

The Quarterly

St Mary's Church, Ware Community News & Views

....And Breathe

As July gives way to August, it's suddenly the school holidays, and roads become less busy in the rush hour (maybe more crowded on the main roads towards the airports and the Channel crossings?).

St Mary's lovely choir will have a holiday too, from leading the singing on Sundays – although it's very good to hear their voices among the congregation!

For many families this is a time to get away, although nowadays I don't think anyone goes for the whole duration.....remember when novels seemed to take for granted that the family would go to "The Sea" for six weeks and the breadwinner joined them when he could? And clearly the Famous Five had unlimited time at Kirrin Island. It's not like that for us in the 21st century!

During the recent heatwave, travelling anywhere has seemed just beyond our limp exhausted bodies, but as normal summer weather resumes, many people will be packing their jumpers (for any UK trip) and cases and heading off. We do usually have a week by the sea, and the cagoule is also an essential item! There will be grandchildren – memo to self, pack cash for ice-cream (or since superheated inflation, just the payment card).



And there I am, talking about holidays as if everyone has them.



Historically (medievally) you might have some time off on a saint's day, Sundays of course - except for servants – but you could only dream about a major trip, perhaps once in your lifetime. Chaucer reminded his listeners and readers that April (= Spring) was the best time for a pilgrimage [*pilgrim, left*], and his motley pilgrims included religiously dedicated people as well as a widow, a knight, a miller (seen as a type of disliked and distrusted person) – quite a

mixture, all with their own reasons for being on pilgrimage. The concept of the dedicated journey has gained popularity recently partly because of television series, but it is still valid. Whether your pilgrimage relies on your strength and stamina - our Walsingham Four, see p 11 – or is helped by a tour company (Liz Jones's trip to Iona, p 9), it will be a journey worth making.

Your holiday journey, too, I hope! God will be everywhere you travel: may you meet Him in the sunshine as well as the rain.

Ysmena's letter



As we're preparing this edition of Quarterly we are also welcoming José Tamayo here as curate. Some of you will remember this process from Jake Pass, and before him David Shepherd.

José was ordained deacon on 5th July.

Elsewhere in this magazine there is material from the ordination service. A deacon can fulfil a range of ministry roles including: assisting at communion, taking home communion, leading non-eucharistic

worship, preparing people for baptism and confirmation, conducting baptism, taking funerals, pastoral, teaching and prayer ministry (I said including - that is not exhaustive!) Deacons may not: take a wedding, preside at the Eucharist, absolve, bless, offer formal confession or end of life prayers (Last Rites/Extreme Unction). Most of those things come with priesting. Hearing formal confession comes with another year in priest's orders.

After a year as a deacon, we will expect that José is then ordained priest. When we know the dates for that you will know too so that the whole church here can be part of that wonderful and holy celebration.

So, José is deacon now, and to that will add priesthood in a year's time. He won't stop being a deacon. I have not stopped being a deacon. Once ordained deacon you are always a deacon; you may also become a priest, and some might even become bishops; but all are still always deacons.



José is a deacon who will become a priest and who is a Title Post Assistant Curate, as were Jake and David. That means he is here with us for a fixed term in order to complete the 'in service' element of ordination training - to prepare him to become a parish priest or similar. This is a period of time he has to 'pass' and we're here to help with that by providing the context for ministry and all the wonderful support and friendship St Mary's can. This means there are some things José will do and some he won't - or won't always. And it means that José will have a set of training requirements he has to complete outside the parish. Sometimes I will have some of that to do too. It also means he will have to ask for feedback and for help with the various reports we need to produce. Together then we have a lot to work on! And a lot to look forward to together. Thank you for all you are already doing to support St Mary's role in training curates. And please do continue to pray for and with José and his family.

What does it mean to be a deacon?

We have been so glad to welcome José as our curate; he is settling into parish duties as well as continuing some study. José was ordained deacon at the Petertide service in the Cathedral, and following on from our recent articles about Christian service and leadership, here is a little bit about deacons. This title is as old as Christianity – the first of the martyrs (Stephen) is described as a deacon – but what does this role mean nowadays?

At the ordination service there were two points when the Bishops explained the breadth of the role, and also listed the many aspects of a deacon's work. I've summarised the main ideas below:

During the introduction of the service:

"The Church is the Body of Christ, the people of God and the dwelling-place of the Holy Spirit. In baptism the whole Church is summoned to witness to God's love and to work for the coming of his kingdom.

To serve this royal priesthood, God has given a variety of ministries. Deacons are ordained so that the people of God may be better equipped to make Christ known. Theirs is a life of visible self-giving. Christ is the pattern of their calling and their commission; as he washed the feet of his disciples, so they must wash the feet of others."

As the liturgy of Ordination began:

"Deacons are called to work with the Bishop and the priests with whom they serve. They are to proclaim the gospel in word and deed, as agents of God's purposes of love. They are to serve the community in which they are set, bringing to the Church the needs and hopes of all the people. They are to work with their fellow members in searching out the poor and weak, the sick and lonely and those who are oppressed and powerless, reaching into the forgotten corners of the world, that the love of God may be made visible.

Deacons share in the pastoral ministry of the Church and in leading God's people in worship. They preach the word and bring the needs of the world before the Church in intercession. They accompany those searching for faith and bring them to baptism. They assist in administering the sacraments; they distribute communion and minister to the sick and housebound.



"Deacons are to seek nourishment from the Scriptures; they are to study them with God's people, that the whole Church may be equipped to live out the gospel in the world. They are to be faithful in prayer, expectant and watchful for the signs of God's presence, as he reveals his kingdom among us."

[Left, José receives worship books from Ysmena at his first Eucharist service with us]

The many aspects of a deacon's calling and responsibility become a strong and broad foundation on which to build lives of ministry. If you read the commission carefully, you'll see that many of the actions are exactly what we are all called to do – the service, the helping, the spreading the Word, the faithfulness in prayer. Knowing what is expected of a deacon helps us to direct our prayer and support for José.

The back page of the order of service challenges us in these words:

"Today we celebrate people who have responded to God's call to ordained ministry. Their journeys have been unique, and each began with a question – *Could God be calling me too?*"

In September we'll welcome as a visiting preacher the Rev Ruth Dennigan, who is the Discipleship and Vocations Officer and Enabling Ministry Lead in the diocese. Be prepared to listen – and hear.

Study group summer visit, Tuesday 14 July

It's called Great Offley, but seems a tiny village; the largest of Rev Katy Little's three parishes has a population of c1200.

Katy *[below]* welcomed us warmly, with Pimms or Elderflower spritz to refresh us before she gave us a talk about the background to the village and the church.



The village traces its origins back to the 8th century and King Offa of Mercia might have worshipped at a primitive church on the site in the 700s. The current church building dates back to the 12th century and has a unique mix of a medieval middle with Georgian gothic ends.

The chancel was commissioned by the local Salusbury family who created a family chapel in the chancel, including some elaborate personal memorials *[right; for scale see the chair to the left of the monument]*. The scale and complexity of

these memorials struck some visitors – there are no side windows in the chancel because the memorials are too vast to leave room for them!

The bells at St Mary Magdalen are very old, the oldest dating from 1583, and are rung regularly.



St Mary Magdalen, Offley



When we had all explored the church, Katy led an evening service especially for us, which included a poem by John Keble and a Magnificat arranged by a local composer, Joanna Forbes L'Estrange. It was very moving to worship in such a lovely place with a specially written service, and all the visitors appreciated it.

Then a short walk to the Red Lion, and our meal (served with warmth and efficiency by one Alice Little!) rounded off the evening.

Thanks to Celia for organising, and to everyone who made it such a pleasant visit, especially Katy who has so many calls on her time yet gave her visitors such a lovely welcome.

An Organist in Norway

As part of the Organ Festival, Malcolm Pentelow gave us a lively and fascinating talk, with organ pieces, about his tenure in Norway as an organ teacher in a variety of places. This was accompanied by a "Norwegian Tea" organised by Pat Pentelow – many delicious and interesting dishes. We were very inspired by the "after church cakes" *pictured right*, apparently the usual refreshment after Sunday service in Norwegian churches. Very delicious! Thank you!



Garden Tea

Sunday 9th August

from 2.00pm

Dellys, 12 Presdales Drive

Zara and Patrick Kimber wish to share their garden, in aid of the South Porch and Hall



There will be garden games for children and younger people, and tours of the Garden at 3pm and 4pm.

Indoors if wet!

Cost: Adults £7.00, children £3.00

Tickets from Linn Parker (Linnparker61@gmail.com) or Zara 01920 420642

On Sundays there is parking on the drive or road.



Dawn to Dusk



On **Saturday October 3rd** we will be holding a one-day Arts Festival running from Dawn (7.15) to Dusk (18.30). The day will be divided into 20-minute slots, and anyone is welcome to book a slot to showcase their talents.

Any type of performing arts can be included, such as instrumental, singing, drama, poetry etc. This will be fundraising event, so we suggest a sponsorship of £20 per slot. Priority booking will be open for St Mary's members and friends until 23rd August.

Please contact Linn Parker via: artsstmaryware@outlook.com for further information, or to discuss booking a slot.



St Mary's Church Ware

Musical Musings

As I write this, we are mostly through our month-long celebration of the organ at St Mary's. For nearly 200 years, this instrument – in various guises – has contributed to the musical life of the church in its support of worship through hymns and accompanying the choir, and as a solo instrument. 10 years ago, after a massive fundraising effort, the most significant rebuild since 1881 was undertaken to make the instrument more useful and versatile for the church's needs in the 21st century. One of the most delightful aspects of the work over the past month has been initiating an organ outreach and education programme with schools, opening up the instrument to new generations and sharing the wonders of the science and art of its construction, history, and sound world. We have also had delightful recitals by Elli-Mae McGlone, William Fox, Chris Muhley, and Charles Francis that have shown the broad range of colours that this instrument holds in a range of repertoire from the Renaissance to the Contemporary. Likewise, we have heard its versatility in liturgy



Choristers with the Director of Music after their first service

in an Evensong where the St Mary's choirs were joined by the girls of Presdales for a spine-tingling service, alongside an organ-only service of Evening Prayer showing how even through the musical reflection of solo repertoire, it can be a powerful support of worship.

Our musical activity in the church has grown monumentally in the last few months. Shortly after Easter we were incredibly excited to launch our new Chorister and Scholar programme and were delighted to welcome 4 new young choristers to our choirs. These children, both boys and girls from the age of 8 upwards, have worked tirelessly over the term in rehearsals after school twice a week to learn the joys of singing and making music together. They sing for Sung Evening Prayer on Tuesdays fortnightly and take part regularly in Sunday worship – either for the Eucharist or Evensong. It is a demanding yet rewarding commitment and they have flourished this term. It isn't all work, though, as the choristers had a chance to let their hair down and enjoy a pizza party as a reward for their efforts – and there will be lots of fun activities to come in the new term. For now, they and the adult choirs have earned a rest over their Summer break and I look forward to even more activity when the choirs return in September as we work towards Harvest, All Saints, Remembrance Sunday, and ultimately the journey through Advent towards Christmas – and it will be magical to have our growing group of Choristers and Scholars with us through all these major festivals.



A Tuesday evening prayer in July when even the church was too hot!

We are always on the lookout for singers, of any age, to join our choirs. Do please contact me at music@stmarysware.co.uk to find out more.

Stephen Crookes
Director of Music



Lunchtime Concerts, August – October

Monday 3rd August:	Sally Quantrill flute, with Lydia Bosworth piano
Thursday 20th August:	Shirley Wu, piano recital
Monday 7th September:	Neil Crossland, piano recital
Thursday 17th September:	Barbara Manning, piano recital
Monday 5th October:	Axel Krogness, classical guitar
Thursday 15th October:	Rebekah Tan, piano recital

All these events begin at 12.30 and last about forty minutes.

The Concert café will be open in St. Mary's Hall from 11.30.

There will be a retiring collection in aid of church funds at each event.

Please watch social media, posters and the pew leaflet for more details.

I look forward to meeting you again, and if you intend to come, please try to bring a friend!

Best wishes, Mark.

Brief notes on some performances so far this quarter (thanks to all reviewers)

May

Ambrose String Quartet, Hugh Legg, Paul Guinery: *Vaughan Williams' On Wenlock Edge* (AE Housman) An atmospheric, evocative piece, beautifully played and sung by performers obviously enjoying playing together. *Piano Quintet by Enrique Granados*: a rare example of piano music, with a very strong start and lovely lyrical passages, very rhythmic showing a Moorish influence. There was a large, appreciative audience for Bank Holiday.

Gabriella Buckland, Colin Eldred, Christopher Benham voice, clarinet, piano: A very enjoyable concert showing these three musicians' abilities, working well together with a good variety of music.

June Concerts

On Thursday 18th we welcomed back the violin and piano duo of **Arwen Newband and Anna Le Hair**, who always provide a varied and interesting programme, and this time they ranged from Mozart and Brahms to Fritz Kreisler and John Williams. The audience was joined by Year 2 from St Catherine's school, who enthusiastically joined in the warm and appreciative applause at the end.

July's Organ Festival brought us a wide variety of music from many musicians.

Elli-Mae McGlone gave us the first recital, with a repertoire ranging from 17th to 21st centuries, mainly French music in a variety of styles. She also sang with the choir in Choral Evensong the previous afternoon, which included the Chamber Choir from Presdales School.

Malcolm Pentelow gave us some Norwegian music and an illustrated talk about his and Pat's 20 years in Norway, including a delicious Norwegian afternoon tea (see p.4).

Next was **William Fox**, Director of Music at St Albans Abbey, followed two days later by **Chris Muhley** also at the Abbey, playing their choices of music.

Stephen Crookes played meditative music for "Organ Evening Prayer"; the series concluded with an informative evening with stunningly performed pieces, including Mendelssohn, Parry and Elgar played by **Charles Francis**.

Resourcing the Mission at St Mary's Ware: Gift Aided donations make such a difference

Thank you to everyone for the resources which you give generously to St Mary's for its work, and for every time that you complete a Gift Aid declaration. This enables St Mary's to claim back from HMRC, the tax that you have paid on your donations. Without spending another single 'jot', the value of your donation is increased by 25%. However, we do miss out sometimes because Gift Aid envelopes are not always completed. In the last HMRC financial year, we missed out on some £300 of Gift Aid for St Mary's, when £1200 of donations were not accompanied by Gift Aid declarations.



And so, a request - if you pay tax in the UK! Whenever you make **a donation** to St Mary's by bank transfer, cash, or the card reader, please would you also complete a Gift Aid declaration/envelope, as many of our congregation do. They can be found near the card reader in church.

If you have any queries about gift-aiding your donation, please do not hesitate to contact Roger. Thank you for all you do to make Gift Aid work for St Mary's.

Roger Hawkins

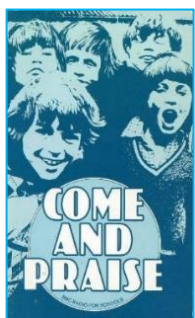
Hymns A & M

Ian Little

You glance at the pew sheet and scan the hymns listed for today's service. Some of you might view them with a resigned shrug, others with thoughts involving language **not** entirely compatible with being in a place of worship; and for some who have memories and associations, perhaps with a distant childhood, happy or traumatic events in later life will be conjured by an opening line.



As a teacher I often shuddered at what was being offered in the daily act of collective worship.



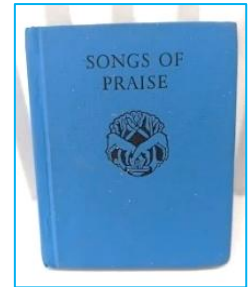
The banality of the words and paucity of musical invention were truly toe-curling. What spiritual nourishment are we offering our children? When the child asks for an egg, are we placing a stone before it? Or if they ask for a fish, dish up a serpent. "*Cauliflowers fluffy*" and "*a win for my home team*" are on a par with Victorians proposing that "*Jesus wants me for a sunbeam*" or "*Jesus bids us shine with a pure clear light*".

One of the pleasures of childhood church or school were hymns whose language was slightly head-scratching: "*There is a green hill far away, without a city wall*" –

Why should hills have a city wall anyway? How did "*Gentle Jesus meek and mild*" match up with the story of the cleansing of the Temple we had just heard in RE? I could multiply this sort of thing *ad infinitum*.

There were others of course that inspired me at the time: the glorious images invoked by “*Hills of the North*” and the suggestion that Christmas was closing in on us. The call to quixotic, altruistic adventure: “*When a knight won his spurs*”.

When we reached 515 in Songs of Praise hymn book, what images were conjured up by “*Hobgoblin nor foul fiend shall daunt thy spirit*”. In my case it was inspired to embellish my hymn book with a rather cheery devil wielding, not a pitchfork, but an ebony walking cane. Ill-advised as this turned out to be (detention and, to fill the time, an essay on “Respect for School Property”).



Away from juvenilia, hymns penned by famous poets could form an anthology that holds within it: George Herbert, William Cowper, Isaac Watts, Wordsworth (not daffodils, the other one). Oliver Goldsmith, Cardinal Newman and Charles Wesley from widely different churchmanship head a clerical squad.

The next byway could be hymn tunes. Famous themes repurposed, tunes by the likes of Vaughan Williams, Sibelius, Sullivan, Handel, Haydn and of course, anon. The names of the tunes can be a study in itself.

There remains one diversion between the covers of your hymn book. One that had an appeal to the rather odd child that I was: working out the life spans of hymn writers. Keep Singing!

A lifelong dream of visiting Iona

Liz Jones

A few months after my husband passed away, my niece Sue asked me if there was anywhere I would like to visit that I hadn't seen so far. She was aware that I had travelled worldwide and seen a lot of Europe when my husband was alive. I said it was a lifetime wish to visit Iona, but this was something we had not achieved.

So we booked a cruise from Oban with Hebridean Island Cruises, which included visits to Iona, St Kilda, the Callanish Stones and several well-known gardens – plus a whisky distillery and at least another different isle every day! In between, we had to fit in three meals a day (fine dining), not to mention morning coffee, and afternoon tea with scones, if you opted to stay on board!

We decided not to fly to Scotland and opted to go by car – a blessing as only nine days before departure I sustained a rotator cuff injury with a tear to my left shoulder. I had dislocated my right shoulder seven years previously and had limited movement.....



Our overnight stop, south of Glasgow, was New Lanark Mill, a world heritage site. 20 years ago my nephew married there, and it has since been further restored to include a museum and a school house, as well as many of the original buildings. It looked beautiful in the evening sunshine after our long drive from Ware.

You may remember the work of Robert Owen, who in the early 1800s set up a school for 200 girls and boys for the Colton spinners' children; the New Mill also provided accommodation for millworkers' families.

Please turn the page

The school had no corporal punishment – but if any children misbehaved, their family was asked to leave the Mill (thus losing both home and employment). There was – naturally – no problem with discipline!

Historical records show that my great great grandfather was here, as he and his parents were cotton spinners. A John McLellan was one of the first to be educated, and also helped to educate the children in the school. It was very moving to stand on the podium where he taught. My father, and brother, were both John McLellan.

We had a very comfortable night in the Mill, part of which is also a 5-star hotel, and after a little more historical exploration we travelled to Oban to embark on our cruise. The map, *right*, shows all the islands we visited, a revised schedule because of forecast rough seas.



Our ship had some challenges; originally an inter-island ferry and the only contact between islands and the outside world, it was adapted as a cruise liner but had some narrow and steep staircases. Fortunately the staff were always on hand to help.

Unbelievably for Scotland, we never had rain during our various trips – it either rained at night or when we were dining. Often the sky was cloudy, but when the sun shone it was glorious.



Our visit to the Callanish stones was dry – *see the photo, left*. It's a very spiritual place, with stones pre-Stonehenge; at Stonehenge itself there is a Callanish stone....how did it get there? No low-loaders then!

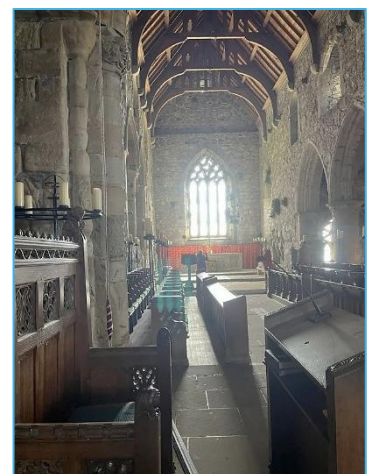
Our morning visit to Iona, *below left*, was so well organized, with a taxi right to the Abbey door for myself and another less mobile traveller. Inside the Abbey, the feeling of peace and tranquillity



and its spiritual presence is hard to describe; it definitely deepened my faith. *Picture, right*.

If you are thinking of going there, I would urge you to do so.

On the homeward journey we visited my brother who lives near Beverley in Yorkshire, and had the



first rainfall in ten days. It poured down as we arrived at the hotel car park, but we had only a short way to go to get into the dry! This time with family was so precious, and with help I had achieved the holiday of a lifetime to my great satisfaction.

Four go wild to Walsingham



A dedicated team of cyclists (Liz and David Horner, Martin and Gloria Douglas) completed a Ware-to-Walsingham pilgrimage by bike during the hottest week of the year. Here Liz gives a short account, with photos [left, the pilgrims depart from St Marys].

When it was first suggested that we might organise a sponsored cycle ride to boost funds for the Church, we felt it should be relevant to St Mary's so, remembering that Ware was one of the medieval stops on the London to Walsingham Pilgrimage route we decided that this should be our route.

We already had a copy of Andy Bull's book '*London to Walsingham Camino, The Pilgrimage Guide*' so we started with that. This excellent book details a walking route, but we could adapt this for a cycle route. The book highlights the best churches and those where there is a Pilgrim stamp to collect.



Our plan was to take our bikes on the train to London and visit St Magnus the Martyr which was the starting place for the medieval pilgrimage.

Left, David is standing at the foot of St Magnus belltower. See how little they must have been! St Magnus must have been very imposing!



The first vital pilgrimage stamp on our pilgrim passports was at St Magnus [left]

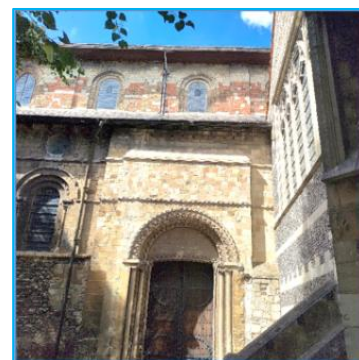
We then cycled back to Ware, calling at Waltham Abbey [right], and spent the first night of the journey at home.



Day 2: Ware to Saffron Walden – en route, Widford church was not open but the cyclist pilgrims posed in front of the church board [left].

Churches visited on this stage: Much Hadham, St Mary Newport, Saffron Walden (big airy church, with a cool breeze from the West door).

Overnight at the Cross Keys, after a much-appreciated air-conditioned meal at "Trio" Italian restaurant!



On day 3: Saffron Walden to Bury St Edmunds. Sandy track, hard to negotiate. Very hot on arrival. In Bury St Edmunds we met up with Alison and Malcolm Lennox, known to many at St Mary's Ware, where we four weary pilgrims were royally fed and watered.

Please turn the page



Day 4: we cycled to Gt Cressingham [left] and Castle Acre St James. See below.....

Gt Cressingham, a big church and a cool pub, nestled in the shade of surrounding trees.

Castle Acre, St James [right and below]. Medieval painted pulpit and screen.



Intriguing statue of the calling of St James [left], with scallop shells at his feet and fishing net trailing behind. This was also at Castle Acre.

Day 5: We made it to Little Walsingham, having stopped at St Cuthberts, Thetford. We felt

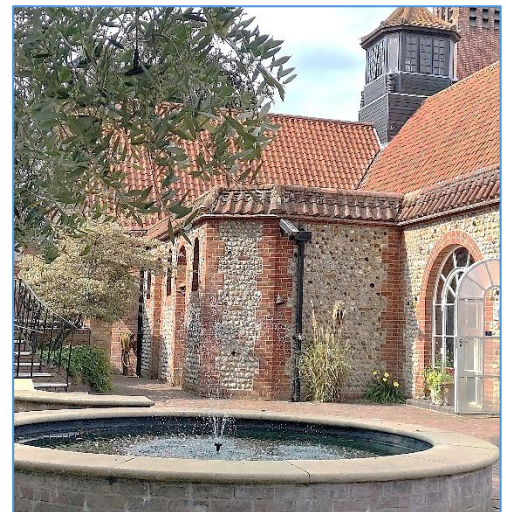


too hot to find the Priory.

Little Walsingham was very peaceful, the Protestant shrine had a shady garden with a fountain, flowers and silence, right.



The last pilgrim stamp, Walsingham, above, and the pilgrims at their destination, left



Our pilgrimage finished with an excellent curry!

In all we cycled **181 miles** from London to Walsingham. We had visited many interesting churches, several of which were dated c1100 and had medieval wall paintings and carvings. We finished by cycling **28 more miles** to catch the train home from Kings Lynn.

[This was a fund-raiser towards the Hall and Porch appeal, and the grand total has not yet been announced, as donations are still coming in.]

Count on Nature 6 June 2026

Liz Finch

Caring for God's Acre had 441 churches, chapels and cemeteries sign up for Love your Burial Ground Week with Churches Count on Nature events across the country this year, and have records and photographs that have come in from many nature counts on their gallery:

<https://www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk/love-your-burial-ground-week-churches-count-on-nature-gallery-2026/>

For this year's Count on Nature at **St Mary's Ware**, a small but keen



group of rather damp enthusiasts recorded 59 plant species, 16 different trees, 11 species of bird, 6 types of insects, spiders or invertebrates, 1 moss and 3 lichens and 1 grey squirrel on Saturday 6th June.

This was a lower count of plant species as well as of insects and invertebrates than the last two years, due to rain limiting the number of insects and preventing some flowers from being identifiable.

Various guidebooks (available in the porch on the day) and the iNaturalist App were used to identify flowers, grasses, trees, insects and birds. We identified bird song

(when it wasn't raining!) using the Merlin App.

The Ware Swift Group came to the gate of the churchyard and spoke about this year's swifts [picture, right]. Although at least 2 dozen swifts have been seen regularly flying over Church Street or the High Street, none have yet nested in the Ware Swift Group Nest Boxes in the tower. It can take a couple of years for new nest boxes to be used, despite using recordings of their call to attract them, as swifts are known to return to the same breeding areas each spring before flying south again in July. The juveniles follow a month later.



The data we collected was submitted to and verified by the naturalists on the Caring for God's Acre team or recorded directly on iNaturalist, an App that has worldwide coverage and verification.

The Love your Burial Ground week information is submitted to the National Biodiversity Atlas <https://burialgrounds.nbnatlas.org>

Count on Nature are keen to record churchyard plants and wildlife all year so if you see anything of interest please let me know and I'll submit it, or just record it on iNaturalist.

Fundraising to fix the Hall and the South Porch of the Church, an update from Roger

The refurbishment of the hall is underway! The windows have been replaced and the works on the Ladies and Gents toilets are being scheduled with a contractor to commence in early autumn (possible dates in What's On, back pages). The very wet weather, at the beginning of the year, delayed the start of the work on the roof and parapet to make the hall damp-proof and that, in turn, slowed down progressing further works. And securing competitive quotations and then arranging a start date with the selected contractor is certainly not a fast process. Nevertheless, steps are in hand to start 'making good' the plaster work that has been damaged *Please turn over*

or which has deteriorated through dampness, after which the hall will be re-decorated, the sound baffles installed, and the new floor covering will be fitted.

In the south porch of the church, where the uneven flagstones need replacing, the faculty application process is in progress. In addition, an advisory meeting with the architect is anticipated soon to consider the feasibility of replacing the blue painted panel over the outside door with a glass window, as well as repairs to the stone work and the redecoration of the interior walls and ceiling.

Meanwhile the fundraising campaign and activities continue. Thank you for the great efforts with respect to fundraising activities and for your financial generosity. The fundraising appeal with events and donations has raised in excess of £36,000 and together with some comparatively small legacies, an expected grant from the Friends of St Mary's and historical balances which the PCC have set aside, the funds exceed £56,000.

Our cost estimates gradually become firmer over time as quotations are received and considered. They currently exceed £75,000 and could be increased if additional items are included.

Further fundraising is scheduled; the autumn events include a performing arts festival day *From Dawn to Dusk* on 3rd October. This is also the month for an evening of wine and joviality.

Hallowe'en will see a children's disco at half term, and we are hoping for a New Year's Day concert. Meanwhile the St Mary's merchandise is proving popular and those sales will continue.

This is a little update of a fluid and constantly moving situation. Thank you for all you have done, and encouraged, and said, and given, to get us to where we are now. So many have given so much in so many ways.

Roger Hawkins

Edwardian garden parties



As part of the fundraising drive this year, Mary Millett offered her garden for two Edwardian-themed garden parties. She baked cakes and made appropriate sandwiches and canapés, and also created imaginative fruit platters, which were served by "staff" in uniform. *Left, guests in the beautiful garden*

All the guests were smartly dressed, the ladies with hats of course, and everyone took on the *persona* of a particular gentleman or woman. There was much merriment, jugs of Pimms, and ingenious brainteasers such as the Edwardian-themed quiz. An ancient teaching aid in the shape of a book with animal sound effects was retrieved from the home archives and caused much interest as, despite its antiquity, many of the sounds were still recognisable!

Right, Vee examines the book



Mary is such a hospitable person that it was quite hard to tear ourselves away; these two events have raised £500 towards the "Hall and Porch" appeal.

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

August

Sun 2	8.00am Eucharist 10.00am Eucharist
Mon 3	11.30am churchyard café 12.30pm Lunchtime concert: Sally Quantrill flute, with Lydia Bosworth piano 2.00pm Board Games café
Wed 5	11.00am Eucharist
Thu 6	8.00pm "Space"
Sun 9	No 8.00am Eucharist 10.00 Eucharist 2.00pm Baptism 2.00pm Garden Teas, 12 Presdales Drive
Wed 12	11.00am Eucharist
Thu 13	8.00pm "Space"
Sun 16	8.00 Eucharist 10.00am Eucharist Summer picnic, churchyard
Wed 19	11.00am Eucharist 3.30pm Rota meeting
Thu 20	11.30am churchyard café 12.30pm Lunchtime concert: Shirley Wu, piano recital
Sun 23	8.00 and 10.00am Eucharist
Mon 24	3.00pm Ashwood Eucharist
Wed 26	11.00am Eucharist
Thu 27	8.00pm "Space"
Sun 30	8.00am Eucharist by extension 10.00am Service of the Word
Mon 31	Bank holiday

September

Tue 1	7.30pm PCC
Wed 2	11.00am Eucharist
Thu 3	8.00pm "Space"
Fri 4	7.00pm Choir practice
Sun 6	8.00am Eucharist by extension 10.00am Eucharist (celebrant the Rev Bill Church) with Children's church
Mon 7	11.30am churchyard café 12.30pm Lunchtime concert: Neil Crossland, piano recital

Tue 8

Wed 9

Thu 10

Sat 12

Sun 13

Mon 14

Wed 16

Thu 17

Sat 19

Sun 20

Wed 23

Thu 24

Sat 26

Sun 27

Wed 30

2.00pm Board Games café
7.30pm Study group, 15 Warner Rd
11.00am Eucharist at Hartfield Court
11.00am Eucharist
8.00pm "Space"
Bike n Hike, in aid of historic churches in the Diocese
8.00 Eucharist; 10.00am Eucharist – visiting preacher the Rev Ruth Dennigan (Diocesan Discipleship and Vocations Officer and Enabling Ministry Lead)
7.30pm PCC meeting
11.00am Eucharist
11.30am churchyard café
12.30pm Lunchtime concert: Barbara Manning, piano recital
Bishop Andrew's enthronement, St Albans Cathedral
1.00pm Wedding blessing
8.00am Eucharist
10.00am Eucharist with Children's church
5.00pm Sung evensong
11.00am Eucharist
8.00pm "Space"
Wedding
8.00am Eucharist
10.00am Eucharist
2.00pm Baptism
11.00am Eucharist

October

Thu 1

Sat 3

Sun 4

Mon 5

8.00pm "Space"
7.15am – 6.30pm Dawn to Dusk all day Arts Festival
8.00am Eucharist
10.00am Eucharist with Children's church
5.00pm Choral Evensong
11.30am churchyard café
12.30pm Lunchtime concert:
11.30am churchyard café

Mon 5 12.30pm Lunchtime concert:
Axel Krogness, classical guitar
2.00pm Board Games café

Tue 6 to Friday 9: toilet refurbishment

Wed 7 11.00am Eucharist

Thu 8 8.00pm "Space"

Sun 11 8.00am and 10.00am Eucharist
Baptism

Mon 12 to Wed 14: toilet refurbishment

Mon 12 7.30pm Study group 15 Warner
Road

Wed 14 11.00am Eucharist

Thu 15 11.30am churchyard café
12.30pm Lunchtime concert:
Rebekah Tan, piano recital

Fri 16: toilet refurbishment

Sun 18 8.00 am Eucharist; 10.00am
Eucharist with Children's church
5.00pm Evensong for All Souls

Wed 21 11.00am Eucharist

****Quarterly deadline****

Thu 22 8.00pm "Space"

Sat 24 2.00-5.00pm HCACR
(Bellringers Association) AGM
and tea

Clocks go back tonight!

Sun 25 8.00 & 10.00am Eucharist

Wed 28 11.00am Eucharist

Thu 29 8.00pm "Space"

November 1 All Saints, 5.00pm Choral
Evensong

Get in touch...

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Usual services at St Mary's

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

5.00pm Choral evensong once a month

Wednesday: 11.00am Eucharist

Monday – Thursday, in Lady Chapel:

9.15am Morning Prayer (also on facebook)

5.00pm Evening Prayer

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

Regular services in care homes:

Hillview 2.30pm, first Monday in the
month

Ashwood 3.00pm, last Monday in the
month

Snowdrop 11.00am every Thursday (all are
welcome to this eucharist)

We also hold a regular Eucharist at **Hartfield
Court**, usually 11.30am on the
first Tuesday

Regular practices

Wednesday 8.00pm Tower bells

Friday 3.45pm – 6.00pm Hand bells

Choir practices

Tuesday: 15.45-17.45 chorister
rehearsals/service

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

