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NANTWICH

November 2025





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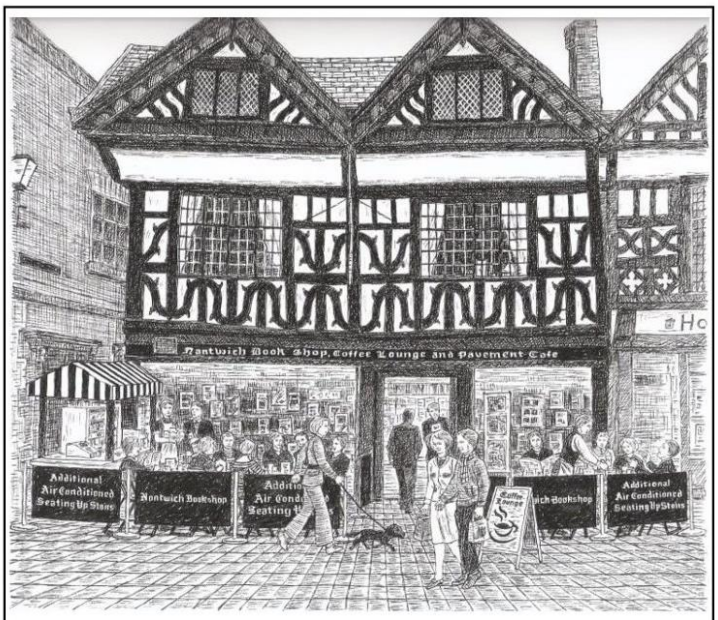
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Front cover: *Shall we stay in Narnia, or go back through the wardrobe? Read all about the C.S. Lewis day held at St. Mary's on Saturday, 25th October on pp. 17-19.*



From the Rector

In November in the UK we have an intense combination of falling leaves, shortening days, and dropping temperatures, and the commemorations of All Saints' Day, All Souls' Day, Remembrance Sunday, and Armistice Day. At no time is it more widely evident that (in the words of the Prayer Book burial service) "in the midst of life we are in death". And we have many ways of talking about it.

Those named on the war memorial are "the fallen". The saints are those who "from their labours rest". Our weekly notices name those who have "departed". Local newspapers mostly announce that someone has "passed away".

The Bible is not without its euphemisms. Abraham "breathed his last". King David announced that he was about to "go the way of all the earth". Most old kings went to "sleep with their ancestors". Jesus said that Lazarus had "fallen asleep". Paul spoke of his "departure". Peter announced that the "shedding of his tent" was imminent. In the King James Bible, Jesus "gave up the ghost".

There's a school of thought out there, and amongst some in the Church, which claims that the use of any language other than "dead" is a denial of reality and a failure to face up to the hard truth that a person has deceased, and that the continuance of such evasion is detrimental to recovery from grief.

Perhaps it is, at times. After all, the first alternative to "death" in the Bible is this even blunter declaration: "dust thou art and unto dust shalt thou return". That is the first word, referenced at every committal service in the words "ashes to ashes, dust to dust", but it is far from the last.

Next in the committal we hear of the "sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life, through our Lord Jesus Christ". It is therefore entirely justified to use language in relation to death that reflects this hope.

We do need to hear both parts of the words of committal. The first casts us on the mercy of God. The second tells us that his mercy endures for ever. This is our faith.

For all the saints who from their labours rest,
who thee by faith before the world confessed,
thy name, O Jesus, be for ever blest. Alleluia.

Mark Hart

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Our help in ages past



In the church calendar, Isaac Watts, "Hymn Writer" is commemorated on 25th November, the date of his death in 1748. "O God our help in ages past", based on Psalm 90, has become his most famous hymn, synonymous with congregational singing at November Remembrance gatherings, and Royal or National events, since 1920.

Isaac Watts (1674-1748) was an English Congregationalist minister and theologian with a prolific gift for writing poetry. He honoured the ancient Jewish Psalms sung in Christian churches for many centuries but also wanted to interpret the Old Testament in the light of the New Testament gospel and encourage Protestant church congregations to sing together in a new way to enhance personal understanding of Christian faith and life. His book of "Hymns and Spiritual Songs" published in 1707 was well received internationally and he inspired other great poets and hymn writers. Charles Wesley was born at the end of the year that Watt's first book was published, for example.

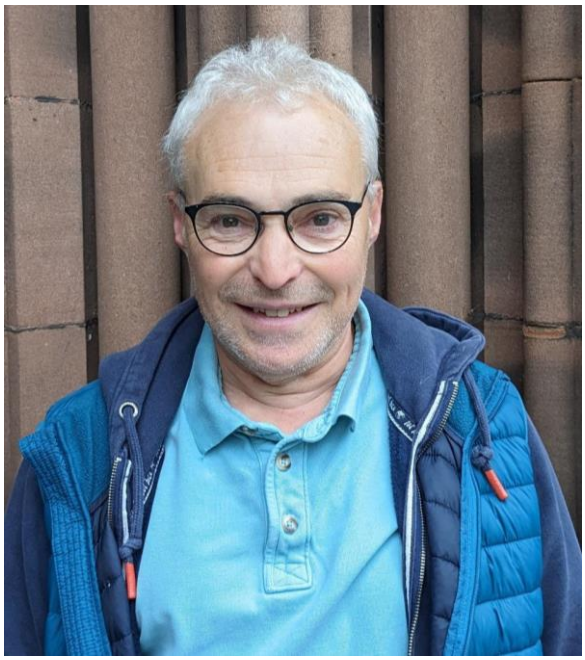
The Church of England officially allowed congregational hymn singing a century later in 1820 and in Catholic churches it became normal practice in the 1950s!

What a gift to be able to enjoy the diverse range of poetry and music in the hymns and sacred songs that we share together now. They resonate with the chords of the deepest needs within us, speak to our hearts, draw us into faith and give us inspiration and comfort. At times of grief, pain and danger, or when our minds become confused, it is our favourite hymns, Bible passages and prayers that can surface most easily, keeping alight the flame of our Christian faith, hope and love.

"O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
be thou our guard while troubles last, and our eternal home."

Mary Harris, Pastoral Worker

Church News



Youth & Children's Worker

We are pleased to announce that Graham Christopher has been appointed to be Youth & Children's Worker (from 12th October), maternity cover for Susie Phillips who began her leave from 27th October. Graham is a regular member of our 9.30am congregation and has been one of the FNL leaders in recent years.

Teams4U Christmas Shoeboxes

Shoeboxes will be collected in St. Mary's Chancel from **Friday, 31st October** to **Thursday, 13th November**. These are hugely appreciated by the deprived children of Eastern Europe who receive them and are kept forever! Could you fill or part fill a box this year? For instructions see: *https://teams4u.com/shoebox-appeal* or a leaflet from the back of church.

All Souls' Service and Tree of Light Ceremony

The All Souls' Service in memory of loved ones will be held on **Sunday, 2nd November**, 6pm. Names of loved ones to be read in the service may be added to the sheets at the back of church. The Tree of Light Ceremony will be held on the same day at 5.30pm, outside the west doors. Baubles for the tree are available from the Civic Hall.

Community Choir Singing

Join us for an evening of singing for fun at the next Community Choir Singing on **Monday, 3rd November**, 7-8.30pm in church. Sign up at the back of church or contact Alison Phillips (07891 620678).

Remembrance Sunday

Remembrance Sunday is **9th November**. There will be 8am, 9.30am and 6pm services as normal, but no 10.45am service. The Remembrance Service will commence at 10.55am on the Square, following a parade from the Civic Hall with the Cheshire Police Band.

Seniors' Lounge

The next meeting will be on **Sunday 9th November**, 3pm in the Parish Hall - company and chat over tea/coffee & cake.

November Breakfast

The November breakfast will take place at The Tea Lounge at Nantwich Football Stadium at 8.30am on **Saturday, 15th November**. It's your opportunity to join in to sing carols led by Director of Music, Alison Phillips. Book on the sheet at the back of Church or via the office by midday on **Wednesday, 12th November**.

Confirmation Service

The Bishop of Stockport, the Rt. Rev. Sam Corley, will be with us on **Sunday, 16th November** at 10.45am for a service of Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Communion. Do come along to support the 21 people (6 aged under 18, and 15 adults) who are taking a step of faith (2 to be baptised, 20 to be confirmed, and one to be received into the Church of England). This service is an opportunity for us all to be renewed in our commitment to follow Christ, and to be encouraged by such growth of Christ's Church.

Encounter Supper

The next Encounter Supper takes place on **Sunday, 16th November** at 7.15pm in the Parish Hall. This is a two course bring and share meal. The speaker will be Paul Ramsey, Reader Emeritus at St. Mary's who will be talking about his life and faith. Everyone is welcome. Booking is essential by **13th November**; either with Carole Tilt directly or via the Parish Office.

Christmas Tree Festival, 20th-23rd November

A fundraiser joint with St Luke's Hospice.

How you can help:

- There will be a raffle throughout the weekend and at each of the cinema events. Donations of prizes would be much appreciated.
- On **Saturday, 22nd November** there will be a mini Christmas Fair, 10am-2pm, in the hall and outside (weather permitting). Donations and offers to help on the day, would be welcome.
- On the morning of **Tuesday, 18th November** the Christmas trees (4' and 6') will be delivered to St. Mary's. If you are available to help with setting up the trees (not decorating) that day, please let the office know.

Christmas Lights Switch-On

The Christmas Lights Switch-On in the Church Precinct and in the town will take place at 7pm on **Friday, 21st November**. St. Mary's will be open and the Christmas tree in church will be lit soon following, and the

crowds welcomed to enter and enjoy the atmosphere of light, music and prayer.

Advent Sunday

Advent Sunday is **30th November**. Instead of the 9.30am service there will be a Christingle Service at 4pm. The Advent Carol Service "From Darkness to Light" will be held at 6pm.

Salvation Army Christmas Present Appeal

We are collecting new gifts for all ages from birth to 16 years old. If you would like to donate, please bring your unwrapped gift to church to any of our services on **Sunday, 30th November**. All contributions will be most gratefully received and will help to spread joy.

Congratulations



Congratulations to the bellringers who added to the C.S. Lewis day by ringing a Narnia Quarter Peal, 1275 changes of Plain Bob Triples, in 50 minutes, celebrating the 75th anniversary of the publication on 16th October 1950 of The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe.

The band members (from treble bell to tenor bell) were: Rebecca Williams, Fanny Weiss, David Allman, Nicholas Howell-Jones, Craig A. Chaplow, Edward J. Leetham, Stefan R. Zientek (Conductor), Mark Hart.

During the quarter peal the bellringers could be seen on the screen (photo above) near the wardrobe entrance.

Phase One of the Restoration Project is now complete

Go and take a look at the north wall of the nave, and the west wall of the north transept. The result is extremely pleasing, the new and the old blending, and the whole looking in such good order. Partly out of sight (more photos to come) is a new walkway and steps to the bellringing chamber.



It is all smiles here after the last progress meeting, on 14th October. L to R: Mark Hart (Rector), Stephen Welch (Trustee of the Nantwich Parish Church Preservation Appeal Trust), Tony Barton (Architect to St. Mary's, Director Emeritus of Donald Insall Associates), Chloe Sheward (Senior Architect, Donald Insall Associates, and architect for this project), Jamie Moore (Managing Director of Recclesia, the contractor), Lee (Bil) Bilson (Conservation Manager & Heritage Consultant, Recclesia), Paul Ramsey (Chairman of NPCPAT).

Our thanks are due to all who have contributed to this work by donations over the years, and a special thank you to Paul Ramsey who has given considerable time and expertise to steering the project throughout. The advice of Stephen Welch has been invaluable, and our thanks also to Neil Timperley (NPCPAT treasurer) and Bryan Coghlan (PCC) in keeping us on track with the finances and insurance.

We will now pause, count how much money is left, renew fundraising efforts, and strive towards the completion of the next phase of work.



The Speak Out Stay Safe initiative, launched by the Diocese of Chester, is a safeguarding campaign to create a safer environment in churches by encouraging people to report concerns. Their aim is to encourage everyone to take responsibility and a proactive stance to keep each other safe. Speak Out Stay Safe is a key part of the Diocese of Chester and therefore our parish's commitment to the National Safeguarding Standards of the Church of England. These standards are displayed on the noticeboard at the back of church, with one of the five different standards being displayed each month, together with other safeguarding information and contact details.

Speak Out Stay Safe is a very simple message. It is by people speaking out, that we will be able to do our best to make St. Mary's Church a safe space for everyone. Keeping quiet when you come across behaviours that are disturbing or inappropriate is not safe, we need you to make us aware of your concerns.

It is of course equally important to know how to speak out. The first step should always be to contact and talk to the right people about it. As Parish Safeguarding Officer, please contact me first and if I am not available contact the Rector, we both have the experience and higher level of safeguarding training to be able to respond appropriately and ensure the correct action is taken. We may feel that having just a quiet word may suffice, other times we may feel a much more important conversation may be needed. The Chester Diocesan Safeguarding Team have a wealth of experience and are there for us to contact for advice and refer issues to.

Speak Out Stay Safe.

Belinda Coghlan, Parish Safeguarding Officer

Mothers' Union News

A group of over 20 of us met on Friday, 17th October to hear a talk about Florence Nightingale. The talk was delivered by Dr. Keith Evemy, who has in the past spoken to us about Harold Shipman, the most prolific serial killer in modern history and Dame Cecile Saunders, social worker, physician and writer, who is noted for her work in the terminal care research and her role in the birth of the hospice movement, emphasising the importance of palliative care in modern medicine.

Anyway, I digress. I had always imagined Florence as a very hands-on nurse, so was surprised to hear that her great skill was in managing and training nurses. She came to prominence during the Crimean War. She was asked to lead a group of nurses to Scutari Barrack Hospital where she found filthy conditions, described by her as the "Kingdom of Hell". Florence established standards of care, requiring such basic necessities as bathing, clean clothing and dressings, and adequate food. The mortality rate was reduced from 40% to 2%.

We concluded our meeting with refreshments and biscuits. Our next meeting will be on Friday 21st November at 2.15pm in the Parish Hall when we will be having a talk about St. Mary's Bellringing Team.

The Nantwich Branch of Mothers' Union will have a Christmas Tree displayed at the upcoming Christmas Tree Festival hosted by St. Luke's. We are in the planning stages of how the tree will be decorated.

We are also planning our Christmas Carol Service/Party which will be held earlier than usual on 5th December - note the date. More details next month.

Next year marks the 150th anniversary of the beginning of Mothers' Union. Details of how our branch will mark this occasion are also in the planning stage.

Did you know that there are over 4 million MU members in approximately 84 countries?

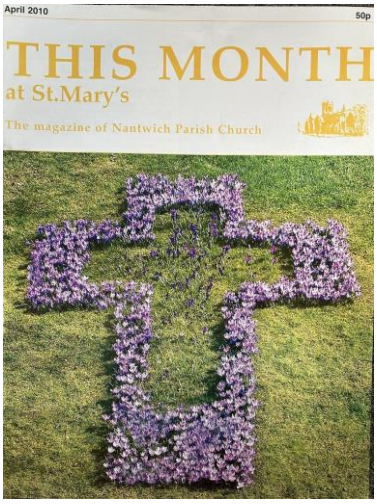
Our theme is "Join us, join in". You do not have to be a Mum or a woman. All are most welcome to come to any of our meetings.

Cathie Riddell

23 Years of THIS MONTH

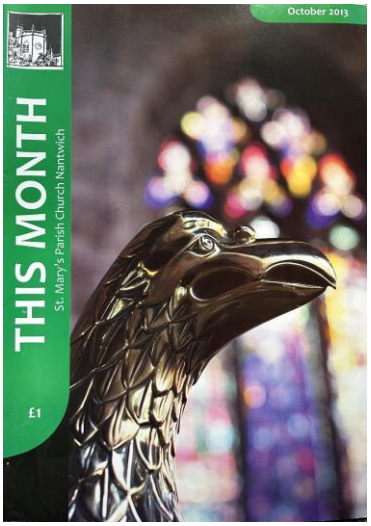
Maths was never my strong point. I thought I had been involved with St. Mary's magazine for 25 years, but in fact it's only 23! I realised this when I went up into the library with Rector Mark to look at old copies.

23 years ago, then rector Peter Chantry, called together a small group of us whom he thought could help take the magazine (THIS MONTH) into a new era. He had asked Melvyn Reynolds to be the editor.



Melvyn had his own design and publishing consultancy. He loved the English language. He enthusiastically embraced modern technology, using Facebook and Twitter on his beloved Apple Mac. This meant that production of THIS MONTH moved into the digital age, having previously been literally pasted up with paper and glue. The committee met monthly in St. Nick's Chapel and planned out the content.

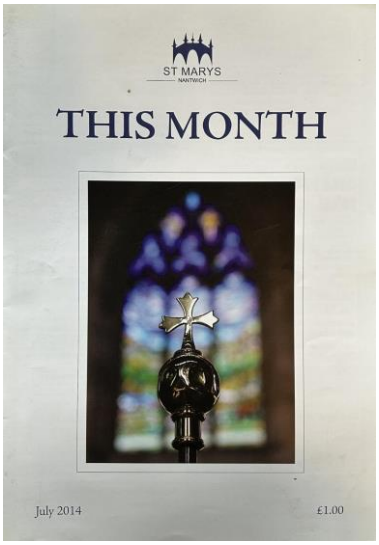
THIS MONTH was a national award-winner in Church Magazine competitions. The former Bishop of Chester always commented that it was his favourite magazine.



When Melvyn became too ill to continue, the late Jenny O'Brien took over as editor and the family IT business, Think about IT, produced the layout. Printing was carried out by a printer in Crewe. Jacquie Ballantyne, who ran the magazine finances drove over and collected the magazines each month. At some stage Diane Tice-Porteous took over the editorial role and Dot Woods joined the committee, bringing her graphic design skills. Suddenly we learned about pull quotes, we used triplicate photos and revamped the front cover and moved to A4 size.

In 2014, we had very short notice to find a new printer. We conducted a rigorous tender process and Johnsons of Nantwich became our new printer. We had a really positive relationship with Johnsons who delivered the magazines across the Market Square to Church.

In 2016, Diane gave up her role as editor and we appointed Alison Long, who brought different wordsmith and IT skills to the role. Johnsons created layout and at our request redesigned the front cover to align



with the (then) new St. Mary's logo. This arrangement was working really well until the pandemic hit. Suddenly we had to stop THIS MONTH production after the April 2020 issue.

In February 2021, initially operating under the working title of "Not This Month", a printed and online magazine was launched. The former committee got together to prepare the content, Miriam Harvey prepared the layout (and has done ever since) and it is printed in-house. Rector Mark is the editor.

Moving to both digital as well as printed versions had been discussed before the pandemic, so it wasn't out of kilter with future plans. After six months, we were asked to recommend the way forward to the PCC. We agreed that from a financial and pragmatic point of view, we should continue with the online and in-house printed A5 magazine. And so, it has continued.

As a committee, we have streamlined our meetings – we used to meet face to face and have meeting notes and photographer action lists. Now we meet on-line and just have a working e-mail list of proposed content. We don't forget the importance of safeguarding, and we have a protocol if we go out to interview people, which aligns with the Church's lone-working policy.

In 2010 we issued a questionnaire for feedback and review. These two contrasting comments were part of that feedback: *"Unexciting and uninspiring, too full of items about Church members to the exclusion of more serious matters, self indulgent and self-congratulatory, needs to reveal more about the locality." Versus "Your magazine speaks to the whole Nantwich community and not just those who go to Church" … "It is better than the local newspaper"*. Obviously, you can't please everybody.

As well as those mentioned above, there are many, many people who have contributed to the magazine over the 23 years (with current incumbents named) including: rectors, curates, retired clergy, advertising (Gail Johnson) photographers, distribution and finance (Wendy Beastall) and regular writers (Dot Roxby).

If anyone would like to join the committee or write regularly, or if you have suggestions or comments please get in touch with Rector Mark.

Annie Coombs

Youth Weekend Away



The St. Mary's contingent.

From 19th to 21st September, 9 young people and 4 leaders headed to The Quinta for the weekend. There was going to be a bit of a difference this time though, as we were joined by a group from Wadsley Parish Church, Sheffield. They arrived by 2 minibuses, after we'd got settled in and had our dinner.

The theme of the weekend was the book of Daniel, with different leaders leading the Bible study, discussions and worship time. Our first session was about Daniel going against the grain, our second was Daniel interprets dreams and we chatted about our giftings. Our third session was about the furnace and having courage to stand with Jesus. Our final session was about not bowing down to the big statues, honouring God and being humble. We never have time to cover everything, so we looked at Daniel in the Lions den when we returned to FNL.



Worship Time.

This shared weekend was a bit of a trial run as we've always done weekends away with just our youth, but it was great to be able to share resources, leadership and get to know other young Christians too.


Combat Archery.

Saturday was a bit of a washout, which was such a shame as the site is beautiful. Despite the weather we managed to do combat archery in the sports hall, a lion paint by numbers, and lots of games of Dobble and Uno. This year we were able to use the on site swimming pool, which the young people loved so that was a nice treat! Luckily it was brighter on the Sunday so some were able to do frisbee golf or football or carry on with the crafts.


Making Sweetie Creations.

The best bits: the food, swimming, archery, painting, the Bible sessions, worship and meeting others not from our own church.



A wonderful weekend sharing faith and fun, and meeting with Jesus!

From Andrew & Lisa Peart's October Link Letter

"Warm greetings to you ... Since our last letter we have had the opportunity to practise our hospitality skills, welcoming visitors from near and far to our home in Santa Cruz.



In July we had the chance to be guests in the beautiful Bolivian city of Cochabamba, in a valley in the Andes, best known for being the city of Eternal Spring. We spent time with the Anglican church, La Trinidad, being encouraged by their work in the community, baking bread by hand being a wonderful example. Andrew gave people a taster of F4 (Financial Freedom for Families), the course he and Paul run in Santa Cruz, it started in La Trinidad in August. We visited a church plant in the city, where the local community knit and craft and create things to sell to generate income for their community.

Andrew travelled to La Paz with Paul (CMS) & Sara (Five Talents) to perceive the possibility of starting savings groups with a church plant in a rural indigenous area 2 hours outside of the city. Five Talents is a micro-enterprise development organisation that we collaborate with through our microfinance programme.

We've broken ground on the community garden in front the church – a space to be present, listen to the local neighbourhood and offer hospitality as a natural gateway to share Jesus. We recently held a life group social evening where we planted seeds and looked at the Parable of the Sower. The Bible study in the toilets, led by our microfinance partners is going strong; we're currently studying Mark's Gospel. It's a beautiful community who are really keen to know God and make him known to others.



In October, the LOGOS English classes will start up again in our church. Please pray for the teachers and students to feel welcome as we build a Christ-centred community of learners.

Thank you for your continued love and support, Andrew, Lisa, Liliana and Anayah x"

Please remember to pray for Liliana now at Southampton University and Anayah at school in Santa Cruz. *Angie Bartlett, Mission Support Group*

Through the Wardrobe - The World of C.S. Lewis

Narnia came to Nantwich at the Encounter Explore day on C.S. Lewis which took place on 25th October.



Visitors walked through the wardrobe, brushing against the fur coats which soon gave way to snow covered fir trees and on towards the lamp post, spotting Mr. Beaver, the robin and a box of Turkish delight along the way.



An exhibition of Pauline Baynes' original artwork from the Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe (with copyright permission) was displayed in the chancel. Displays featured rarely seen photos of The Kilns, C.S. Lewis's home in Headington and places in Oxford associated with him.









There was an opportunity to have tea with Mr. Tumnus in his cosy cave where sardines on toast and a sugar topped cake were on the menu. Another scene featured cuddly woodland animals celebrating Christmas before the White Witch turned them to stone. Everyone enjoyed opening the boxes to see the gifts presented to Peter, Susan and Lucy as well as discovering their own gifts. Aslan (played by Andy Lewis) was on the move throughout Narnia and many people contributed "lion prayers" that were offered up in Sunday services the following day.





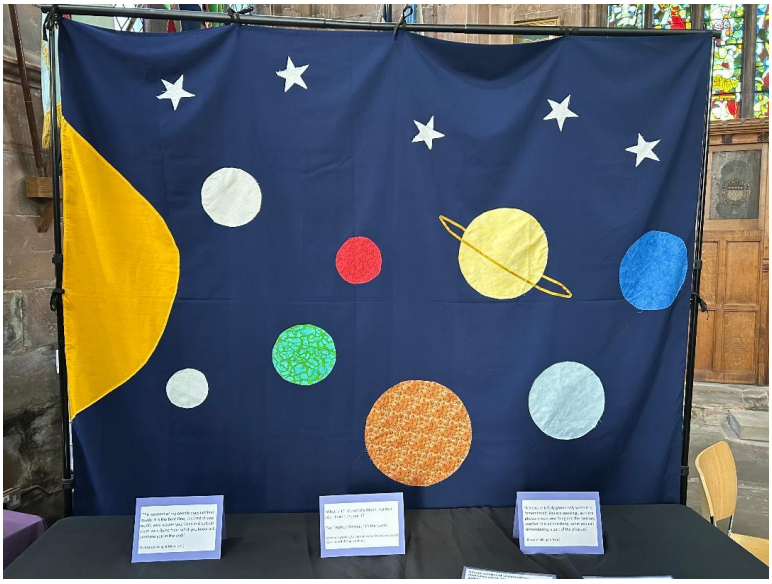
The Inklings, C.S. Lewis, J.R.R. Tolkien, Charles Williams and Owen Barfield (played by Lee Mackin, Rev. Mark Hart, Ernie Charlton and Tom Protheroe respectively) gave short performances reading from their current works and discussing theology in the Eagle and Child pub.



Visitors enjoyed learning more about Lewis by walking a timeline of his life and exploring his theological books through a selection of quotes.

Lewis's science fiction work "Out of the Silent Planet" feature encouraged visitors to offer thoughts and prayers for our sometimes broken world.

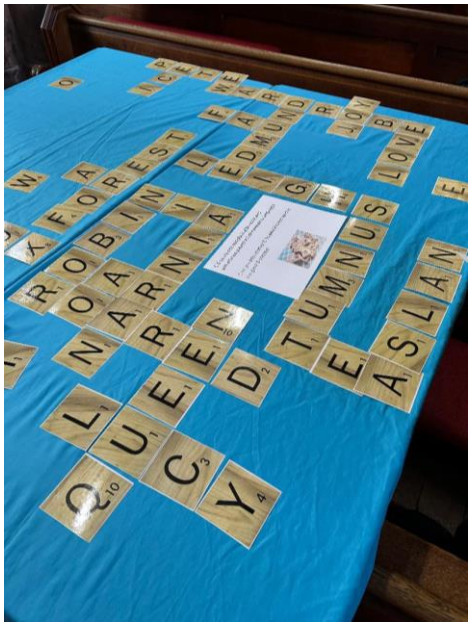
Younger visitors loved colouring in Narnia scenes, completing a quiz and playing giant scrabble (Lewis's favourite game).



The event attracted many from the local community as well as the church with 1100 people including about 200 children attending. Many thanks to everyone who helped with this event. *Carole Tilt*

Thank you to all who helped to create such a wonderful day, especially to Carole Tilt whose vision, skill and hard work made it all possible.

Here are a couple of comments from visitors:



"Spectacular event. So much thought, creativity, imagination and energy behind the displays. Well done Carole and her helpers. I am going to read all the books, now I am informed so well about the background! The music was great too!"

"What a wonderful celebration/exhibition/ offering - so much to take in and enjoy. So thoughtfully designed to engage on every level - from the colouring in for children to the deepest of philosophical and spiritual questions for anyone to ponder, and everything in between. I wish I had had more time to go round again. Definitely need to read some C S Lewis again. Thanks to everyone involved."

News in Pictures

Animal Blessing

The Season of Creation covered six Sundays from 7th September through to Harvest on 12th October. Animals were the theme of 5th October when we celebrated St. Francis. People were invited to bring their pets to the 9.30am service to be blessed, and over 20 well-behaved dogs were present. It was a joy to celebrate the breadth of God's creation and we look forward to building on this service in future years.







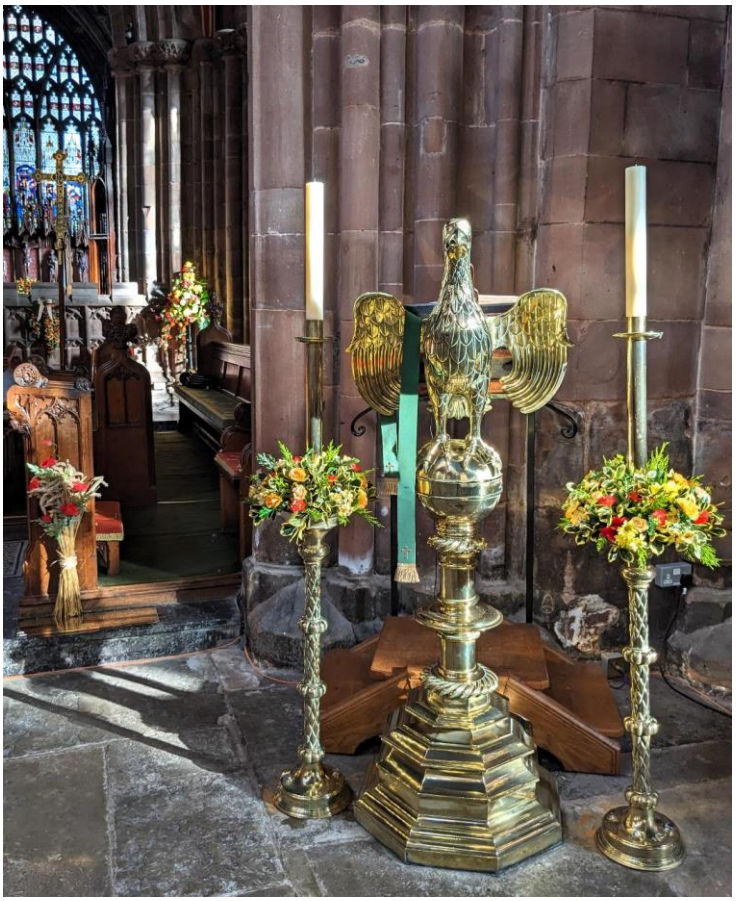
The first read through of the crib service happened on Friday, 10th October. All seemed to really like the script. It's not too late to get involved!

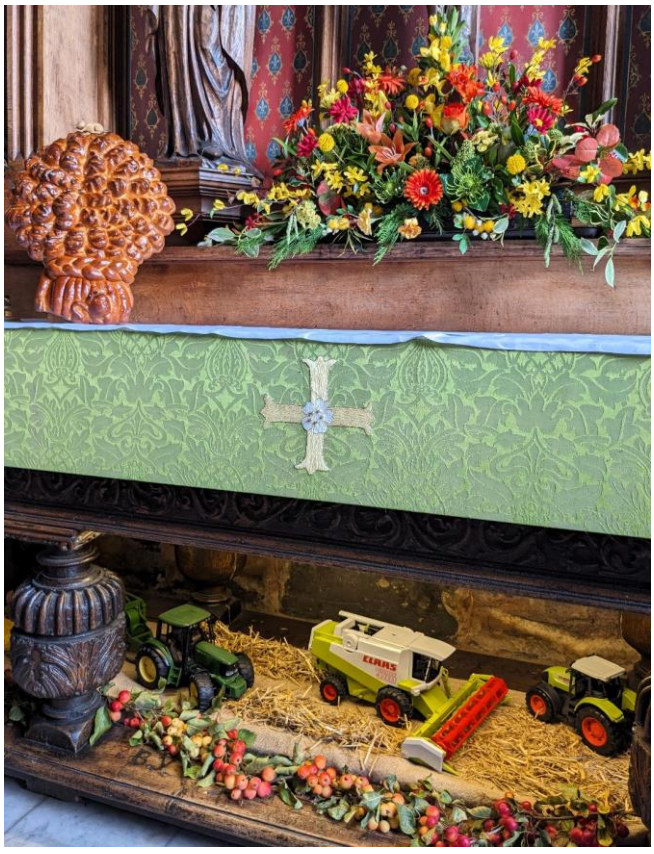
Harvest Festival -12th October





Many people have remarked on the lovely warm colours and imaginative display of the harvest decorations this year. Thank you to all who have contributed, including Glenys Ellis (left), Pam Huntbatch (right) and Ann Oliver (standing).











Thank you to all who donated to the harvest collection, and thank you to Linda Lewis who delivered the goods to MyCWA (who support adults and children impacted by domestic abuse). Linda is pictured here with staff at the Lily Jones Support Centre.



The Cheshire Harvest Service was held at St. Mary's Nantwich this year for the first time, at 3pm on the afternoon of our Harvest Sunday. The service was organised by Rev. Anne Lawson (Vicar of Acton) and led by Bishop Sam. Children from Worleston C of E Primary School led the prayers. The event was supported by Reaseheath College (who had a stall outside), the Nantwich Show, and the Cheese Shop. Pictured here on the churchyard is a three week old calf, which attracted the attention of children following the Harvest Lunch in the Parish Hall.

Egerton Strings are now regular performers at St. Mary's for Candlelight Concerts, here on Saturday, 18th October performing arrangements of Coldplay, Oasis, Radiohead, Elbow and others, to an audience of 150 people. Their next concert is on 29th November, featuring classical masterpieces.





The church was full on Monday, 20th November for the Of Monsters and Men concert celebrating the release of their new album. The event was organised by Applestump Records of 4 Oatmarket.



L to R: Christi Osei-Kuffour, Susie Phillips, Andrea Howell-Jones. Susie began her maternity leave on Monday, 27th October. FNL on Friday, 24th October became a baby shower pizza party when she was presented with Peter Rabbit themed baby gro, sleeping bag and bibs; chocolates; and pampering gifts and face masks for Susie. Our prayers and good wishes for Susie, Alex, and the baby.

Congratulations …



Congratulations to Kieran Smith and Natasha Loasby, married at St. Mary's on Friday, 24th October, pictured here with their parents Stephen & Alison Smith, and Peter & Shirley Loasby



Congratulations to Mary Myott who celebrated her 100th birthday in October. Mary has been a member of St. Mary's for over 70 years and now receives Communion regularly in her home (pictured here with Goku, the Rectory dog).

Forthcoming Events

ST MARYS NANTWICH

Christmas Pudding Stir-up



St Mary's Parish Hall, Nantwich

Come and make your Christmas Pudding with us.
No previous experience needed.
Accompanied children welcome.

Date: Saturday 15th November, 10.30-11.30am, 12.00-1.00pm, 1.30-2.30pm

Bring: Large mixing bowl, wooden spoon, apron. Instructions and all ingredients will be provided. Take home to cook.

Advance booking only

£8.00 by Sunday 9th November 2025

1. In cash to Caryl or via the Parish Office.
2. Online via Collctiv – please see Caryl, or email her to confirm session availability and for the payment link. stmaryspuds@gmail.com. Thank you.





ST MARYS NANTWICH



Beetle Drive

St. Mary's Church Parish Hall

Includes Fish & Chip Supper
Bring your own drinks - hot drinks and squash will be available

Saturday, 8th November 2025 at 6.30pm

Cash/Online payments -
Adults £10, Children £5
by Tuesday, 4th November

Please let us how many adult/child tickets you are booking and if you have any dietary requirements e.g. gluten-free. If booking online, this can be done in the Collctiv message section of your booking. Thank you.



1. In cash via the Parish Office 01270 625268
2. Or online via Collctiv via this link at *https://pay.collctiv.com/st-marys-beetle-drive-9266*
3. Or scan the QR code below.

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

NANTWICH CHORAL SOCIETY



Benjamin Britten
St Nicholas
A Ceremony of Carols



Tim Kennedy - tenor
Simon Russell - piano
John Naylor - conductor

St Mary's Church Nantwich

Saturday 8 November 2025, 7.30 pm

Tickets £15 Students £5
Available from:
The Civic Hall, Nantwich
All Choir Members and at the door
Online: WeGotTickets.com

Registered Charity No: 516572

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& CLASSICAL MASTERPIECES



Pachelbel - Canon in D
Corelli - Christmas Concerto
Mozart - Eine Kleine Nachtmusik
The Four Seasons - Vivaldi

Egerton Strings
String Quartet

29th November · 7:30pm
St Mary's Church, Nantwich

ST MARYS NANTWICH

£22 Early Bird / **£25** General

Tickets available at the QR Code and the office at St Mary's

Book Now

CONCORDIA
Music for a while

Director
Alison Phillips
Piano
John Gough

A LITTLE CHRISTMAS
With Concordia

St Mary's Church, Nantwich
3pm Saturday 6th December 2025
Donations for St Mary's Church Refreshments included

The Grove Singers

Musical Director: Jon Henderson



A Cantata by Ashley Thompson
Libretto by Deborah McAndrew

Tuesday 9th December 2025 at 7:30pm

St. Mary's Church,
Church Lane, Nantwich, CW5 5RQ

TICKETS - £6
Free entry for under 12s
Tickets available from the Parish Office
or online via the QR Code
Refreshments available before the performance



Christmas Tree Festival

Scan me

Dazzling display of over 50 Christmas trees

Supported by Nantwich Christmas Tree Farm

An enchanting display of individually decorated Christmas trees. Created by local businesses and individuals.

Friday 21st November - 10am - 9pm
Saturday 22nd November - 9.30am - 3.30pm
Sunday 23rd November - 12.30pm - 5pm

www.slhospice.co.uk/treefestival

Swing into Christmas



Thursday 20th November - 7pm til 10.30pm

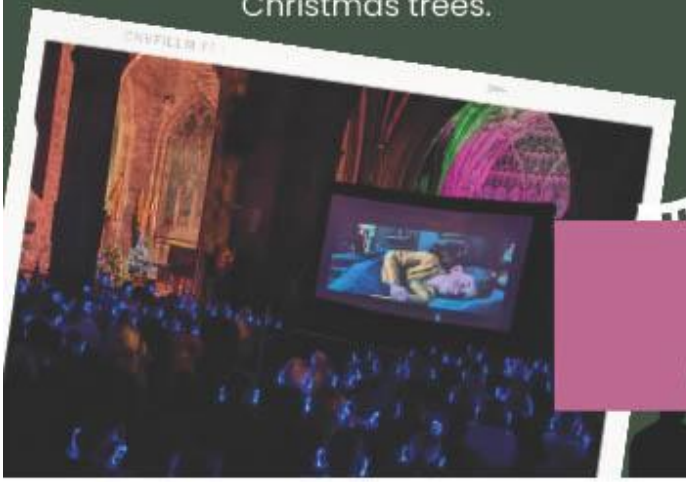
Join us for a magical evening as we unveil our stunning Christmas Tree display. Delight in the festive season, as we enjoy the brilliant sounds of swing at Christmas. There will also be a licensed bar. A great way to start the Christmas season.

Enjoy Christmas Swing Classics in a unique setting!

Christmas Cinema

Saturday 22nd November

Join us for our Christmas Cinema, using silent headphone technology. Set in the beautiful St Mary's Church in Nantwich, surrounded by a magnificent display of Christmas trees.



Scan me

5.00pm - Elf (2003)
8.00pm - Scrooge
(A Christmas Carol 1951)

www.slhospice.co.uk/events

ST MARYS
NANTWICH

Christmas By Candlelight

With Lions Youth Brass and Phoenix Voices

Join us for our 2025 Christmas concert showcasing amazing music from both Lions Youth Brass of Sandbach and Phoenix Voices of Knutsford, with a raffle and bar, you're guaranteed to have a wonderful evening. If you enjoy traditional Christmas music and movie soundtracks then come along !
All proceeds raised will go to help these wonderful charities.

December | 13 | 7:00 pm

St. Mary's Church Nantwich

Tickets £8, available at the St Mary's office
or use the QR code to book



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

From the Registers: September 2025

Holy Baptism

We welcome you into the Lord's family

21st Lacey Murray
21st Joe Husband

Holy Matrimony

Bless these thy servants

13th Anthonie Van Rooyen & Lauren Crabtree

Funerals

May they rest in peace and rise in glory

1st Margaret (Marg) Davies (88)
12th Leslie Fearn (74)
15th Alexander Hickford (94)
17th Maureen Wheeler (84)
24th Keith Griffiths (85)
26th Robert Christie (66)

Readings for November

2nd November *(All Saints' Day)*	Ephesians 1: 11-23 Luke 6: 20-31
9th November *(Remembrance Sunday/3rd before Advent)*	2 Thes. 2: 1-5, 13-17 Luke 20: 27-38
16th November *(2nd Sunday before Advent)*	Ephesians 6: 10-20 Luke 24: 44-49
23rd November *(Christ the King)*	Colossians 1: 11-20 Luke 23: 33-43
30th November *(1st Sunday of Advent)*	Romans 13: 11-14 Matthew 24: 36-44

The Journey

We are often told that our life is a journey of faith. Is it, or is it a series of events and times that we are given so that in the present we can live as near to Christ's example as we possibly can, with his help? We do not know what tomorrow will bring. We only have the present moment in which to make our decisions, live our lives and do the best we can.

From a different perspective we are all on the journey of life from birth to death, from youth to old age. When we are young we want to be older and when we are old we wish we were younger. The young tend to feel immortal and to rush around doing many different things. As a youngster I was amused at the road sign showing bent old people slowly crossing. Now I am one of those "old people" - not so funny! We old people are more than just bent, old bodies. We have a load of lived and learned experience.

There is a danger in only looking at the outside of a person and not valuing the hidden things - life experiences, ideas and relationships for example. The suffering, loneliness and isolation of many older people hides from us the facts that they may have had a house full of of family members who have now all left home for distant places. They may have had very important jobs and helped hundreds or thousands of people during their earlier lives. They may have lived alone but been really active in many ways helping and volunteering. I am always impressed with the numbers of volunteers at Leighton Hospital giving help to patients and relatives with a welcome and the directions they need.

We all have something to give. Older members of a church congregation have a wealth of ideas and experiences to share with others. If there are no opportunities to do this people can feel unwanted or unnoticed. Often making the tea or coffee is on offer but not the opportunity to discuss ideas and experiences. We need to encourage younger people to volunteer but they often need training and mentoring. If we could all work together and encourage each other more everyone would feel valued and we would get to know each other better.

This doesn't just apply to church congregations but to the work place and to our other activities as well. Let us encourage each other along our journey of life as we reveal our hidden treasures beneath our ageing exteriors.

Dot Roxby

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	7.00pm	Community Choir Singing (1st 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

B's Café



Hosted by an Admiral Nurse, B's Memory Café in Belong Crewe, offers a warm and welcoming space where families, friends and carers of people living with dementia can come together over a cuppa and cake!

Save the date!

Join us for our next session:

Tuesday 18th November
2pm – 4pm

The Bistro, Belong Crewe,
Brookhouse Drive, Crewe CW2 6NA

Contact the village for further information or to book a free place

01270 561 200

www.belong.org.uk

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Admiral Nurses – Dementia UK – Helping families face dementia
A free service in partnership with Dementia UK

For People Not Profit – NCP

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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. Brian Statham	07724 133215
	Rev. Canon David Taylor	618936
Reader Emeritus:	Paul Ramsey	623093
Youth and Children's Worker:		
	Graham Christopher	07795 696234
	graham@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:	Nick Leftley	07899 807831
	nicleftley@aol.com	
	(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

@stmarysnantwich

www.stmarysnantwich.org.uk

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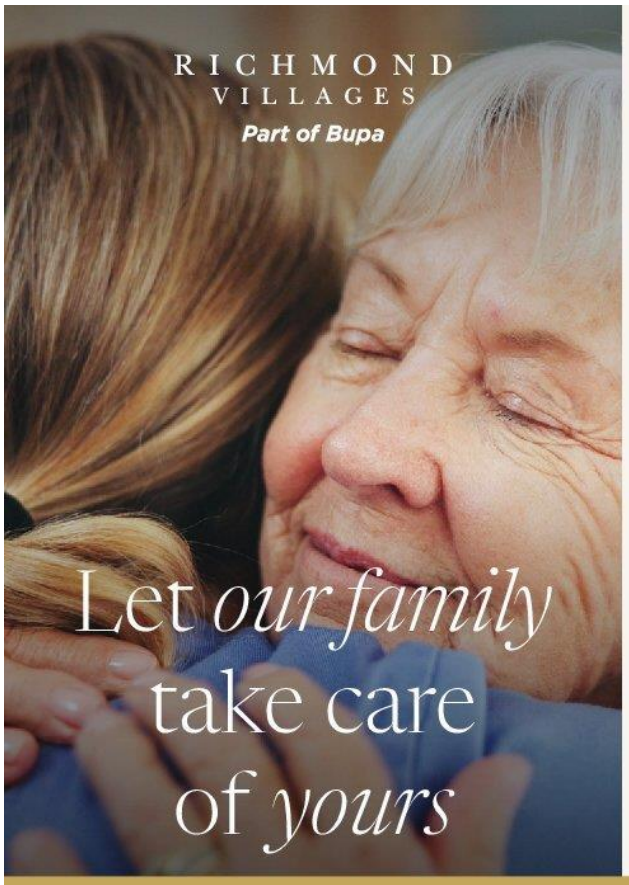
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*Terms and conditions apply, visit richmond-villages.com/care-homes for more information.

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

Special Services & Events Calendar November 2025

November	1st	Nantwich Singers Come and Sing "Wellerman" and Sing Well! in church, 2-5pm
	2nd	Tree of Light Ceremony, 5.30pm All Souls' Service, 6pm
	8th	Beetle Drive, Parish Hall, 6.30pm Nantwich Choral Society Concert in church, 7.30pm
	9th	Remembrance Service, 10.55am
	13th	Shoebox Collection Day in church, 9.30am
	15th	St. Mary's Breakfast at Nantwich Football Club, 8.30am Christmas Pudding Stir-up, Parish Hall
	16th	Confirmation & Baptism Service with Bishop Sam, 10.45am Encounter Supper in the Parish Hall, 7.15pm
	20th	Swing into Christmas, 7pm
	21st-23rd	Christmas Tree Festival Nantwich Christmas Lights Switch-On
	22nd	Christmas Fair, 10am-2pm, Parish Hall/Grounds Christmas Cinema: 5pm Elf, 8pm Scrooge (A Christmas Carol 1951)
	24th	The Edmund Wright Service, 9am
	29th	Candlelight Concert in church, 7.30pm
	30th	Salvation Army Christmas Present Appeal Christingle Service, 4pm Advent Carol Service, 6pm

Christmas Services

Sunday, 14th December 9.30am All Age Nativity with the Donkeys
Sunday, 21st December 6pm, A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols
Christmas Eve, 2pm, 3.30pm, 5pm Crib Services, 11.30pm Midnight Mass
Christmas Day, 8am Communion, 10am, All Age Communion