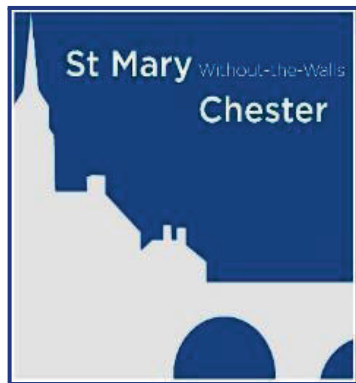




ST. MARY'S MAGAZINE

July/August
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 distributors 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 to your local magazine distributor.
- * C. **By Standing Order**
- * D. By dropping off their **cash or cheque** subscriptions into the Parish Office using the Reference "Parish Magazine", this will help our PCC Treasurer to identify the payment as a magazine annual subscription.
- * E. If you prefer not to use any of the above options, you can, of course, continue to **pay in cash to your local magazine distributor**. Please inform your local magazine distributor which option you would prefer to use, & this information will be passed to the appropriate magazine distributor. Finally, if you do not yet subscribe to the magazine, why don't you consider it?

Sign spotted in a safari park: **Elephants, please stay in your car.**



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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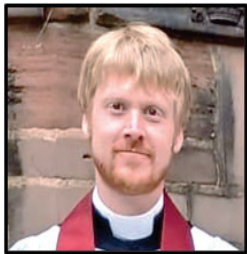
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Letter from Revd Antony Dutton, Rector

‘What do you do for grafting, like?’

I was having a drink in the Black Bush, and after fifteen minutes pleasant conversation with a man from County Durham who I’d never met before, this was the question I was faced with. It is a tricky one to answer for a few reasons.

Priest, vicar, rector, minister? It’s quite important to get this bit right as each word carries particular connotations for people. Priest usually makes people assume that I am Roman Catholic. Minister might lead people down the Free Church route. Vicar is technically inaccurate but Rector poses further questions. ‘What’s the difference between a Rector and a Vicar?’ ‘Well, historically, the Rector used to get all the tithes whereas the Vicar used to get the ...’ at which point you can see their eyes begin to glaze over. I usually lump for: ‘I’m a priest in the Church of England’, knowing full well that I will get the inevitable follow-up statement, ‘I thought priests were a Roman Catholic thing’, and then try to enjoy the subsequent conversation.

But it’s an awkward question to answer because you don’t know how people will react. You’ve been having a pleasant conversation about, in this case, his job, and things to do in North Wales and Northumberland, and then next minute, he thinks you are a religious fanatic. Sometimes people feel tricked; as though you have been a spy and finally outed yourself after having lured them into a false sense of security, before whipping out a dog collar or a crucifix from your pocket. ‘He pretended to be normal but now we’re going to have to talk about that Jesus fella!’

All of us might have encountered this sort of response when people find out that we go to church. Perhaps friends swerve this aspect of our life to ensure that it never comes up in conversation. Maybe we intentionally avoid it. But we are called to be confident in our faith and be able to speak about it without embarrassment. If we don’t look sure about it neither will the listener. There will always be tricky questions but speaking from the heart can overcome an awful lot. (If you need some further encouragement have a look at Exodus 4:12, Luke 12:11-12, and 2 Timothy 1:7.)

That initial question in the pub – ‘What do you do for grafting, like?’ – is also difficult to answer because exactly what is it that I do? First of all, you can hardly call it grafting. I do not have calloused hands. I continually give thanks that I am not like my great-great grandfather, who in 1911 was still labouring at the salt works aged 70. Being the Rector is many things. At times it is a bit like being a managing director of a local franchise of a national charity, with lots of talk about buildings, money, and HR; there is the public-facing aspect leading liturgy; drinking lots of cups of tea whilst listening to people; writing things; moving chairs to accommodate an amazing cabaret night in church(!); and answering lots of e-mails!

The great Archbishop of Canterbury, Michael Ramsey, in his book on the priesthood, said that the priest must be a man of theology [sic – women were not permitted to be priests at the time of writing in 1972], a minister of reconciliation, a man of prayer, and a man of the Eucharist – ‘displaying, enabling, involving the life of the Church’. Being a priest is not always ‘doing’ things, certainly not grafting, but ‘being’, out of which comes the ‘doing’.

These are all the challenges facing Natalie who was with us on placement during her training for this life. At her ordination at the cathedral at the beginning of July, she will hear those words: ‘You cannot bear the weight of this calling in your own strength, but only by the grace and power of God’. Pray for her as she begins to figure out what it looks like to graft for God. Her ordination to full-time ministry should make us think about what it means for each one of us to do our bit and graft for God.

The guy from County Durham responded to my job with great interest and it provoked further conversation. He encouraged me to stay for another drink but I had to get home for my tea. With or without a dog collar, we see that there is no such thing as a quiet pint.

Antony

Church Cleaning Team

Would **YOU** like to help with the fun of cleaning the church on **Tuesday 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**



Photo left – Annual Handbridge WI Big Green Week Litterpic in Handbridge & Queens Park. Great job everyone! Thanks for sending this in, Sybil!

Christian Aid News

As ever, St Mary's congregation and the wider community, have raised a staggering **£1842.85** for Christian Aid in Christian Aid week **May 10th-16th**. We have to thank everyone who came to the Cream Tea and gave generously in the Street Collection & at church. Above all, the events would not have taken place without the commitment from **Chris Dukes and Helen Pritchard**. We have to thank them as they have tirelessly given their time and efforts for the raising of money for Christian Aid.

The breakdown of these events are as follows:

Cream tea	£ 602.30
Raffle	£ 118.00
House to House and Church collections	£1122.55
Gift Aid total	£ 850.65



Margaret & Meirion enjoying the tea

Incredible Edible Handbridge, The Arches Community Garden

Summer update from Lisa Rossetti

NEWS FROM THE PLOT



Summer is finally here! And here in the Arches Wellbeing & Wildlife Community Garden everything is absolutely blooming! Please come and help yourself to salad from the upright planter. It's so fresh – and free!

Watch out for strawberries, that are beginning to ripen. The apples and pears are growing beautifully, but please wait for us to put up the "Ready to Pick" signs.

We have been busy in May. We have planted more flowers in Shay's Memorial Corner, and done a lot of weeding. We regularly mow the lawns, which grow at a surprising rate.

We have great plans for this year, improving our water collection, tidying and planting along the



passageway to the garden, and growing a Bee Friendly Corridor.

Volunteering If you fancy helping out, we welcome new volunteers, even if you think you aren't very green fingered! Meet the Incredible Edible team on **Saturday mornings, 10.30 -12.30**.

Handbridge Summer Fair

We will be at the **Handbridge Summer Fair** again on **28th June**, with sunflowers and other plants and seeds. Come and say hello at our stall, and pick up a plant and our new leaflet created by our young volunteer for his Duke of Edinburgh award.

Keep in touch via Facebook, or email ie.handbridge1@gmail.com

Help Us to Grow!

We're now registered with Easyfundraising, which means you can help us for FREE. Over 7,000 brands will donate to us when you use Easyfundraising to shop with them. It won't cost you a penny! All you need to do is sign up and remember to use Easyfundraising whenever you shop online. It's completely FREE!

These donations really mount up, so please sign up to support us at:

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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

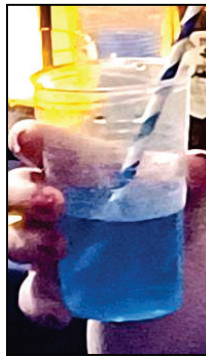
Dear Readers,

Yet again, much to celebrate at St Mary's with Hailey having been elected our new church warden, joining Mavis as a strong team together. We said Good Bye to Lynne as the outgoing warden who, I am sure, must have had a bed round the back of the church for all the years she was in that role. Always on hand. Lynne was better than Wikipedia knowing about All Matters pertaining to St Mary's! However, it is hardly a final goodbye as she hasn't really left, and, being Lynne, now has new roles in church. Another big Celebration is that of a member of our church family, Bells, has been given the honour of B.E.M. in the King's Birthday Honours List 2026 for 'services to charitable causes and fundraising'. Heartfelt Congratulations from us all, Bells! So very well deserved!

Catherine



The Singing Vicar Evening Friday 22nd May



(Above - Preparing the church!)

Thank you to everyone who came to hear the Singing Vicar, **Ron Iveson**. Also, a MASSIVE thank you for all the helpers. So much work behind the scenes, but so worth it! The night made **£2,162.12** for St Mary's. A great night and a great result.



Klaus's Mammoth Molar!

I was a Ramblers Association Footpath Inspector for many years in Flintshire and elsewhere. I came across this find whilst checking some public footpaths on Halkyn Mountain amongst the disused quarries. I remember going past Pant-y-Pwll-dŵr Limestone Quarry when checking the public footpaths so it might have been from there. This quarry works the Loggerheads Limestone Formation and

has intersected mineralization along several of its benches. I put my find in my garage as I did not know what it was. I came across it recently when I had to get the garage re-roofed. I have shown it to a Palaeontologist who said they reckoned it was the tooth of a Woolly Mammoth!

One more thing - I live in Saltney and am looking for at least one, possibly, two gardeners, to help me with my garden which has more variety of plants and shrubs than before. Many plants are still in plant pots as I have balance problems and, due to increasing age I am unable to dig the garden as I used to! Payment will be discussed! If interested, please see me in church! Thanks, **Klaus**.

The Mothers Union

Mothers' UNION
Diocese of Chester

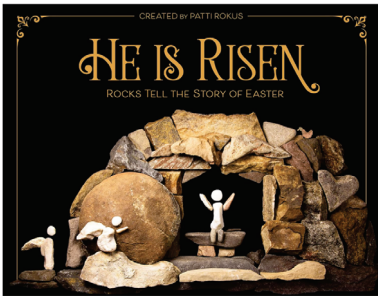
The 150th Mothers' Union Thanksgiving Service, in St. Paul's Cathedral took place on **10th June**. More locally, at city branch, we recently had two very interesting speakers. A talk by **Street Angels**, formerly Street Pastors, and in May we were entertained by **Janice Fryatt**, a member of St. Thomas' Church, who has been in many Chester Mystery Plays, (Herod's wife, when the Races were featured!) Janice has also appeared in Emmerdale, the Archers and an advertisement during the Liverpool Eurovision coverage. After the meeting we individually observed our Wave of Prayer in our own homes. Chester is linked with Grahamstown in South Africa; Masasi in Tanzania; Afikpo in Nigeria; Wiawso in Ghana & Northern Argentina in Argentina. Our Meeting for June had to be cancelled, due to the low numbers attending, but we look forward to re-inviting Chester University Chaplain, on another occasion. However as Deanery contact I took the opportunity to visit St. Mark's Saltney M.U. Fellowship Group. Once again they made me very welcome & we enjoyed a very good Bird Quiz together. On the **9th August** (Mary Sumner Day) we celebrate **150 yrs since Mothers' Union was founded by Mary**. During our 10.30. am service at St Mary's, we will incorporate a special prayer & lighting a candle in her memory. At **5.00 p.m.** that day, members of M.U. Chester Diocese will gather to join in the Service of Evensong at **Chester Cathedral**. I am looking forward to a M.U. Quiet Day at Foxhill in September led by our Diocesan Chaplain, **Canon Vivien Gisby**.

Linda Schofield



Overleigh St Mary's CE Primary School

During Lent at Overleigh St Mary's CE Primary School we explored the Easter Story from Palm Sunday through to the resurrection. We wanted the children to 'experience' this extraordinary story rather than just 'hear' it. Then we came across a beautiful book which used rocks and natural objects to tell the story in a powerful and unique way.



Patti Rokkus's book 'He is risen: The rocks tell the story that inspired us to create our own art work using rocks and pebbles and other natural materials. As we moved through the story in our whole school Worship different classes created pictures from the Easter story including the stations of the cross which Year 6 explored.

The art work was so effective that we displayed the pieces around school following the narrative of the Easter story.

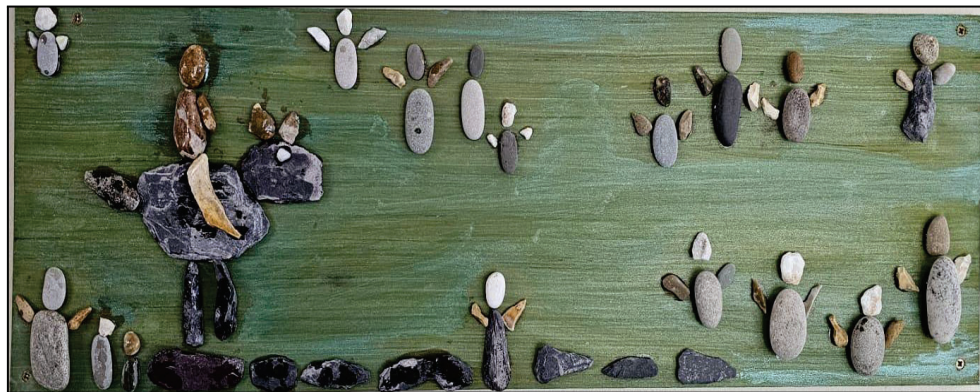
During Holy week each class walked the story – a **Pilgrim Trail** around school.

This pilgrimage, this shared journey, shared experience of physically moving through the story was so impactful. The children would love to share our Pilgrim trail with anyone from the Parish or community. Fr Antony has already walked our pilgrim trail and I am sure he would recommend a visit. If you would like to walk our Pilgrim trail please contact the school office on **01244 267525** and we can

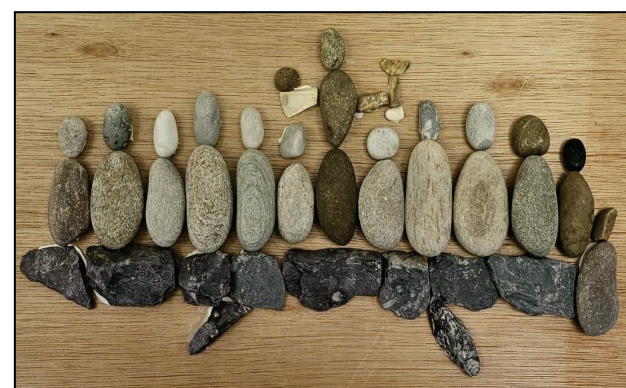
arrange it. Sharing the true story of Easter in a deeply moving and memorable way.

"I can see a donkey. The king has arrived!" Amelia aged 4 years

"I can see the clothes on the floor. The people were really happy for Jesus to arrive" – Harry aged 6yrs
Why did they change their minds?" Orla aged 10y Because they were jealous" Kyron aged 9



They look like grumpy faces" – Marlo aged 5 "They wanted to hurt him" Tallulah aged 5



"That one is when they are having a meal" M aged 6 yrs

"I can see bread next to the cup" M aged 6 yrs

"I felt bad for Jesus because he knew it was his last supper and one of his friends would betray him." Kyron aged 9yrs

"This is my favourite. I like what it symbolises. Servants usually wash their feet but He is serving them even though He is more powerful. Even if you are more

powerful than someone you shouldn't treat them badly." Orla, 10

years "It's the garden of Gethsemane" – W aged 5 yrs "It makes me feel sad. He was praying and thinking about all the sins of the world going against him." O aged 10 years "All of the sins of the world on him. He must have felt crushed" G aged 10 years

Sheila Edwards Assistant Head Teacher, SIAMs and RE Lead admin@osm.cheshire.sch.uk



A Cancer Diary: Finding Faith

Chapter 6 By Bells

Mostly, in writing this column, I've been focusing on the bigger picture. But the phrase "It's the little things" has come to mind more often over the last few weeks.

A few little words that are the difference between a good and not-so-good meeting with the oncologist. Big decisions have resulted in little pills – though, it has to be said, in great numbers! Small actions can have greater impact than anything flashy or showy. A hug that says everything rather than a speech; a message that says simply "I'm thinking of you" can change the whole outlook of a day; walking past a stranger who says "Good morning" when you weren't sure it was.



There is the growing realisation that small goals sometimes bring as much satisfaction as the bigger ones. There was a viral speech a few years ago by an American general that suggested if you only got up and, every day, made your bed instead of just leaving it, that small step was always the start of better things. So as some of my days are not quite as energetic as others, I consider that getting dressed every day is an excellent thing to have achieved... even if it's the only thing I get done that day. It *feels* big, even if in a previous life, it was just one of the small things that naturally happened as part and parcel of every day.

As I sit at my laptop musing away at the end of May, with the sun having arrived, so have the greenfly in my garden: sadly, the ladybirds have not followed in time to stop the little green critters from running rampant! But small rosebuds are unfurling into colourful ruffled glory, the scent from tiny jasmine flowers perfume the surroundings, small seedlings are finally putting on a burst of growing speed, and the beginnings of crab apples are forming on my patio tree. Every day, there's something new to see and to relish: not always big and flashy, but searching for small shoots brings its own kind of satisfaction. The magic and joy of nature are, to me, endless and marvellous. I get just as much joy from seeing the first daisies as I do from magnolia flowers as big as my hand.

My youngest son (who used to be little...) is coming to the end of his business course. Apart from the possibilities of what his future life might look like with his new skills, he's also had to go back to basics: how to communicate properly, how to write a decent email i.e. not in text speak, and therefore how to properly use punctuation to get his point across.

Isn't it amazing how much of a difference a comma or full stop can make in how something can be interpreted? The smallest marks on the page make all the difference. The example I used to use with my boys was "Let's eat Granny" which should, of course, be "Let's eat, Granny!"

I've been having a debate with Reverend Antony about punctuation – starting, specifically, with The Lord's Prayer. I fervently believe it should be changed!

Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done; On earth as it is in heaven.

My understanding of what is being said thinks it should be this:

Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.

I know the prayer is not an 'instruction' per se, and maybe I'm overthinking it, but in trying to live life with this prayer as my guide, it hasn't made sense to me until I realised it was in the smallest detail.

Ditch the semi-colon, I say!

And I'm signing off this edition of the column feeling just a bit chuffed that, despite everything, there's still the little bit of rebel left in me yet.

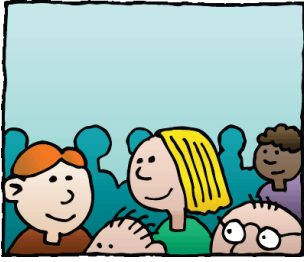
Evensong Visiting Preachers 2026

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



Highlights of the Annual Parochial Meetings



On **Sunday 26th April 2026** at 12 noon, St Mary's Annual Parochial Meetings took place in church.

With the Rector, the Revd Antony Dutton in the chair and 36 parishioners in attendance there followed two meetings, the first to elect the Churchwardens for 2026/27 and the second meeting to review the work of the PCC and the Church Finances. The 2025 Accounts, Finance Report and other papers for both meetings had been circulated in advance via email and some paper copies were available. Business continued with Mavis Sellers and Hailey Mason (right), being elected as churchwardens for the next 12 months. The



outgoing churchwarden Lynne Jones received a gift and the Rector formally expressed his thanks and appreciation to Lynne for her six years of service in the role. Lynne has agreed to be a member of Deanery synod.

The Annual Review of the St Mary's Parochial Charities was received. The Trustees have the responsibility to continue the administration of the Parochial Charities in accordance with the Charity Commission Scheme 1889. They are the Rector, two churchwardens and two representatives of the laity. Helen Brophy and Chris Schofield are stepping down as representative trustees. Colin Pickering and Lynne Purcell have been elected as their replacements. Colin Pickering has agreed to continue as Clerk.

The APCM Report detailed the many areas of positive development and new initiatives within the St Mary's Church family and increasingly effective outreach into the wider community.

The Cluster Groups' reports included in the APCM report illustrated the growing success of the various areas of church life enabling more people to participate in the work and witness of St Mary's. These groups are composed of members from the PCC and wider church and with the aim to enrich and diversify our fellowship. **New members are always welcome!**

The PCC comprises 12 members of the laity elected to serve for three years, and the following laity representatives were re-elected, all of whom will serve until 2029: Joanne Lewis-Palmer, Catherine Jones and Jan Pugh. **Jan Pugh PCC Secretary**

Childhood Reminiscences



After watching Clarkson's Farm the other night, (best programme on the telly, in my opinion). I began reminiscing about my childhood.

When I went shopping with mum, she would carry what was known as the potato bag. At the greengrocers, into the bottom of the bag would go the potatoes, loose and unwashed, followed by carrots, with the tops on and other root vegetables, even peas in their pods were placed loose in her bag. Mushrooms came in a cardboard basket with a metal handle, you could buy them whole or just the stalks which were cheaper; even now when I buy mushrooms I pull the stalks off and eat them raw like sweets.

One of my favourite vegetables was Brussel tops; better than the sprouts, I haven't seen them for years. I wonder what the farmers do with the top of the plant now? Can't beat the flavour of English tomatoes, a sandwich of finely sliced toms with a little salt, served in fresh bread from the local bakery; nothing like the tasteless foreign ones from the supermarket! All the loose vegetables and fruit were weighed and sold by the pound, priced with proper money, £ s d.

Once I accompanied my dad in his lorry to the Borough Market in London, very early one morning, the first time that I had witnessed the sun rise. The market was very busy, and you could buy a cuppa and a fry up very cheaply at a greasy spoon cafe. Cutting out the middle man was good for business. I didn't repeat the experience, although I was glad that I went, but it was a bit too early for me! Fresh fruit was a problem because it deteriorated very quickly and caused a lot of waste.

I remember that on a Friday we would have rump steak, chips (cooked in a chip pan with lard) and fried onions. The steak cost 8 shillings (that's 40p to you youngsters).

Forgot to say that dad would buy a sack of raw beetroot and mum would cook them in a galvanised bucket on the gas stove, they would make the house stink! Also, everything sold in the Farmers Dog pub or in the marquee or on line, is British!! Ah! Those were the days.

Wendy Gorman

A Sunday school teacher was telling the story of Daniel in the Lion's Den. She described the hunger and ferocity of the lions, and then showed her class a picture of Daniel standing brave and confident right in the middle of them all. Suddenly one little girl began to cry. The teacher paused, 'Oh my dear,' she said. 'Are you afraid for Daniel?'

The little girl shook her head. "No, not at all. It's that poor little lion, over in the corner; he isn't going to get any food."





Featured Article

Our Ordinands - outgoing Natalie and incoming Anthony - Farewell and Hello!

"If you're reading this, then I have gone" Over the course of my placement, funeral ministry has featured rather more prominently than I ever expected, so beginning a farewell message like this feels oddly appropriate. Thankfully, my own departure is considerably less permanent! By the time this magazine reaches you, I will have left St Mary's and be preparing for my ordination (**Chester Cathedral, 10.30am 5th July** - see *What's On at St Mary's in July*).

I wanted to take this opportunity to say thank you to you all properly as words failed me on my last Sunday with you! Firstly, thank you very much for your very kind gift, you were all more than generous and I am very grateful. I will be sure to spend it wisely!

When I first arrived for my placement, I wasn't entirely sure what to expect. I'd spent some time with Antony at his previous church, but I knew that I was moving into a different context and as with any change, I felt some trepidation. Driving in thick snow on the motorway at 7am on my first Sunday didn't help to alleviate this and I wondered what I was to be in for. However, I needn't have worried, from the very beginning you welcomed me warmly and allowed me to become part of the life of St Mary's.

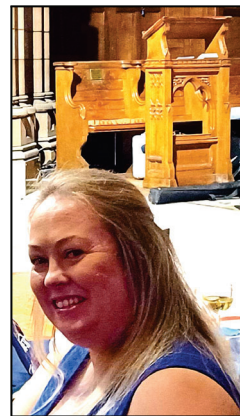
Over the course of my placement, I have had the privilege of sharing in so many different moments. I've preached, led services, visited people in their homes, joined in with fundraising events, shared cups of coffee (and bacon butties!) and conversations, celebrated baptisms, mourned at funerals and taken part in the ordinary weekly rhythms that make up the life of a parish church. Through all of this, you have taught me far more than you probably realise.

One of the things that has struck me most is the depth of care that exists within this congregation. Ministry is often thought of as something done by clergy, but what I have seen at St Mary's is ministry carried out every day by countless people whose faith is expressed through kindness, encouragement, practical support, hospitality, prayer, and friendship. Time and again I have witnessed people quietly caring for one another without fanfare.

I have also learned that parish ministry is sustained by an extraordinary number of people working faithfully behind the scenes. From churchwardens to welcomers, flower arrangers to readers, musicians to tea-makers and everyone in between, thank you for all that you do. You have shown me what it means to serve God not only through words but through action.

As I prepare for ordination, I leave with many happy memories and a deep sense of gratitude. St Mary's has played an important part in shaping me as a person and as a future priest. I will carry the lessons I have learned here and the friendships I have made, for many years to come.

Thank you for your encouragement, your patience, your prayers, and your support. It has been a genuine privilege to serve among you and I will remember my time at St Mary's with great affection. Oh and please look after Antony, he's not bad for a priest! I do want to publicly thank him for everything that he has done for me. Throughout my placement he has been generous with his time, wisdom, encouragement and patience! He has trusted me with opportunities to learn, challenged me when I needed it and supported me through some difficult times. Watching the way that he serves this parish has taught me a lot about what priesthood should look like in practice and I will carry many of these lessons with me into my ministry. Please continue to support and pray for him as faithfully as he has supported and encouraged me. **Natalie**



Hello all, My name is **Anthony Smith**, I live in Upton on the Wirral and I am an ordinand in full time training for ministry in the Church of England at Emmanuel Theological College in Liverpool and just coming to the end of my first year. Before beginning theological training, I worked for over twenty years as a chef, working all over the world and within award winning restaurants. I am married to my wife (Vicky), who works as a district nurse, and together we have five children. If family life does allow it, I love rugby league and union (although my teams never do well!), cricket, good beer (Guinness, mostly), buying and reading books (lots of, don't tell Vicky if you see her).

I would consider myself a cradle Christian and my faith journey has taken me through a variety of church traditions, and I have found a home within Anglicanism, where I am particularly drawn to worship, theology, and serving the wider community. I have a passion for learning and enjoy exploring Scripture, church history, Christian Theology and Philosophy. Alongside my studies, I am committed to serving others through parish ministry and community projects. My favourite passage is Matthew 25 31:46, it has been something of rhythm of my ministry, not just because our lord commands it but the root of Christian living, in the last six years working in prison ministry, homeless charities, and drug and alcohol centres. I am especially interested in how faith can be lived out in everyday life through prayer, worship, hospitality, and care for those on the margins. I am grateful for the opportunity to be part of this church community and look forward to getting to know everyone better in the months ahead. I am here until Christmas and really am looking forward to being immersed in the community. Spending time being formed and serving in this place is a real blessing. Every blessings **Anthony**



News & Notices



Registers April 2026:

Funerals

Phillip Johnson Shone
Charles Michael Dirkin



Baptisms

Leo Chick
Sheryl Gu
Trent Oleksandr-Bryn Barlow
Tommy Charles Brew



Marriages

None

Registers May 2026:

Funerals

Emma Haslett
Jean Coward
Dorothy Misson
Barbara Walker
Albert Prentice



Baptisms

Warren Jack Farlow
Isaac Neil John Yeomans



Marriages

Zak Miller & Nicola O'Riordan

Confirmations

Julian Baum
Sally-Ann Conlong
Cathan James Howard Rumney
Niamh Beatrice Josephine Rumney
Hamish Samuel William Rumney
Sheryl Gu
Leo Aylwin Gu Chick
Zara Minnie Hardcastle
Leah Annabelle Hardcastle
Joanne Dee Lewis-Palmer
Ruby Isabella Lewis-Palmer



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

Church Flower Arranging Rota July & August 2026

July Team 4: Linda Schofield, Elizabeth Bennett, Suzie Hingston, Erica Edwards and Margaret Davies.

August Team 5: Judy Palmer, Pat

Spencer, Hilary Eagan and Elizabeth Bennett (temporary cover) Hilary and Elizabeth can be called upon for emergency cover.

Are there any more volunteers to help on a Friday morning with the church flowers? We are all a friendly bunch! 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

St Mary's Social & Events Diary 2026

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

September 4th Music by the Bridge with Nottingham University Chamber Choir

October 9th Music by the Bridge with Kelsborrow Choir

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

November 28th St Mary's Christmas Fair

Dates for the Diary:

Tea & Coffee Rota (after 10.30am service)

5th July Team 4

Liz Young
Sue Dickinson
Sue Fryer

19th July Team 6

Margaret Laws
Elizabeth Bennett



12th July Team 5

Doris Keen
Wendy Gerrard
Helen Pritchard

26th July Team 7

Lyn Barritt
Klaus Armstrong-Braun
Janet Davies

2nd August Team 8

Joy Barton
Diana Morgan
Catherine Jones



9th August Team 9

Margaret Rushton
Betty McLoughlin
Helen Brophy

23rd August Team 2

Elsie Scott
Alistair Jones
Joan Morgan

16th August Team 1

Alma Hukin
Pat Jones
Margaret Teasdale

30th Aug 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.

Leadworks Shot Tower Opening Again!

On **Saturday July 18th, 10am to 4pm**, the tower



across the canal from Waitrose will be open to visitors. There will also be a display, and information from former staff explaining how it operated, and the history of the leadworks.

It is one of the oldest remaining shot towers in the world and a prominent feature on the Chester skyline, providing a

lasting reminder of one of the city's oldest industries. **Stewart Shuttleworth**

'I think a lot more people would come to your church if you moved it to Disneyland.'

Loreen Age 9.





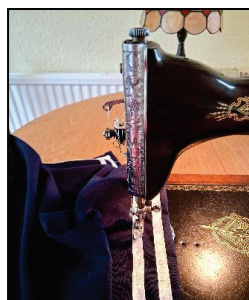
News & Notices



Lache and Westminster Local History Group

Members' Memorabilia

Lache Community Centre
Hawthorn Road, Chester, CH4 8HX



Wednesday 1st July 2026 at 7.30pm

Come along for an event with a difference! Our group will be hosting a 'Show and Tell' of little bits of history. It could be a photo or a document, Grandma's sewing machine, an interesting map, a piece of pottery dug up in the garden, an old musical instrument or the family christening robe...

All welcome, no need to book. £2 per person on the door. Carly will have Café La-Chez open from 7pm for tea, coffee, soft drinks and snacks.

Linda Shuttleworth, Secretary, Lache and Westminster Local History Group shuttleworths@talktalk.net

01244 679791 or text 07726 425847

Handbridge Flower Club July/August 2026



The demonstrator for July will be **Kate Russell** who will present 'A Little of What You Fancy' on **Thurs 16th July**. The demonstration 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 ends with the chance to chat to friends old and new over a cuppa and a slice of home-made cake.

We don't have a meeting during August but will be meeting again on **17th Sept**. Hope everyone has a lovely summer and we look forward to seeing you all then. Existing members, new members and visitors will all receive a warm welcome. For more information please see our Facebook page, send an e-mail to handbridgeflowerclub@gmail.com or call our Chairman Jan Edwards on 07952 778542.

Macmillan Cancer Support



At our Family Eucharist on **Sunday 13th September**, we will be linking it to the work of Macmillan Cancer Support, and recognising all those affected by cancer whether personally, through supporting friends and loved ones or the many healthcare professionals working in this field. All are very welcome. After the service there will be a **sale of homemade cakes and baked items in the St Mary's Handbridge Centre to raise funds for Macmillan Cancer Support**.

Handbridge WI meetings July & August 2026



Handbridge WI will be meeting on **Tuesday 7th July** at **St Mary's Handbridge Centre** at **7.30pm** when we will welcome speaker **Joanne Goodwin**, Editor of **Cheshire Life** who will talk about **My Life in Journalism**.

Chat and Craft Group will meet on

Monday 13th July at **1.30 - 4.30** at **St Mary's Centre** to make Macrame Coasters.

No meeting in August.

Book Group is on the **3rd Tuesday** of the month meeting at members homes. All books are now chosen by the library. **No Book Group in August**

A trip is being planned for w/c **13th July** to **The Crypt designed by Lutyens at Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral**. Also tickets now booked for **Calendar Girls at The Little Theatre on 9th July**.

Our August meeting will be on **Tuesday 4th August** when we will welcome speaker **Professor**

Emeritus Sarah Andrews who will talk about **Nobel Prizes for Cancer Therapies**.

An evening at **Grosvenor Park Moonlight Flicks Mamma Mia** on **Sunday 9th August** is planned.

We will have our usual stall and raffle at our meetings and plenty of time for a cuppa and 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 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.

'I'm sorry I can't leave more money in the plate, but my father didn't give me a raise in my pocket money. Could you have a sermon about a raise in pocket money in line with inflation?' Love, Patty Age 10.



Do You Know This Family?

Graham German, who lives in Northwich, visited our church some months ago because his grandfather, **Percival Harold Waring**, is listed on the Great War Memorial. (as **HP** Waring, in error unfortunately) Graham was also able to pick up a copy of "Lives Lost in the Great War" which tells the stories of the individuals named. That set him on the trail of more information, which he has now shared.

In Overleigh Cemetery is the headstone in memory of Percival, his wife Edith and daughter Edith, as well as his parents-in-law Jane and William Hunter. Daughter Edith is Graham's mother.

Percival Harold Waring was born in 1883 to parents Thomas Waring (1856-1939) and Grace Emma Brace (1863-1925). His wife Edith Hunter was born in 1881 to parents William Hunter (1845-1909) and Jane Timmis (1853-1905) and died on 17th Feb 1935 aged 53 years.

Aged 18 in 1901, Percival Harold Waring was recorded as a journeyman housepainter residing at 38, Cornwall Street, Chester with his mother Grace Emma Waring, his five brothers and two sisters.

Percival Harold Waring of 6, Cornwall Street, Chester and Edith Hunter (pictured right) of 19 Lyon Street, Chester were married at Christ Church, Chester on 17th April 1911. They had 3 children.



He joined the Royal Field Artillery as a gunner in 1914 and in August that year he was mobilised and sent to continental Europe as part of the British Expeditionary Force. He was a member of the 29th Brigade, 126th Battery. *Percival Harold Waring*



The battle of Poelcappelle was fought in Flanders on 9th Oct 1917 by the British and German armies and marked the end of a string of successful British attacks in late Sept and early Oct during the Third Battle of Ypres. The ground along the Passchendaele ridges had been severely damaged by shelling with heavy rain turning some areas into swamp. Many men were wounded and stranded by conditions on the battlefield. Percival Harold Waring was killed in action and his body was buried in the nearby Cement House Cemetery just a short distance from Ypres.

Percival and Edith's son was William Leslie Waring, born 30th December 1913 at 10, Bradford Street, Chester. He married Elizabeth Victoria Boyle on 29th August 1936 at St Mary (Without the Walls) Church. They had three sons born between 1936 and 1940: Alfred Leslie, Percival and William Graham. William Leslie died on 11th Oct 1971 and was cremated at Blacon crematorium.



Percival and Edith's younger daughter was Dorothy Waring, born 25th April 1917 at 10, Bradford Street, Chester. Known as Doll, she was a nurse, a member of the St John Ambulance Society and later a member of the Chester ambulance service. She remained a spinster and died on 6th Feb 1994 and is buried in Blacon cemetery.



Percival and Edith's elder daughter, Edith (Graham's mother) was born on 15th August 1912 at 10 Bradford Street, Chester and died in Crewe on 12th April 1999 aged 86 years. Her ashes were scattered on the banks of the river Dee near River Lane, Nowhere, Handbridge at her request. It was an area in which she played as a child.



She married Graham's father, Frederick John German, who was born on 22nd April 1908 in Newport, South Wales, at St Mary's (Without the Walls) Church on 21st August 1937. Frederick John German died in Manchester on 20th June 1970.

Edith and Frederick had met in Chester in the mid 1930's. She, together with her younger brother and sister, had been brought up by her mother and immediate family following the death of her father, Percival, in Belgium in 1917. Frederick, who had been a farm worker, had realised that there was a lack of opportunity and employment in South Wales where he was born and decided to join the Welsh Guards. He joined up on 22nd January 1931 and rose to the rank of Company, then Regimental Sergeant Major. Edith made it clear to him that she would not marry a serving

soldier in view of what had happened to her father in 1917, and the difficulties her mother and family had encountered since. He therefore left the Welsh Guards Jan 1935 after 4 years' service, and joined the Cheshire Constabulary on 27th March 1935. They were then married on 21st August 1937 at St Mary's Church, Handbridge by the Curate Cecil Rupert Ollier. However, WWII broke out on 3rd Sept 1939 and on 29th Nov 1939, 112 members of the Cheshire Constabulary with previous military service were paraded at Chester Castle. On 1st Dec 1939 they returned to their respective military units and were mobilised for war in London. After further training Graham's father was transported to France on 24th May 1940 where he was engaged as a tank commander. He saw active service in France, Belgium and Holland with the 2nd Battalion Welsh Guards and was mentioned in despatches. At the conclusion of the war he was released from active service in London on 4th Oct 1945 and returned to civilian life in the Cheshire Constabulary.



Their two children were Jennifer (1942) & Graham (1947) German both born in Davenham. Graham would be really pleased to hear from anyone who remembers the family. gfgerman@aol.com 07582 800 806

Make a Poppy for our Remembrance Day Cascade at St Mary's Church, Handbridge

Our whole community is coming together to create a beautiful cascade of (our aim) 1000 handmade poppies to decorate the outside of the church for Remembrance Day! Whether you enjoy knitting, crocheting, sewing, or crafting in your own way, every poppy matters, and every contribution helps us honour those who served.

How you can take part

- Make one poppy or as many as you like
- Any shade of red is welcome
- Patterns are available at the Parish Office or on our website
- Drop completed poppies at the Parish Office
- Deadline for completed poppies: 30th September 2026



Enjoy your knitting experience!

Let's come together to create a heartfelt tribute that reflects the gratitude and spirit of our community.



Easy Knitted Poppy Pattern

You will need, red double knitting wool and a pair of 4mm (UK8) knitting needles

Cast on 80 sts.

Row 1 to row 8 knit every row.

Row 9 Knit 2 together (k2tog), repeat to end (40sts)

Row 10 K2 tog to end (20sts)

Row 11 K2 tog to end (10sts)

Cut yarn with a long end and thread a sewing needle.

Run yarn through remaining 10 sts. Remove them off the needle, pull up tight, sew up side seam and fasten off.

Sew a black button or circle of black felt into the centre of your poppy.



Poppy Cupped Shape Easy Pattern

1 ball red double knitting yarn, scrap of black yarn for centre

Pair of 4mm (UK8) knitting needles

Cast on 60sts, using red wool

Rows 1-8: K2, P2 across the row

Row 9: Join in black and knit across the row

Row 10: P2 tog across the row (30 stitches)

Row 11: Slip 1, K2 tog, psso to end

Break off yarn leaving a long tail and thread back through remaining stitches and pull tight.

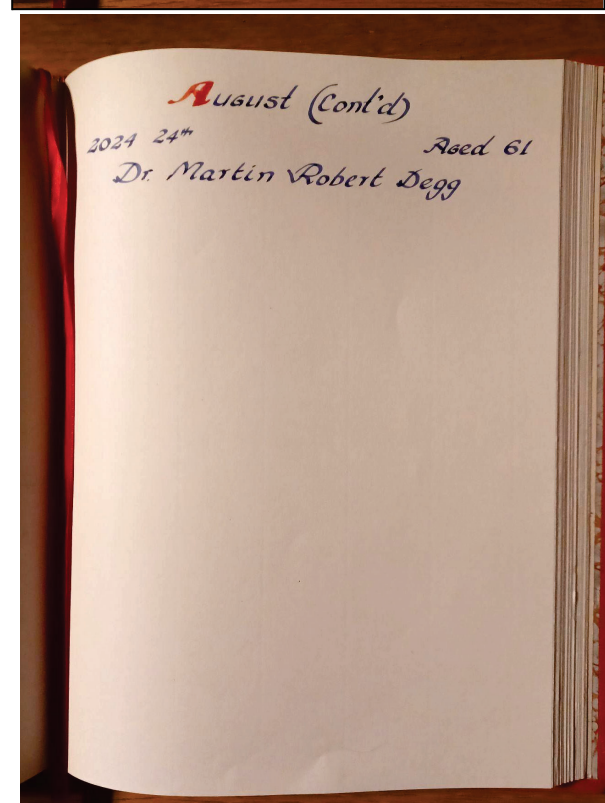
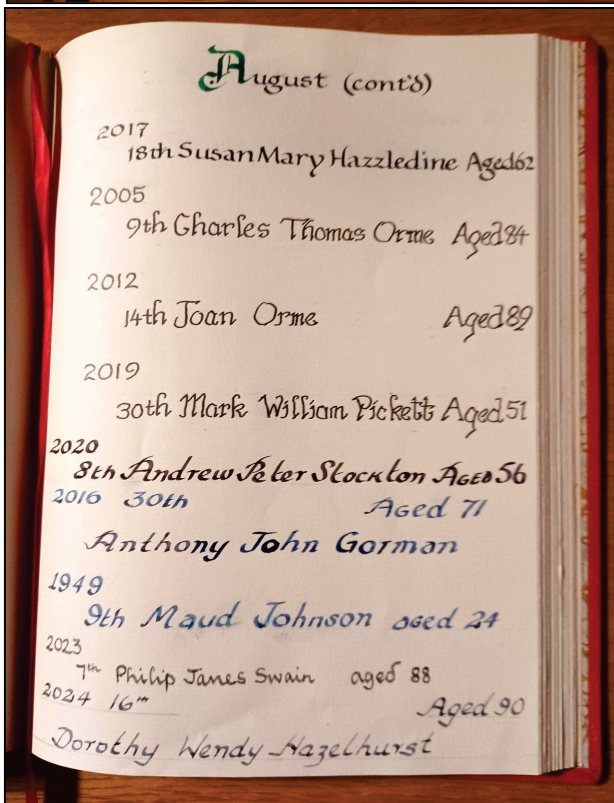
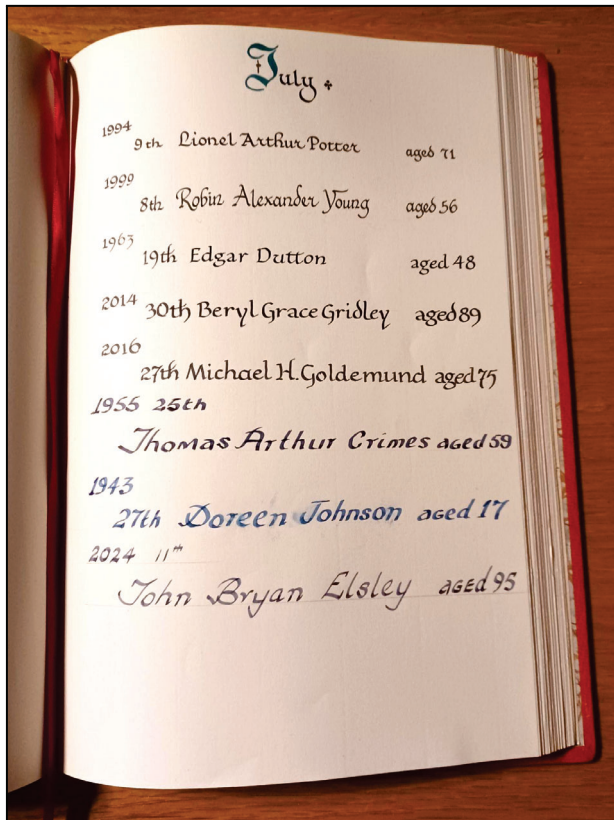
Join edges

Mavis Sellars

Six-year-old Angie and her four-year-old brother Joel were sitting together in church. Joel giggled, sang, and talked out loud during the service. Finally, his big sister had enough. "You're not supposed to talk out loud in church." "Why? Who's going to stop me?" Joel asked indignantly. Angie pointed to the back of the church and said, "See those two men standing by the door? They're hushers!"



July and August pages from the Book of Remembrance at St Mary's



If you are wanting to have the name of a loved one added into the book of Remembrance, please speak to either Mavis or Hailey, 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.

Changing Prayer

Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord; and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. **Amen**
(The traditional collect taken from Evening Prayer in the Book of Common Prayer 1662)



Ceanothus in the garden of St Mary's Handbridge Centre





Weekly Bible Readings for July and August 2026



<u>Bible readings for July</u>	<u>First Reading</u>	<u>Psalm</u>	<u>Second Reading</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
5th July 2026 Fifth Sunday after Trinity	Either Zechariah 9:9-12 Or Genesis 24:34-38.42-49.58-end	Psalm 145:8-15	Romans 7:15-25a	Matthew 11:16-19. 25-end
12th July 2026 Sixth Sunday after Trinity	Either Isaiah 55:10-13 Or Genesis 25:19-end	Psalm 65:[1-8]. 9-end	Romans 8:1-11	Matthew 13:1-9. 18-23
19th July 2026 Seventh Sunday after Trinity	Either Wisdom of Solomon 12:13. 16-19 Or Isaiah 44:6-8 Or Genesis 28:10-19a	Psalm 86:11-end	Romans 8:12-25	Matthew 13:24-30. 36-43
26th July 2026 Eighth Sunday after Trinity	Either 1 Kings 3:5-12 Or Genesis 29:15-28	Psalm 119:129-136	Romans 8:26-end	Matthew 13:31-33.44-52

<u>Bible readings for August</u>	<u>First Reading</u>	<u>Psalm</u>	<u>Second Reading</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
2nd August 2026 Ninth Sunday after Trinity	Either Isaiah 55:1-5 Or Genesis 32:22-31	Psalm 145:8-9. 15-end	Romans 9:1-5	Matthew 14:13-21
9th August 2026 Tenth Sunday after Trinity	Either 1 Kings 19:9-18 Or Genesis 37:1-4. 12-28	Psalm 85:8-13	Romans 10:5-15	Matthew 14:22-33
16th August 2026 Eleventh Sunday after Trinity	Either Isaiah 56:1. 6-8 Or Genesis 45:1-15	Psalm 67	Romans 11:1-2a. 29-32	Matthew 15:[10-20] 21-28
23rd August 2026 Twelfth Sunday after Trinity	Either Isaiah 51:1-6 Or Exodus 1:8-2:10	Psalm 138	Romans 12:1-8	Matthew 16:13-20
30th August 2026 Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity	Either Jeremiah 15:15-21 Or Exodus 3:1-15	Psalm 26:1-8	Romans 12-9	Matthew 16:21-end

St Mary's, Handbridge

2026

MUSIC

by The Bridge

FRIDAYS, 7PM
(lasts around 1 hour)

10th July - Chester Cathedral Nave Choir
4th September - Nottingham University Chamber Choir
9th October - Kelsborrow Choir
13th November - The Thursday Saxophone Quartet

Free Entry

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

St Mary Without the Walls Chester

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

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.

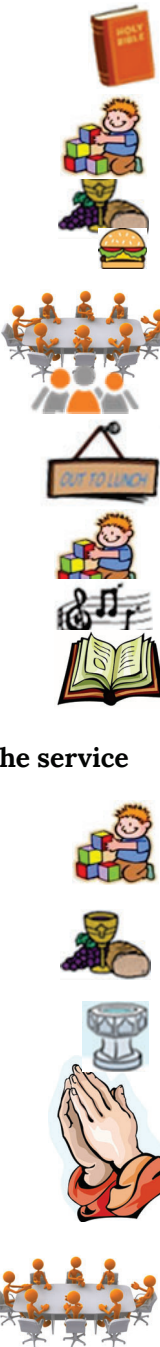
Senior Choral Scholars (aged 15-18) are paid £600 per annum, and Juniors (aged 11-14) are paid £300, making a total of £6000 per year. If you would like to know more about how you could sponsor a scholar for a year or make a regular donation of another amount please contact the church treasurer at finance.stmaryswithoutwalls@btinternet.com

St Mary Without the Walls Chester

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

Please follow St Mary's Facebook Page for updates. Bold type denotes an event, not a service

Wednesday	1	12:00pm for 12:30pm	Luncheon Club in St Mary's Handbridge Centre
Thursday	2	10:00am	Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
Friday	3	10:00am	St Mary's Baby & Toddler Group in St Mary's Handbridge Centre
Sunday	5	Fifth Sunday After Trinity 8:00am 10:30am	Holy Communion (followed by bacon baps in St Mary's Handbridge Centre) Sung Eucharist
Monday	6	7:00pm 7:30pm	Standing Committee Meeting Julian Meeting
Wednesday	8	12:00pm for 12:30pm	Luncheon Club in St Mary's Handbridge Centre
Thursday	9	10:00am	Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
Friday	10	10:00am 7:00pm	St Mary's Baby & Toddler Group in St Mary's Handbridge Centre Music by the Bridge - Chester Cathedral Nave Choir
Sunday	12	Sixth Sunday After Trinity 8:00am 10:30am 11:30am	Holy Communion Family Eucharist Cake Sunday baked items for sale in St Mary's Handbridge Centre after the service
Thursday	16	10:00am	Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
Friday	17	10:00am	St Mary's Baby & Toddler Group in St Mary's Handbridge Centre
Sunday	19	Seventh Sunday after Trinity 8:00am 10:30am 12:30pm	Holy Communion Sung Eucharist Holy Baptism
Thursday	23	10:00am	Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
Sunday	26	Eighth Sunday After Trinity 8:00am 10:30am	Holy Communion Sung Eucharist
Monday	27	7:00pm	PCC Meeting
Thursday	30	10:00am	Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)



*Please pray for all those to be ordained this Petertide,
among them*

NATALIE MAXWELL

to be ordained Deacon by,

**The Right Reverend Dr Mark Tanner,
Bishop of Chester**

*in Chester Cathedral at 10.30am on
Sunday 5th July 2026.*

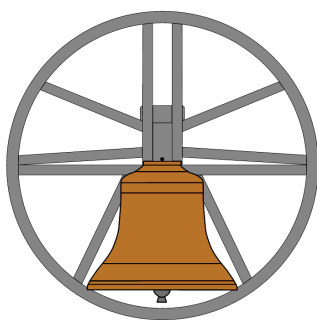
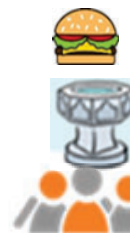
*Please also pray for Michael, Alexander
and William and the Revd. Marc Wolverson
and the people of the parish of
St Saviour, Oxtou whom Natalie is to serve as
Assistant Curate.*



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



Sunday	2	Ninth Sunday After Trinity 8:00am Holy Communion (followed by bacon baps in St Mary's Handbridge Centre) 10:30am Sung Eucharist 12:30pm Holy Baptism
Monday	3	7:30pm Julian Meeting
Thursday	6	10:00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
Sunday	9	Tenth Sunday After Trinity 8:00am Holy Communion 10:30am Sung Eucharist
Thursday	13	10:00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
Sunday	16	Eleventh Sunday after Trinity 8:00am Holy Communion 10:30am Sung Eucharist
Thursday	20	10:00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
Sunday	23	Twelfth Sunday After Trinity 8:00am Holy Communion 10:30am Sung Eucharist
Thursday	27	10:00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
Sunday	30	Thirteenth Sunday After Trinity 8:00am Holy Communion 10:30am Sung Eucharist 2:00pm Wedding: Joel Waring & Olivia McGovern



Become a Bell Ringer - could you do it?

Many of you will have visited the church tower during the Summer Festival.

Bell ringing is a fun team activity! It exercises you physically, mentally and socially – but it can take up a lot of time.

We practice on **Wednesday evenings at St Mary's** and ring for Sunday service every week. If you can't make Wednesdays, there are opportunities at other towers – the Cathedral, Hoole, Waverton...

If you want to give it a go, call me, **Fiona, on 07918 658525.**



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

Church Bulletin Notices

Some church bulletin notices have a charm all their own, when you know that they MEANT to say....

- Eight new choir robes are currently needed, due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.
- Next Thursday there will be try-outs for the choir. They need all the help they can get.
- Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married last Saturday in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.
- Please place your donation in the envelope, along with the deceased person you want remembered.

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



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



Overleigh Road,
Chester CH4 7HL



centre.stmaryschester@btconnect.com



PARISH DIRECTORY



Rector	The Revd Antony J Dutton	stmarysrector.handbridge@gmail.com	01244 671202
			and/or 01244 913898
Parish Administrator & Centre Manager	Doris Keen	office.stmaryschester@btconnect.com	01244 671202
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
Churchwardens	Lynne Jones	lynnejones623@hotmail.com	07713 167332
	Mavis Sellers	mavissellers@gmail.com	07715 050850
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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
Buildings and Environment Cluster Chair	John Scott	jande.scott@btinternet.com	
Finance Cluster Chair	Tom Hardcastle	treasurer.stmaryschester@gmail.com	01244 671202
Churches Together Rep	Peter Collins	pcollins943@btinternet.com	
Deanery Synod Reps	Christine Dukes	teeneel@live.co.uk	
	Emma Degg	emma.degg@nwblt.co.uk	
	Alison McLellan	avej97@btinternet.com	01244 676772
Electoral Roll Officer	Alison McLellan	avej97@btinternet.com	01244 676772
Planned Giving Recorder	Helen Brophy	finance.stmaryswithoutwalls@btinternet.com	01244 629111
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
Church Cleaning	Helen Pritchard	helenpritchard5858@gmail.com	07522 477605
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Baby & Toddler Group	Sue Fryer	sue.fryer55@outlook.com	07799 862828
Gardening Group (Unlicensed Lay Weeders)	Alison McLellan	avej97@btinternet.com	01244 676772
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	Christine Duke	teeneel@live.co.uk	
Beavers, Cubs & Scouts	Susan Jones		01244 675538
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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>

An airliner flew into a violent thunderstorm and was soon bumping around in the sky. One very nervous lady happened to be sitting next to a clergyman and turned to him for comfort. 'Can't you do something?' she demanded forcefully. 'I'm sorry ma'am,' said the reverend gently. 'I'm in sales, not management.'





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Become a Bell Ringer Could you do it?

Many of you will have visited the church tower during the Summer Festival. Bell ringing is a fun team activity! It exercises you physically, mentally and socially - but it can take up a lot of time.

We practice on **Wednesday evenings at St Mary's** and ring for Sunday service every week. If you can't make Wednesdays, there are opportunities at other towers - the Cathedral, Hoole, Waverton...

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