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July 2025





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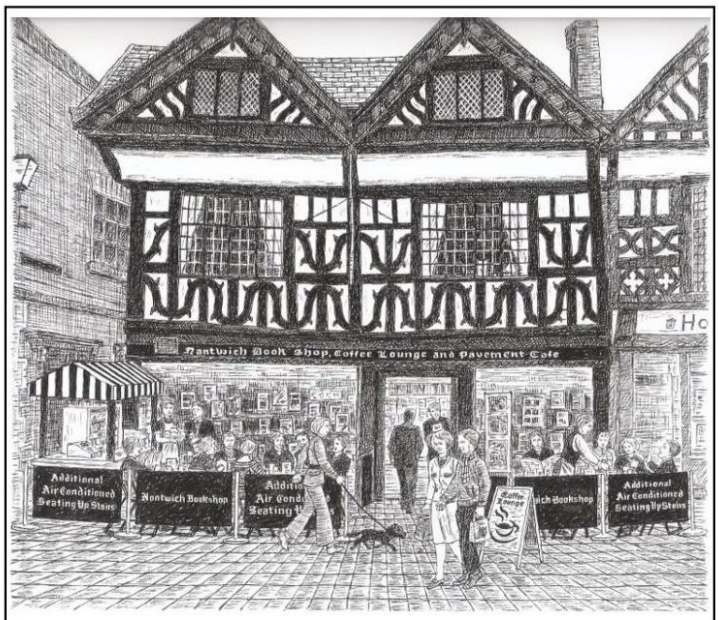
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Front cover: The Red Arrows flying over St. Mary's on the Day of Pentecost, Sunday, 8th June, at 3.04pm, on their way from Liverpool to the RAF Cosford Air Show. A group of bell ringers climbed to the tower roof for the best view in town. The planes flew over in two groups, five in front, and the four shown here following behind. Photo: Becky Williams.



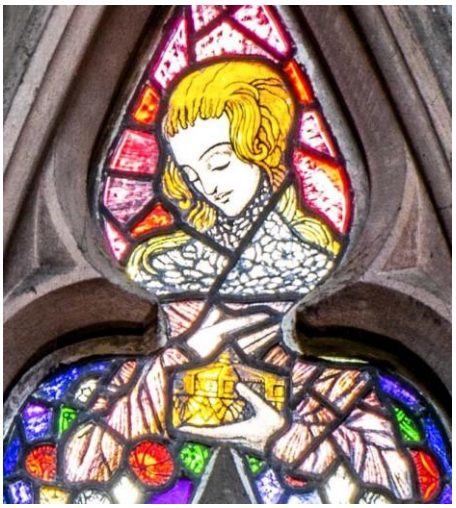
From the Rector

I was 11, arguing with my grandad. Are the Rhine Falls in Switzerland or Germany? I said Switzerland, and I knew I was right. I had just been there with my family on a touring holiday and my 8mm cine film proved it. My grandad, bless him, only believed me when my dad came in the room to see what the argument was about, and confirmed it. Being a child I wasn't regarded as the most reliable witness.

That's nothing compared with Mary Magdalene's experience. Her feast day is 22nd July and we will celebrate it at the 11am service on Wednesday, 23rd July.

We may wonder how Mary felt after she became an eyewitness to the resurrection, when Jesus said to her, "Go and tell my brothers". Will they listen? St. Mark tells us that Jesus appeared first to Mary Magdalene. "She went out and told those who had been with him … but they would not believe it". When St. Paul lines up witnesses to Christ's appearances, Peter is in front, and the women aren't even included.

To add insult to injury, down the centuries Mary has been labelled as a prostitute, on no evidence, only by conflation with an unnamed woman who washed the feet of Jesus with her hair. In art she is depicted as sensual, with long flowing hair, usually red.



At St. Mary's she has golden hair, in the right trefoil of the Harry Clarke window on the south wall of the nave. She holds the box of spices she bought to anoint the body of Jesus. Mary's encounter with Jesus at the tomb is carved in a stone boss on the chancel ceiling. Still she speaks.



"Go and tell". We may not always be believed, but if, like Mary, we have been called by name, and made witnesses, we cannot keep silent.

Mark Hart

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What is the Church for?



Always we have to remember that we the people are the Church, not the building. It is significant that when you travel around, what stands out on most horizons is a church, established as the defining centre of worship of that community. St. Paul set up the church in Ephesus. Even there, it was not the building. It was the people who worshipped in it and who were inspired to live their lives in following Christ. The Christian Church in England has been here since St. Augustine came in 597AD from Rome. Through the Reformation, it became "The Church of England". Over time, the Church was not only the centre of community, but it provided for all conditions of men – and women. It provided schools, health care, hospitals, libraries, homes for the poor and the old, and hospices.

Gradually, the State has taken over the roles that had been the prerogative of the Church. Today the institutions have generally been taken over by the state or companies or by voluntary bodies. There is the risk that people are forgotten. We all have a duty to love God and love our neighbour as ourselves. We see this in so many ways as we are sent out from our services, "to live and work to your praise and glory". But support for people is still needed, as more and more complex issues affect us all. What can each of us do in spreading the love of God and of his Son, being inspired by the Holy Spirit; and to love our neighbour in this day and age?

Recently, in the *Church Times,* Bishop Rob Wickham, wrote of the work of Near Neighbours by the Church Urban Fund. He outlined how important it is for the church to serve local communities; and suggested ways we can reach out in our town. Some we already follow. Others are reminders of what a Church can do.

Each of us will have a different way of being inspired. The level of activity shown in St. Mary's Annual Report 2024-2025 is amazing. May we each do what we can in taking the inspiration we have from God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit and spread it among all those who we encounter day by day in our communities of which we are privileged to be a part.

Paul Ramsey, Reader Emeritus

Church News

The Stained Glass of St. Mary's, Nantwich

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

Stewards Needed

Fridays 9.30-11am, and reserve stewards ready to help out occasionally to fill gaps that rise. 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.

Parking

Please note that unfortunately there are now charges for parking on Sundays and in the evenings up to 10pm at the car parks near church.

St. Mary's Summer Raffle

The summer raffle is back! After a few years break, last year we restarted the raffle but on a smaller scale than previously. The raffle was food-based, and we received some very generous donations of gift vouchers and food hampers from local businesses as prizes.

This year though we would like to take it back to its former glory. But, in order to do that, we need some prizes. In the past, members and friends of the church have also been very generous with gifting some prizes. We are now asking for your help again. Whether it be a box of chocolates, an item we can put in a hamper or any other item it would be very much appreciated. Previously, a couple of members who are fortunate enough to own their own holiday accommodation have donated a week off peak to a lucky winner. Are you able to help at all? Large or small, all donations would be gratefully received.

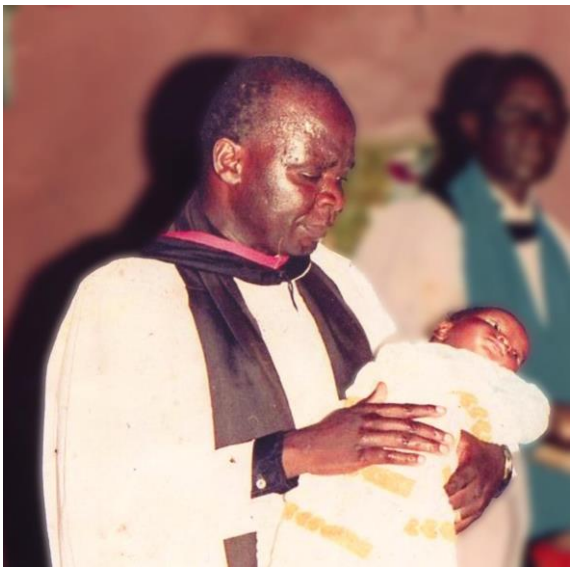
We hope to have tickets available for sale in advance of our Summer Fair (19th July) and continuing until the end of August when the winning tickets will be drawn.

Whether it is providing a prize, selling tickets to friends and family, or just buying a ticket yourselves, we just ask for your support, to help us raise much-needed funds for our church. All enquiries and offers to the Parish Office.

Venerable Canon Reverend Nashon Wamukoya



It is with sadness I have learnt of the death of Nashon Wamukoya in Kenya where he conducted his ministry. St. Mary's connection to Nashon goes back to the 1980s when he made friends with John Bradbury whilst in the UK training. Later, after John had died and his wife Jane had moved, Janet Meyers took on corresponding with Nashon. At some undefined point the mantel was passed on to Sue and me (I really can't remember how that happened!) and it has been our pleasure to have been in regular touch ever since. During all this time Nashon has held St. Mary's in his prayers as we have regularly prayed for him, his family and his church. Indeed, he was included in the time of prayer for "Pray for Your Street" between Ascension and Pentecost, the very week he died.



It was in the early 2010s that he identified a boy from his congregation who was not able to fund his education and asked for help. This boy went on to be a medical technician. Since then we have regularly supported children and Nashon arranged their education, organised the payment of the school fees for us and kept us up to date on the children's progress. Since he fell ill, his daughter Alice has been doing the administration. How things have changed. It was airmail and cheques to begin with but now it is electronic transfers and WhatsApp messages.

Please pray for Mama Grace, his wife, his children and his church family during this difficult time.

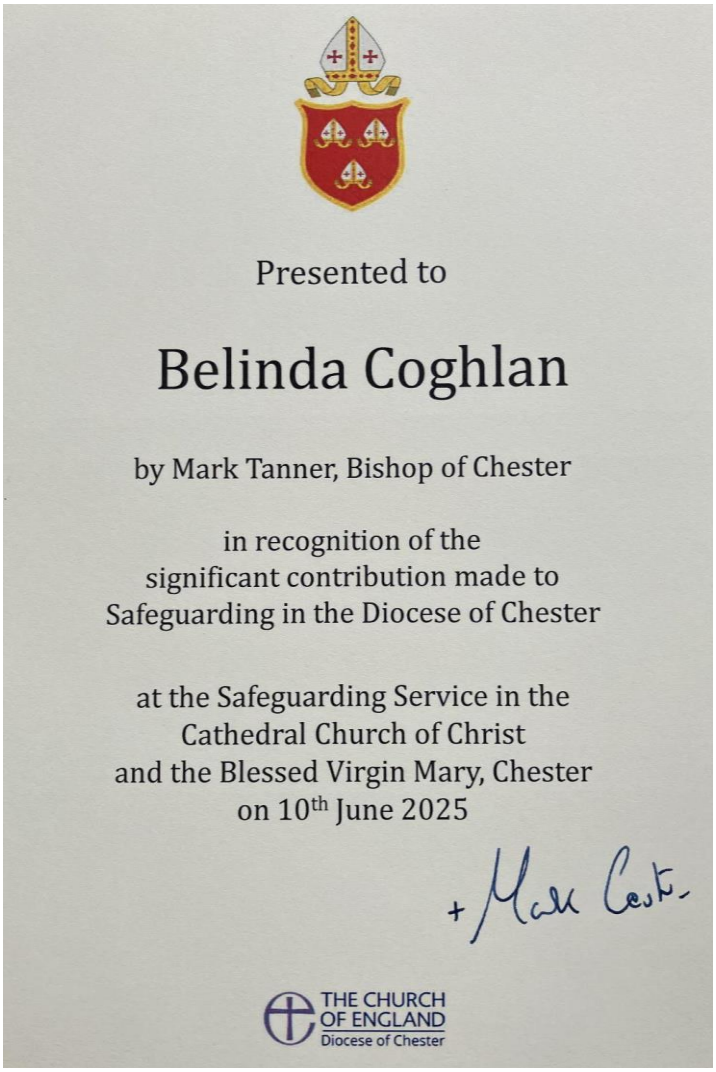
Nick Hutt

Speak Out, Stay Safe



On 10th June, Belinda and I headed to Chester Cathedral for the launch of the new "Speak Out, Stay Safe" campaign, followed by the Annual Safeguarding Service. The launch was to showcase the new safeguarding campaign and go through the resources, so keep an eye out for them when we start using them at St. Mary's.

Our three Bishops then led the service, which remembered victims and survivors, gave thanks for the work of Safeguarding Champions and supported the launch of the new awareness campaign, "Speak Out, Stay Safe".



Presented to

Belinda Coghlan

by Mark Tanner, Bishop of Chester

in recognition of the
significant contribution made to
Safeguarding in the Diocese of Chester

at the Safeguarding Service in the
Cathedral Church of Christ
and the Blessed Virgin Mary, Chester
on 10th June 2025

+Mark Cestr.

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND
Diocese of Chester

As part of the service there was a time of thanksgiving for those who have made a particular contribution to the work of safeguarding in the diocese. About a dozen were called up and to her surprise, Belinda's name was called and she was given a certificate for her work! (Those on the list were not told ahead of time.) A very well-deserved recognition of all the hard work she has done in our church and Parish.



Here we are at the Cathedral under the Peace Doves, an installation which features thousands of doves decorated with messages of peace.

Susie Phillips

Restoration Project Update

At this juncture, I am glad to tell everyone about progress with our Appeal for Phase Two of the Restoration of The North and East Elevations of St. Mary's.

However just referring to Phase One, which is covered in scaffolding, I can say that we are about 80% complete. Much stone has been replaced. Regarding two windows, these are about to be reinstated after attention by specialists. However, we are close to using the funds set aside for this work. And we do need to keep a contingency in hand.

As far as the Phase Two Appeal which we launched on 21st July 2024, we have been generously given donations by individuals and organisations at a steady rate of just under £1,000 a week since then, and at time of writing we have received or been promised £43,276.60. Additionally, we are able to claim Gift Aid of £5,586.25. This is a magnificent response by individuals and by the community. Examples of particular gifts include an individual asking for donations in lieu of presents at a significant birthday; and donations at funerals. We are very grateful for all who have contributed in any way.

Regrettably we have had less success with applications to the National Lottery Heritage Fund and the National Churches Trust – in fact no grants from them at all. However, The Benefact Trust, The Garfield Weston Trust and Nantwich Town Council have all contributed and these grants are much appreciated.

At present we have funds earmarked for Phase Two for only about an eighth of the amount required to complete Phase Two as originally envisaged. The new restriction on claiming back VAT could be a factor. When Phase One is completed, which is now likely to be August 2025, we shall then have a clearer picture of where we can proceed.

We hope that we shall be able to do some work on the east window. But the PCC and the Preservation Trust will only be able to confirm this after the invoices following Phase One's August 2025 completion are received.

Paul Ramsey
Nantwich Parish Church Preservation Appeal Trust Chair

Foundations for Ministry



Foundations for Ministry is a course of learning provided by Chester Diocese for anyone who wants to become better equipped to serve God in the world and the church. There are two blocks of 10 sessions: Together in Christ and Sharing Hope.

Congratulations to Emma Kennedy, our Head Server and Sacristan, who has completed the 2024-25 course. Here is Emma speaking in a vox pop made by the diocese to advertise the course. She said, "It was nothing that I expected and so much more. It's opened up new avenues of thought and prayer and love into my life and I feel really blessed and enriched to have done it."

Normal for Norfolk? All will be well!



It's hard to believe that a whole year has passed since Vanessa's induction as Rector of Wayland Benefice – a group of 6 parishes in the agricultural Breckland district of West Norfolk. My impression so far? Well, my view is a long one, since Norfolk's a bit flat, ranging from gently rolling countryside near the coast to depressingly flat in the fens. Breckland is in between.

The size of Vanessa's task as rector is daunting: in addition to the congregations, each church has its own wardens, PCC and the statutory rounds of church activities. However, there's not one parish office or administrator, lay reader, worship assistant, youth worker or retired clergy – yet. Beyond the churches, the benefice also includes three schools, a care home and a large prison. Whilst the workload isn't sustainable indefinitely, the short-term solution is to roll up the sleeves and get on with it.

Each of the six parishes has a population of between 300 and 600, and each with a substantial medieval church – thanks to some wealthy medieval landowners and their prevailing belief in purgatory (a bit like

the Bill Gates of their time: worth googling). Although electricity has now arrived, only two of the six churches have a water supply, toilet and kitchen, and none has a parish hall. Developing the ancient buildings is beyond the means of their congregations alone, but they might be saved by the wider community.

Norwich Diocese hasn't escaped the UK general trend of declining church membership. However, the buildings themselves hold a special place in the landscape, and many residents show a willingness to support their parish church. That may be through engaging local artisans or business people with the relevant skills to address a prevailing need, or through the plethora of fund-raising activities, which also provide valued social contact – the seeds of outreach.

A couple of the parishes have no community space beyond the church. Ironically, those are also churches without a water supply, which presents both a problem and an opportunity: how to engage the community to develop the church building into an attractive community space? Such a venue is key to attracting the younger population, who have no other local meeting place. The first project under way has seen the formation of a community group, with its own structure and constitution and, helpfully, a couple of trustees who are also PCC members. The joint venture between church and community fits with the funding requirements of several major grant providers. Next year I'll be able to let you know whether that approach has worked.

My own involvement in the benefice began with choir and organ. Five of the six churches have pipe organs, and now there's a plan for the sixth. It's interesting how the space above the new toilets and kitchen is rather organ pipe-sized.

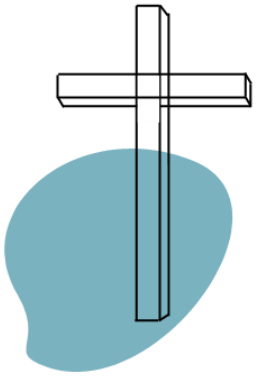


I'm happy to report that Vanessa's efforts are bearing fruit, with four people in pastoral care training, an authorised worship assistant and ordinand in preparation, and a junior choir director freshly recruited. Last month Vanessa was also appointed as an assistant diocesan director of ordinands in Norwich. Congregations are growing, but there's still a hill to climb. Yes, even in Norfolk.

With love to all our friends at St. Mary's.

Jonathan Layfield

Churches Together in Nantwich (CTiN)



CTiN met in May and among the topics discussed were:

Christian Aid Week

The Chairman can now confirm that the total raised from participating churches and the Town Collection was £1,763.59 (£1,933.59 with Gift Aid included). Although individual denominations and churches have their own Relief agencies. It was CTiN's view that Christian Aid Week not only raises awareness of the need for relief and development funding but also gives a public face to CTiN.

Church News

At the end of July Rev. Robin Fox (Methodist) will be leaving Nantwich to take up a new post in Rossendale (Lancs) in September. He will be replaced by a Probationary Minister, Obeth Thavanesan and his family.

"The Church with the Train" in Hospital Street, Nantwich, is hosting a day of celebration for 200 years of passenger railway operation on Saturday, 12th July. At 12 noon there will be a service of celebration and thanksgiving led by Superintendent Minister, Rev. Rob Hilton. For further details see posters in church.

As in previous years Churches Together will have a presence at the **Nantwich Show** on Wednesday, 30th July. Volunteers from members churches are required to help as Litter Pickers, supervisors for the baby changing tent, and Welcomers to the Churches Together gazebo and display. A Methodist Ukulele band will be on site to lead singing and to assist at a short service of prayer on the day. A pre-show service will take place on the showground at 6.30pm on Tuesday, 29th July co-ordinated by Rev. Anne Lawson. The preacher will be the Bishop of Chester and you are invited to attend this service and to pray for the Show and the agricultural community. Further details can be found in churches.

Chairman: CTiN are looking for a Chairman to take up office in 2026 at the end of Canon David Taylor's term. Could God be calling you to serve in this way? The Job Description for this post is overleaf and Canon David would be happy to discuss this matter with anyone who feels they could help. Those interested would need the support of their church leadership and would need to be elected at the AGM in February/March 2026.

Chairman of Churches Together in Nantwich

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 will be appointed at the Annual General Meeting of CTiN.

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 activities.

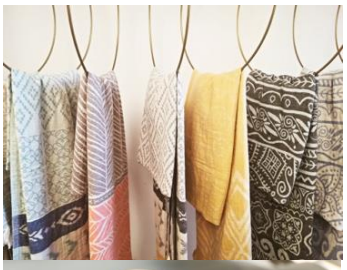
He/she will:

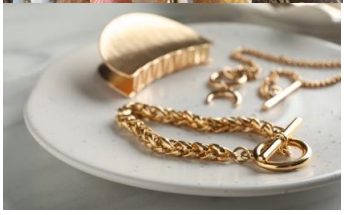
- be willing to worship, pray & work with the member churches of CTiN
- prepare for and chair the meetings of CTiN (6 per annum)
- liaise with clergy and others on matters of common interest
- support those involved in CTiN activities throughout the year
- encourage God's Kingdom to grow within Nantwich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

Handbags, Scarves, Jewellery







Who knew so much could be raised by selling second hand, and sometimes new goods, donated by the generous members and friends of St. Mary's. I want to give a grateful thanks to everyone who has ever donated or bought from the stall. I'm also incredibly grateful to my current and past volunteer helpers, Liz Chisnall, Penny Beeston, Jackie Ford, Jan Virr, Ros Reid, Ruth and Julie Ouwroules. Forgive me if I've missed anyone out.

I have not kept account of the total raised by the stall to date, but £1,500 would be a close guess.

Selling, or rather taking the money, is the easy part and where I need the most help. The goods sell themselves. Customers approach with chosen items and give you the money. The stall now covers 3-4 large tables - impossible for me to man on my own. So if you are invited to help at future church fairs, please sign on to help me on **"Handbags, Scarves and Jewellery"**. You will be most welcome and there are some perks - tea/coffee is free to helpers and of course you

get first dibs at the sale goods. There are some great bargains to be had. It is an opportunity to feel valued and appreciated. You meet lots of very nice folks from the town and the fellowship is great.

If you are donating to the stall please don't wait until the last minute. Goods can be left at the Parish Office anytime. I go in a few times a week to pick them up and take them home. There is a lot going on behind the scenes and I need lots of time for preparation.

Handbags:

- Cleaned and polished.
- Zips and fastenings checked.
- Pockets and storage places are checked in case anything has been left inside.
- Priced according to quality, material, name, condition.
- Stuffed with newspaper *(makes them look much nicer)*.

Scarves (Hats, Gloves …)

- Laundered.
- Line dried.
- Pressed.
- Quality checked.
- Most scarves are priced at £1. Occasionally I do get what I would call a special scarf. I price these individually.

Jewellery

- Clean by washing most of the jewellery in mild soapy solution.
- Polish tarnished silver.
- Quality check.
- Anything hallmarked as gold is checked out. The late Noel Bartlett did this, his son has offered to check out anything I suspect as being not costume. Most costume jewellery is sold for £1.00 each. I box up anything pretty and price individually.

On the Day

I arrive early to set up the stall which can take a couple of hours. I ask my helpers to give an hour (more if you can) between 9.45am and 1.00pm. Helpers just serve customers and take the money. Everything is priced up and displayed nicely. If I have plenty of help, I can keep the stall looking tidy and well laid out - there's so much stuff to sell. It is lots of fun and everyone who has helped previously says it is very enjoyable.

Next fair is on **Saturday, 19th July**. Come and help me sell, put your name on the sheet at the back of church, volunteer, join in the fun and raise some money for St. Mary's.

Cathie Riddell

Whit Sunday Walk

The church walk on Whit Sunday afternoon had surprisingly good weather and the thunder storms that were forecast did not materialise. The town square was filled with Vespas, Lambrettas and Triumphs for the Nantwich Scooter Festival and we had a quick look at these as we left the church and headed down Mill Street before crossing over Mill Island and admiring the recently installed planters. Our route then took us along Welsh Row, under the aqueduct and through the marina before following the canal towpath down to the bridge at Acton and across fields to St. Mary's, Acton.



We were welcomed at Acton Church by the "Tea at the Tower" team and shown to our reserved table. The cake choices were excellent and we enjoyed delicious black forest gateau, lemon drizzle and apricot fruit slices served with fresh coffee and pots of tea.

The Red Arrows were scheduled to fly over Nantwich at 3.04pm so a few minutes before we all went out into the churchyard to watch them and were rewarded with a great view of the aircraft flying above the church. Geoffrey managed to capture some of them on camera. There was also time for a look around the churchyard which was lovely with roses and foxgloves in full bloom and the Hornby family grave proved interesting with its cricket themed memorial.

On the walk back everyone agreed that it had been a lovely afternoon and they appreciated both walking in the local area and the opportunity to chat with and get to know others from the church. Fifteen people attended and new walkers are always welcome so do look out for the next one.

Carole Tilt

Growing Well



Becky Hurst, community development worker for the Crewe Churches spoke at the June Breakfast. Becky is originally from Crewe, studied and worked in Liverpool and Warrington and returned to Crewe, now living near family. She works for the Anglican churches: St. Peter's, St. Andrew's and All Saints and for Caritas, the social action and social justice agency of the Diocese of Shrewsbury which seeks to develop the Church's social mission. Her post is supported financially by St. Mary's, Nantwich as well as Crewe Town Council and other grants, such as the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Lockdown challenges for everyone

Becky's role started in 2018. Soon after she was involved in the logistics of organising free lunches via a socially distanced sandwich-making machine and distribution. The first day 20 meals were planned and 60 people turned up. They were able to continue throughout lockdown with 40 meals from distribution points and another 30 delivered to self-isolating individuals. There were generous financial donations at this time.

"You saved my summer"

Holiday clubs are organised in the summer for 20 to 40 children. There is simple good food two or three days a week and art, craft and sporting activities are organised. Parents who cannot afford even an ice cream for their children can bring them to the holiday club.

Toddler groups

There are waiting lists to join the toddler groups, Little Fish and Seedlings. Becky has nurtured the Seedlings group, which is a follow-up after baptism. She is overjoyed to see the group flourish and set up its own support mechanisms, meeting up and particularly supporting those without a close family network nearby.

Schools

There are no Church schools in Crewe, but former curate, Peter Bennett connected with all the local schools and now there are regular school assemblies and some lessons. Becky organised a session with children

and clergy to discuss life after death. She was amazed at the insightful and phenomenal questions, including one young person who asked, "does God have emotions?"

A chaotic start to Christmas

Last year there was an angelic camel because the camel put angels' wings on! But it is a scratch nativity, with residents from the local Belong community (for people with dementia) alongside top class primary school children.

Community events

Becky describes a host of events and activities for which she provides input including: Café Saturday – an invitation for people to turn up is issued at school visits, heritage open days, a Christmas experience with stories and crafts and International Women's Day events. All these aim to increase visibility in the community, especially at outdoor events.

Growing Well

Working with "Change Growth Live" and "Connections" (for people in recovery from addiction), Incredible Edible *(www.incredibleedible.org.uk)* and Crewe Town Council (who donated an allotment) Becky is working with volunteers such as from the YMCA to get the allotment up to scratch, with the longer-term aim of having a Gardening Church. She's used Bentley volunteers to clear the rubbish and weeds and create a path. The next step will be for raised beds with wheelchair access. There have been generous donations of tools and equipment from local allotment holders. Scrubland behind St. Andrew's Parish Hall has also been transformed with murals, a greenhouse and fruit trees.

It all really is "growing well".

Becky's enthusiasm, commitment and calling to this important outreach came over strongly as she talked about her work, towards which we at St. Mary's contribute.

Next Breakfast - Saturday, 19th July

We have added in a summertime breakfast, so that we can hear from chorister Grace Lewis, who will talk to us about her recent volunteering trip to Africa. As usual the breakfast starts promptly at 8.30am at the Tea Lounge in the Nantwich Football Club Stadium. The sign-up sheet is in church, or book via the office before midday on Wednesday, 16th July. If you book and don't turn up, we still have to pay.

A Peal of the Creed

To commemorate the 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea, a peal of 3 x 1700 (5100) changes was rung on the eight bells of St. Mary's Nantwich on Saturday, 21st June. The Council is thought to have officially opened on 19th June 325AD.

This was the first performance of a new method, Nicene Creed Alliance Major, composed by Graham John, and conducted by Paul Jopp, and the first recorded peal in celebration of the creed.

Thank you to our Tower Captain, Stefan Zientek, for conceiving of a peal which could reflect both the 1700th birthday of the creed and its Trinitarian structure, and many congratulations to the band, who rang for three hours in the hottest conditions.



The band in bell rope order clockwise from front right (home towers): George T Basford (Nantwich), Stephen W Horton (Smethwick), Ruth Jopp (Breadsall), Duncan L C Hyde (Frodsham), Nicholas J Green (Shrewsbury St Chad's), Peter Wilkinson (Weaverham), Stefan R Zientek (Nantwich), Paul Jopp (Breadsall).

Forthcoming Events

Encounter Explore: The Nicene Creed

Sunday, 6th July, 7.15pm in church (meeting in the hall first for refreshments). This year is the 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicea, when the first version of the creed was adopted. Come along to explore:

- The Illustrated Nicene Creed - by Pauline Baynes, illustrator of C S Lewis and J R R Tolkien novels. Reproduced with permission, above the misericords.
- Why Arius (who opposed "consubstantial") was wrong - demonstrated with a train set.
- The Story of the Council - including its particular link with our south transept.

Seniors' Lounge

The next Seniors' Lounge will be on **Sunday, 13th July**, 3pm in the Parish Hall - friendly company and a chat over a cup of tea/coffee & cake.

July Breakfast

The next St. Mary's Breakfast will be on **Saturday, 19th July**. Further details on p.17.

St. Mary's Summer Fair and Raffle

Please could you consider donating any unwanted items to our Summer Fair, to be held on **Saturday, 19th July**, 10am-2pm. We would appreciate tombola items, jigsaws, books, handbags, scarves, jewellery, nearly new, bric-a-brac, toys and games.

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.

We are also planning to hold a raffle, to be drawn at the end of the Food Festival (Friday, 29th to Sunday, 31st August). We would appreciate donations of raffle prizes, bottles, biscuits, chocolates, food items etc to help create hamper prizes. **Thank you for your support.**

Nantwich Pride Day Service in Church, **Saturday, 19th July**, 12.30pm followed at 3.30pm by **Proud Marys** singing in Church.

Join Us for a Bird Box Making Workshop!

Calling all families in Nantwich! We invite you to a fun-filled afternoon of creativity and nature appreciation in the Parish Hall on **Thursday, 31st July**, 1.30-3.30pm.

Get hands-on and build a cosy bird or bat box for our feathered friends while connecting with the great outdoors. This exciting event is all about promoting nature and fostering a love for all things nature, and it's perfect for families of all ages! We will provide all the bird/bat box kits, so you just need to turn up and we will show you what to do. This is a free event. There will be a short talk on different birds or bats and their nest types so that you know which bird box to make!

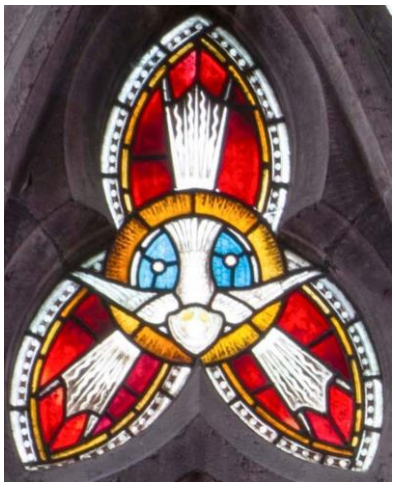
There are 20 places available. To book your place or for more information, please contact us at *office@stmarysnantwich.org.uk*

Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to bond with your family and contribute to the well-being of our local wildlife. Please let us know if you're coming and get ready to make some lovely memories!

All children will need to be accompanied by a responsible adult.

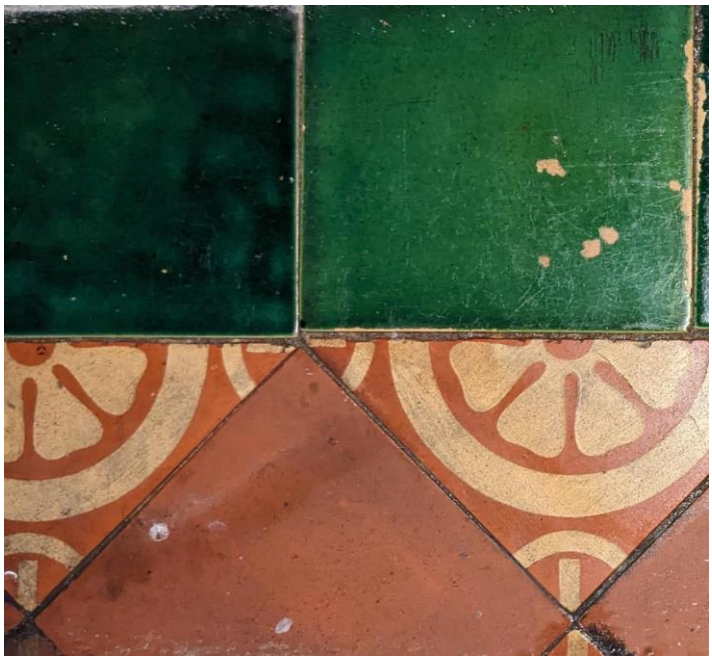
See also **"Special Services & Events Calendar"** on p. 36.

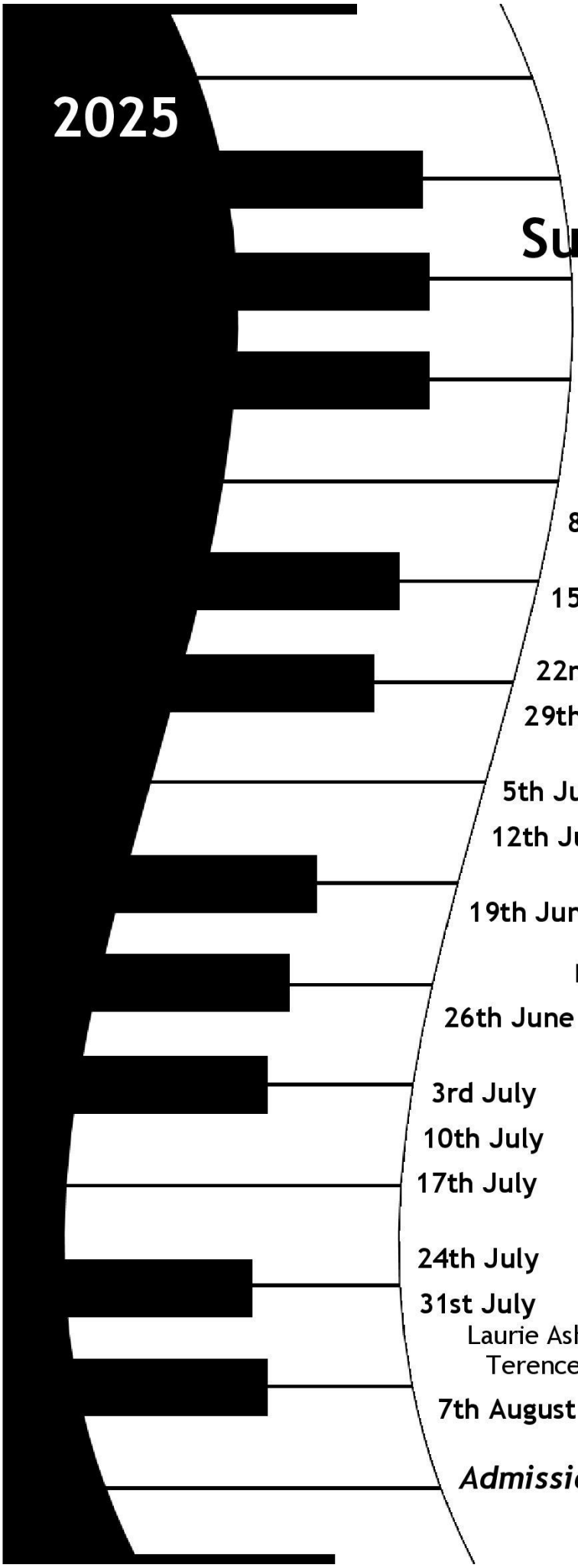
Where is it? Now with a prize for the winner!



Last month's photo of the dove was an easy one - it's in the centre of the west window.

Whereabouts in St. Mary's can you find this floor tiling? Answers with names to the Parish Office by 20th July, and a pack of St. Mary's notelets will be awarded to one person selected randomly from the correct entries.





ST MARYS
NANTWICH

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

Ascension Day 2025

The weather wasn't good enough for us to go all the way to the tower roof this year, but on Thursday, 29th May at 7am, fourteen of us, mostly members of St. Mary's Choir, sang in the ringing chamber and from the roof of the north transept to celebrate Ascension Day. Communion services were held at 8am and 7.30pm.



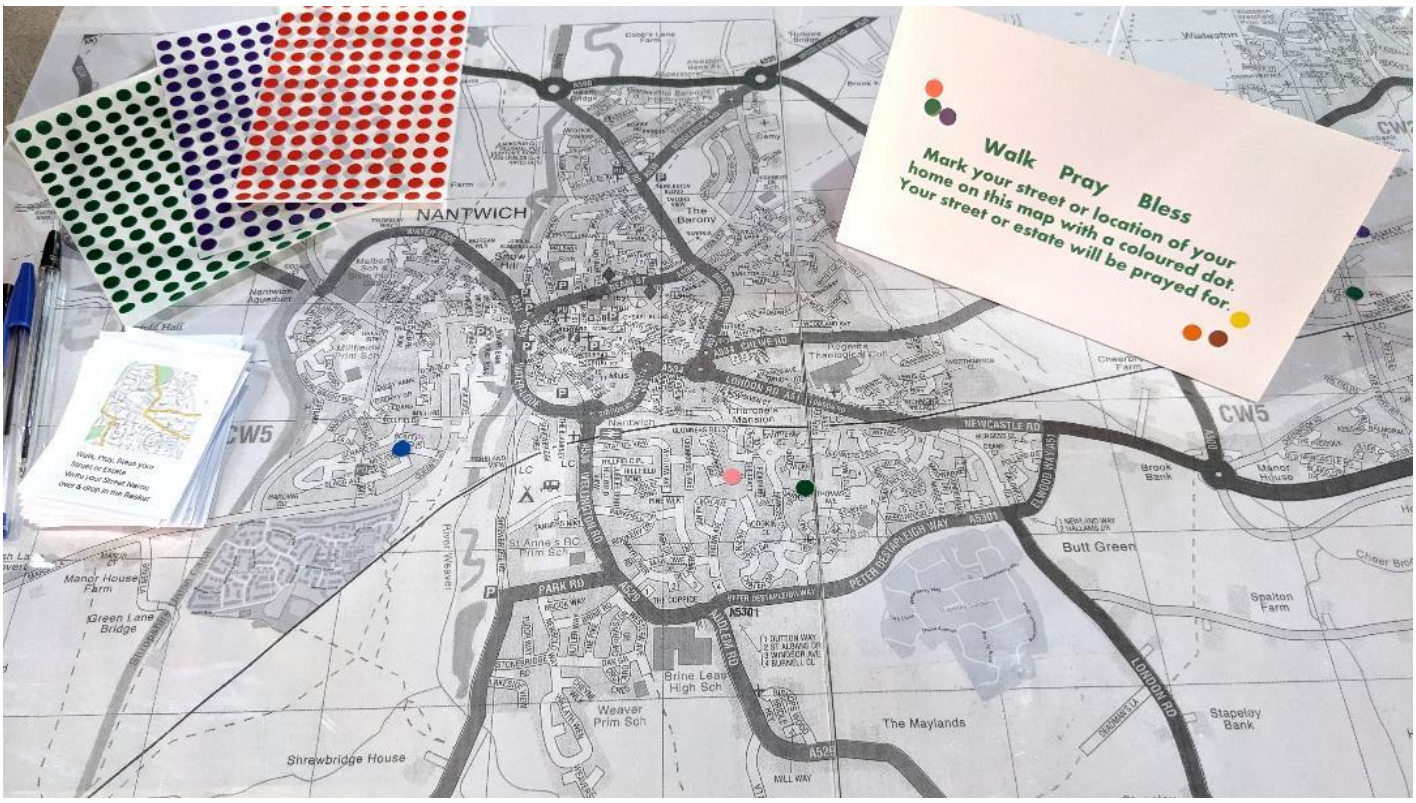




At noon on Ascension Day the Rector, announced by Devlin Hobson, pronounced a Blessing of the Brine that was being made in the traditional way on the Square, continuing the old Nantwich tradition that was revived last year by Nantwich Museum.



The Summer Lunchtime Concerts continue to be greatly enjoyed, and will run weekly on Thursdays at 12.30pm until 7th August. Audience numbers have increased nearly 20% above last year. Alexia Eleftheriadou, pianist, pictured here, performed a wonderful programme of works by Bach, Scriabin and Schubert on 29th May, prior to her debut two weeks later at the Wigmore Hall in London.

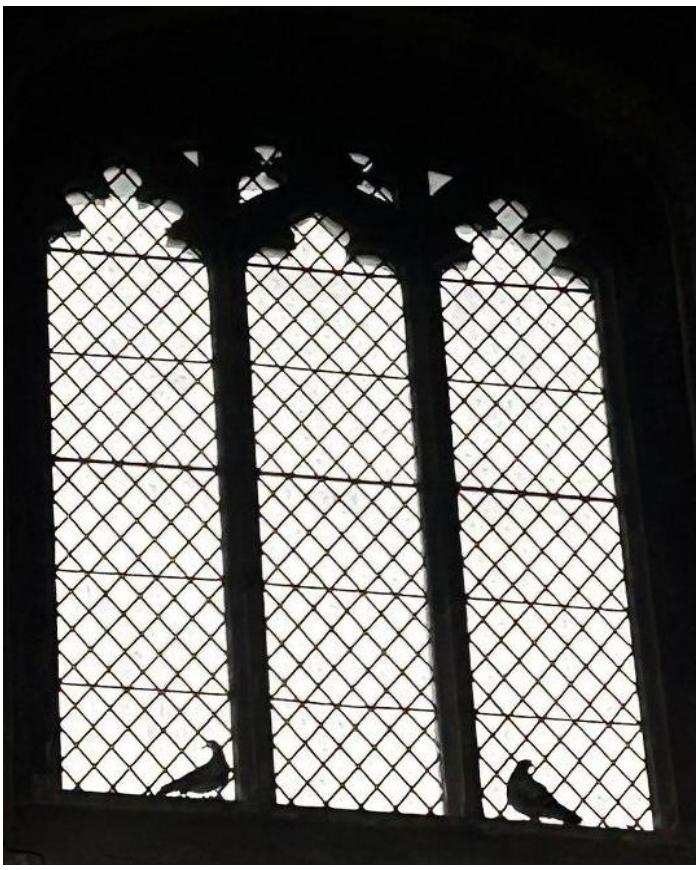


From Ascension Day to Pentecost people in the town were invited into St. Nicholas' Chapel to mark their street on a map as a way of asking for prayer for God's blessing on them. There was also a slide show running to guide people in understanding and praying the Lord's Prayer. Thanks to Nick & Sue Hutt, Angie Bartlett, and Dot Woods, for this initiative.





The Red Arrows flying over St. Mary's, Nantwich (left) and St. Mary's, Acton (above) on 8th June.



These two pigeons came in to church to enjoy the singing at the 9.30am service on Sunday, 22nd June.



Congratulations to Roger Beastall who on Saturday, 31st May at Queens Park Crewe, completed his 250th Park Run. But he not only completed the run, on this Saturday, like many Saturdays before, he also finished first in his age category.

Park run is a free weekly 5k (3.1 miles) run, held at 9am on a Saturday morning in parks and open spaces around the world. So to have reached the 250 mark represents a few years' worth of commitment to the event. Well done Roger, here's to many more runs ahead.



Sunday Clubs on 22nd June were led by Alison Phillips with help from Grace Lewis. We were led through a warm-up, a greeting song (pictured) and then managed to learn a small portion of a song. A new experience for most! Thank you Alison for sharing your gifts with us!



Thank you to Cathie Riddell and Ros Reid for organising a coach trip for Mothers' Union and Seniors' Lounge members and friends to go to Trentham Gardens on Thursday, 26th June.



As far as we know, the back row behaved themselves.



We wouldn't be surprised to see a halo above Ann Alexander (left), here with Ann Hall, but that's a big wheel in the background.



L to R: Jan Anderson, Janet Thompson, and Anne Taylor, enjoying the gardens.

Wedding Congratulations



Congratulations to James Fay and Megan Roberts, married on Saturday, 26th April.

Congratulations to Megan Allcock and Sam Revell, married on Friday, 27th June.





Congratulations to Brett Upchurch and Emily Carson, married on Friday, 20th June.



Congratulations to Aidan Cox and Laura Eaton, married on Saturday, 28th June.

Life in New Testament Times - Part Two

Daily Life at the time of Jesus.

Most people were farmers, shepherds, fishermen or skilled craftsmen. The Romans needed skilled craftsmen to help build their growing cities. Jesus grew up in Nazareth in Galilee with his parents and brothers and sisters *(Matthew 13: 55-56)*. As the oldest son he would have worked with his father Joseph who was described as a teknon in the Greek text. This probably means a skilled craftsman. He could have worked in the building of Sepphoris a new Roman city three miles to the north of Nazareth.

Jesus had a good education and was interested in learning. At twelve years old he was in the Temple asking questions of the religious leaders. His mother Mary was used to being in authority as we found out in the story of the wedding at Cana. When they ran out of wine Mary ordered the servants to refill the water containers *(John 2: 1-11)*.

Eventually Jesus, who was known as a rabbi or teacher, moved to live in Caperneum. The small town of Caperneum was situated on the north shore of the Sea of Galilee and in the first century had a population of about fifteen hundred. St. Peter lived there and there was a synagogue. Today's ruins of the synagogue are of a later synagogue built on the same site as the one in which, no doubt, Jesus worshipped.

At this time the eastern Mediterranean and North Africa were probably much more productive than they are now because the area is thought to have been more humid and cooler than it is now. The people of the area were living in a greener more varied area than they are now and we can picture Jesus and his disciples in Galilee wandering around a field of wheat as it is described in the Gospels *(Matthew 12: 1)*.

Jesus travelled around teaching and preaching in the synagogues, towns and villages *(Luke 10: 1)*. He established the early church by sending out his disciples to teach throughout the area. In Damascus there were already believers when Saul went to hunt them out and persecute them. Jesus talked to women as well as to men and to both rich and poor in society. He healed the sick, taught by telling stories in the form of parables and challenged the religious leaders. He showed the world how good human lives could be. This is why many billions of people have followed his example through the centuries.

Dot Roxby

From the Registers: May 2025

Holy Baptism

We welcome you into the Lord's family

4th	Olivia Grace Rowlands	18th	Eliana Grace Piggin
4th	Noah-Rae Lee	18th	Finlay Ryan Warbrook
4th	Evelyn Catherine Bebbington		

Holy Matrimony

Bless these thy servants

3rd	Robert West & Casey-Jane Meise

Funerals

May they rest in peace and rise in glory

2nd	Ethel Owens (102)
14th	Michael Wainwright (80)
16th	Joan Lindop Carter (89)
28th	Clifford Davies (87)

Readings for July

6th July *(3rd Sunday after Trinity)*	Galatians 6: 7-16 Luke 10: 1-11, 16-20
13th July *(4th Sunday after Trinity)*	Colossians 1: 1-14 Luke 10: 25-37
20th July *(5th Sunday after Trinity)*	Colossians 1: 15-28 Luke 10: 38-42
27th July *(6th Sunday after Trinity)*	Colossians 2: 6-15 Luke 11: 1-13

Regular 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. Services and events below are held weekly unless stated otherwise, and this is the normal pattern, which may occasionally change (check the weekly notice sheet).

Sunday	8.00am	Holy Communion
	9.30am	All Age Worship (Communion 1st Sunday)
	10.45am	Holy Communion
	2.30pm	Holy Baptism (1st and 3rd Sundays)
	3.00pm	Seniors' Lounge (2nd Sunday)
	3.00pm	Afternoon Prayer or Holy Communion (Richmond Village)
	3.30pm	Holy Baptism (1st and 3rd Sundays)
	6.00pm	Evensong
	7.15pm	Encounter (1st & 3rd Sundays)
Monday	8.00pm	Welcome to Baptism (2nd Monday)
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
	9.30am	Flower Arrangers in Church
	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
	2.00pm	Mothers' Union (3rd Friday) in the Parish Hall
	7.00pm	Choir Practice in Church
	6.30pm	Junior FNL
	7.30pm	FNL
Saturday	8.30am	Morning Prayer
	8.30am	St. Mary's Breakfast (3rd Saturday)
	10.00am	Concordia Practice in Church



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Honorary Clergy:	Rev. Oluseye Adebiyi	07944 410025
	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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	susie@stmarysnantwich.org.uk	
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	Paul O'Brien	07973 743909
Verger:	Linda Lewis	07534 272901
Pastoral Worker:	Mary Harris	
	maryhma@icloud.com	628393 or 07753 840118

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Bellringers:	Mary Stanwell	628900
	marystanwell@icloud.com	
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Director of Music & SING!	Alison Phillips	07891 620678
Parish Hall Manager:	Nick Leftley	07899 807831
		nicleftley@aol.com
	(Bookings via mah4now@yahoo.com)	
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	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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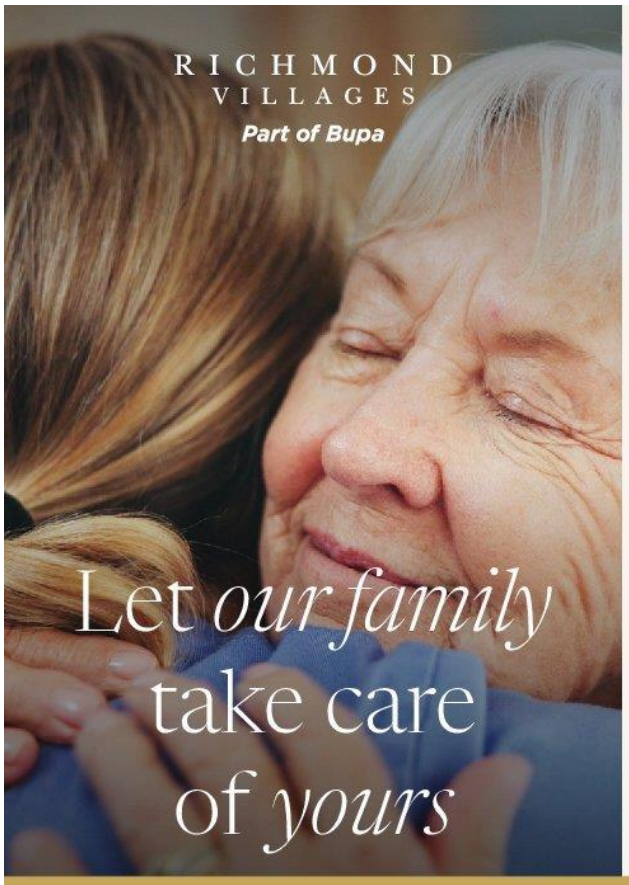
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Special Services & Events Calendar July-October 2025

July	6th	Encounter Explore in Church/Hall, 7.15pm
	9th	Sound Bath in Church, 7.15pm
	19th	St. Mary's Breakfast at Nantwich Football Club, 8.30am
		Summer Fair in Parish Hall/Church grounds, 10am-2pm
		Nantwich Pride Day Service in Church, 12.30pm
		Proud Marys singing in Church, 3.30pm
	30th	Nantwich Show at Reaseheath College
	31st	Bird Box Making Workshop, 1.30pm in the Parish Hall
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
	30th	Food Festival Refreshments, 10am-2pm, Hall/Grounds
	31st	Evensong with St. Christopher Chorale, 6pm
September	7th	Season of Creation - Sky
	13th	Concordia Concert in Church, 3.30pm
	14th	Season of Creation - Trees/Holy Cross Day
	17th	Sound Bath in Church, 7.15pm
	20th	St. Mary's Breakfast at Nantwich Football Club, 8.30am
	21st	Season of Creation - Humanity/St. Matthew
	28th	Season of Creation - Angels/St. Michael & All Angels
October	5th	Season of Creation - Animals/St. Francis
	12th	Season of Creation - Harvest Lunch and Diocesan Harvest Service
	15th	Words & Music Concert
	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