ST. MARY'S MAGAZINE

November/ December 2026

£2

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LEST WE FORGET

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

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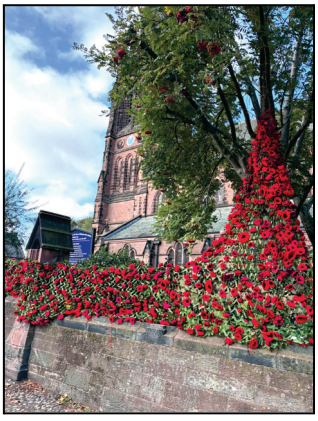
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St Mary's Poppy Cascade as seen on the Front Cover





This year, St Mary's set out to involve the whole community in creating a poppy cascade to honour those who had served and fallen in battle. We had no idea just how far our mission would reach. Over 2,000 poppies have been created, with contributions coming from individuals, local charities and community organisations.
Contributions were received from people far and wide. A single poppy was received through the post from a lady in Kent, a Canadian crafter sent over a contribution and a couple of dozen arrived from a 'knit and natter' group in the Northeast!
The variety of materials and craftsmanship has been astonishing. We have received poppies that were knitted, crocheted, sewn, made from waxed paper, painted onto stones (Rainbows), shaped from ceramic and even upcycled from empty drinks cans. We were given over 100 poppies by Cafe 71 which is a local charity for people struggling with emotional distress. When they dropped off the poppies, they said that the activity was in itself therapeutic for their members as well as helping the project. Therefore every poppy has mattered, and every contribution helped us honour those who served.

Are you wrinkled with burden?  *Come to the church for a faith-lift. –*  *Anon*



Letter from Revd Antony Dutton, Rector

Sacred to the memory of Lieut. & Adjutant Thomas Boydell, 39th Regiment. Who died at Dagshai, Punjab, India, on the 15th June 1876. Aged 36 years. From wounds inflicted by a tiger when shooting in the Dhûn.

These are the words of a memorial on the wall of All Saints' Church, Gresford. It could be straight out of a Flashman novel. But there is a real life, a real story, beyond these macabre words. I wonder how Thomas Boydell ended up with the Dorsetshire Regiment? What happened on that fateful day? And why was he memorialised on the west wall of a grand, medieval church in the north-east corner of Wales? (If you know, answers on a postcard to the editor, please.)

This memorial is one of those fascinating things you stumble across when you spend some time Church Crawling. This term – Church Crawling – was first used by John Betjeman in 1948 in a BBC Home Service broadcast, describing his days out visiting churches. A new book on this very activity has just been published: *Church Crawling: The secret lives and hidden stories of England's churches* by Rachel Morley (Vintage Publishing, £22). Morley works as the director of the Friends of the Friendless Churches, an organisation which cares for those places of worship that can no longer sustain a priest or a congregation and would otherwise be left to fall derelict. This work is carried out because, as Morley says, 'Our churches are our greatest cultural treasures and England's greatest architectural endowment'. She claims the book is, 'An attempt to collate and articulate different reasons as to why churches matter – even when fewer and fewer people want or need them for their original purpose'.

The book is beautifully written; a love song to churches across our country. It is funny and insightful, mystical and wondrous, and historically informative. I would thoroughly recommend it as a Christmas present for anyone who enjoys pottering around churches, or who wants to know more about the history of Christianity – and other religious beliefs and practices – in this land. It covers all the big historical and religious events often seen through the little things, even the smallest objects in churches.

The last chapter is a Bede Roll. Historically, this was a list of names of people who had donated to a church and were frequently read out in thanksgiving. Morley gives an alternative, comprehensive directory, of various fascinating things in churches which remember people, images, memories, and stories, and which did not make it elsewhere in the book. (Mrs Rectory was thrilled to discover that I was adding more churches to add to my own hit list.)

As I say, the book is excellent. Morley regales us with charming examples of why church buildings are indeed architecturally significant, possessing regional quirks, containing the memorials which tell the stories of the great and the good, the poor and the forgotten. Church buildings can attract the faithful and the atheist alike and encourage them to take up the pastime of Church Crawling.

But they are something more: They are buildings where prayer has been offered for centuries, almost tangible, stuck to the walls – Morley says as much. Yet they are very specific, concrete monuments to a living faith, where the love of God revealed in Jesus Christ has been proclaimed in word and deed, and continues to be encountered by people now. This is what they are built for. They are places where the church gathers; to worship, and to offer service and hospitality. It is why we must retain them for their original purpose and not see them as an extension of the British Museum.

I might propose another Bede Roll:

The Church of St Mary and St Barlok, Norbury, the babble of the River Dove coming through the medieval glass. Lighting a candle at the shrine of St Aidan in Bamburgh. Llandanwg, hidden in the dunes, listening to the waves crash on the shore, where early British saints made dangerous voyages across the Irish Sea. The crypt of Ripon cathedral, where I seemed to step out of time and somebody had to come and find me. Standing in a grove of trees by Holystone well, where Ninian is said to have been baptized in the fifth century. Durham Cathedral, sat with the great northern saints, Cuthbert and Bede, wrestling with faith. The colossal, yet intimate space of Liverpool Anglican Cathedral. St Mary's Handbridge, in the darkness, with the light on the crib, after everybody has left Midnight Mass.

There are many more. We could discuss the architectural merits of these places, their locations, history, and beauty (I acknowledge a northern bias); but they are holy places where, in the words of John Wesley, my heart was 'strangely warmed', where prayers were offered, and the love of God was made real in a particular moment. We will all have our own list; I'd love to hear them.

You will notice that my list concludes with our own St Mary's, at Christmas time no less. It is a magical time of the church's year and the beauty of our warm, red stone building itself helps us to achieve this feeling of wonder as we celebrate the mystery of the Incarnation. It would be lovely to see the church full for our many different services, which are listed elsewhere in this magazine. Please invite your friends and families; be confident inviting people along to hear the music, experience the liturgy, immerse themselves in the words and the silence, the welcome and the warmth. It is the perfect time to dip your toe in or reconnect.

In these months we also continue a form of the Bede Roll: reading out the names at All Souls' of those we have loved and lost; and another list on Remembrance Sunday when we recall those who gave their lives in conflict. This is all part of our church continuing to tell the story of this community, proclaim the story of our faith and live in love. All are welcome . **Antony**



Christmas Fair 28th November 12 – 3pm

It's that time of year again when St Mary's holds this annual event.
This year, alongside our much-loved stalls, we are delighted to welcome back **Father Christmas**, who will be greeting visitors in his grotto.
We're also launching St Mary's personalised merchandise – the perfect solution for those tricky 'person-who-has-everything' gifts.

We are happy to receive items from 15th Nov. Boxes will be placed at the back of the church for your donations.








We would be very grateful to receive:
Tombola items & **Raffle** prizes
Items for the **Bottle** stall
Complete **Jigsaws** and **Board games**
Craft items & **Cakes** (to be brought on the day)
If you are able to help on the day please sign the sheet at the back of the church.



Famous people with birthdays in November & December by Wendy Gorman

NOVEMBER

Spencer Perceval, born 1st Nov 1762, died 1812. He is the only assassinated British PM. A merchant named John Bellingham, had a grievance with the government and fatally shot Perceval in the chest on 11th May, in the house of Commons. Perceval was only 49 yrs old, leaving a widow and 12 children. Bellingham was hanged a week later.

Lester Piggott, born 5th Nov 1935, died 2022 in Switzerland He was from a farming family who from the 1870s ran the Crown Inn in Nantwich for 30 years. He began racing at the age of 10 and had his first win at 12 at Haydock Park. He won the Derby 9 times and was Champion Jockey 11 times. He was known as 'the housewives' favourite'.

1st Viscount Montgomery of Alamein, born Nov 17th 1887, died 1976. He served in both world wars and the Irish War of Independence. In the first Battle of Ypres, he was shot through the right lung. He took part in the battles of Arras and Passchendael. During the Western Desert Campaign of WW11, he commanded the 8th Army from August '42 and the invasions of Italy and Sicily. He led the 8th Army to victory over Rommel (the Desert Fox) in N.Africa. During the Normandy Campaign he commanded the Allied ground forces 6th June-1st Sept. Churchill said of him, 'In defeat, unbeatable, in victory, unbearable'.

Sir Winston Churchill, born in Blenheim Palace 30th Nov 1874 was a military officer, writer and painter as well as PM from 1940-45, when he lost to Labour. He was PM again from 1951-55. He never considered surrender even in the darkest days of the Blitz. At school we had to learn, by heart, his famous speech, 'We shall fight them on the beaches' given on June 4th 1940 in the House of Commons. I thought I was rather good at it; memory rubbish now! He died from a stroke on 24th Jan 1965. State funeral at St. Paul's Cathedral and buried at Bladon, Oxfordshire.

DECEMBER

Madam Tussaud, born as Marie Grosholtz in Strasbourg Dec 1761. As a child, she was taught the art of wax modelling by Philippe Curtius, physician who began making anatomical models, and a great number of famous people. She and her mother followed him when he moved to Paris and later inherited them after he died. She was later imprisoned for three months during the French Revolution, during this time she made models of the victims (Off with their heads). She toured extensively with her models, eventually showing them at the Lyceum Theatre, London. In 1831,she opened a museum in Baker St. The most famous exhibit was the Chamber of Horrors. I remember seeing Crippen there. The last time I visited the museum, Alan Titchmarsh was on display, said to be the most kissed of all the models! No I didn't kiss it, wouldn't have minded the real thing!

Ludwig van Beethoven, born 17th Dec 1770 in Bonn. He was composer, conductor and pianist. He began to go deaf about 1796, and was totally deaf by the age of 45. DNA analysis found high levels of lead in his hair and an autopsy reported swollen auditory nerves. This may have been due to Otosclerosis or to Paget's Disease. His famous works include, Symphony No.5 in C minor and Fur Elise, which used to be heard in musical boxes. He died in Vienna from liver cirrhosis and hepatitis, 26th March 1827, at the age of 56.

Sir Isaac Newton was born in Lincolnshire 25th Dec 1642, according to the Julian calendar which was used at the time. The Gregorian calendar moves it to January 4th 1663! He is famous for seeing an apple fall from a tree and working out gravity. In 1687 he concluded that an invisible force was also keeping the moon in orbit around the earth. His idea was built on the work of Galileo who studied acceleration, (all beyond me!) He published his work, Philosophiæ Naturalis Principia Mathematica in 3 volumes; tough bedside reading! He died 31stMarch 1727, aged 84: not bad going!

Our Lord, Jesus Christ (the *most* important person), born around the 25th Dec over 2000 years ago; the baby born in a stable in Bethlehem, born to save mankind.

Wishing you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas

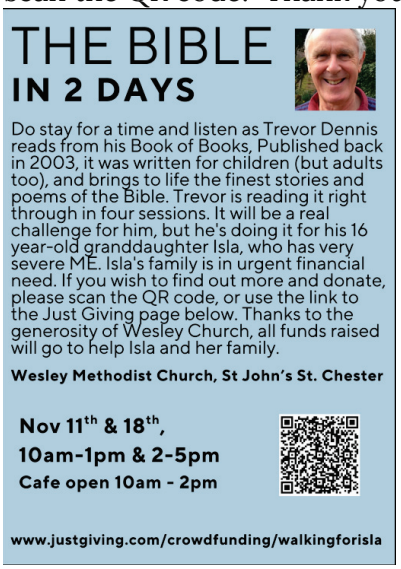
Trevor Dennis talks about his granddaughter Isla

As some of you know, Caroline and I have a very sick granddaughter. Her name is Isla Barr, and every week she is prayed for in the intercessions, for which we are profoundly grateful. She's been in the Countess of Chester hospital since June last year with extremely severe ME. She can't do anything for herself.

Although she's just turned 16, she needs to have her Mum, our daughter Eleanor, or her Dad Rob with her 24/7. Rob had to give up work when she was admitted, and now has no income, while Eleanor has been out of teaching for some years because of migraines. The family is in urgent need of financial support. The hospital staff are talking of discharging Isla, but the family house is far too small, and major work on it will need to be done. They will no doubt receive a grant towards that, but they anticipate having to supply considerable funds of their own to provide a home where they can all flourish. The wider family has rallied round by setting up a Just Giving page and taking on various challenges. Eleanor's sister Jo, has already walked the entire 100 mile coast path of the Isle of Man. Tim, her brother, has walked the 37 miles of the Wirral Way in one go, while Sarah, Eleanor's other sister, is walking the length of Cheshire on the Sandstone Trail with her husband and two young children. Caroline's challenge and mine are rather different. She will cook 100 meals for the family – she's up to 40 at the time of writing – while I will give a public reading of my Book of Books in four sessions. Published in 2003 it tells of some of the finest stories and poems in the Bible. I aimed it primarily at children, but adults tell me it works for them. It'll take me over 12 hours. I'll be performing it at **Wesley Methodist Church in St John Street on November 11th (observing the two minutes' silence at 11.00am) and November 18th , 10.00am-1.00pm and 2.00pm-5.00pm.** It would be wonderful if some of you could drop in during one of those sessions to give me support. (PS. Wesley has a café!) And if you would like to learn more about Isla and perhaps make a donation, you can use the Just Giving page at: www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/walkingforisla or else scan the QR code. Thank you so much, **Trevor**









Mothers' UNION
Diocese of Chester

I attended a **Quiet Day at Foxhill** , the Chester Diocese Retreat Centre, led by the **M.U. Diocesan Chaplain, Canon Vivien Gisby**, who gently guided us through our Reflection on the Woman at the Well.

At our meeting in **September**, **Matt Baker** gave a very interesting powerpoint presentation, about the varied work that 'Theatre in the Quarter' does in the community. It was good to hear that the city Passion Play will be returning next year. At the end of October we had an invitation to attend a flower demonstration and a concert at Little Neston. Also in **October** we heard from the **Rev'd Elaine White** , about her work as a **Hospice Chaplain at Hospice of the Good Shepherd**. We were invited to the M.U. Branch at Backford, for a Celebration Service marking the 75th Anniversary of their inception. On Wednesday 18th November at 2pm we meet at St. Thomas Church, Chester when we welcome Mr Keegan to give us a presentation 'Camino Walk to Compostela'. As always you are most welcome to attend.

On the **2nd December** we look forward to our Advent Meditation. **Linda Schofield.**

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Dear Readers,

All I would like to say to everyone is, to enjoy the run up to Christmas, to remember the 'Reason for the Season' and endeavour to buy most of your presents from charity shops! So much going on at St Mary's, and in the local and wider communities, to enjoy in the coming weeks.

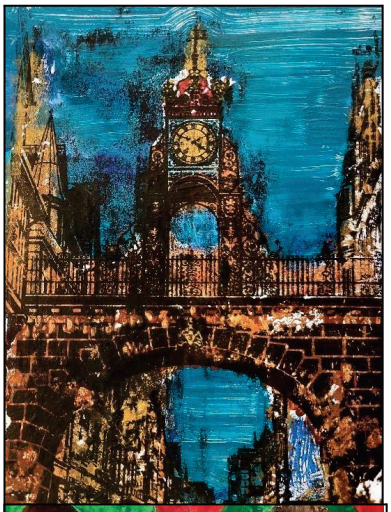
Happy, healthy Christmas and see you in the New Year...Oh! Try and find one new person's hands to press the magazine into over the Christmas season! Every blessing, **Catherine**

Overleigh St Mary's CE Primary School





At Overleigh we have been focusing on the value of Love this half term. This has included *Love of Our Wonderful World* celebrating the beauty and complexity of nature and our local areas as well as celebrating and being thankful for Harvest. Some of our talented artists joined children from other CDAT schools for a very special artist in residence workshop at Burwardsley. Collectively the children considered the buildings and communities that they associate with the area their school is in and produced art work together. Shortly these children will be sharing their learning with their peers in school to produce our own version of the work.







Meanwhile, down at Overleigh St. Mary's CE Primary School, we shared in the blessings of harvest. The children learned all about the importance of Harvest to all people regardless of race, faith or circumstance. That everybody around the world wanted to celebrate a successful harvest and that this was harder to achieve in some places due to factors such as climate, resource and education. We thanked our community for their kind donations at Harvest Festival, rejoiced in the harvest that had been provided for us by God and understood the importance of sharing our good fortune with those less fortunate than ourselves.

Sonny's family baked this lovely display to feature as a centrepiece for our harvest. Thank you so much for the time, effort and care that went into producing such a beautiful presentation piece.

Our Ethos Team helped to dress our harvest table and following worship they helped us to pack the donations ready for Mr Flynn to take to the Food Bank Distribution Warehouse.



The Food Bank team expressed their gratitude for the sheer volume of donations and the generous, heartfelt way in which it was given. They promised to make good use of the offerings to make others' lives better. The children were delighted to hear that it had gone to such a good cause.

We hope that harvest time has been good for the St Mary's Church community and that everybody has been blessed with the opportunity to share God's love in a similar way to we have.

With love from all at Overleigh St Mary's CE Primary

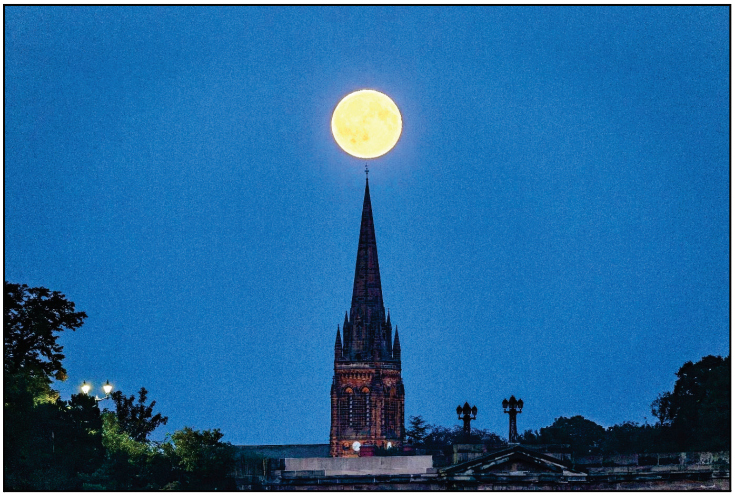
Love God
Love Ourselves
Love People

Emma Drew - Headteacher admin@osm.cheshire.sch.uk

Editor: When children describe Scripture: 'One of the opossums was St Matthew who was also a taximan'.

The Stories behind our St Mary's Christmas cards

Here they are! Our two designs, with the stories behind them. The Christmas cards will be sold in packs of 6, three of each design, and will make their first appearance at the Christmas Fair.



Sturgeon Moon over St Mary's

This photograph shows a full sturgeon moon rising over St Mary's on 28th August at 20.42 and was taken by an ex-pupil of mine Gareth William Rainsforth a keen and very talented amateur photographer. I met Gareth at the Cathedral to ask his permission to use this photograph. He gave me the story of how it nearly didn't happen! **Mavis Sellers**

'The journey from Hoole took around 20 minutes, power-walking at my fastest. Once set up, I realised an oddity – the actual position of the moon didn't match up with the plan! I've been having issues with the compass calibration on my phone, which consequently caused the plan to be offset by quite a margin. However, thanks to a cyclist passing by, they told me that if I moved further around the path the moon would be closer to the spire. After quickly saying thank you, I picked up my tripod with the camera still attached, and sprinted 50m around the path to the correct location. Out of breath and with adrenaline pumping, I barely had a few minutes to readjust my tripod and camera settings, not helped by someone trying to talk to me at the time! I had to mostly ignore them to focus on the shot. After a lot of stress and pressure, I managed to capture the image that you see here.

Overall, I'm absolutely thrilled with the end result, given the circumstances - the photo is actually better than the originally planned shot! To top it off, I realised that I was standing in the exact same position where I photographed the Full Wolf Supermoon over Chester Cathedral back in January – an unbelievable coincidence! Luck was definitely on my side last night! This year, and especially August, has been a great one for astrophotography, and I'm not done yet!'

The photo has been accepted by Photopills, an app specialising in showcasing top worldwide astrophotography images. Gareth's work can be seen on Chester Life in Pictures or on his Instagram page @gareth.rainsforth. You can email any feedback to GarethGWR@aol.com



The Trena Cox window at St Mary's

Trena Cox was born in Bebington on the Wirral in 1895. Her birth name was Emma Trina Cox, but she seems to have been known as Trina from early childhood. Professionally, she used the name Trena Mary Cox. Following a period of study at the Laird School of Art in Birkenhead she moved to Chester to begin her career as a professional stained-glass artist.

She lived and worked in Chester for the rest of her life establishing a home studio at 96 Watergate street in the mid-1940s.

During a career lasting almost 50 years, she produced stained glass for over 60 locations throughout North West England and North Wales, with a small number of windows installed at locations further afield including sites in Yorkshire, Hertfordshire, Gloucestershire, West Sussex, Shropshire, Warwickshire and Norfolk.

Trena Cox made an enduring commitment to Chester and was a passionate advocate for the preservation of the city's medieval heritage. Reflecting on her career in 1956, the Cheshire Observer commented:" The reputation she has built up over the years for skilled design and artistry has brought prestige to the city in which she works."

Chester Cathedral played a pivotal role in her career. In the 1920s Dean Frank Bennett commissioned Trena Cox as part of a campaign to re-energise the cathedral and make it an open space for the public, leading to her installation of several artwork pieces – including windows in the cloisters and the notable St Christopher window in the Slype.

Trena Cox died in Chester in 1980. Over the years that followed, she faded into obscurity in the city of Chester and became a neglected figure in the history of stained glass, often overlooked in surveys of the craft in the twentieth century.

In 2024 Chester Cathedral unveiled an exhibition and programme of activities celebrating the life of Trena Cox.

A Cancer Diary: Finding Faith Chapter 8 by Bells



Life has become very retrospective. Having the meeting with my oncologist – the one you hope never to have – has, quite naturally, made me evaluate what is truly important. It's a one-word answer. Time.

I've been asked by quite a few people how I'm coping with the news. And the simple answer is that I can look at it in two ways. Every minute that's passed means a minute has gone. But my perspective is that every minute that's passed is a minute I've lived.

Way back in my school days, I did Dickens' Tale of Two Cities for O level. I remember enjoying it, and I remember the opening lines with a clarity that surprises me. I know you all know it. "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of light, it was the season of darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair." It could not be more true: it is both the best and worst of times – though, on balance, I'd say the good bits are far outweighing the bad. In general, I try not to let despair anywhere into my days – it uses far too much energy. Being content is what I strive for. And I think, in this world of influencers and the constant wanting-something-more, contentment is a state we have forgotten about. It's that wonderful zen feeling of knowing you are completely happy with where you are, what you have, what you've achieved and, in that moment, have reached an understanding with yourself that you are pretty lucky to 'have it all' – whatever it may be.

We spend too much of our lives wishing away time: desperate to leave school and be a 'grown up' (don't we all know better now!); longing for an occasion or holiday start date and not noticing the days that pass in between; wishing that seasons we don't enjoy will go quickly – from Winter to Spring, or 'too hot Summers' to Autumn. As the Mad Hatter says in Alice in Wonderland, " If you knew Time as well as I do, you wouldn't talk about wasting it." My boys used to ask me why weeks were so long and weekends too short: my answer was always 'if you didn't have weekdays, you wouldn't enjoy weekends – and you make the most of every second because they are so precious!'

Having a terminal illness and a shortened defined lifespan, I would defy anyone not to overthink Time. But there's a balance between making every second count and not overdoing it - and therefore bringing the end closer more quickly than planned! As I'm not someone who likes to sit still very much, I find this use of my minutes quite tricky! I've had to get good at putting in Rest Days and realising they are a good use of time, not a waste of time. "Yesterday is gone. Tomorrow has not yet come. We have only today. Let us begin," said Mother Therese. And maybe it's as simple as that: making today count and not always looking forwards. Just living for the moment.

But Modern Day Life is not the easiest place to slow down. We are now expected to over-achieve on a daily basis! When I think about how I use my time on a weekly basis, I have realised that being in our Church Service each Sunday is one of my constants and an excellent place to change the pace: just for an hour, life becomes a little more tranquil, time goes more slowly in the best way, and thoughts have a more defined clarity as both the routine of the service itself and the focus on what is being said in lessons and sermon require the busyness of one's mind to be stilled.

And so it seems appropriate to wrap up this particular column with (and I can see Reverend Antony raising his eyebrows right now as I've told him I don't read the bible!) a quote from James 4:14: "Yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes." I am a literary luddite – and so I don't know what I'm supposed to get from this: I just know what I DO get from it! I actually love the idea of being "a mist…that vanishes" and the idea that we're just on earth for a little time.

It's what we do with it that counts.

We may ignore, but we cannot evade the presence of God. The world is crowded with Him. – C S Lewis

Incredible Edible Handbridge, The Arches Community Garden

Autumn update from Lisa Rossetti

NEWS FROM THE PLOT 🌱Hello everyone!🌱 Hope you've all had a glorious summer.
Still nice weather into autumn which has meant a bumper tomato 🍅 harvest at the Arches! The Arches, is a community wellbeing and wildlife garden in the heart of Handbridge between Devonshire and Prenton Place.
We continue Saturday morning get-togethers 10-12 which will run into winter.
We have lots of exciting news!



Firstly, we need to say a massive thank you to our local councillors, Razia Daniels and Matt Carter who have kindly donated £750 between them from their members' budgets to help the Arches continue to thrive. We are immensely grateful🙏 We are also delighted to announce that we have commenced an exciting collaboration with Chester Zoo's wildlife and wellbeing team! This comes with professional support and guidance, and funding for developments and events🙏🌱 It also links us more firmly with other groups around Chester who are also making green spaces more environmentally conscious 🐝🦋🐞🌱🌻



Event: We warmly invite everyone to our first event at **6.30-8pm on Tuesday November 17th** at St Mary's Handbridge Centre (behind St Mary's Church on Overleigh Road).
This free event for all the family will be an opportunity to hear all about our development plans. There will be a chance to talk to the Wildlife and wellbeing team, have your say, ask questions, kids activities, refreshments and lite bites!
As always, we invite you to sign up to our "easy fundraising" page which allows donations from companies with each purchase.
It's a great way to raise funds to buy equipment and materials, and to plan for further developments along the gardens and passageways.
You can also follow us on our IEH and Arches Facebook pages:
https://www.facebook.com/share/1EZod9XJMp/?mibextid=wwXIfrand The Arches instagram page:
https://www.instagram.com/thearcheswellbeinggarden?stkn=dXl3eHltaHUwNzBv&utmsource=qr
Our IE website is getting a glow up and being updated, and will soon be a rich treasure trove of information.
Join our mailing list by emailing ie.handbridge1@gmail.com
https://join.easyfundraising.org.uk/incredible-edible-handbridge/BM3SFM/s2s/N5Znntup/DSF6H/facebook/
In these challenging times, it's helpful to have spaces like The Arches to connect with nature, and community.
It's a little oasis where mind, body and soul can feel nourished 🍎



Unlicensed Lay Weeders

St Mary's grounds were planned with year round interest in mind-however these two snaps were taken on the same day.
The plan now is to have an open afternoon in spring when the bulbs will be in full bloom (if they survive being smothered by thistles) . So when we come out of hibernation I will be begging for all hands (green fingered or not) to bring us up to scratch. (*Berries are Skimmia, rose is The Lark Ascending*)
Alison



A Christmas Poem written by Wendy Gorman

Family gatherings, oh what a joy,
hearing laughter from the girl and boy,
in years gone by, they were happy to play
with dolls and trains all of the day.
But time moves on, and choices change
to mobiles & tablets, it's not the same!
Can't eat the apple or orange that sits in the sock.
We sigh for the memories time cannot lock.
We carve the turkey, juicy and plump,
with roasties and gravy, a festive clump,
We think of the people in cold, distant zones,
Where families suffer from missiles and drones.
Their homes are now shattered, reduced to dust
While we count our blessings in quiet and trust.



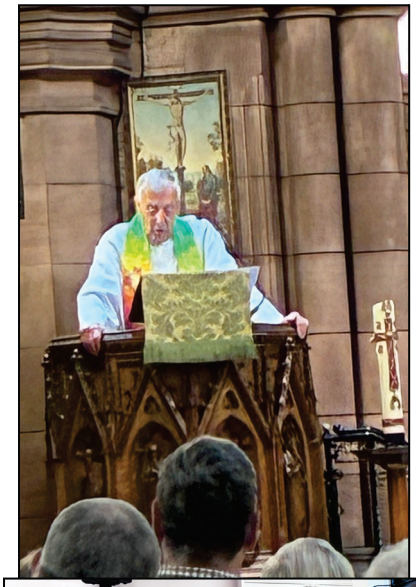
In warmth we play cards or games of Charade
But think of others where life is so hard.
What games can be played when you live on the street,
and search through the bins for something to eat.
We laugh at the T.V at a comedy show
with mulled wine & mince pies, in the firelight's glow
But think of the children who only know fright,
with no Christmas toys in their sorrowful plight
Hidden from view, out of comfort and peace,
Praying for horrors and violence to cease
If only mankind would soon understand,
To banish the evil that darkens the land,
To love one another, let conflict subside
And welcome a peace where we walk, side by side.



Featured Article

John's 60 years of faithful service in the priesthood 27th September 2026

The Rector wrote this in his letter in the last magazine about John's diamond jubilee of priestly ministry. 'On 26th 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. '











HEARTFELT THANKS FROM JOHN

Thank you for making it possible for me to celebrate 60 years of my ordination as a priest on Sunday 27th September at our parish Eucharist. Thank you also for the wonderful reception in our Parish Centre and for the many cards of Congratulations and Thanks that are so heart-warming, including the quarter peel rung in the Tower in celebration, all of which I will cherish for the rest of my life.

I give special thanks to Rector Antony and our Churchwardens for the celebratory cake and drinks and for the beautiful icon you gave me which now has pride of place in my prayer corner at home.

As I mentioned in my sermon, my mother taught me way back in the 1930's that when you are invited out to someone's home, always remember to say "Thank you for having me". Self-Supporting Ministry works from the basis of invitation. SSM's receive no stipend or pension from the Church and we serve wherever we are invited to do so. It has been a privilege to continue to be invited to serve here at St. Mary's by five successive Rectors and one of the main proclamations of my sermon was, and remains, my Thanksgiving to all of you at St.Mary's for enabling me to have such a fulfilling ministry.

It was a happy coincidence that the Epistle for Sunday 27th September was an extract from St.Paul's Letter to his first church on European soil (in Macedonia) because in it Paul gives thanks for all those Christians had meant to him, with their open and friendly attitude. I feel much the same about all of you here at St.Mary's. Paul reminds them, and us, it is God who is at work in us as, together, we open our hearts and minds to Christ Jesus.

The Church of England, in 1958, rather reluctantly gave approval for the ordination of "suitable men"while continuing in their lay occupation. It was not until 1994 that the ordination of women to the priesthood was permitted.

When I was ordained Priest in Chester by Bishop Gerald Ellison in 1966 it was with the title Supplementary Ministry. There were fewer than a hundred of us across the whole country at that time. Recent statistics indicate there are about 3000 Self Supporting Ordained Ministers. Bishop Julie Conalty, who was an SSM for over 10 years is now the Lead Bishop for us in the C.of E.

John

Memory Lane

Mr. John Buckley sent these photographs to St Mary's Magazine from the 1960s & 1970s. He says that he enjoys receiving the magazine and has many happy memories of his time in Handbridge.







St Mary's Handbridge Church had a good influence on my life. Renee and I were married in St Mary's church 23rd August 1969...I joined the choir, then served at the Altar and in those days it was 8:00am, 9:30am, 11:00am and evensong 6:30pm.... I joined the Cubs , then Scouts , and Senior Scouts. Renee and I left Chester in 1970 , as I worked for WH Smith News...One of the joys of returning to Handbridge is to hear Bell Ringing Practice of an evening. The annual May Queen Festival was held on the lawn at the side of the old Rectory. On the other side of the Rectory was another building which was used as a Cub and Scout Hut ..I was coached, and encouraged to be a Page Boy, by the Best Life Coach whom I was lucky enough to have ... MY MUM! **John Buckley**





The scene at St. Mary's new Church Hall, Handbridge, during the official opening on Sunday. In our picture are the Rector (Rev. W. G. Hurlow) and the Bishop of Birkenhead (Rt. Rev. Eric Mercer).



Terry Coe Long serving Server at St Mary's-Without-the-Walls !

Terry was christened at St Mary's, Handbridge **October 1955**, which was the first time he says that he was taken to the church. His family then worshipped at the United Reformed church until Canon Hurlow arrived at St Mary's. Terry was then in the choir and recalls being paid the princely sum of 5/- (25p) to sing at a wedding! Terry was confirmed by the Bishop of Birkenhead, The Right Revd Eric Mercer, (who had previously been vicar of St Mary's on the Hill and then went on to be Bishop of Exeter.) Terry began serving at St Mary's in 1970 and continues to this present day. Terry has also been associated with the Scouting movement since being a cub, aged 8, right through to Venture Scouts aged 21. Terry remains on the local Scouting committee. Unwavering commitment.

Thank you Terry for this long standing, and continuing service, to the glory of God and for those who worship at St Mary's-Without-the-Walls.

Catherine

News & Notices

Registers August 2026:

Funerals

None

Baptisms

George Patrick Chesworth

Lily Cate Chesworth

Ralph Joshua Heath

Marriages

Joel Waring & Olivia McGovern

Registers September 2026:

Funerals

Baby Freddie

Baptisms

Hudson Paul Deponeo

Marriages

Adam Crimes & Rachel Edmond

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



Church Flower Arranging Rota November & December 2026

November: Team 3.

Janet Edwards, Diana Morgan and Janet Palmer.

December, being Advent, there are no flowers in church. I would like to thank all those who came to dress the church for Harvest Festival.We are calling on everyone available to join us from **9.00 a.m. onwards, on Wednesday 23rd December**, to decorate the church for **Christmas Day.*Are there any more volunteers to help on a Friday morning with the church flowers?We all help each other out and each team is only on for 2 months in the year.*** **Elizabeth Bennett tel: 01244 678[illegible]**

Church Cleaning Team

WE NEED YOUR HELP!



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 (& biscuits!) FAR more fun than cleaning at home! **Helen: 07522 477605**



Carols & Candles

An intimate and festive carol service that captures the true spirit of Christmas and raises money for the amazing **Claire House**, is here again ... This service has been in the planning since February, with new pieces of music to share with everyone. The **Vale of Clwyd Singers will** perform, and there will be delightful festive readings.

When: *Tuesday 1st December 2026*

Time: *Doors open* **18:15** *for a very prompt* **18:30** *start!*

Location: *Christ Church, Port Sunlight*

Hot drink and mince pie *Book your tickets here:* https://www.clairehouse.org.uk/get-involved/support-us/events/carols-candles-2026/

St Mary's Social & Events Diary

2026

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 7.30pm Christmas Concert with the City of Chester Bluecoat Band

December 11th 7pm Music by the Bridge concert with Dee Ensemble

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

2027

February 27th 7.30pm Chester Philharmonic Orchestra at St Mary's

Tea & Coffee Rota (after 10.30am service)

1st Nov Team 3
Wendy Gorman
Margaret Davies
Julie Pickett

8th Nov Team 4
Liz Young
Sue Dickinson
Sue Fryer

15th Nov Team 5
Doris Keen
Wendy Gerrard
Helen Pritchard

22nd Nov Team 6
Sybil Graham
Margaret Lawson
Elizabeth Bennett

29th Nov Team 7
Lynn Barritt
Klaus Armstrong-Braun
Janet Davies

6th Dec Team 8
Joy Barton
Diana Morgan
Catherine Jones

13th Dec Team 9
Margaret Rushton
Betty Mcloughlin
Helen Brophy

20th Dec Team 1
Alma Hukin
Pat Jones
Margaret Teasdale

25th & 27th Dec
No coffee in the Centre after the services on these Sundays

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,

Please call me, **Fiona, on 07918 658525**

Christian Aid Advent Christmas Card Tree

We are pleased to say that our **Advent Christmas card tree** will be up in church from **1st December** for anyone who would like to place a Christmas card on the tree and all donations will go to Christian Aid. Thank you to everyone for all your support. **Helen and Chris**



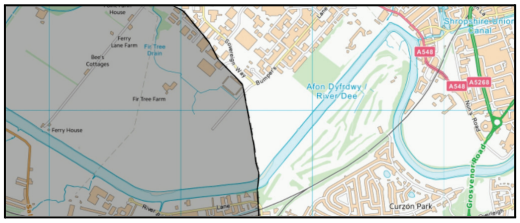
News & Notices



Lache and Westminster Local History Group

Lache Community Centre
Hawthorn Road, Chester, CH4 8HX

THE RIVER DEE PORT AND KINDERLEY'S CUT
by Tom Welsh
Wednesday 4th November 2026 at 7.30pm



Local Historian Tom Welsh has been researching the development of the River Dee as a navigable access to the port of Chester. Come and hear the story! All welcome, no need to book. **£2** per person on the door. Refreshments will be available after the talk.
or text 07726 425847

Linda Shuttleworth, Secretary, Lache and Westminster Local History Group shuttleworths@talktalk.net
01244 679791 or text 07726 425847

Handbridge Flower Club Nov/Dec 2026



We will complete the 2026 Programme on **Thurs 19th Nov** with a demonstration from **Catherine Baines** called **'Christmas Sparkle'.** This will begin at **1.45pm** and will be followed by a raffle for the flower arrangements and will finish with tea/coffee and home made cakes. We don't have a demonstration during **December** but members will enjoy a festive lunch at **Curzon Golf Club.**

Our **AGM** is scheduled for **Thursday 21st January** and will begin a little earlier at **1pm** to allow us to enjoy a demonstration afterwards. More details will follow nearer the time.

The Committee would like to thank all members and visitors for their support during **2026** and look forward to welcoming existing members, new members and visitors during **2027**.

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

Ludlow Trip and Christmas Market 3rd Dec



A Parish coach trip to **Ludlow, the Christmas market and an optional tour of St Laurence's Church,** has been arranged for **Thursday 3rd December 2026.**

The total cost per person is **£25** for the coach plus **£5** for an optional guided tour of the church. There will be a non-refundable deposit of **£10** for coach cancellations after **3rd November**. There may still be availability on the coach, even though the deadline has now passed. Please contact the Parish Office.

Handbridge WI meetings Nov/Dec 2026



Handbridge WI will be meeting on **Tuesday 3rd November** in **St Mary's Handbridge Centre at 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start**. The meeting will be our **AGM,** for the annual reports and election of officers, followed by a social time for members with tea and cake.



The **Craft and Chat** group, to which all members are welcome, (even if they prefer chat to craft), will be embracing the festive theme early by making simple fabric covers for the bottles that many of us like to give as Christmas gifts. Their meeting is in the Centre on **Monday 9th November, 1.30 to 4.30 pm.**

The Book Group will be meeting on **Tuesday 17th November.** We are currently reading books from the Cheshire Libraries Service, so the books are a surprise to all of us until we receive them. It's certainly an eclectic mix, from American short stories to 'Jambusters' which tells the story of the WI's activities in WW2. That was the basis for 'Homefires' on BBCTV, which some of you may remember being filmed partly in Handbridge.



No actual meeting in December, but on **1st December** will be a Quiz Night, to commence the Christmas celebrations. We will continue this theme with our **Christmas Lunch** at **Chez Jules** on **3rd December.**



Meanwhile our **Darts Team 'Handbridge Belles'** is busy practising, courtesy of one of our local hostelries, for the Cheshire WI Darts competition. Their first match is on **28th January 2027.**.



So, for any ladies out there who would like to know more about our WI, please do come for a visit. You will be very welcome. For more information, please contact handbridgewi74@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.)

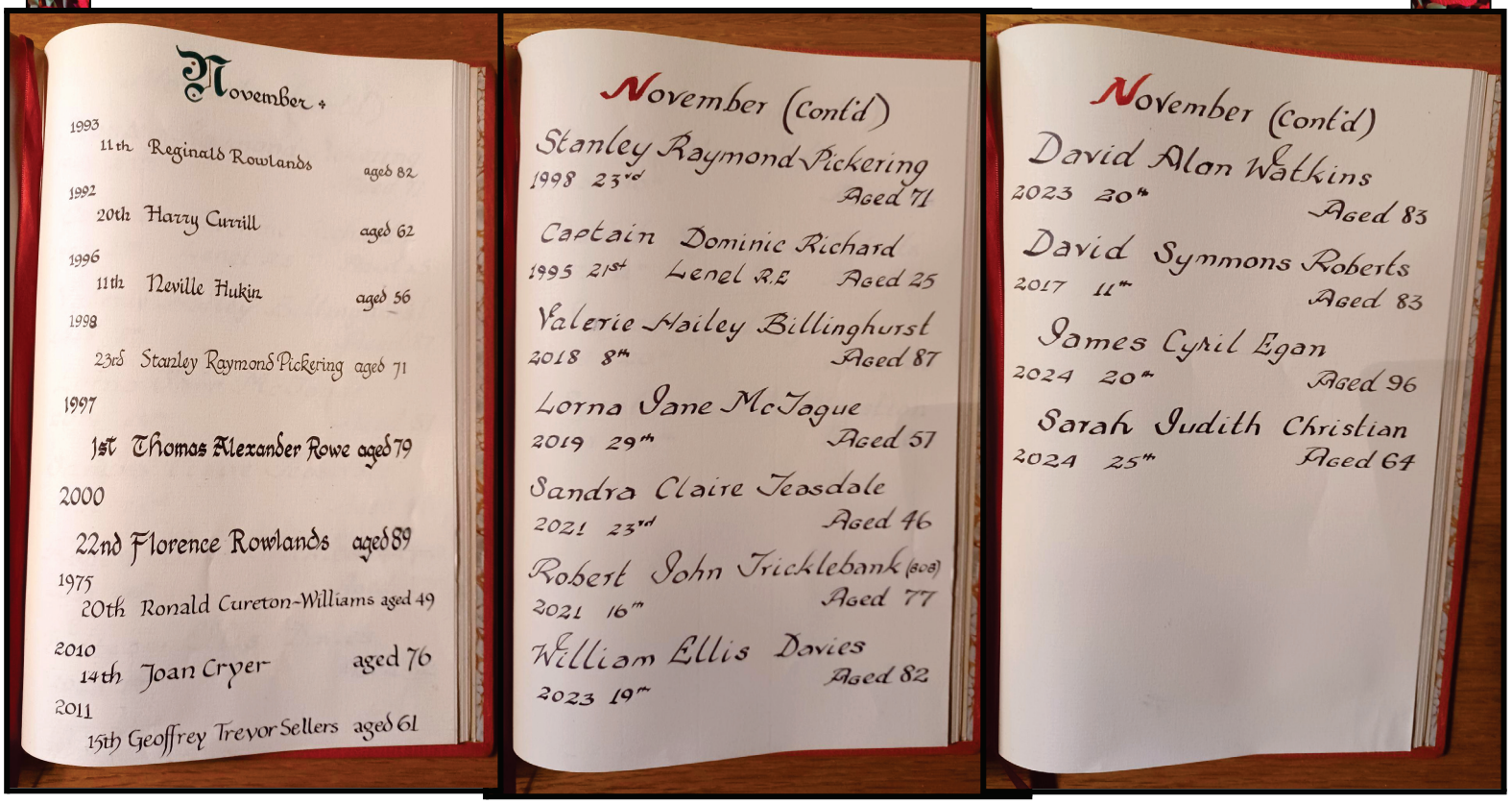
If **you** would like to join our lovely group of **volunteers** to help regularly, **please** contact me
Contact: **Sue Fryer: 07799 862828**

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

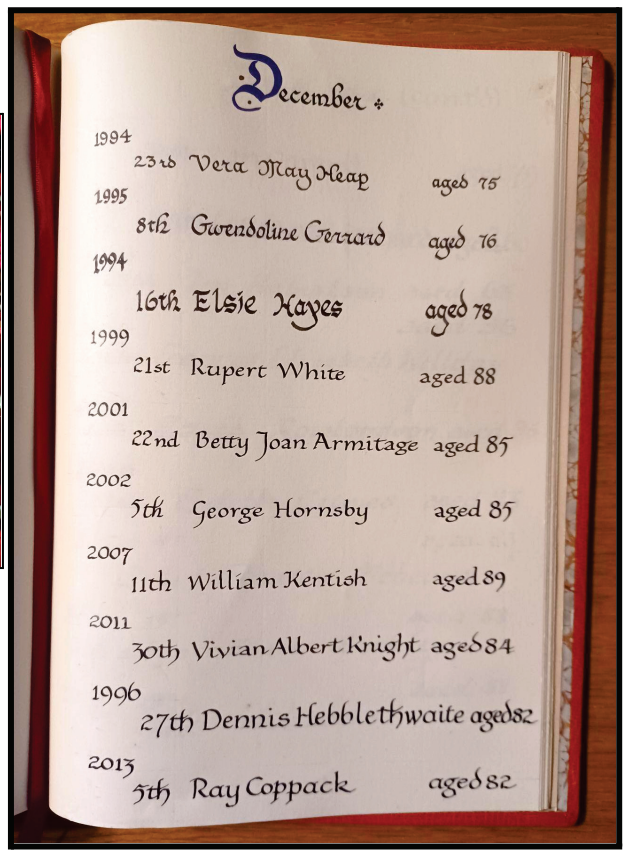


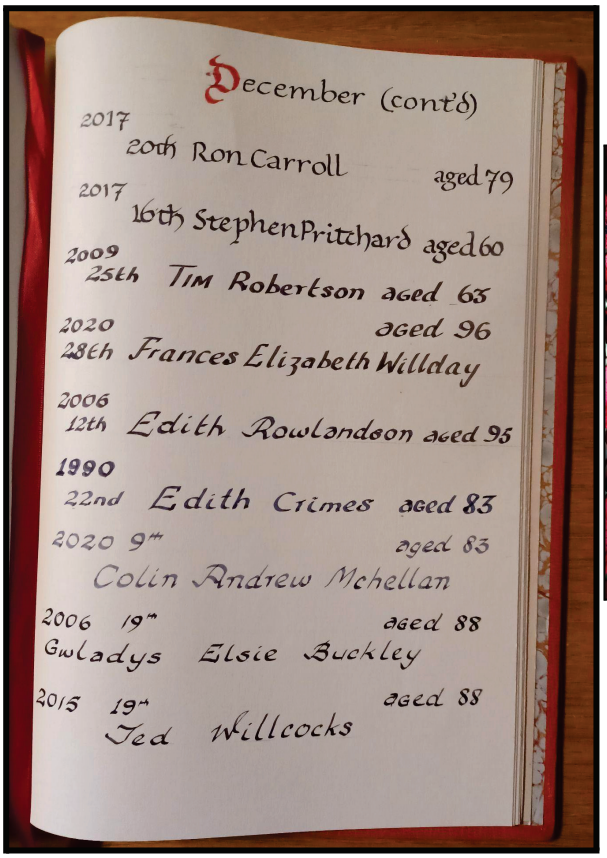
Worry is the darkroom in which negatives can develop. – Anon

November and December 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 (contacts in the Parish Directory at the back of this magazine). 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.

Editor: With Remembrance Sunday in mind

As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them. – ***President John F. Kennedy***

Weekly Bible Readings for November and December 2026

Bible readings for November	First Reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel
1st November 2026 **All Saints' Day**	Revelation 7:9-end	Psalm 34:1-10	1 John 3:1-13	Matthew 5:1-12
8th November 2026 **Third Sunday before Advent**	Either Wisdom of Solomon 6: 12-16 Or Amos 5:18-24	Psalm 70	1 Thessalonians 4:13-end	Matthew 25:1-13
15th November 2026 **Second Sunday before Advent**	Zephaniah 1:7. 12-end	Psalm 90:1-8 [9-11] 12	1 Thessalonians 5:1-11	Matthew 25:14-300
22nd November 2026 **Christ the King**	Ezekiel 34:11-16. 20-24	Psalm 95:1-7	Ephesians 1:15-end	Matthew 25:31-end
29th November 2026 **First Sunday of Advent**	Isaiah 64:1-9	Psalm 80:1-8. 18-20	1 Corinthians 1:3-9	Mark 13:24-end

Bible readings for December	First Reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel
6th December 2026 **Second Sunday of Advent**	Isaiah 40:1-11	Psalm 85:1-2. 8-end	2 Peter 3:8-5a	Mark 1:1-8
13th December 2026 **Third Sunday of Advent**	Isaiah 61:1-4. 8-end	Psalm 126	1 Thessalonians 5:16-24	John 1:6-8. 19-28
20th December 2026 **Fourth Sunday of Advent**	2 Samuel 7:1-11. 16	Psalm 89:1-4. 19-26	Romans 16:25-end	Luke 1:26-38
25th December 2026 **Christmas Day**	Isaiah 52:7-10	Psalm 98	Hebrew 1:1-4 [5-12]	John 1:1-14
27th December 2026 **John, Apostle and Evangelist**	Exodus 33:7-11a	Psalm 117	1 John 1	John 21:19b-25





Letter home from college:

"Thank you so-o-o-o much for the student loans to get me through college. I don't think I can ever repay you."

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

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

Sunday 1 — **All Saints' Day**
- 8:00am Holy Communion
- **(followed by bacon baps in St Mary's Handbridge Centre)**
- 10:30am Sung Eucharist
- 12:30pm Holy Baptism

Monday 2 — **All Souls' Day**
- 6:00pm Requiem Mass
- **7:00pm PCC Standing Committee**
- **7:30pm Julian Meeting**

Wednesday 4 — **12:00pm for 12:30pm Luncheon Club in St Mary's Handbridge Centre**

Thursday 5 — 10:00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

Friday 6 — **10:00am St Mary's Baby & Toddler Group in St Mary's Handbridge Centre**

Sunday 8 — **Remembrance Sunday**
- 8:00am Holy Communion
- **10:00am** Sung Eucharist with Act of Remembrance
- **followed by Cake Sunday in St Mary's Handbridge Centre – baked items for sale in aid of the Royal British Legion**
- 6:30pm Annual service of remembrance for our loved ones departed

Wednesday 11 — **12:00pm for 12:30pm Luncheon Club in St Mary's Handbridge Centre**

Thursday 12 — 10:00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

Friday 13 — **10:00am St Mary's Baby & Toddler Group in St Mary's Handbridge Centre**
7:00pm Music by the Bridge – The Thursday Saxophone Quartet

Sunday 15 — **Second Sunday before Advent**
- 8:00am Holy Communion
- 10:30am Sung Eucharist
- 3:00pm Messy Church

Wednesday 18 — **12:00pm for 12:30pm Luncheon Club in St Mary's Handbridge Centre**

Thursday 19 — 10:00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

Friday 20 — **10:00am St Mary's Baby & Toddler Group in St Mary's Handbridge Centre**

Sunday 22 — **Christ the King**
- 8:00am Holy Communion
- 10:30am Sung Eucharist

Monday 23 — **7:00pm PCC Meeting**

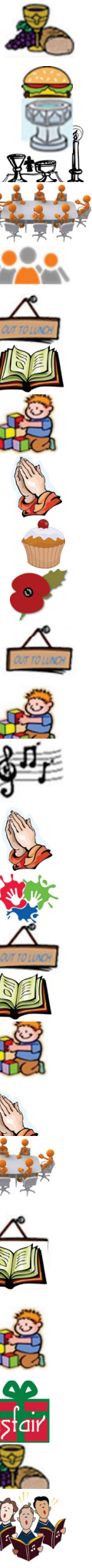
Wednesday 25 — **12:00pm for 12:30pm Luncheon Club in St Mary's Handbridge Centre**

Thursday 26 — 10:00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

Friday 27 — **10:00am St Mary's Baby & Toddler Group in St Mary's Handbridge Centre**

Saturday 28 — **12:00pm to 3:00pm St Mary's Christmas Fair in St Mary's Handbridge Centre**

Sunday 29 — **First Sunday of Advent**
- 8:00am Holy Communion
- 10:30am Sung Eucharist
- 6:30pm Advent Carol Service



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

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

Wednesday	2	**12:00pm for 12:30pm**	**Luncheon Club in St Mary's Handbridge Centre**
Thursday	3	10:00am	Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
Friday	4	**10:00am**	**St Mary's Baby & Toddler Group in St Mary's Handbridge Centre**
		7:00pm	**Christmas Concert with the City of Chester Bluecoat Band**
Sunday	**6**	**Second Sunday of Advent**	
		8:00am	Holy Communion
			(followed by bacon baps in St Mary's Handbridge Centre)
		10:30am	Sung Eucharist
		12:30pm	Holy Baptism
Monday	7	**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**
Sunday	**13**	**Third Sunday of Advent**	
		8:00am	Holy Communion
		10:30am	Sung Eucharist
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	6:00pm	Outdoor Christmas Carols and Mulled Wine
Sunday	**20**	**Fourth Sunday of Advent**	
		8:00am	Holy Communion
		10:30am	Sung Eucharist
		6:30pm	Nine Lessons and Carols
Thursday	**24**	**Christmas Eve**	
		10:00am	Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
		4:00pm	Crib Service
		11:00pm	Midnight Mass
Friday	**25**	**Christmas Day**	
		8:00am	Holy Communion
		10:30am	Sung Eucharist
Sunday	**27**	**John, Apostle and Evangelist**	
		8:00am	Holy Communion
		10:30am	Sung Eucharist
Monday	28	1:00pm	Wedding: James Rumney & Sally-Ann Conlong
Thursday	31	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

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 conjuction 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:

Supporting the Community
St Mary's Handbridge Centre

01244 671202
Overleigh Road, Chester CH4 7HL
www.stmaryschester.co.uk/st-marys-handbridge-centre/rooms-facilities/#book-a-room/
centre.stmaryschester@btconnect.com



PARISH DIRECTORY



Rector	The Revd Antony J Dutton	stmarysrector.handbridge@gmail.com and/or	01244 671202 01244 913898
Parish Administrator & Centre Manager	Doris Keen	office.stmaryschester@btconnect.com	01244 671202
Centre Coordinators **Centre Assistant**	Michael Mitchell Joanna Polanczyk John Rose	michael.stmaryschester@btconnect.com joanna.stmaryschester@btconnect.com Contact via Centre Manager	01244 671202 01244 671202
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
Churchwardens	Hailey Mason Mavis Sellers	haileymason62@gmail.co mavissellers@gmail.com	01244 674517 07715 050850
PCC Secretary	Jan Pugh	pccsecretary@btconnect.com	
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 **Churches Together Rep** **Deanery Synod Rep**	Tom Hardcastle Peter Collins Lynne Jones	treasurer.stmaryschester@gmail.com pcollins943@btinternet.com lynnejones623@hotmail	01244 671202 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
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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

Little Alex was staring up at the large brass plaque that hung on the side wall of the church. The plaque was covered with names, and they seemed to fascinate the youngster. "All those names," he said to the minister. "Who are they?" "Well, they were people who used to go to this church," explained the minister. "This is a memorial to all the young men and women who died in the services." Soberly, they stood together, staring at the large plaque. Little Alex's voice was barely audible when he asked, "Which service, the 9 o'clock, or the 11 o'clock?"



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