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May 2025





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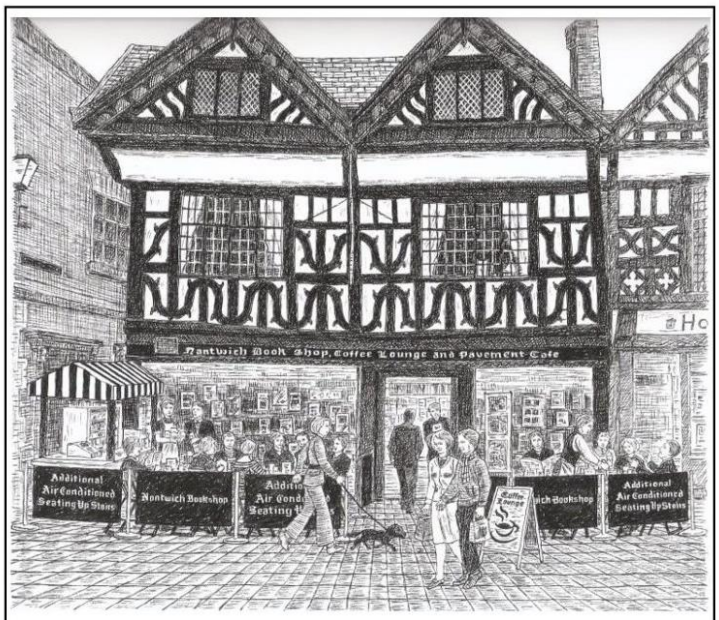
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Front cover: Easter Day 2025. Thank you to all who provided flowers for the Easter cross on the church green, especially to Anita Morris who prepared the lovely central arrangements, and to Carole Tilt who arranged many of the flowers on Easter Day after the dawn service.



From the Rector

At the Dawn Easter Communion we renewed our baptismal vows. As we celebrated the resurrection of Christ we remembered that "through the paschal mystery we have died and been buried with him in baptism".

We rejected the devil and all rebellion against God. We renounced the deceit and corruption of evil. We repented of the sins that separate us from God and neighbour.

We turned to Christ as Saviour. We submitted to Christ as Lord. We came to Christ, the way, the truth, and the life.

As we come out of Lent and into Easter it is like starting afresh on our Christian journey. What then are the basic practical steps of living as a Christian?

In 1954 the Archbishop of Canterbury, Geoffrey Fisher, and the Archbishop of York, Cyril Garbett, issued this "Short Guide to the Duties of Church Membership":

> All baptized and confirmed members of the Church must play their full part in its life and witness. That you may fulfil this duty we call upon you:
> - To follow the example of Christ in home and daily life, and to bear personal witness to Him.
> - To be regular in private prayer day by day.
> - To read the Bible carefully.
> - To come to Church every Sunday.
> - To receive the Holy Communion faithfully and regularly.
> - To give personal service to Church, neighbours, and community.
> - To give money for the work of the parish and diocese and for the work of the Church at home and overseas.
> - To uphold the standard of marriage entrusted by Christ to his Church.
> - To care that children are brought up to love and serve the Lord.

I commend this to you. We will not always walk faithfully, but if we set ourselves no direction, no purpose, we will only drift. And every Easter, every Sunday, every dawn, is a time to receive Christ's life and love afresh.

Mark Hart

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Please send submissions to:
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May



English can be a confusing language for people to learn. Some words have very different meanings, depending on how they are used.

For example, the word MAY. It is of course the name of this, the fifth month of the year. It is also the name of the lovely white flowers of the shrubs we see in the hedgerows about now, which also have the same name … a name given to that pioneering ship, The Mayflower, which sailed to America from Plymouth in September 1620 with 100 passengers, emigrants from England … bound for the New World … The Pilgrim Fathers.

But it can also be a word of doubt: "I may be able to see you today but I'm not sure". It is also a word of permission, a child asking for something can be told "yes, of course you may" (or, "no, you may not"!).

But it is also a word expressing expectation and hope. Here are two impressive examples: first, an old Irish Blessing

> "May the road rise up to meet you. May the wind be always at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face, and rains fall soft on your fields. And until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of his hand".

Also, as in the Old Testament book of Numbers, chapter 6 verses 24-26; this is exactly what my prayer is for anyone reading this right now: it is sometimes called the Blessing of Moses:

> "May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you … may the light of his countenance shine upon you and give you peace."
> AMEN TO THAT!

Rev. David Marsh, retired priest

Church News

Annual Meetings

The Annual Meeting 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.

The **Electoral Roll Renewal** is now complete and the list of 439 names is posted at the back of church and on the church website. Please check your name. If you missed the deadline you may still complete an application form and your name will be added to the roll after the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on 7th May.

Parking

Please note that unfortunately from 26th May there will be charges for parking on Sundays and in the evenings up to 10pm at the car parks near church. Snow Hill car park will still be free after 3pm and will also be free on Sundays. Morrisons car park allows up to 1.5 hours for customers.

The Stained Glass of St. Mary's, Nantwich

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

Food Bank Thanks

Many thanks for the boxes of Fruit Juice we have collected in St. Mary's for the Trussell Trust Food Bank during Lent. Phil Boxhall has delivered over 70 boxes [and counting] so hopefully their shelves have more than 4 boxes on them as was the situation at the start of Lent. We ended collecting in Church on Good Friday but, of course, the Parish Office collects all year round as do the local supermarkets. *Sue Hutt*

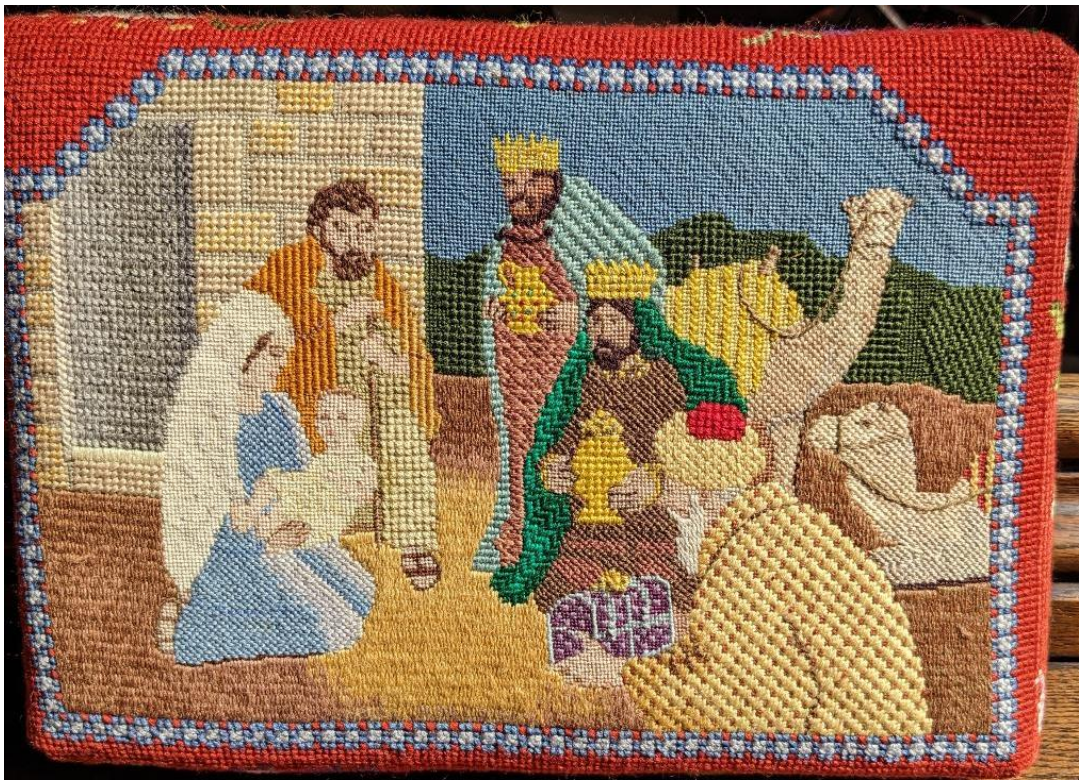
Steward Needed

Wednesdays noon–1pm. We need someone to greet Visitors and chat to them about the many interesting features in the Church. Training will be provided. Please ring the Parish Office on 01270 625268.

A 50 Year Labour of Love

When you pray in church do you prefer to sit or kneel? If you sit, as many do, you may not have really noticed something rather special in St. Mary's - our unique collection of tapestry kneelers.

After a group was formed in May 1976, work began with the kneelers and seat cushions in the choir stalls, and has gradually spread over the last 50 years to fill the whole church.



The Adoration of the Magi

All the work, including the design and making up, has been carried out by group members using a wide variety of embroidery stitches to give greater detail and texture to the designs.

Over the years this work has been carried out by many different people of varying ages and, on average, each kneeler has taken about 18 months to complete. Some people have made one or two, others 15 or more.

In addition to the choir and nave kneelers and the much longer ones at the high altar communion rail, seat cushions, chair backs, prayer desks and other kneelers in the chancel, sanctuary and chapels of St. Nicholas and St. George have also been worked.

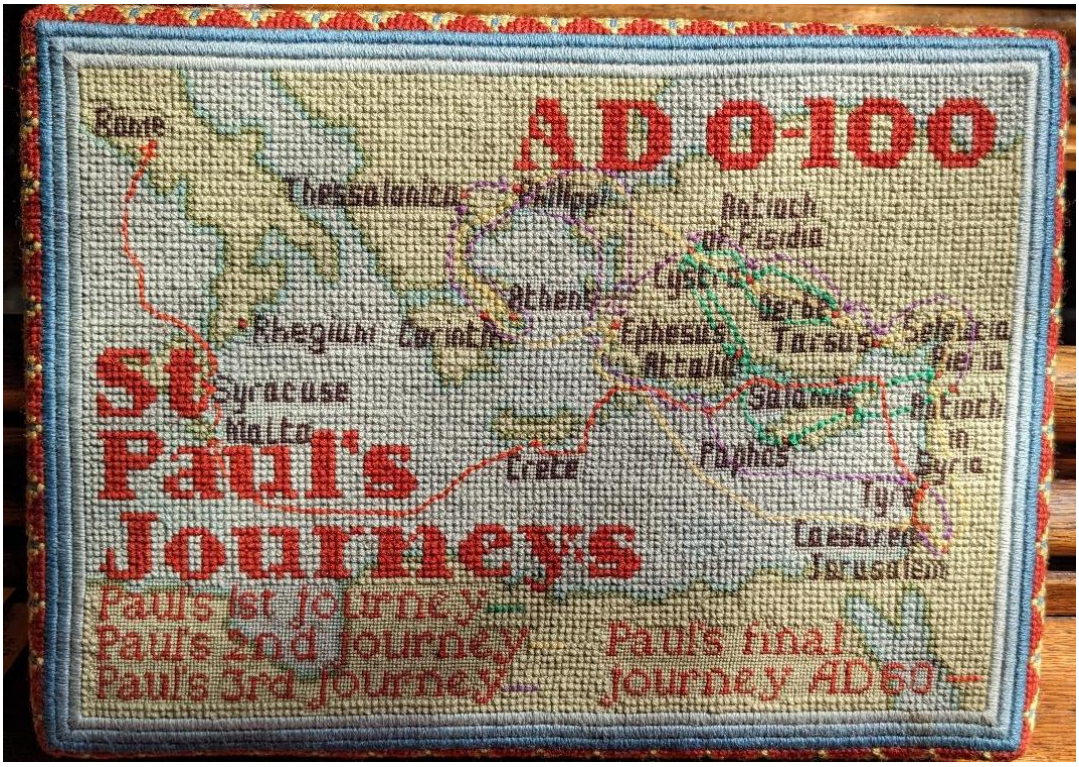
Every row of kneelers has a particular theme, and, while each top is different, they are united by having matching sides. The themes show many aspects of faith, service and people and places with a local connection. They include fruits of the spirit, 2000 years of Christianity, hymns, parables, saints and local families and buildings.

A comprehensive record has been kept of who worked each piece, though names are not shown on the actual work. The one exception to this is when a tapestry group member dies a collection of their work is put on the font steps for their funeral and later their name is worked on one item.

Visitors to St. Mary's often remark on both the variety and high standard of work and that they have seen nothing comparable in any other church.

The work is now virtually complete but ongoing maintenance is needed to keep it in good condition and repair any damage which may occur.

There are now only 4 group members left, including one from the original 1976 group, but failing eyesight and arthritic fingers make it very difficult for them to continue the necessary maintenance. They would like to show other, and somewhat younger, church members how to do it, but a previous request for volunteers brought only one offer of help.



St Paul's Missionary Journeys

Our unique collection represents so much of the faith, skills and life of St. Mary's over the last 50 years. If you think you might be able to help keep it in as good condition as possible PLEASE either give your name and contact details to Mark or Dot, or leave them at the Parish Office, and a member of the remaining group will be very pleased to get in touch with you. It is hoped that several people come forward and form a group which will ensure this unique legacy can continue to give inspiration and pleasure to both visitors and members of St. Mary's congregations now and in the future.

Margaret Whitehurst

Action!

Over three evenings in March a group of final year BA Media & Performance students from Salford University were filming in St. Mary's for their research project. They shot some of the final scenes of their film "John Turner and The Dragon's Sword" which is based around "action" sequences. Synopsis:

When an ordinary suburban night erupts into chaos, John Turner finds himself pulled into a shadowy hunt for Excalibur, the legendary sword of King Arthur. After a violent break-in leads to the theft of a cryptic map left by his grandfather, John is thrust into a pulse-pounding chase that ends at a foreboding castle shrouded in mystery. But the map's secrets, and the sword's power, come with a cost. As rival motives clash and the line between hero and villain blurs, John must confront not only a centuries-old legend but also the truth about his family's legacy.



Will he emerge a protector, or fall victim to the sword's ancient judgment?

Packed with intrigue, action, and a touch of myth, The Dragon's Sword is a cinematic adventure that asks: what does it truly mean to be "pure of heart"?



Photos: Benjamin Scott

Churches Together in Nantwich (CTiN)

Three crosses were carried into the Town Square on Good Friday morning as members of all our churches gathered to mark the day's events in song, dramatic readings and prayer. Led by representatives of all the churches the Open Air service ended with a prayer of blessing for our community.







CTiN Pilgrims will be visiting St. Mary's on **Sunday, 25th May** for the 9.30am service. Pilgrims are members of Churches Together who choose to worship from time to time at the other churches of the town as a sign of our "togetherness". You are welcome to join them, whatever your usual service pattern.

Forthcoming Events



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.

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3. or scan the QR code below.

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



Christian Aid Week - 11-17th May

Churches Together are organising a collection both within churches and in the town centre on **Saturday, 17th May**. We are looking for volunteers to help set up and run the Churches Together gazebo and collection. Further details in the notice sheet.

Seniors' Lounge

The next Seniors' Lounge will be on **Sunday, 11th May**, 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.

The Threetles

This Nantwich Roots Festival concert will be held in St. Mary's on **Wednesday, 14th May**, doors 7pm. A Manchester band celebrating the music of the Beatles, joined by a string quartet. Tickets £25 from *wordsandmusicfestival.com*

May Breakfast

The May breakfast will take place at 8.30am on **Saturday, 17th May** in The Tea Lounge at the Nantwich Football Stadium. The sign-up sheet is at the back of Church or call the office by midday on **Wednesday, 14th May**. The speaker will be Nick Howell-Jones, talking about family court - why being a family barrister is the best job in the world.



Encounter Supper

The next **Encounter Supper** will be on **Sunday, 18th May** at 7.15pm in the parish hall. The speaker is Peter Reid, a local artist and retired cardiologist. This is a bring and share supper and everyone is welcome. Booking is essential; please book via the Parish Office by **15th May**.

See also **"Special Services & Events Calendar"** on p. 31.

VE Day Memories from Bradford

My Mum (Stella) was training to be a teacher during WW2 at Edge Hill Teachers Training College. The Edge Hill campus was requisitioned for use as a military hospital and the students were relocated to Bingley Training College, near Bradford. Mum remained friends with fellow teacher trainee, Joyce, for 80 years. Joyce is approaching her 100th birthday later this year. Her daughter found a handwritten note about VE Day. Here are some snippets from it.

"News at breakfast of VE Day. Allowed day off until 11pm. Bought rosettes and cider. With room-mate Stella went on bus to Manningham Park, near Bradford. Drank cider. Wore rosettes.

On to Bradford. Lunch at Collinsons Restaurant. Cheapest meal, beans on toast. On to cinema. Mrs Miniver. Sad, we cried.

Dancing on the Square, Bradford. Back to college for 11pm. PE tutor took us outside to sing songs – Scout songs mostly – and danced and clapped till we had to go to our rooms. No midnight feast. What a shame.

Usual lectures next day, till lunchtime. In the afternoon we friends went for a walk."

We read out part of this note about VE Day at Mum's funeral – including the part about drinking cider in the park, which to us family seemed so unlikely!

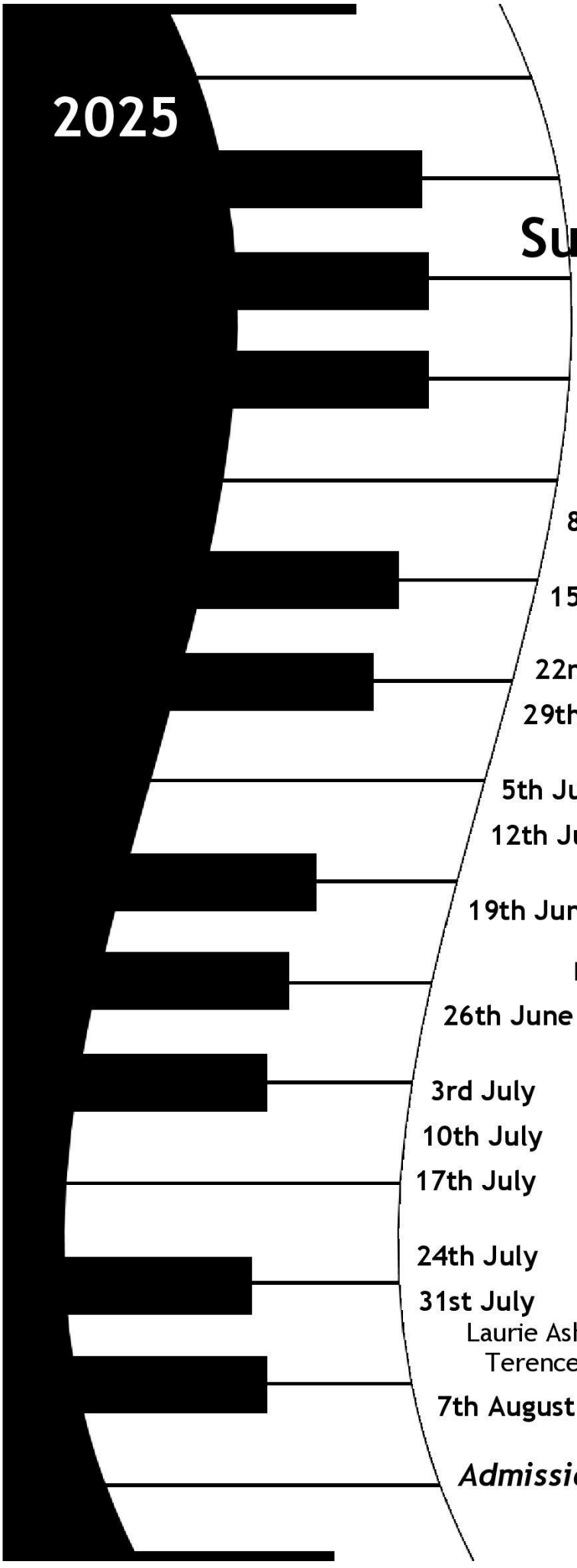
Annie Coombs

VE Day Events

8.30am	Morning Prayer with VE Day Commemoration
9.00am	Proclamation on the Square
5.00pm	Quarter Peal
6.30pm	Ring Out in Celebration - bell-ringing at St. Mary's and across the nation at this time to commemorate the moment on 8th May 1945 when bells rang out across Britain.

On the Square:

7.30pm	Wreath laying at the cenotaph
8.00pm	Poetry, readings and speeches from 1939-45
9.30pm	Lighting of the Beacon
9.45pm	The National Anthem



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



Margaret & Nigel Winzer on Easter Day after the Jazz Mass when a presentation was made to them by the Rector, thanking them for their dedication and hard work over ten years of managing and cleaning the Parish Hall. We wish them many years of happy retirement!

The new hall manager is Nick Leftley, and a contractor has responsibility for the cleaning of the hall and the church toilets. Miriam Harvey continues as the hall booking secretary.

Where is it?



It may have been unfair to start with a photo of something only a handful of readers will have seen. The tower clock has three pendulum weights, one for the clock itself, one for the hour strike, and this one, for the chimes.

This month's photo puzzle is of a more accessible location. Where inside the building can you find these four crosses? What do they mean?



Spring Fair

The sun shone for the Spring Fair on Saturday 12th April. Thank you to all the people who gave many hours to serve on the stalls. Thank you also to all who donated, and to all who came and spent money.



Thank you to Nantwich Town Council for the loan of gazebos and tables.



A total of £1,507 was raised.



The regular fairs are a significant source of income and the more who can contribute, the more the load is shared, and the more successful the event.



The Summer Fair will be held on Saturday, 19th July. Please consider donating any unwanted gifts to our Summer Fair which can be dropped off at the Parish Office. We would appreciate tombola items, jigsaws, books, handbags, scarves, jewellery, nearly new, bric-a-brac, toys and games.

Easter Holiday Club

On 16th April we had 16 children and 1 young leader join us for our afternoon Easter Holiday club. We chatted through different sessions and watched the relevant Bible stories: Friends (the calling of the disciples), A Special present (anointing at Bethany), a meal with friends (The Last Supper), a sad day and new life (Crucifixion and Resurrection)! We did some games, craft, decorated biscuits, learnt a few new worship songs and finished our time by eating together.







Easter Experience

In the week of 31st March we welcomed 3 different schools into St. Mary's for our Easter Experience.

The school split into groups and made their way around 5 stations, Palm Sunday, Washing the disciples' feet, the Last Supper, the Garden of Gethsemane and the Crucifixion.











We then gathered all together to do the last station, the empty tomb and The Resurrection.

Lots of questions followed, about all variety of topics. A great time together to learn, enjoyed by all!



Holy Week and Easter Week



Thank you to Liz and Michael-John Parkin for bringing Harry (left) and Daisy (right) for the Palm Sunday Procession during the 9.30am service. It was Harry's first visit to St. Mary's and he did a great job!

At the All Age Devotional Service on Good Friday people followed the reflection stations around the church, and Susie explained how what it meant for Jesus to be a king was so different from what we expect. Marianne here was dressed in all the regalia of a king (she played the part very well!) and then this was contrasted with what Jesus suffered on the cross.





Easter Day began with the bonfire for the 6am service, with Anna Burton, pictured here, successful in her first year as stoker. A lovely crowd of people gathered and enjoyed bacon sandwiches after the service, thanks to Andrea Howell-Jones (who also provided breakfast for the bell-ringers after they had rung for the 8am service).

Thank you to Glenys, Pam, and all the flower arrangers for decorating the church so beautifully for Easter, and thank you to Emma and the Server team for setting up for Easter after the stripping of the altars.









Thanks also to Stefan (Tower Captain), Phil and Paul (Churchwardens) who with the Rector raised and arranged the Easter Shroud.



The 9.30am All Age Communion on Easter Day included an egg hunt when during the songs the children scurried around the church looking for 200 hidden eggs. Pictured here is the last egg to be found, a week later, after many hints had been dropped by the Rector. Perfect camouflage!





On the second Sunday of Easter a Memorial Service was held when people brought white flowers in memory of loved ones. Thank you to Glenys Ellis and Pam Huntbatch for making this lovely arrangement during the service.

From the Registers: March 2025

Holy Baptism

We welcome you into the Lord's family

16th	Tyler Swindell	16th	Reuben Tyrrell
16th	Nikos Pass	30th	Katerina Dohnalova

Holy Matrimony

Bless these thy servants

21st Adam Bratherton & Amy Williams

Funerals

May they rest in peace and rise in glory

3rd	Doreen Taylor (85)	18th	Michael Eymer (94)
7th	Jean Llewellyn (88)	24th	Jean Hallam (98)
10th	John Fishburne (92)	26th	Andrew Vickers (56)
17th	Doreen Lightburn (96)	28th	Pamela Grant (86)
18th	Albert Pye (89)		

Readings for May

4th May *(3rd Sunday of Easter)*	Acts 9: 1-6 John 21: 1-19
11th May *(4th Sunday of Easter)*	Acts 9: 36-43 John 10: 22-30
18th May *(5th Sunday of Easter)*	Acts 11: 1-18 John 13: 31-35
25th May *(6th Sunday of Easter)*	Acts 16: 9-15 John 14: 23-29
Thursday, 29th May *(Ascension Day)*	Acts 1: 1-11 Luke 24: 44-53

Exciting Holiness

I have a copy of a wonderful book. It is called "Exciting Holiness" and it contains details of the lives of a selected number of saints and others who are recognised by the Anglican Church for their outstanding Christian lives. They are listed under months, often in the month that they died.

There are 31 listed as individuals or events for May so I've selected just a few to share with you. Each has made an outstanding contribution to the Christian Church during their lifetime and one has been inspiring and influential ever since.

There are three Archbishops of Canterbury listed in May, the first being **St. Augustine**. In 597AD he was sent by Pope Gregory as leader of a group of 40 monks to re-evangelise the English Church. They were well received by King Ethelbert whose wife Bertha was already a Christian. Augustine became the first Archbishop of Canterbury. He must have done a very good job as he is still well remembered. He died in 604 or 605 after only eight or nine years in office.

Julian of Norwich is my second choice, a Christian writer and thought to be the author of the first book written in English by a woman - "The Revelations of Divine Love". She had visions of God's Love and spent much of her life pondering their meaning. She died around 1417.

The Venerable Bede was an historian of the 7th and 8th centuries in Northumberland. To him we owe most of our knowledge of the early English Church. He lived first in the monastery of St. Peter and St. Paul at Monk Wearmouth and later at Jarrow. The monasteries were great centres of learning and Bede was a serious student and writer. He died in 735AD.

And finally, **John and Charles Wesley**. These brothers were Anglicans who took the faith out to the people and focussed on mission. The poor and the industrial workers and agricultural workers were attracted to their preaching. Charles wrote many hymns, some of which we still sing. After their deaths in 1788 and 1791 the Methodist Church grew and became separate from the Anglican Church. The less formal style of worship appealed to many of those who had heard the Wesley brothers and this situation remains today but with ecumenical cooperation.

> "The celebration of the Holy Spirit at work in many different ways in the lives of Christian men and women down the ages, whose examples excite us to holiness is a sign of the great cloud of witnesses with which we are surrounded." *(Exciting Holiness)*

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 & Toddlers 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



Don't miss Ascension Day!

It's one of the Eight Principal Feasts of the year.

Thursday, 29th May

7.00am Singing from the Tower Roof
8.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
7.30pm Holy Communion (Common Worship)

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Contacts

Rector:	Rev. Dr. Mark Hart	
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	Rev. Tony Long	561113
	Rev. David Marsh	610079
	Rev. Gordon G Roxby	619898
	Rev. Brian Statham	07724 133215
	Rev. Canon David Taylor	618936
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Youth and Children's Worker:		
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	Paul O'Brien	07973 743909
Verger:	Linda Lewis	07534 272901
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Parish Safeguarding Officer	Belinda Coghlan	568945
	safeguarding@stmarysnantwich.org.uk	
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	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

@stmarysnantwich
www.stmarysnantwich.org.uk
Registered Charity no. 1130903

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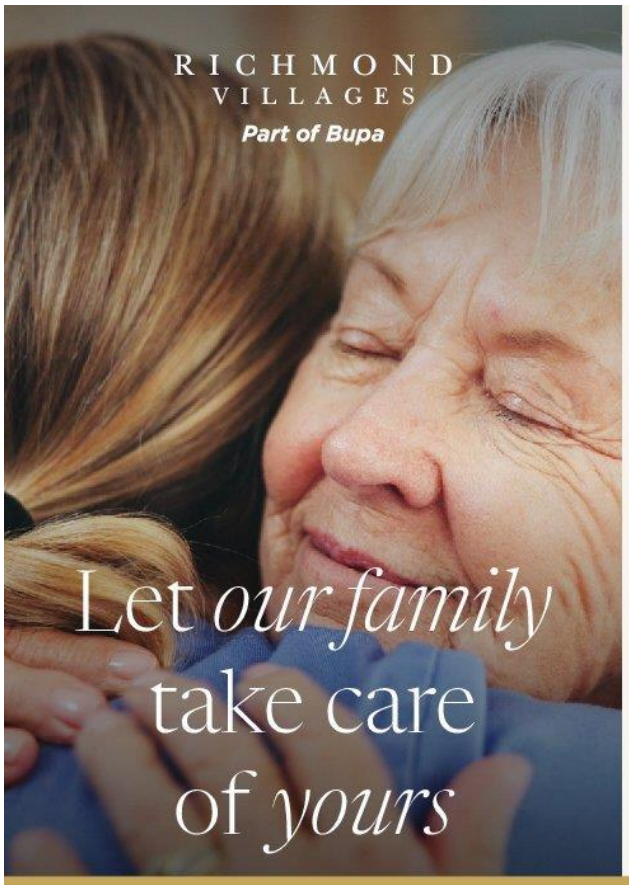
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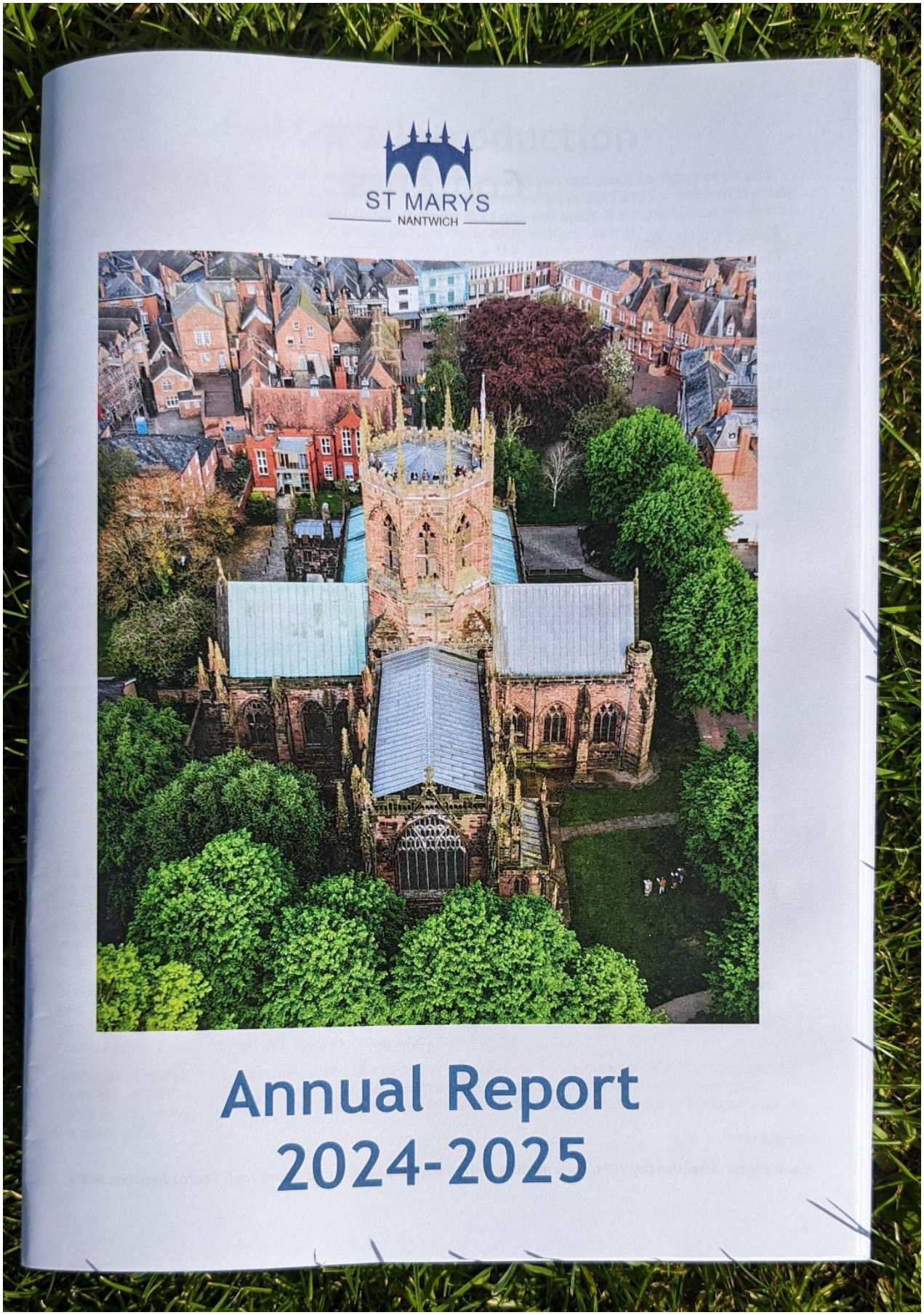
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Richmond Villages Nantwich, St Joseph's Way, Nantwich, Cheshire CW5 6LZ

Richmond Villages Nantwich **Residential Care | Respite Care**

Special Services & Events Calendar May-October 2025

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, 6.30pm
	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: Singing from the Tower, 7am
		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
August	15th	VJ Day Service in Church, 7.45pm
	17th	Encounter Supper in the Parish Hall, 7.15pm
	29th	Refreshments in the Hall, 2-4pm – Food Festival Weekend
	30th	Food Festival Refreshments, 10am-2pm, Hall/Grounds
	31st	Evensong with St. Christopher Chorale, 6pm
September	13th	Concordia Concert in Church, 3.30pm
	17th	Sound Bath in Church, 7.15pm
	20th	St. Mary's Breakfast at Nantwich Football Club, 8.30am
October	12th	Harvest Festival
	18th	St. Mary's Breakfast at Nantwich Football Club, 8.30am
		Candlelight Concert in Church, 7.30pm
	22nd	Sound Bath in Church, 7.15pm
	25th	Encounter Explore Day in Church, 11am-4pm



The Annual Report is now published.
Copies available in church and on the website.