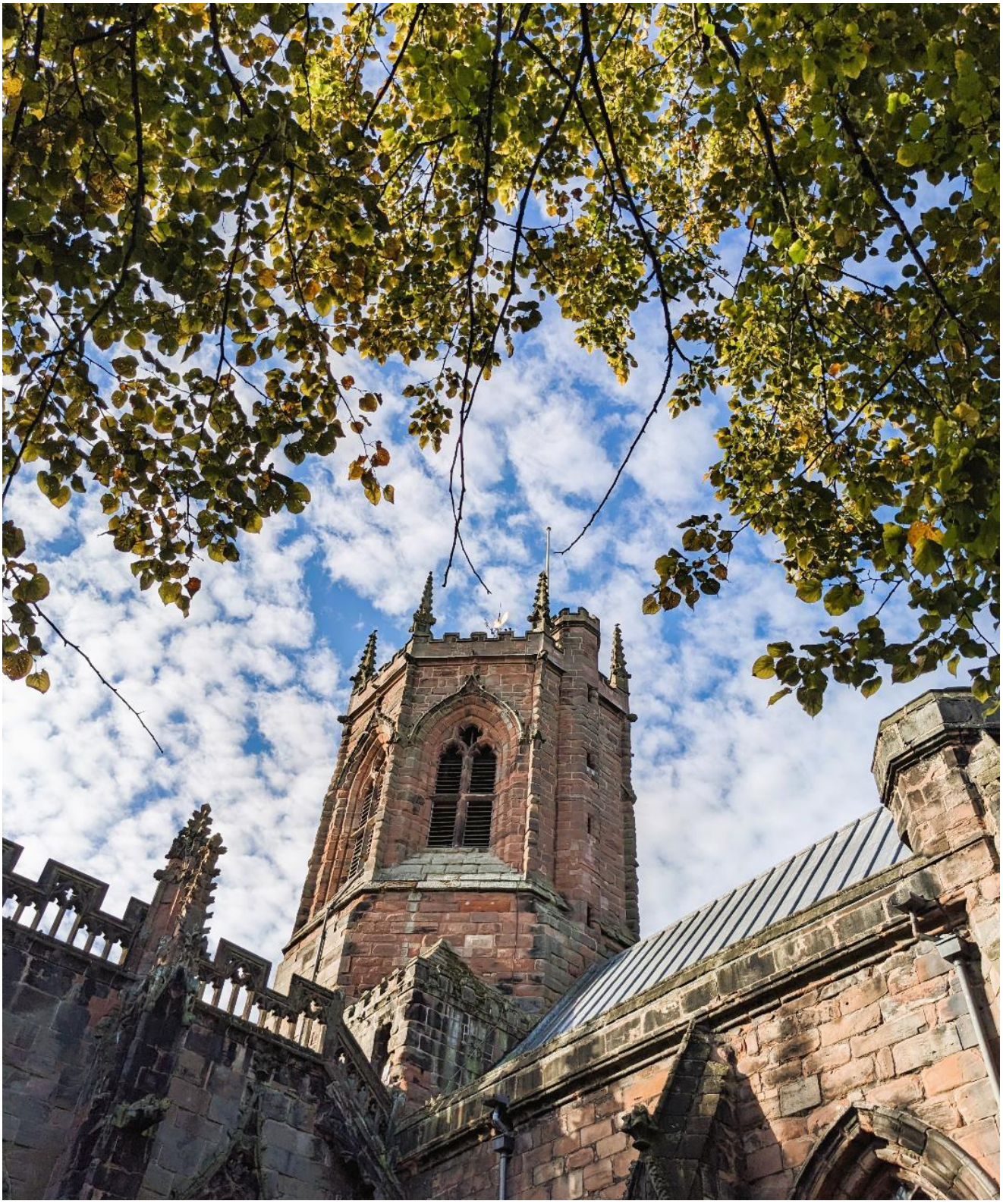
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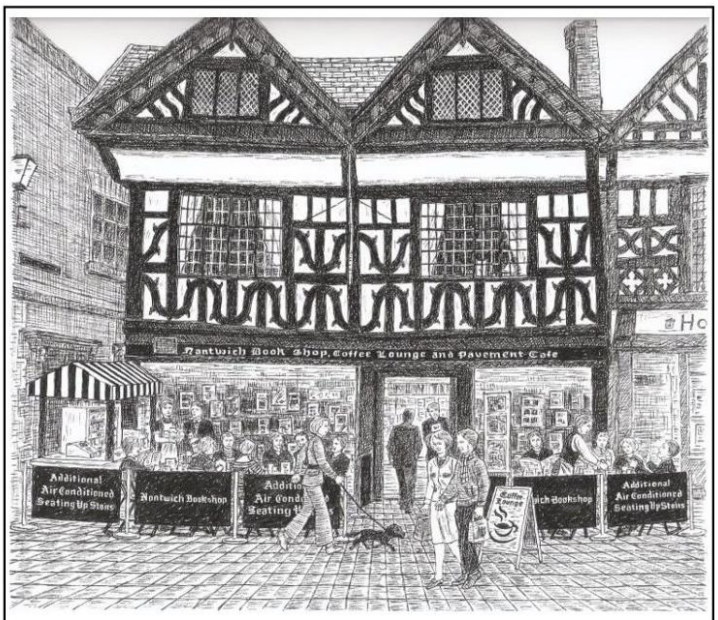
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Front cover: *Tuesday 29th September*

Fall, leaves, fall; die, flowers, away;
Lengthen night and shorten day;
Every leaf speaks bliss to me
Fluttering from the autumn tree.
I shall smile when wreaths of snow
Blossom where the rose should grow;
I shall sing when night's decay
Ushers in a drearier day.

Emily Bronte (1818-48)



From the Rector

I would not be here but for C S Lewis, so I am very happy that the next "Encounter Explore" will celebrate his work. "Through the Wardrobe: The World of C S Lewis" (see p. 31) takes place in St. Mary's on Saturday, 25th October, 10am-4pm, and marks the 75th anniversary of the month in which "The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe" was published.

It is the first of Lewis's books that I read, when I was eight years old, and my copy, published by Penguin in their Puffin series, has "3/6" on the front. I was enchanted. *"But do you really mean, sir," said Peter, "that there could be other worlds – all over the place, just round the corner – like that?" "Nothing is more probable," said the Professor*.

Of course, the book references the story of Christ, but I never realised that, and at that age I really didn't need to. It was enough for me that it was thoroughly enjoyable, deeply satisfying, and imaginatively rich. The best stories are, and the best fiction rings true. I was being taught something about the world without realising it.

Perhaps that is why I was ready to start reading Lewis's popular Christian works a few years later, in my teens: "The Screwtape Letters", "Mere Christianity", "Surprised by Joy", and many more as I reached the sixth form.

I was brought up in a tradition where discussion of Christianity was limited to interpretation of the Bible. At a time when I was beginning to ask questions about the faith, C S Lewis stood out as someone who tried to give answers, not just by quoting texts, but by making sense of the world, by using reason.

He wasn't the first to do that. It is what St. Paul did for his context. We call it "theology", and one of the best descriptions of that exercise, given by St. Anselm of Canterbury (11th century) is "faith seeking understanding". C S Lewis was particularly gifted at doing this in a way which connected with ordinary people and with the questions of his time. If I had not read him, I am not sure where my faith would be.

Come along on Saturday, 25th October. The event will have something for all ages, and I trust it will fire imaginations, and kindle faith.

God bless, *Mark Hart*

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Brother, Sister, let me re-connect you …

Every day when I come home, I'm given the warmest, most joyful, greeting it's possible to imagine. It lasts as long as I'm able to respond in return, and would go on all evening if I didn't gently bring an end to it myself. Er … no, not by my husband, … but by our 4 year old Jack-a-poo dog, Archie.

We love our pets, don't we? We take care of them, feed, water, walk and cherish them. In return They love us devotedly. But to me Archie is just that, a pet. An animal who shares our home. I wouldn't go so far as calling him my brother.

Yet, St. Francis of Assisi would have done just that. St. Francis viewed ALL creatures – human and non-human as members of a single family under God. He often referred to animals as his brothers and sisters, reflecting the belief that all of creation shared the same origin and purpose: to praise the Creator.

There's a story told of him where he tamed a Wolf – this fierce animal had terrorized a town and eaten humans and livestock. St. Francis heard about the trouble and decided to bravely intervene. When the wolf charged, Francis made the sign of the cross and said "Come to me, brother wolf. I command you in the name of Christ not to harm me or anyone else".

To everyone's amazement, the wolf stopped snarling, and lay at Francis' feet. According to the tale the wolf lived peacefully in the village for the rest of his days.

Francis's love of animals and ALL creation (he was known for calling the sun and moon sister and brother too) was not romantic or over-naïve, but theological to the core. He saw everything as a mirror of God's goodness, so his world view represented an early form of "Spiritual ecology".

Today, in an age marked by environmental issues and the loss of biodiversity, St. Francis speaks to us down the ages of the urgent need to re-connect with the living world with renewed compassion, and respect for all.

Dot Woods

Church News

The Season of Creation

This is being celebrated at St. Mary's over six Sundays on the themes of **Sky**, **Trees** (Holy Cross Day), **Humanity** (St. Matthew), **Angels** (St. Michael & All Angels), **Animals** (St. Francis) and **Harvest**.

Animal Blessing Service

This will be the 9.30am All Together Worship on **Sunday, 5th October** when Animals (St. Francis) will be the theme of all the services that day. Animals are welcome to be brought to the 9.30am service. To help us prepare, if you are planning to bring an animal, please let the Parish Office or Rector know, indicating the species. A zone of the church will be kept exclusively human for those who need it.

Community Choir Singing

Join us for an evening of singing for fun at the next Community Choir Singing on **Monday, 6th October**, 7-8.30pm in church. Sign up at the back of church or contact Alison Phillips (07891 620678).

Julian Meeting

The next Julian Meeting will be held in the small chapel in the Methodist Church, Hospital Street on **Thursday, 9th October** at 2.15pm. The usual e-mail format will also continue for those who cannot come in person. To join the group or to learn more please contact Sue Hutt *(hutt.sue30@gmail.com)*.

Crib Services


Crib Service 2024

We're excited to have an imaginative script sorted for our crib services. (We did start work on this in July!). There are lots of parts, many with only a few lines. We're also looking for people to sing (not just carols!). Participation brings you together with a super-friendly group and is part of one of St. Mary's biggest outreach days, with three crib services held on Christmas Eve. If you would like to be involved please let Susie know and come along to the first "Read-through" on **Friday, 10th October, 7.45pm** in the Parish Hall. You'll get a chance to indicate parts you'd like to play (no guarantees) and we'll be asking about availability for rehearsal dates.

Harvest Festival

We will celebrate Harvest Festival at all services on **Sunday, 12th October.** Please bring harvest gifts of tinned or dried food. Following the 10.45am service will be a **Bring & Share Harvest Lunch** in the Parish Hall. Everyone welcome - please sign up at the back of church. The Cheshire Harvest service will be held at 3pm on the same day; the 6pm service will be Compline

St. Mary's Raffle

Everyone attending church will be offered 10 tickets which we hope you can sell in aid of general church funds. We would be grateful for your support. The draw will take place after the Harvest Lunch on **Sunday, 12th October**.

Breakfasts going forward

It's the time of year when I agree the dates for the next year's breakfasts with Rector Mark and start thinking about speakers. From time to time Mark gets feedback from people about the speakers that have been popular (or not so popular). It seems people like the ones with a personal element to the talk - whether it's about the speaker themselves, or people with whom they have had contact.

If anyone has ideas about someone they would like to hear from, or if you would like to share your story at a 2026 breakfast, please get in touch with me. I already have one 2026 speaker lined up with a very special and moving tale to tell. *Annie Coombs*

Stewards Needed

Tuesdays 9.30-10.45am. Would you consider becoming a steward? Are you a reserve steward and able to cover some weeks? Full training provided. Please contact Penny Smith (07929 989835) or the Rector.

Thank you

to John Oakes for his long and loyal service as an altar server and crucifer. After 24 years in post he has decided to hang up his alb. We wish him a long and happy retirement!

Where Was It?

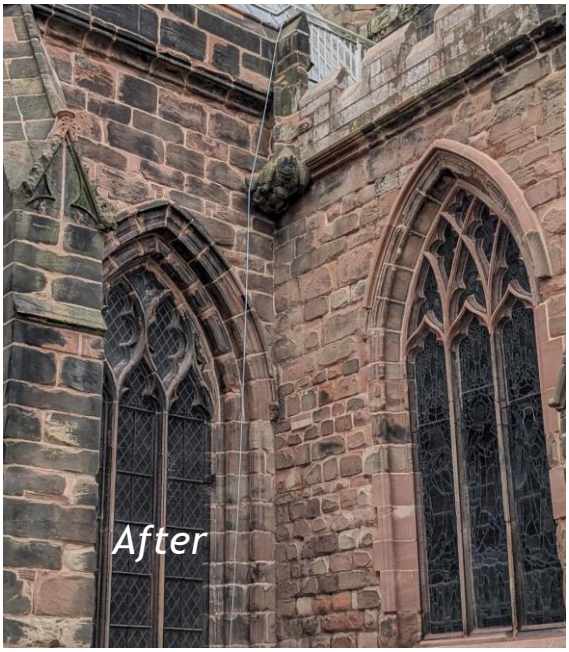
Congratulations to Felix McCauley who won the photograph competition from the last magazine, which showed the plaque above the lift on the south wall of the nave. Felix's prize was a complete set of St. Mary's guidebooks and a pack of St. Mary's notelets.

Restoration of North and East Elevations of St. Mary's

As I write this on 20th September 2025, we are within striking distance of completing Phase One of our Restoration project. The scaffolding has come down and much of what has been addressed is now visible for the first time, showing what has been achieved in the past 12 months.



Where specified, stones have been renewed, and others have been treated where they had only needed minor attention and pointing. The church building, on the outside of the North Aisle and the west side of the North Transept, now shows that it is more cared for and that this part is ready to withstand many future years. The new handrail and stairs into the tower can now be seen blending in with the lead roof. Two of the stained-glass windows in the North Aisle (the westernmost and easternmost) have been repaired and cleaned since their supporting ironwork had corroded and much of the tracery of those windows has been renewed. Work on the stonework which is accessible from ground level will complete this Phase One project.



We await the final invoices for Phase One from the Architects Donald Insall Associates and from the Contractor Recclesia and expect to be close to the sums budgeted. Previous bequests and donations over several years and recently have been able to fund this from the PCC Restoration and Development account and Preservation Appeal Trust funds.

Work on Phase Two will now be held in abeyance. We are most grateful to all those who have already donated to the Appeal and funds are continuing to come in. However, we certainly shall need to seek further funds from grant-making bodies before we can commence work on this next Phase.

Watch this space!

Paul Ramsey
Chairman, Nantwich Parish Church Preservation Appeal Trust

Family Bird/Bat Box Making Session



On Thursday, 31st July, at the start of the summer holidays, twenty families in Nantwich got the chance to build a new home for a bird or bat family at a special family bird box making workshop to help nature thrive in Nantwich. The event was organised by St. Mary's Eco Group.

The session was designed to make it safe and easy for children and their parents to make the wildlife homes with pre-designed kits assembled beforehand. All the families had to do was to put the kits together with volunteers (Nick and Alan) on hand to help.



As well as the bird and bat boxes the event included a bird ID and colouring in station managed by Helen and Jane. Refreshments were on hand, provided by Janet and Judith.

The event was great fun for parents and young people. There were over forty people there and people were having such a nice time that they didn't want to leave.

There's nothing better than giving nature a helping hand - especially in your own garden. Bird boxes are a brilliant way to get young people interested in the natural world, from watching the parents building their nest through to the chicks taking their first flight.



Thanks to Potters Timber Yard for helping with the timber and Nantwich Town Council for their grant for this event. Thanks also to the Eco Church Group "seeds of change", for organising such a brilliant event. If you are interested in nature and would like to join our group and help us organise similar events/activities, please contact *office@stmarysnantwich.org.uk*

Anna Burton

Churches Together at the Nantwich Show, 29th July



The churches of Nantwich were once again represented at this annual Agricultural Show. The Churches Together gazebo hosted a range of activities focussing on both physical and spiritual well being.



Celebrations began the night before the Show at the pre-show service, led by the Chaplain, Rev. Anne Lawson. The Rt. Rev. Mark Tanner, Bishop of Chester, was the preacher.





As in previous years CTiN provided bottled water for visitors, bearing a verse from John 4 about the water of life and this year we were joined by a "parish nurse" who checked blood pressures and offered general health advice. CTiN also supervised a tent for Mums (and Dads) who needed space to change a baby's nappy.

A "pop up" Reflective Garden offered thoughts and prayer ideas about Hope. Every act of sowing and planting, whether farming or gardening, is an expression of hope for the future.

Over 200 packets of lettuce seeds were given to passersby bearing the title "Seeds of Hope".



Music was provided this year by a Methodist Ukulele group, "Ukes Aloud", who played and sang throughout the day and who accompanied a short service of worship at midday led by Rev. John Penny, Deacon at St. Anne's Church.





Throughout the day our activities were accompanied by the gentle sound of bell ringing from the Lichfield Diocese's mobile belfry stationed right next to us.

Volunteers from all six churches in the town were on hand throughout the day in this act of witness and togetherness.

The next CTiN event will be a **United Service** to celebrate the season of All Saints. This will be on **Wednesday, 29th October** at St. Mary's, Acton. Further details will be available in the near future.

Church Walk to Poole

On Saturday, 2nd August eighteen people from St. Mary's took part in the church walk to Poole. Setting off from St. Mary's, Acton the route took us over the canal and across the fields to Welshmen's Lane before skirting the back of Reaseheath College and following the very rural Cinder Lane to Poole Hall. We then followed the route of the Crewe and Nantwich Circular Walk over farmland towards Poole and the lovely countryside felt like a much more remote area. The high stile at the end was successfully crossed by everyone with some assistance from Ernie.



Arriving at Poole Methodist Chapel we were greeted by Gail Johnson and her husband Philip who kindly served us teas and snacks to supplement our picnics and showed us around. The chapel is the oldest in the Cheshire South Circuit having been built in 1834 and the site was chosen as being close to where John Wesley preached at the nearby Gates Farm.

The small Quiet Garden at the back of the chapel features a labyrinth, a variety of plants, a water feature and seating. It is part of the international Quiet Garden Movement which promotes *"gardens and outdoor spaces for prayer, stillness, contemplation and an appreciation of the natural world". (quietgarden.org)*

The weather was perfect for walking and sitting in the garden and after a short time of prayer it was time to continue our walk. The circular walk which covered approximately 5½ miles returned via a short stretch on attractive lanes and then joined the canal towpath back to Acton.

Everyone enjoyed the day and many plan to return to the Quiet Garden to make more use of this unique and lovely space. The garden is always open and can be found at Wettenhall Road, Poole, CW5 6AL.

Carole Tilt

Mothers' Union News

Fund Raising: On 7th August we held our Annual Fund-Raising Event, the Summer of Hope 2025. *"Those who sow with tears will reap with songs of joy" Psalm 126:5*. We were encouraged as a group, and individually, to join in this summer in support of women in crisis-hit communities in the Democratic Republic of Congo, (DRC). Across the DRC conflict continues to uproot families and devastate communities. Planning started back in April and we opted for an afternoon tea with a raffle and cake & book stalls.


Selling raffle tickets


Ready for Business at the Cake Stall

We applied to the Cream Tea Society for Rodders Clotted Cream & Tiptree Strawberry Jam. *(Do you know that the Cream Tea Society pledges 50,000 portions of each, free of charge, to charities raising money? You need to get in early, so a prompt application was made.)* We were fortunate to receive 48 portions of each, for which we are very grateful as it keeps our costs down and profits up - our 2-hour event raised £350. The committee want to thank everyone involved, the helpers on the day, those who baked scones and cakes and supplied raffle prizes and Gail for bringing her flower arrangements. Thank you to all who supported us by coming on the day to enjoy the afternoon.

September Meeting, 19th September: We all enjoyed a good sing of favourite hymns as voted for by our members. This was led by Jan Virr who introduced each hymn with some historical background and Lionel Virr played them on the piano - followed with tea and biscuits of course!

October Meeting, 17th October: This meeting will be a talk from Keith Evemy about Florence Nightingale.

All are welcome to attend. You don't need to be a Mother or a Woman. Our theme for the next 3 years is Join Us, Join In. We meet every third Friday in the Parish Hall at 2.15pm. Copies of our events programme can be found in the church magazine rack.

Did you know: Mothers' Union has a Royal Patron, HRH The Duchess of Edinburgh, continuing a long tradition of Royal Patronage that includes - Queen Victoria, the Queen Mother, and our late Queen Elizabeth II.

Kingdom Builders' Holiday Club

We had 25 children and 6 young people come along for Kingdom Builders' Holiday Club on Tuesday, 12th August.

We had 3 sessions across the day, starting with "In the beginning", looking at God's creation.



Some Garden of Eden creations.



Session 2 was "Building a temple", and we looked at the story of Solomon building God's temple.



The final session was "How to build" where we looked at the story of the wise and foolish builders. A great way to focus on building God's Kingdom.



Singing one of our action songs.

We played lots of games, used Duplo and magnetic tiles to retell the stories and created temple biscuits and cube cake pops too.



Making temple biscuits.



Tower building with our prayer wall in the background.



Creating creation cubes!



Group rotation time around the explore activities.

We had some outside time (it was a very hot day!) and made some crafty things to take home.





The children were all given lunch and dinner before they went home. A great time enjoyed by all!



Encounter Whatever

"Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things."

Philippians 4:8

At Encounter Supper on 17th August, guest speaker, Caryl Boxhall shared her favourite Bible passage (above) and how it helps her maintain a positive outlook on life.

Born in Hereford as the eldest of six children, Caryl comes from a missionary family and spent much of her childhood in Kenya with some time at boarding school. Prayer and Bible reading were central to family life and she also attended Sunday School and developed a lifelong love of reading in general especially biography with "Amy Carmichael of Dohnavur" by Frank Houghton and "Shiokari Pass" by Ayako Miura being favourites.

Caryl studied nursing and midwifery in London and then felt called to serve overseas. She worked for a year on the mission ship MV Doulos with Operation Mobilisation in the Mediterranean and West Africa, firstly in the dining room and then the clinic.

During this time, she had a long-distance relationship with Phil who she had met in a London church group and on her return they married. Their first daughter Ruth was stillborn and was followed by Sam, Jono and Susie (now St. Mary's youth worker). The family were settled in Watford and at St. Luke's Church where Caryl led a house group, did youth work and was later employed in the church office.

She suffered a period of severe depression and truly valued the support of her sister and friends at this time. In 2009 Caryl was treated for breast cancer. Five years ago Caryl and Phil moved to Nantwich and she quickly got involved at St. Mary's including Place of Welcome, youth, Start course, home groups and the Christmas pudding stir up.

God's undertaking, love and care have sustained Caryl during challenging times in her life. The central part that prayer has played in her life was evident to all those at the supper with many feeling inspired in their own prayer lives as a result.

"A trauma-informed lens"



Sometimes you come across someone who is remarkable, whose job sounds impossible to you and whose altruism is second to none. One such person is Kerry Christopher who spoke at the September breakfast. She has worked as a children and families social worker for 23 years; working in a Care Planning and Court Team for Social Services first as a social worker, then in the court as a Children's Guardian, then within the local authority as a fostering and adoption social worker, and most recently as an adoption team manager. In addition, Kerry and husband Graham (who spoke to the February 2024 breakfast about fostering) have fostered children since 1996.

Best job in the world?

Kerry attended the breakfast when Nick Howell-Jones (barrister in the family courts), whom she encounters from time to time in court, said he has the best job in the world. Kerry challenges this – she thinks that she has the best job in the world! She also thinks that she manages the best team in the world.

Social work is not an exact science

Kerry says that it's important to group round a child that is being considered for removal from their birth parents because of concerns about their welfare. These are always difficult decisions, nuanced by individual circumstances. But also, the threshold at which "significant harm" (the test) is triggered does vary.

Kerry says it's essential always to be watching through your trauma-informed lens. She explained that trauma can have a devastating impact on a child's development, and while a child may well come through a one-off traumatic event, prolonged trauma can be more difficult to overcome.

Early permanence

There is more and more evidence that life and experiences before adoption and even pre-birth affect a child's development and ability to form an attachment to people. Where a "best interest decision" for adoption is made for a child, this can be taken by the local authority prior to birth, when the baby is taken from hospital to the adopting family who foster the baby until a decision regarding adoption is confirmed by the court. The time up to the court decision is nerve-

wracking for the adopters because situations can change. Grandparents might enter last minute *in loco parentis*; a birth parent situation might change; a barrister like Nick might argue successfully that a mother and baby unit is in the child's best interests, possibly followed by a return home for the baby.

Adoption is not for the faint-hearted

Kerry says that adoption changes the lives of everybody involved. It can be remarkably rewarding, but is often challenging. 13 years ago, after a big Government publicity campaign, there were 30 adopters for every 0-2 year old awaiting adoption. Then it could take 3 years to be matched with a child. Now there are not enough adopters coming forward.

Asked about the reasons for fostering rather than adoption, Kerry explained that in some cases it relates to the age of the child and the points earlier about the difficulties of forming attachment for children who have experienced abuse or maltreatment at an early age. Adoption has a different dimension. Those putting themselves forward to adopt generally are looking to parent and to have that close reciprocal parent-child relationship. Forming that attachment isn't always possible with an older child, and then fostering becomes a better solution.

Kerry points out that most parents (whose children are to be fostered or adopted) are not bad people - and generally they want to parent. They are just at a time in their lives when they are not able, for many different reasons, to parent and the courts have found it is not in the best interests of the child to remain in their care.

Children can have two families

A big development over the past few years has been the move towards direct contact with birth parents after adoption. It is now seen to be in the children's best interest to know where they came from, and indeed in some cases to maintain a relationship with members of their birth family. If they know nothing, they can create a fantasy world which can result in a devastating shock when they later find out or meet birth parents. Some have direct contact with birth parents and it can work out very well. Kerry says that she and Graham arrange meetings, including having Christmas parties in their house with birth parents and other family members of some of the children they have fostered. They regularly meet up with their children, grandchildren, many of their foster children and some of their 13 foster grandchildren. The date is in the diary for a Christmas celebration at Butlins this year.

Wedding Congratulations to …



James Williams and Courtney Prince, married on Saturday, 2nd August.



Joseph O'Regan and Katherine Ayre, married on Friday, 8th August.



Lee Tidyman and Bethany Stephenson, married on Saturday, 31st August, during the Nantwich Food Festival. It was a showery day but the sun shone as Lee and Beth stepped out of the west doors.





Anthonie Van Rooyen and Lauren Crabtree, married on Saturday, 13th September. Photo: Emily Augusta Photography





Congratulations to June & Jack Corbett who celebrated their Platinum Wedding Anniversary (70 years!) on Wednesday, 10th September and to Keith Billing who celebrated his 90th birthday in August.

News in Pictures



Farewell to Rev. Oluseye Adebiyi, his wife Shade, and children Ini, Ire, and Nathan, as they leave Nantwich for Aylesbury. The children have been regular members of our Sunday groups, and FNL, and Shade has sung with the worship band. We enjoyed Oluseye's ministry among us before his work limited opportunity for this. We pray for God's blessing on them and their new home.



Donald Marr (Rector of Nantwich 1983-87) celebrating the 60th anniversary of his ordination. Shown here at St. Andrew's Tarvin with Beth Roberts, Steve Lockett and Sue Martin (who was Parish Secretary & still comes to St Mary's occasionally).



The scaffolding has been removed from inside church and a great job is underway to clean the building at high and low levels, and to clean the kneelers and cushions. Thank you to all who are giving their time. If you would like to help with the ongoing cleaning of the church please speak to one of the churchwardens.



Youngsters and their mums had lots of musical fun at the Singing Workshop which took place in the summer holidays in the Parish Hall.



Over the summer the Sunday Groups had a theme of going on a journey. Here's what they said:

"We looked at a map of Nantwich and talked about journeys, like to school or shops. We discussed what we do when we get back from a journey - unpacking, washing, picking up pets, visiting friends and family we've missed. The footprints represent us returning home and are based on the story of the prodigal son who returned from a journey."



The St. Christopher Chorale kindly sang Choral Evensong on Sunday, 31st August, the music chosen to be appropriate for the Nantwich Food Festival, including "O taste and see" by How. There was a healthy number in the congregation, boosted by the good people of the Latchford parishes in Warrington, brought by their vicar, Rev. Rob Icke (back right), much missed here at St. Mary's where he worshipped prior to ordination.



Over 60 people attended Katie Everett's talk on Wednesday, 10th September when she presented the argument of her dissertation on the medieval architecture of St. Mary's, written for her degree in the History of Art from Warwick University. Katie took us on a tour from the oldest part of the church in the north-west corner of the nave, through the crossing and into the chancel.



Concordia captivated a large audience with Madrigals, Romance and Nonsense at their concert on Saturday, 13th September, conducted by Alison Phillips, and accompanied by John Gough & Tom Kimmance (piano) and Alex Liebeck (Double Bass). The programme comprised works by John Rutter, Ralph Vaughan Williams, Edward Elgar, and Richard Rodney Bennett (including his "Men in Bowler Hats"!), with recitations by Nigel Peever interspersed.



St. Mary's participants at the Youth Weekend at The Quinta, 19th-21st September. More details in the November magazine.

VJ Day 80th Anniversary



On the evening of the 80th anniversary of VJ Day the Rector led a service in church, accompanied by the singing of Concordia, and attended by the Lord Lieutenant of Cheshire, Lady Redmond. The readings were given by Cllr. Mary Slinn (Mayor of Nantwich), Cllr. Kim Jamson (Deputy Mayor of Nantwich), Connor Naismith MP, and Mr. John Dwyer (President of Nantwich and District Royal British Legion), and the Rector.





Photo: Peter Robinson

The service was followed by an Act of Remembrance on the Square, the laying of wreaths, and the lighting of the beacon.


Photo: Nantwich Camera Club


Photo:
Annie Coombs


Photo: Nantwich Camera Club

Forthcoming Events

On the Run

Spare a thought and a prayer for **Andy Lewis** as on **4th October** he runs a 34 mile ultra marathon around the very hilly Gower Peninsula in support of the Salvation Army and in memory of his mother Barbara Winifred Lewis.

Seniors' Lounge

The next meetings will be on **Sunday 12th October**, 3pm in the Parish Hall - company and chat over tea/coffee & cake.

October Breakfast

The October breakfast will take place at The Tea Lounge at Nantwich Football Stadium at 8.30am on **Saturday, 18th October**. The speaker will be Tim Emerton, Head of Fundraising at the Boaz Trust (one of the organisations supported by St. Mary's Mission Support). The Boaz Trust is a Manchester-based charity supporting people facing homelessness after claiming asylum. Boaz is currently experiencing an unprecedented scale of hostility towards its work and the people it supports. It says *"Like so many other asylum and migration charities, we have become increasingly alarmed in recent months by the decimation of asylum principles, the growth of the far right and their sentiments, and the 'protests' outside hotels housing people seeking asylum. We are working in a volatile and hostile political landscape"*. Read the full September 2025 Statement at

https://www.boaztrust.org.uk/articles/statement-in-the-twenty-years-since-boaz-was-founded-we-have-never-known-this-scale-of-hostility-

The Tree of Light Ceremony

This will be held on **Sunday, 2nd November**, 5.30pm, outside the west doors of the church. Baubles to hang on the tree in memory of loved ones may be obtained from Nantwich Civic Hall.

The All Souls' Service

This service, in memory of loved ones will be held on **Sunday 2nd November**, 6pm, when names will be read in church and there will be an opportunity to light candles. If you wish a name to be read please contact the Parish Office.

The Cranmer Competition

This year's competition will be held on **Saturday, 8th November**, 10am, at Chester Cathedral. This is a reading competition open to young people, split into Juniors and Seniors (11–14 and 15–18). Competitors are invited to read passages of the 1662 Book of Common Prayer. In this local heat there are cash prizes for section winners and runners up. The aims of the competition are to encourage the skills of reading aloud with empathy, expression and impact, and to acquaint young people with the majestic language of devotion within the Book of Common Prayer. Regional heats are followed by a prestigious National Final, which will be held in February 2024 at Hampton Court Palace. Please contact the Rector if you are interested in taking part.

Christmas Pudding Stir-up

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



Date: **Saturday, 15th November** *(choose 1 of 3 sessions)* in the Parish Hall, 10.30-11.30am, 12.00-1.00pm and 1.30-2.30pm.

Cost: £8 per pudding *(to be paid in advance either by cash via the Parish Office or directly to Caryl, or online through Collctiv – ask for details.)*

Advance booking only by **Sunday, 9th November**
Caryl Boxhall *stmaryspuds@gmail.com*

You are invited to come along to make your Christmas Pudding. Bring a large bowl and mixing spoon. All ingredients (vegetarian) are supplied and instructions given. The recipe makes 1 large pudding (8 servings) or 2 medium (4 servings) puddings. Each pudding is taken home to cook (instructions given) - you will need 1 x 1-litre (2-pint) pudding basin or 2 x 500ml (1 pint) pudding basins.

We are limited in numbers of puddings that can be made in each session. Advance booking and payment are essential so that we can get the catering quantities right.

Volunteers are needed to welcome folk, keep ingredients topped up, serve refreshments, and clear away. If you would like to help in any way, please do let Caryl know. Thank you.

For more info, please chat to Caryl or Phil Boxhall.

Teams4U 2025 Christmas Shoeboxes

Each year St Mary's collects up around 300 Shoeboxes filled with little presents and goodies. These are lovingly and generously filled by people at St. Mary's and from the surrounding area. It's amazing, and reading the Teams4U website *(teams4u.com/shoebox-appeal/)* you'll see they make an amazing difference to the children who receive them. The "love" they contain helps them to feel valued and more confident and, actually, they may be the only present they are ever given during their lives.

Our boxes make part of the over 60,000 Christmas Shoeboxes which Teams4U, based in Wrexham, truck out to Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia, Bosnia and Romania. They work with "in country" partners like the Red Cross to help find the children that are most in need. Teams4U is all about drawing alongside children, showing them someone cares about them and believes in them. They say:

"We want to be dream-makers, the kind of people that challenge these often forgotten-about kids and ask them what they want to be, what do they want to do? We are about helping remove the obstacles that can prevent these kids from achieving their hopes and plans (such as our education programmes in Romania and Develop with Dignity programme in Uganda) but we want to go deeper than that. We want to help these kids believe in themselves; sow that one seed that says they can achieve what they want to achieve."

If you fill, or part fill, a shoebox for Christmas it will be given to a vulnerable child, or family, through schools, nurseries, hospitals and orphanages. Teams4U take care that each box is given in relationship with the local community as part of a long-term commitment to these children.

Here are a few ideas of items to put in the shoebox there are plenty more on the Website *(www.teams4u.com)*
A donation of £3.50 this year helps to get it there.
For girls/boys: between 3-5 years, 6-11 years or 12+ years.
Hat, scarf, soft toy, small game, puzzle, small musical instrument, toy vehicle, small rubber/inflatable ball, sweets.

Please be a part of this ongoing story that is continuing to impact and change lives by donating a shoebox to this year's appeal!

"Christmas is coming, and, right now, I think, children need us to be more present for them. Now is the biggest need."

(Dima Nachyna, T4U Partner in Belarus)

Collection dates at St. Mary's: **31st October to 13th November**.

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Egerton Strings



songs by
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and more

18 OCT 2025 | 7:30 PM

Venue
ST MARYS NANTWICH

£25 per person

Tickets available from St Mary's office or the Egerton Strings website

ST MARYS NANTWICH

THROUGH the WARDROBE

The World of C S Lewis



Saturday 25th October 10am - 4pm

A celebration of the 75th anniversary of
The Lion, the Witch & the Wardrobe

• Walk through the Wardrobe • Talk with Aslan •
• Eavesdrop on the Inklings • Tea with Mr Tumnus •
• Colour in Narnia • Play Lewis's Favourite Game •
• View the Story in Art • Explore Lewis's Home •

All this and more to inspire you
with the imagination and thought of C S Lewis

Venue: St Mary's Nantwich
All Welcome Free Entry

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



See also **"Special Services & Events Calendar"** on p. 40.

From the Registers: August 2025

Holy Baptism

We welcome you into the Lord's family

3rd	Isla Eldridge
17th	Theo Hanna

Holy Matrimony

Bless these thy servants

2nd	James Williams & Courtney Prince
8th	Joseph O'Regan & Katherine Ayre
31st	Lee Tidyman & Bethany Stephenson

Funerals

May they rest in peace and rise in glory

5th	Barbara Densem (86)
11th	Marian Worsley (89)
29th	Mark Tushingham (58)

Readings for October

5th October *(Animals - St. Francis)*	Genesis 1: 20-25 Luke 12: 22-34
12th October *(Harvest Festival)*	Philippians 4: 4-9 John 6: 25-35
19th October *(18th Sunday after Trinity)*	2 Timothy 3:14-4:5 Luke 18: 1-8
26th October *(Bible Sunday)*	Romans 15: 1-6 Luke 4: 16-24

Harvest *(12th October)*

What does Harvest mean to you? In the old days everyone in the community could be called upon to help with the harvest of the fields. Now it is often one farmer and a giant machine. Often the machines are on contract and seem to work twenty-four hours a day going from farm to farm. We first met this practice in the Prairies in Canada where we were told that the farmers often lived in the cities and just checked on the sowing and reaping and sent in the machines at the right times. In this way hundreds of square miles of wheat fields could be cultivated. The corn field behind our house here in Nantwich is often cut in the evening. The machines use powerful lights to help the drivers to see the fields.

Many of our Harvest hymns were written in the days of community harvesting. Now we have to look at a different picture. Now there is a lot of loneliness where there was community. This year farmers have had to face drought when their crops were calling out for water. Climate change is affecting everything. Crops have suffered from lack of rainfall all over Europe. Farmers will make less money and some have had to use their winter animal feeds already. Prices in the shops will go up if products are in short supply. More of the world's people will be short of food.

Where does God fit into all this? We sing our harvest hymns often without thinking too much about the words. "God our Maker doth provide for our wants to be supplied." Does he? Is it **our duty** to provide people with what they need? There is a very unfair distribution of necessities around the world.

Is not the main celebration at Harvest one of thankfulness? "Lord, on your gifts we feed: show us each the other's need: give us the love to share in our deeds and in our prayer." *(Words from "Praise God for harvest-time" A&M 288.)*

We give thanks for all the hard work of people everywhere especially remembering all with whom we are involved. We benefit from the kindness and the helpfulness which make the world better, nearer to that of God's creation.

"Praise and thanksgiving, Father we offer, for all things living thou makest good; harvest of sown fields, fruits of the orchard, hay from the mown fields, blossom and wood." *(Words from "Praise and thanksgiving" A&M 287.)*

Dot Roxby

Celebrate Bible Sunday *(26th October)* with a Bible Cake

Ingredients:

340g	1 Kings 4:22	*(flour)*
1 tsp	Amos 4:5	*(leaven/baking powder)*
1 tsp	2 Chronicles 9:9	*(spices)*
⅛ tsp	Leviticus 2:1	*(salt)*
120g	Judges 5:25	*(butter)*
200g	Jeremiah 6:20	*(sugar)*
120g	Numbers 17:8	*(almonds, ground or flaked)*
150g	1 Samuel 30:12	*(raisins)*
150g	Nahum 3:12	*(figs)*
3	Jeremiah 17:11	*(eggs)*
30ml	Judges 4:19	*(milk)*
½ tbsp	1 Samuel 14:25	*(honey)*

Method:

1. Preheat oven to Gas 3/170°C/150°C fan
2. Grease and line an 20cm/8" square tin or 23cm/9" round tin
3. Sift together the flour, baking powder, spices and salt in a large mixing bowl.
4. Rub in the butter until the mix resembles fine breadcrumbs.
5. Stir in the sugar, almonds and fruit.
6. Whisk the eggs, milk and honey together.
7. Add to the mix and beat with a wooden spoon until well blended.
8. Transfer to the cake tin and bake in the centre of the oven for 1-1¼ hours until golden brown and an inserted skewer comes out clean.
9. Allow to cool in the pan for 15 minutes before turning out on a cooling rack.
10. Store in an airtight tin when cold.

Optional:

Drizzle or cover the cake with glace icing using juice of either Leviticus 19:10 *(grapes)* or Song of Solomon 2:5 *(apples)*.

Thanks to Beryl Hughes for the recipe and to Caryl Boxhall for this test bake.



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 in with a pumpkin carving workshop

Join us for our next session:

Tuesday 21st October
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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	Rev. David Marsh	610079
	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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Director of Music & SING!	Alison Phillips	07891 620678
Parish Hall Manager:	Nick Leftley	07899 807831
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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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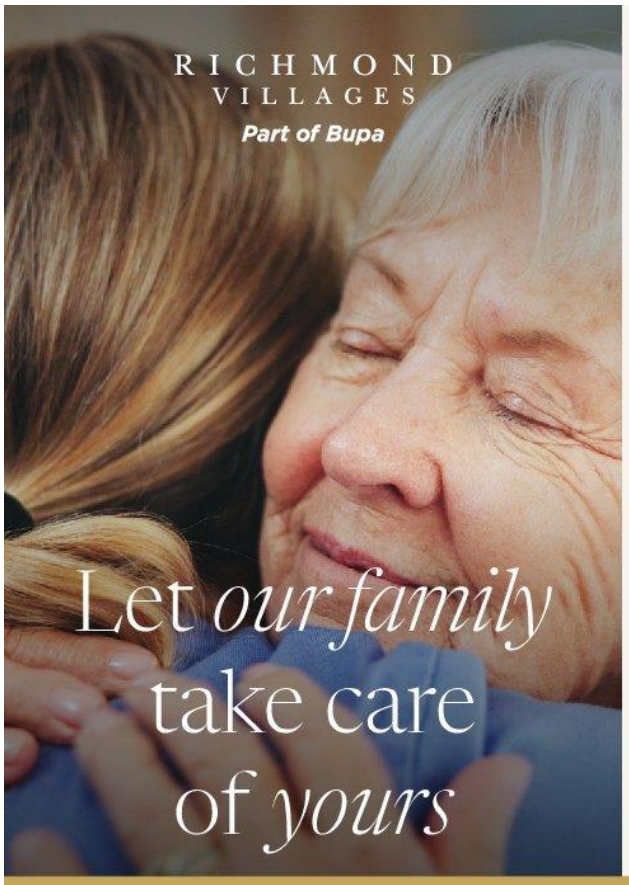
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Richmond Villages Nantwich **Residential Care | Respite Care**

Special Services & Events Calendar October-November 2025

October	5th	Season of Creation - Animals/St. Francis with Blessing of Animals at 9.30am
	12th	Season of Creation - Harvest Festival & Harvest Lunch Cheshire Harvest Service, 3pm
	18th	St. Mary's Breakfast at Nantwich Football Club, 8.30am Candlelight Concert Alt-Rock Reimagined, 7.30pm
	19th	Civic Service, 10.45am and Communion following
	20th	Of Monsters and Men Concert in Church
	22nd	Sound Bath in Church, 7.15pm
	25th	Through the Wardrobe: The World of C S Lewis. A Celebration of the 75th Anniversary of "The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe" 10am-4pm
	26th	Bridgemere Memorial Service, 11am
November	1st	Nantwich Singers Come and Sing "Wellerman" and Sing Well! in church, 2-5pm
	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
	21st	Christmas Tree Festival Refreshments, 2-4pm, Parish Hall 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	Christingle Service, 4pm Advent Carol Service, 6pm