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June 2026





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Front cover: *The Band & Drums of the Cheshire Constabulary playing outside St. Mary's on Saturday, 16th May.*



From the Rector

At the beginning of June we turn green. Since Advent 2025 we have barely paused for breath as the seasons of Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Holy Week, Easter, Ascension, and Pentecost have followed hard after each other. Now we begin the "Sundays after Trinity", 25 in total, the longest period of what is known as "ordinary time".

Ordinary? Are these the boring, common Sundays where nothing exceptional happens? One of the meanings of "ordinary" today is still the original meaning, ie. orderly, following a rule or pattern. We number the Sundays after Trinity in this ordinary way. This in itself implies nothing about how interesting or eventful any particular Sunday may be, just as the ordered hours in a day, or the ordered days in a year, impose no limit on surprising or eventful happenings.

The use of the liturgical colour green for ordinary time goes back to long before St. Mary's was built, when the ready availability of green plant dyes meant that the colour was a practical, less expensive option for this longest period of the year.

St. Mary's green chasuble therefore gets well used, and it is now looking shabby, especially around the collar. Thanks to a generous legacy from the late Dorothy Relton, an altar server for 25 years, we are looking to purchase a new green chasuble very soon, with a couple of new green stoles.

There is another meaning to the colour green for this season. It is the time of year when our worship prepares the ground for more sustained and steady growth in our faith. After following the course of the life of Christ, we now spend time allowing the grace of his risen life to be gradually formed in us and bring us to maturity. This reflects the natural world where the green shoots develop through the long summer into the fruitfulness of the harvest.

There has been much to enjoy through the fasts and feasts of the past months, but I look forward to the rhythm and respite of the weeks ahead. May we grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Mark Hart (Rector)

Congratulations to Tony & Josie



On 6th June Josie and I will be celebrating our Sixtieth Wedding Anniversary and hopefully receiving a card from His Majesty the King to mark the occasion. This is something that we questioned happening when Josie was diagnosed in October with cancer. Thankfully, the operation, though complex, was successful and over the past six months she has undergone her chemotherapy and hopefully this too will shortly be completed.

At times we both felt overwhelmed by both the diagnosis and the treatment. Cancer isn't something that you think about until it affects you directly, even though on numerous occasions in my ministry I have supported families and patients in their battle against the disease. Little did we realise just how much our lives would be changed, frighteningly so in some respect. Things that we took for granted no longer are available to us and my ministry at St. Mary's stopped very abruptly in October last year as we tried to come to terms with the new way of living that Josie, and I supporting her, would have to take.

Some people say that they are angry when cancer is diagnosed, but neither of us felt that: often confused, frustrated and stressed, but never angry. Anger and blame go together and certainly neither of us could blame anyone. Our lifestyle didn't cause the disease to occur and we certainly didn't blame God! Cancer is something that is present in most of us and sometimes, more often than we think, something triggers it to become active. We felt that it was futile to blame anyone or anything but simply this was a fight that together we would conquer.

Throughout the whole process, with all its trials and tribulations we have never felt alone, we have had the support of our family, children and grandchildren. We don't believe in hiding the truth or trying to shield our children, we don't subscribe to the myth of "it is better for them not to

know". It has been so uplifting for us to have that support in many practical ways and their encouragement, especially from the young ones, for Nanny and Grandpa to positively fight the disease.

We have also valued so much the prayerful support of our friends and church members who have upheld us from the moment of the first diagnosis and some of the silly things that made us laugh. Brian and Linda: "What can we bring for Josie?" I replied: "Pears - she can eat pears." …. and Josie continues to enjoy them now that her diet allows her to eat them.

Josie and I have been together for over 65 years, not quite childhood sweethearts, but close! In my parish ministry of over 30 years we have been together all the time. I believe that even though I was ordained, we were called to work together throughout our lives and this we have tried to do. The month that she was in hospital is actually the longest time that we have been apart in 60 years.

Often I have said to people, God never asks more of you than you can bear to cope with, and I truly believe this to be true. When the cancer was diagnosed we knew that we would fight it together as we have done throughout our lives. God didn't send the cancer to test Josie but we know that He has always been there with us through these past months.

One of the great joys of being part of the Family of God is that you know that you are never alone.

We will thank God on 6th June for all things and all the people that have made this journey with us and more importantly made it possible for us to get there.

Tony and Josie Long

Prayer of the Month

> *I pray you, good Jesus, that as you have given me the grace to drink in with joy the Word that gives knowledge of you, so in your goodness you will grant me to come at length to yourself, the source of all wisdom, to stand before your face forever. Amen.*

This is a prayer of the Venerable Bede (died 735 AD) which is written on a plaque in front of his tomb in Durham Cathedral. The late John Munks (1940-2019), for many years a Reader at St. Mary's, kept a handwritten copy of the prayer on a card in his Bible. It is a lovely prayer to say before or after reading the Bible at home or in church.

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July Magazine Deadline: Saturday, 20th June 2026

Please send submissions to:
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BEAM HEATH ESTATE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN

THAT THE TRUSTEES OF BEAM HEATH WILL HOLD A

MEETING

IN THE PARISH HALL, NANTWICH

ON WEDNESDAY 24th June, 2026

Between the Hours of 3.00 p.m. and 4.30 p.m. ~ 6.00 p.m. and 7.00 p.m.

FOR THE PURPOSE OF

HEARING CLAIMS

By inhabitant householders resident in the area of the Urban District of Nantwich (as originally constituted), who claim to be qualified to participate in the distribution of the surplus monies of the Trust and whose claims have not been previously admitted.

A claim to participate in the present distribution, made after the above mentioned date, will not be considered by the Trustees.

Any person claiming to be entitled to the benefit of Beam Heath should:-

1. Bring proof that he/she is a householder in the above area (rates demands or rent books are suitable proof).
2. **AND EITHER**
   (a) Bring proof of having been such a householder for a period of seven years OR
   (b) **Bring proof that your home at birth was within such area by means of a full Birth Certificate showing parents' home address. SHORT CERTIFICATES not showing home address are insufficient OR**
   (c) Bring proof of having previously been a recipient and, having left the area and having returned, of being a resident householder again in the area for a period of at least two years.

The Beam Heath designated area is the Urban District of Nantwich as originally constituted. All documentary evidence including Birth Certificates must be produced before the meeting closes.

JOHN C. PERCIVAL

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including

South Pacific
West Side Story
The Phantom of the Opera
The Sound of Music



Sarah Helsby Hughes – Soprano

Simon Russell – Piano

John Naylor – Conductor

St Mary's Church, Nantwich

Saturday 27 June 2026, 7.00 pm

Tickets £15, Students £5
Available from:
The Civic Hall, Nantwich
All Choir Members and at the door
Online at: WeGotTickets.com
www.nantwichchoral.org.uk **Registered Charity No: 516572**

Church News

Christian Aid Week (10th-16th May)

Thank you to all those who donated to Christian Aid and to those who helped with the collection in the Market Square. At the time of the Count (18th May) Churches Together in Nantwich raised £1724.04. This is anticipated to rise to £1924.44 with Gift Aid. This figure includes the Saturday Town Collection of £298.38 and donations made online via the CTiN portal. A final figure will be presented to Churches Together at its next meeting.



David Taylor and Margaret Kavanagh collecting on the Square.

Growing in Grace

Everyone should have received one of these booklets. There are copies at the back of church.
Growing in Faith: What new opportunities might you consider?
Growing in Service: So many interesting ways to get involved.
Growing in Generosity: Thank you to those (relatively few) who have responded, amounting to a £3370pa increase in planned giving. If people who are already giving regularly could consider an inflation increase it would make a significant difference.

Public Notice

Library Window - notices are posted at the back of church and outside on the noticeboard opposite the south porch.

What is Cursillo?

Many questions are answered and the Archbishop of Canterbury's own description of Cursillo can be seen in a display in the St. Nicholas' Chapel.

Friday Place of Welcome

10am-1pm each week in the Parish Hall. Enjoy friendly company and free light refreshments.

Rest in Peace - Rita Johnson



Deborah and I first met Rita when, almost 40 years ago, we lived in the same road in a small village outside Tunbridge Wells. Who would have thought that 22 years later we would be living in Nantwich and worshipping together at St. Mary's. I was privileged to officiate at the funeral of our good friend on 1st May.

Rita was a feisty, independent, and intelligent woman. She often had strong views, but she was always compassionate and generous with her time. She liked to be busy and was rarely still for long. A wonderful cook, her meringues, pies and trifles were legendary. She loved gardening, reading, art, playing the piano and shopping, and greatly enjoyed sharing these interests with others. She also loved socialising, going on holiday with friends and nurturing long-standing friendships that meant so much to her.

Rita was born in Wolverhampton in 1937 and often said how much she loved school, so it came as no surprise that she went on to train as a primary school teacher at Whitelands College in London. Teaching allowed her to share her love of learning as well as her passion for music. She enjoyed a long and fulfilling teaching career in schools across the West Midlands, Bath, Kent, and Brussels.

Faith was central to Rita's life, and being part of a church community was a constant source of strength for her. From meeting Keith at St. Jude's Church in Wolverhampton, where they were married, to becoming active members of churches wherever they lived, her faith always mattered deeply to her.

Rita trained to be a Lay Reader and was licensed at Rochester Cathedral. She then exercised her ministry at Worcester, St. Martin's and here in Nantwich. She would always be found on a Sunday morning chatting to friends in church, seeking out those on their own and welcoming strangers.

When Rita decided that the time was right to lay down her Reader ministry, she continued to lead intercessions and was, for some time, the treasurer of St. Mary's branch of the Mothers' Union.

Time and again, people have spoken of her kindness, generosity, warmth, and sincere friendship. So, as we remember her today, we do so as the vibrant, strong, caring, and enthusiastic person she was - a woman who touched the lives of many and who will be deeply missed

Stephen Snelling



Sunday 26th July 2026, St Mary's Nantwich

Pimm's from 5.30pm **Hymns at 6pm**

Free entry Cash or card for drinks

Everyone welcome!

Raise a glass and joyfully sing the top 10 hymns!

Vote now for your favourite hymns

£1 per vote - unlimited votes per person

Voting forms available in church and from the Parish Office

Wednesday Evening Homegroup

The group has continued to meet weekly and our times together have included great fellowship, and comprised of Bible study, prayer times, social times and food!

We are a group who prayerfully support each other and help each other when needed. Beth, Angie & John Rivers continue to host and lead. We also greatly value the occasions of reflection and communion that Brian Statham provides at times.

As we moved into 2025, we dipped into the Old Testament studying the book of Micah. This took us up to Lent, during which season we looked at Jesus' final days before the Cross. After Easter we bravely took on Revelation 1-3, exploring Christ's call to the Church through 7 different churches in the province of Asia, now Turkey.

During the summer we engaged with the Church of England's "We Believe" study, exploring the Nicene Creed. We were challenged in the Autumn by a Life Guide course on "Integrity - living the Truth", prior to moving into a Wycliffe Advent course "The Weary World Rejoices".

We arrived at 2026 with the updated version of Andrew Ollerton's Bible Course, which we all benefitted from and enjoyed. We look forward to our journey together through the rest of 2026.



Angie Bartlett

Encounter Supper



Janice (centre) with fellow servers Penny and Emma

At Encounter Supper on 3rd May thirty people gathered around the dinner table to hear Janice Mills speak about her life.

Janice became a Christian at the age of 50 but had always had a relationship with God and she reflected on aspects of her earlier life that shaped who she is today. She grew up in the Potteries with loving parents and considered herself to be a "late developer". She left school at 15 to work as an Office Junior. In her twenties she felt a hunger for learning and obtained qualifications at night school which enabled her to go to university and study computer science before working in that industry.

In 1996 her husband Rob sadly died of cancer but his physical decline had been accompanied by a strengthening of faith. It was a very difficult period for Janice with two young sons to care for, a stressful job and the death of her Dad too. She took a career break for two years before moving into a rewarding role in FE teaching.

At 50 and after further loss when her Mum died, the arrival of an Alpha invitation was life changing. She asked Jesus into her life and felt filled with the Holy Spirit which led to confirmation and more involvement in church life.

Janice has been able to relate her experiences of God's guidance to the five principals of the Alpha course. She recalled a time she dreamt of there being a breakfast club running at her church. She shared this with a church friend and the vicar and was inspired to set up the Big Breakfast at Church and eleven years on it is still going strong.

It was twenty years ago that Janice first considered fostering, the time wasn't right but the idea stayed with her and six years later after coincidently spotting three signs in Crewe that said, "Fostering brings joy", she pursued being a foster carer. After providing safety, care, love and routine to foster children on a full-time basis, Janice is now a respite foster carer.

Janice joined St. Mary's in 2023 and is currently training as an altar server. Everyone enjoyed the evening and appreciated Janice's openness and honesty in sharing her story in a moving and insightful way. *Carole Tilt*



A Day at the Palace

I woke up early on Wednesday, 6th May to find an alert on my phone: derailment near Wolverhampton, major disruption expected in the whole area. As it happened, Avanti West Coast served us well. Punctual and seated is all you need.

That was the easy part. It was less clear that we would get through the palace gates. I had been informed by Bishop's House about six weeks earlier that I had been nominated to attend a King's Garden Party, along with a guest – Karen, of course. We should expect to receive a formal invitation by post, and passes for admittance, but nothing had arrived. Instead we had an e-mail to show on arrival.

All the security checking takes place in a large cordoned area outside the main gates. The first checkpoint is easy – look confident and walk on. At the second checkpoint we were taken to one side while the others flowed through. A member of staff made a phone call and after about five minutes we were allowed to the next stage – the walk-through metal detector.



The King & Queen returning to the palace.

This time it is just Karen who is taken to one side, by a heavily armed officer asking to search her bag. "Do you have a submachine gun in there?" he joked. To be fair, he understood that a lady's handbag is larger on the inside than on the outside, and quickly realised he didn't have time to get to the bottom.

It then takes quite a while to get everyone through the gates and under a narrow archway to the garden. About 8000 people attend each of the three Buckingham Palace garden parties each year. Ours was for "frontline workers" and there was a good representation from the armed forces, emergency services, local government – and the clergy.

Many guests had done their homework and understood that you are meant to form lanes leading from the palace through which the royals walk. We happened to land on the front row of a side lane, and word got down the line that the Queen was to pass by. And so she did, granting each of us a handshake.

The next goal was the tea tent, where we arrived via a tour of the lovely garden. Laden with tea, cakes and sandwiches, we were glad to find a place between the lake and the bandstand where we could sit and enjoy good music, food, and people-watching. There was a very lovely, warm, easy atmosphere about the event.



The battenburg was eye-catching.



The Band of the Royal Marines.

"Why were you invited?" people have asked me, sometimes appearing a little too surprised. Longevity, good behaviour, luck of the draw – who knows? If you get the opportunity, just take it, and enjoy a memorable day.

Mark Hart



Cows and Crops to Deeper Things

Helen Rutter, the Lead and Co-ordinator for the Cheshire Agricultural Chaplaincy (Agchap) spoke at the May breakfast on 16th May. She is a farmer and leads a team of full-time/part-time farmers, clergy and volunteers.

The Cheshire Agchap covers all of Cheshire and Wirral, providing 24/7 support. It gives a free, confidential service, a listening ear, pastoral care and connections to other organisations. There is a higher rate of suicide amongst farmers than in the general population. The pressures come from many quarters: long hours, government regulations, family (eg. disputes), loneliness, livestock, climate and global instabilities.

Reach out before you hit the bottom of the cliff

"Farmers are bad they don't go to the doctor" says Helen. She thinks the strongest thing to do is to ask for help when you need it. She uses an analogy of a V-shaped geese skein and the birds honking. The front ones keep going, but some at the back signal – when you are tired, I'll take a turn – when the ones at the front are exhausted, they can rely on others to take over.

During Covid Cheshire Agchap lunches stopped and Helen realised what a difference the lunches had been making as her doorstep chats became longer and people opened up about problems for themselves and for others. The lunches are now up and running again and create good opportunities for conversations to flow quickly from cows and crops to deeper things.

Taking mental health issues seriously

Helen is pleased to see that mental health issues are being taken seriously by the NFU, Reaseheath and Cheshire Young Farmers. Mental Health Ambassadors have been appointed. But a big challenge is connecting with people and reducing the stigma of mental health issues. From anxiety and depression to bipolar disorder or psychosis is a long continuum, but it's a scary topic and frightens people. "Your mind can be your best friend and your worst enemy" says Helen.

Helen is keen to deliver awareness of mental health issues and to facilitate grass roots support to do things differently.



"Which Way Forward"

One of those initiatives is "Which Way Forward" which moves the name away from mental health and creates opportunities for talking about the realities of farming face-to-face in a relaxed atmosphere. An event at Tattenhall took place earlier this year.

The social side of markets has been lost in Cheshire, now there are no longer any livestock markets. Hence Cheshire Agchap orchestrates events to encourage socialising for the farming community to connect with others. These have included visits to JCB, Anderton Boat Lift, a river cruise, carol services and skittles nights, as well as the lunches. Cheshire Agchap is also visible with its Living Well Bus at shows such as the Nantwich Show and the Cholmondeley Ploughing Match.

A season for everything

Helen's mantra is to build resilience, not just respond to crises. She refers to Ecclesiastes 3: 1-8, "a season for every activity under heaven" and says that whilst famers know the seasons better than most, it's important that they don't try and do everything themselves. Also to Galatians 2: 6 "Carry each other's burdens" marking Cheshire Agchap as having a key role in this as well as the farming community to notice when others are struggling and to recognise when they themselves need help.

The God word

When asked about the "God word", Helen told us that faith is not pushed, unless specifically asked for. The biggest C is for caring.

Helen concluded by thanking St. Mary's for its ongoing financial support to the Cheshire Agchap.

The St. Christopher Chorale

The Chorale was founded in 1986 by Philip Crookall who brought together singers from various churches in South Cheshire with the aim of taking choral music into churches which may have no choir, or would welcome a visiting choir occasionally, to lead the congregation in choral services, be it the Eucharist, Mattins or Evensong.

In the last 40 years the Chorale have sung 546 services in 140 different churches and cathedrals in the Chester Diocese and beyond and also Paris, Prague and Palma Majorca. The Chorale has sung at St. Mary's 10 times, the first time being in 1989.



So, on 17th May, to celebrate their 40th anniversary, they sang Choral Eucharist at St. Bertoline's Church, Barthomley. The Communion setting, dedicated to Philip and the Chorale, had been specially composed by George Robey, the Chorale's organist for the last 32 years.

Simon Russell and Lyndon Hills also play the organ for the Chorale on occasions.

Over lunch in the village hall afterwards, the choir were joined by former members and this lovely occasion also enabled a celebration of Philip's 90th birthday which was on 24th May. Philip attends the 8am service at St. Mary's.

The St Christopher Chorale will sing Choral Evensong at St Mary's on **Sunday, 30th August** at 6pm.



Photographs taken at St. Bertoline's on 17th May.

Mothers' Union News

On Tuesday, 19th May at 11.30am, St. Mary's Nantwich welcomed 12 attendees to our Mothers' Union Wave of Prayer Service held in St. George's Chapel. So, what is the Wave of Prayer exactly. The Mothers' Union Wave of Prayer is a continuous chain of prayer, happening not just here in this country but in 84 countries. Imagine, 4 million members worldwide, uniting across the globe in a shared commitment to uphold families and communities. This global initiative fosters solidarity and spiritual connection as members pray for each other and for the needs of the wider community. Our given slot in this continuous chain of prayer was from 11.30am to 12noon.

Chester Diocese is linked to 5 Dioceses worldwide. These are Grahamstown (South Africa), Masasi (Tanzania), Afikpo (Nigeria), Wiawso (Ghana West) and Northern Argentina. A specific prayer was read for each of these.

We had 10 members from Nantwich, Jenny Lynne from Wybunbury and David Taylor who helped with the setup of St. George's Chapel.

We had a visual aid of a world map and blue tea lights. As each prayer was spoken a light was placed in situ on the map. We also placed lights on areas that we felt needed prayer and mentioned these by name. We remembered our 3 Nantwich Branch members Dorothy Relton, Pat Stalker and Rita Johnson who sadly passed recently.



Anne Taylor led our service. The hymn "Brother Sister let me serve you" was sung beautifully, without accompaniment. We had two gospel readings and prayers. It was a heart-warming event.

On 19th June we are visiting Norbury Branch. They are celebrating the 150th anniversary of Mothers' Union with a concert performed by the Singing Waiters from the Poynton Male Voice Choir. Our theme for the year is "JOIN US AND JOIN IN". You are welcome to join in at our next members meeting on 17th July at 2.15pm. The speaker will be Penny Allen, and the subject is "Spirituality of Teapots".

Stories Worth Telling

We are all unique individuals, loved by God, and everyone has a story worth telling – this was the premise of the Stories Worth Telling Encounter Explore held on Saturday, 23rd May.

The Human Library featured 14 volunteers who had each prepared a 5 minute talk about a story from their lives. Visitors borrowed a "human book" and were enthralled as they sat and listened to insightful stories.



A display in the chancel created by Rector Mark showcased the Story of Christ using beautiful images from within our church building.



The "One in a Million" exhibit used grains of rice to represent the members of St. Mary's, the population of Nantwich and the population of Cheshire as well as showing the world population counter on the screen, and it promoted reflection on our uniqueness.



Noah's Ark filled with cuddly animals made an impressive centrepiece and really brought the Bible story to life. Younger visitors enjoyed engaging with Bible stories including; rowing the boat whilst thinking about how Jesus calmed the storm, searching for the lost sheep and trying on Joseph's coat. The giant 7m long Bible encouraged everyone to explore the 66 books of scripture.

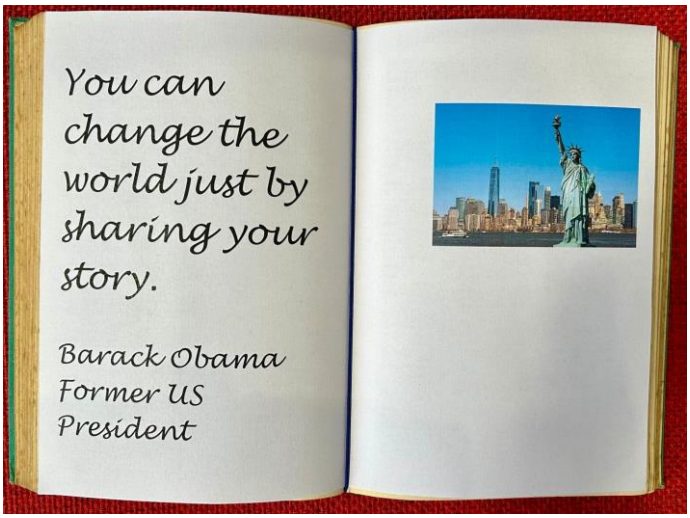
Many visitors commented on how moving they found the "In My Shoes" display as they opened the shoe boxes and read the stories of the owners of the shoes.



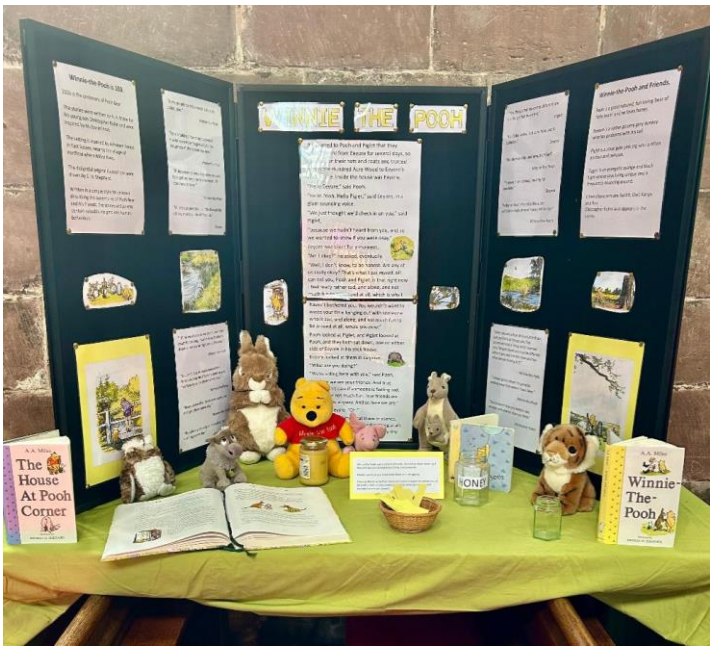
The story of Pentecost used brightly coloured windmills to help visitors ponder the Holy Spirit and included the verse, "they were filled with the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2: 4) in 30 different languages.



Other activities included chance to be creative with colouring in characters, fingerprint art and crafting your own story. There was opportunity for prayer using coloured ribbons.



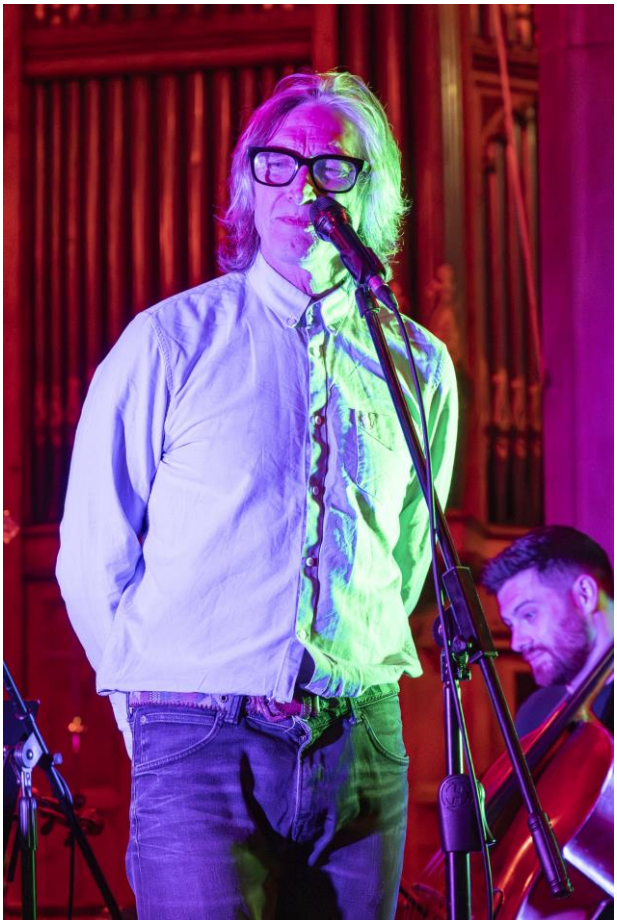
A selection of powerful quotes about story telling displayed within vintage books and a celebration of the centenary of Winnie-the-Pooh completed the exhibits.



Stories Worth Telling took place on a glorious sunny day and there was a constant flow of visitors through the church with around 500 people attending.

Carole Tilt

News in Pictures



As part of Nantwich Roots Festival, poet, Mike Garry and the Cassia String Quartet performed to over 200 people (some of whom had travelled a fair distance) in church on 13th May. It was a unique collaboration of poetry and classical music, some composed especially by Philip Glass. Mike was very entertaining in his introductions to the pieces and in his banter with the musicians and the audience. With outstretched arms he offered up a photo opportunity for being in the church. He performed one of his popular poems: St. Anthony (not the Portuguese priest) but: An ode to Anthony H Wilson (the late founder of Factory Records, and former Granada Reports presenter for the northwest regional news programme).

Annie Coombs



On Saturday, 16th May the Band & Drums of the Cheshire Constabulary visited St. Mary's and performed in the well for over an hour to hundreds of people gathered at the top of the steps. The weather was uncertain but the rain held off throughout. The band played a variety of popular and less well known pieces, and there were lovely solo performances, all directed by David Woollam. The Cheshire Police Band are regular visitors to Nantwich, and will be with us again on Remembrance Sunday, and for a Christmas Concert in 2027.





Congratulations ...





to St. Mary's Bellringers who won first place in both the novice and open striking competitions of the South Cheshire Branch at St. Luke's Goostrey on Saturday, 16th May. L to R: Becky Williams, Roger Boyles, George Basford, Nicola Basford, Fanny Weiss, Claire Jordan, David Allman, Diana Boyles, Denis Taylor.

and to Molly Bridgewood and Zachary Cross, married at St Mary's on Friday, 22nd May.

Forthcoming Events

Summer Lunchtime Concerts

The 2026 season begins on **Thursday, 28th May** at 12.30pm in church with Leora Cohen and accompanist (Violin and Piano). Admission free. Retiring collection. Full details of the full series of concert can be found on p. 25.

Community Choir

Join us for an evening of singing for fun at the next Community Choir Singing on **Monday, 1st June**, 7-8.30pm in church. Sign up at the back of church or contact Alison Phillips (07891 620678).

A Celebration of Simon & Garfunkel

with Tim Chu and Ian Bailey, **Saturday, 6th June**, 7.30pm in St. Mary's. Tickets available from the Parish Office. or *https://www.ticketsource.com/timtone-productions/a-celebration-of-simon-garfunkel/e-ovrxlx*



ST MARYS NANTWICH

Hog Roast and Treasure Hunt



St Mary's Church Parish Hall

Includes supper and treasure hunt prize!
Bring your own drinks. Hot drinks and squash will be available.

Saturday 20th June 2026, 4pm-8pm

Cash/Online payments - Adults £10, Children £5 by Tuesday 16th June

Please let us know 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/hog-roast-and-treasure-hunt-31269
3. Or scan the QR code below.

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



Teddy Bears' Picnic

Saturday, 13th June, 11am-1pm in the Rectory Garden next to St. Mary's Church. Please bring your own picnic and teddy or soft toy. We'll entertain you with toys, singing and biscuits. Please let the office know if you would like to attend.

June Breakfast and Beyond

The June breakfast will take place on **Saturday, 20th June** at 8.30am at The Tea Lounge at the Nantwich Football Stadium. As usual sign up in church or phone the office by midday on **Wednesday, 17th June**. If you book we have to pay. The speaker will be Seona Simms talking about the history of sewing, her own sewing story and sharing with us her current quilt project which depicts important moments of her mother's life. We're hoping Seona's Mum will be able to attend.

We then take a two-month break, so there are no Church breakfasts in July and August. The next date for your diaries is **Saturday, 19th September**.

Hog Roast and Treasure Hunt

Saturday, 20th June, 4-8pm in the Parish Hall - see previous page. Adults £10, Children £5. Includes supper and treasure hunt prize! Bring your own drinks. Hot drinks and squash will be available. Cash/Online payments by **Tuesday, 16th June** to either the Parish Office or *https://pay.collctiv.com/hog-roast-and-treasure-hunt-31269*

Nantwich Choral Society, Songs from the Shows

Saturday, 27th June, 7pm in church. Tickets £15, Students £5 available from the Civic Hall, pay on the door or *WeGotTickets.com*

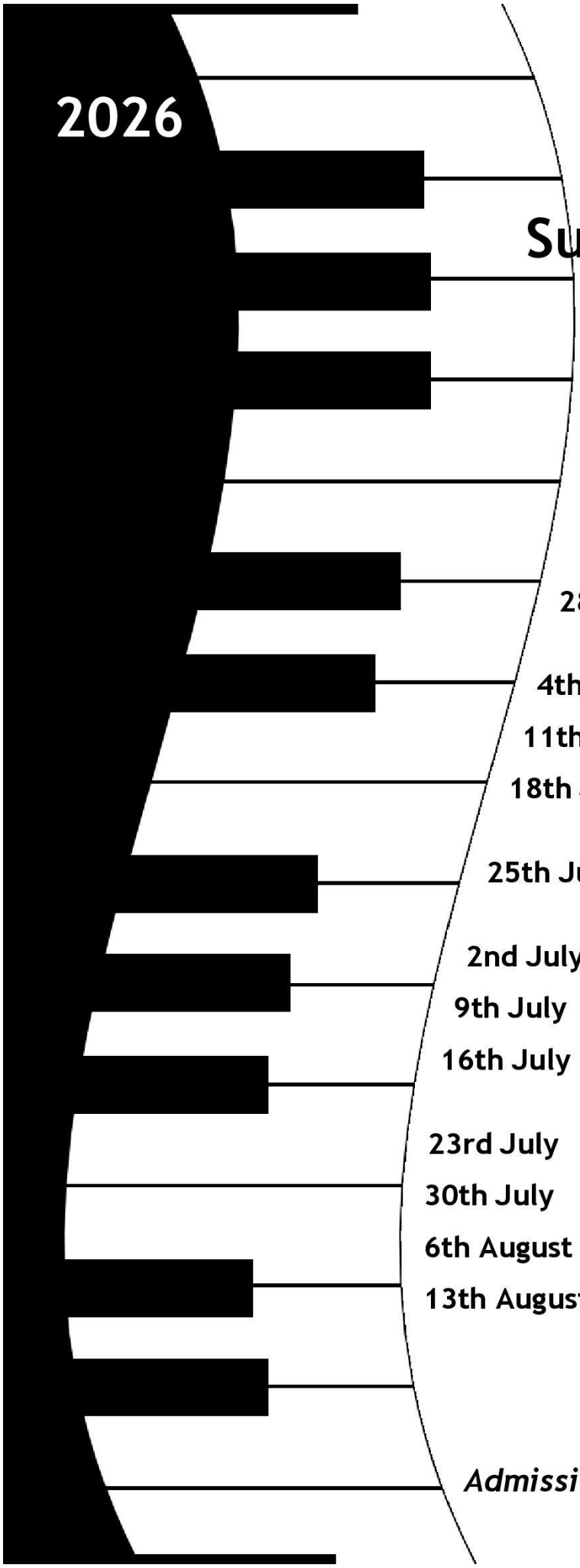
St. Mary's Summer Fair

This will be held on **Saturday, 11th July**, 10am-2pm. **Please can you help? We would like:**

- Donations of Raffle & Tombola prizes
- Books (novels) & Jigsaws
- Handbags, Scarves & Jewellery
- High Class Bric-a-brac
- Homemade Cakes & Produce
- Toys & Games

Any help to staff the stalls will be most welcome. Sign-up sheets are available at the back of church. Please bring donations for the stalls to the office. **Thank you for your support.**

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



ST MARYS
NANTWICH

Summer Lunchtime Concerts 2026

Thursdays 12.30-1.15pm

28th May	Leora Cohen (Violin) Ariel Lanyi (Piano)
4th June	Alexia Eleftheriadou (Piano)
11th June	Nantwich Chamber Ensemble
18th June	Students from Chetham's School of Music
25th June	Benedict Holland (Viola) John Gough (Piano)
2nd July	Nantwich Singers
9th July	Tim Sagar (Organ)
16th July	Alison Loram (Violin) Christopher Symons (Piano)
23rd July	Northerly Winds
30th July	Stage Serenade
6th August	Richard Haslam (Classical Guitar)
13th August	Simon Russell (Organ)

Admission Free ***Retiring Collection***

Wonder

As I sit looking at the garden I see beauty. The colours are wonderful and the birds are busy. We have blue tits nesting in the garden at the moment and they fly so fast that we miss seeing them if we blink. They are very busy feeding their young. It is a time for planting the summer flowers and the variety of greens in the hedges is amazing.

We can wander through life with wonder in our hearts but do we lose the wonder of childhood? Children experience everything for the first time and wonder at the things they see and experience. As adults we often lose this sense of wonder at the beauty around us and think "I have seen all this before". What we miss! It is important for our wellbeing that each day we look at our world as if for the first time. We need to keep the wonder of a child as we go about our daily tasks and learn from new experiences.

The world news can be depressing. We need hope and an appreciation of what good things we have. Look at the faces around us or those we pass as we go around town. So many are sad - so many down turned mouths. Life in this country is so much better than in many places around the world. We have amazing health care. Nothing is perfect but we can pray for more honest co-operation for good as a contrast to dishonest, selfish actions.

We know that the meaning of Ascensiontide is that Jesus is universal. He is with us now and not restricted to one area of one country as he was when he was alive. God is with us in his universe. He commanded us to love one another as he has loved us. What a difference there would be if the resources we have were shared more equally; if the Love of God, our creator, was allowed to fill the world. This is what Pentecost is all about because it is up to us to spread the good news.

Be optimistic, whatever your circumstances, and fill your life with a sense of wonder at the beauty around and at God's gift of the universe in which we all live.

Dot Roxby

From the Registers: April 2026

Holy Baptism

We welcome you into the Lord's family

26th	Theodore Lawton
26th	Orsolya Sankey
26th	Elijah Roberts

Holy Matrimony

Bless these thy servants

10th	Audie Beresford & Diane Walsh
29th	Curtis Fox & Jade Blairs

Funerals

May they rest in peace and rise in glory

2nd	John (Jack) Corbett (100)
10th	Alfred Moreton (78)
15th	Ruth Evans (69)
16th	Keith Cafferty (87)
17th	David Turner (82)
22nd	Patricia (Pat) Stalker (92)
23rd	John Oliver (78)

Readings for June 2026

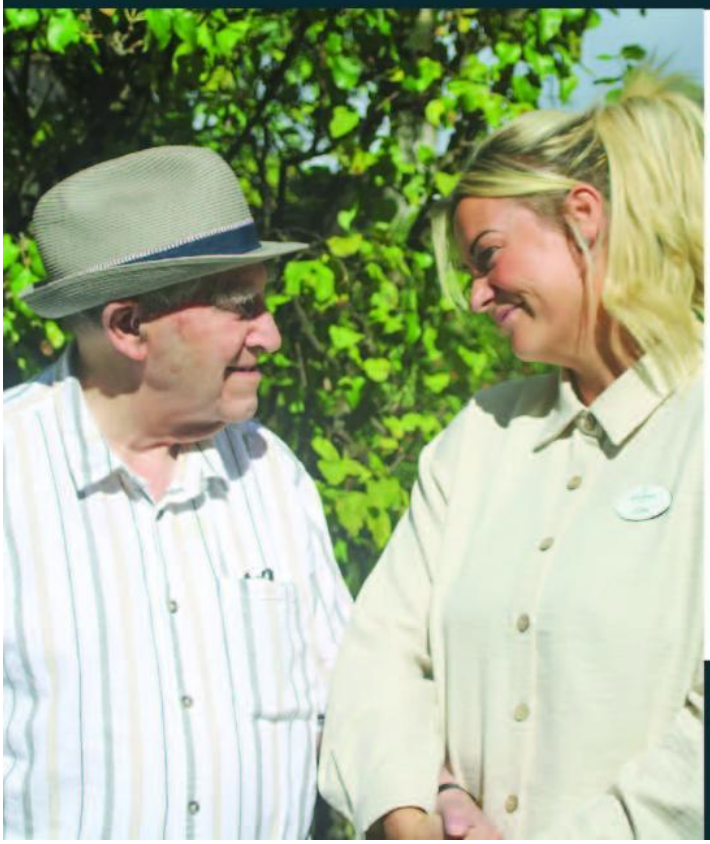
7th June *(1st Sunday after Trinity)*	Romans 4: 13-25 Matthew 9: 9-13,18-26
14th June *(2nd Sunday after Trinity)*	Romans 5: 1-8 Matthew 9: 35–10: 8
21st June *(3rd Sunday after Trinity)*	Romans 6: 1b-11 Matthew 10: 24-39
28th June *(4th Sunday after Trinity)*	Romans 6: 12-23 Matthew 10: 40-42

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	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
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
	12.30pm	Lunchtime Concert
	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
	7.30pm	FNL
Saturday	8.30am	Morning Prayer
	8.30am	St. Mary's Breakfast (3rd Saturday)
	10.00am	Concordia Practice in church

Experience Days at Belong Crewe



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Contact us today to arrange a 'taster' session

T: **01270 561 200**
E: **enquiries@belong.org.uk**

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	The Rectory, Nantwich CW5 5RQ	
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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	
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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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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

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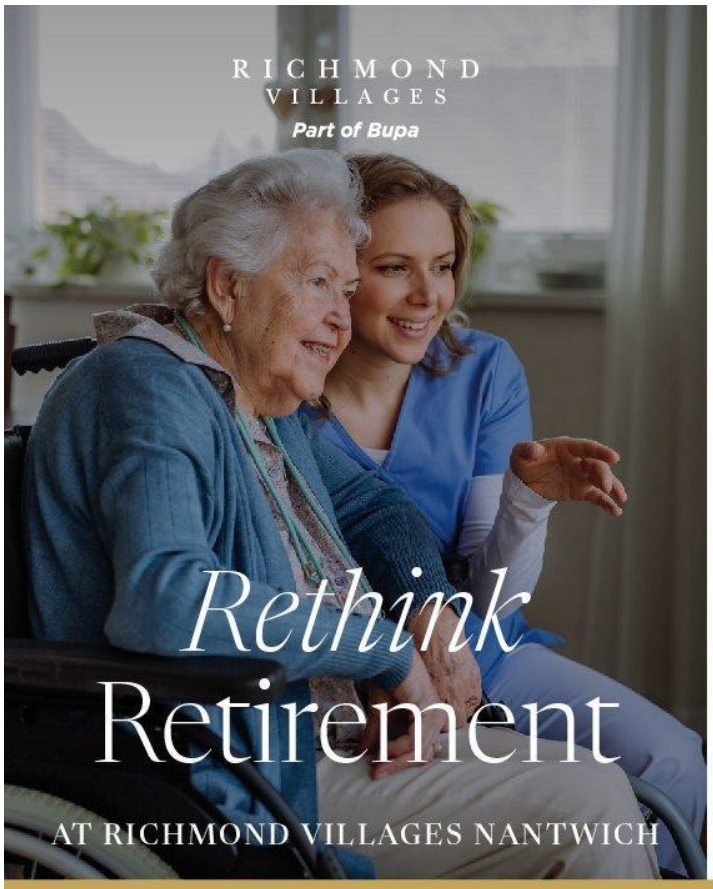
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Special Services & Events Calendar May-October 2026

June	6th	Celebration of Simon & Garfunkel in church, 7.30pm
	17th	Sound Bath in church, 7.15pm
	20th	St. Mary's Breakfast at Nantwich Football Club, 8.30am
		Hog Roast & treasure Hunt, Parish Hall 4-8pm
	21st	Encounter Explore in church, 7-9pm
	27th	Nantwich Choral Society Concert in church, 7.00pm
	28th	Choral Evensong, 6pm
July	4th	Encounter Church Walk
		Youth Spanish Baroque Ensemble in church
	11th	Summer Fair in Parish Hall/Church grounds 10am-2pm
	15th	Everyday Faith Podcast Event in church, 7pm
	26th	Hymns and Pimm's, 6pm
	29th	Nantwich Show at Reaseheath
August	6th	Mothers' Union Summer Fundraiser Cream Tea, 2-4pm
	13th	Final Lunchtime Concert of the 2026 series
	16th	Encounter Supper in the Parish Hall, 7.15pm
	30th	Choral Evensong (St. Christopher Chorale) 6pm
September	4-6th	Food Festival Weekend
	4th	Food Festival Refreshments, 2-4pm, Parish Hall/Grounds
	5th	Food Festival Refreshments, 10am-2pm, Hall/Grounds
	19th	St. Mary's Breakfast at Nantwich Football Club, 8.30am
	20th	Encounter Explore in the Parish Hall, 7.15pm
	26th	Concordia Concert in church, 3pm
October	7th	Sound Bath in church, 7.15pm
	10th	Candlelight concert in church, 7.30pm
	11th	Harvest Festival
	14th	Words & Music Concert
	17th	St. Mary's Breakfast at Nantwich Football Club, 8.30am
		Nantwich Singers Come and Sing Day, 12noon
	24th	Encounter Explore Day in church