

Youtube: @stmaryschurchhandbridge8838

A teenager was always asking his parents if he could borrow the family car. Pushed to the limit one day, the father demanded of his son why he thought "The Almighty" had given him two feet. Without hesitation, the son replied: "That's easy, one for the clutch and one for the accelerator."





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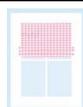
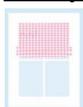
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Michael Reynolds, St Mary's Musical Director would love to hear from any 7-11 year olds who would like to join St. Mary's Youth choir. We meet 6.45pm -7.30pm every Thursday. The Youth Choir is invited to sing with the choir once a month during the Sunday 10.30am Family Eucharist service. If you are interested, please contact

Michael Reynolds, 07786 323946

michaelreynoldsmusic@googlemail.com



Sign on door of music shop: Gone Chopin, but have Liszt, so Bach in a Minuet!

Answers to Quiz in editor's Letter

- 1. 51.2m 2. King Charles, Queen Camilla, the Duke & Duchess of Westminster, Lady Cosima Grosvenor 3. East 4. The reredos is the mural behind the altar 5. 8 bells 6. God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen 7. Amazing Grace

