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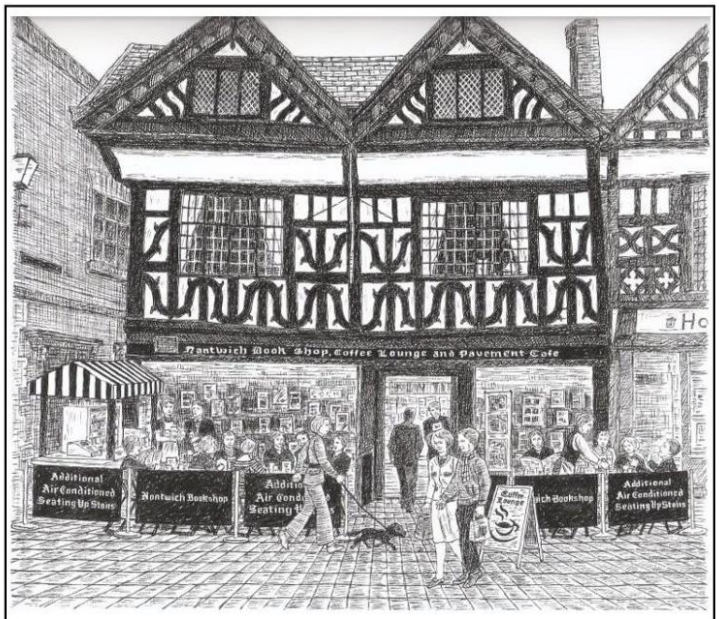
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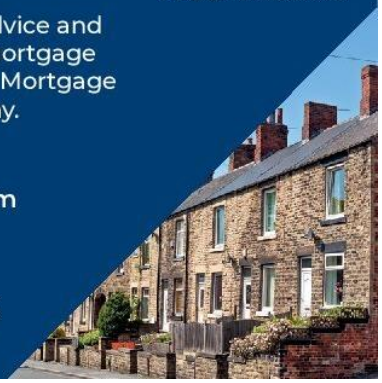
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Front cover: Craig Ellis of Recclesia Ltd. raking out the old mortar from the parapet stones on the north elevation of the nave, making them ready to be re-pointed in lime mortar.



From the Rector

We arrived in Nantwich seven years ago this week, and 14th March will be the seventh anniversary of my institution as Rector. Genesis tells us that Jacob gained a wife for each seven year period of service, and Deuteronomy tells us that every seventh year there should be a remission of debts. The most I can hope for here is that we may now make a successful claim for the Beam Heath dividend.

Are you eligible? It all depends on where you live and how long you've lived there – look it up on the town council website. The dividend is in lieu of grazing rights on the Beam Heath, ancient common land mentioned in the Domesday Book. As incumbent I already have grazing rights on the churchyards, so this is a bonus.

The website says, "To be a beneficiary is almost a mark of Dabberdom". That's going a bit far - it's generally held that you need to have been born in Nantwich to be a Dabber; but it is another mark of belonging, and it is good to take pride in where you belong.

Every six years you have the opportunity to say you belong to St. Mary's, and this is one of those years, when the church's Electoral Roll is renewed.

Do you think of St. Mary's as your church? Or may you consider making it your church? Then I encourage you to join the roll. You need to be baptised, and either live in the parish or habitually (not necessarily frequently) attend worship.

It's a way of saying you belong to St. Mary's and to the wider body of the Church, and it can give you a say, and help you to keep informed and in touch. Application forms are available in church and on our website. Join yourself, and spread the word to others.

When we are baptised we become named as belonging to Christ and his Church. And this spring, as the Electoral Roll is renewed, we will also pass through Lent towards Easter, looking for the renewal of our lives together in Christ.

Three services on Ash Wednesday, the regular Sunday and weekday worship, the Lent Course, and a richly varied programme of services through Holy Week and Easter, will provide many ways for us to walk with Christ through the dark valley, and be led into the green pastures of Easter, with full grazing rights.

Have a blessed Lent *Mark Hart*

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ST MARYS NANTWICH

April Magazine Deadline: Thursday, 20th March 2025

Please send submissions to:
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TEACHING SINCE 2010

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7PM TUESDAY

PARISH HALL



TIME FOR YOU

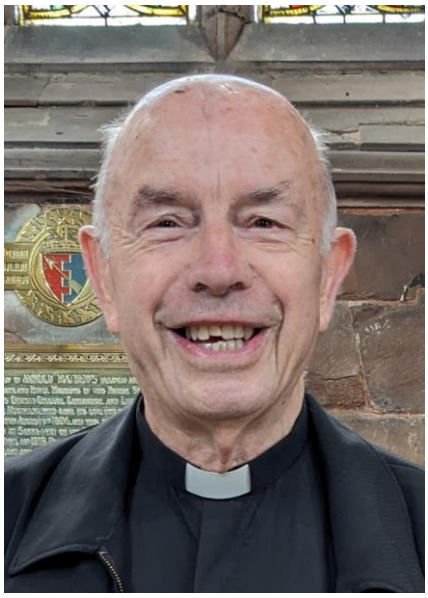
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Infallibility

Infallibility means being always right. Is a Pope infallible? There have been lots of discussions about this idea. However a more important idea is "Are we infallible?"

Being infallible may have become a big part of our lives. When we say "I always do that" are we declaring that we are infallible? Is the newspaper that we buy infallible? Once my parents bought four daily newspapers, two Conservative based and two Labour based. Now many only buy one newspaper. Is it always right? Some of our acquaintances like to give opinions on politics. Their opinions are always the same as their daily newspaper, and they are convinced that they are always right. This makes any conversation with them very hard. We are dealing with infallibility.

Infallibility also seems to reside in political parties. A childlike game of "We are always right; you are always wrong" permeates many political statements.

Once many Christians believed that their denomination was right and all the others were wrong. Fortunately the denominations have become much more tolerant as shown by the excellent work of the Churches Together in Nantwich.

Now with a sudden concentration of wealth in the world we have some "infallible" billionaires. Employees and family members must find it hard to contradict them. Hubris occurs when all the praising information they receive leads them to disconnect with reality.

Two very young children were playing "Catch the Ball" but they never could. "Well done" was continually shouted to them. Tears flowed. Someone said, "Let's shout 'Pathetic' every time you drop the ball". Much laughter followed. Within five minutes they were catching every ball.

Some religions and sects have sacred books. Are these infallible? Some followers believe so and are called Fundamentalists. Other followers treasure their books but are open to reason and analysis. In Christian Theology this is called having a Critical Apparatus. It is also part of the Scientific Method. As more and more of us claim infallibility, more and more of us need a critical apparatus.

Rev. Gordon Roxby

Church News

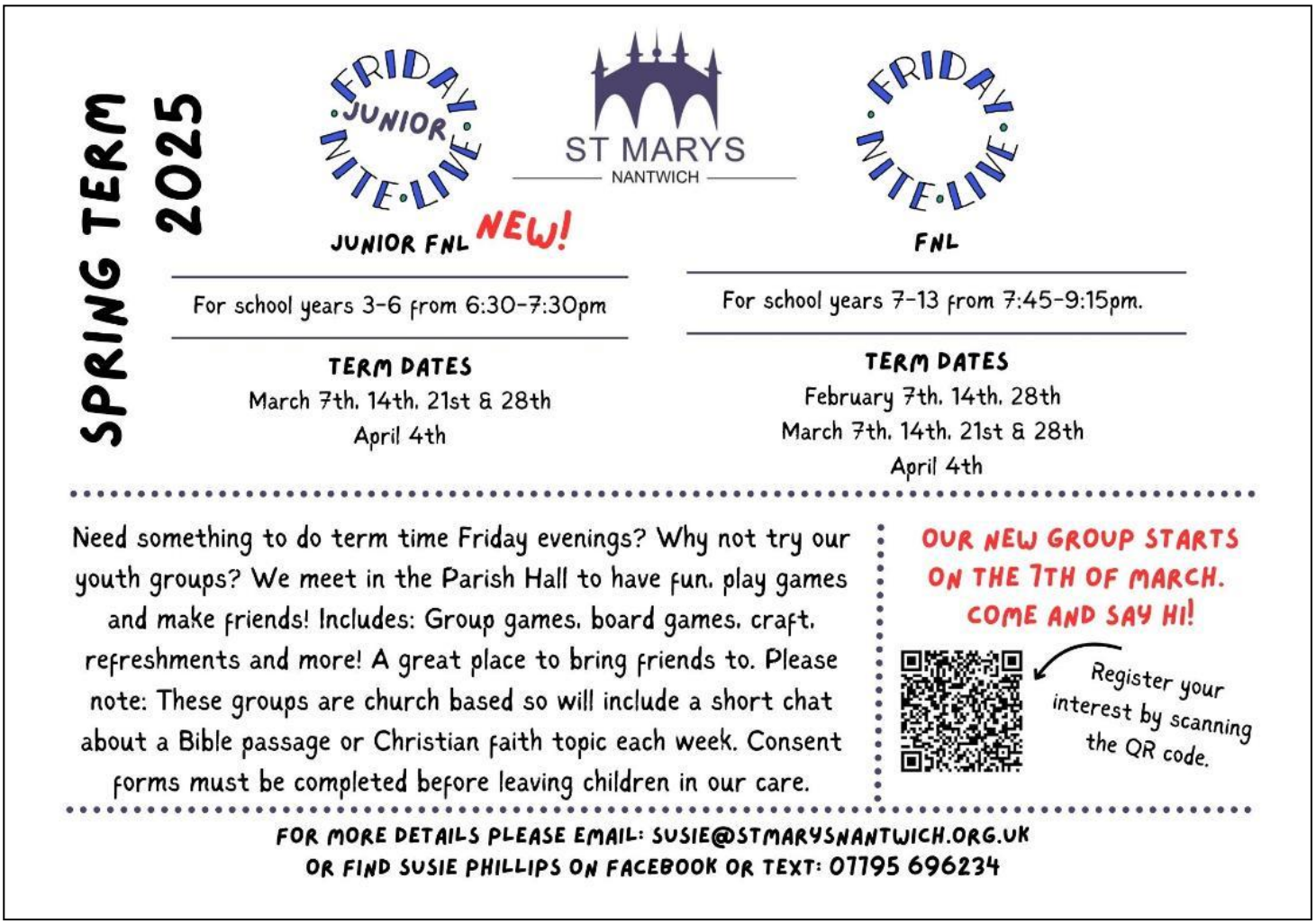
St. Mary's Electoral Roll

Join St. Mary's Electoral Roll to say you belong, to keep in touch, and to have a say in how things run.

- To be a member of the roll you need to be baptised.
- You also need to either live in the parish, or attend St. Mary's habitually (that doesn't mean very frequently) - if it's the church you attend occasionally, join the roll!
- 2025 is a year for complete renewal of the roll.
- If you are already a member of the roll you will still need to complete a form to join the new roll.
- Application forms are available in church and online via the website and the weekly e-mail.
- The deadline for joining the roll in time for the Annual Meeting (7th May) is **22nd April**.

Vacancy: Parish Hall Manager

A paid role, part-time. For more information please contact the Rector.



The Sound of the Church
Lent Course 2025

From the loudest to the quietest we will learn something of the practice and the history of each sound, as well as asking how these sounds may speak of God, speak to God, speak to our souls, draw us together, deepen our faith, and shape our worship.

Tuesday afternoons (except week 3) and Wednesday evenings, each session lasting 1¼ hrs. You may attend one or the other, or swop between the two days from week to week.
Venue: St. Mary's Nantwich.

Week 1: Bells

2pm Tuesday, 11th March or 7.30pm Wednesday, 12th March
led by Stefan Zientek (Tower Captain) and the Rector.

Week 2: Organ

2pm Tuesday, 18th March or 6.30pm * Wednesday, 19th March
led by Simon Russell (Organist) and the Rector.

Week 3: Song

7.30pm Wednesday, 26th March **
led by Alison Phillips (Director of Music) and the Rector.

Week 4: Speech

2pm Tuesday, 1st April and 7.30pm Wednesday, 2nd April.
led by the Rector.

Week 5: Silence

2pm Tuesday, 8th April and 7.30pm Wednesday, 9th April
led by The Rev. Brian Statham.

To book, add your name to the list at the back of church or inform the Parish Office: office@stmarysnantwich.org.uk or 01270 625268.

* Note the change of time for this session.
** 2pm Tuesday, 25th March - Lady Day Holy Communion, not Lent Course.

Mission support

Mission Support at St. Mary's is outward looking and adheres to these 5 Marks of Mission of the Anglican Church.



We support a variety of partner organisations working locally, nationally and internationally. The following being the projects in 2024.

Local Projects

Crewe Deanery and the continuing support for the outreach work of the Community Development Worker. *Donation £1,000.*

The Boaz Trust, which is a Manchester based charity supporting people facing homelessness after claiming asylum, and aiming to provide a place of safety, shelter and protection. *Donation £900.*

National Projects

A Rocha UK, which is a Christian charity working to protect and restore the natural world and committed to equipping Christians and churches in the UK to care for the environment. *Donation £200.*

Railway Children, a children's charity working with street and railway children in the UK, India, and Tanzania. Their mission is to keep street-connected children safe and rebuild lives. *Donation £900.*

International Projects

Our Mission Partners at CMS (Church Mission Society), Lisa & Andrew Peart. We are delighted to support them in their call to come alongside the local church in its outreach and practical care for the local community in Santa Cruz in Bolivia. Some of you will remember their visit to us last summer. *Donation £2,000.*

Kenya Girls' School, we are pleased to be able to assist, via their local church, with the educational fees of two children in Mumias.

Mitchell - has passed her exams and the IT course which she also took gaining distinction in 13 out of 14 of the subject areas. She is hoping to complete her education studying Nursing.
Anna - is now in the second year of her 3-year course in civil engineering. *Donation £1,000.*

Do look out for the notice boards in St. Nicholas' Chapel, where we plan to start providing displays with more information for you.

Angie Bartlett on behalf of the Mission Support Team.

Mothers' Union News



The Mothers' Union Committee wishes to give grateful thanks to everyone who donated to our 2024-25 collection of toiletries and underwear for Cheshire Without Abuse (CWA). CWA provide support, advice and often crisis accommodation to victims of domestic abuse, many of whom have nothing but the clothes they are wearing. The collection is a practical way we can show love and support to victims of domestic abuse.

After 47 years of serving our community, MyCWA faces the closure of the Crewe Support Centre and the Macclesfield store and community hub, all due to the complete withdrawal of council funding. An appeal has been launched through the CWA website to raise funds. Please prayerfully consider donating to help CWA continue this much needed service. See p. 20 for ways to support MyCWA.

The Mothers' Union theme for 2025 to 2027 is JOIN US and JOIN IN, MU is changing lives. You can find out more about Mothers' Union on the church website.

The photo shows a small selection of the goods donated.

Place of Welcome

10am until 12.45pm every Friday

"Contribute to the needs of the saints. Extend hospitality to strangers. Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another." *Romans 12: 13, 15-16*

Exactly 3 years ago this month we opened our Friday Place of Welcome in the Parish Hall. Places of Welcome are a National network of venues that offer all comers a safe, warm space, free refreshments, respect and kindness, non-judgmental listening when needed, plenty of conversation and a means of obtaining information, all year round. Each venue is different and evolves according to the current needs or wishes of the people who come, volunteers and visitors alike.



We serve simple refreshments - hot and cold soft drinks, sweet biscuits, breads, home-made vegetable soup and homemade cake. There are lots of useful leaflets about local events and services and a growing collection of games and things to be creative with.

When we opened we were emerging from Covid with restrictions on numbers and extra hygiene measures still in place. People found us immediately and the group has developed well. Some people come regularly, some occasionally, some visit from far away. The weekly buzz of conversation and laughter with mugs, plates and cutlery being put to good use is delightful



music to the ears of all of us presently on the team of helpers; Mary, Caryl, Anita, Jackie, Jenny, Jan, and Jill.

Over the last 3 years we have all rejoiced and wept together; prayed, encouraged and comforted each other in many different situations. Three of our friends were confirmed at St. Mary's: Mick, Dot and Dave. We miss friends who came regularly but have now died: Mark, Sheila and Carole. We miss friends who have moved on into a new phase of life or different responsibilities, keep in touch when we can and wish them well. Between us all we have shared stories and general information, helped people find what they need to manage all sorts of problems from trivial to huge and discussed everything under the sun amicably, even theology and politics! We have raised enough money through voluntary donations to cover our expenses and to contribute to some good causes, notably the work of St. Mary's, MacMillan and the Cheshire Roses.

If you like the sound of who we are and what we do but haven't found us yet, come and join in! *Mary Harris, Pastoral Worker*

Encounter Supper

Encounter on 2nd February was a candlelit meal for Candlemas. After grace, from Sue Hutt, everyone enjoyed a delicious dinner before listening to Rev. David and Anne Taylor talk about their lives.



David was born in Darwen Lancashire in 1953, the fourth of five children. He attended a church primary school and joined the choir at Holy Trinity Church, where of the choristers in his pew two went on to become Canons (one being himself) and a third became a Bishop. At secondary school an influential RE teacher inspired his personal faith and his love of Scripture. He took part in Scripture Union Bible quizzes and this knowledge was to prove useful later on during theological training. David studied at Durham University where he encountered the "charismatic renewal", with its emphasis on gifts and ministries and worship that "needs to touch the heart". He started his teaching career in Newton Aycliffe.

Anne grew up in a County Durham village where she enjoyed school, joined the church choir and attended Sunday School and Brownies before progressing to help with the latter two. She trained as a teacher in Ripon, before securing a post at a residential school in Newton Aycliffe where she supported the teenage girls who lived there in termtime. Anne attended a local church where David was on the worship team and it wasn't long before their first date at the theatre.

This was a difficult four year period as Anne's elder sister and Dad died, and her Mum was seriously ill and subsequently died of a brain tumour. David came along at just the right time and they recently celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary.

After 13 years teaching languages, David felt called to ordination and they moved to Salisbury for theological training. This provided opportunities to discover the breadth of theology, experience and worship within the Church of England and abroad.

In 1993 Anne and David moved to the Chester Diocese where he served as curate at All Saints, Cheadle Hulme and Anne was involved in many church activities. Then David became incumbent at St John's, Macclesfield, and their sons playing football on the church car park quickly generated connections with local families on the estate. David's next post was Team Rector in Congleton and he spent 13 busy years in this role whilst Anne worked as a teacher and teaching assistant and ran Brownies, until she felt God calling her to early retirement and a new role managing the Chappell Centre. This café and meeting room brought the church and community together with the volunteers sharing prayers each day.

In 2019 Anne and David settled in Nantwich and joined St. Mary's where, according to Bishop Peter Forster, "there is always a need for retired clergy".

Nantwich Churchwardens' Merged Charities

Over the years St. Mary's Nantwich became responsible for a number of different bequests, the oldest of which was dated 1681. By 1809 the administering of them had become the sole responsibility of the churchwardens. The churchwardens applied the proceeds "as nearly as possible according to the directions of the donors". However, some of these directions were impossible to fulfil. For example "To the widows of 1st Wood St." and "To the headmaster of the Free Grammar School".

By the mid 19th Century the income was used for a weekly distribution of bread after Sunday service to some 80 recipients (who were expected to attend the service). More recently was a twice-yearly distribution of a £5 note to 140 people for whom the criteria was that they be householders in Nantwich or a widow. These distributions were carried out on Maundy Thursday and at Christmas by the beneficiaries presenting themselves, cap in hand as it were, to the churchwardens, who handed out the money. The churchwardens found the whole process increasingly distasteful and to be a long way away from the intentions of the original benefactors. Not only was the way the funds were being used questionable but the administration was unwieldy with 9 separate charities, each of which had to have its own bank account and submit yearly reports to the Charity Commissioners.

As a consequence, the churchwardens decided to apply to the Charity Commissioners for permission to combine all the charities together into a single charity to be called "The Nantwich Churchwardens' Merged Charities". The Charity Commissioners sanctioned these changes in June 2007.

The object of the charity is "for the relief of persons resident in Nantwich who are in need, hardship or distress". All the capital from the original bequests is now held in an ethical investment fund and the income from this fund is distributed by the trustees in accordance with the aims of the charity. Since its inception the charity has given over £0.5M in donations. Schools, local charities and individuals regularly benefit from the charity and anyone is welcome to apply for funding. An application form for organisations can be found on the Church website. Individuals should approach the Rector in the first instance.

Nick Hutt (NCMC Secretary and Treasurer)

February Breakfast: Frank Bruce's Sculpture Trail

A lucky win of a week's holiday in a caravan at Boat of Garten in the Cairngorms National Park led Cathie Riddell to pass by some weird and wonderful-looking wooden sculpted heads peaking out of the trees. Intrigued, she felt she had to explore and discovered the Frank Bruce Sculpture Trail. Cathie was so fascinated by the sculptures that she has been back again to wander round them and photograph them.

Frank Bruce was not your average artist. He rejected the art spotlight, never selling his works, simply asking for donations to help him continue his craft. He left school at 13, misunderstood as a dyslexic, but determined to educate and improve himself. He earned his living through manual jobs, shovelling coal at one stage. But the loan of an encyclopaedia led him to become captivated by the way that Greek sculpture is expressed in three dimensions without the need for written language.



Asked what inspired him to create these works, he said that the reason for the sculptures is to say "I am here and I've got something to say". His epitaph, which Cathie found one of the most moving of the sculptures (and one that will endure as it's carved in stone) says simply "I was privileged to be".

Most of the other sculptures are carved from the ancient Caledonian pines. Allowing them to age is deliberate. Frank Bruce intended them to return to the earth from where they came as part of the natural cycle of birth, life and decay.

Cathie shared her photographs and described many of the sculptures. "The Thinker" depicts a humble figure in thinking pose, without limbs, cleverly sited at the edge of a small pond, with the reflection of the actual sculpture in the water.



"The Thinker"

She also described the sculpture called "Third World", which comprises five figures, the three tallest figures are blinkered and represent the affluent nations blinded to the suffering and condition of the developing world. The sculpture representing conscience had fallen over and was rocking in the grass – a message to us all that if we don't look after the developing world our world will fall apart.

A big thank you to Cathie for presenting such an absorbing talk in a demanding and less than peaceful environment. We are making arrangements for the breakfasts to be held in a different location within the Swansway Stadium.

Safeguarding



Protecting children and the vulnerable, and speaking up for their rights, is integral to Christian faith *(Proverbs 31: 8)* Sadly, the Church of England hasn't always done this well, with the seriousness of safeguarding failures being reported in the media over recent years, and this is disheartening when at local level many churches, including St. Mary's, take the responsibility of those in our care very seriously. Everyone has a responsibility to help safeguard children and vulnerable adults, none more so than in places of worship, as they are welcoming and open to all.

All Church of England churches are required to appoint a Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) to undertake the many aspects of the safeguarding role. As PSO I am not required to be an expert. I work together with the Rector, we refer to the Diocesan Safeguarding Team who have four experienced advisers, and report to statutory agencies if necessary. By being vigilant, having policies in place, and ensuring only suitable people are allowed to work with vulnerable groups, we are instrumental in making St. Mary's a safer environment. We do our level best to comply with all that is asked of us, practically, administratively and digitally and we make referrals whenever we have a concern.

We ensure all those working with children and the vulnerable reach the right level of safeguarding training and have a Disclosure and Barring Service check if their role is eligible. We have 120 people at St. Mary's who have completed safeguarding training, and that in itself helps to promote a safer culture. The PCC discusses safeguarding at every meeting; currently we are discussing and planning how the parish can improve with regard to the five National Safeguarding Standards:

1) Culture, Leadership and Capacity
2) Prevention
3) Recognising, Assessing and Managing Risk
4) Victims and Survivors
5) Learning, Supervision and Support.

We constantly strive to ensure every person in the Church knows why we do what we do and how they can contribute. Please keep informed, please be vigilant, and don't hesitate to talk to us if you are concerned.

Belinda Coghlan PSO

Churches Together in Nantwich



Pilgrims

Members of our different churches attended the annual Plough Service at Reaseheath College on 2nd February. About a dozen folk from our churches joined Rev. Anne Lawson and her country parishes (Acton, Church Minshull, Worleston & Wettenhall). The service included presentations by the College Principal and a student. Prayers were offered for the farming community and the rural economy and God's blessing invoked on the crops and livestock.

The Pilgrims are members of Churches Together network who visit one another's churches and share in the regular Sunday worship.

The aim is:
- to worship God together
- to get to know each other better
- to experience and understand how different church communities worship.

Anyone can become a Pilgrim simply by turning up and joining in. The next Pilgrim expedition will be to **Market St. Church** on **Sunday, 16th March** at **10.00am** for a service of Holy Communion. We will meet at Market St Church at 9.45am and would love to see you there.

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of Churches Together will take place at **Nantwich Methodist Church, Hospital St.** on **Wednesday, 12th March** at **7.30pm.** Anyone from our participating churches is welcome to attend. There will be an opportunity to learn more about the activities of Churches Together including reports from partner organisations such as Nantwich Foodbank, the Christmas Day Lunch, The Millennium Bursary Fund and Nantwich Show. Also an opportunity to look at new opportunities for our churches to work together.

Youth Weekend Away @ The Quinta



Nine of our young people and five leaders had a fabulous weekend away. We had a very busy timetable with activities, Bible sessions, games and lots of yummy food.

We spent the weekend looking at the book of Ephesians with the sessions focusing on; the body of Christ, things that distract us and get in the way, prayer, gifts and talents, praising God (which included dancing to God's Great Dance Floor with glowsticks) and the Armour of God (which we spent time making.) All the sessions included worshipping together, challenges, activities, discussion and prayer.

We went on a photo scavenger hunt, did our own beetle drive after some of the young people enjoyed the evening event in January, and had a firepit with singing, games and smores on Saturday night. We enjoyed sunshine with a few showers on the Saturday and managed 15 minutes outside on the Sunday morning after breakfast before the heavens opened for the rest of the day.

Some feedback from the young people …
Our favourite bits were: The food! Playing games together! Craft and smores!
Something I learnt was: the importance of God and our family and friends, how Paul was so against Jesus and his followers, but then became one of his strongest! All about God's armour and how to protect ourselves.
Something I'll try to change when I get home: "Going with the flow" because God knows what's best for me, less gossiping and being more open to people.



A fabulous weekend with great fellowship, friendships and knowledge deepened! Thank you Jesus!





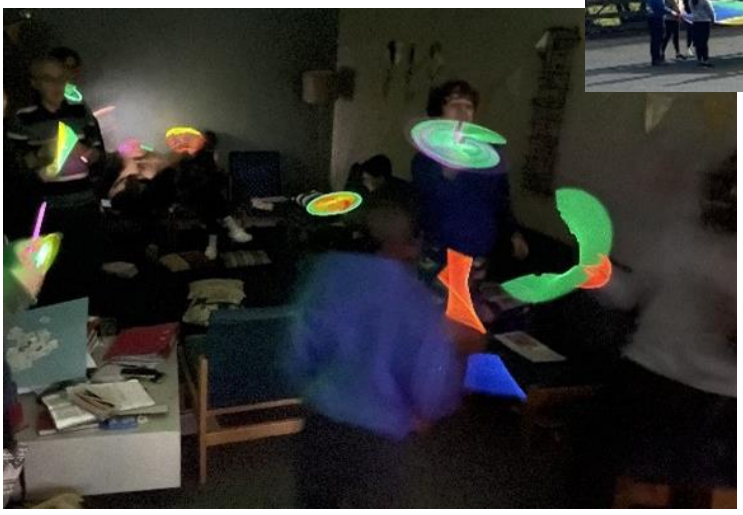
Photo scavenger hunt:
"All your team in a small space"





Outside time





God's Great Dance Floor party!



Team!

Forthcoming Events

Pancake Party

All Together Worship on **Sunday, 2nd March** will have a Lent theme and will be followed by games, craft and pancakes in the hall. Tell Susie if you're joining afterwards, and indicate any dietary requirements.

Encounter Explore

The next Encounter Explore will be held on **Sunday, 2nd March** at 7.15pm in the upstairs parish hall. There will be thought provoking and reflective prayer stations on the theme of "Beauty" to visit independently. Refreshments will be served from 6.45pm. Everyone is welcome so do come along.

Ash Wednesday is on **5th March**. There will be services of Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes at 8am (Book of Common Prayer), 11am (Book of Common Prayer, with hymns), 7.30pm (Common Worship, with hymns).

Seniors' Lounge

The next Seniors' Lounge will be on **Sunday, 9th March**, 3pm in the Parish Hall - friendly company and a chat over a cup of tea/coffee and cake with a varied programme of activities and singing.

Churches Together in Nantwich (CTiN) AGM

Nantwich Methodist Church, Hospital St. on **Wednesday, 12th March** at 7.30pm. All welcome. See p. 17 for further details

March Breakfast

The March Breakfast will take place on **Saturday, 15th March**, 8.30am at **The Tea Lounge**, located in the Swansway Stadium (Nantwich football club). The speaker will be Michaela East, community fundraiser for MyCWA (Cheshire without Abuse). This is a charity St. Mary's Mothers' Union has supported for many years. Michaela will talk about the work MyCWA has undertaken over the last 47 years. BUT this will be under the cloud of imminent closure of the Crewe and Macclesfield centres, if additional funding cannot be raised.

You can read more at *https://www.mycwa.org.uk/* and there is a JustGiving web site *https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/savemycwa*

As usual, sign up at the back of Church or phone the office by midday on **Wednesday, 12th March**. From now on breakfasts will take place in The Tea Lounge café on the first floor, rather than in the Atherton and Associates Suite. The Tea Lounge manager has been super-helpful in finding an arrangement that will work best for us, without the need to share space.

Broadway in Concert by Candlelight

Saturday, 22nd March, 7.30-9.30pm in church. Join us for this unique concert to celebrate the best of musical theatre, featuring beloved songs from classic and contemporary shows. Early bird (until 28th February) £22, General Admission £25. Tickets available from the Parish Office and at *https://www.tickettailor.com/events/egertonstrings/1566103*





Nearly Dan

Coming to St. Mary's during the Nantwich Jazz Blues & Music Festival 2025: The Spirit & Sound of Steely Dan – Nearly Dan in concert. Easter Monday, **21st April**, Doors 2.30pm, Tickets £18 + booking fee *https://nantwichjazz.com/artist/nearly-dan/*

Less tribute and more homage, Nearly Dan is saviour to the growing legions of Dan fans, desperate to hear the meticulously crafted grooves and allusive lyrical style of Donald Fagen & Walter Becker. Nearly Dan's approach is faithful, though not reverential, and relaxed but as tight as their namesakes. They bring their own unique spirit and spontaneous humour to every concert.



Ceilidh

The next social event will be a Ceilidh on **Saturday, 10th May** at Acton Parish Hall. Tickets will be available shortly and further details in the April magazine.

St. Mary's Spring Fair and Coffee Morning

Saturday, 12th April, 10am-2pm. **Please can you help?** We plan to run the following stalls: Jigsaws; Books; Bric-a-brac; Handbags and scarves; Jewellery; Cakes and Jams; Tombola; Toys. **We would appreciate:** Donations of books, jigsaws, high quality bric-a-brac, handbags, jewellery and tombola prizes.

Any help to staff the stalls will be most welcome. Sign-up sheets will be available at the back of the church. Donations for the stalls - please bring to the office or leave in church or let us know if you are bringing cakes etc, on the day. **Thank you for your support.**

See also **"Special Services & Events Calendar"** on p. 36.

Roots and St. Mary's welcome The Threetles

It's Nantwich Roots Festival again in May, with a gig to be hosted in St. Mary's Church. The Threetles – a Manchester band which celebrates the music of the Beatles will be joined by a string quartet comprising some of the North's finest string players for an evening celebrating the music of the "fab four".



This will be on **Wednesday, 14th May**, doors open at 7.00pm. Tickets are available at £25 from *https://wordsandmusicfestival.com/*

Local record producer and Nantwich Roots organiser Nigel Stonier goes back a long way with Tom Jones, one of the Threetles members. In fact, back to childhood, when they lived two doors from each other in Sandbach. Tom (who was born in Nantwich) says Nigel was a "cool big brother figure" who heavily influenced his taste in music. Tom used to hang out at the record shop where Nigel worked, buying singles and harassing Nigel! They have kept in touch over the years, occasionally go to Crewe Alex together and Tom has attended Nigel's gigs and recorded in his studio.

Tom says he is delighted to be playing in St. Mary's. The Threetles started off as three Beatles obsessives playing Beatles' songs. The three became five with the addition of a drummer and multi-instrumentalist taking them to the next level. Tom emphasises that the Threetles is not a tribute band, but a celebration band, which will be augmented with a string quartet at St. Mary's.

The Threetles were recently invited to perform a show honouring the 55th anniversary of the Beatles first radio session, to an audience including original Beatles drummer Pete Best, official biographer Mark Lewisohn and Beatles' secretary and president of their official fan club, Freda Kelly.

Nigel says that the Threetles will lead us on a magical mystery tour through the Beatles catalogue, from beautiful ballads with strings, to rockers, from hits to the occasional B-sides and rarities. It's a chance for Nantwich to savour fresh, faithfully rendered pickings from the oeuvre of the greatest UK band.

News in Pictures

Big Birthdays!

Two members of St. Mary's celebrated big birthdays in February:



Congratulations to The Rev. Brian Statham who celebrated his 70th birthday in February.



Congratulations to Geoffrey Pearson who celebrated his 70th birthday in February. Geoffrey is shown here picking olives in Paciano, Italy, last November. More recently you may have seen Geoffrey tending to the garden area by the south porch.



Last month we included a photo of Betty and Daisy, the donkeys who came to our All-Age Nativity service in December. We are sorry to report that Betty has since died, aged 38. She visited St Mary's every Christmas and Palm Sunday for a long time. Can anyone remember how long? She was looked after for many years by the late John Parkin, and is shown here with John on Palm Sunday in 2015.



On Sunday, 2nd February, on the Feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas), Concordia sang Candlelit Compline in the chancel. Thank you to Alison Phillips and all the singers for a beautiful service.

Progress with the Restoration

The north east window (the Light of the World) in the north aisle:



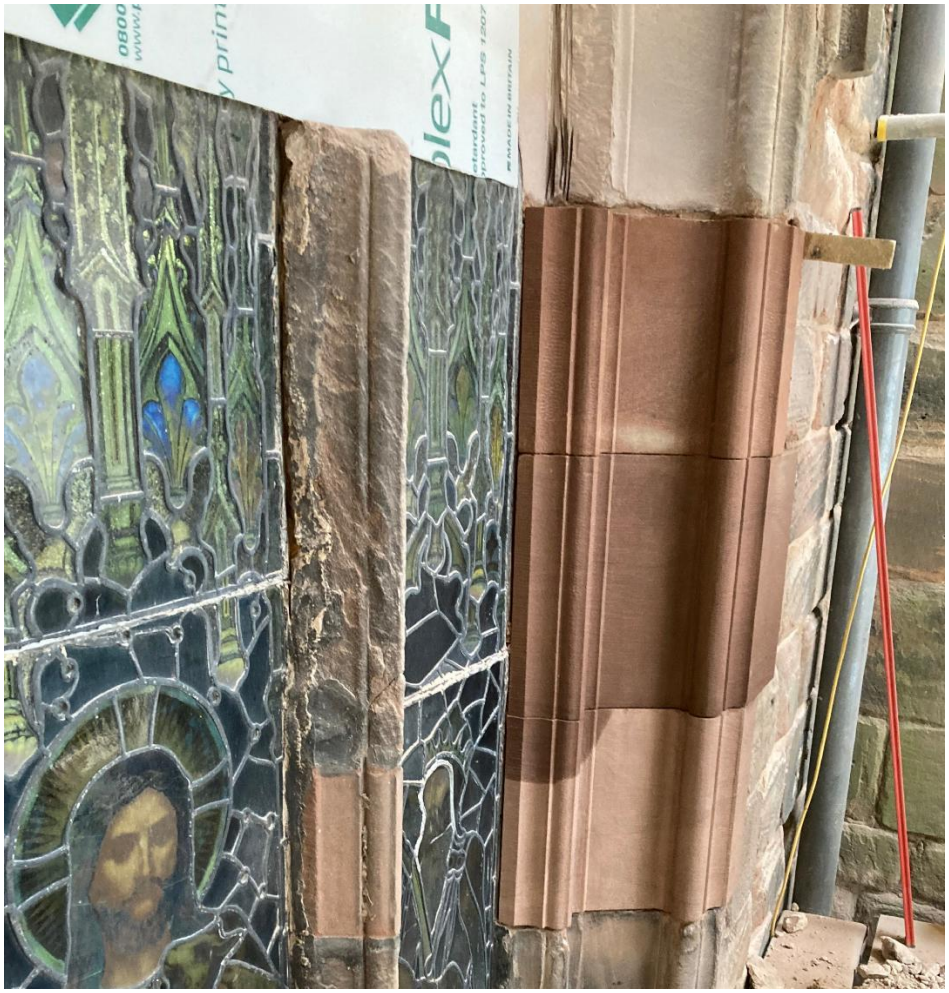
Tracery cut back for replacement of deteriorated stone.



Stone having been already cut for placing in this window surround.



Some new stonework in place around the arch of the window



New stones in position on the window surround.

North aisle stonework:

Some new wall stonework on North Aisle.



Restoration Appeal

The first phase of the Restoration of the North and East Elevations of St. Mary's is underway and due for completion in April. To continue the work to the east wall of the chancel we have launched an appeal. Please take a copy of the Appeal Brochure and consider how you may offer support. Thank you to all who have responded so far.



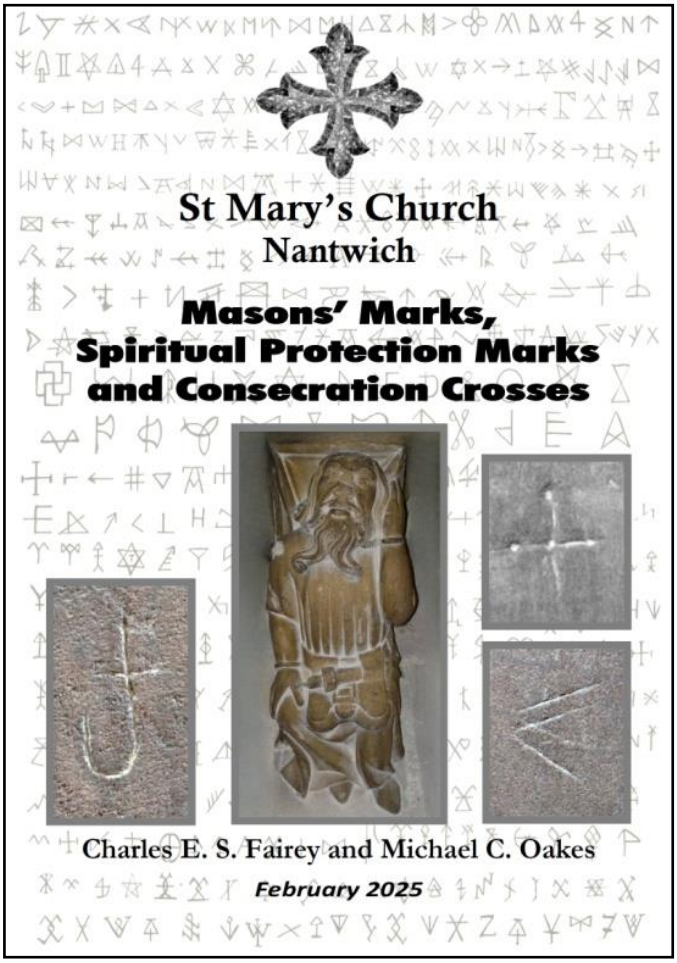
Attending for a site inspection, L to R: Paul Warrand (Recclesia), Paul Ramsey (St. Mary's Project Manager), Jamie Moore (Recclesia), Chloe Sheward (Donald Insall, Project Architect), Tony Barton (Donald Insall, Church Architect), Lee Bilson (Recclesia).

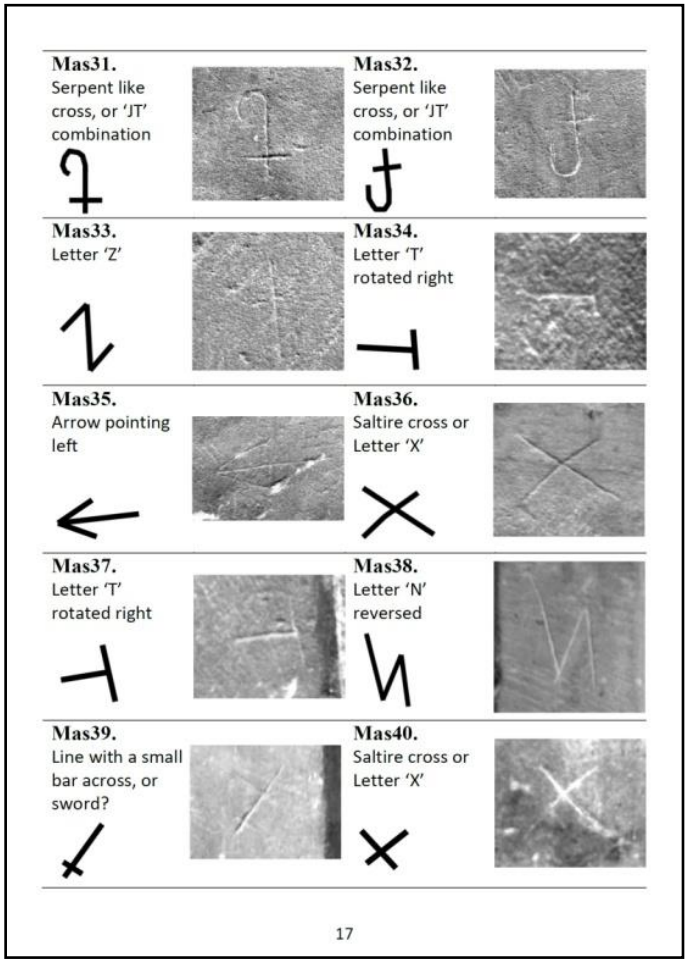




New Booklet Available

Masons' Marks, Spiritual Protection Marks and Consecration Crosses; at St. Mary's Church, Nantwich, by Charles E. S. Fairey and Michael C. Oakes, February 2025.





If you wish to learn about unusual marks on the internal stonework of Nantwich St. Mary's, then this is a definite read. This booklet details masons' marks, spiritual protection marks and consecration crosses, with pictures, a plan of where to find them, as well as their context, meaning and interpretation.

Such things as "Marian Marks" which relate to the Virgin Mary, which is also the saintly patronage of the Church, may be found inside, as well as pentagrams, incised crosses, circular demon traps and a criss-crossed shield.

The history of Masons' Marks is also discussed, as well as the Rite of Consecration of medieval churches.

It is freely available to download as an eBook (in Adobe PDF format) from *https://sites.google.com/site/charlesfaireyhistorian/*, and there are printed copies available to buy in church (£4).

From the Registers: January 2025

Holy Baptism

We welcome you into the Lord's family

5th	Ember Wakefield	19th	Constance Latham
5th	Everly Wakefield	19th	Margaret Latham
		19th	Theodore Williams

Funerals

May they rest in peace and rise in glory

3rd	Desmond Taylor (98)	17th	Alan Miller (60)
10th	Irene Boyer (82)	20th	Julie Lange (65)
17th	Maureen Wall (90)	27th	Ethel Heath (87)

Readings for March

2nd March *(Sunday next before Lent)*	2 Corinthians 3: 12-4: 2 Luke 9: 28-36
5th March *(Ash Wednesday)*	2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10 Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21
9th March *(1st Sunday of Lent)*	Romans 10: 8b-13 Luke 4: 1-13
16th March *(2nd Sunday of Lent)*	Philippians 3:17-4:1 Luke 13: 31-35
23rd March *(3rd Sunday of Lent)*	1 Corinthians 10: 1-13 Luke 13: 1-9
30th March *(4th Sunday of Lent/Mothering Sunday)*	2 Corinthians 5: 16-21 Luke 15: 1-3, 11b-32

The Ides of March

In the earliest Roman calendar, the Ides of March, on the 15th, was near the start of the new year. Various adjustments to the calendar have occurred since those beginnings but this is why the end of the tax year the UK is on the fifth of April and the new tax year starts on the sixth.

This illustrates that many of the things that we do today are based on events in history. However things do change and adapt to changing circumstances. When people say "we always do that, or we always do it this way" it means that people only remember what they normally have done themselves.

There may be better ways of doing things. Sometimes they may be worse ways but change is to be tested and adapted to today's conditions. I am constantly meeting people saying how depressing everything is at the moment and how they have no hope for improvements. These are mainly older people but not always. For example I remember my parents rejecting the programmes I wanted to listen to or watch as shocking. I probably did the same to my children as they grew up. It is important to have an open mind and to be careful about where you get your information from.

We should not allow ourselves to be controlled by the media. We are surrounded by good people doing good things. We believe in the good news of Christ's teaching. We must focus on these wonderful things that surround us. People in general are really kind and considerate.

I have found this especially since I have been unable to walk well. I had assisted travel on the train which was amazing, with help at all stages of the journeys. The kind gentleman who wheeled me to the exit from the train at Crewe waited until we got the car so that I would not be left alone in the dark exit area. My hospital treatment recently has been amazingly good. If we focus on these things we will help to improve the feelings of others as well as spreading good news. We can join the Romans and start this year positively with March and forget the cold, grey weather of January and February.

Dot Roxby

Weekly Services & Groups

The church is open for all our usual regular services, and open to visitors Monday-Saturday, 9.30am-4pm. The 9.30am and 10.45am Sunday services continue to be live-streamed on YouTube most weeks.

Sunday	8.00am	Holy Communion
	9.30am	All Age Worship (Communion 1st Sunday)
	10.45am	Holy Communion
	6.00pm	Evensong
	7.00pm	Encounter (1st & 3rd Sundays)
Tuesday	8.30am	Morning Prayer
	10.00am	Mums & Tots in the Parish Hall
	3.45pm	SING!@St.Mary's in the Parish Hall
Wednesday	8.30am	Morning Prayer
	11.00am	Holy Communion
Thursday	8.30am	Morning Prayer
	10.00am	Little Fish Toddler Group in church
	7.00pm	Bellringing practice in the Tower
Friday	8.30am	Morning Prayer
	10am-1pm	Place of Welcome in the Parish Hall
	7.00pm	Choir Practice in church
	6.30pm	Junior FNL
	7.30pm	FNL
Saturday	8.30am	Morning Prayer



What will you do in Lent this year?

The Nantwich Foodbank would appreciate a focus on donations of boxed **UHT Fruit Juice**. They are currently down to 4 boxes. St. Mary's will be a collecting point for this, with this box by the font throughout Lent. Please donate and help St. Mary's to be a Fruitful Church!

In support of Nantwich Foodbank

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Contacts

Rector:	Rev. Dr. Mark Hart	
	markhart61@gmail.com	620668
	The Rectory, Nantwich CW5 5RQ	
Assistant Priest:	Rev. Dot Woods	dot@stmarysnantwich.org.uk
Honorary Clergy:	Rev. Tony Long	561113
	Rev. David Marsh	610079
	Rev. Gordon G Roxby	619898
	Rev. Brian Statham	07724 133215
	Rev. Canon David Taylor	618936
Reader Emeritus:	Paul Ramsey	623093
Youth and Children's Worker:		
	Susie Phillips	07795 696234
	susie@stmarysnantwich.org.uk	
Churchwardens:	Phil Boxhall	07368 497427
	Paul O'Brien	07973 743909
Verger:	Linda Lewis	07534 272901
Pastoral Worker:	Mary Harris	
	maryhma@icloud.com	628393 or 07753 840118

Adoption Matters:	Robert & Angela Sivocha	01244 390938
Baptism Coordinator:	Jo McCauley	620745
Bellringers:	Mary Stanwell	628900
	marystanwell@icloud.com	
Christian Stewardship Recorder:	Margaret Winzer	623768
Director of Music & SING!	Alison Phillips	07891 620678
Parish Hall Manager:	Nigel Winzer	623768
	(Bookings via mah4now@yahoo.com)	
Parish Safeguarding Officer	Belinda Coghlan	568945
	safeguarding@stmarysnantwich.org.uk	
PCC Secretary:	Beth Roberts	
	pccsecretary@stmarysnantwich.org.uk	
PCC Treasurer:	Steve Lockett	628203

Parish Office:	Gail Johnson & Miriam Harvey	
(Open 9am-12noon Mon-Fri	Church Walk, Nantwich, Cheshire CW5 5RG	
and until 3.30pm Wed)	office@stmarysnantwich.org.uk	625268

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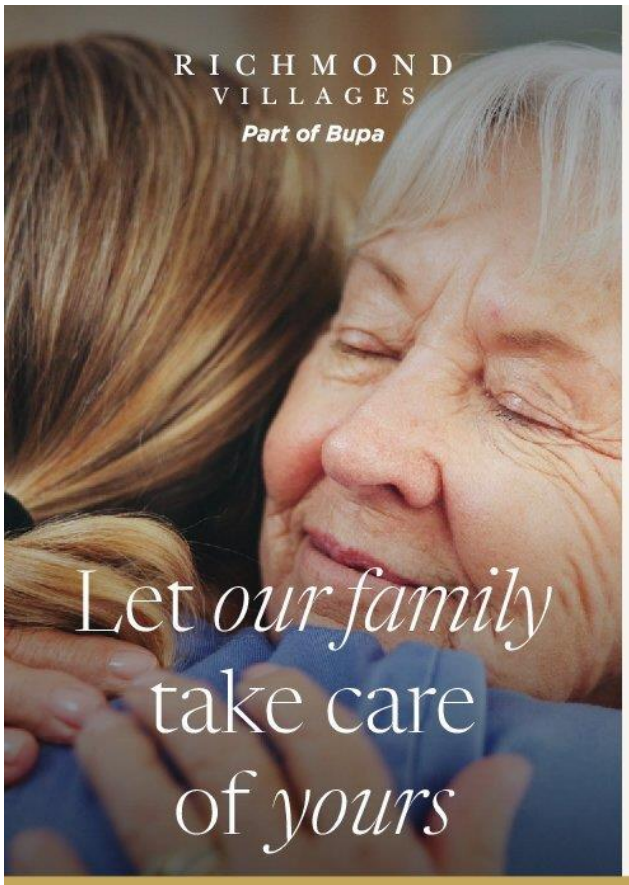
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Special Services & Events Calendar March-May 2025

March	2nd	9.30am All Together Worship followed by Messy Pancake Party
	2nd	Encounter Explore in the Parish Hall, 7.15pm
	5th	Ash Wednesday Holy Communion, 8am, 11am & 7.30pm
	9th	Choral Evensong, 6pm
	11th	Afternoon Lent Course begins, 2pm
	12th	Evening Lent Course begins, 7.30pm
	15th	St. Mary's Breakfast at Nantwich Football Club, 8.30am
	15th	Slowly Communion, 7.30pm
	16th	Encounter in the Parish Hall, 7.15pm
	22nd	Candlelight Concert in Church, 7.30pm
	25th	Mothers' Union Lady Day Communion Service, 2pm
	29th	Nantwich Singers Concert, 4pm
	31st	Easter Experience in Church (4 days)
April	5th	Nantwich Choral Society Concert in Church, 7.30pm
	6th	Encounter in the Parish Hall, 7.15pm
	12th	Spring Fair in the Parish Hall/Church grounds, 10am-2pm
	13th	Palm Sunday services, including Journey to Jerusalem, 6pm
	17th	Maundy Thursday Holy Communion and stripping of the altars, 7.30pm
	18th	Good Friday 10am All Age Worship 12noon-3pm The Three Hours led by Bishop Sam
	20th	Easter Sunday 6am Dawn service, 8am, 9.30am, 10.45am Communion, 6pm Jazz Mass, 7.15pm Encounter in the Parish Hall
	21st	Nearly Dan Concert in Church, 2.30pm
	27th	Eastertide Memorial Service in Church, 6pm
	30th	Sound Bath in Church, 7.15pm
May	7th	Annual Parochial Church Meeting, 7.30pm
	8th	VE Day events
	8th	Summer Lunchtime Concerts begin, 12.30pm
	10th	Chester Diocesan Guild of Bell Ringers event at St. Mary's
	10th	Ceilidh at Acton Parish Hall
	14th	The Threetles concert in church, doors open 7pm
	17th	St. Mary's Breakfast at Nantwich Football Club, 8.30am
	18th	Encounter Supper in the Parish Hall, 7.15pm
	24th	Encounter Explore Day in Church, 11am-4pm