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Front cover: St. Mary's Choir before the Hymns & Pimm's service on Sunday, 26th July. See p.12.



Mark taking the cover picture before the Hymns & Pimm's service on Sunday, 26th July.



From the Rector

This month we have a double issue, not double in size, but covering two months, August and September, to give a break to the magazine team. The next issue will be published at the beginning of October.

There were no parish magazines in New Testament times, nor when St. Mary's was built. They are a Victorian invention, and have been in decline for some years. Do we still need one? I believe so, not least because of the range of activity at St. Mary's. The magazine provides a way to keep up with all that is happening. It strengthens the community, and feeds the soul and the curiosity.

I am grateful for the work of the magazine committee, which meets monthly online. Annie Coombs often writes, or encourages others to write. Dot Roxby provides a monthly reflection which is much appreciated. Wendy Beastall co-ordinates the distribution and looks after the finances. Gail Johnson also provides input, and liaises with advertisers, and proof-reads. Ministers provide monthly pages. And then there's an intense few days for Miriam as she attractively designs the layout, and prints hundreds of copies.

We try to cover the range of groups and activities at St. Mary's, but if you think yours is missed out, feel free to send a report and photos. Follow the example of Carole Tilt who regularly sends interesting reports of Encounter Suppers and Explores, and Church Walks.

It is hard to get a sense of how widely the magazine is read. Online provision widens access, but the number of people in the parish who do not attend church and have the magazine delivered has declined steadily.

Feel free to use the magazine as a way to help us reach out as a church. If you have friends or neighbours who may be interested, give them a copy. And for new people attending it is one of the best ways of getting a sense of the life of the church.

Each issue helps us to look back, with reports of events, and to look forward, anticipating all that is planned in the weeks ahead. The full catalogue of magazines is an extraordinary record. Each month a copy is archived in the library, thanks to Mike Harries.

St. Mary's has changed substantially over the years, but the records tell of our one purpose, to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ, who is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Mark Hart (Rector)

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Happy Holidays

The arrival of August can only mean one thing - the summer holidays have arrived!

We all have our own different ideas of what we want from a holiday, often reflecting our stage in life. Families tend to select one which will appeal to all ages. Single people often favour holidays where they will meet people of similar age and find friendships. Others like to follow a special interest, and the adventurous ones are always on the lookout for new challenges.

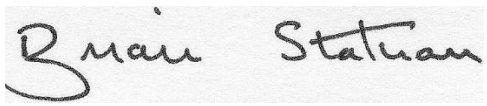
Nowadays there is so much to choose from. It can be difficult with all those glossy brochures to wade through, or the internet sites to trawl through! It is a great help if we know someone who has been there already, either family or friends. We feel a lot happier if we can, because otherwise we have to rely on what we read and see in the publicity. The problem is that it gets a little "over-stated" at times - the sea-view you've paid for may turn out to be true only if you have a hotel room at the front and a telescope to hand!

If we find echoes of the Christian life in all these observations then don't be surprised. After all, the word holiday has its origins in "Holy Days", which in past centuries were the only days that many people did not have to work. We tend to forget that it was only when the Christian faith spread, that Sunday became a holiday, a day of rest, for everyone as decreed by the Emperor Constantine 1 in 321AD.

As you look forward to going off on holiday, what about asking yourself where you want to go in your spiritual life. Take time to think of what new challenges or opportunities you might take in the autumn ... maybe the opportunity to take part in the Start Course, a Bible study group, a home group ... something that will refresh, reinvigorate and breathe new life and enthusiasm for God and for your faith. It's in joining with other Christians in fellowship and in faith that we find others who have "been there before us" and who can share their experiences in a way that helps us map out our own Christian journey.

Wherever it is you are going; whatever it is you are doing - as a family, a couple, an individual - have a great time. May it prove to be a real time of re-creation. And come back eager to start afresh!

God bless,



Church News

Friday Place of Welcome

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

Steward Needed

Steward cover is required for Friday mornings 9.30-11am. If you are able to cover occasionally or permanently then please contact the Rector.

St. Mary's Choir ...

are now on their August break. Any who attend 10.45am or 6pm services know how they lift our worship with glorious music. We wish them much refreshment and look forward to their return in September.

Welcome back ...

to Susie Boxhall, Youth & Children's Worker, who returns from maternity leave on 2nd August on 27.5 hours per week. Thank you to Graham Christopher for his excellent work providing cover, and we are grateful that Graham will continue in post, making it a full-time role between them.

Legacy:

We are grateful to have received notice of a bequest of £1,000 to St. Mary's Nantwich from the estate of Christine Ruth Jones.

Are you **BAPTISED**?
Have you been **CONFIRMED**?
Do you receive **HOLY COMMUNION**?

These holy gifts are there to be received, to give life and strength.

On **Sunday, 22nd November** at 10.45am, there will be a service of Baptism and Confirmation with Bishop Sam. If you would like to know more, please contact the Rector.

There will be a preparation group for young people (year 6 and above), and a separate group for adults. There's no upper age limit!

Mission Support

Mission Support at St. Mary's is outward looking and adheres to these 5 Marks of Mission of the Anglican Church. We support a variety of partner organisations working locally, nationally and internationally. The following are the ones currently being supported.



Local Projects

The Boaz Trust, which is a Manchester based charity supporting people facing homelessness after claiming asylum, and aiming to provide a place of safety, shelter and protection. *Donation £1,000.*

The Cheshire Agricultural Chaplaincy, where a dedicated support team offers time, a listening ear and understanding when it's needed most, to farmers, farm workers, their families and ancillary trades. *Donation £1,000.*

National Projects

Railway Children, a children's charity working with street and railway children in the UK, India, and Tanzania. Their mission is to keep street-connected children safe and rebuild lives. *Donation £1,000.*

A Rocha UK, which is a Christian charity working to protect and restore the natural world and committed to equipping Christians and churches in the UK to care for the environment. *Donation £500.*

International Projects

Kenya Girl's School: we are pleased to have been able to assist, via their local church, with the educational fees of two young girls in Mumias. Sadly our link minister Rev. Nashon Wamukoya passed away last year, but Nick Hutt is now in contact with his daughter Alice to ensure commitment of completing our support. *Donation £500.*



Our Mission Partners at CMS (Church Mission Society), Lisa & Andrew Peart. We are delighted to continue to support them in their call to come alongside the local church in its outreach and practical care for the local community in Santa Cruz in Bolivia, reaching out to those who live on the margins. *Donation £2,000.*

Angie Bartlett on behalf of the Mission Support Team

Congratulations ...
Dot and Gordon Roxby married on 13th August 1966



We are just behind Tony and Josie whose diamond wedding we read about in our June magazine. Like them we were hit with a medical emergency in October when Gordon had his sudden stroke. We are very lucky to still be together and we thank all of you who have given us so much help and support over the months that followed.

Every stroke affects the sufferers differently. Gordon's was a particularly bad one and it hit his linguistic side and his mobility. He has made steady progress since but is still unable to say what he wants to say and to walk without aid. Our family have been wonderful in spite of all working full-time in responsible jobs and the grandchildren doing loads of exams. They have supported us amazingly.

Gordon and I met in London where we were both undergraduates. We were at different colleges but we were members of the university Anglican society. After gaining a physics degree Gordon trained for the ministry at the College of the Resurrection in Mirfield. We enjoyed parish life and for the next forty years we lived in vicarages with varied facilities! We had to heat and furnish the vicarages at our own expense so we were always grateful for other people's unwanted goods! Our finances were very limited. We spent twenty five years in the Manchester diocese, which was very interesting and challenging.

I worked in Oldham for twenty years teaching eleven to eighteen year olds. I ended up managing a very large IT department with a team and technicians. This was as well as being an unpaid curate at home, leading Mothers' Union groups and study groups, teaching in large Sunday schools and acting as receptionist as we had no parish office or parish hall. We worked together bringing up our three children to fit everything into our complicated timetables. Just before retiring I trained as a Reader.

When we retired to Nantwich Gordon acted as the Cheshire Chaplain for St. John's Ambulance and was honoured with membership of the Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem with the authority of the late Queen.



I am now Gordon's carer along with a team of local official carers. I thank them and the hospital team and carers who looked after him in Leighton Stroke ward and followed up at home for many weeks after discharge. We feel a bit cut off from church life but we are with you on Sunday mornings on You Tube and Mark kindly brings us monthly home communion.

We send our best wishes to everyone and thank you all for your prayers.

Dot Roxby

Congratulations ... Just married!



Congratulations to Natalie Buckley & Shane Richardson, here with the witnesses at the signing, who were married on Saturday, 18th July.



Congratulations to Daniel Shand & Yamile Mora Pineda whose marriage was blessed at St. Mary's on Saturday, 25th July.

Mothers' Union News

We had a good turnout at our members' meeting on 17th July. 20 of us attended the talk from Penny Allen about the Spirituality of Teapots. Lynne opened our meeting with a warm welcome and prayers from the latest MU Service Book. Lionel Virr played piano while we sang.



Penny brought many different teapots from her diverse collection and talked about the history of tea and tea making around the world. But where does the spirituality come in? Well … Penny invited us to think about what type of Teapot we are. **The Body** - shape does not matter, it's where the Holy Spirit (boiled water) and the love of Jesus (tea) come together and brew. Do we infuse the love of Jesus? Do we keep it warm? **The Lid** – is it loose or fixed? Do we lift the lid and let the love in? Is our lid a good fit? How often do we lift it? **The Handle** – is it easy to pick up and hold? Is it securely attached to the body? **The Spout** – having made our tea the purpose of the spout is to pour out the love. Is our spout just for show? Does it drip or pour freely? Something to reflect on the next time you get the teapot out and make a brew.

Thursday, 6th August is the MU Annual Fundraiser, raising funds to support MU projects locally, nationally, and globally. We will have a tombola with books, scarves and home-baking for sale. Tickets for a Cream Tea will be on sale at the door priced at £5 each. Thursday is Market Day in Nantwich and a good turnout is expected.

Sunday, 9th August is Mary Sumner Day. This year we are also celebrating the 150th anniversary of Mothers' Union. The day will be marked in several ways. The flowers in church will be in blue & white. There will be special prayers said at the 10.45am service and a candle will be lit. There will be a Bell Peal and the tower will be lit in blue. A big thank you to everyone involved in making these things happen on our special day.

Our next members' meeting on 18th September will be Songs of Praise. Lionel Virr will accompany our singing on the piano. Tea, coffee, cake and biscuits to follow. We will also be welcoming some members from our prayer partners in Norbury. Join us and Join in. *Cathie Riddell*

Celebrating 150 Years of Faith, Service and Fellowship

In 2026, Mothers' Union celebrates 150 years of supporting families and communities through faith, prayer and practical action. What began in a small Hampshire parish in 1876 has grown into a worldwide Christian movement with around four million members in more than 80 countries.

The organisation was founded by Mary Sumner in the village of Old Alresford, Hampshire. As a vicar's wife and mother, Mary believed that women from all backgrounds could work together to strengthen family life and support one another in their Christian faith. Her vision was simple yet powerful: to create a network of encouragement, prayer and practical care for mothers and families. Mary Sumner's idea quickly spread beyond her local parish and, through her determination and faith, grew across Britain and eventually throughout the world. Today, her legacy continues to inspire members who are committed to serving others and responding to the needs of their communities.

Over the past century and a half, MU has adapted to changing times while remaining true to its Christian foundations. Members support a wide range of initiatives, including family and parenting programmes, literacy projects, prison ministry, holiday opportunities for families in need, and work addressing poverty, domestic abuse and modern slavery. Through prayer, advocacy and practical service, the organisation seeks to bring hope and dignity to those facing hardship.

The 150th anniversary is an opportunity not only to celebrate the achievements of the past but also to look forward to the future. Special events, services and gatherings are being held to give thanks for the vision of Mary Sumner and the dedication of generations of members. These celebrations recognise the countless lives that have been touched by the work of MU and renew its commitment to serving families and communities for many years to come.

As MU marks this milestone, it continues to show how one woman's vision, rooted in faith and compassion, can grow into a global movement. Mary Sumner's belief in the power of prayer, fellowship and service remains at the heart of MU today, lighting the way for future generations.

Nantwich Branch is hosting a cream tea in the Parish Hall on Thursday, 6th August, 2-4pm. Books, scarves, cards and home baking will be available to buy, and tickets are priced at £5 payable at the door. Please join us and support our fundraising efforts for Mothers' Union projects.

Hymns and Pimm's

After weeks of voting for a favourite hymn (at £1 per vote), the grand reveal (with Pimm's and cake) took place on Sunday, 26th July. By 5.30pm (the supposed start time) the church was already quite full and people were enjoying their first glass of Pimm's (soft drinks were available).

The event is on-line if you want to catch up with it - "streaming the hymns but not the Pimm's" said Rector Mark in his introductory talk. He also suggested that we avoid the camera when going up for another glass – so no-one watching on-line will know how many drinks you had!



Balancing Pimm's & cake!

The stats are: 1,040 votes, 100 people voted and 100 different hymns chosen. As the number of votes per person per hymn was unrestricted, some people chose to place quite a number of votes for their favourite hymn to increase its chance. That means that the hymn with the most votes wasn't the hymn voted for by the greatest number of people.



Alison explaining the musical derivation of a hymn.

The top ten hymns were announced in reverse order, with informative introductions by Alison Phillips on the music/composer(s) and by Mark about the words, before being sung. They are:

10. Love divine, all loves excelling

One of a few chosen with words by Charles Wesley, popular at weddings including royal weddings.

9. Dear Lord and Father of mankind

Although ninth in number of votes, this was first in terms of greatest number of people who had voted for it. Me included – we had it at our wedding despite a vicar who tried to persuade us not to because of the "foolish ways".

8. Jesu, lover of my soul

The words were by Charles Wesley in 1740, inspired by a sparrow that was chased by a hawk through his window and into his pocket.

7. I heard the voice of Jesus say

These words were written for children and the music started as an English and Irish folk tune.

6. In Christ alone my hope is found

One of a few modern hymns that were selected. This one, with the hotly debated line "the wrath of God was satisfied" proved popular coming second in terms of greatest number of people voting for it.

5. All creatures of our God and King

Based on Psalm 138, Mark mentioned that it was Bluebell that got this hymn into the top ten. Susie Martin confirmed that Bluebell had spent all her pocket money on her votes!



Bluebell & Family.

4. There is a green hill far away

Mark described this as a "pure little gem of a hymn – very beautiful". He mentioned that it is the only hymn in the top ten that had words written by a woman. It was written in 1848 by Cecil Frances Alexander for children, to teach them the creed.

3. Holy Spirit, living Breath of God

Mark described this as a very prayerful hymn that is also related to the Apostles' Creed.



The "Marmite" clap.

2. Shine, Jesus, shine

Another modern hymn, with music that can be adapted for worship bands, guitar and piano. It's very popular and the only hymn in our top ten that has been adapted as a football terrace anthem (that version is not available!). Mark said that it is also the most Marmite of the ten hymns, as is the choice of whether to clap between lines of the chorus. Some people did and even some of the choir clapped in the last verse!

1. All people that on earth do dwell

The tune is widely used by others. Based originally on Psalm 134 and then Psalm 100 (the Jubilate), Mark felt it was a fitting finale to end with a psalm that forms part of Morning Prayer.



The Choir singing.

The service ended with the Grace and an extensive round of applause for the choir and Director of Music, Alison.



The Bar.

The event raised £1,325 in total, £1,040 from the votes and the rest from the drinks. A big success, enjoyed thoroughly by many. Thank you to all who helped organise this successful event, particularly those preparing and serving the Pimm's.

Annie Coombs

Prayer of the Month

When asked by the magazine committee to submit my favourite prayer, it got me thinking. What is my favourite prayer? If you would have asked me that question as a child at school the answer possibly wouldn't have been the one that as an adult I would reach for. Over time needs shift, worries deepen, our hopes mature. So the "favourite" prayer when young is often simply the one we said most often … not the one that meant the most. Or is it? Do we not at some stage go back to our roots? So please indulge me.

As a youngster at St. Martin's C of E Primary School we would end our morning prayers with this:

May we go into today with courage,
walk through today with kindness,
and end today with peace. Amen.

Wendy Beastall

Church Walk



The church walk on Saturday, 4th July began with a short and scenic bus ride from Nantwich to Audlem. The friendly driver of bus 53 seemed astonished that so many people were boarding and the only other passenger was surprised to have so much chatty company.

Alighting at Audlem Buttermarket the first port of call was St. James' Church. This imposing 800 year old church is in an elevated position in the centre of the village and has interesting architectural features and stained glass including a window by Charles Kempe. We made a brief visit to Audlem Cemetery with its twin Gothic Victorian chapels and historic and modern memorials and were impressed with how well the grounds are maintained.

There was much to see as we joined the Shropshire Union Canal towpath for the 6.5 mile walk back to St. Mary's; multiple locks, brightly painted narrow boats, the Audlem Lass ferry to Overwater Marina and the aqueduct over the River Weaver. A few miles beyond Audlem it was much quieter and we took time to admire the countryside, waterfowl and wild flowers, including large swathes of rosebay willowherb.

On reaching some benches there was no difficulty in persuading everyone to stop for a picnic lunch! Suitably refreshed we carried on towards Nantwich and started to see moored boats once we reached the outskirts of the town.

The trip provided a great opportunity to chat and get to know other members of St. Mary's and throughout the day we all varied who we walked with so multiple interesting conversations took place and new friendships formed.

After leaving the canal we followed Welsh Row back to the Parish Hall where we enjoyed tea, coffee and copious amounts of cake. Everyone agreed that it had been a wonderful day out and it was also environmentally friendly with using public transport, walking and having homemade picnics.

Church walks of varied lengths are organised from time to time during the year – look out for details in the weekly news sheets. *Carole Tilt*

My Trip to Ghana


Tegbi EP Basic School

On Saturday, 4th July, I left Manchester Airport for Ghana via Turkey. After arriving to our accommodation in Woe on Sunday, we went straight into Tegbi EP Basic School on Monday. At the school, we were given a very warm welcome by everyone there. The opening ceremony was filled with dancing and drums and getting to know people.

On Monday and Tuesday, I started by making the bricks we would use to build the wall. They were made by mixing sand from the beach with cement powder and water and packing it into a mould, ready to dry over two days. In total, we made over 240 bricks so the bricks we didn't use will be used to improve the toilets for the students.

On Wednesday, I started by moving the bricks, making the mortar and constructing the wall. I did one more layer along the left side perimeter wall and another two layers on the front. I only had a couple more bricks to lay before I had to finish for the closing ceremony on Friday. This consisted of some more drumming and more dancing and a lot of goodbyes.

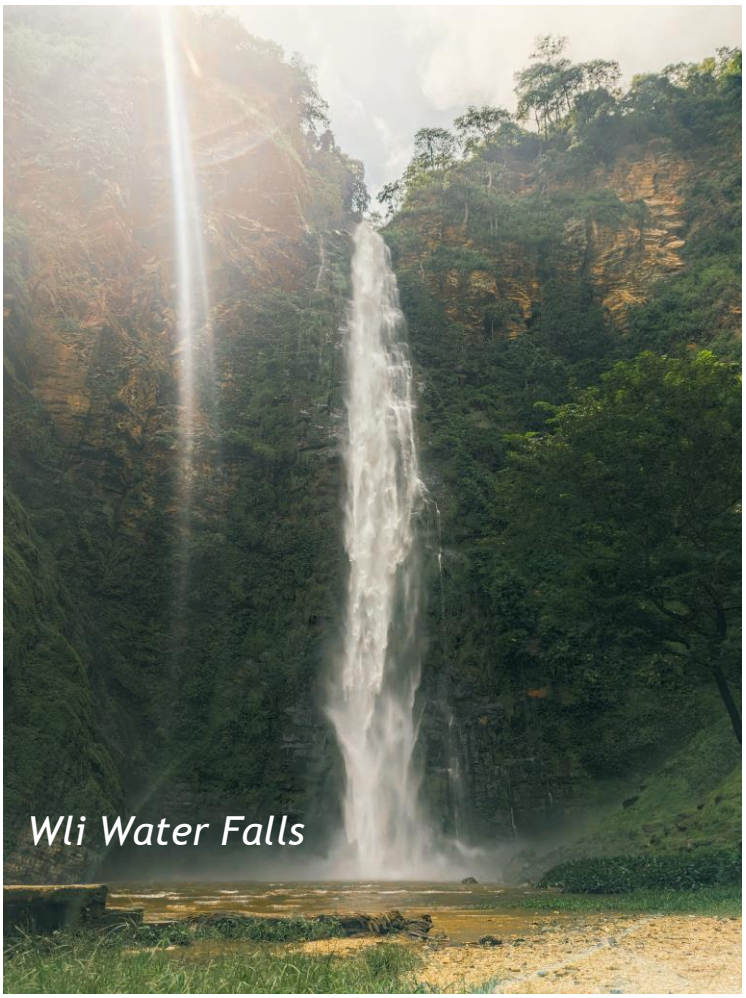

Perimeter Wall

As part of the trip, we all took donations to be shared between the school, the orphanage nearby, and the local community. After the week in the school, I did other activities such as a drumming lesson, a language and culture lesson, and visiting a local slave fort.



Lowe's Mona Monkey

At the end of the trip was the Volta weekend. This meant a five-hour bus ride north to a monkey sanctuary and a short walk though a rainforest to see the highest waterfall in West Africa.



Wli Water Falls

Overall, I have learnt a lot from this trip. Not just how the Ghanaian people live but also their struggles and daily battles for things we take for granted in England. Thank you to everyone who donated to this cause and made the trip possible for me.



Slave Fort

Felix McCauley

News in Pictures



We were entertained in church on Saturday evening, 4th July, by the "Lowe Ensemble". A full hour of Spanish Baroque music from the 16th to 18th centuries.

This splendid event was promoted by our local Town Council and we were grateful for their initiative.
Alan Thompson





It was a great pleasure for several members of St. Mary's to meet Marilyn Band (née Farrar Bell). Marilyn was visiting our church the weekend of the church fair to see for herself the beautiful stained glass "Creation Window" which was painstakingly designed & installed by her father, Michael Farrar Bell, in 1985 to commemorate the life of Stanley Albert Bourne, who was a local farmer & generous benefactor to our church.



Take a look at ground level and you can find a number of small, hanging, slate plaques which have been decorated by the Rainbows. If you go down the path by the recycling bins, you'll be sure of a big surprise ... Eeyore's sustainable house. Let's hope that such creative initiatives will help in the scoring on judging day.

5th Nantwich Rainbows have been busy working with Andrea Howell-Jones for Nantwich in Bloom to further the Winnie the Pooh theme in the planting beds around the Church and Parish Hall.





Little Fish story time with Graham.



Celebrating in The Railway on Sunday, 12th July after Ray made it to his first Evensong following his long spell in hospital.
L to R:
Carole Tilt, Ray Morris, Nick Leftley, Chris Leftley.
Welcome back, Ray!



On Friday, 17th July, the Lichfield Diocesan Mobile Belfry stopped off at Richmond Village on its way to Wrexham, a treat for the residents, and in particular for Rachel Sherwin, a former bell ringer. Rachel is a regular attender of St. Mary's service at Richmond, and in 2024 came to St. Mary's when the bells were rung in honour of her 100th birthday.



The Community Choir goes from strength to strength, under the direction of Alison Phillips. On Monday, 20th July, 29 people attended, shown here. It's usually held on the first Monday evening of the month, 7-8.30pm in church, and you can sign up at the back of the church or contact Alison on 07891 620678. The next evening is Monday, 7th September.



We were glad to welcome The Very Rev. Tim Barker, Dean of Guernsey, back to St. Mary's on Friday, 24th July, when he attended the funeral of Canon Jim Richardson (see p. 24). Tim was a curate at St. Mary's during Jim's time as Rector. Over 400 children from Guernsey were evacuated to Nantwich in July 1940, and here Tim stands below the Guernsey flag. We wish Tim well as he retires this month.

Summer Fair



Cathie Riddell's incredible stall full of beautifully prepared handbags, scarves and jewellery raised £500!



Nick & Chris Leftley had a challenge finding shade on the toy stall, but the toys were brilliantly illuminated.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Summer Fair held on 11th July, especially to the people who donated items, and to all who worked hard in the heat on the day.



Gail Johnson's lovely flowers, with Ritika D'Souza in the background on her Tropic skincare stall.



Good to see David Taylor getting a break on the cake stall. The cakes weren't hot but they sold as if they were.



Wendy Beastall and Gill Appleton serving wonderful cakes with a smile.

The Tombola Dream Team: Charles Farrer, Sue Farrer & Bryan Coghlan. A great British tradition with an Italian origin.

A total of £1,800 was raised, a great success!





The Chief Cashier, Steve Lockett, sporting his England shirt (but not the one he wore when he attended the 1966 World Cup final).

Bric-à-brac tends to mean "anything else" but Lynne Marsh always makes a wonderful stall from the piles of boxes and bags.



Rest in Peace - Jim Richardson

It is a truth universally acknowledged that Jim Richardson lifted our parish out of the doldrums during his time as Rector of Nantwich, 1975-82. It was a privilege for me to officiate at his funeral and perhaps his daughter Anna was right when she said "I think Dad was at his happiest ministering at St. Mary's". He kept a keen interest in the parish and wrote to me on my appointment saying "It is a great place to be and you have some very talented people around you ... I shall watch developments with huge interest."

Mention Jim's name in Nantwich and the first recollection is usually the Rolls-Royce coming into church. The October 1982 magazine is full of reflections on Jim's ministry, including an article by the late Bob Durrad entitled "A dynamo of energy and exuberance". Bob describes how early on, after a PCC meeting, he advised Jim to slow down – to no effect.


THIS MONTH 15p

OCTOBER 1982

AT St. MARY'S

The magazine of Nantwich Parish Church

The cover of the parish magazine, October 1982, when Jim and Janet left Nantwich, with their children Mark, Anna and Ben.

"A wonderful experience" writes the late Harold Hewitt (an assistant priest who served the parish for many years), but he says Jim had one weakness – he never made the official magazine deadline. I follow Jim in that, at least. "Seven years intense activity" is the headline of an article by the late Alan Roberts (churchwarden).

There's no doubt that Jim revitalised the parish, bringing growth, developing gift and collaboration, reaching out in mission, and spearheading new efforts of restoration.

Jim moved on from Nantwich to become Vicar of Leeds, then Director of the Council of Christians and Jews, then to the "Spencer" benefice on

the outskirts of Northampton, and finally to the post of Team Rector of Bournemouth Town Centre Parish. In 2006 Jim was awarded an OBE for services to the Church of England. In retirement Jim served at Sherborne Abbey as Canon Pastor, before moving to Leek due to ill health.

The readings and music at his funeral, held on Friday, 24th July, were all chosen by Jim, reflecting a humble trust in the faithfulness of God.

Thank you, Jim, and rest in peace (if you can).

Mark Hart

The Nantwich Show



The Opening Service of The Nantwich Show took place on the Reaseheath Showground on Tuesday, 28th July, led by Rev. Canon Anne Lawson. The service was well attended by members of all the Nantwich churches and, for the first time, was signed in British Sign Language.

The Harvest Torch will be at St. Mary's on Sunday, 11th October to celebrate the National Harvest. All are welcome to the service at 3pm and to visit the exhibitions and activities in the Square, 10am-2.30pm.



Harvest Torch

Forthcoming Events

Padel Tennis at St. Mary's

We are looking to set up a new Padel Tennis Group at St. Mary's and would love you to join us. It's the new trend and we are so blessed to have a court on Barony Park, so close by. We plan to meet once a month on a Sunday at 1pm for an hour of friendly, relaxed play. The cost is £7.50 per person for the hour (the court is £28 for the hour). Padel tennis is great fun, easy to pick up, and suitable for all abilities - anyone can play! If you're interested in joining the St. Mary's padel court WhatsApp group, please message Anna Burton on 07768 693972. I am planning our first play on **Sunday, 9th August**.



Community Choir

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

September Breakfast

We resume breakfasts after the summer break on **Saturday, 19th September**, 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, 16th September**. If you book we have to pay. The speaker will be Ceris Esplen, who attends the 9.30am service and is a volunteer leader for the 9.30am children's groups.

Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist

The church will be marking the feast of St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist on **Sunday, 20th September**. Encounter Explore on that evening will be about St. Matthew and the Gospel of Matthew. There will be prayer stations, unique displays and reflective activities in the Parish Hall for you to explore independently at your own pace. Encounter Explore is 7–9pm and you can drop in at any time. Refreshments will be served from 6.45pm. Everyone is welcome so do come along to this evening of thought and prayer.

Start

The next Start course will run on Tuesday evenings in St. Mary's Parish Hall (opposite the church), 7–9pm from **22nd September** to **3rd November**. See overleaf for more details or to book on the course please e-mail Canon David Taylor at *canondavid12@uwclub.net*, phone 01270 618936 or contact the Parish Office.

MacMillan Coffee Morning

St. Mary's Place of Welcome will be hosting a MacMillan Coffee Morning on **Friday, 25th September**. It will include a Cake Stall to raise funds for MacMillan. Do pop in for a cuppa and a cake (or 2!). We are open from 10am to 12.30pm. Cake donations would be very welcome. To offer a cake, or for more info, contact Caryl Boxhall or Mary Harris via the Parish Office. Thank you.

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



If life is a journey, where are you?



Got questions about life and the Christian faith?

New to St Mary's?
New to the Christian faith and church life?
Just wondering what the Christian faith is all about?
Thinking about Baptism or Confirmation?
Why not join us for Start?

Run in informal small groups, Start will help you think about God, Jesus and the journey of life. Each session involves video clips, presentations, group discussion and time for reflection. Each session lasts about 90 minutes and assumes no previous knowledge of the Christian faith or of the Church. Light refreshments are included and there is no charge for attending.

Sessions tackle questions like:

- What's life all about and where are we going?
- Does God exist and what is God like?
- Why is the world in such a mess?
- Who is Jesus?
- Why did Jesus die?
- How do I move on with God in my life?

Start will run on **Tuesday evenings** in St. Mary's Parish Hall (opposite the church), **7-9pm** from **22nd September to 3rd November**.

For further information or to book on the course please e-mail Canon David Taylor at *canondavid12@uwclub.net*, phone 01270 618936 or contact the Parish Office.

From the Registers: June 2026

Holy Baptism

We welcome you into the Lord's family

7th Emerson Phillips
7th Archie Hancock
21st Henry Lee
28th Cerys Allister

Funerals

May they rest in peace and rise in glory

10th Jennifer Sandland (79)
15th George Brereton (89)

July 2026

Holy Baptism

We welcome you into the Lord's family

5th Cara Rowley
5th Monty Barlow
5th Kaaleb Middleton
5th Karter Middleton
5th Ezra-Ray Broadhurst
19th Arthur Clews

Holy Matrimony

Bless these thy servants

18th Shane Richardson & Natalie Buckley

Blessing of Marriage

Bless these thy servants

25th Daniel Shand & Yamile Pineda

Funerals

May they rest in peace and rise in glory

3rd Gladys Lomas (77)
6th Gordon Edge (87)
10th Honoria Smethurst (71)
10th Neil Palmer (94)
23rd Desmond Cooke (88)
24th Jim Richardson (priest) (85)
27th Anthony Bellfield (82)
29th Jean Bebbington (102)
31st John McWhan (89)

What's in your Basket?

I have recently started making woven spiral baskets out of raffia. I've always had a "thing" about baskets and am always drawn to boxes full of them in charity shops. Basket weaving is one of the oldest crafts known to humans, pre-dating pottery and cloth making, and our early Ancestors would have used them for gathering and storing food. The oldest example of any basket was discovered in Muraba'at Cave in the Judean Desert in Israel and is estimated to be 10,500 years old. Indeed the Bible mentions baskets on a number of occasions, from the basket used to hide Moses in the rushes, to the basket of bread Jesus used to feed the five thousand and the basket in which the Apostle Paul was lowered from the city walls of Damascus to escape arrest in the book of Acts.

When I pick up some strands of natural palm raffia and begin to shape a basket, I love how this ancient craft connects me to the early humans who made baskets from the natural resources around them: grass and sea grass, straw, willow, raffia, palm, hazel. Baskets are traditionally woven by hand and no chemicals or machines are involved in the process. Every basket is unique and imperfect. The imperfections in the natural materials and the varying skill of the weaver create an object which is not only unique, but beautiful and functional even if it is uneven and wonky round the edges.



Baskets are a bit like human beings. Made from natural materials and full of imperfections, nonetheless in the eyes of God we are both beautiful and have a purpose unique to each one of us. We are not created by a machine but by a loving God who fashions each one of us according to his design, and we are made to be filled with his Spirit. I like to reflect on this whilst weaving the messy strands of raffia and bringing them into a cohesive shape, watching the basket appear under my fingers, just as God continually makes and reshapes us with his hands. What does your basket look like? What will you fill it with today?

Catherine Lounsbach

(a regular member of our Wednesday 11am congregation)

Readings for August & September 2026

2nd August *(9th Sunday after Trinity)*	Romans 9: 1-5 Matthew 14: 13-21
9th August *(10th Sunday after Trinity)*	Romans 10: 5-15 Matthew 14: 22-33
16th August *(11th Sunday after Trinity)*	Romans 11: 1-2a, 29-32 Matthew 15: 21-28
23rd August *(12th Sunday after Trinity)*	Romans 12: 1-8 Matthew 16: 13-20
30th August *(13th Sunday after Trinity)*	Romans 12: 9-21 Matthew 16: 21-28
6th September *(14th Sunday after Trinity)*	Romans 13: 8-end Matthew 18: 15-20
13th September *(15th Sunday after Trinity)*	Romans 14: 1-12 Matthew 18: 21-35
20th September *(St. Matthew)*	2 Corinthians 4: 1-6 Matthew 9: 9-13
27th September *(17th Sunday after Trinity)*	Philippians 2: 1-13 Matthew 21: 23-32

"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."
2 Timothy 3: 16-17

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 (term time)
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 (term time)
	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 (term time)
Saturday	8.30am	Morning Prayer
	8.30am	St. Mary's Breakfast (3rd Saturday)
	10.00am	Concordia practice in church



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	Rev. David Marsh	610079
	Rev. Brian Statham	07724 133215
	Rev. Canon David Taylor	618936
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	Paul O'Brien	07973 743909
Verger:	Linda Lewis	07534 272901
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	safeguarding@stmarysnantwich.org.uk	
PCC Secretary:	Beth Roberts	
	pccsecretary@stmarysnantwich.org.uk	
PCC Treasurer:	Steve Lockett	628203
Parish Office:	Gail Johnson & Miriam Harvey	
(Open 9am-12noon Mon-Fri	Church Walk, Nantwich, Cheshire CW5 5RG	
and until 3.30pm Wed)	office@stmarysnantwich.org.uk	625268

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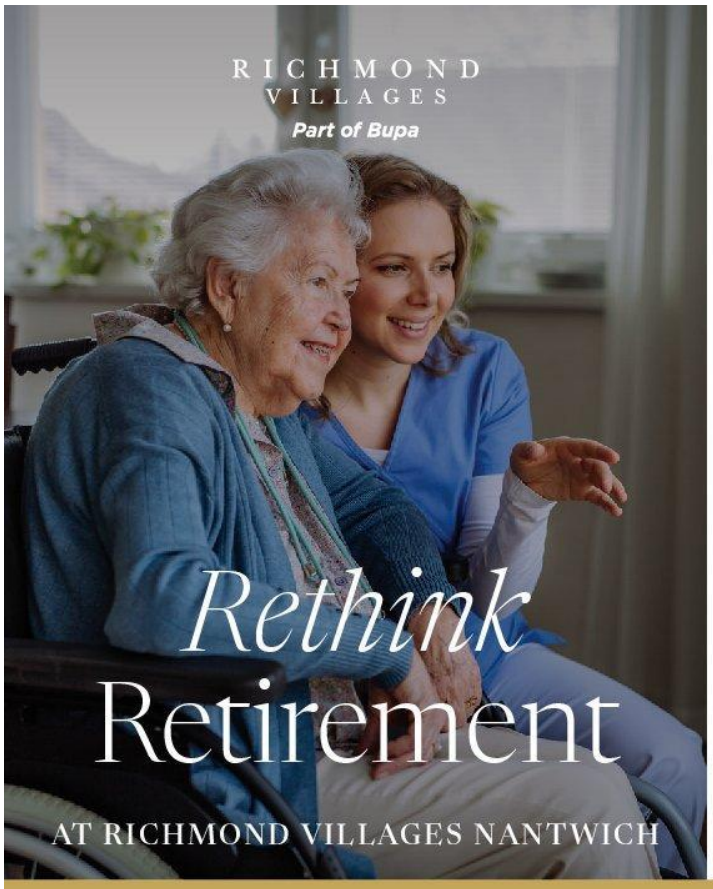
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Special Services & Events Calendar August-November 2026

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
	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
	22nd	Start, in the Parish Hall until 3rd November, 7-9pm
	26th	Concordia Concert in church, 3pm
October	7th	Sound Bath in church, 7.15pm
	10th	Community Choir Singing Concert, 10.30am
		Candlelight concert in church, 7.30pm
	11th	Harvest Festival and Harvest Lunch in the Parish Hall.
		National Harvest Festival in church, 3pm
	14th	Ralph McTell Concert in church, 7pm
	17th	St. Mary's Breakfast at Nantwich Football Club, 8.30am
		Nantwich Singers Come and Sing Day, 12noon
	24th	Encounter Explore Day in church
November	1st	Tree of Light Ceremony, 5.30pm
		All Souls' Memorial Service, 6pm
	7th	Nantwich Choral Society Concert in church, 7pm
	8th	Remembrance on the Square, 10.55am
	14th	Nantwich Concert Band in church
	15th	Encounter Supper in the Parish Hall, 7.15pm
	19th	Christmas Tree Festival Weekend (4 days)
	20th	Nantwich Christmas Lights Switch-On
	21st	Christmas Fair, 10am-2pm, Parish Hall/Grounds
	22nd	Confirmation & Baptism Service with Bp. Sam,10.45am
	28th	St. Mary's Breakfast at Nantwich Football Club, 8.30am
		Candlelight Concert in church, 7.30pm
		Christmas Pudding Stir-up in the Parish Hall
	29th	Salvation Army Christmas Present Appeal
		Christingle Service, 4pm; Advent Carol Service, 6pm