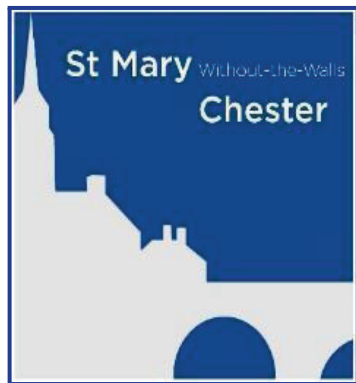




ST. MARY'S MAGAZINE

September/
October
2026
£2

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St Mary Without-the-Walls,
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All advertising enquiries to be made through the Parish Administrator, Doris Keen by email: office.stmaryschester@btconnect.com or via the website www.stmaryschester.co.uk All Editorial enquiries to be made through the Editor, Catherine Jones email: stmaryseditor@gmail.com Articles, letters, funny jokes and photos to be submitted to Catherine by 10th of the month for the following month's magazine, so **10th October** for the **Nov/Dec** edition of the magazine please!

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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?

I am too blessed to be stressed! – Anon

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

safeguarding.stmaryschester@btconnect.com
or Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor 07703 800031

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Letter from Revd Antony Dutton, Rector



In 1974 a priest arrived at St Mary's to provide some assistance, just for a year or so. Here we are, a little over fifty years (and several Rectors) later, and the Revd John Carhart is still at St Mary's, celebrating the Holy Mysteries, preaching God's Word, lending a pastoral ear to the faithful, and offering invaluable wisdom to the latest Rector.

When I came to spy on the parish during the vacancy, I came to a Thursday morning Holy Communion. I thought that I was incognito. I was immediately sniffed out as a priest but everybody very kindly played along. I went home and Mrs Rectory asked me what it was like. I said something along the lines of: 'Retired priest took the service, knew his Prayer Book, knew what he was doing, good sermon, dressed properly, all done decently'. (When I say decently, see 1 Corinthians 14:40). This was the final nudge and I immediately began to fill in the application form. This retired priest was, of course, John. He has a lot to answer for.

This September we are celebrating an incredible achievement: John's diamond jubilee of priestly ministry. On 26 September 1966, John was ordained priest and has been faithfully exercising that ministry ever since, and unlike many of us priests he was also holding down a 'proper job' whilst he did it. He was one of those first priests called self-supporting ministers, who committed to ordained ministry whilst continuing to work in their secular employment.

On Sunday 27 September, John will be preaching at the 10:30am service and we will be marking this sixtieth anniversary of his being ordained to the priesthood. If John's ministry has played a part in your life, it would be lovely if you could come along to celebrate and to give thanks, and then raise a glass to toast everything that God has done for this parish through St Carhart of Cornwall.

Sixty years of priestly ministry must have been an incredible journey for John. Speaking of journeys, I was very excited about a sword and sandal epic being released at the cinema. Christopher Nolan's *The Odyssey* – Homer's epic poem about heroes seeking glory and immortal fame and now trying to get home – had me nostalgically reminiscing about Ray Harryhausen's fighting skeletons, and the Roman films and biblical epics that I enjoyed as a child (and still do). The last time I had felt like this was *Gladiator* in 2000. Rave reviews began to appear on my social media feeds. The film critic, Mark Kermode, said that it must be seen at an IMAX cinema to see it in all of its glory. We said we were going.

£18.99 a ticket! Absolutely not. When did it become £40 for two people to go and watch a film at the cinema? Immoral, I cried! Paying that much money to be surrounded by other people noisily eating their crisps, slurping their drinks, and rustling their sweet packets – all of which have cost another £40! Plus, the film is nearly three hours long and you can't even pause it to go to the toilet. Sorry, Mr Kermode, but I will not be watching it on IMAX and will wait to watch it on a much smaller screen in my front room.

A far cheaper night's entertainment will be the Back-to-School Quiz hosted by yours truly on Friday 11 September. Get your teams together, buy your tickets, bring your (cheap, shop-bought) drinks and nibbles, and compete for the glory and immortal fame that can only come from overthrowing the city of Troy or winning one of the Rector's quizzes. Fun for all the family, raising a bit of money for church. And there will be toilet breaks.

Antony



Serving for 40 years at St Mary's

Simon Price first came to worship at St Mary's with his parents in 1962 when he was aged 5 years old. His father, Geoff, had become a Lay Reader in 1946 and finally 'hung up' his license in 1987. Simon's mother, Lyn (Evelyn), was very much involved in the Mother's Union.

Simon became a server at St Mary's in 1986 and has served ever since. Simon can always be seen cycling from Curzon Park, as he makes his way to church on a Sunday morning.

Thank you, Simon. What service, in every way, for the glory of God and for parishioners of St Mary's. Thank you again.

Christian Aid News from Trevor Dennis

Eighteen churches in Chester together raised £14,267 in Christian Aid Week in May. St Mary's contributed a fine £2,137 to that total, more than any other church. But it doesn't stop there! Churches continue to fund raise for Christian Aid throughout the year, and at St Mary's we will once again be having our Christmas card tree. In addition the Chester Christian Aid Group, which I chair, organise further events and services, and there are two services coming up in October:

'Singing for Peace', Sunday, 4th October, 4.00pm, at Hoole URC church

This is our annual ecumenical service, where we come together to sing for peace (the clue is in the title), to pray together for peace, and to be stirred once more into becoming peacemakers. Each year it seems more and more urgent that we come together in this way. There will be a chance to donate to Christian Aid.

(Hoole URC is the tent-like church on Hoole Road, on the left as you go out of town. There is car parking behind the building.)

'They came with kindness in their hands',

Friday, 16th October, 7.30pm, at Wesley Methodist Church, St John's Street

Some of you may recall the evenings of words and music for Christian Aid we have held in recent years at St Mary's. This is another one, this time at Wesley Church. Trevor will read five stories or poems of his, some of them already aired at St Mary's, getting beneath the surface of some famous Gospel passages, while **Brian Heald on piano and organ, his wife Claire, who sings contralto, and Sarah Jessop on violin** will provide some wonderful music, sometimes heartrending, uplifting at others. The music has already been chosen, and I can guarantee we will leave with a spring in our step. There is no need to book.

Christian Aid envelopes will be on the seats, and there will be light refreshments afterwards.

And in November . . . on **Saturday, November 21st**, again at Wesley Church, Brian Heald is holding another organ marathon, where he and other local organists will be playing to raise funds for Christian Aid. So that's three Christian Aid services or events coming up this autumn, and I haven't mentioned Christmas. Oh, yes I have.

Correction from the July/August magazine re; the Gift Aid amount for Christian Aid week. It was reported to be £850.65 but in actual fact the Gift Aid total was £295.62



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. Save these dates - September 7th & 9th 2pm - 4pm** We will be starting to assemble the poppy cascade in church (& subsequent Mons & Weds until completed!) We would welcome as many volunteers to help us attack well over 1000 poppies to the camouflage netting.

Enjoy your knitting experience!

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

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, pssso to end

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



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)

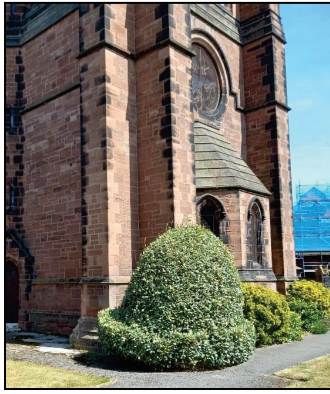
Row 11 K2 tog to end (10sts)

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.

Visitors from Vernet-les-Bains



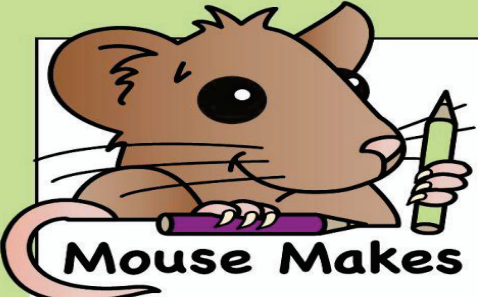
On a very hot day in June, St Mary's welcomed a group of bellringers from **Vernet-les-Bains**. Together with English friends and family they had included Handbridge in their annual tour. They very much appreciated the generous *inpromptu* hospitality offered at the Centre – morning coffee on their arrival, use of the toilets and the opportunity to refill water bottles before they left for Eccleston. Their home tower is at St George's Anglican Church, Vernet-les-Bains in the Pyrénées-Orientales, about an hour from the Mediterranean. This is the only tower in France



with bells hung for English-style bellringing and mainland Europe's only ring of 10 bells. Our visitors enjoyed the ring and particularly liked our coloured sallies and the bell-bush by the door – which is looking splendid and so well cared for by the gardening team.

Fiona Harrison

Puzzle time for younger readers (but not exclusively!)



Mouse Makes



READ
John 15:1-17

THE TRUE VINE

Who is the vine?
— — — — —
John 15:1

What does Jesus ask us to do?
"Go and bear
— — — — —"
John 15:16

What does Jesus command?
To — — — — —
one another.
John 15:12,17

How many times does Jesus command us to LOVE one another?
— — — — —
John 15:6



What happens to the branches that do not remain in the vine?
Thrown into the
— — — — —
and
— — — — —
John 15:6

H	T	H	R	O	W	N	A	W	A	Y
I	R	A	B	I	D	E	W	I	S	B
D	U	F	R	U	I	T	F	U	L	U
N	E	R	A	J	S	I	A	M	J	R
C	V	U	N	F	C	U	T	V	P	N
L	J	I	C	W	I	T	H	E	R	S
E	O	T	H	O	P	J	E	S	U	S
A	Y	V	W	R	L	C	R	O	N	V
N	G	A	R	D	E	N	E	R	E	I
O	S	F	J	E	S	I	S	W	S	N
E	R	E	M	A	I	N	F	I	R	E

JESUS • I AM • TRUE • VINE • FATHER
GARDENER • FRUIT • FRUITFUL
BRANCH • PRUNES • CUT • WITHERS
CLEAN • THROWN AWAY • FIRE • BURNS
REMAIN • ABIDE • DISCIPLES • JOY

The theme for Refugee Week this year is Courage – the word courage comes from the Latin cor, meaning “heart.” Inspired by the lives and experiences of people seeking sanctuary, Refugee Week 2026 invites us to explore the theme of Courage. For refugees around the world, courage is often a daily necessity. It is the courage to face unknown journeys, learn new languages, navigate unfamiliar systems, or simply to wake up each morning and step into an uncertain world. At a time when some seek to divide and blame, Refugee Week 2026 calls us to come together and share the courage to welcome, to stand for what we believe in, and to celebrate culture and community – to be joyful, imagine new possibilities, dream, heal, and connect. Courage isn’t always loud or bold. It can be found in simple acts: opening your door to a neighbour, trying new food, reading a book, or watching a film that changes your view of the world. It can be speaking up, asking for help, sharing your story – or simply having the courage to be yourself. Through art, stories, and community, we celebrate the courage that lives within us all – and how connection helps it grow. Various events and activities took place at Overleigh throughout the week so that our school family and community were able to come together and connect in different ways, exploring ways to discover their own personal journey of courage.

PicFlicks Different year groups came together at lunchtime to share a picnic in the Cosmic Garden with a showing of the film Brave. The fabulous kitchen team prepared a picnic lunch for children to enjoy. They loved eating their lunch outside and the chance to chat to children from other year groups!



Show Food & Stories

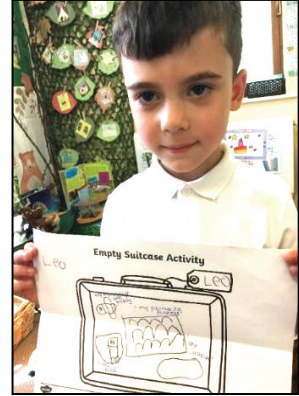


Human Mosaic - The whole school came together to create a giant heart shape, standing together in the quad. Everybody demonstrated incredible patience and listened carefully to instructions, before bursting into song!





Map Artwork - One of the books we shared was *The Map of Me*, written by Nicola Davies. It is beautifully illustrated and is the story of a little girl who moves to a new home where everything feels unfamiliar, so she draws a map to help her. In class, children shared the story and created their own 'map of me', with items that represent them and their lives added to it, e.g. their homes, favourite trees, favourite places, family members, special places, friends. Older children created their map of the future, thinking about what they would like their future world to look and be like.



Heart Art - Classes created beautiful heart shaped artwork, which is now displayed in the window at the back of the hall. Some include inspiring messages of bravery and courage.



Tapestry of Welcome

During Refugee Week, Storyhouse displayed a Tapestry of Welcome, showcasing 24 different organisations across the borough who provide a place welcome, safety and support.

As Overleigh is a School of Sanctuary, we were part of it!

Love God
Love Ourselves
Love People

Emma Drew - Headteacher

admin@osm.cheshire.sch.uk

Safeguarding Event at Chester Cathedral on Tuesday 24th June 2026



Chester Diocese held its annual Safeguarding Event at Chester Cathedral on Tuesday 24 June 2026, renewing our commitment to victims and survivors and thanking those who work together make churches and cathedral communities safer for everyone. Following a diocesan nomination process, ten people were selected from nominations submitted by parishes, chaplaincies and cathedral communities. This included our hardworking **Sue Fryer St Mary's Safeguarding Officer**. The recipients were honoured during the service for their outstanding contributions to safeguarding ministry and practice.

Roger Dutton, Chair Chester Cathedral Safeguarding Advisory Group **Penny Hearn**,

PSO at St Mary's Church Tilston **Clive Searle**, PSO at Bowdon **Miss Sue Shaw**, PSO at West Kirby St Bridget with Caldy **Peter Robson**, (PSO), **Karen Robson** and **Janet Trigg** (Deputy PSOs) at Thurstaston **Judith Broughton**, posthumous award collected by her family, formerly Churchwarden at St Cross Knutsford **Jennifer Kohn**, PA to the Bishop of Birkenhead and the Bishop of Stockport **Sue Fryer**, PSO at St Mary Without the Walls

Diocese of Chester News

A Cancer Diary: Finding Faith Chapter 7 by Bells

If you're a regular reader of this column, you know that I first came to this church to try and find faith – or at least explore the possibilities of what it could mean to me... And, if I'm totally honest, I was curious about a church with such a brilliant name! But faith over fear was the guiding principle as I started coming here and opening my mind to the potential of what might be.

In my first conversation with Reverend Antony, I had to admit (hard to someone wearing a dog collar) that I wasn't sure I believed – I just wanted to! I described where I thought the possibility of God existed in my world: I distilled it down to nature, art and music. But not really church or Christianity – and definitely not via the written word. I had to admit to him that I didn't get prayers at all and was faintly mystified by watching and listening to people saying the words and was slightly jealous of the congregation getting something from the experience that seemed to be passing me by.

What I have always enjoyed are churches – the architecture, the silence, the light, and the sense of history: all those hundreds of years of people coming together for joy, for sadness, for celebration, and in moments of crisis. I have always sensed a knowledge and wonder that these glorious buildings have always been the heart of a community, whatever the circumstances

When I started coming to St Mary's, my expectation was to sit quietly 'in the corner', working out what faith and Christianity might mean to me – and maybe get to know people well enough to say hello in and around Handbridge. What I have found is comfort, kindness, and an immense sense of community. As I had the germ of the idea for this edition of the column, I decided to look up the true definition of the word Community: *a group of people connected by shared characteristics, interests, or location. It provides a sense of belonging and identity. Members often share values, goals, or experiences. Functioning communities are essential for creating networks where members help each other in times of need.*

It may be obvious in the simple meaning of the word – but I think in these times of isolation, and a reliance on all things in virtual spaces, it is a truly unusual thing to really get a tangible sense of real community and the generosity of spirit that exudes from it. The strongest people make time to help others even when they face their own struggles.

I have found that, when people discover I have terminal cancer, there will always be a moment in conversation that goes along these lines: "I can't share my problems with you because they are so little in comparison with what you are going through." My answer? Firstly, the level of struggles that we all have in our lives are not measured as a competitive sport! Secondly – and most importantly – problems are real to each of us, whatever they may be. They may be small and easily solved simply by someone giving a different perspective and the time to listen; they may be more long-term and accompanied by energy-sapping levels of stress but are made better simply by sharing and having the feeling someone is happy to be there when they are needed.

More often than not, people are willing to reach out and offer help when they themselves are going through dark times. I don't know about you, but I have found huge comfort in taking myself out of my own problems and lending a hand or just an ear to others – and I know lots of others are the same! Does that make it a selfish act? Maybe. But as long as it helps, then does anyone mind? I doubt it.

How lucky are we to be a part of something where we have a church at the heart of our 'village'? Where we can find the history of kindness and community repeating itself again and again? The Dalai Lama said "Love and compassion are necessities, not luxuries. Without them, humanity cannot survive." In this challenging, ever-changing world in which we live, isn't it nice to say that we can have faith in people?



Evensong Visiting Preacher 2026

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



Changing Prayer

Love - by George Herbert 1593/1633

Revd John Carhart read out this prayerful poem in his sermon in June 28th 2026

Love bade me welcome; yet my soul drew back,
Guilty of dust and sin.
But quick-eyed Love, observing me grow slack
From my first entrance in,
Drew nearer to me, sweetly questioning
If I lack'd anything.



'A guest,' I answer'd, worthy to be here:'
Love said, 'You shall be he.'
'I, the unkind, ungrateful? Ah, my dear,
I cannot look on Thee.'
Love took my hand and smiling did reply,
'Who made the eyes but I?'

'Truth, Lord; but I have marr'd them: let my shame
Go where it doth deserve.'
'And know you not,' says Love, 'Who bore the blame?'
'My dear, then I will serve.'
'You must sit down,' says Love, 'and taste my meat.'
So I did sit and eat.

Incredible Edible Handbridge, The Arches Community Garden Autumn update from Lisa Rossetti



News from the Plot Despite the heat and lack of rain things are growing pretty well in the Arches Community Garden. Courgettes, green beans, sweetcorn, tomatoes, beetroot, apples and pears are all well on the way! It's a lovely space to be in, and we have more

plans to develop the garden into a little Wildlife and Wellbeing oasis for all. Check the blackboard signs – they will tell you what veg and fruit is ready to pick.

And now our Big News ... We have been chosen to be 1 of 6 groups in **Chester Zoo's Networks for Nature** project. Networks for Nature is a collaborative conservation project led by Chester Zoo, which aims to create a thriving, wildlife-rich landscape and strengthen people's connection with nature.

The Networks for Nature team will be supporting us from August/September 2026 to August/September 2027. This will include community activities, training, volunteer building and a generous budget for resources, events and green space improvements. Crossing our fingers for a water storage solution!

We've already had an exploratory visit from Ecology and Habitats Advisor, **Sally Hall**. She is going to provide us with detailed ecological reports, advice on biodiversity, habitat improvements and maintenance. This will help us develop the site, especially the passageway and a Bee Friendly Corridor for bees and pollinators.

The team have also chatted with us about possible delivery of a 'Family Wildlife Club' programme of activities and community action days. As well as all this, one of our group will have the opportunity to be trained as a Wildlife Champion, with access to the Wildlife Champions support network and conservation skills training.

So we are super excited about this opportunity to develop the Arches Wildlife and Wellbeing Garden for us all! Do come along on Saturday mornings, and when ready pick some fruit and veg. Food for Free is what Incredible Edible is all about. Volunteers to help tidy, weed, water and plant are always welcome – or just come for a chat and enjoy the green space.

Help Us to Grow! We're now registered with *Easyfundraising*, which means you can help us for FREE. 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 easy and completely FREE! These donations really mount up, so please sign up to support us at:

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/incredible-edible-handbridge/>

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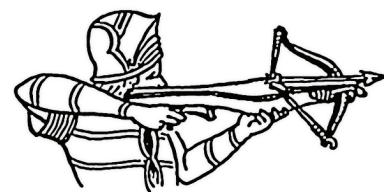
Matthew ch7 v 15 -20; Jesus said you can't expect figs from thistles. Anyone looking at the bottom end of the carpark might have thought He'd got it wrong but thanks to a lot of diligent work from John Parkin in clearing the area you can see that the fig tree is indeed bearing fruit. Sadly the same can't be said of the olive tree; while it looks very healthy there is no sign of an olive. It has been too hot and dry for much to be done in the grounds but thanks to the two Brians labouring through 4 heatwaves [and still counting] St Mary's continues to look well cared for. **Alison McL**



Featured Article

September and October Historic Birthdays sent in by Wendy Gorman

Richard 1st, known as the Lion Heart, was born September 1157. His parents were Henry 11 and Eleanor of Aquitaine. It was his father who caused the murder of Thomas a Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury in 1170. Richard was king of England for nearly 10 years, yet only spent about 6 months here. He was too busy fighting unwinnable wars known as the Crusades in the Holy Land. (look how that turned out!) He came to a sticky end from a crossbow wound and died at the age of 41 years. Not much of a king in my opinion.



Henry V. Did you know that he was born in Wales, September 1386? He was only 35 years old when he died - never even got to see the Snowdon Railway. He would have been too busy anyway winning The Battle of Agincourt, in The Hundred Years war; it took place on 25th October 1415 and it was the English longbow that would put paid to the French. We need to do the same in Football and Rugby (I don't mean 'shoot the opposition'!) Henry and Agincourt are immortalised by Shakespeare's play.



Sir Christopher Wren, October 20th 1632, was the designer of the present day St Paul's Cathedral which replaced the one that burned down in the Great Fire of London in 1666. He also designed 52 new London churches which had been burned as well. He was a renowned mathematician and astrologer. He was the architect for the Royal Observatory at Greenwich, which was commissioned by King Charles 11 in 1675. Here you can stand with one foot in the East and the other in the West astride the Meridian Line.



Sir Christopher is buried in the crypt of St Paul's Cathedral with a simple stone tablet written by his son. The epitaph is 'Reader, if you seek his monument, look around you'. He lived to be 90 years old which was not bad going for those days.

John Howard, born September 1726, was a philanthropist and best known as a prison reformer. He began his inspection of prisons while he was High Sheriff of Bedford. His influence spread across Europe and the United States. The Howard League for Penal Reform, named after him, is the world's oldest charity set up in 1866.



Fitzroy Somerset 1st Baron Raglan, born September 1788, lost his right arm at the battle of Waterloo 1815. As this made wearing the regular army coat uncomfortable, his tailor made a specially adapted coat with a diagonal seam which went from under one arm to the next, hence the term, the Raglan sleeve. In the battle of Balaclava, in the Crimean War, his ambiguous orders led to the deaths of the Light Brigade by the Russian guns. As Alfred Lord Tennyson wrote, 'Half a League, half a league onward, All in the valley of death Rode the 600'. Raglan lived to become the Tory MP for Truro. He died 1855. **Wendy Gorman**



Dementia, God and the Church: Journeying with hope By Wendy Gleadle and Frances Attwood, BRF, £12.99

Dementia is one of today's most feared health conditions, and Christians with the condition may also worry about losing their faith and their connection to God. However, there is still hope: those living with dementia can still find meaning in their life and their faith.

Written by two practitioners in this field, *Dementia, God and the Church* aims to show how person-centred approaches to dementia can provide hope. Wendy Gleadle first examines the difficulties of maintaining religious beliefs as cognition declines, and the implications of this if faith is equally emotional as cognitive. She explores other forms of spiritual awareness, such as relationships, the arts and creativity.

Frances Attwood asks how churches can better support those living with dementia, through examining what they and their families and carers find helpful and want most. Throughout, space is given to first-hand stories of those with dementia, those working with them and those caring for them.





Letters



Dear Editor,

Following publication in your previous St. Mary's Magazine (July/August 2026) issue, I am pleased to advise you that I had an almost immediate and interesting response from a lady in Westminster Park, Chester. She was shown a copy of the newsletter by her son who had been present at a service at St. Mary's church. Her family and mine were friends from the late 1930's and both raised their families in Davenham near Northwich. I was delighted she made contact with me again after such a long period of time which goes to show just how widespread and successful St. Mary's Magazine can be.

Thank you once again for your assistance. Kind regards, **Graham German.**

This photo on the right, was sent in by Linda Manning's brother, demonstrating how fearless, young at heart and intrepid is our Linda! She was using the quad bike in lieu of her mobility scooter which she had to leave at home. Linda is being supported by her great niece, Matilda. Unfortunately there was a sad end to this, as Linda fell off the bike when she was reversing (Linda says that she hadn't been told where the stop button was for reverse), and consequently suffered injuries, but was still triumphant in the fact that she had used the quad bike and lived to tell the tale! Nothing daunts Linda! **Ed**



In the last issue of the magazine, Klaus was asking for help in his garden. He has now found that help and the cleared path down the middle of his very varied garden means he can access more of the garden and enjoy it. Klaus advises going to a garden centre, and before buying plants, to initially see which ones attract the bumble bees and butterflies and to go for those. This way, says Klaus, will result in an ecological garden teeming with not only plants, but insects and bees too!



FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Dear Readers, As we move into Autumn, with possibly some autumnal weather (?!), our thoughts will be turning towards cosy evenings (knitting more poppies for the Remembrance cascade?!) and 'back to school' activities, such as the Back to School Quiz 11th September. So many forthcoming social events in the calendar, to pop into our diaries.

And now, a **Competition**. Mavis Sellars, one of our church wardens, sent this photo in for this issue of the magazine. We need a caption. The photo is of Lynn Jones, one of our former church wardens. The best **caption** will win an amazing prize - yes - you will be the envy of your friends when they see what you won! Just send your best ideas to me at stmaryseditor@gmail.com. I look forward to looking at lots of entries!



Catherine



Royal Mail has converted about 3,500 of the old trusty red post-boxes into digital affairs, out of the 115,000 post-boxes in the country. The new solar-powered digital post-boxes feature a solar panel roof, a built-in barcode scanner, and an extra-large drawer that accepts parcels up to shoebox size. The idea is that the solar panels on top capture sunlight to power the digital scanner and automated drawer mechanism. So, then all you have to do is to scan the 2D barcode on your pre-paid parcel label, using the box's scanner to automatically open the large drawer. The traditional letter slot remains, for regular stamped mail. As for proof of posting?

You use the Royal Mail app on your phone to track and request confirmation when you drop off an item. If you don't want to download an app or use a printer, the good news is that you can still send your parcels as before, at a post office counter

Parish Pump



News & Notices



Registers June 2026:

Funerals

Margaret Elsley
Carol Birdsey
Angela ('Samantha') Walker

Baptisms

Harriet Emma Alice Gilbert
Lyra Evelyn Duffy

Marriages

Jack Wood & Jessica Mckenzie

Registers July 2026:

Funerals

Irene Hynds

Baptisms

Alexander Oliver Mathew Parry
George Peter Anthony Parry

Marriages

None

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



Church Flower Arranging Rota September & October 2026

September: Team 1. Margaret Lawson, Catherine Parkes, Liz Young and Lynne Barritt.

October: Team 2. Joy Barton, Anne Clifford, Helen Pritchard and Sylvia Sumners.

Monday 28th September, all the flower teams are invited to **4 Cranford Court, from 2p.m.** This is so Elizabeth, Linda and others, who have attended workshops re: Church flower arranging, can pass on relevant information and suggestions to improve our current sustainability efforts. Refreshments and cake will be provided.

Harvest Festival is on **Sunday 11th October** and we will be calling on all those available to help decorate the Church, at **9.30a.m. on Friday 9th.**

Are there any more volunteers to help on a Friday morning with the church flowers? 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

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



St Mary's Social & Events Diary 2026

September 4th 7pm Music by the Bridge concert with Nottingham University Chamber Choir

September 7th & 9th 2pm - 4pm Assembling Remembrance poppy cascade in church (& subsequent Mons & Weds until completed!)

September 11th 7pm 'Back to School' Quiz

October 9th 7pm Music by the Bridge concert with Kelsborrow Choir

November 13th 7pm Music by the Bridge with The Thursday Saxophone Quartet

November 28th 12 - 3pm St Mary's Christmas Fair

December 3rd Parish Away Day to Ludlow

December 4th 7pm Music by the Bridge concert with Dee Ensemble

December 18th 6.30pm start for Carols, doors open 6.00pm for mulled wine Outdoor Carols & Mulled Wine

Tea & Coffee Rota (after 10.30am service)

6th Sept Team 4

Liz Young
Sue Dickinson
Sue Fryer



20th Sept Team 6

Margaret Lawson
Elizabeth Bennett
Sybil Graham

13th Sept Team 5

Doris Keen
Wendy Gerrard
Helen Pritchard

27th Sept Team 7

Lyn Barritt
Klaus Armstrong-Braun
Janet Davies

4th Oct Team 8

Joy Barton
Diana Morgan
Catherine Jones



18th Oct Team 1

Alma Hukin
Pat Jones
Margaret Teasdale

11th Oct Team 9

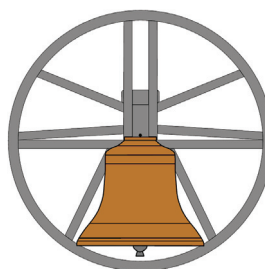
Margaret Rushton
Betty Mcloughlin
Helen Brophy

25th Oct Team 2

Elsie Scott
Alistair Jones
Joan Morgan

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.

Become a Bell Ringer - could you do it



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**



News & Notices



Lache and Westminster Local History Group

Lache Community Centre
Hawthorn Road, Chester, CH4 8HX

**Wednesday 2nd
September 2026 at
7.30pm**

Come along to this meeting at Lache Community Centre when **Linda Shuttleworth** will be talking about the Historic Plaques of Chester. 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 Sept/Oct 2026

We begin our Autumn meetings on **Thursday 17th September** with a demonstrator who is new to our club, **Julie Evans** who has chosen "The Spirit of Autumn" as the title to her demonstration. This will be followed on **Thursday 15th October** by the ever

popular Namiye Sianga who will give us her interpretation of 'All Around the World'.

You will have the chance to win one of the beautiful designs in our raffle and this will be followed by an opportunity to ensure time for a chat with friends old and new over a cup of tea or coffee and homemade cakes.

We look forward to seeing current and new members as well as visitors at these meetings. Any further information can be seen on our Facebook page or via our email, handbridgeflowerclub@gmail.com call our Chairman Jan Edwards on 07952 778542.

**MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT**

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.**

A man with a nagging secret couldn't keep it any longer. In the confessional he admitted that for years he had been stealing building supplies from the lumberyard where he worked. "What did you take?" his priest asked. "Enough to build my own house and enough for my son's house. And houses for our two daughters and our cottage at the lake." "This is very serious," the priest said. "I shall have to think of a far-reaching penance. Have you ever done a retreat?" "No, Father, I haven't," the man replied. "But if you can get the plans, I can get the lumber."

Handbridge WI meetings Sept/Oct 2026

Handbridge WI will be meeting on **Tuesday 1st Sept** at **St Mary's Handbridge Centre 7.00pm for 7.30pm** when we will welcome our speaker **Nick Birchall** who will talk about **Cheshire and its Cheeses.**

Sept 3rd - Helen is organising a trip to **Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral** to view **The Lutyens Crypt.**

Access is **£5.** We will travel by train catching the 10.01 am to Lime Street. Those interested could also consider the option of stopping on the return at The Lady Lever exhibition of May Morris, daughter of William)

Chat and Craft Group will meet on **Monday 14th Sept at 1.30 - 4.30 at St Mary's Centre** to make our **Card & Tag printing/finish Lace Snake Bookmarks** from July!



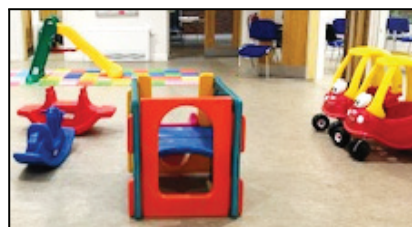
Our **October meeting** will be on **6th Oct** when **Katie Walsh** from **St John Ambulance** will be talking about **First Aid.**

Chat and Craft Group- 12th Oct -

Fabric Book Covering

Book Group is on the **3rd Tuesday of the month** meeting at members' homes. All books are now chosen by the library.

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 through 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.)

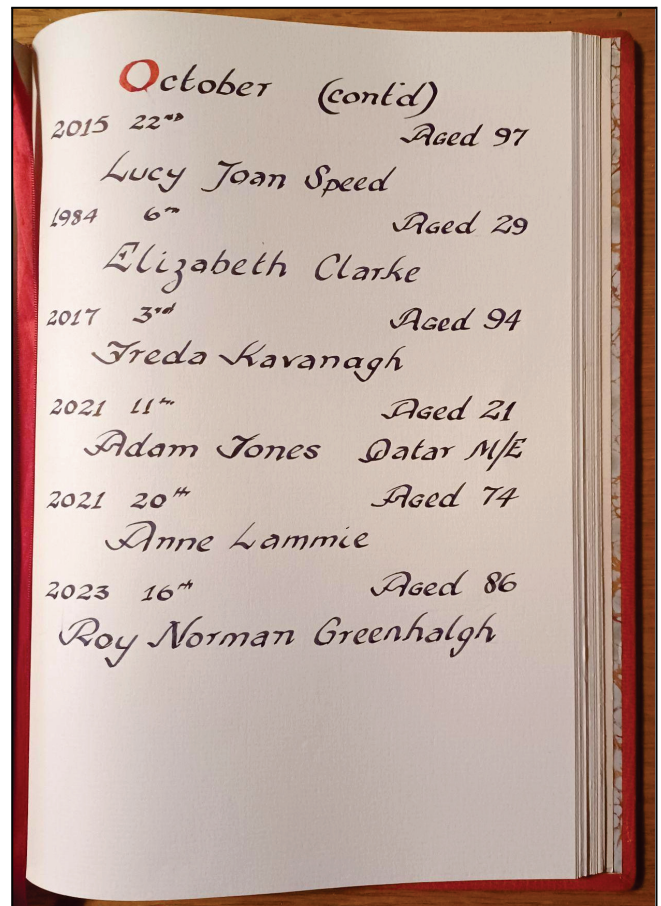
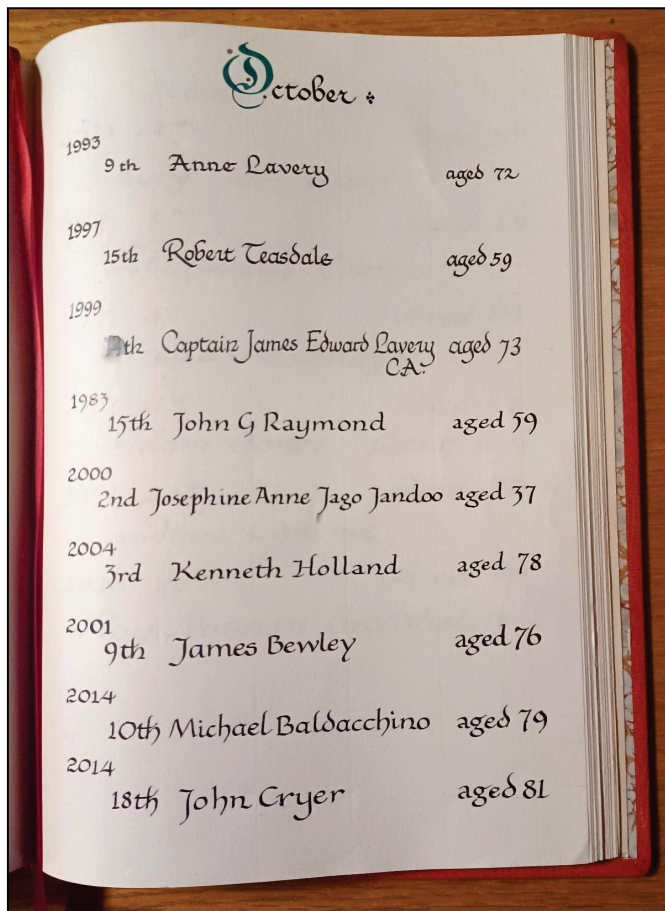
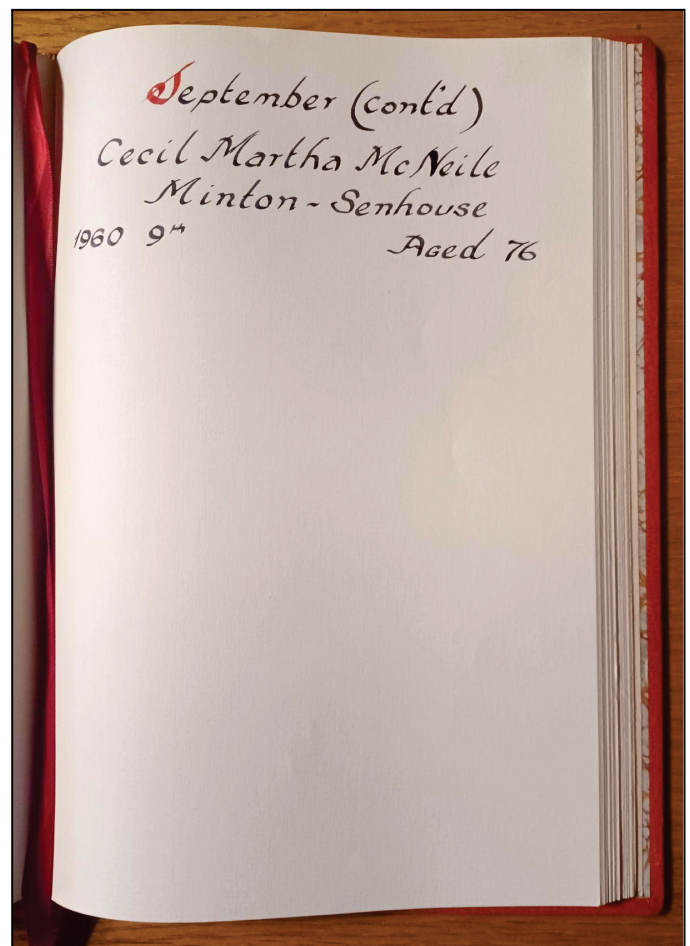
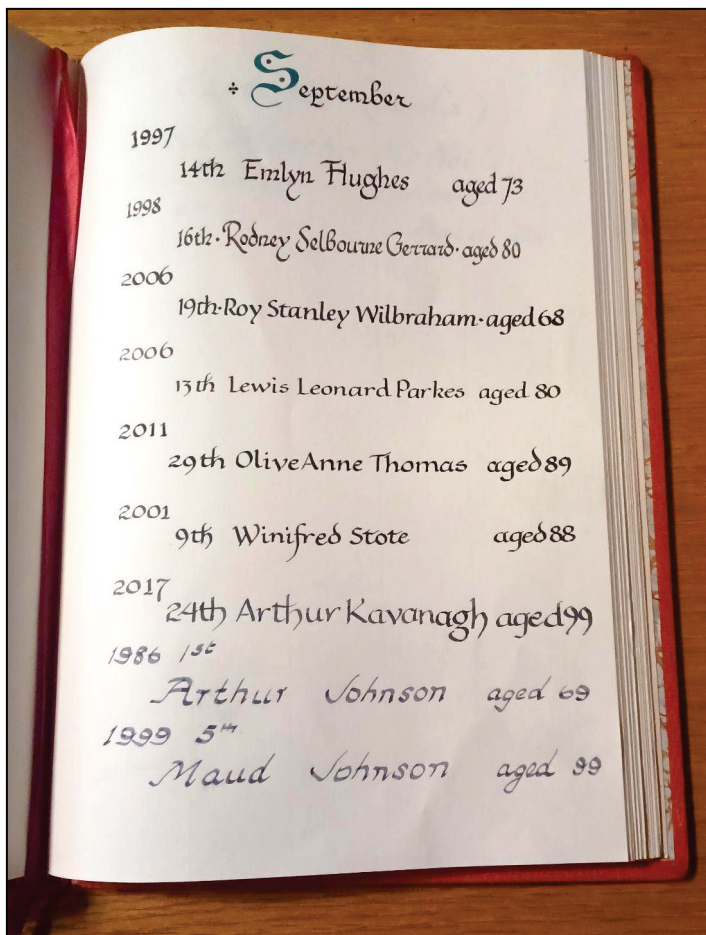
If **you** would like to join our lovely group of **volunteers** to help regularly, **please** contact me

Contact: **Sue Fryer: 07799 862828**

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



September and October 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. Names are added in, generally, once a year so there may be a wait before the next time the book is handed over to the calligrapher.



Weekly Bible Readings for September and October 2026



<u>Bible readings for September</u>	<u>First Reading</u>	<u>Psalm</u>	<u>Second Reading</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
6th September 2026 Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity	Either Ezekiel 33: 7-11 Or Exodus 12:1-14	Psalm 119:33-40	Romans 13:8-end	Matthew 18:15-20
13th September 2026 Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity	Either Genesis 50:15-21 Or Exodus 14:19-end	Psalm 103:1-13	Romans 14:1-12	Matthew 18:21-35
20th September 2026 Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity	Either Jonah 3:10-end of 4 Or Exodus 16:2-15	Psalm 145:1-8	Philippians 1:21-end	Matthew 20:1-16
27th September 2026 Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity	Either Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-end Or Exodus 17:1-7	Psalm 25:1-8	Philippians 2:1-13	Matthew 21:23-32

<u>Bible readings for October</u>	<u>First Reading</u>	<u>Psalm</u>	<u>Second Reading</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
4th October 2026 Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity	Either Isaiah 5. 1-7 Or Exodus 20:1-4,7-9,12-20	Psalm 80.9-17	Philippians 3.4b-14	Matthew 21.33-46
11th October 2026 Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity	Either Isaiah 25.1-9 Or Exodus 32.1-14	Psalm 23	Philippians 4. 1-9	Matthew 22. 1-14
18th October 2026 St Luke the Evangelist	Either Isaiah 45.1-7 Or Exodus 33.12-23	Psalm 96.1-9 [10-13]	1 Thessalonians 1.1-10	Matthew 22.15-22
25th October 2026 Twenty First Sunday after Trinity	Either Leviticus 19.1-2, 15-18 Or Deuteronomy 34.1-12	Psalm 1	1 Thessalonians 2. 1-8	Matthew 22.34-46

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's Chester

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

LOVE TO SING?

BECOME A PAID CHORAL SCHOLAR
 AT ST MARY'S CHURCH, HANDBRIDGE

EARN WHILE YOU SING!
 Fees range from **£100 to £160** per term depending on experience.

BE PART OF A FRIENDLY, SUPPORTIVE TEAM
 and make music in beautiful surroundings.

DEVELOP YOUR SKILLS, CONFIDENCE AND LOVE FOR MUSIC

FOR YOUNG SINGERS 11-18 YEARS OLD

INTERESTED?
 ASK IN THE OFFICE FOR MORE DETAILS OR SCAN TO CONTACT ST MARY'S

St Mary's Chester



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

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



Thursday	3	10:00am	Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
Friday	4	7:00pm	Music by the Bridge – Nottingham University Chamber Choir
Sunday	6		Fourteenth Sunday After Trinity
		8:00am	Holy Communion
		10:30am	Sung Eucharist
		12:30pm	Holy Baptism
Monday	7	7:00pm	PCC Standing Committee
		7:30pm	Julian Meeting
Wednesday	9	12:00pm	
	for 12:30pm		Luncheon Club in St Mary's Handbridge Centre
Thursday	10	10:00am	Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
Friday	11	10:00am	St Mary's Baby & Toddler Group in St Mary's Handbridge Centre
		7:00pm	'Back to School' Quiz – Bring your own snacks & drink. Raffle
Saturday	12	1:30pm	Wedding: Adam Crimes & Rachel Edmond
Sunday	13		Fifteenth Sunday After Trinity
		8:00am	Holy Communion
		10:30am	Family Eucharist (with prayers for Macmillan)
		11:30am	Cake Sunday – baked items for sale in St Mary's Handbridge Centre for Macmillan
		6:30pm	Choral Evensong
Wednesday	16	12:00pm	
	for 12:30pm		Luncheon Club in St Mary's Handbridge Centre
Thursday	17	10:00am	Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
Friday	18	10:00am	St Mary's Baby & Toddler Group in St Mary's Handbridge Centre
Sunday	20		Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity
		8:00am	Holy Communion
		10:30am	Sung Eucharist
		3:00pm	Messy Church
Wednesday	23	12:00pm	
	for 12:30pm		Luncheon Club in St Mary's Handbridge Centre
Thursday	24	10:00am	Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
Friday	25	10:00am	St Mary's Baby & Toddler Group in St Mary's Handbridge Centre
Sunday	27		Seventeenth Sunday After Trinity
		8:00am	Holy Communion
		10:30am	Sung Eucharist
Monday	28	7:00pm	PCC Meeting
Wednesday	30	12:00pm	
	for 12:30pm		Luncheon Club in St Mary's Handbridge Centre
			<u>Mothers Union update</u>



Mothers' UNION

Diocese of Chester

In July we enjoyed fellowship with our Speaker , **Reverend Holly Torr ,Chaplain for the Countess of Chester Hospital.** It was fascinating to learn of her journey to ordination , and also changes that have been needed due to the ever changing hospital environment . We were delighted to hand over the toiletry bags ,containing the items we had collected , for anyone who was unexpectedly admitted to hospital. On **9th August** (Mary Sumner Day) we observed the **150th Anniversary of the Mothers' Union** , with a thoughtfully led Service by our Rector Anthony Dutton & then a themed Evensong at the Cathedral with 100 + Diocesan Members attending . It was also encouraging that the 8.10 a.m. BBC Radio4 Service was broadcast from Old Alresford , Hampshire , where Pat Swain & I had visited on a M. U. Pilgrimage to Winchester .

On **16th Sept 2.00 p.m.** we welcome a member of 'Theatre in the Quarter' to speak to us about their work. **Linda Schofield**



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



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

Thursday	1	10:00am	Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
Friday	2	10:00am	St Mary's Baby & Toddler Group in St Mary's Handbridge Centre
Sunday	4		Eighteenth 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	5	7:30pm	Julian Meeting
Wednesday	7	12:00pm	
		for 12:30pm	Luncheon Club in St Mary's Handbridge Centre
Thursday	8	10:00am	Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
Friday	9	10:00am	St Mary's Baby & Toddler Group in St Mary's Handbridge Centre
		7:00pm	Music by the Bridge – Kelsborrow Choir
Sunday	11		Harvest Festival
		8:00am	Holy Communion
		10:30am	Harvest Family Eucharist
		6:30pm	Choral Evensong
Wednesday	14	12:00pm	
		for 12:30pm	Luncheon Club in St Mary's Handbridge Centre
Thursday	15	10:00am	Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
Friday	16	10:00am	St Mary's Baby & Toddler Group in St Mary's Handbridge Centre
Sunday	18		Twentieth Sunday after Trinity
		8:00am	Holy Communion
		10:30am	Sung Eucharist
		3:00pm	Messy Church
Wednesday	21	12:00pm	
		for 12:30pm	Luncheon Club in St Mary's Handbridge Centre
Thursday	22	10:00am	Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
Friday	23	10:00am	St Mary's Baby & Toddler Group in St Mary's Handbridge Centre
Sunday	25		Last Sunday After Trinity
		8:00am	Holy Communion
		10:30am	Sung Eucharist
Wednesday	28	12:00pm	
		for 12:30pm	Luncheon Club in St Mary's Handbridge Centre
Thursday	29	10:00am	Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)



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



Three boys were in the school playground, bragging about their fathers. The first boy said, "My dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a poem, and they give him £50.
The second boy said, "That's nothing. My dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a song, they give him £100."
The third boy was not impressed. "Big deal. My dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a sermon, and it takes eight people to collect all the money!"



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.

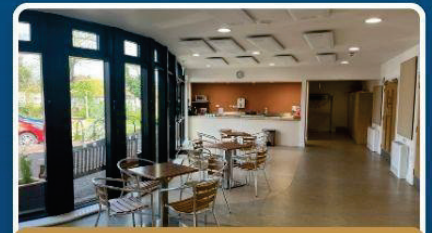
The Price Hall - seated capacity in rows for up to 100, can be extended to 150 when combined with the Davies Room. Can be hired in conjunction with commercial kitchen, accessible via internal door with serving hatch.

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 and/or	01244 671202 01244 913898
Parish Administrator & Centre Manager	Doris Keen	office.stmaryschester@btconnect.com	01244 671202
Centre Coordinators	Michael Mitchell Joanna Polanczyk	michael.stmaryschester@btconnect.com joanna.stmaryschester@btconnect.com	01244 671202 01244 671202
Centre Assistant	John Rose	Contact via Centre Manager	
Hon. Assistant Clergy	The Revd John Carhart The Revd Trevor Dennis The Revd Maureen Pickering	jcarhart@nepc.co.uk trevordennis11@gmail.com revmapickering@gmail.com	01244 380923 01244 638441 01244 749112
Hon. Parish Reader	Linda Manning	lindamanning@uwclub.net	01244 682143
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PCC Secretary	Jan Pugh	pccsecretary@btconnect.com	01244 674517
PCC Treasurer	Tom Hardcastle	treasurer.stmaryschester@gmail.com	01244 671202
Director of Music	Michael Reynolds	michaelreynoldsmusic@googlemail.com	07786 323946
Community, Mission, Charities Cluster Chair	Alison McLellan	avej97@btinternet.com	01244 676772
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 Rep	Lynne Jones	lynnejones623@hotmail	07713 167332
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 PLEASE NOTE above email and phone no. are for Safeguarding purposes ONLY. Thank you	07593 919592
Health & Safety Adviser	Parish Office		01244 671202
Bellringers	Fiona Harrison	fiona.harrison1@btinternet.com	01244 314712
Church Flowers Lead	Elizabeth Bennett	ebennett51@outlook.com	01244 678504
Church Flowers Treasurer	Linda Schofield		01244 659149
Church Cleaning	Helen Pritchard	helenpritchard5858@gmail.com	07522 477605
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Meditation Group	Jackie Hirst	jgshirst@protonmail.com	01244 371083
Luncheon Club Leader	Maureen Evans	evansrogers@yahoo.co.uk	01244 676123
Baby & Toddler Group	Sue Fryer	sue.fryer55@outlook.com	07799 862828
Gardening Group (aka The Unlicensed Lay Weeders)	Alison McLellan	avej97@btinternet.com	01244 676772
Christian Aid Representatives	Helen Pritchard Chris Dukes	helenpritchard5858@gmail.com teeneel1@live.co.uk	07522 477605
Beavers, Cubs & Scouts	Susan Jones		01244 675538
Rainbows	Grace Hamilton	graceshamilton@gmail.com	07943 811854
Brownies	Krystina Littlehales	krys14_uk@yahoo.co.uk	07860 845402
Guides & Rangers	Helen Williams	helen_williams82uk@yahoo.co.uk	07951 959007
Overleigh St Mary's C of E Primary School Head	Emma Drew	admin@osm.cheshire.sch.uk	01244 267525

PLEASE NOTE: The Parish Office hours are as follows: **Monday - Friday: 9:00am - 3:00pm**
 Website: <https://stmaryschester.co.uk/contact-st-marys/>
 Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/StMaryHandbridge>

A surgeon, an architect and a politician were arguing as to whose profession was the oldest. Said the surgeon: "Eve was made from Adam's rib, and that surely was a surgical operation."
 "Maybe," admitted the architect, "but prior to that, order was created out of chaos, and that was an architectural job." "But," the politician pointed out in triumph, "Somebody had to have created the chaos first!"





By the time a man realises that his father was right, he has a son who thinks he is wrong – Charles Wadsworth



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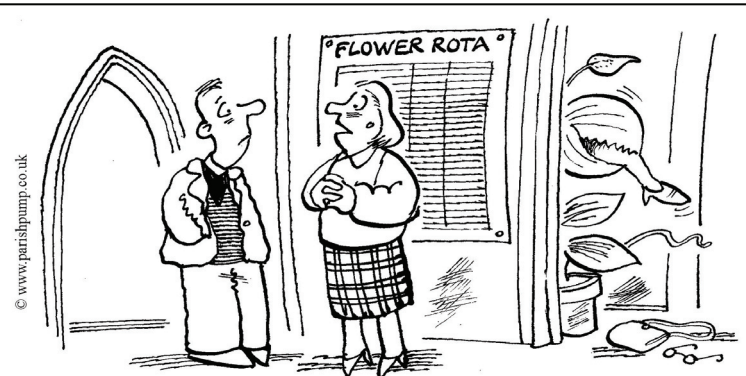
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...er Vicar, it's about that flower Mrs Brindle's brought back from her foreign holiday...



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A Sunday School teacher asked her class why Joseph and Mary took Jesus with them to Jerusalem. A small child replied: "They couldn't get a babysitter."

