ST MARYS
NANTWICH

April 2025





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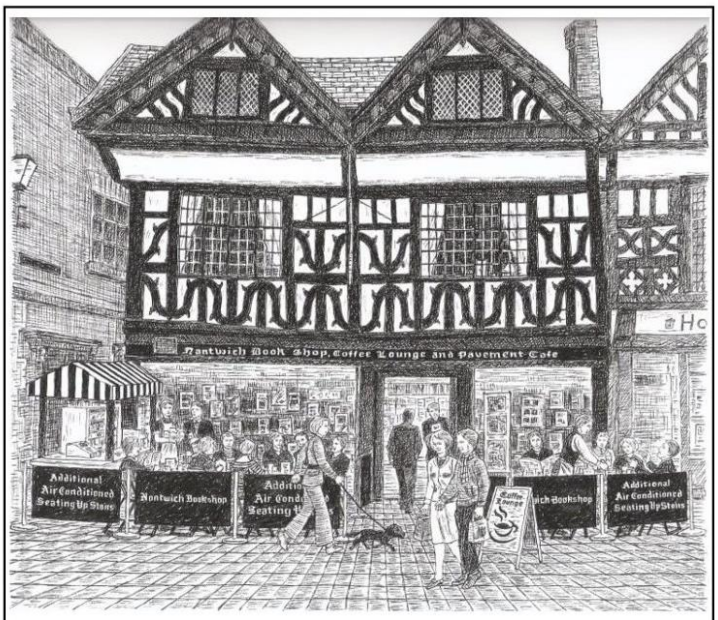
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Front cover: Tuesday, 1st April, 2025



From the Rector

There are twenty services during Holy Week and Easter, listed on p. 14 by day. It's a lot to take in, so here's an alternative listing that may help you to decide what to attend.

All Ages, especially Children

On Palm Sunday at the 9.30am service we will be joined by Daisy the donkey who will lead us in procession around the churchyard.

On Good Friday there will be All Age Devotional Worship at 10am, followed by a Churches Together service on the Square.

On Easter Day the All Age Communion at 9.30am will include an egg hunt. More eggs than ever, and each year some eggs still haven't been found by Ascension Day.

Choral Music

St. Mary's Choir will sing at the Holy Communion services at 10.45am on Palm Sunday and on Easter Day.

Also on Palm Sunday, at 6pm, there will be a service of choral pieces, hymns and readings, "Journey to Jerusalem", which follows Christ's journey in St. Luke's Gospel, with its particular emphasis on the city.

Easter weekend is the time for the Nantwich Jazz, Blues and Music Festival, and at 6pm on Easter Day there will be a Jazz Mass, a simple Prayer Book Communion set to music by Bob Chilcott, sung by Concordia, with piano, bass and drums. Followed by wine and nibbles.

Quiet, Calm and Reflection

8am Prayer Book Communion each Sunday; 8.30am Morning Prayer daily, Tuesday to Saturday; 7.30pm Holy Communion on Maundy Thursday, moving into the silent stripping of the altars.

A new service entitled Slowly Communion will be held on the Tuesday at 7.30pm, with an emphasis on giving space for meditation and silence.

Don't miss attending at least some of the Three Hours on Good Friday, 12-3pm, led by The Rt. Rev. Sam Corley, Bishop of Stockport.

Easter Dawn

This year the 6am service on Easter Day will began exactly at sunrise. We gather round the bonfire in the well, light the Paschal Candle, and process to the chancel to celebrate Communion, with joyful, a cappella singing. All followed by breakfast in the Parish Hall.

Have a blessed Holy Week and a joyful Easter. *Mark Hart*

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May Magazine Deadline: Sunday, 20th April 2025

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7PM TUESDAY

PARISH HALL



TIME FOR YOU

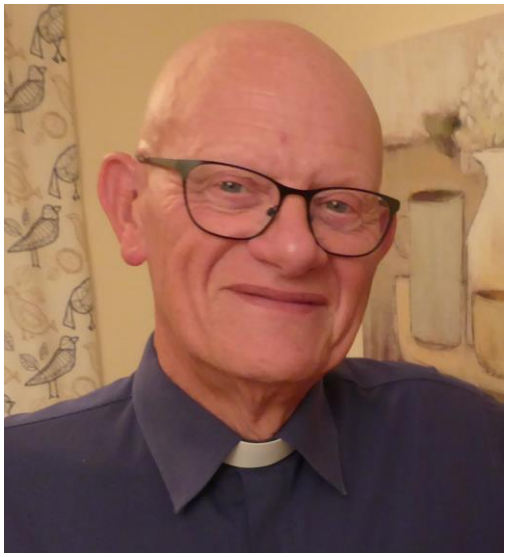
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We Believe ...

This year marks the seventeen hundredth anniversary of the Council of Nicaea. In the year 325AD, after a long period of persecution, fear and controversy, the Church gathered for the first Ecumenical Council to affirm the Christian faith. The challenge was to bring together disparate faith communities from across the Mediterranean world and beyond and out of its deliberations came what we now know as The Nicene Creed. We continue to recite its words week by week at services of Holy Communion beginning with either a personal affirmation "I believe ..." or a community declaration "We believe ..."

The Nicene Creed outlines for us the core teachings of the Christian faith – belief in God as Father and Creator; in Jesus the Son, both divine and human, living among us, dying and rising for us; in God the Holy Spirit who lives and works within us and through us, his Church. Though we may sometimes struggle to grasp the meaning of the words and we may differ in our understanding, nevertheless the Creed helps us to see the "big story" of our faith which the Church has passed on from generation to generation, down the centuries, and across cultures. This story shapes us and defines us as we declare together what "we believe".

At the very heart of the Nicene Creed are these words:

"(He) was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried,
And the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures ..."

We share in that resurrection life through faith in Jesus and through Baptism.

In St. Paul's words:

"We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life." (Romans 6: 4)

This Easter, as we recall the "big story" of Jesus' death and resurrection, we recognise that this is also "our story" as personally and collectively we declare **"We believe ..."**

David Taylor

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**.

Annual Meetings

The Annual Meeting of Parishioners for the election of Churchwardens, and **The Annual Parochial Church Meeting**, for the election of members of the Parochial Church Council and the receiving of reports, will be held on **Wednesday, 7th May** 7.30pm in church. Nomination forms for Churchwardens (2 to be elected), PCC members (5 to be elected, 4 for 3 years, 1 for 1 year), and Sidespersons are at the back of the church. For more information about these roles please speak to the Rector or the Churchwardens.

Breakfast Location Change



The St. Mary's Breakfasts now take place in the Tea Lounge itself, on the first floor at the Nantwich Football Stadium. This is a smaller, more intimate space and worked really well. We will be ironing out some of the first-time gremlins as we move forward. Everyone who has fed back about the change of room has been extremely positive. We're very grateful to Karen at the Tea Lounge for coming up with this solution.

The only downside is that the maximum capacity is less than before. This usually doesn't matter but last time Grace Lewis spoke (she is speaking again in May about her recent trip to Africa) there was a bigger crowd. We may need to operate on a first-booked basis and limit the numbers able to attend.

Junior FNL

Junior FNL began on Friday, 7th March. We have 7 kids who've attended so far. We have enjoyed football, group games, Lego, colouring, card games and always have a snack and chat each week. All 7-11 year-olds are welcome to come and join us. Let me know if you're interested in coming along or helping. *Susie@stmarysnantwich.org.uk*

Big Questions



The young people's 9.30 group on Sunday, 23rd March, led by Caryl Boxhall and Gill Appleton, were looking at Luke 13: 1-9 where Jesus was asked big questions about why people had died. The young people came up with some big questions of their own, which were very wide ranging! See how many you can answer:

Why do we need maths? What is beyond eternity? Why is Trump? Why are we given homework? Why does bullying exist? How can space go on forever? Why was the Bible made? How did families start? Why was the world made? Why can't everyone be nice? Where is heaven? What happens when you die? Why was the world created? What is heaven like?

St. Mary's Calendars and Diaries

... now free of charge. Please help yourself from the back of church, to keep or give away.

Vacancy: Parish Hall Manager

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

Easter Cross

A plain wooden cross will be erected in the Churchyard this week. As in previous years, you are invited to bring a few flowers and/or greenery on Easter Day (or a day or two earlier, to leave in buckets in the south porch) to decorate the cross. Let's make the bare wood come alive!

The Stained Glass of St. Mary's, Nantwich

A new edition is now on sale, just £3, with improved photographs and layout.

Special Easter Service to be Broadcast from Richmond Nantwich

Residents of Richmond Village Nantwich and St. Mary's Church have come together for a special Easter Sunday Service, which will be broadcast on The Cat Radio. This uplifting service has been recorded for the community, bringing the spirit of Easter to listeners across the area.



Recording the speaking parts on Thursday, 27th March at Richmond Village: Back: Dave Brassington Technician, Paul Ramsey, Dave Foulkes presenter, Front: Rosemary Johnson, Evelyn French, Christine Jackson and Jackie Beastall (the congregation).

A highlight of the service is a reading by Rosemary Johnson, a former deputy headteacher at Crewe Grammar School for Girls and a resident of Richmond Village. Her contribution adds a personal and heartfelt touch to the celebration.

The service is led by Paul Ramsey, a Reader from St. Mary's, Nantwich, who regularly takes the weekly service at Richmond Village. His guidance and reflections will help bring the Easter message to life for all who tune in.

Myra Wood and her Wells Green Methodist Choir have also played a key role in the service, assisting with the hymns and enriching the worship with their beautiful voices.

The Easter Service will be aired on The Cat Radio 107.9FM on Easter Sunday morning, 10am-12noon, allowing those unable to attend a church service in person to listen to the Easter message and take part in the celebration from home.



Myra Wood and her Wells Green Methodist Choir at the recording of hymns on 2nd March afternoon service at Richmond Village.

This collaboration between St. Mary's Church, Richmond Nantwich and The Cat Radio demonstrates the strong community spirit in Nantwich, ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to be part of this special occasion.

Jane-Ann Stubbs, Richmond Nantwich

Councillor of the Year Awards



Connor Naismith, Member of Parliament for Crewe and Nantwich, attending the Councillor of the Year awards with Councillor Anna Burton

It was an honour and a privilege to be in the finals for Councillor of the Year Award (National Association Local Councillors). I enjoyed my trip to the House of Lords for the awards and met lots of interesting people with positive stories to share.

I hope that the NYCC (Nantwich Youth and Community Project) project in Nantwich inspires others to realise the vital role of youth centres in providing young people with opportunities to socialise, make friends and build the valuable life skills that come with real world interaction.

The stats show that one in five young people (19%) in England spend most of their free time alone – that's almost a million young people. Something needs to change.

Over the last two years there has been a lot of inspiration and perspiration gone into this project. When we opened, the children were literally queuing up saying "we are here to make friends".

It has been an incredible community project; the Nantwich community has really pulled together to make this happen.

The place has been transformed from a grey utilitarian block (former Guy Harvey Youth Club) to a bright and colourful place, a living and breathing community with great new facilities and new youth workers. We are welcoming over a hundred children each week.

This has been achieved because of the Nantwich community and what an amazing place we are!

Anna Burton (A member of St. Mary's PCC)

Churches Together in Nantwich (CTiN)

The **Annual Meeting of Churches Together** in March provided the opportunity to review the previous year's activities. These included reports from CTiN partners such as the Nantwich Foodbank, the Christmas Day Lunch Group, the Nantwich Show and the Millennium Bursary Fund.

CTiN Pilgrims encourages church members to join in Sunday worship at members' churches from time to time. To date we have attended Sunday Mass at St. Anne's, a Plough Sunday service led by St. Mary's, Acton, Communion at Market St. Church and in May the Pilgrims will be visiting St. Mary's.

Chairman of Churches Together in Nantwich

A key issue raised at the AGM was the leadership of CTiN from 2026 onwards. CTiN is seeking to appoint a Chairman for a period of two years from the Annual Meeting in March 2026.

CTiN is looking for a lay or ordained person from within CTiN's member churches who would be willing to be a representative of his/her church in 2025 and Chair from 2026. Those interested should have the support of their own church's clergy/leadership and would be appointed at the Annual General Meeting of CTiN in 2026.

We are looking for someone with a heart for building up good relationships between the town's church communities, an encourager and an active supporter of CTiN's aims and activities.
He/she will:

- be willing to worship, pray and work with the member churches of CTiN
- prepare for and chair the meetings of CTiN (6 per annum)
- liaise with clergy and others on matters of common interest
- support those involved in CTiN activities throughout the year
- encourage God's Kingdom to grow within Nantwich and surrounding district through the shared witness, worship and service of its churches.

The Chair of CTiN is supported by a Secretary and Treasurer and his/her term of office is for two years. For more information contact *canondavid12@uwclub.net*

Dates for the Diary:

Friday, 18th April, 10.45am. Good Friday Open Air Service in the Square led by members of CTiN. Do come along and join in this public act of witness at the beginning of the Easter Bank Holiday weekend.

Saturday, 17th May. We are planning to raise awareness of **Christian Aid** by providing an information stall in the Square and collecting donations. This is a good opportunity not only to support this vital work in the developing world but also to raise the profile of Churches Together in the community.

Wednesday, 30th July - Nantwich Show. An opportunity for churches to be present at, and support, this important community event.

Forthcoming Events



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 are 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.**

Seniors' Lounge

The next Seniors' Lounge will be on **Sunday, 13th April**, 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.

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.

Tower Open Day

A **Fundraising Tower Open Day** for bell ringers on **Saturday, 26th April** will begin at St. Mary's, Nantwich, 9am-10am. 25 towers in the south and east of the county will be open at different times of the day to allow ringers to plot a route. The day is being held in support of the Chester Guild Bell Restoration Fund.

Eastertide Memorial Service

An Eastertide Memorial Service in memory of loved ones will be held on **Sunday, 27th April** at 6pm. Names to be read may be given to the Parish Office or added to the list at the back of church. You are invited to bring a lily or other white flower to the service which will be included in an arrangement made during the service and remaining in church for the following couple of weeks.



St. Mary's, Nantwich Ceilidh at Acton Village Hall

Includes pie supper
Saturday, 10th May at 6.30pm

Cash/Online payments
Adults £10, Children £5

Please let us how many adult/child tickets you are booking and what your food choices are. If booking online this can be done in the Collctiv message section of your online booking. Thank you.

Choice of pie (½ pie for children)
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NB. You do not need to add a tip (click "Don't support Collctiv") - we will do this at the end.



Next Breakfast

The next St. Mary's Breakfast will be on **Saturday, 17th May**, 8.30am at **The Tea Lounge**, located in the Swansway Stadium.

See also **"Special Services & Events Calendar"** on p. 32.



ST MARYS
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Holy Week 2025

Palm Sunday, 13th April

8am Holy Communion & Passion Reading
9.30am All Together Worship & Procession with Donkey
10.45am Holy Communion & Passion Reading, with the Choir
6pm Journey to Jerusalem: Hymns, Choir Pieces, Readings

Tuesday, 15th April

8.30am Morning Prayer
7.30pm Slowly Communion (meditative)

Wednesday, 16th April

8.30am Morning Prayer
11am Holy Communion

Maundy Thursday, 17th April

8.30am Morning Prayer
7.30pm Holy Communion and Stripping of the Altars

Good Friday, 18th April

8.30am Morning Prayer
10am All Age Devotional Worship
10.45am Churches Together Open Air Service (The Square)
12–3pm The Three Hours: Readings, Hymns, Prayers and Reflections, led by Bishop Sam. Come any time.

Holy Saturday, 19th April

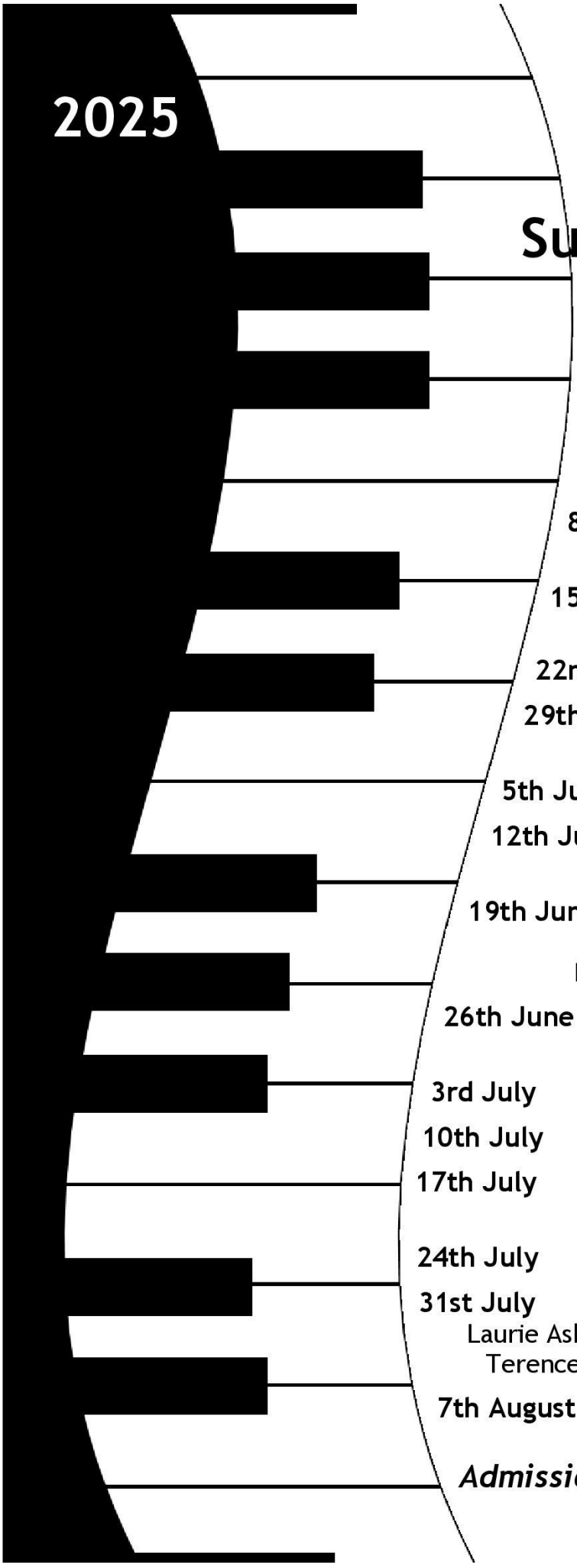
8.30am Morning Prayer

Easter Day 2025

Sunday, 20th April

6am Dawn Communion, preceded by the Easter Bonfire at the West Doors, followed by Breakfast
8am Holy Communion
9.30am All Age Communion & Egg Hunt, with the Worship Band
10.45am Holy Communion with the Choir
6pm Jazz Mass: A simple Communion set to music by Bob Chilcott, sung by Concordia, with Piano, Drums & Bass. Wine & Nibbles.

"On the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb...
but when they went in, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus..." *Luke 24.1-3*



ST MARYS
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Summer Lunchtime Concerts 2025

Thursdays 12.30-1.15pm

8th May	James Warburton (Violin) Angharad Huw (Harp)
15th May	John Gough & Tom Kimmance (Piano duo)
22nd May	Students from Chetham's
29th May	Clio Duo: Inis Oirr Asano (Viola) Alexia Eleftheriadou (Piano)
5th June	Nantwich Chamber Ensemble
12th June	Lauren Scott (Harp) Conrad Marshall (Flute)
19th June	Trio Diva: Imogen Garner (Mezzo soprano) Ben Holland (Violin) & John Gough (Piano)
26th June	Sophie Rosa (Violin) Ian Buckle (Piano)
3rd July	Richard Lea (Organ)
10th July	Rufus Edwards (Piano)
17th July	Forum Piano Trio: Alison Loram (Violin) Min Song (Cello) & Yuki Kagajo (Piano)
24th July	Nantwich Singers
31st July	Stage Serenade: Laurie Ashworth (Soprano), Sally Johnson (Soprano) Terence Ayebare (Baritone) & John Gough (Piano)
7th August	Simon Russell (Organ)

Admission Free ***Retiring Collection***

News in Pictures



Congratulations to Celia Kay who celebrated her 80th birthday this month.

The helpers at Mums and Tots marked the occasion by taking her out for a meal.





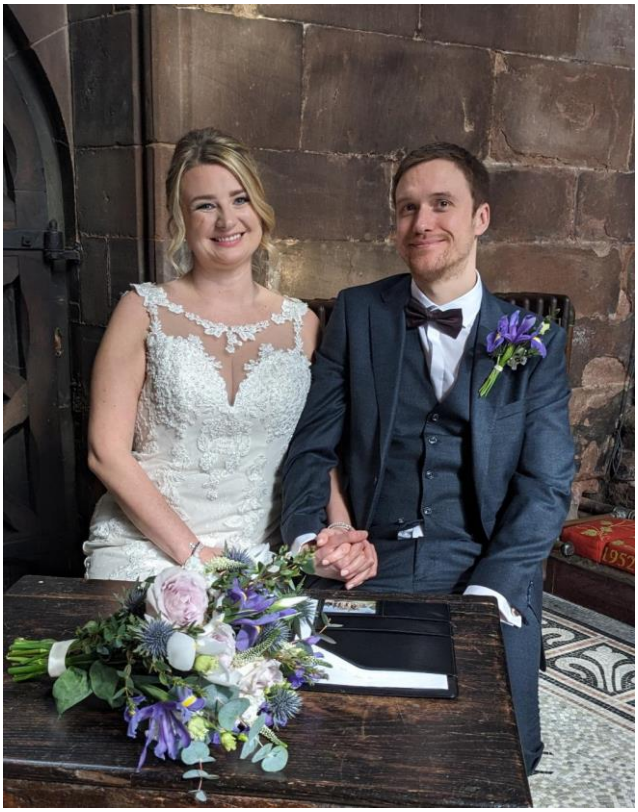
Congratulations also to Dave Leeson who celebrated his 80th birthday in February.

Happy Birthday!
Susie enjoying her party with family and friends down south in celebration of her 30th birthday. Lots of games, craft & food plus a cake decorated by the kids as the first activity!





A new Himalayan birch on the churchyard, a replacement for a dying tree that was felled last year.



Congratulations to Amy Williams and Adam Bratherton, married in the chancel at St. Mary's on Friday, 21st March, with the choir singing from the crossing stalls, and the guests seated in the chancel stalls.



Over 1,700 runners took to the streets on Sunday, 16th March, for the annual HSW Solicitors Nantwich 10K, enjoying a scenic route in glorious spring sunshine. The popular event, organised by RunThrough, saw competitors of all abilities tackle the 6.2-mile course on closed roads, starting and finishing near Nantwich town square.





All finishers were rewarded with a specially designed medal featuring a representation of St. Mary's Church - minus the tower, sadly!

Thank you to Jonathan White for his report and photos.



Lois North and Carole Tilt after successfully completing the Nantwich 10k on 16th March. Lois' time was 00:57:51 and Carole's was 01:05:54. Well done to both of them.



The Lent Course on "The Sound of the Church" began with the bells. Here Stefan Zientek (Tower Captain) guides some brave volunteers in ringing changes on handbells. The course continued with the organ, song, and speech. In the final week Rev. Brian Statham will lead us into the sound of silence - all welcome, Tuesday, 8th April at 2pm or Wednesday, 9th April at 7.30pm, in church.

Little Fish



We have a lot of visitors who come into church, and many are surprised and encouraged by a joyful hubbub in St. Nicholas Chapel, a space that is usually a peaceful place to pray and reflect. On Thursday mornings we transform the space with carpets, tables and toys into a space children can enjoy and parents and carers can chat, seek support and enjoy a hot drink. So far this term we've had from 5 to 18 children. The cold weather and cold church might be putting people off, as our numbers usually average about 15 children a week plus parents and carers.



We start with free play, drinks and a snack. We then light 3 candles, the first to represent God with us, the second to represent us, and our family and friends and the last one for birthdays. We have a wooden cake with numbers 1-5, so we have to be inventive sometimes with the ages. We then sing happy birthday as many times as needed.

We then share a Bible story. This term we've been looking at Bible stories with animals in, Noah and the dove, Daniel in the lion's den, and Jonah and the whale. This is followed by a prayer and craft.



We have free play again until it's time to pack away and do singing. The first half is enjoyed with instruments. We do our "sitty downy" songs, and then our "standy uppy" songs (the action songs) ending with the hokey cokey, and finally our Goodbye Song. During the goodbye song, all the children are named, something they remember and look forward too. A reminder to us all that God remembers us all and knows us by name and loves us.

After half-term we shared pancakes, much more of a formal snack time with all the children together at the table, which we tend to do at least once a term. Here are some of the children's creations:



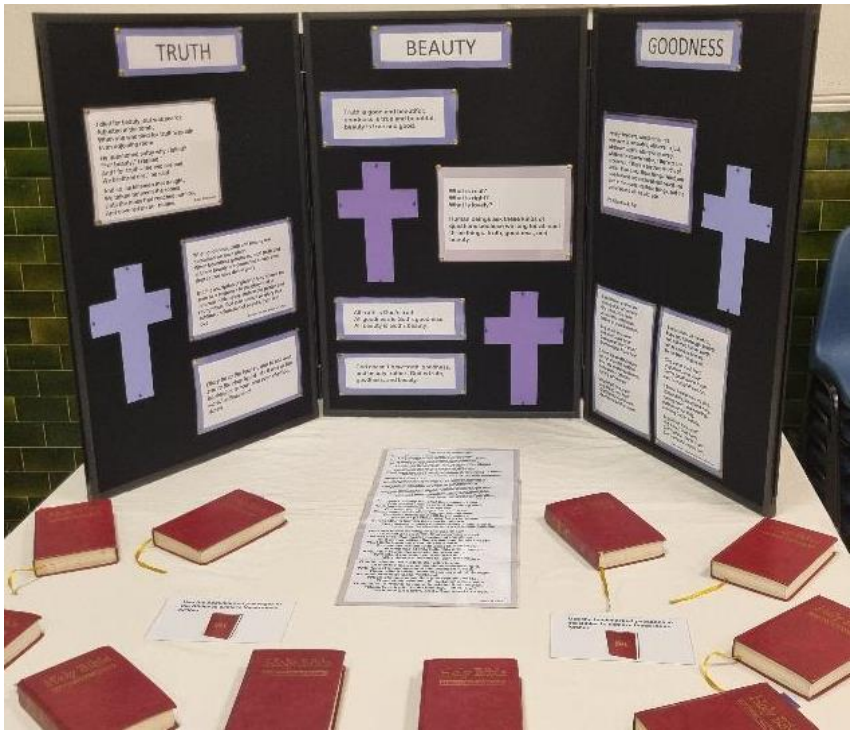




We are always looking for more support for this lovely group, chatting to people, prepping craft or making tea. If anyone can support us by helping with holiday cover when leaders are away, or any variation of this up to every week, don't hesitate to get in touch! *Susie Phillips*

Encounter Explore Beauty

The upstairs parish hall was transformed into a reflective prayer space for the Encounter Explore on Sunday, 2nd March. Beauty in many different forms was represented including art, music, literature, mathematics and creation.



The beauty, truth and goodness prayer station considered the links between these three transcendentals and provided the opportunity to explore their occurrence in biblical passages.

The centre of the hall featured a display of spring flowers and a large variety of quotes on the subject of beauty. Many visitors were captivated by these and took photos of their favourites to share and revisit.



The wonder of God's creation was evident, from the universe to animals and plants, and this display prompted prayers of thanksgiving.

Geometric models, equations, number patterns and symmetry generated a huge amount of interest at the mathematical prayer station whilst people made prayer pyramids.

In the art gallery, visitors considered how beauty can bring us closer to God and votes were cast for the painting considered the most beautiful with the top choice being Caravaggio's "The Supper at Emmaus".

The multi -sensory prayer station provided the opportunity to see, hear, smell, feel and taste beauty with the tasting option being very popular. Looking in the giant mirror with the verses Ephesians 2:10 and Psalm 139:14 reminded everyone that we are created by God.

There are many aspects of the world that are not beautiful and the "Beautify the World" prayer station inspired many heartfelt prayers for peace, beauty and goodness.

The poetry pew featured traditional and contemporary poems on the theme of beauty by poets such as Keats, Emily Dickenson, Gerard Manley Hopkins and Edna St Vincent Millay.

The final prayer station encouraged personal reflection on Psalm 27:4.

Many visitors commented on how much they had enjoyed the evening and found lots of "food for thought".

The next Encounter Explore is on Saturday, 24th May 11am–4pm in the church.

Carole Tilt

Mothers' Union News



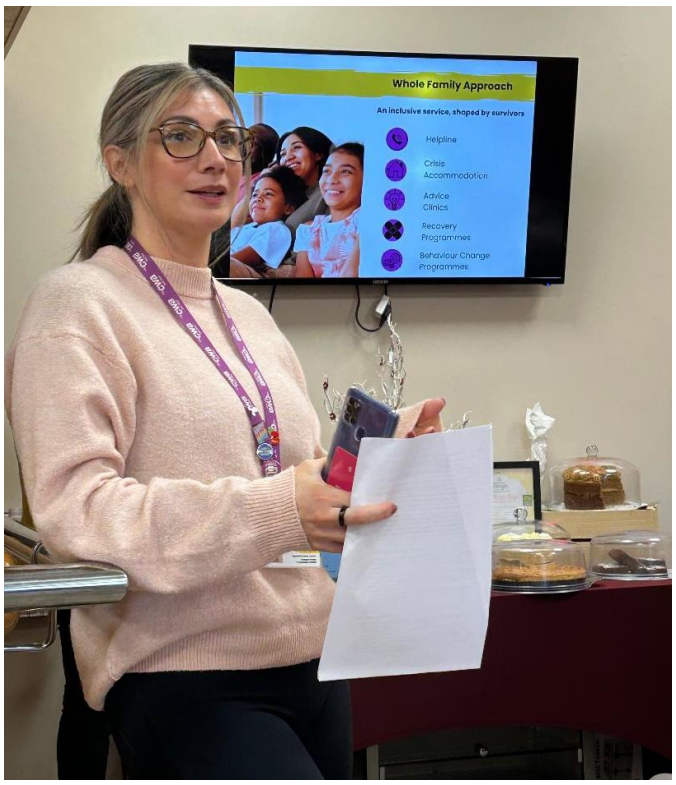
Congratulations and welcome to our 4 new members who were enrolled at our Monthly Members Meeting on Friday, 21st March. Yvonne Herbert Jackson, Mary Stanwell, Jenny Haymes and Patricia Paradinas each received a membership card and badge. Brian Statham did a fantastic job of leading our membership service and also delivering our annual talk on the subject of Lent. Brian concluded his presentation with slides from a series of paintings called "Christ in the Wilderness" by Sir Stanley Spencer.

JOIN IN, JOIN US Mothers' Union is changing lives.



Thank you to the Mothers' Union and extra helpers, here on Saturday, 29th March preparing the posies for Mothering Sunday.

We are myCWA's Little Sponges



The speaker at the March breakfast was Michaela East, the community fundraiser at myCWA (Cheshire Without Abuse). Michaela has been busy since January with a ten-week window to achieve a funding target of £500k, if the service myCWA has provided in the past is to be continued. Cheshire East has no money to continue to fund the services from 31st March 2025. Michaela and colleagues had been successful in achieving half the target when we heard from her. That means that some of the services will still be available, but it will be back to basics or closure for others. If you feel motivated to donate, the Justgiving link is at the bottom of this article. Certainly, all of us present at the breakfast talk were inspired by the services that Michaela described.

The service provided supports adults and children impacted by domestic abuse. They include a 24/7 helpline support, emergency crisis support, children's support, accommodation services, one-to-one and group support sessions, community outreach and behaviour change programmes.

Michaela explained that myCWA is a whole-family service, working with victims, children and perpetrators. She wanted to dispel some myths, such as what a refuge might look and feel like. They are houses in the community – a home from home. MyCWA's ethos is that no client should be put in a house that wouldn't be fit for one of their own family members. A new occupant (male or female) may be starting completely from scratch if they have had to flee an abusive relationship. Hence there will be new bedding, household items, clothes etc. There are 16 houses in Cheshire East and myCWA is also working with Cheshire West and Chester.

Michaela shared the statistic with us that one in four women and one in six men will experience domestic abuse in their lifetime, with men comprising one third of victims. A men's support lounge has opened in Crewe. Michaela emphasised the importance of this work because men generally don't share their feelings so much, sometimes not even realising that they are in an abusive relationship.

Another surprise to many of us is the work that myCWA is doing with perpetrators. This started as a pilot scheme two years ago with the Police and Crime Commissioner, where myCWA staff talk to abusers. This is no small feat, and no other abuse charity does this. It takes highly trained staff (degrees in criminology and psychology) to engage in this way with perpetrators. It is only relevant and fruitful when a perpetrator is out of denial. But it can help with matters like bail conditions, child access etc.

Michaela also talked about the importance of the support services for children from abusive households. They are the parents of the future. It is so important to break the cycle of abuse – perpetrators may have been abused themselves as a child. The work is focussed on where the child is in their journey – trauma and then recovery. It is designed to enable children to deal with emotions, to understand what is right and wrong and to move forward.

Michaela described us as little sponges, because we have heard from her and may share information to those who might fundraise, volunteer and to those who might be in need of myCWA's services. Another little sponge is St. Mary's Mothers' Union, which has supported myCWA for many years with raffles and collecting toiletries.

Michaela mentioned that a funding application to the Nantwich Merged Churchwardens' Charity (NCMC) (a single charity funded by former St. Mary's charitable bequests that have been invested) had been successful to the tune of £10k and that a further application next financial year would be considered.

http://www.justgiving.com/campaign/savemycwa

Interestingly, immediately after the breakfast I picked up a copy of the Big Issue from our Nantwich seller, Denisa. It contained an article about a young man's life cut short by an older abusive partner who eventually killed him. The article presented 2023 statistics that stated out of 4,385 refuge spaces for domestic abuse victims in England, only 78 were for men.

From the Registers: February 2025

Holy Baptism

We welcome you into the Lord's family

16th	Noah Marshall
16th	Julian Amoah

Funerals

May they rest in peace and rise in glory

7th	Margaret Edwards (81)	18th	Betty Robertson (96)
10th	Patricia Gentili (89)	20th	Janette Nevitt (63)
17th	Eric Taylor (92)	24th	Peter Cross (92)
17th	Sylvia Newton (93)	28th	John Allcock (77)
18th	Joyce Shakeshaft (91)	28th	Dinah Arnold (88)

Readings for April

6th April *(5th Sunday of Lent)*	Philippians 3: 4b-14 John 12: 1-8
13th April *(Palm Sunday)*	Luke 19: 28-40 St. Luke Passion Reading
17th April *(Maundy Thursday)*	1 Corinthians 11: 23-26 John 13: 1-17, 31b-35
20th April *(Easter Day)*	1 Corinthians 15: 19-26 John 20: 1-18
27th April *(2nd Sunday of Easter)*	Acts 5: 27-32 John 20: 19-31

Palm Sunday and Holy Week

The western Christian Church celebrates Holy Week and Easter at the same time as the Jewish celebration of the Passover. The Passover was the event in Egypt when, according to the book of Exodus, God delivered the people of Israel from slavery by passing judgement on the Egyptians and "Passing Over" the homes of the Israelites.

Every devout Hebrew was supposed to go to Jerusalem annually to celebrate the Passover. I have read that any year there could have been over a hundred thousand people attending the festival. The countries from which they came are listed by St. Luke and include countries known today as Iran, Iraq, Turkey, Egypt, Libya, Italy, Crete and Arabia. These were mostly in the Roman Empire where the language was Latin for official activities and Greek for ordinary communication. There were many good roads and shipping. People travelled long distances in groups, or caravans, for safety. There were many cities and lots of trade between them although often ordinary people were farmers and herders rather than urban dwellers.

Jesus decided to go to Jerusalem for the festival. His arrival is celebrated by Christian Churches on Palm Sunday. His enthusiastic reception shows how well-known Jesus was. Many of the people thought he had come to rescue the people from Roman rule. During Holy Week they were disillusioned as Jesus was mistreated and was not fighting back. When Pontius Pilate asked who should be set free, as was the custom, the people turned against Jesus and shouted "Crucify Him".

Jesus knew that it would be dangerous for him to go to Jerusalem. Why do we think he went? Why did he have to die? In fact Jesus had a human life which he experienced in full. Therefore he was bound to die so that whatever happens to us in life and in death he can share with us and support us. He rescues us.

We still have pain and suffering but our creator has experienced them too. We still have to die but he has experienced death too and he will not abandon us in life or in death. Christ had to go through the events of Holy Week to save us. His death is a horrible painful death and reflects the horrible things that people can do to each other. Through all this Christ is with us helping us to live fuller loving lives during our time on earth.

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



Where is it?

There's always something new to see in St. Mary's and this month we start a regular photograph puzzle. Do you know where this is, and what it is? Don't worry, it's not an unexploded WW2 bomb. Answer next month.

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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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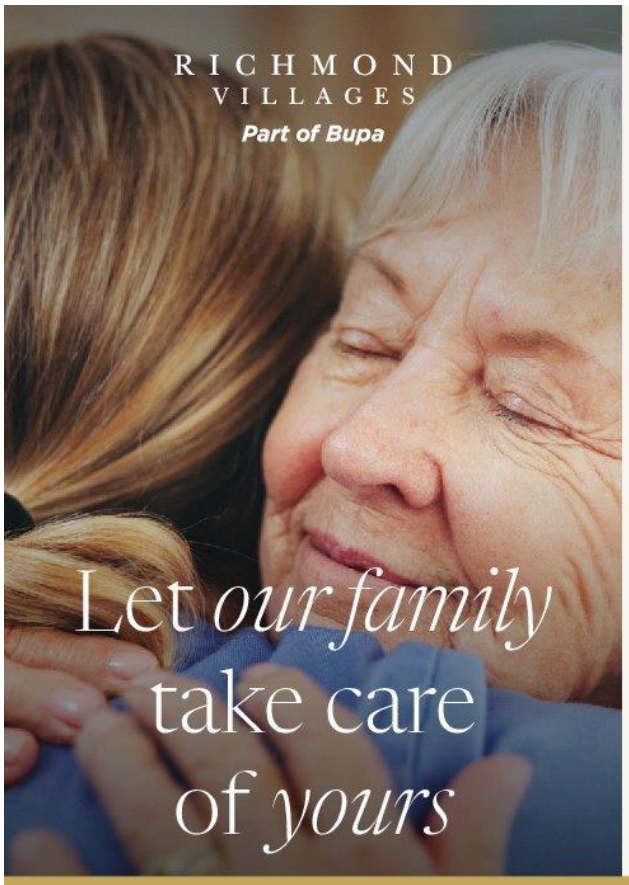
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Special Services & Events Calendar March-July 2025

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
	15th	Slowly Communion (meditative), 7.30pm
	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	Summer Lunchtime Concerts begin, 12.30pm VE Day events
	10th	Chester Diocesan Guild of Bell Ringers event at St. Mary's 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
	29th	Ascension Day Holy Communion, 8am & 7.30pm
June	11th	Sound Bath in Church, 7.15pm
	21st	St. Mary's Breakfast at Nantwich Football Club, 8.30am
	26th	Day Trip to Trentham Gardens
	28th	Nantwich Choral Society Concert in Church, 7.30pm
July	6th	Encounter Explore in Church/Hall, 7.15pm
	9th	Sound Bath in Church, 7.15pm
	19th	Summer Fair in the Parish Hall/Church grounds, 10am-2pm Nantwich Pride Day Service in Church, 12.30pm Proud Mary's singing in Church, 3.30pm
	30th	Nantwich Show at Reaseheath College