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NANTWICH

November 2026





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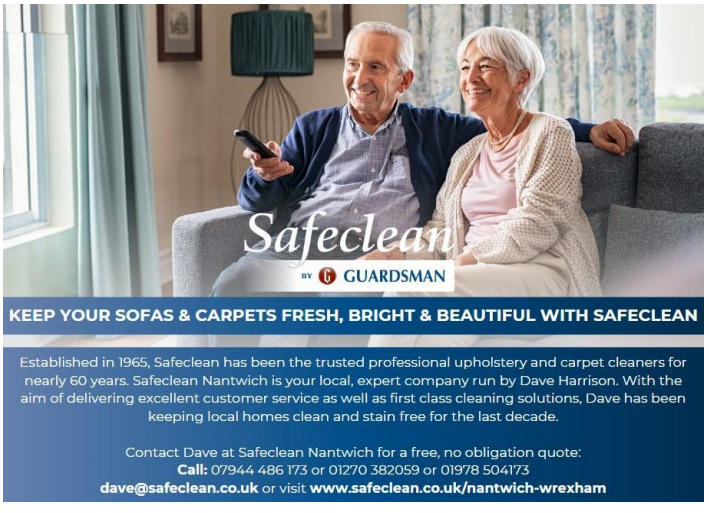
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Front cover: Carole Tilt and Aslan (Andy Lewis) greeting visitors to "Through the Wardrobe" on Saturday, 24th October.



From the Rector

I am the youngest of four brothers, and the second eldest, Jim, eight years older than me, took far more than his fair share of the musical talent. From as early as I can remember his piano playing was the regular background music in the home, especially Chopin and Beethoven, and endless improvisation of hymn tunes. I shared a bedroom with him, and the first night after he went off to university I cried a little (though of course no-one got to know). There was a gap which my plodding through Clementi couldn't fill.

I was therefore intrigued when Oleksandr Begma, a Ukrainian pianist and actor, and a Nantwich resident, contacted me asking to perform Chopin at St. Mary's, while acting in the role of Chopin. Less than three weeks later, on Saturday, 17th October, the 177th anniversary of the death of Frédéric François Chopin, the event was held in St. Mary's.

There hadn't been much time for promotion but the 50 people who attended were enthralled. It was an exceptional performance, and Oleksandr is a pianist of the highest standard – ask people there with better musical judgement than me. And the combination of music, words, and silence, was mesmerising. He will be back at St. Mary's, performing to a full church, I'm sure.

I relate this as one example of the opportunities we have at St. Mary's to be a place of welcome and openness where the whole of life, especially the arts, can be celebrated, reflected, or remembered. The building is a Christian church, dedicated to the glory of God, with its primary purpose being the worship of God, and I am obliged by the canons of the church to ensure that any activity there is "consonant with sound doctrine, and makes for the edifying of the people".

That allows plenty of scope. The worship of the church is not a compartment for the presence of God in the world and in our lives. It is a means for us to recognise better the presence of God in all that is good, across all nature and humanity.

We have a wonderful opportunity in the remaining weeks of this year to welcome thousands of people to St. Mary's for an extraordinary range of services and events. We will do our job well if people leave inspired by something that is beautiful and true, and especially if they are encouraged to trace that beauty and truth to its source in Jesus Christ.

Mark Hart (Rector)

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ST MARYS
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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!



Lest We Forget…

It may have slipped your mind (it nearly did mine) that 24th October marked the (81st) anniversary of the United Nations Organisation, founded in the aftermath of the Second World War. With 193 member states the UN is the largest international organisation in the world.

Unity is a precious gift. The Psalmist praised it (Psalm 133), Jesus prayed for it (John 17) and the Book of Revelation tells us that one day God will gather together *"a multitude that no one could count from every nation, tribe, people and language."* (Revelation 7).

However imperfectly, the United Nations brings together such a multitude and seeks to promote the peace and welfare of all peoples. Reducing landmines, child mortality, HIV infections as well as mediating conflict, it seeks to give a global voice to those who are often unheard, those who wield little power and who often suffer the most as a result of conflict, natural disaster or climate change.

The world, as we know from our news, is often at the mercy of those with the loudest voices, the biggest economies or the largest arsenals. However, when nations gather, peoples talk, problems are voiced and solutions are shared a gentler counsel prevails.

This month we recall all those who have given their lives in the service of their nation. From their sacrifice grew a longing for peace and the creation of international bodies to promote it. Eighty years on we are in danger of forgetting those aspirations, of seeking only our national interests and of damaging our world.

"Lest we forget". The best tribute we can offer to our service men and women, past and present, is to create a more peaceful, just and united world.

David Taylor

(This article is inspired by the reflections in Everyday Faith of Martha Jarvis, the UN Representative for the Anglican Communion)

Church News

Shoeboxes

Teams4U Christmas Shoeboxes will be collected in St. Mary's Chancel from **Friday, 30th October** to **Thursday, 12th November**. These are hugely appreciated by the children in Ukraine and Eastern Europe who will not receive a present. Could you fill or part fill a box this year? *https://teams4u.com/shoebox-appeal*

Mini Christmas Fair

On **Saturday, 21st November** there will be a mini Christmas Fair, 10am-2pm, in the hall and outside (weather permitting). We would appreciate:

tombola items
jigsaws and paperback books
handbags, scarves, jewellery
nearly new, high quality bric-a-brac
toys and games
homemade cakes and produce

Offers to help on the day, would be welcome. Thank you.

Salvation Army Christmas Present Appeal

We are collecting new gifts for all ages to 16 years. If you would like to donate, please bring your unwrapped gift to church (any service) on **Sunday, 29th November**. All contributions gratefully received.

Event Stewards Needed

Volunteers will be needed for a number of forthcoming concerts and the Christmas Tree Festival. If you are not on Mark's e-mail list of event steward volunteers and think you may be able to help, please let him know.

Friday Place of Welcome

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

Sing!

Sing! at St. Mary's meets upstairs in the Parish Hall on Tuesdays in term time from 4-4.45pm. All school age children who enjoy singing are welcome to come and join us!

Mothers' Union News

We are sorry to share that our indoor member, Bobbyanne Rutter, has died. Bobbyanne remained a faithful member for many years after she was no longer able to attend meetings in person.

Our October members' meeting was held on 16th October, with a great turnout of 23 members. Everyone enjoyed a lively music quiz, followed by refreshments. Our next meeting will be held on 20th November at 2.15pm in the Parish Hall. Our speaker will be Alan Thompson, whose subject is "Happiness in a Christian Context".

St. Luke's Christmas Tree Festival, in partnership with St. Mary's, takes place from 10.00am on Friday, 20th November until 5.00pm on Sunday, 22nd November. We are sponsoring a tree at the festival, which was kindly donated by one of our members. Many of the decorations have been handmade by committee members and other volunteers, helping to promote the work of the Mothers' Union both locally and globally. Mark has given consent for the tree to remain on display in St. George's Chapel, in front of our newly cleaned banner, so anyone who misses the festival will still have an opportunity to view it.

Clare, our Programme Secretary, has been working hard to prepare our programme of events and meetings for 2027. Copies will be available from mid-December in the magazine rack, so please pick one up and come along to "Join Us and Join In".

Cathie Riddell

Appleton Window

Work is now in progress on the installation of a new library window into the nave, above the south porch, in memory of Dr. Rick Appleton, a local GP and member of St. Mary's for many years. It is expected that the work will be complete by mid-November.



Youth Weekend Away



From 18-20th September nine youth, six leaders and one baby headed to The Quinta yet again for a weekend of fun, fellowship and faith.



The theme of the weekend was "Seen and Unseen", talking about seeing God in the ordinary, as well as the miraculous.



Over the weekend we ate lots of yummy food, went swimming, played the postbox game (Emma is a very good hider!) and enjoyed games round the bonfire.



Susie Phillips

Joy and Reverence



At the start of their 50th Anniversary celebration year, the Nantwich Singers held a "Joy and Reverence" Singing Day on Saturday, 17th October. It was indeed a day of joy, reverence, relevance and of course plenty of resonance!

Top ABCD (Association of British Choral Directors) trainer Amy Bebbington led us through brilliant warm-ups including correct body alignment, articulation, vowel matching, blending, listening and breath support.

We were thus prepared for singing inspirational music by Bruckner, Viadana, Janet Wheeler and Amy herself. It takes a special skill to bring together a large group quickly to produce something so worthwhile and enriching. Huge thanks to Amy, and to everyone who joined in. The homemade cakes were quite good too!

Annabel Neilsen



"There are no Ordinary People"

Ernie Charlton was the speaker at the October breakfast. For someone who was educationally challenged, he gave an erudite talk, illustrating how well-read he is, capturing the essence of what CS Lewis wrote in his essay *The Weight of Glory*: "There are no ordinary people."

At 15 years of age, Ernie was encouraged to leave school, for being troublesome and took a job as a trainee tailor at the Chester Barrie factory in Crewe. "I was once an ordinary tailor" he said. Tall, slim, weighing only 8 stone, Ernie at 15, was asked to model a red cashmere suit on the catwalk. 36" flares, a leather belt, red patent shoes, a flowery shirt and a 5" kipper tie – he made the inside page of the Crewe Chronicle. (He's the tall one in the middle).



After a while Ernie's modelling and tailoring career gave way to a job at Rolls Royce (now Bentley) as a car production worker. He was still of the view that you're either born into a family that takes GCSEs, or one that doesn't. He likens this to the herd mentality as described in *Instincts of the Herd in Peace and War* by Wilfred Trotter, published in 1916. It explores how humans, like animals living in herds, possess a biological drive toward group behaviour. Trotter introduced the concept of "herd instinct" to explain social motivation, conformity, and suggestibility.

However, Ernie decided to get some basic qualifications and attended South Cheshire College and later became a teacher. One afternoon at The Alex, he had cause to ponder herd mentality again as his son asked why people were calling his name out? Some of the sixth formers he taught had started a chant "Ernie, Ernie give us a wave", which somehow then extended round the stadium. Why do people get caught up in following a chant?

Ernie was teaching English to adults at Knutsford College, when one of his students asked him to "go slow Sir, you've been reading all your life". Ernie replied that actually he hadn't as he only learnt to read properly at 18. Ernie moved on to a role as education advisor for ICT in Cheshire.

His experiences in education made him reflect on how people consider other people and their actions. He mentioned the "late, great Pat Stalker" and her role as a magistrate where she was always keen to understand why someone had offended. Conversely Ernie referred to Old Testament King David who demanded his first wife Michal back from Paltiel, to whom she had been given. Paltiel was of no consequence to David. He just wanted his possession back with no thought for the human misery left behind, shown by Paltiel's weeping; a poignant display of emotion. Likewise in the film Kes, when Billy's brother kills the kestrel because Billy had not put a bet on horses which won. There is no thought for the suffering Billy will feel.

These two examples show where people have neglected to think about the feelings of others and ramifications of their act – do they think these people are just ordinary people?

After a period of training teachers, Ernie went to work in the football academy at the YMCA in Crewe. Here he found people with chaotic lives. He reflects on the writer Tim O'Grady who wrote "… CHAOS and helplessness are never far away from anyone, that they just take you as a strong wind takes a tree and that their victims are to be commiserated with rather than scorned." Ernie worked with people from 16 to their 70s who had been taken by events beyond their control: mental illness, deprivation, entrenched worklessness, loneliness, etc. Are these ordinary people? At the YMCA, Ernie worked on the premise that as well as teaching people skills, he would try to get them to believe in themselves – believe that they were not just ordinary.

Ernie concluded with his view that there are no ordinary people, everybody is extraordinary. Ernie illustrated this by quoting from the last paragraph of George Eliot's novel *Middlemarch*, where she talks about the world being dependent on unhistoric acts undertaken by people who faithfully lived a hidden life. Ernie reflects that the novel's theme of social change shows the significance of everyday actions and the often-overlooked contributions of individuals to society, that the lives of seemingly ordinary people can have profound effects on the world even if their deeds go unrecognised.



Through the Wardrobe - A Celebration of C S Lewis



Saturday, 24th October was a wet and stormy day but hundreds of people braved the wild weather conditions and visited St. Mary's for the C S Lewis day.

Aslan the friendly (but not tame) lion greeted everyone at the west doors with a warm and enthusiastic welcome. See front cover.



Visitors were delighted to step through the wardrobe and into the magical world of Narnia with its snow-covered trees, iconic lamp post and secretive woodland animals. All ages from babies to nonagenarians enjoyed the experience.



The evil White Witch rode through the forest in her sleigh with majesty and style turning creatures into stone with her magic wand. She enticed anyone she encountered to join her in the sleigh and sample some Turkish Delight.



The four thrones of Narnia awaited in the castle at Cair Paravel and visitors had chance to become Narnian royalty, trying on coronation robes and crowns and sitting on the thrones.



An art exhibition of the complete story of *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* using the original Pauline Baynes illustrations was displayed in the chancel. Other scenes from the book that visitors could step into included Tea with Mr. Tumnus, the animals celebrating Christmas before the witch turned them into stone and the gifts given to Peter, Susan and Lucy. Information cards highlighted links to Christianity in the *Chronicles of Narnia*.



Insights into the theological works of Lewis were provided in the *Screwtape Letters* display and the *Out of the Silent Planet* exhibit as well as in a large selection of quotes and books.



Lewis's life was explained by a visual timeline, an exhibit on his autobiography, *Surprised By Joy* and in a set of rarely seen photos of his Oxford home, The Kilns.



Other activities featured colouring, playing Lewis's favourite game of Scrabble and a selection of themed puzzles completed the Narnia in Nantwich experience.

Carole Tilt

News in Pictures



Congratulations to Louis Robins and Kate Chesters, married at St. Mary's on Saturday, 10th October.

Thank you to Graham Christopher who was Youth & Children's Worker, providing maternity cover for Susie Phillips, from last year, and since Susie's return has continued part-time. Graham is now leaving employment with St. Mary's, from the end of October, and moving to a new post with Cheshire East. Graham's dedication, experience, leadership and imagination, has been much appreciated by the children, young people, and adults at St. Mary's. We pray for God's blessing on him and we're glad he will continue as a member of our church, volunteering as he is able.



Community Choir



On the morning of Saturday, 10th October the Community Choir, which meets monthly on Monday evenings, held an extra workshop accompanied by Concordia and some members of St. Mary's Choir, led by Alison Phillips. The music was much appreciated by visitors to the church.





Through the Wardrobe - Mr. Tumnus and the White Witch

Harvest Festival

We celebrated Harvest Festival at all our services on Sunday, 11th October in a beautifully decorated church, thanks to the skill and dedication of our flower arrangers.





A bumper crop of harvest gifts were collected at the chancel gates thanks to the generosity of the congregations and Pear Tree School. As in previous years they were donated to myCWA (Cheshire Without Abuse), a local charity helping women and families affected by domestic abuse.



In the afternoon the National Harvest Service was held at St. Mary's, led by Canon Anne Lawson (Vicar of Acton) with Bishop Mark preaching.



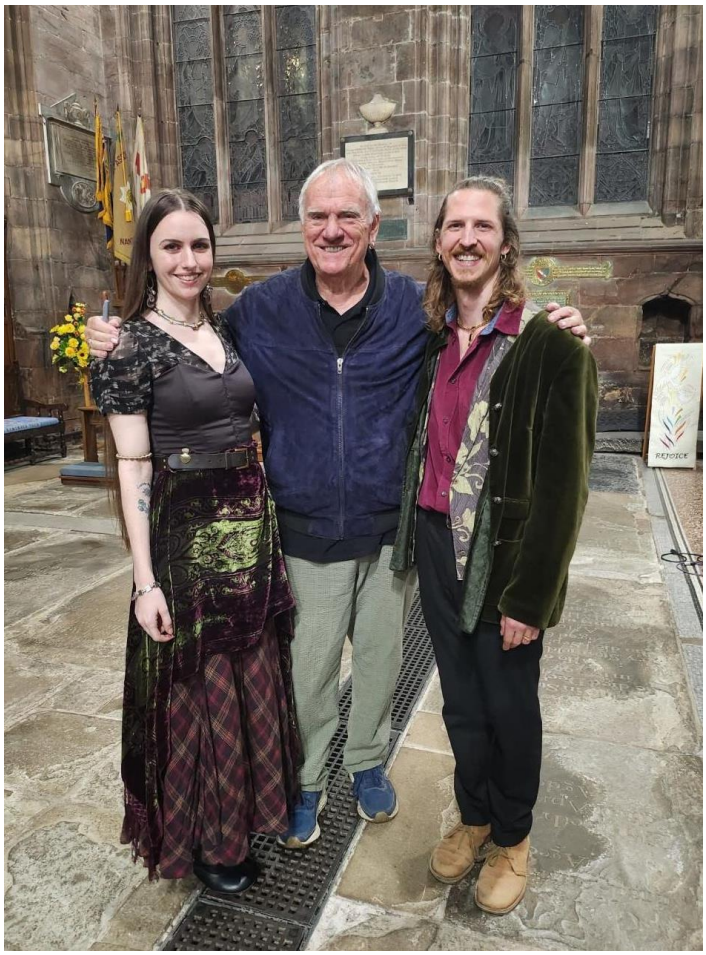
Michael-John Parkin provided his vintage tractor for the occasion, here surrounded by various representatives of Reaseheath and other organisations, with Canon Anne Lawson in the driving seat.

There were various displays and stalls, including two young calves, in the churchyard for the afternoon, provided by local farms and Reaseheath College.





The National Harvest Service moves around the country from year to year, and the National Harvest Torch is present each time, with the previous locations identified on the plinth. St. Mary's name will be there now, following Westminster Abbey where the 2025 service was held.



A brilliant and emotionally charged night at St. Mary's, on Wednesday, 14th October, during the Words & Music Festival, saw folk music icon Ralph McTell deliver a beautiful set, taking in songs from all stages of his 60 year long career.

The legendary troubadour - now 81 - was in spectacular form both vocally and instrumentally, and the closing brace of songs "From Clare To Here" and "Streets Of London" saw the packed audience raising the rafters.

Local folk heroes Nastee Chapel (Natalie Grace & Steve, shown here with Ralph) played an excellent set to open the evening on what was a very special unforgettable Nantwich occasion.



The Mayor of Nantwich, Cllr. Kim Jamson, attended the Civic Service held at St. Mary's on Sunday, 18th October, accompanied by her consort Cllr. Geoff Smith. The Deputy Mayor, Cllr. John Priest, was also present, along with other Nantwich Town Councillors, and representatives of other towns in Cheshire, and other organisations in Nantwich. St. Mary's Choir sang Matins, and the service was followed by refreshments in the Parish Hall.

Forthcoming Events

Encounter Supper

The next Encounter Supper takes place on **Sunday, 15th November** at 7.15pm in the Parish Hall. The speaker is Lynne Marsh, a member of St. Mary's since 1999, former reader and now involved in the Mothers' Union. Please book via the Parish Office.

November Carol-singing Breakfast

The November breakfast will take place on **Saturday, 28th November**, 8.30am at The Tea Lounge at the Nantwich Football Stadium. Join us for this popular carol-singing event to get into the Christmas spirit. Carol-singing will be led by Lyndon Hills. As usual sign up in church or phone the office by midday on **Wednesday, 25th November**.

Christmas Tree Festival 2026

In partnership with St Luke's Hospice. Book tickets for Christmas Cinema (**Saturday, 21st November**) *https://slhospice.co.uk/event/treefestival/*

Tickets are still available online for the Christmas Cinema, Saturday, 21st November: 4.30pm Home Alone 2, 8pm The Holiday (2006)

How you can help? There will be a raffle throughout the weekend and at each of the cinema events. Donations of prizes – chocolates, biscuits, bottles, unwanted gifts would be much appreciated.

Mini Christmas Fair

On **Saturday, 21st November** there will be a mini Christmas Fair, 10am-2pm, in the hall and outside (weather permitting). We would appreciate:

tombola items
jigsaws and paperback books
handbags, scarves, jewellery
nearly new, high quality bric-a-brac
toys and games
homemade cakes and produce

Offers to help on the day, would be welcome. Thank you.

See also **"Special Services & Events Calendar"** on p. 30.



NANTWICH CHORAL SOCIETY

Vivaldi

Gloria

Handel

Arrival of the Queen of Sheba

Organ Concerto HWV 289

Coronation Anthems

Nantwich Sinfonia – Leader Alison Loram

Simon Russell – Organ

John Naylor – Conductor

St Mary's Church, Nantwich

Saturday 7th November 2026, 7.00 pm

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ST MARYS NANTWICH

Ceilidh & Chilli Supper

St Mary's Church Parish Hall

Saturday 14th November at 6.30pm

Bring your own drinks. Hot drinks and squash will be available

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

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

Book tickets:

1. In cash via the Parish Office
2. Online via Collctiv via this link at pay.collctiv.com/st-marys-nantwich-ceilidh-and-chilli-supper-28788
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Christmas Pudding Stir-up

St Mary's Parish Hall, Nantwich

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No previous experience needed.
Accompanied children welcome.

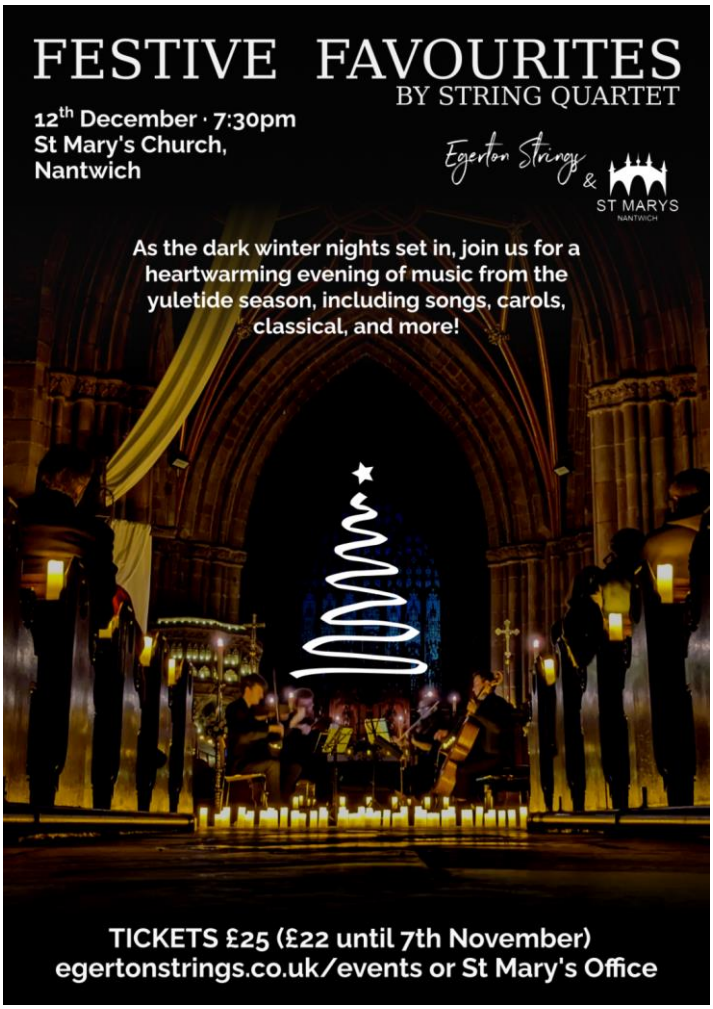
Date: Saturday 28th November (*Choose 1 of 3 sessions*) 10.30-11.30am, 12.00-1.00pm, 1.30-2.30pm

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

Cost: £8.00 per pudding - to be paid in advance by cash via the Parish Office or directly to Caryl Boxhall, or online through Collctiv.

Advance booking only
by Sunday 22nd November
Please email Caryl at
stmaryspuds@gmail.com
to confirm session availability and for the payment link. Thank you.





Sixteen Days of Activism



The days are drawing in, the clocks have gone back – it is definitely autumn. Each November, Soroptimist International provides graphics and social media copy for 16 Days of Activism (25th November-10th December this year) to end violence against women and girls, focussing specifically on Online Violence.

For over a century, Soroptimist International (SI) has been a powerhouse for advocating change through spearheading national initiatives. Holding special consultative status at the United Nations, SI has campaigned tirelessly to end violence against women and girls. Regrettably gender-based violence in the form of physical and emotional harm, controlling or coercive behaviour, forced marriage, grooming, sexual harassment and more remains a prevalent crime – a root cause and consequence of gender inequality.

The local Nantwich Soroptimist group has for many years supported the dedicated work of MyCWA (Cheshire Without Abuse) in Crewe, which has for 50 years championed and advocated for those impacted by domestic abuse.

Gender based violence can also happen online.

For 2026, Soroptimists worldwide have built a campaign to turn attention to **violence** against women and girls **online**; as in the use of digital tools and platforms to harm, control or silence someone because of their gender. Over the 16 Days of Activism, SI will explore prominent different forms of online violence, common misconceptions and what **you** can do to help. The focus will be on five areas: what online violence looks like, digital stalking, false/misleading narratives that target women, bias in automated systems meant to keep people safe, and digital consent along with safer platform design.

So, what can you do? You can post and share an awareness of this issue of online violence against women between 25th November and 10th December – spread the word across your own channels.

St. Mary's Church, Nantwich will be lit up in orange on the evening of Saturday, 28th November to literally highlight this issue. If you think you know someone who is experiencing violence or coercion, make them aware of the following numbers: MyCWA Helpline (24/7): 03333 449505

General enquiries: *info@mycwa.org.uk*
Cheshire East Domestic Abuse Hub: 0300 123 5101
National Domestic Abuse Helpline: 0808 2000 247

From the Registers: September 2026

Holy Baptism

We welcome you into the Lord's family

6th	Nicholas Whitmore	6th	William Whitmore
6th	Hollie Williams	17th	Hannah Fearon
6th	Oliver Whitmore		

Holy Matrimony

Bless these thy servants

19th Matthew Marshall & Natalia Bibby

Funerals

May they rest in peace and rise in glory

11th	Helen Bevans (83)
23rd	Christine Davidson (83)
30th	Ian Strachan (70)

Readings for November 2026

1st November *(All Saints' Day)*	1 John 3: 1-3 Matthew 5: 1-12
8th November *(3rd Sunday before Advent/Remembrance Sunday)* Remembrance Service on the Square, 10.55am	1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18 Matthew 25: 1-13
15th November *(2nd Sunday before Advent)*	1 Thessalonians 5: 1-11 Matthew 25: 14-30
22nd November *(Christ the King)*	Ephesians 6: 10-20 Luke 24: 44-49
29th November *(1st Sunday before Advent)*	1 Corinthians 1: 3-9 Mark 13: 24-37

Green Shoots

Our son recently came back from the deserts of the east. He was amazed to see the green and growing lawns around here. A friend who lives in London said that her lawn is still dried up and appears to be dead. We are lucky in the North West to not be in official drought. Most of the rest of England is classified as in drought as I write. It seems that here everything is now flourishing and the grass is growing quickly.

We are leaving the harvest season and soon to be moving on into Advent and, dare I say, Christmas. The climate dominates what grows when. The farmers and other growers plus the gardeners need to plan and prepare for the coming months. There are many concerns about food supplies here and worldwide. There is also concern about distribution. How to share the world's resources more fairly is an ongoing worry. This is especially true in war zones where politicians and soldiers interfere with the traditional systems. Climate change demands much adaptation.

For us, the new green shoots of grass tell us that there is hope and promise as long as we adapt sensibly. Advent is like that too. The word means coming, when we look forward to Christ's birth and his coming into our troubled world.

But is that what it means? Surely Christ said, "Lo, I am with you always". We do not need to pray for his coming, but for recognition of his presence now. The new and the old green shoots of grass remind us of this. New life, new hope is always present and available. Christ is with us. Advent is a challenge to make sure that, like the farmers and gardeners, we are prepared for now and for the future. We need to renew our faith and hope. We need to put them into action.

We also need to be inspired by the wonderful acts of kindness and love which are so often reported in the media around this time of year. These make a contrast to the usual news in the media. In this way so many green shoots of hope will grow into maturity and spread a green carpet of hope around the world.

Dot Roxby

Regular Services & Groups

The church is open for all our usual regular services, and open to visitors Monday-Saturday, 9.30am-4pm. The 9.30am and 10.45am Sunday services continue to be live-streamed on YouTube most weeks. Services and events below are held weekly unless stated otherwise, and this is the normal pattern, which may occasionally change (check the weekly notice sheet).

Sunday	8.00am	Holy Communion
	9.30am	All Age Worship (Communion 1st Sunday)
	10.45am	Holy Communion
	2.30pm	Holy Baptism (1st and 3rd Sundays)
	3.00pm	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)
	4.00pm	Sing! 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)
	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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The Medieval Hermitage of Nantwich: Revealed



According to the historic records of *Medieval Ordinations of the Diocese of Coventry and Lichfield*, in May 1388, a priest named Aleyn, was present at the *"hermitage of Wych [Nantwich]"*.

From those same records, we find that "Thomas Aleyn of Wico (Malbano) [ie. Nantwich]" was paid to be ordained by Combermere Abbey for him to rise through the three holy orders, ie. subdeacon, deacon, and then priest, between 1331 and 1334.

By the time he was recorded at the Hermitage, he was around 78 or 79 years old. Before this, he likely served as one of the parish priests at St. Mary's Church in the town, before becoming a hermit, nearby, when he retired and was elderly.

Up until now, this medieval Hermitage proved elusive, but its identity was staring at us all, in plain sight!

Now, find out where this medieval hermitage was, and what it was, and if any of its remains do in fact, still remain in the town, in this new historical article, by Charles Fairey.

To read the full article, with photographs, one annotated, please go to the following link online:

https://sites.google.com/site/charlesfaireyhistorian/publications/the-medieval-hermitage-of-nantwich

Or, search in your internet browser, for *Charles Fairey Historian*, then click in the left hand menu *"Publications"* and go down the page to *"Articles"*, and find the full article, just after *"What Happened to Burnell's late 13th Century Nantwich Church? An Investigation", January 2026*.

Charles Fairey

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 Workers:		
	Susie Phillips	07795 696234
	susie@stmarysnantwich.org.uk	
	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	368468
Director of Music & SING!	Alison Phillips	07891 620678
Parish Hall Manager:	Nick Leftley	07899 807831
	nicleftley@aol.com	
	(Bookings via mah4now@yahoo.com)	
Parish Safeguarding Officer	Belinda Coghlan	568945
	safeguarding@stmarysnantwich.org.uk	
PCC Secretary:	Beth Roberts	
	pccsecretary@stmarysnantwich.org.uk	
PCC Treasurer:	Steve Lockett	628203

Parish Office:	Gail Johnson & Miriam Harvey	
(Open 9am-12noon Mon-Fri	Church Walk, Nantwich, Cheshire CW5 5RG	
and until 3.30pm Wed)	office@stmarysnantwich.org.uk	625268

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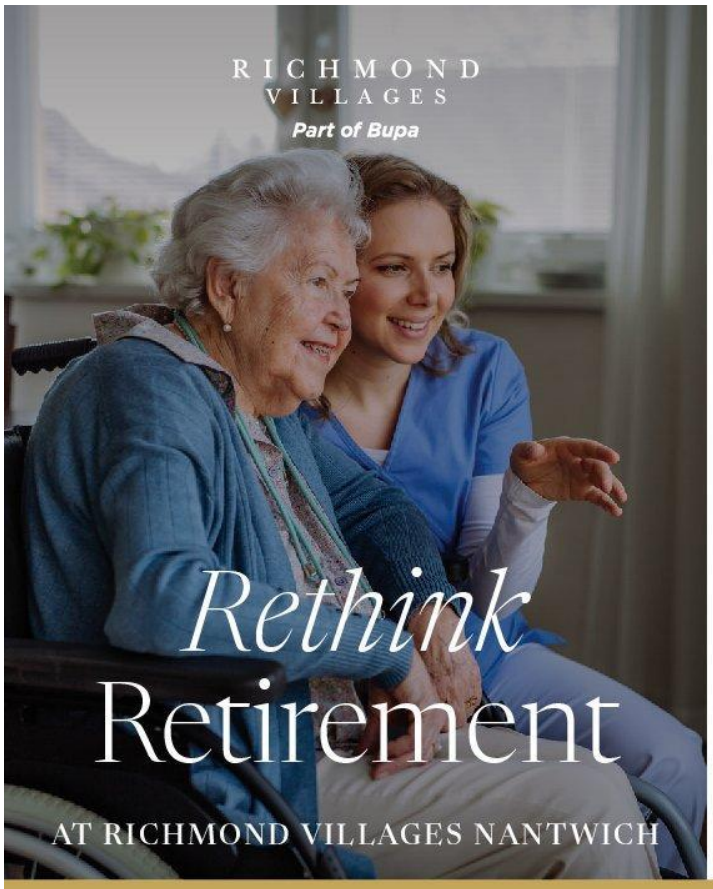


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Special Services & Events Calendar November-December 2026

November	1st	Tree of Light Ceremony, 5.30pm
		All Souls' Memorial Service, 6pm
	7th	Nantwich Choral Society Concert in church, 7pm
	8th	Remembrance Service on the Square, 10.55am
	14th	Ceilidh with Chilli Supper in the Parish Hall, 6.30pm
		Nantwich Concert Band in church, 7pm
	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
	24th	Sir Edmund Wright Service, 11am
	28th	St. Mary's Breakfast at Nantwich Football Club, 8.30am
		Christmas Pudding Stir-up in the Parish Hall
		Candlelight Concert in church, 7.30pm
	29th	Salvation Army Christmas Present Appeal
		Christingle Service, 4pm; Advent Carol Service, 6pm
December	2nd	Sound Bath in church, 7.15pm
	3rd-5th	Small Art Works Exhibition
	7th	Sing the Christmas Story in church, 10.30am and 2pm
	8th	Welsh Chamber Orchestra Concert in church, 7.30pm
	9th	Pear Tree School Christmas Concert in church, 6pm
	11th	MU Carol Service in the Parish Hall, 2.15pm
	12th	Christmas Charity Concert in church, 1pm
		Candlelight Concert in church, 7.30pm
	13th	Nantwich Singers Christmas Concert in church, 3pm
	14th	Malbank School Carol Concert in church, 7pm
	15th	Brine Leas School Carol Concert in church, 7pm
	16th	Oxley's Charity Carol Service in church, 7pm
	19th	Nantwich Choral Society Concert in church, 6.30pm

See next page for Advent & Christmas Special Services.

Advent & Christmas Special Services

Advent Sunday, 29th November

4pm Christingle Service: Candles, candy, and oranges. Atmospheric, and great for children.

6pm Candlelit Advent Carol Service: A procession from darkness to light, beautiful hymns and choral music.

Sunday, 13th December

9.30am All Age Nativity with Harry the Donkey: A scratch nativity play with carols. Children may come dressed as a character or use our costume box. Follow the donkey to the crib. Refreshments and Messy Christmas in the Parish Hall after the service.

Sunday, 20th December

6pm A Candlelit Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols: The traditional carols & readings, and glorious music

Tuesday, 22nd December

7.30pm Slowly Communion: Time to catch your breath

Christmas Eve

2pm, 3.30pm, 5pm Crib Services: The festive mood is high as families fill the church singing well-known carols and enjoying a nativity drama with a twist.

11.30pm Candlelit Midnight Mass: Silent night! Holy night! The clock strikes twelve. The choir soars. It's Christmas present.

Christmas Day

8am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer): Christians awake! Salute the happy morn.

10am All Age Communion: Joy to the world! All ages celebrate together. Church with cheer. Choir and carols.

No tickets required. Come in good time!



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Friday 20th November - 10am - 9pm
Saturday 21st November - 9.30am - 3.00pm
Sunday 22nd November - 12.30pm - 5pm

www.slhospice.co.uk/treefestival