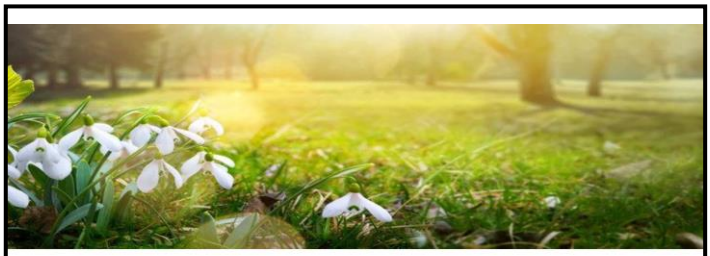
ST MARYS
NANTWICH

May 2026





A.W.Burrows & Son

Independent Family Funeral Directors

ESTABLISHED: 1841

Complete Funeral Arrangements, Funeral Plans Arranged,
Personal Day and Night Service,
Private Chapel of Rest in Peaceful Rural Surroundings.
Snowdrop Villa, Swanley, Nantwich, Cheshire, CW5 8QB

Tel: 01270 524243 / 07711468917

Email :info@awburrows.com

www.awburrowsnantwich.co.uk

MEMBER SAIF INDEPENDENT FUNERAL DIRECTORS

Would you like to advertise here?

Please contact
St. Mary's Parish Office:
01270 625268 or
office@stmarysnantwich.org.uk
for further details

TEACHING SINCE 2010

YOGA

7PM TUESDAY

PARISH HALL



TIME FOR YOU

FRIENDLY GROUP

CLASSES FOR ALL ABILITIES

IMPROVED WELLBEING



CONTACT RUSSELL

SOY@YOGA-BIJA.ME.UK

07712 610 120

YOGA-BIJA.ME.UK



KEEP YOUR SOFAS & CARPETS FRESH, BRIGHT & BEAUTIFUL WITH SAFECLEAN

Established in 1965, Safeclean has been the trusted professional upholstery and carpet cleaners for nearly 60 years. Safeclean Nantwich is your local, expert company run by Dave Harrison. With the aim of delivering excellent customer service as well as first class cleaning solutions, Dave has been keeping local homes clean and stain free for the last decade.

Contact Dave at Safeclean Nantwich for a free, no obligation quote:
Call: 07944 486 173 or 01270 382059 or 01978 504173
dave@safeclean.co.uk or visit **www.safeclean.co.uk/nantwich-wrexham**

Front cover: *Melanie C performing in St. Mary's on Monday, 27th April. Full report on p. 26. Photo: Jonathan White*



From the Rector

This month we celebrate the Ascension, Pentecost and Trinity Sunday. Christ is glorified, and we are free. St. Paul says, "For you did not receive again a spirit of slavery to fear, but rather received a spirit of adoption in which we cry, 'Abba, Father!'"

We should not be afraid. Slaves are afraid, and we are not slaves. We are sons and daughters of God. This Gospel of Jesus Christ broke into a world riddled with power struggles and ruled by fear at every level and it said to everyone, have none of it. Don't let anyone grind you down.

Are you a slave? You belong to God, you are a royal son or daughter, and your master can do nothing about it. Are you a woman? You stand in Christ's place – whatever men may say. Are you young? God hangs on your every word, especially when you're told to shut up. Are you old? Your armchair is a throne – and whoever stands before you owes you honour because you share the divine majesty.

If only the world could stop grasping onto power. If only we could stop using power to diminish the power of others. The only power God has is the power to give. For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son.

The first Christians came to know God in just this way. The Father giving the Son. The Son giving himself to the Father. The Spirit given to the world. They themselves being caught up in this life, given to God and given to each other in the Body of Christ.

That's the mystery of the blessed Trinity, which the Church came to speak of, not as a technical theological puzzle but as a way of making sense of a new way of knowing and loving God and each other.

We are far too conditioned into thinking of God as the boss, the supreme power, the ultimate controller. But God is not a power over this world, a force in competition with any other agent in the world. God's action is simply to be God, to be love. And that love is what gives us life and draws us to share his life.

To know God is therefore to know how to use power in this world. It is to know how to live by the power of love, which casts out fear.

Mark Hart (Rector)

Oxley's
Funeral Services

Family Owned and Serving the Community for Three Generations

Caring & Dedicated Funeral Directors providing a Complete 24 Hour Service

Individually tailored funerals at competitive prices to meet your personal requirements



- Diplomas in Funeral Arranging & Administration NAFD Dip. FAA
- Finance Available
- Monumental Masonry
- Pre-Paid Funeral Plans

CREWE
01270 214009
Cumberland House
Market Close

NANTWICH
01270 625230
32 Pillory Street
Nantwich

enquiries@oxleysfuneralservices.co.uk
www.oxleysfuneralservices.co.uk
Serving Nantwich, Crewe and all Surrounding Areas

ST MARYS
NANTWICH

June Magazine Deadline: Wednesday, 20th May 2026

Please send submissions to:
mah4now@yahoo.com

Mary's
Mobile Hairdressing

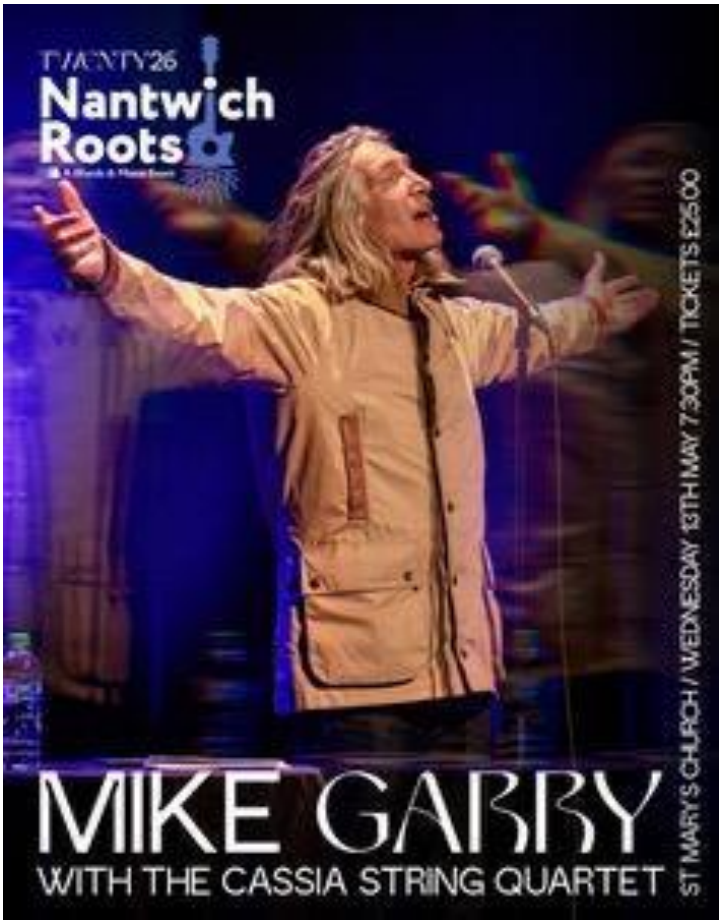
Mary has been working in the industry for 25 years and specialises in mature ladies hair styles.

Call today to book an appointment in the comfort of your own home.

Covering the Nantwich and surrounding area.

Call 07890 096 249







Pray for the Middle East and the Gulf

I am writing this just after Easter, with the joy of Jesus' Resurrection. There is war in the Middle East and the Gulf where the outcome is not clear at all. There is the hope for an end; but at the same time belligerent messages from the US, Israel and Iran suggest this may not be soon.

I am a supporter of SAT-7 UK whose Mission is to provide the churches and Christians of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) an opportunity to witness to Jesus Christ. The SAT-7 International Trust locally produces inspirational, informative and educational TV & digital media services across the MENA.

By highlighting the needs of the MENA churches, SAT-7 UK seeks to encourage supporters in the UK to pray regularly, to engage actively, to provide funding and resources towards the work of this vital ministry – helping to support the broadcasting of faith-filled programmes, straight into the heart of homes, bringing joy to millions.

SAT-7 UK is a UK based charity, passionate about telling everyone that SAT-7 is making the Gospel visible to the people of the MENA.

SAT-7 has, with some interruptions, maintained broadcasting on the air in Iran and Lebanon. We pray for their staff, now and in the future.

I am reminded that during the Second World War, in January 1941 the Malvern Conference met under the presidency of Archbishop William Temple to discuss the crisis confronting civilisation in the light of the Christian Faith. Its findings were especially concerned with the relation of the Church to economic life. It was already looking forward to when that war would be over, and what positive peace would be like. So much of the welfare state was developed and implemented.

The parallel with this war in 2026 in the Middle East and the Gulf is stark. We pray that everyone involved is also able to think through how the future peace can be assured.

So we pray with SAT-7:

> *Heavenly Father, In the midst of the sounds of war and anxiety, be the refuge and shield of the people of the Middle East. Protect the innocent, comfort the broken-hearted and open a way toward justice, freedom and peace. In the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.*

Please visit *sat7uk.org/crisis*.

Paul Ramsey, Reader Emeritus

Church News

Christian Aid Week (10th-16th May)

Churches Together in Nantwich are organising Christian Aid collections during CA Week. Donation envelopes will be available in church from **Sunday, 3rd May**. Please return donations (Gift Aided if possible) by **Sunday, 17th May** and place them in the collection boxes or on the plate at the back of church. In this time of international crisis it is easy to forget the ongoing development work needed in many lands. Please be generous. **Help needed:** Volunteers are needed for the CA Week stall and collection in the Market Square on **Saturday, 16th May**, 10am and 4pm. Please sign up on the sheet at the back of church.

May Breakfast

The May breakfast will take place at The Tea Lounge, Nantwich Football Stadium at 8.30am on **Saturday, 16th May**. See p. 17 for details.

Community Choir

Join us for an evening of singing for fun at the next Community Choir Singing on **Monday, 18th May** and **Monday, 1st June**, 7-8.30pm in church. Sign up at the back of church or contact Alison Phillips (07891 620678).

Mothers' Union Wave of Prayer

You are welcome to join Mothers' Union members on **Tuesday, 19th May**, 11.30-12noon in St. George's Chapel. We will be praying for the work of Mothers' Union across the world as part of a chain of prayer. This is St. Mary's part of the daily commitment by Mothers' Union members worldwide to pray for each other.

Growing in Grace

These booklets are available from the back of church and Electoral Roll members should now have received one. It is an encouragement to growth in faith, service, and giving. Thank you to all who have responded so far. Please support St. Mary's by considering how you may respond.

Steward Vacancy

Are you free on a Friday morning 9.30-11am? We need a new steward on duty to welcome and guide visitors. It's a great job, and refreshments are available from Place of Welcome at this time. Please speak to the Rector if you think you can help.

Annual Meetings

Annual Meeting of Parishioners

At the Annual Meeting of Parishioners held on Wednesday, 22nd April, Phil Boxhall and Paul O'Brien were elected to be churchwardens for the year 2026-2027.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

At the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held the same day, the following were elected to be members of the Deanery Synod for three years: Jan Allotey, Bryan Coghlan, Ernie Charlton, Steve Lockett, Janet Thompson and to the PCC for three years: Belinda Coghlan, Chris Harris, Linda Lewis, Geoffrey Pearson. The following were co-opted to be members of the PCC for one year: Beth Roberts. Also members of the PCC, continuing from the previous year: Anna Burton, Debby Hallam, Mary Harris (Pastoral Worker), Mark Hart (Rector), Emma Kennedy, Jane Knight, Judith Pearson, Helen Shorrock, Jan Virr, Dot Woods (Assistant Priest). Thank you to all who serve in the various offices. See the full list at the back of church and on the website.

On Wednesday 22nd April, about 40 people attended the very well-organised annual parochial church meeting. As well as the elections, reported above, several reports were presented. Copies of the accounts and other reports for the Annual Meeting are available at the back of church and on the church website.

Church Electoral Roll Report

Rector Mark read out the 17 names of those departed in the last year who had been on the electoral roll and he reflected on so many wonderful people who have given so much to St. Mary's.

Treasurer's Report and Audited Accounts

Steve Lockett gave a very clear explanation as to the variance between budget and actual for 2025. Despite expenditure being less, income was down giving a 2025 deficit of just under £4k. The main reasons were fewer weddings than anticipated and lower stewardship. We were reminded that the appeal for more giving is one part of the "Growing in Grace" initiative that is currently underway. Mark mentioned that 12 people have responded to date but a lot more should be possible. Bryan Coghlan presented the consolidated 2025 accounts and Steve talked through the assumptions for the 2026 budget.

Churchwardens' Report including Fabric, Goods and Ornaments

In addition to the written report Phil Boxhall talked about the nature of the big active Church that is St. Mary's. He referred to specific "go to" people who help him and gave thanks to the unsung heroes who don't want the spotlight on them. He explained his practice of standing at the back of Church during services – to keep a good view in case of an emergency and also to welcome people, especially newcomers – of which there seem to be more of the younger generation. Phil encouraged people to respond to the "Growing in Grace" booklet and to be welcoming to newcomers. He had a special thank you for all the practical assistance his co-churchwarden, Paul O'Brien provides.

PCC Secretary's Report and AOB

Beth Roberts referred us to her written report which gave information on meetings and reporting. It also gave thanks to Belinda Coghlan as safeguarding officer and to the ministry team and volunteers.

At the end of the meeting, Beth paid tribute to and said thank you to Mark for his thoughtful leadership, wisdom and hard work in a demanding, challenging and extremely wide-ranging role. Those present also showed their appreciation for Mark.

Nantwich Deanery Synod Report

Bryan Coghlan, as lay chair to the Nantwich Deanery Synod, referred us to the written report. Mark also thanked Jan Allotey who is the General Synod Representative.

Safeguarding Report

Parish Safeguarding Officer, Belinda Coghlan just asked us all to read the report and the information displayed in Church and on the website. Mark emphasised the importance of us all being aware of our responsibilities vis a vis safeguarding.

Trustees Report

Mark referred us to the report, which gives factual information on objectives and activities, staff, structure, governance and management, property, achievements and performance, pastoral care and outreach to the local community, events, safeguarding and a financial review.

Rector's Report

Mark shared his thinking on thankfulness and encouragement in three areas. Firstly, to be thankful for the people at St. Mary's for all that happens here, for people's faith and dedication and for them being interesting, varied and for everything they give. Mark mentioned that all the volunteers and groups are greatly appreciated, but the Groups and Activities Report had not been produced this year. The PCC/Standing Committee were asked to reconsider this decision next year by someone who spoke during the question time.

Then thinking about encouragement, Mark mentioned being thankful for new people who are stepping over the threshold and how we should all encourage them to continue to attend services as well as all the people who join in services at Easter and Christmas.

Secondly Mark takes great encouragement from things happening in the wider nation. Even though the Bible Society statistics about increases in church attendance of the 18 to 25-year-olds are questionable, Mark sees a swell of something wider in terms of people in the public arena being open about their faith. He cited Sir Olly Robbins' recent select committee attendance when he stated that two texts he can recite from memory are the Civil Service code and the Book of Common Prayer. Mark is thankful that prominent people are unashamed about their faith and encourages us to be open about ours and to use that to welcome people.



Thirdly, and most importantly, Mark reflected on people for whom life is extremely difficult. Remembering that there are parts of the world where it is difficult to be a Christian. Revival doesn't help them. So, Mark posed the question; how can we be thankful and encourage them? It has to be through our faith, through our hope in Christ. Especially at this Eastertime when we can proclaim the good news that Christ is risen.

It Takes a Village

We often hear the saying, *"It takes a village to raise a child"*. It's a reminder that children flourish when a whole community surrounds them with care and encouragement. As a church family, we share a responsibility to help parents nurture their children in their Christian faith.

When families bring their children to St. Mary's to be baptised, how can we walk alongside them? I was inspired by the late Dorothy Relton who for numerous years nurtured families through their journey of baptism and beyond. Her commitment to help can be an inspiration to us all.



Theo, with parents Ashlee & Thomas, following his baptism on 26th April.

Most families begin by contacting the Church Office. They are then invited to our *Welcome to Baptism* session, held on the second Monday of each month at 8pm in church. These evenings give parents space to reflect on why they are seeking baptism, to explore the role of Godparents, and to learn what happens during the service. We also share examples of child-friendly Bibles and storybooks, and introduce the range of children's activities available at St. Mary's. Families can book their baptism date at the end of the session.

The journey to baptism continues with a visit to the family at their house a couple of weeks before the service. It's an opportunity for the family to ask any questions, confirm their choice of Godparents, and for them to choose a song or two and a Bible story.

Baptism services usually take place on the first and third Sundays of the month at both 2.30pm and 3.30pm though they can also happen during a regular service. There are no more than two baptism families at each session so that the service is personal. Every baptism is unique, from the age of the candidate, to the numbers of guests, the songs and readings chosen and the delightful unpredictability of children. We've baptised sleeping babies, had toys dropped in the font and Mark's glasses are an irresistible target for little fingers. At the end of the service, each child receives a certificate, candle and a book of Bible stories generously donated by the Mothers' Union.

On the Sunday following the baptism, the family are invited to attend our 9.30am service to receive a welcome from the Church family. This introduces the family to the wider congregation which I always hope they will become a part of. Finally, a year after the baptism, families receive an anniversary card to remind them of their baptism birthday.



Orsolya, with parents Steve & Laura, following her baptism on 26th April.

It takes a team of volunteers to ensure the baptism journey runs smoothly. I'm continuously grateful to Gail for printing the certificates and coordinating the initial contact with the families, Linda and Phil for playing the piano at the services and to Jane, Val, Pam, Ann, Daphne and Clare for their support at the services, but I would love to have more help. Could you visit baptism families and take them through their journey or help at the services on a Sunday afternoon? Please have a chat to me or Mark if you're interested in finding out more.

Jo McCauley

Mothers' Union News

On Friday, 17th April our Branch Members met in the Parish Hall to celebrate the 150th year of the Mothers' Union with an Afternoon Tea. We were joined by three other members from Haslington and Crewe Green Branch. Stewart Riddell and Alan Thompson kindly volunteered to work in the kitchen. They made and served tea and coffee and cleared up, so a big thank you to them. Richard Jones did our raffle, so a big thank you to him as well. Having these added volunteers freed up many committee members who were then able to enjoy the wonderful home baking and fellowship.



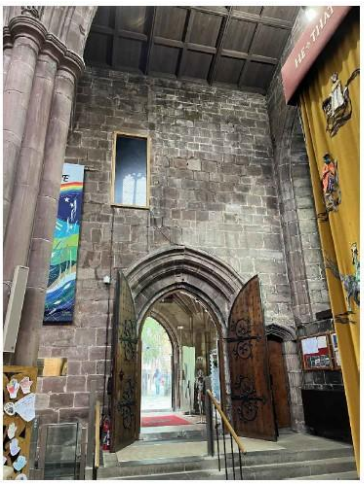
Lynne opened in prayer, remembering our two members, Rita and Pat who sadly passed away this year.

We are focusing very much on fund raising and look forward to our main event on 6th August. We will be hosting a Cream Tea from 2pm until 4pm. There will be an incredibly good raffle and a book sale. Our members are also collecting small change in jars, from May until August.



Library Window

The various elements of the interior of St. Mary's, from across the centuries, generally blend well to create a pleasing and coherent whole. For this reason, anything that is not up to standard is all the more jarring.

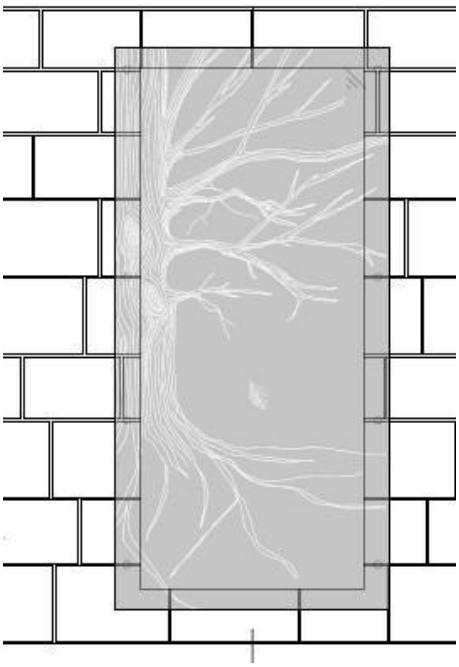




One such item is the library window, located above the south porch. It has a plain wooden frame and plain glazing.

Existing window

It currently has no practical use, though it may at one time have been a doorway from the library (formerly a priest's room) onto the balcony, when there was a balcony.



New window with oak tree illustration

The family of the late Dr. Rick Appleton, a GP in Nantwich for many decades, a committed member of St. Mary's, and for many years Chairman of the Buildings Committee of St. Mary's, are kindly donating a new window to be a piece of art dedicated in his memory.

This will be an etched piece of glass, unframed, offset from the wall, and illuminated from the inside (see drawing). The oak tree illustration will add interest and beauty, in keeping with the naturalistic imagery which fills the church, in stone, wood and glass, and makes the building (as many churches) a representation of a restored Eden.

The Diocesan Advisory Committee has approved the application and we look forward to the project being completed this year.

Nantwich in Bloom News 2026

When Winnie the Pooh was introduced to children in 1926, he was a huge success and 150,000 copies were sold by the end of 1926. Imagine the excitement of reading about Winnie the Pooh and his adventures with his friends following the brutality of World War I. The stories provided much needed comfort in a time of great sadness and reminded people of the wonder of childhood. 2026 is the centennial milestone of the publication of A A Milne's original Winnie the Pooh book wonderfully illustrated by E H Shepard.

Winnie the Pooh's first appearance by name was in a children's story commissioned by London's Evening News for Christmas Eve. The character is inspired by a stuffed toy that Milne bought for his son, Christopher Robin, in Harrods department store and a bear named Winnie they'd viewed at London Zoo. Winnie the Pooh lives in Hundred Acre Wood with Eeyore, Piglet, Tigger and many mythical beasts.

The first book, written in 1926, is "Winnie the Pooh" and this was followed by "The house at Pooh Corner" in 1928. These stories have been consistently popular for 100 years.



Milne also included a poem about a bear in the verse book "When we were very young", and many more in "Now we are six". This was my Dad's favourite book and he quoted from it often. The quotes and wise words from these stories and poems offer kindness, wisdom and love.

To celebrate 100 years of this little bear, Nantwich in Bloom are dedicating the theme of this year's displays to Winnie the Pooh. A lot of wisdom from Winnie the Pooh is carried through by the Nantwich in Bloom volunteers with the importance of friendship, the outdoors, bees and hopefully honey.

Nantwich in Bloom have started to create floral displays and there will be lots of bee friendly plants around town. We have taken "Teddy Bear" sunflower seeds and bee friendly flower seeds to all the schools and to groups like Rainbows who support the Nantwich in Bloom work.

Nantwich in Bloom volunteers are busy working around town, often on Sunday mornings, they always welcome new volunteers.



Planting outside the TSB was very straightforward thanks to good plans and preparation. It takes a while for the plants to grow into the image.

I have some Winnie the Pooh themed ideas for the gardens near the Parish Hall and welcome any ideas you may have. The Rainbows are always keen to help with any projects and I am very grateful for their support.

"We didn't realise we were making memories. We just knew we were having fun".

Andrea Howell-Jones

A Devil Choirboy Incarnate

The speaker at the April breakfast was choir member and chartered financial planner and independent financial advisor, Nigel Phipps. He provided an introductory list of topics (headings below) he would cover. I was worried I'd have to interject as it looked so much, but his timing was spot on.

When he had difficulty speaking

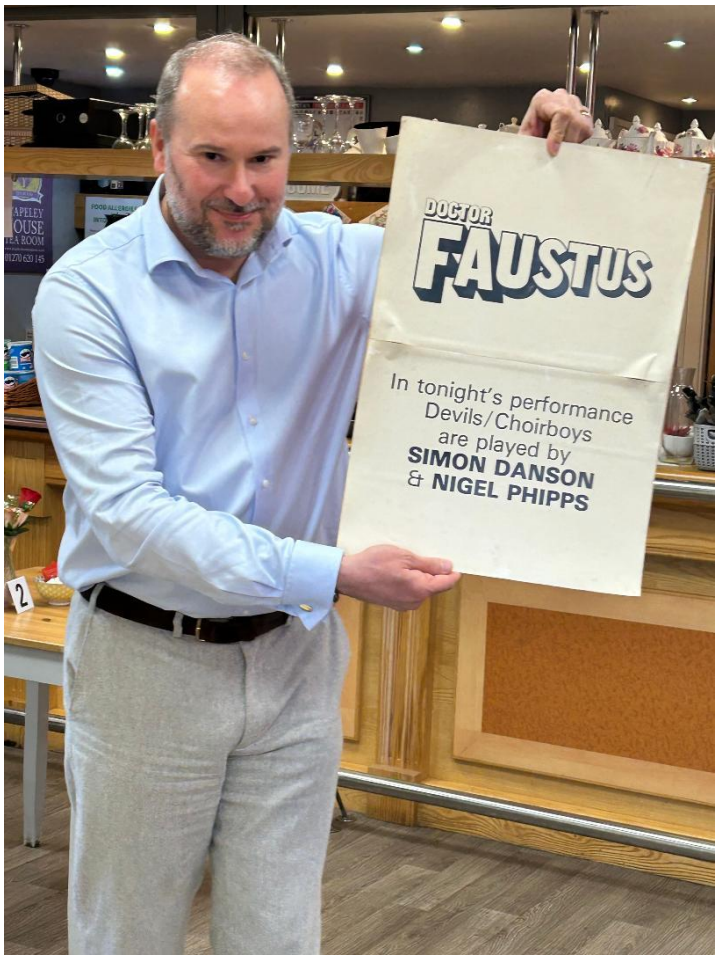
At the age of three, Nigel developed a lisp and was reluctant to speak at school. His teacher suggested getting him to sing. Starting with "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star", Nigel progressed to the Manchester Boys' Choir, where he sang for commercial recordings and the choir won competitions.

When the hairs stood up on the back of his neck

At one such gig with the Police Band backing behind, Nigel felt the hairs on the back of his neck stand up as the theme tune from Superman was played. He reflects that music can affect you emotionally and it has certainly shaped his life.

How he became a Devil Choirboy

At one choir rehearsal, the boys were asked if anyone was interested in auditioning for a play at the Royal Exchange Theatre in Manchester. Nigel went for it and was successful, sharing that he had a good chance as there were four roles, with five applicants. He was to be one of two Devil's Choirboys (alternate nights) in a production of the Elizabethan tragedy, Christoper Marlowe's "Dr. Faustus".



Unbeknown to him at the time, Nigel was in the company of some all-time theatrical greats. The director was Adrian Nobel (RSC CEO). In the green room he met the actor playing Dr. Faustus in a horsehair wig, with blacked out teeth, who was none other than Ben Kingsley.

How he was part of a team that made women faint
Not sure it was just women?! There had been a long gap when the play had not been performed because of the frightening bits, when the devil appears. In this production, when Dr. Faustus conjures up the devil, the audience is party to the fact he'll carry out incantations. Adrian Nobel was clear it was crucial to have the scary part of the play. When the devil came on to drag Faustus to hell, Nigel was there as part of a very dramatic scene in the play.

When he got paid for riding a bike in public and simultaneously whipping thieves
In the same part of the play, Nigel and the other Devil Choirboy rode full pelt in circles round the theatre on old fashioned bikes, smacking thieves with whips. One evening it didn't go too well and there was a minor injury to one of the thieves.

When he introduced the most beautiful woman in all history
In the play, as Faustus' 24 years of magical, pleasurable powers come to an end, to distract himself on his final day he asks for an encounter with the most beautiful woman - Helen of Troy. She is invoked by a pure simple chant piped through the theatre by radio mike – yes every other night for 6 weeks it was Nigel's voice. As an 11-year-old he had no fears or worries about such a prestigious role.

When he learned about the Seven Deadly Sins and their antidotes
To no avail, Dr. Faustus is carried off to hell, his cries of mercy unanswered. The appearance of the seven deadly sins (pride, covetousness, wrath, envy, gluttony, sloth, and lechery) to Faustus is in a somewhat comedic fashion, presented only to delight and distract him from heavenly thoughts. This is unlike the morality plays where the sins would be paraded as a warning to abstain from evil. Nigel was given a picture of the seven deadly sins at the time. He still retains a copy of them – together with the heavenly virtues which can mitigate them, on his phone.

May Breakfast

The May breakfast will take place at The Tea Lounge at Nantwich Football Stadium at 8.30am on **Saturday, 16th May**. The speaker will be Helen Rutter, the Lead and Coordinator for the Agricultural Chaplaincy Team. She will talk about the work of the Agricultural Chaplaincy which is supported by St. Mary's Mission Support. As usual, sign up on the sheet at the back of church or phone the office by midday on Wednesday, 13th May.

Rest in Peace - Pat Stalker



Pat's philosophy was to never give up, to continue to serve and socialise throughout each day, disregarding advancing years and growing limitations. "I don't do being ill," she would often say. Her determination was admirable, and she attributed her resilience to her Yorkshire roots.

Born and raised in Leeds, she began her married life there, then moving with her husband Barry's work to Hazel Grove, then to Wistaston in 1966, and to Poole in 1974, from when she became a long time member of Worleston WI. She trained as a primary school teacher, and in the final years of her career was deputy head of Darnhall Primary School, Winsford.

In retirement Pat became a magistrate. She was always interested in people, and would tell the story of one convicted thief whom she refused to send down because it would be only his wife and children who would suffer. Years later he met her again and thanked her for what was a key point in helping to turn his life around.

Soon after Barry's death, 13 years ago, Pat moved to Maisterson Court, and immediately started serving in various ways at St. Mary's, including 5 years as churchwarden. A relative newcomer, Pat understood that it could be a little daunting for some first attending the church, so she made it her business to be welcoming, often adding an extra layer of welcome at the door, whether or not she was on sidesperson duty.

Pat was a great encourager and recruiter, and generous with her regular words of wisdom. She would talk to anyone she met, in church, or out and about in the streets – especially if accompanied by a dog. People who didn't know her name missed her when, after a fall a year ago, she was no longer around town.

At her well-attended funeral on 22nd April, the Rector ended his address by telling the congregation to expect that when their turn comes to arrive at the pearly gates, St. Peter has stepped back, and Pat is the first welcomer. Thank you, Pat, and "Go in peace …"

Rest in Peace - Jack Corbett



Jack died four days after his 100th birthday, the end of a long and full life of which his many retirement years were spent in Nantwich, and as a member of St. Mary's, a church he loved, and to which he gave long service as the co-ordinator of the "Visitors and Vandals" (stewards) rota. Many will remember the gravitas Jack brought to lesson reading with his fine speaking voice.

"I am a Coventry kid but born in Cheshire," Jack would say, having moved there from Crewe at age two. He won a scholarship for King Henry VIII Grammar School, Coventry, and in his later years there would do his homework against the background of falling bombs, spending nights in Anderson shelters. The school was destroyed, Jack lost many friends, and he nearly lost his own life to a huge piece of shrapnel which narrowly missed him.

Jack won a place at St. Catherine's College Cambridge to read history, but study was delayed by service in the Intelligence Corps, in Singapore and Burma. Last year, on the 80th anniversary of VJ Day, Jack laid a wreath at the war memorial on St. Mary's Churchyard, on behalf of the Royal British Legion (of which he was a life time member and great supporter), remembering the veterans and personal friends he lost during the Burma campaign.

Jack spent his working life in the civil service, in various departments, moving house many times with his wife, June, and children Debbie and Chris, and rising through the ranks, attending EEC meetings in Brussels as the British representative, and serving the minister of the day in London. For the last five years before retirement Jack managed an education centre in Sheffield for new civil service recruits. Jack was awarded the Imperial Service Medal by Queen Elizabeth II (see photo).

Jack was an avid reader, and in retirement ran a U3A history class, and with June would organise poetry readings in care homes and churches in the area, usually light and comical social occasions; also for many years Jack was a keen bridge player, and member of the local Probus group. Jack had a profound interest in people, and in life in all its variety, sharpened by what he knew others had lost. A life well lived. Rest in peace.

News in Pictures



Congratulations to Jade Blairs and Curtis Fox, married at St. Mary's on Sunday, 19th April.

The sun shining on the beautiful, delicate, spring leaves of the copper beech tree on the consecrated ground outside St. Mary's.



Good Friday

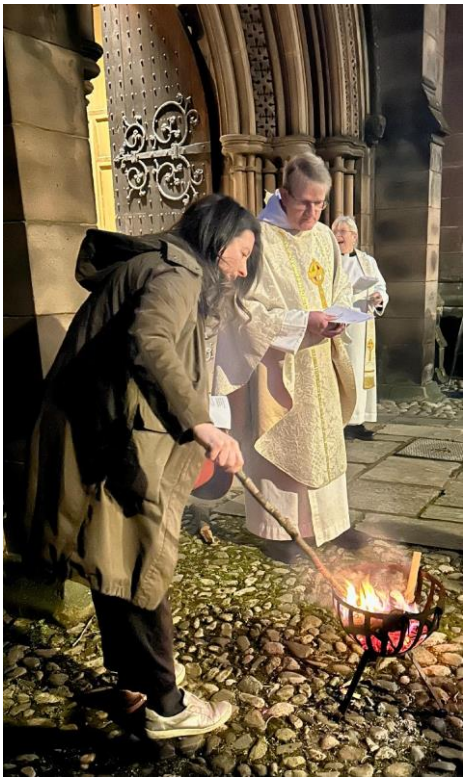




After a creative and interactive 10.00am service on Good Friday, three wooden crosses were carried and people processed from St. Mary's well to the Market Square. Here, members of Churches Together in Nantwich (CTiN) led songs, hymns, prayer, puppetry and a flag dance. Members of St. Mary's band were part of the musical ensemble and Rev. Dot led some of the prayers. Afterwards, tea, coffee and hot-cross-buns were served in the Parish Hall. Thanks again to the social committee and helpers for the refreshments.







Dawn Communion - Candle in the Wind

Anna Burton did a great job as fire-master keeping the brazier alight. The Pascal candle was a real challenge to light despite the best efforts of Anna, Rector Mark and Sacristan Emma, who had to retreat to the porch with Rev. Dot, because of the windy conditions. It was just a variation to the lighting ritual, but it still symbolised the resurrection as the light of the world. The conditions proved impossible for the 40 or so people present to light their candles outside to share the light, so they processed into Church and lit their candles on the way in.







As usual, there were bacon baps (with veggie alternative) for all in the Parish Hall after communion. Thanks to Andrea, who also catered for the bellringers later and had decorated the tables with tete-a-tete daffodils and chocolate eggs. Also to Sylvia and Craig who provided the delicious carrot cake.





Thank you to all who helped to decorate the church so beautifully for Easter.









*At **Encounter** on Easter Sunday everyone enjoyed making resurrection gardens with the cross, the stone that was rolled away from the empty tomb and colourful spring flowers.*



A wire cross was donated to St. Mary's and this was used to create a small floral cross that was used on Easter Sunday.

Prayer of the Month

Thanks be to you, our Lord Jesus Christ,
for all the benefits which you have given us,
for all the pains and insults which you have borne for us.
Most merciful redeemer, friend and brother
may we know you more clearly, love you more dearly,
and follow you more nearly, day by day. Amen.

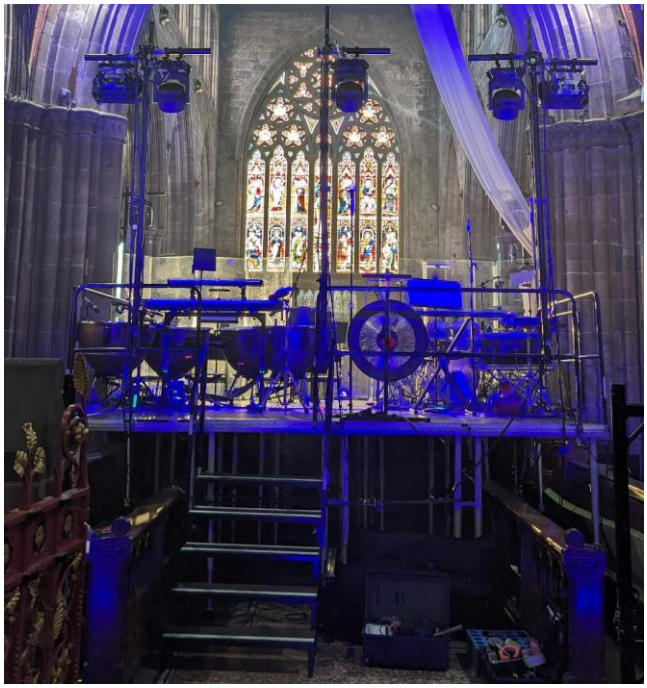
This prayer of St Richard of Chichester (1197-1253) is believed to have been spoken by him on his deathbed. A choral setting by L J White is often sung by our choir, and "Day by Day" from the end of the musical Godspell uses its final lines.

The rhetorical effectiveness of the prayer comes from its use of the power of three: three lists of three things. This makes the prayer rhythmic and memorable, and creates a sense of completeness. When you've said it, you feel you've said all that needs to be said. Until the next day.



Illuminated Orchestra - Film Favourites

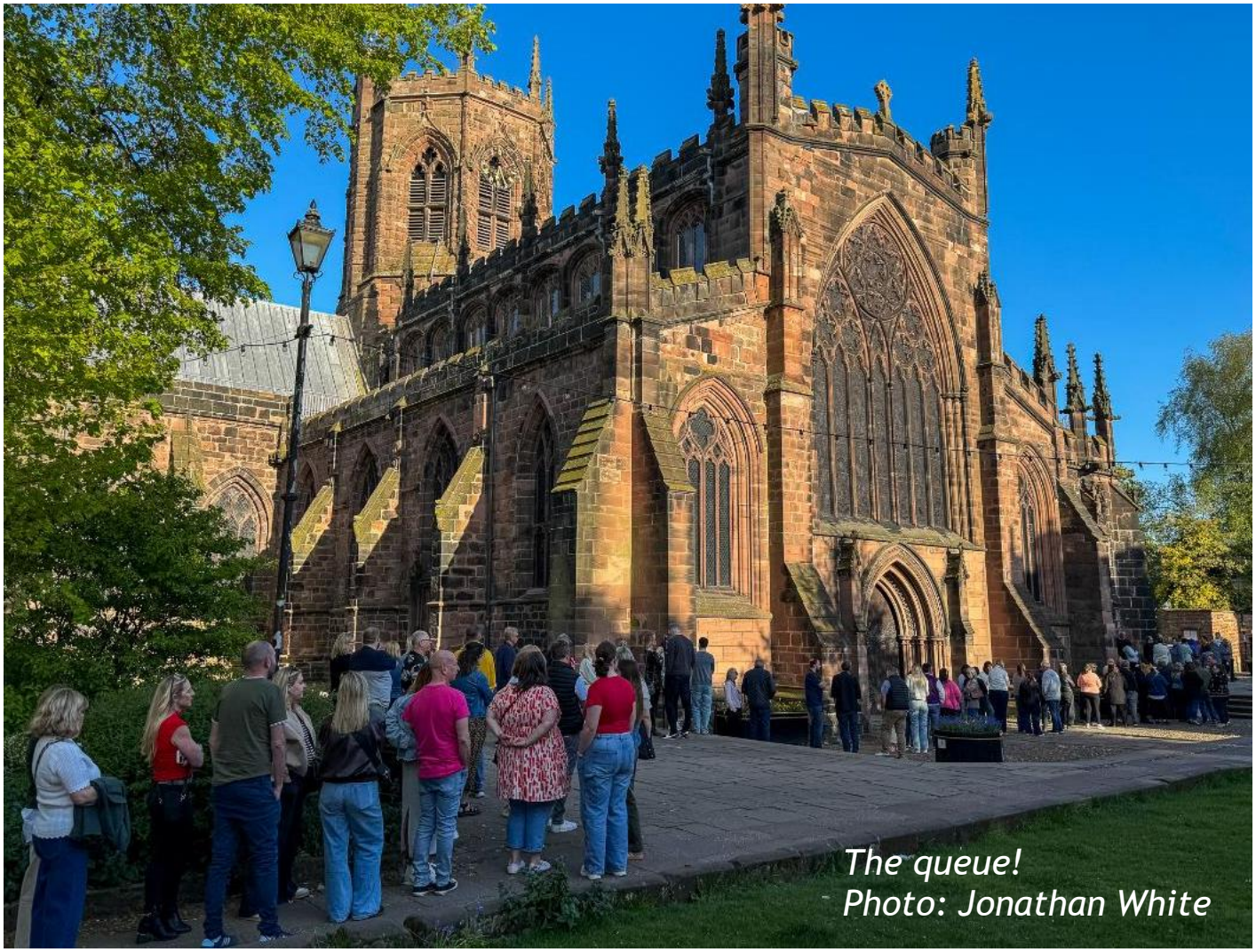
The Illuminated Orchestra visited St. Mary's on ***Saturday, 18th April*** *for three sold out concerts at 4pm, 6.30pm and 9pm, each attended by over 300 people. They arrived early in order to set up a large stage built over the front of the choir stalls to accommodate the brass, percussion, wind and strings.*



Conducted by Kelly Moncaka, they performed a range of film music by Hans Zimmer, John Williams and others, accompanied by an impressive light show. Thank you to all the volunteer stewards from St. Mary's.



Spice Up Your Life



The queue!
Photo: Jonathan White

Melanie C's live performance at St. Mary's on 27th April, organised by Applestump Records of Nantwich, marked the launch of her new solo album, Sweat. Melanie Chisolm came to fame as one of the Spice Girls ("Sporty Spice") in the 90s, and the sell out audience were especially thrilled by her acoustic performance of Spice Up Your Life.



Our verger Linda Lewis did a great job on duty through the day, and wasn't going to miss the opportunity of a selfie with Melanie.



Forthcoming Events

ST MARYS
NANTWICH

STORIES WORTH TELLING



• Step into a Story • Celebrate You •
• Visit the Human Library • In my Shoes •
• See Stories in Images • Craft your Story •
• Colour in Characters • Read and Relax •
• Explore the World of Stories •

All this and more. Something for everyone.

Saturday 23rd May 10am – 4pm

Venue: St Marys Nantwich. Free entry, drop in anytime. All welcome.

ST MARYS
NANTWICH

Newcomers Welcome Tea

New to St Mary's?

We'd love you to join us at our **Welcome Tea** to find out more about church life and how to be involved.

Date: Sunday 17th May 2026

Time: 4.00pm – 5.30pm

Where: Parish Hall (opposite the church)

Refreshments: Tea and cake, with alternatives, will be available.

RSVP if possible: Please sign up at the back of the church or contact the Parish Office

Notes: Please mention any dietary requirements when you sign up. Activities available for children.

We look forward to seeing you!

Parish Office:
office@stmarysnantwich.org.uk
01270 625268



AS HEARD ON BBC RADIO

A CELEBRATION OF
SIMON & GARFUNKEL

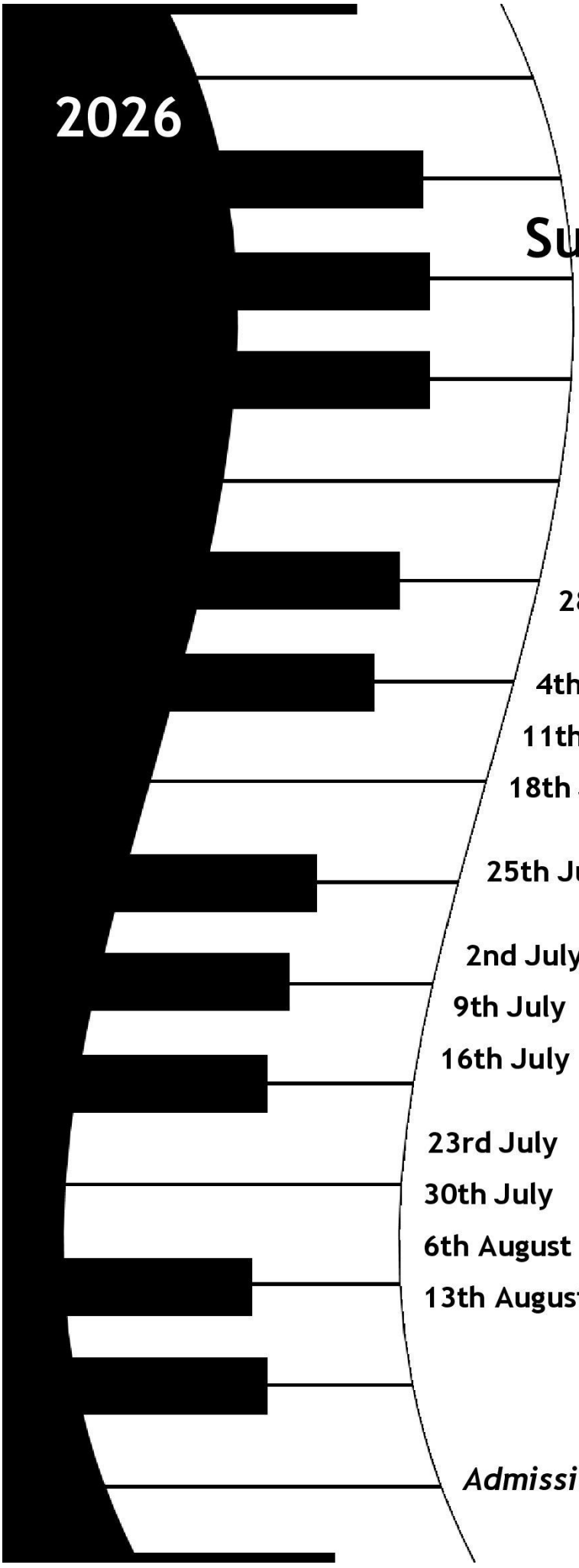
PERFORMED LIVE BY
TIM CHU & IAN BAILEY
THE UK's NUMBER 1 NON TRIBUTE SHOW

★★★★★
"Tim and Ian moved between harmonies and shared vocals like a gestalt entity, with all the vocal nuances, dynamics and phrasing that make S&G so unique while still finding their own take on the material. Absolutely first class"
★★★★★
"A stunning blend of observation, interpretation, and perfect vocal synergy"

ST MARY'S NANTWICH
SATURDAY 6TH JUNE 2026
Doors 7pm / 7.30pm start!

Tickets £15 from St Mary's Parish Office or box office 0333 666 3366
www.ticketsource.co.uk/timtone-productions
www.classicsingersongwriters.co.uk/sandg

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



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***

Nantwich's Church House (The Parish Hall), the Freemasons, and Foundation Stone Laying Ceremonies

We all know that to build a church like medieval St. Mary's took some faith, hope, and charity, to erect such a magnificent edifice, based lightly upon King Solomon's Temple.

During the Crusades, and later, our elite Church forebears, decided to build Jerusalem across the whole known globe, and we learned a lot from the Middle East, with architecture, including the Gothic style, but especially other sciences, such as music, anatomy, geometry, medicine, astronomy and mathematics. And as such, the temples of the ancient world were not forgotten, and ceremonies, including the laying of a corner, or foundation, stone, were especially prevalent, and the Roman Church incorporated them. St. Mary's somewhere will have had a foundation or corner stone, and a ceremony, when it was largely rebuilt in the mid to late 14th century.

I have written a history of St. Mary's Parish Hall, also known as Church House, and built in the Victorian Gothic Revival style; including reference to the Freemasons who held meetings there, and an associated order, the Oddfellows, and also the hall's service in WWI as a Red Cross Hospital for injured soldiers.



Its history, like St. Mary's, is chequered. Its Masonic ceiling with the Sun, the Moon, and star lit heaven is currently hidden on the first floor by a modern suspended ceiling. There are long term plans to remove the suspended ceiling, revealing the ornate, decorative and structural, timbered ceiling and roof.

The ceremony for the erecting of the Corner-Stone is included in my history. Although Masonic, it is also truly Christian yet Ancient, and back in earlier days, Freemasonry was not affected by such paranoia as today, when Church and Mason, stood side by side. The medieval Church employed medieval master masons, who built our temples to Our Lord, from whence modern Freemasonry is believed to descend from.

I hope you enjoy my history. I have tried to balance it with examples of other foundation stones at St. Anne's RC Church, Nantwich, the Civic Hall, Nantwich and Christ Church in Crewe.

https://sites.google.com/site/charlesfaireyhistorian/publications/nantwichs-church-house-freemasons-and-foundation-stone-laying-ceremonies

Charles Fairey

Human Beings, being human?

I was talking to a friend the other day and she said, "We are all Human Beings not Human Doings." In other words we are here to Be not to simply function. There is as much importance in our lives when we sit quietly, think or pray, listen to others or listen to music for example, as when we are rushing around doing things. It is not good to be like the white rabbit in Alice in Wonderland. He rushed around noticing nothing and saying to himself "I'm late, I'm late for a very important date".

We do not need to feel that what we do is the most important reason for existence.

Many people have very busy lives full of activity. They may feel useless when they cannot do as much as they used to. This is very common in our membership groups such as in our church community. We are here to be, to be ourselves and to relate well to others.

This feeling of being useless can occur at any age and in many different circumstances.

When we are born we are pretty helpless and we depend on others to care for us. We do however as babies and young children bring much happiness to others. Grandparents especially know well the joy of a visit from grandchildren. They also know the joy of relaxing after sending them home to parents! In a similar way older people or the sick can make life a pleasure for others by just being themselves.

The Pope recently commented something about living in a world of love sadly often controlled by tyrants. Our task is to help that love to grow. Some people are a pleasure to visit. Others focus only on themselves and their interests and a visit becomes a duty rather than a pleasure.

Being human should be making the world and our relationships better and more loving wherever we are and whatever we are able to do.

We have each been gifted with existence to be human in a wonderful world. Gardeners' World on TV recently focused on the beauty of London parks where generations had planted thousands of shrubs and trees which are now available for the public to enjoy. A good way of being is to sit in a garden or park and absorb the beauty. We are so lucky in the UK to have so many public spaces available and mainly free for all to enjoy.

Try not to regret that you cannot do the things you used to do but enjoy what you have and help others to do the same.

Enjoy being human. *Dot Roxby*

From the Registers: May 2026

Holy Baptism

We welcome you into the Lord's family

1st	Annie Grossman-Davies
1st	Amelia Booth
1st	Albie Williams
8th	Seema Samuel
22nd	Hudson Grocott

Funerals

May they rest in peace and rise in glory

5th	Terry Richardson (64)	20th	Eleanor Hughes (89)
12th	Frank Moreton (93)	20th	David Potter (87)
16th	Kathryn Schofield (68)	30th	Gavin Dickie (47)
17th	Michael Poole (82)	31st	Tony Metcalfe (82)
18th	Norma Roberts (76)		

Readings for May 2026

3rd May *(5th Sunday of Easter)*	Acts 7: 55-60 John 14: 1-14
10th May *(6th Sunday of Easter)*	Acts 17: 22-31 John 14: 15-21
14th May *(Ascension Day)*	Acts 1: 1-11 Luke 24: 44-53
17th May *(7th Sunday of Easter)*	Acts 1: 6-14 John 17: 1-11
24th May *(Day of Pentecost)*	Acts 2: 1-21 John 7: 37-39
31st May *(Trinity Sunday)*	2 Corinthians 13: 11-13 Matthew 28: 16-20

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
	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

B's Dementia Café at Belong Crewe



Hosted by an Admiral Nurse, B's Dementia Café monthly sessions 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!

Join us for our next dementia drop-in session and musical workshop with *Musical Moments*, on

Tuesday 19 May-11 am

The Venue, 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

CREWE TOWN COUNCIL

Admiral Nurses — A free service in partnership with Dementia UK

B's Café

BELONG CREWE

CELEBRATING 46 YEARS 1997 · 2023

Graham Tresidder & Son

CREWE & NANTWICH FUNERAL SERVICES

INDEPENDENT FAMILY FUNERAL DIRECTORS | SINCE 1977



AN INDIVIDUAL CARING & PROFESSIONAL 24HR SERVICE

62 Hospital Street, Nantwich, CW5 5RP | 448 Crewe Road, Wistaston, Crewe, CW2 6PZ | The Square, Audlem, CW3 0AB

Golden Charter

www.nantwichfuneralservices.co.uk | 01270 812 512

---

bentleysolicitors

PERSONAL INJURY EXPERTS

Find us on facebook

ACCIDENT OR INJURY?

Choose your LOCAL personal injury Solicitor



- NO WIN NO FEE
- EXPERIENCED QUALIFIED SOLICITORS
- ALL ACCIDENT CLAIM TYPES
- MEDICAL NEGLIGENCE
- GENERAL LITIGATION

CALL FREE ON 0800 533 5800

Stapeley Coach House, London Road, Nantwich.

01270 509 800 www.bentleysolicitors.co.uk

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

Registered Charity no. 1130903

Gavin Palin Funeral Services

01270 624153

Independent Family Funeral Directors

NANTWICH, CREWE, AUDLEM AND SURROUNDING AREAS

Direct Pure Cremation • Traditional Services • Bespoke Arrangements.



- 24 Hour Personal Service • Private Chapel of Rest • Memorials • Floral Tributes
- Obituary Notices • Visual Tributes • Live Streaming Services • Order of Service
- Pre-Paid Funeral Plans • Memorial Jewellery • Eco-Friendly Coffins and Caskets

68 James Hall Street, Nantwich, CW5 5QE

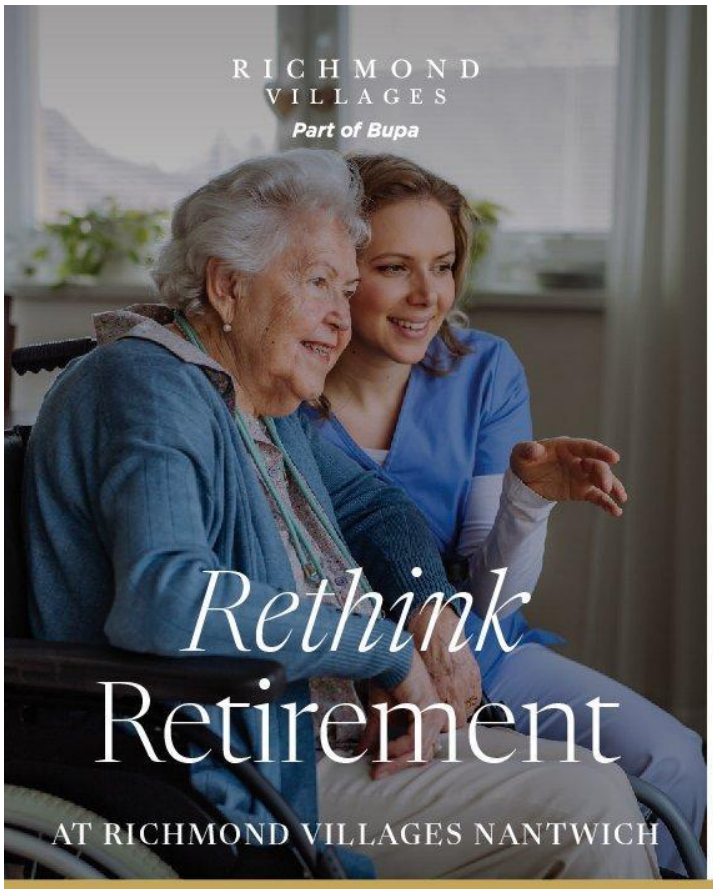
gavinpalinfs@hotmail.co.uk

www.gavinpalinfuneralservices.com

FUNERAL PLANS FROM Golden Charter

Smart Planning for Later Life

SAIF INDEPENDENT FUNERAL DIRECTORS



Embrace a new era of independence in a vibrant community enriched by exceptional facilities for a healthy, active life. At Richmond Villages, our purpose is simple: to inspire a longer, healthier and happier life, whether your passions lie in staying active, embracing creativity or exploring the world, while offering the reassurance of a secure and welcoming home.

Come see for yourself with our
TWO NIGHT COMPLIMENTARY STAY

Indulge in the Richmond Experience with a two-night stay on a full board basis, as you explore our exceptional facilities, wellness classes, and engaging activities. Discover what makes Richmond Villages truly unique and see if this could be the ideal setting for your next chapter.

For more information or to book your stay

Call **01270 629 080** or
email **nantwich@richmond-villages.com**

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

Richmond Villages Independent Living | Assisted Living | Bupa Care Home

Special Services & Events Calendar May-October 2026

May	3rd	Encounter Supper in the Parish Hall, 7.15pm
	13th	Mike Garry with the Cassia String Quartet in church, 7pm
	14th	Ascension Day Tower Service, 7am, Holy Communion, 8am & 7.30pm
	16th	St. Mary's Breakfast at Nantwich Football Club, 8.30am Cheshire Police Band in the Well, 11.30am
	17th	Social Committee Welcome Tea in Parish Hall, 3.30pm
	23rd	Encounter Explore Day in church, 10am-4pm
	28th	Summer Lunchtime Concerts begin, Thursdays, 12.30pm
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 Social Committee Hog Roast, Parish Hall 4-8pm
	21st	Encounter Explore in church, 7-9pm
	27th	Nantwich Choral Society Concert in church, 7.30pm
	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
	12th	Hymns and Pimm's, 6pm
	15th	Everyday Faith Podcast Event in church, 7pm
	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
September	4-6th	Food Festival Weekend
	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
	17th	St. Mary's Breakfast at Nantwich Football Club, 8.30am Nantwich Singers Come and Sing Day, 12noon
	24th	Encounter Explore Day in church