

The Quarterly

St Mary's Church, Ware Community News & Views

Hazel trees and other puzzles



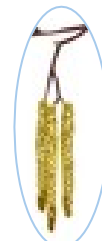
Despite keen support for the Plant Market – only a few weeks away – I can't be described as a gardener. I have herbs in pots, which die in the winter, and superb wild things in the garden which have a stranglehold on the grass and the borders. Proper gardeners call these weeds – ivy, bindweed, dandelions, wood avens (we can count them in the Churchyard Count on Nature if we see them there). But if I plant anything deliberately, it disappears... slugs are very happy in my patch, I suppose!

But some wild plants love my garden, and I can't deny them space. The Victoria plum tree from next door's garden carefully dropped plums which grew, true to their origins, into damson shoots, saplings, and a few huge trees. Some years we have a crop of damsons – lovely, but we can't gather them all as the branches are so high.

A scruffy bush underneath a self-sown yew tree turns out to be a white currant bush! One of my favourite fruits, very seasonal and rare (well, never seen in Tesco, anyway), and we often have a couple of desserts from them.



So why have I mentioned hazel trees? Well, actually.....these are the most prolific "weeds" in the garden. Some past squirrel buried a nut – or two – which germinated and grew into a delightful small tree, then dozens of saplings. Catkins in spring,



yes, but nuts? We never see them, as the descendants, or cousins, of the historic squirrel grab them and bury them before we have a chance to pick them for ourselves! And the cycle begins again.

If you have heard of Dame Julian of Norwich, a religious anchoress (female hermit attached to a church) of the 1300s, you might know that in her visions of an all-loving God, she saw the image of a hazel nut used to represent the world we live in. Its small size and finite dimensions, bounded by its shell, showed her that our world is just that tiny in God's hand – yet he cares for it completely with a perfect love. Visitors to St Julian's church (we give her the name Julian by association; it probably wasn't her given name) are offered a hazel nut to take away as a memento. I keep mine in a pocket of my bag (and have no intention of planting it). It does remind me of Julian's Christian optimism, "All shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well".



Ysmena's letter



For this edition of Quarterly I'd like to say a word or two about music, as we go to press after a very full musical Lent, Holy Week and Easter. It has been so good to see the church choir grow over the last couple of years and now very shortly to welcome children back into their ranks. The relaunch of a chorister programme is a really significant step as we continue to build our choir - and therefore our congregation. A new development to look forward to.

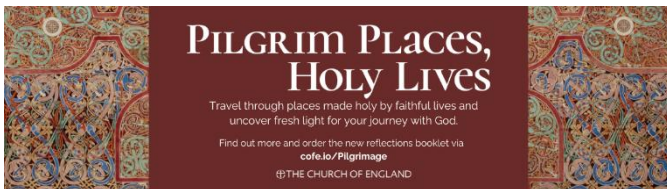
Also new in the last month or two has been the addition of music into Evening Prayer on Tuesdays. As part of the pattern of the Daily Offices, Tuesday evenings are now from the Book of Common Prayer with hymns and some other sung elements. And we hope to slowly build up our Sunday evensongs from once to twice a month. As the evenings warm up and grow lighter you might consider joining some of these services: a new or additional way to offer your worship, prayers and praise.

Along with music for worship, our regular lunchtime programme continues with new and familiar performers; in July there will be a focus on the organ and in October can look forward to a fundraising music-a-thon!

As we look forward to this next new season of music, join me in giving thanks for all those who make music with and for us here.

Thy Kingdom Come – 25 May to 21 June – Pilgrim Places, Holy Lives

Join a four-week virtual pilgrimage to places “made holy by faithful lives”.



This link:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/faith-life/pilgrim-places-holy-lives>

Or another idea about our Biblical education:

Follow this link: <https://www.stalbanscathedral.org/Event/forgotten-prophets->

You will see that the Cathedral is offering a short online course about lesser-known prophets from the Old Testament, which might be of interest to many who find the Old Testament a bit puzzling. The blurb tells us: *Amongst our Old Testament prophets are a number we rarely see or hear from. This course will spend time with those lesser-known, sometimes forgotten, prophets. We will explore texts, contexts and ideas of these prophets together, to get to know them better and to hear them speak to and for us today.*



This course runs weekly for five weeks from 4 June to 2 July (Thursday evenings) and is by Zoom. Places can be booked through the link from now.

José Tamayo introduces himself in his own words

Hello everyone! My name is José. I am Spanish and I am 52 years old. My most "precious" things, which you can say in a Gollum voice, are the things I cannot possess: my guardian angel wife and my children. As the poet Khalil Gibran said,

*'Your children are not your children.
They are the sons and daughters of Life's longing for itself.'*

My eldest daughter is 22 and is about to start a paid PhD in Chemistry at Oxford University. My son is 20, very sporty, and studying to be a PE teacher in Chichester. My youngest daughter is going to retake Year 12 (this is a consequence of her father moving halfway through her A-levels). My wife studied psychology and works in a school for children with special needs. I can share the lovely story of how I met her over cake and coffee.

Thanks to my employer, my family and I were able to move here in 2015 so that they could experience British values first-hand. Although I have worked with technology most of my life, I don't consider myself a guru or a geek. Actually, I rarely enjoy technology and often suffer it. I like history and watching some sports on TV, especially if Spaniards are involved or if my son wants to watch them too. I also enjoy watching TV series with my wife. I collect books, which is a different hobby from reading them. I support Atlético de Madrid, though I'm not a great football fan.

Ah! I nearly forgot. I was an amateur magician in a "previous life". So, it's possible that a sermon might be delivered with a bit of magic. I'm not promising anything!

Here I am now! *[picture, right]* Eager to write the next chapter of my story on paper smelling malt from the statue outside the church. I'm also willing to contribute with a drop in the ocean which is the history of this place that has been uninterruptedly occupied for 4000 years!

I am willing to get to know all of you!

[José will be ordained deacon on 5 July and will be with us at St Mary's on 12 July]



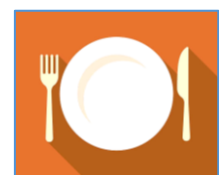
Christian Aid week 10-17 May

LUNCH!



Wednesday 13 May at 12.00noon
Vegetarian two course lunch in the Hall

Donations for Christian Aid



Lent Away Day to Rochester

Our annual day out in Lent offers us the opportunity to walk in the footsteps of the early pilgrims. In recent years we have been to St Edmundsbury Cathedral and our own St Albans Cathedral. This year, on 7th March, we headed to Rochester Cathedral in Kent *[right]*, there being a link as the Diocese of St Albans was created out of the Diocese of Rochester and it is 149 years since St. Albans Abbey became a cathedral.



Many of our group were also retracing their own steps as life had already taken them that way. It was a lovely way to reminisce. Stories were retold and friendships renewed. The Rochester team made us very welcome with coffee and cake before we split into three groups for a tour. Lunch was taken at leisure, and we all came back together to make our way up the pilgrim steps *[left]* to attend a beautiful choral evensong at the end of our visit.

Belinda Martin

Pictures below, taken by Roger and Belinda, show some of the St Mary's pilgrims at various points in their exploration of the cathedral:



On arrival *[left]*

[Right] A beautiful archway takes the attention of one group



Phyllis and Philippa rise up!
[left]

Study group summer visit, Tuesday 14 July

The Monday evening study group is planning to visit Offley, one of the churches of which Katy Little is rector, on **Tuesday 14th July**. This will include a guided tour of the very interesting old church, and a service of Evening Prayer, followed by a meal at the nearby Red Lion.

Other members of the congregation are welcome to join us.

We plan to travel by coach, leaving St Mary's at 3:30pm, arriving at 4:15. The meal at the Red Lion is booked for 6.30pm and we hope to be back in Ware by 9.45pm.



St Mary Magdalen, Offley

The cost of coach travel is £27; please pay for this by bank transfer to the church account – PCC St Mary Ware – CAF Bank, sort code 40-52-40, a/c 018441 (ref: Offley visit).

A main course at the pub was £12-£16 when I looked several weeks ago.

We plan to order meals in advance and ask for payment on the day to Celia or other member of the group to ease congestion at the till.

There will be a sign-up for this in church. We can take up to 29 people on the coach, but we can't guarantee the cloudless skies in the picture (from *Wikipedia*)!



Christian Aid Week 2026 Ware Churches Quiz

Saturday 9th May

7:30pm

St Mary's Church Ware

£5 per person

Bring and Share puddings

(Please just bring enough for 4 people so we have plenty but not so much it goes to waste!)



Please book your places through St Mary's Parish Office
Email Emily on officestmarys@btinternet.com
(Money on the night)





Christian Aid week – 10 May to 17 May

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christian-aid-week>

“Your faith. Make it count. Seven days to make a difference – what will you do?”

It’s the charity’s 80th birthday and throughout that time it has been fighting the unfairness of poverty and the social structures which mar people’s well-being. Follow the link.....



Support in whatever way you can. See page 3 for the midweek lunch!

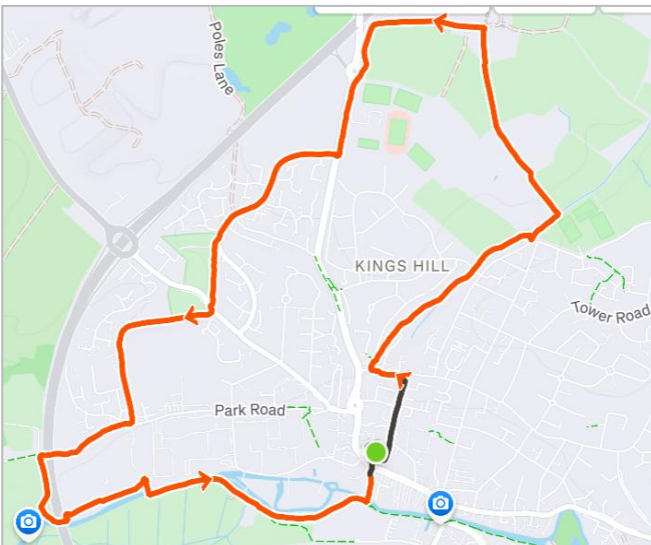
Rogation Sunday

Sunday 10th May is Rogation Sunday, the name derived from Latin “rogare”, to ask or pray. Traditionally this was a time to walk the boundaries of the parish – which is called “beating the bounds” – praying the Great Litany as well as psalms and asking for God’s blessing on the fields, the crops, and the hands of farmers who produce our food.

This offers a beautiful opportunity to reconnect with place, prayer, and one another. So, in a nod to this tradition we plan a walk around our parish, within the bounds. It is 7.4 km (4.6 miles).

We will start after the service and all who want to join will have had time for refreshments. Afterwards we will return to church for a bring and share picnic lunch – exact timing dependent on walking speed and time we manage to leave after coffee!

The route begins at church, continues up Crib Street, through Upper Bourne Park and the firework field, up to Moles Farm, down to Wodson Park, along Quincey Road, through the cemetery, across Wadesmill Road, down Wengeo Lane, across the A10 and back under it, past Allenburys, over the river, and along the riverside path to Burgage Lane before returning to church.



Proposed route for the Rogation walk

It is a route Marina and her family ran last year on 10 May for the Christian Aid walk (so it has been tested!)

Friday 8th May

There is also a plan to create an **upcycled parish banner** on **Friday 8th May**, using meaningful fabrics – our beautiful ones in the Lady Chapel are too fine and delicate to take around on a walk. All are warmly welcome to join in this creative endeavour.

For more details look in the pew sheet.



Lunchtime Concerts, May - July

Monday 4th May: The **Ambrose String Quartet**, with **Hugh Legg** tenor and **Paul Guinery** (presenter and pianist of BBC Radio Three). Programme includes *On Wenlock Edge* by Ralph Vaughan Williams, and *Piano Quintet in G minor* by Enrique Granados.

Thursday 21st May: **Gabriella Buckland, Colin Eldred and Christopher Benham** will present a programme of music for soprano, clarinet and piano.

Monday 1st June: We welcome back **Axel Krogness** with his classical guitar [right].

Thursday 18th June: Again we welcome back **Arwen Turner with Anna Le Hair** with a programme for violin and piano.



July Organ Festival, an extravaganza!



This month, as well as our regular concerts, we are inviting organists from many different places to play for us. Details are being finalised, so watch out for details on posters and in the pew leaflet.

All our concerts start at 12.30, lasting about forty minutes. Tea, coffee and cake will be available in St. Mary's Hall from 11.30. Entry is free and there will be a retiring collection in aid of church funds.

I look forward to meeting you once again at these events.

Best wishes, Mark

Round-up of some performances so far this year

February

Lin Parker writes: For the Monday concert, February 2nd, we welcomed back Colin Eldred and the "Anything Goes" String Quartet. The concert contained a single work, the *Clarinet Quintet Op. 115* by Johannes Brahms, which gave the audience an opportunity to hear and appreciate the complete piece all the way through.

We were joined by the children from St Catherine's school Year 4, and Jane Eldred introduced the recital by explaining to them (and us!) what the work was about, who wrote it and what it was written for, as well as some musical things to look out for.

On Thursday 19th we welcomed a new group, Wild About Recorders, led by Catherine Wild. Catherine introduced the whole range of instruments which would be playing, from the high Sopranino to the Bass, and pointed out where each could be heard in the various pieces played. The group played a wide range of tunes, from Renaissance galliards through Bach and Brahms to Rhapsody in Blue, demonstrating that recorders can play a far wider range of musical style than might be expected.

Linn Parker

Please turn the page

March

Thursday 19th March: Herman Carisha, piano

A talented young musician, a sunny day, two remarkable masterpieces, a slightly more astringent touch provided by a Prokofiev sonata, what's not to like?

Reading the biography on the programme, one could imagine the word prodigy was bestowed on Herman as a child. The incredible sounds coaxed from our venerable grand piano would suggest this would be an accurate assessment.

There was sinewy attack and clarity in the Beethoven which brought this well-known work to a fresh vibrant life. In the Chopin his brilliant technique showed a tender lyricism on some of the less showy and rather melancholy passages.

The final work in the programme showed Prokofiev at his best with respectful nods to the past and moving onwards to a more modern expressiveness. As if this weren't enough, we were treated to a delightful encore by Brahms.

This was a concert of the very highest quality, and I hope we will hear more of Herman in concerts, recordings and radio broadcasts.

Ian Little

April

April 16th concert: Benjamin Adams, clarinet, with Jill Knight

Jill had been impressed by Benjamin's musical talents as a schoolboy (she was head of music at his prep school) and has supported and encouraged him in his musical career since then.

Wonderful clarinet music thanks to Benjamin Adams, wonderful place, St. Mary's Church, glorious sunshine through the windows. These Mondays and Thursdays give us great joy, especially when the musician is Hertfordshire born and bred. We enjoyed Finzi, Spohr, Nielsen, Rachmaninoff, and Brahms accompanied by the piano; then two pieces accompanied by Jill Knight their composer, now known as St. Mary's composer in residence.

It was well attended and much enjoyed.

Christopher Melhuish

Later that afternoon, St. Mary's hosted a "Leavers' Recital" given by students from years 11 to 13 at Presdales School. It is always good to get the young performing publicly in a large and unfamiliar place: they did really well, but it was a little sad to see virtually no parent support in the audience. They missed violin, clarinet and voice. Well done!

Christopher Melhuish

Alban Day – Saturday 20 June

Witness the awe-inspiring spectacle of 12ft puppets weaving through the streets of the city *[right, photo from the Cathedral website]*, retelling the story of St Alban, and then celebrate his story with our city-wide festival.




Here's the timetable for the day:


11am  Alban Pilgrimage procession through the city centre

12 noon  Pilgrimage Eucharist at the Cathedral

12 noon - 5pm

 Entertainment and activities across St Albans

4pm

 Pilgrimage Evensong at the Cathedral

Ruth Dearnley [pictured, right], former CEO of **Stop the Traffik** (anti people-trafficking and anti-slavery charity) will preach on Alban Day 20 June.



Count on Nature - 6 June 2026

Liz Finch



How many different types of flowering plants or trees can you find in the churchyard?

How many different insects and birds?

Come to St. Mary's Churchyard to find out!



Come down for an hour, anytime between 9 and 5 or just note them down as you're walking through. There will be sheets and boards near the South Porch to record your answers and wildlife guidebooks inside if you want to check something.

The results are submitted to *The biodiversity survey*, a regular survey supported by environmental charities A Rocha UK and Caring for God's Acre, and also the Church of England and the Church in Wales.



In the last 5 years, almost 2000 counting events took place across churches in England and Wales, and around 50,000 wildlife records were submitted to Caring for God's Acre. The data will be used to determine where different species are located in the country helping increases in biodiversity.



You can also submit records on iNaturalist UK. [inaturalist.org](https://www.inaturalist.org) (21,000 to date) <https://uk.inaturalist.org/projects/beautiful-burial-grounds> Many of the records have been verified. <https://www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk/bg-nbn-portal/>



Churchyards are great for butterflies as they contain such a rich array of plants. Look out for caterpillars chomping away at the various plants.

Look out for orange tips laying eggs on cuckoo flower, garlic and hedge mustard, or the Speckled Wood, which lays eggs on native grasses such as Yorkshire fog and couch grass. This butterfly prefers long grass so may use a tussocky shaded area. Brimstones (*right*) are among the first butterflies to emerge, having overwintered as adults.



Swifts might have arrived, too. We're hoping they'll use the swift boxes in the Tower.





Marina Buswell

Exploring Reader Ministry

Marina Buswell

Some of you may know that this academic year Ysmena suggested that I do a 'pre-reader' course run by the diocese, a course exploring the role, but not the actual training.

One of our assignments is to write an article for the Parish Magazine about Reader ministry – a cunning way, I think, to make sure we read a few books to get our heads around this ministry and be able to explain it to others.

What is Reader Ministry?

The official line on the Church of England website states:

“Readers (also called Licensed Lay Ministers) have a leadership role serving alongside clergy to support people in faith and enable mission. They are lay people who are trained and licensed by their bishop. Reader/LLM ministry looks different in different places depending on the local context. Many Readers/LLMs teach, preach, lead worship and are involved in mission. Some also take funerals, after additional training. Many Readers carry out their church ministry at the same time as having another job.”

What does this mean in practice?

In practice the sorts of tasks Readers are involved in are: leading non-sacramental worship (like morning and evening prayer), preaching, teaching and leading groups, taking communion to those who can't get to church, hospital and care home visiting, taking funerals and a wide range of pastoral work beyond the immediate church congregation e.g. in the workplace or in volunteer led uniformed groups (scouts, cadets etc). As I mentioned at the start you look at this list and think, well there's plenty of us here who aren't Readers who go to Snowdrop, lead small bible study groups, lead morning and evening prayer, take communion to the housebound, and more. But it wasn't always like this...

A little bit of history on the ministry

Let's take a look back to the history of this ministry, as I think it helps us understand why now it can seem a bit nebulous and hard to define a distinctiveness, especially within the context of lay ministry within the CofE these days – where people do lead services, worship, bible studies and preach (five of us did so this lent).

Early origins

We can trace back to a ministry known as 'Lector' in the early church. This seems simply to be a person who could read intelligently from scripture. In the Elizabethan (I) period there were Readers to ensure that Matins and Evening Prayer were read in parishes with no clergy. However the current form of Reader Ministry really has its origins in the Victorian era.

The Victorian Beginnings of Modern-day readers

The population explosion in industrial cities in the second half of the nineteenth century led to large parishes, new city churches and basically, not enough clergy. So in the 1850s the CofE (bishops and clergy) looked back to the Elizabethan readers and thought, 'That's a good idea, let's revive that' (my summarising of the thinking of a lot of Victorian churchmen!).

Lay Readers, as a licensed and recognised ministry, was sanctioned across the whole CofE. Readers could initially lead morning and evening prayer.

In the 1880s 'upper' and 'lower' 'classes' of reader were introduced (the former had more training). Preaching in consecrated buildings only came about in 1904.

Readers therefore came into place in response to '*How can we fix this difficult situation of a lack of personnel?*', rather than the perhaps more 'theological' question about enabling lay people to exercise public ministry in the CofE. It was pragmatic. I think that God can work in the pragmatic. There were early discussions about the skills and characteristics required of a Reader. Was it best to examine them on their knowledge of the Bible and Book of Common Prayer? Or was it better to have the incumbent of the parish to assure that "this is a godly man whom I know well"? (of course, assumed male at this point in history).

Gradually a selection and training programme evolved, different across different dioceses. Let's pick up on this strand that the Victorians started discussing, what sort of attributes would you find in someone 'called' to Reader ministry? Some of the reading I have done suggests the following:

- Someone who will engage in and continue to study
- Someone with a committed, developing and maturing relationship with God
- Someone actively engaged in the church and the world.

Therefore someone who can act as an effective bridge between 'the church' and 'the world'. Someone who can 'read' contemporary society, 'read between the lines' and contextualise the ways of God in parish life (ie the congregation and the wider community of the parish).

In summary, this is a teaching and preaching ministry in a pastoral context. This is quite a broad definition and could apply to many of us in the church who are not Readers.

One of the key things I have learned that makes Reader ministry distinct is that it is a **licensed** ministry. This means that a person who is a Reader has been trained; they have covered some core material on biblical and theological studies and how the institution of the CofE works. They have undergone a selection and discernment process for the role. There are national standards and oversight from the local bishop. It is a nationally recognised role but is not itinerant – it is linked to a place – a parish and diocese. This wide scope is reader ministry in the CofE today.

What might this mean for us in our parish, where we don't currently have any Readers? (Our last licensed Reader was Geoff Voss.) I'll keep exploring and come back with more findings in another article. I hope you found this interesting.

Marina

Bible Reading Fellowship Notes

Annual subscriptions are **now due** for the year May 2026 to April 2027. For the first booklet there is to be a 10% discount, so for the whole year the price for *New Daylight* or *Guidelines* will be £17.38.



Please pay, by cash or cheque (payable to *St Mary the Virgin, Ware*) in an envelope marked **Bible Reading Fellowship notes** and give to the Parish Office.

Any queries, please get in touch with Shirley Jennings (01920 462490).

St Mary's Plant Market and Summer Fayre

Saturday 16 May



*The Parish Church of
St. Mary the Virgin, Ware*

**Plant Market
and Summer Fayre
in the church yard**

Saturday 16th May
10.00 -12.30

Perennials, shrubs, geraniums,
annuals, tomato and vegetable
plants, herbs and more

 **BBQ and refreshment stall
with hot drinks and cakes**

Raffle, planted pots, hanging baskets,
food tasting, pot decorating, fancy goods and books

All proceeds to St. Mary's Church funds

Details at www.stmarysware.co.uk

The day is almost upon us! One of St Mary's great days out in the churchyard which is also a brilliant fund-raiser.

This is the sixth time that we have organised Ware's stand-out event of the summer. In addition to plants, there will be fancy goods and the opportunity to put down your plant goodies and have cake and coffee under the linden trees of Bates Walk.



Plant market 2025

Growers and suppliers of plants!

Please would you bring your plants to St Mary's Church on Friday 15th May between 5pm and 7pm.

Thank you. Roger (07736 673899)

Fundraising to fix the Hall and the South Porch of the Church

Thank you to everyone who has contributed towards raising the funds necessary to refurbish the Hall and the south porch of the church. The funds raised and the donations made, have enabled the work to start.

You will see that progress is being achieved. The hall windows have been replaced, and with the warm weather the damp roof parapet and hall plasterwork is drying out, work on the parapet should be able to commence soon. Quotations are being obtained for the work to the toilet facilities - will there be a grand toilet celebration during the summer months! An application has been submitted to the relevant diocesan committee for a faculty (permission) for the flagstone refurbishment in the south porch of the church.

But we do need to raise more money to complete the programme - for which your help is sought.

1. Over the summer months and into the autumn there are some events specifically to raise funds for these works. Our provisional plan is to include:

Outside stalls in the church yard to include coffee and cake refreshments, 'fancy goods', St Mary's memorabilia (completely new), and books. These will take place on days when there are Town events scheduled, or there are events to be held in our church:

- Sunday 21st June, morning (Tudor Square Farmers' Market)
- Saturday 4th July 12noon to 4pm (Ware Carnival Day)

- Saturday 25th July 12 noon to 4pm (Old Town Live)
- Lunchtime concerts

Help to set up the stalls and gazebos for these events is needed, as well as sales assistants – please volunteer and contact Roger (07736 673899)

2. **The donation tree** has been set up in the south porch and contributions are invited. You may like to pay for a particular item such as new taps or a new hand washing basin for the toilet, or a flagstone for the south porch floor. A list of items is to be found on the donation leaflet which is available on the work top adjacent to the card reader near the south door. This also includes ‘how to make your donation’ and a gift aid form. Gift aid enables us to increase your donation by 25% - that’s another £250 for every £1,000. And if you pay higher rate tax, you can claim a further amount for yourself.

3. **St Mary’s merchandise**

Belinda is organising the sale of a new range of St Mary’s merchandise with images of the corbels (on which the ceiling beams rest) in the church. Roger Martin photographed and produced the images from which the artwork has been created, and an initial order has been placed for tote bags, china mugs and fridge magnets (see below), which will be available very soon for sale to St Mary’s congregation, and at all the sales opportunities listed.

4 **Afternoon tea in the garden**

Mary Millet will be offering complete afternoon teas on Wednesday 10th June and on Saturday 27th June in her garden at 15 Warner Road. Tickets will be on sale from the middle of May from Linn Parker. If you would be willing to offer “garden” coffee or teas in whatever format and price arrangement you would like to deploy, on a date in July and August, please contact Roger (07736 673899).

And there’s more to come! Arrangements are being developed for a sponsored **musicathon** in church and a children’s silent disco at Halloween in the Hall. Also being explored are a sponsored cycle ride, a New Year’s Day concert, and an organ festival. Treats in store! And finally – thank you for your ongoing support, prayers and encouragement - all make such a difference.

Roger Hawkins, Chair of the Hall and South Porch Fundraising Group

St Mary’s Merchandise

Mugs, a tote bag – and there’s a fridge magnet, too. Belinda will have these for sale very soon.

[pictures not to scale]



Choir recruitment



Stephen Crookes, our Director of Music

You might have seen this poster, in windows or noticeboards around Ware.

The recruitment drive continues!

I can verify, as a parent of 3 past choristers, the value of singing in the church choir. All the benefits of singing you have heard about for adults, the mental wellbeing, commitment, musical education, teamwork and fellowship, become a valuable foundation for a young person's development. It doesn't rely on a screen to entertain, costs nothing except time, and all the virtues listed in the poster can be achieved! It's fun, too – my own children enjoyed singing and still sing to their own children.

Bonnie West



ST MARY'S CHURCH CHOIR IS RECRUITING

Are you between 8 and 18?
Do you love to sing?

Look closely at this picture of St Mary's amazing Church Choir.

What is missing?

YOU!

We're missing young voices and we'd love to put that right so we'd like to invite you to think about joining St Mary's Church Choir.

Starting next term (April 2026) you are invited to join us to:

Develop your singing * learn to read music * improve your music reading * learn loads of amazing music * meet new people * sing for services * contribute to the musical life of our community * learn new leadership skills * make new friends * earn some pocket money * and have a lot of fun along the way.

Being a chorister is a commitment AND it can open up all sorts of opportunities for now and the future.

COME AND FIND OUT MORE

St Mary's Church Choir

Request a letter to find out more

Or email music@stmarysware.co.uk

"Being part of the choir improved my confidence, taught me new skills and I made new friends"

Over 18s welcome too!

ST MARY'S WARE

Church Street
Ware, SG12 9EH
07423812238

stmarysware.org.uk

Easter Garden Photos by Matt show the process and the finished garden. Thanks to the families who took part and helped to make such an attractive Easter Garden.



Willow, Florence, Evie, Grandad Paddy



Keira, Milo, Midina, Myra



The Easter Garden

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

May

- Sat 2** 9.30am – 12.00noon
Maintenance morning
3.00pm Wedding
- Sun 3** 8.00am Eucharist
10.00am Eucharist with
Children's church
5.00pm Choral Evensong
- Mon 4** 11.30am churchyard café
12.30pm Lunchtime concert:
Ambrose String quartet with
Hugh Legg, tenor, and Paul
Guinery, piano
2.00pm Board Games café
- Wed 6** 11.00am Eucharist
- Thu 7** **Ascension Day** 8.00pm
Eucharist
- Sat 9** 7.30pm Joint churches Christian
Aid Quiz evening, Hall
- Sun 10** **Rogation Sunday**
Christian Aid week begins
8.00am Eucharist
10.00 Eucharist with baptism
Afternoon: Rogation walk
- Mon 11** 7.30pm PCC meeting
- Wed 13** 11.00am Eucharist
- Thu 14** 8.00pm "Space"
- Sat 16** End of Christian Aid week
10.30am Plant Market with
summer stalls
- Sun 17** 8.00 Eucharist
10.00am Eucharist with
Children's church
- Mon 18** 7.30pm Study group, 15 Warner
Rd
- Wed 20** 11.00am Eucharist
- Thu 21** 11.30am churchyard café
12.30pm Lunchtime concert:
Gabiella Buckland soprano,
Colin Eldred, clarinet and
Christopher Benham, piano
- Sun 24** **Pentecost**
8.00 and 10.00am Eucharist

Mon 25

Wed 27

Thu 28

Sun 31

Bank Holiday and Half Term
begins

11.00am Eucharist

8.00pm "Space"

8.00 and 10.00am Eucharist

June

Mon 1

11.30am Churchyard café

12.30pm Lunchtime concert:

Axel Krogness, classical guitar

2.00pm Board Games café

7.30pm PCC

Wed 3

11.00am Eucharist

Thu 4

8.00pm "Space"

Sat 6

9.00 Churchyard Count
on Nature all day



Sun 7

8.00am Eucharist

10.00am - **visit of Bishop Jane,**

Eucharist with Children's church

5.00pm Choral Evensong

7.30pm study group, 15 Warner
Rd

Mon 8

Wed 10

Bishop Jane visit all day

11.00am Eucharist

3.30pm Rota planning meeting

7.30pm PCC, with Bishop Jane

8.00pm "Space"

Thu 11

Sat 13

1.00pm Wedding

Sun 14

8.00 Eucharist; 10.00am

Eucharist with baptism

Wed 17

11.00am Eucharist

Thu 18

11.30am churchyard café

12.30pm Lunchtime concert:

Anna le Hair and Arwen Turner
on violin and cello.

Sun 21

8.00am Eucharist

10.00am Eucharist with

Children's church

12.00-4.00pm Fundraising stall

Wed 24

11.00am Eucharist

Thu 25

8.00pm "Space"

Sun 28

8.00am Eucharist

10.00am Eucharist

July

Wed 1

11.00am Eucharist

Thu 2

8.00pm "Space"

Sat 4	Carnival Day in Ware 12.00-4.00pm Fundraising stall
Sun 5	8.00am Eucharist 10.00am Eucharist with Children's church 5.00pm Choral Evensong, with Presdales school
Mon 6	2.00pm Board Games café
Wed 8	11.00am Eucharist
Thu 9	8.00pm "Space"
Sun 12	8.00am and 10.00am Eucharist with baptism
Mon 13	7.30pm Study group 15 Warner Road
Tue 14	10.00am St Catherine's school end of term service Monday Study group, evening outing to Offley, see p 5
Wed 15	11.00am Eucharist <i>*Deadline for August's Quarterly*</i>
Thu 16	11.30am churchyard café 12.30pm Lunchtime concert 7.30pm Deanery barbecue, tbc
Fri 17	10.00am St Mary's school end of term service
Sun 19	8.00 am Eucharist; 10.00am Eucharist with Children's church
Wed 22	11.00am Eucharist
Thu 22	8.00pm "Space"
Sat 25	12.00-4.00pm Fundraising stall
Sun 26	8.00 & 10.00am Eucharist
Wed 29	11.00am Eucharist
Thu 30	8.00pm "Space"

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, in Lady Chapel:

9.15am Morning Prayer (also on facebook)

5.00pm Evening Prayer

Tuesdays: Evensong, from the Book of
Common Prayer, in choir stalls

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)

Regular practices

Wednesday 8.00pm Tower bells

Friday 3.45pm – 6.00pm Hand bells

Choir practices

Tuesday: 15.45-17.45 chorister
rehearsals/service

Friday 15.45-17.45 chorister rehearsals
18.30 senior chorister/scholar
rehearsal
19.00-20.30 Parish Choir
rehearsal

