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October 2026





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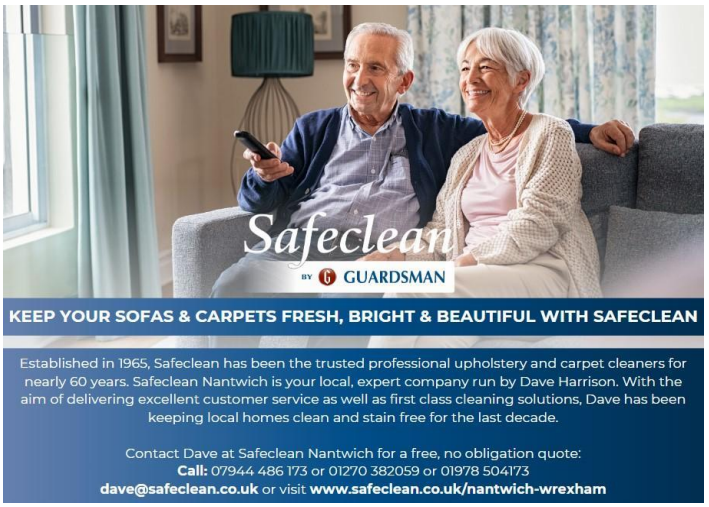
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Front cover: The church grounds during the 2026 Nantwich Food Festival.



From the Rector

In the first year of my first job after university my boss asked me to look into the possibility of using Artificial Intelligence to design turbocharger compressor wheels. I was sceptical and soon persuaded him to let me do other things. That was forty years ago when people were getting excited about "expert systems" which may codify rules of human reasoning. The excitement was short lived, and soon after the world entered an AI winter of disillusionment.

We are now in an AI spring, made possible by decades of exponential growth in computing power, and a shift of AI methodology from logical rules to statistical probability. The results are extraordinary, and many readers of this magazine will now use AI routinely. Yet with the rapidly increasing power and reach of AI has come the fear of what may happen if it all goes wrong.

I recently bought a small battery-powered garden chainsaw. The instruction booklet includes 17 pages of safety notes. The more powerful the tool, the greater the harm it may inflict, if used incorrectly, or left uncontrolled. The AI warnings are a similar caution but on a global scale, and with no-one able to foresee how things may unfold.

AI is a tool with enormous potential to save lives and increase prosperity, but as with all tools, it can be used for evil, accidentally or wilfully. But it is simply a tool. A common misconception is that AI itself has understanding or purpose, and if not now, then in the future, it may become a super-intelligence which can rise up intentionally against humanity.

The sum total of the world's AI computing power is no nearer to being able to understand or decide anything than my chainsaw. If I lose one of my fingers to the chainsaw, it won't be because it doesn't like me. And if the world's air traffic is suddenly thrown into disaster by AI it won't be because the machine has decided to take control.

Unlike computers, human beings can understand and decide. We are unique in our recognition of love, truth, goodness and beauty, albeit imperfectly. We have always made tools to help us to survive and to live more fully. As the tools get more sophisticated so we must become wiser in using them for good, individually and collectively. *Mark Hart (Rector)*

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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!



Celebrating the Saints

I have a book with the title "Celebrating the Saints" which contains a brief introduction to the person and a comment on their life. All are related to the UK so include George, Andrew, Patrick and David. Some are well-known, others maybe unheard of … but all "saints". Does that mean an extra-special person, a one-off, someone with a halo? Definitely not … they are all very ordinary, but enabled by Christ to do extraordinary things, like founding a Monastery on Iona (Columba).

In October we celebrate two such remarkable people, Francis of Assisi and the gospel writer Luke (4th and 18th October). What do the lives of these two have to teach us?

This year commemorates the 800th anniversary of Francis' death. Not many people have been remembered for that long! Franciscans are still active in this country and elsewhere. He was a humble man who had been born rich. He cared deeply about the natural world around him, he cared about the marginalised (mainly lepers then). I was privileged to be in Assisi some years ago on 4th October and shared Communion in the huge Basilica with countless others. That invitation is never announced, but it is well-known.

And what of Luke? He was half Jew, half Greek. The followers of Christ are international. He was a constant companion of Paul on his long journeys … quite an asset as Luke was a doctor!

We also owe him one of the longest of the Gospels, written, as he says in the first few verses of chapter 1, in order to help someone (Theophilus or you or me) to come to faith. Most of the well-known Parables are in this gospel (Prodigal Son, Good Samaritan) and Luke is the only one who records in detail the birth of Jesus with shepherds, angels, and a cow-shed.

If you look up "Celebrating the Saints" on Google, you will find over 300 others with a remarkable story each, and an encouragement and a challenge to the way we live our lives. It's worth remembering that Saint Paul described Christians as (all) "called to be Saints" (1 Corinthians 1: 2, and Romans 1: 7).

David Marsh, retired priest

Church News

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 has returned for this autumn. We meet 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!

New Recruits

The following have recently been recruited to new volunteer roles at St. Mary's:
Andrew Mackinnon - Steward
Andrew Hanasz - Steward
Jan Anderson - Place of Welcome

Crib Services Readthrough, Save the Date

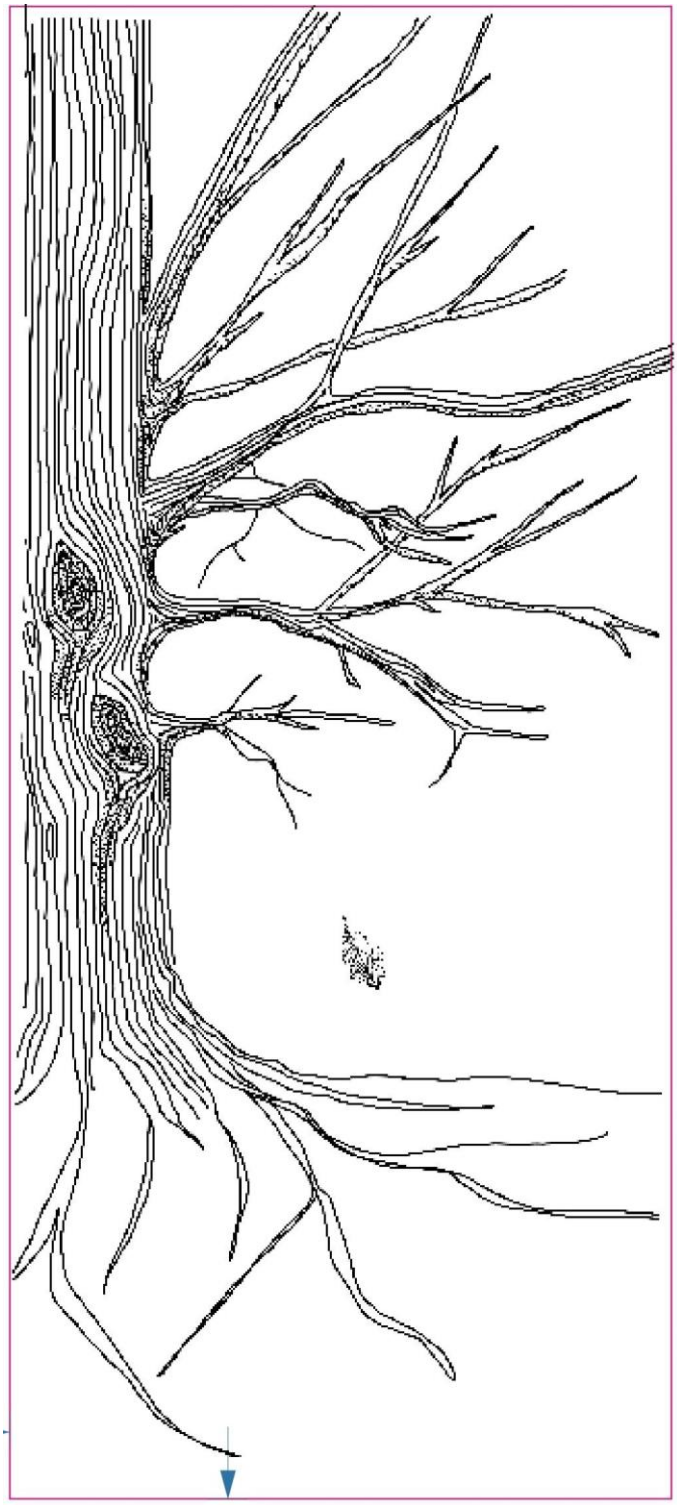
The first 2026 crib script readthrough will take place on **Friday, 16th October** at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall. All are welcome. Nibbles and drinks will be available. It's an opportunity to have a say as to what role you'd like (no guarantees!), or to express interest in helping with costumes or sets. Come and join a friendly group in the fun of rehearsals and the services on Christmas Eve. Can't make that date? Talk to Susie: *susie@stmarysnantwich.org.uk*



Christmas Tree Festival 2026

In partnership with St. Luke's Hospice. Now is the time to sponsor a tree to promote your business or organisation.
Book tickets for An Evening with Robbie and Gary (opening night, **Thursday 19th November**) and Christmas Cinema (Saturday, 21st November) *https://slhospice.co.uk/event/treefestival/*

Replacement Library Window
(aka The Rick Appleton Memorial Window)



The installation of the upgrade to the library window is imminent. The Diocesan application side of it has featured here previously. Now it's an opportunity to learn a little more about the evolution of the design for the etched oak tree trunk, with falling leaf.

The family of the late Dr. Rick Appleton proposed that the window could become a piece of art dedicated in his memory. Rick was a GP in Nantwich, a committed member of St. Mary's, Churchwarden more than once and for many years Chairman of the Fabric Committee.

Rick's widow Gill, known to many of us, explained the origin of ideas for the design which has been skilfully drawn for etching in glass by one of her granddaughters.

As a young boy, Rick planted an acorn in the field behind where the family lived. It flourished into a beautiful oak tree. The land was subsequently bought for housing development and the tree was felled. This made Rick very unhappy.

His love of trees remained with him, and he enjoyed going to the Dorothy Clive Garden. He could look at trees for hours and even when he was confined to a wheelchair, Gill and he would visit the Dorothy Clive Garden. The Appleton family arranged the planting of an oak tree there in Rick's memory, where they had a service to celebrate his life.

But Gill felt that there are still many of Rick's patients in Nantwich and she and the family also wanted something in the town by which Rick could be remembered. The family is delighted that a creative addition in Rick's memory will also be an upgrade to the interior of St. Mary's. The existing window was described as "uninteresting and out of place" in the Diocesan application.

Gill worked with her granddaughter on the design. It was always going to be an oak tree. She feels that the idea of the falling leaf adds something – because it's what oak trees do - drop their leaves, and it gives a sense of motion to the etching.

From St. Mary's point of view, it is fitting for the church's interior. Rector Mark wrote "The illuminated tree illustration adds interest, in keeping with the naturalistic imagery which fills the church, in stone, wood and glass, making the building a representation of a restored Eden."

Once it's installed, don't forget to look up behind you when you enter through the south porch and up in front as you leave.

Mothers' Union News



Our Annual Fundraiser Cream Tea was on 6th August - see pictures on p. 19.

Sunday, 9th August was Mary Sumner Day. Members had been given candles to light and prayers to say at 11am, while Glenis and her flower-arranging team created beautiful blue and white arrangements throughout the church.

A peal of 5056 changes of Cambridge Surprise Major was rung to celebrate the Sesquicentennial of the Mothers' Union. The band contained a mother and daughter (Josie and Samantha Martin) and a mother and son (Nicola and George Basford). The other ringers were Peter Wilkinson, Philip Grover, David Jones, and Stefan Zientek.



Mark agreed that the candle-lighting ceremony could be included in the 10.45am service, and Brian suggested processing our banner after the opening hymn, with members following behind. Candles were lit and placed on a small table in front of the altar, and the prayers were read by our treasurer, Anne, with the words shown on screen so the congregation could join in. It was a special and meaningful occasion with members unable to attend in person able to take part online through the live-streaming service.



Three members attended the special Evensong at Chester Cathedral to mark Mary Sumner Day.

Our September members' meeting, held on 18th September, was Songs of Praise. Despite awful weather, we had a fantastic turnout with every Royal Albert bone china teacup and saucer used. Thank you to Lionel for playing the piano while we sang, and to Jan for leading us.

Our next meeting will be held on 16th October at 2.15pm in the Parish Hall, when we will enjoy a fun 60s and 70s music quiz. You are warmly invited to come along.

Join us and Join in!

Cathie Riddell

The Tale of a Shoebox

Last year was really exciting. It all began when I arrived in the Clark's shoe shop in Nantwich complete with a new pair of shoes inside. They were very nice shoes, and I was not at all surprised when the little girl chose them. I was a bit disappointed that she only wanted the shoes, and that I was left behind. But then a strange thing happened. A lady came into the shop who didn't want shoes, she only wanted empty boxes, and apparently I was just the right size, so off I went home with her.



I was even more surprised when the lady started to cover me in Christmas wrapping paper. But that was not nearly so odd as what she put inside me. In went a cuddly toy, a notebook and pencil case, toothbrush and paste, soap and flannel. Then came a lovely warm hat, scarf and a pair of mittens. There was still room for a skipping rope and a pack of snap cards and then a really pretty necklace and bracelet, hair brush, some shampoo and hair clips. I was really full by this time, but there was more! Sweets! Then on the top went a little card with Happy Christmas written on it.

My lid only just closed, but it stayed firmly shut with the elastic band that went right round me. You may wonder what all this was for, but all was revealed when I was taken into St. Mary's Church, Nantwich and piled up beside many more jolly shoeboxes.



2025 Shoeboxes waiting to be taken to Wrexham



A large van took us to Wrexham where we were checked over and transported by lorry all the way to a country called Bosnia and then to a rather run down building which turned out to be a school. I was going to be a Christmas present for a little girl who otherwise wouldn't have received one. Imagine how happy I felt when I was handed over to her and saw her face when she opened me up to see all the little gifts. I couldn't help but think it was a very good job that the young girl in Clarks didn't want me after all. She may have just thrown me away!

The 2026 Appeal:
St. Mary's, Nantwich 30th October-12th November

These Shoeboxes have the power to turn children's lives right around by the message they carry that they are both worthwhile and loveable. They are well named as Love in a Box. We really can change lives, one box at a time.



At St. Mary's, Nantwich we will be collecting the boxes from **Friday, 30th October** to **Thursday, 12th November**. Will you help spread the love this year?

Empty shoeboxes, preferably wrapped in Christmas paper, are also needed as well as items to go inside them if you can't fill a whole box.

For more information visit *www.teams4u.com*

Thanks to Jill Warrener from St. James', Meltham for the inspiration for the article.

Sue Hutt

(contact via *office@stmarysnantwich.org.uk*)

Repurposing skills: from Canary Wharf to Santa Cruz, Bolivia

Our CMS Mission partners Andrew and Lisa Peart spoke at services and Encounter on 6th September.



Andrew & Lisa speaking at the 9.30am service.

They met as senior executives in marketing and sales (Andrew) and catering (Lisa) for the hotel industry in Canary Wharf, London.

They are not ordained, but felt called to mission. As in Mark 1, where fishermen Simon and Andrew are called to follow Jesus to be fishers of men, they are not sure what to do. Likewise, Andrew and Lisa didn't know what would be needed, but they were able to repurpose their five-star hospitality and leadership skills in setting up mission in Bolivia.

It was a big learning curve, neither of them spoke the language and they had moved to a city of 3 to 4 million people in the heart of South America. They too experienced storms as in Mark 4. But they always found that Jesus was with them. Like the twelve disciples in Mark 6, Lisa and Andrew felt out of their comfort zone, but like the disciples they found the strength to go out and engage and preach and to pick themselves up when not always welcomed.

However, evidence is very much that they have been welcomed in their various enterprises. They set up a finance programme assisting people with sustainable financial planning. They helped one couple (recovered alcoholics who had come to faith) to open a public bathroom. Now Bible studies take place in the central gathering areas of these toilets. A monthly lunch is organised for over 100 people who live on the streets. Many are living in tough conditions, with various addictions, but over 20 come to Bible study each Friday. People share their lives, and are true, open and honest.

If people ask what relevance the Gospel reading (Matthew 18: 19-20) has to us in our lives today, Andrew points to the intentional fellowship that the Bible study group brings and how people have come together for guidance of the Lord.

Church Shop News

Our church shop continues to be very popular and the many visitors who come into St. Mary's are pleased to see items on sale to remind them of their visit to our lovely town.

We know too that people are pleased to find a good selection of cards with a Christian message on sale for every occasion, which are difficult to find in other card shops.

Thank you to everyone who supports our shop.

You will be pleased to know that from early October we will have a very good selection of Christmas cards on sale. Over the last few years we have been amazed at the quantity of cards we sell, most years having to "top up" by November! There will also be a selection of gifts, tree ornaments and Advent calendars.



Many thanks to Linda Lewis who looks after the financial part of the shop and to our Rector who is very patient when our SumUp machine decides to take a break!

Maybe it's too early to send greetings for Christmas but we thank you for supporting our shop and look forward to your continuing support.

Jan Anderson, Anne Taylor, Janet Thompson

A Secure Foundation

The speaker at the September breakfast was Ceris Esplen, assisted by her daughter Minnie in charge of technical support.



Ceris is a regular 9.30am congregation member, volunteer leader for the children's Sunday groups, crib service thespian and Chief Operations Officer for Irwell Valley Homes, a not-for-profit housing association providing affordable homes and services to more than 20,000 people across Greater Manchester.

Ceris leads the operational teams across a full range of housing and customer services, care and support, repairs and estate services, and community and customer engagement. Her commitment to the job and to the local people shines through in what she said. She told us how she and her teams are making a difference in the communities, ensuring neighbourhoods are good places to live, where people can access services and support to live well and enjoy life as well as having good quality homes.

Ceris described what good social housing provides, not just the house but a genuinely affordable home, greater security, professional landlord services, access to support when it is needed and investment in communities. She talked about examples where environmental conditions such as air quality have demonstrably been improved, reducing childhood asthma and where antisocial behaviour has been reduced.

One such area is Sale West, an estate designed on Radburn principles (America's first planned garden community), which had suffered from lack of natural surveillance, lawlessness and was 80% unlettable. New affordable houses are being built around existing homes, which are being improved by installing new roofs, kitchens, ventilation and insulation. The estate environment has been enhanced with a focus on high-quality public realm, green spaces and boosting biodiversity.

Ceris gave us an overview of the group structure which explains part of the financial complexities of her job. There is the not-for-profit housing association, the commercial development and the investment company and a £2m charitable foundation. Some projects lever in government money for example from the government "Levelling Up Fund", but mainly funding is secured from rental income and the equivalent of mortgages. Ceris explained that long term funding has become increasingly challenging because of the current economic climate, due to rising interest rates and increased material costs. This makes her job all the more demanding.

But as well as this, Ceris has also been appointed to the all-party parliamentary Renew Inquiry which, led by Lord Best, is exploring housing-led regeneration's role in delivering growth, tackling the housing crisis, and strengthening communities across the North of England. It will study how housing-led regeneration can better support national priorities including economic growth, increasing housing supply and cutting bills and emissions. It will also consider how regeneration can help create safer neighbourhoods, boost skills and employment, and improve health and wellbeing.

All that Ceris and her teams at Irwell Valley Homes are doing chimes with what Lord Best says about regeneration; that it is not just about bricks and mortar – it is about restoring dignity and opportunity.

Annie Coombs

Encounter Supper with John Dawson



John introduced his talk by saying how the preparation for it had provided a helpful time of reflection and appraisal.

He began with a brief autobiography - growing up in Liverpool and studying Classics at university, which led to a teaching career in a comprehensive school in Crosby (where he stayed for 33 years!). Since taking early retirement he has been involved in volunteer roles in chaplaincies and foodbanks and has now been the volunteer lay chaplain at a hospice in Runcorn for five years.

His faith story included life growing up in the brethren church and his gratitude for the love and care he received there, although his memory of the teaching was clouded with feelings of guilt and fear, with the onus he felt placed upon him always to be a "better Christian".

Influenced by writers such as Adrian Plass, CS Lewis, and Steve Chalke, and allowing himself license to introduce reflection and reasoned analysis into his thinking, he feels now that the message that God is love, the person of Jesus Christ, and the lack of any viable alternative are compelling features in his life. He is comfortable living with mystery, rather than the certainty that he felt was required earlier in his Christian life. He prefers to think of "confidence" rather than "certainty".

John is happy to use the phrase "I choose to believe" and, quoting Mother Teresa, when a man asked her to pray that he might have clarity, she replied, "No! I have never had clarity. What I have always had is trust. So I will pray that you trust God". He loves to attend church as a bemused Anglican, whilst identifying with CS Lewis' remarks about his impressions of church and, in respect of prayer, he felt he could empathise with RS Thomas in his poem *Folk Tale*.

John's conclusion pointed to not so much about what he had been saved FROM, but what he had been saved FOR. We are called to embody love and, if we do, we will make a difference, referencing the importance in his life of the verse in Galatians 5:6 *"the only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love"*.

River and Lake Walk

Saturday, 22nd August was sunny but not too hot, so ideal for the church walk that took place in the afternoon. A group of 16 people from St. Mary's plus Minnie the dog assembled at the Parish Hall before walking through the town and along Mill Street. We crossed the River Weaver to Mill Island where Nick Hutt explained how the planned new hydromill would make use of an Archimedes Screw to generate electricity. He said the project would provide electricity directly to Nantwich Swimming Pool and enough power for approximately 30 houses.



We followed the river through the park, under the railway bridge to Nantwich Lake. A circuit of the lake took in the quieter southern end where the path crosses the Two Saints Way. The lake is home to numerous waterfowl and we spotted the resident swan family.

Re-joining the river we took an alternative path to the Airman's Grave, a memorial to Lieutenant Arthur Brown, an American serviceman who piloted his plane towards open countryside to avoid crashing on the town when the engines failed. Sue Hutt told us how Gladys Henshall, a local Brownie leader, heard the crash and thought "that is a mother's son". This inspired her to regularly take flowers to the grave and every January St. Mary's holds a service at the memorial.

The next stop was the Community Orchard, where almost 50 fruit trees are flourishing and the fruit is available for local people. The orchard commemorates Tony Gentil, a horticultural expert and lecturer at Reaseheath College.

Then it was back to the Parish Hall for tea, coffee, cake and lots of good conversation; a very enjoyable afternoon for everyone.

Church walks are held several times a year so do look out for details in the news sheets if you would like to join one. *Carole Tilt*

News in Pictures

Congratulations ...



Congratulations to Pauline Beeby, a member of our Sunday 10.45am and Wednesday 11am congregations, who celebrated her 90th birthday in August.



Congratulations to Penny Beeston, a server for many years at St. Mary's, who celebrated her 80th birthday in September. After the service on 13th September Emma Kennedy presented her with some flowers and the choir sang Happy Birthday!



After 2 years of fighting cancer, Coleen Specht has recently completed her treatment at The Christie, and rang the little bell there to celebrate this as per the tradition. She was then invited by a bell ringer friend to come and ring a "proper" bell and tell the whole town that her cancer treatment is over. Here she is, thoroughly enjoying it, helped by David Allman.







Stewart on washing up duty

Mothers' Union raised a staggering £763 for its projects at the Annual Fundraiser on 6th August, making it a busy, joyful and highly successful month for the branch.



The Cream Tea with tombola, cakes, books and other stalls were all well supported, with a queue out of the door at one point. A heartfelt thank you goes to everyone who worked on the day, donated items, baked cakes or supported the event.



Nantwich Food Festival, 4th - 6th September, drew the crowds for another year and the church grounds were well used. Thank you to the Social Committee for running Cream Teas in the Parish Hall on the Saturday, raising a total of £376.





Mums and Tots open for business!

Below: Jacki Penny and Celia Kay welcoming those arriving and checking them on the register.



Congratulations



Congratulations to Natalia Bibby and Matthew Marshall, married at St. Mary's on Saturday, 19th September.



St. Mary's band came 2nd in the Chester Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers 6 Bell Striking Competition, held at St. Luke's, Holmes Chapel on Saturday, 19th September. Pictured here, L to R: George Basford, Nicola Basford, Fanny Weiss, Diana Boyles, Stefan Zientek, David Allman.



Thank you to Carole Tilt for preparing an engaging display of exhibits, prayer stations and reflective activities on St. Matthew and Matthew's gospel at the Encounter Explore on the evening of Sunday, 20th September, including a scenic layout of the feeding of the 5000, a physical version of the Lord's Prayer, and a Venn diagram representation of the overlap of the synoptic gospels.





Paintings on Pews

A collective of four professional artists "SHIFT" (all former leaders of Art and Design education in Cheshire) showcased their own unique responses and interpretations of the stunning natural landscapes of Cheshire and the Northwest over 2½ days in church. They curated and managed all aspects of the exhibition, donating 25% of the sales to St. Mary's.



One of the artists, David Kereszteny-Lewis approached Mark with this idea, which was very popular bringing many visitors into church. David said that he was stunned by the beauty of the church's setting for the artwork, in particular the choir stalls where some of his paintings were placed. He is definitely up for repeating the idea sometime in the future. The other artists were Ali Kippax, Jon Clayton and Andy McFadden.

Annie Coombs



David Kereszteny-Lewis



Ali Kippax

Forthcoming Events

Community Choir

Join us for an evening of singing for fun at the next Community Choir Singing on **Monday, 5th October**, 7-8.30pm in church. Sign up at the back of church or contact Alison Phillips (07891 620678).

St. Mary's Community Choir started a year ago and has been well attended and much appreciated, thanks to Alison Phillips' leadership. On **Saturday, 10th October**, 10,30am, you are invited to come and support them in their music making as they sing in the nave with Concordia. Free entry.

Music from the Movies

A String Quartet Tribute performed by Egerton Strings in the glow of candlelight, **Saturday, 10th October** 7.30pm in church. Featuring music from Star Wars, Pirates of the Caribbean, James Bond and much more! Tickets from the Parish Office or *www.egertonstrings.co.uk/events*

Harvest Festival

Harvest Festival will be celebrated at all our services on **Sunday, 11th October**. You are invited to bring donations of tinned or dried food to be collected for myCWA who support adults and children impacted by domestic abuse in Cheshire. Following the 10.45am service will be a **Bring & Share Harvest Lunch** in the Parish Hall. All welcome, sign up at the back of church.

National Harvest Service

The National Harvest Service will be held at St. Mary's on **Sunday, 11th October** at 3pm, led by Rt. Rev. Mark Tanner, Bishop of Chester and music by St. Mary's Choir (the 6pm service will be Compline).

October Breakfast

The October breakfast will take place on **Saturday, 17th October**, 8.30am at The Tea Lounge at the Nantwich Football Stadium. The speaker will be Ernie Charlton, who attends 9.30am services, helps with the youth and children's groups and played Joseph in last year's crib service. He has a wide range of topics on which he could talk, and we will wait with anticipation to hear what he has to say. As usual sign up in church or phone the office by midday on **Wednesday, 14th October**.

Ceilidh & Chilli Supper

Saturday 14th October, 6.30pm in the Parish Hall. Bring your own drinks. Hot drinks and squash will be available. Adults £10, Children £5 by **Tuesday, 10th November**. Tickets - *https:pay.collctiv.com/st-marys-nantwich-ceilidh-and-chilli-supper-28788* or from the Parish Office.

"Empty Chairs"

This art installation by Michael Yorke, will be displayed in St. Mary's sanctuary from **Friday, 30th October** to **Thursday, 12th November**.

Light Party

Free Light Party on **Saturday, 31st October**, 3-5pm in the Parish Hall. Games, activities and hot dog tea. Non-scary dressing up welcome. Booking required for catering. To sign up text Susie 07795 696234.

All Saints', All Souls' and the Tree of Light

On **Sunday, 1st November** we will celebrate All Saints' Day in the morning. In the evening there will be a short Tree of Light service in the well at 5.30pm (memorial baubles from the Civic Hall) and an All Souls' service in church at 6pm when candles may be lit. Please add names of loved ones to the sheets at the back of church, to be read in the service.

See also **"Special Services & Events Calendar"** on p. 35.





Joy and Reverence

Come and Sing

with Amy Bebbington and Nantwich Singers

Life-affirming music by Whitacre, Bruckner, Viadani, Bebbington and others

Led by top ABCD choir trainer Amy Bebbington

St Mary's Church, Nantwich, CW5 5RQ
12pm - 6pm, Saturday 17th October

Tickets: £22 - 07972 624967 or
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www.thenantwichsingers.org

ST MARYS
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THROUGH the WARDROBE

The World of C S Lewis



Saturday 24th October 10am - 4pm

Enjoy a Celebration of Narnia and
The Lion, the Witch & the Wardrobe

• Walk through the Wardrobe • Talk with Aslan •
• Eavesdrop on the Inklings • Tea with Mr Tumnus •
• Colour in Narnia • Sit on the Thrones •
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Venue: St Mary's Nantwich
All Welcome Free Entry

The Royal British Legion Riders Branch
Poppy Launch Event 2026



You are invited to come along to our launch of the 2026 Poppy Appeal

Act of Remembrance
Meet members of the Riders Branch
Meet local veterans
See a variety of superb motorcycles
Poppies and Poppy merchandise available

Saturday 24th October 2026 4pm

Nantwich
War Memorial
Town Square
CW5 5DE
///grocers.tags.prancing

The Riders Branch is the Motorcyclists branch of the Royal British Legion: Branch 3542

For further information ask a member or visit our website: https://rblr.org.uk

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION RIDERS BRANCH

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

Tickets £15 **Students £5**
Available from:
The Civic Hall, Nantwich, All Choir Members and at the door
Online: WeGotTickets.com

Registered Charity No: 516572

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
3. Scan the QR code below.

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





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NANTWICH CONCERT BAND

presents

A CELEBRATION OF SERVICE

An evening of music in aid of

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

A celebration of the best of British music, honouring those who have served, past and present

Saturday 14th November 2026

Concert starts 7pm

St. Mary's Church, Nantwich, CW5 5RQ

Refreshments available

Also featuring

STUNNING SOPRANO SOLOS *from JESSICA VAUGHAN*

INAUGURAL PERFORMANCE *from the NANTWICH SYMPHONIC WIND BAND*

SCAN HERE

All profits in aid of the Royal British Legion and St Mary's Church, Nantwich

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Tickets are £10 and available to purchase online or from the Parish Office at St Mary's Church
01270 625268 | office@stmarysnantwich.org.uk

ST MARYS NANTWICH



A great night with family and friends.
Enjoy this great show in a unique setting!

Thursday 19th November - 7pm til 10.30pm

Join us for a magical evening as we unveil our stunning Christmas Tree display. Delight in the festive season, as we enjoy an incredible tribute show... So good you'll forget you're not watching the originals!
There will also be a licensed bar. A great way to start the Christmas season.

www.slhospice.co.uk/launch



4:30pm - Home Alone 2

8.00pm - The Holiday (2006)

Saturday 21st November

Join us for our Christmas Cinema, using silent headphones. Set in the beautiful St Mary's Church in Nantwich, surrounded by a magnificent display of Christmas trees.

www.slhospice.co.uk/events

From the Registers: August 2026

Holy Baptism

We welcome you into the Lord's family

2nd	Mateo Ramos	16th	Ollie Buckley
2nd	Laurence Hardy-Bosson	16th	Evie Brooks
2nd	Wesley Amoah		

Blessing of Marriage

Bless these thy servants

8th Adrian Wright & Valerie Grandvaud

Funerals

May they rest in peace and rise in glory

3rd	Sheila Latham (84)
18th	Margaret Crawford (84)
18th	Dominique Maumy (71)

Readings for October 2026

4th October *(18th Sunday after Trinity)*	Philippians 3: 4b-14 Matthew 21: 33-46
11th October *(Harvest Festival)*	2 Corinthians 9: 6-15 Luke 12: 16-30
18th October *(Luke the Evangelist)*	2 Timothy 4: 5-17 Luke 10: 1-9
25th October *(Bible Sunday)*	Colossians 3: 12-17 Matthew 24: 30-35

My Learning Curve

A friend said to me the other day "You are in a very difficult position, it must be awful." I replied that it is just a different way of life and that I had learned so many things in the last year. It has been a steep learning curve.

At the moment my husband Gordon cannot walk and we cannot go out. We have four carers calling each day which we have to pay for. This means that I have got to know so many more people and I am receiving a lot of help from many kind people. Our family are helping as much as they can too. That means them travelling from London or Sheffield at the weekend on a rota. We are all working together.

I have also learned much over recent months about how things work, or are supposed to work, in the NHS, in the community and with the GP. The Christian teaching of love and help as we work together is so important. So many organisations work in isolation and build barriers around themselves. It is hard to contact the right people for your needs. They often hide behind a telephone answering system which can be very annoying especially when it seems to be impossible to speak to a real person.

"We are very busy now. You are number one in the queue" If I am number one I would expect an immediate answer if there is someone employed to answer the phone. When the caller is expected to make half a dozen choices and press half a dozen numbers it can be so impersonal and confusing. We cannot all go online and sort things out these days as we are often expected to do. It is so nice to hear a friendly voice in answer to a call. It is no wonder that there is a shortage of jobs. Technology should be making things better for everyone, not just saving money.

As AI takes over many more jobs it will be important to observe what exactly is happening in the jobs market, and in the world in general. Most of us are concerned about the state of the world that will be there for the new young generation coming along behind us. It will be our Christian duty to monitor how people are treated and how communities are valued. We will have a steep learning curve as we find out what is going on in the next few years and as we speak out for the welfare and care of people in our communities.

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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An 'Outstanding' rated care village, Belong Crewe offers high quality support in an environment designed to enable older people, however frail, to continue enjoying richness of life. We are a community who truly care about ensuring the best possible experiences and outcomes for everyone who lives with us.

Designed around Belong's award-winning household model, our village is both stylish and homely. Facilities such as a bistro, specialist gym and hair salon offer a range of opportunities to enjoy an active lifestyle in a safe environment.

As a not-for-profit provider, Belong invests in its people and settings to ensure the highest standards of nursing and dementia care, with a range of services to support people as their needs change, and everything geared towards promoting a sense of belonging to a vibrant, inclusive community.

For further information or to book a personal tour, call:

01270 615 931

Belong Crewe, Brookhouse Drive, Crewe, Cheshire CW2 6NA

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www.belong.org.uk



Graham Tresidder & Son

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Contacts

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	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:		
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		07795 696234
	susie@stmarysnantwich.org.uk	
	graham@stmarysnantwich.org.uk	
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	Paul O'Brien	07973 743909
Verger:	Linda Lewis	07534 272901
Pastoral Worker:	Mary Harris	
	maryhma@icloud.com	628393 or 07753 840118

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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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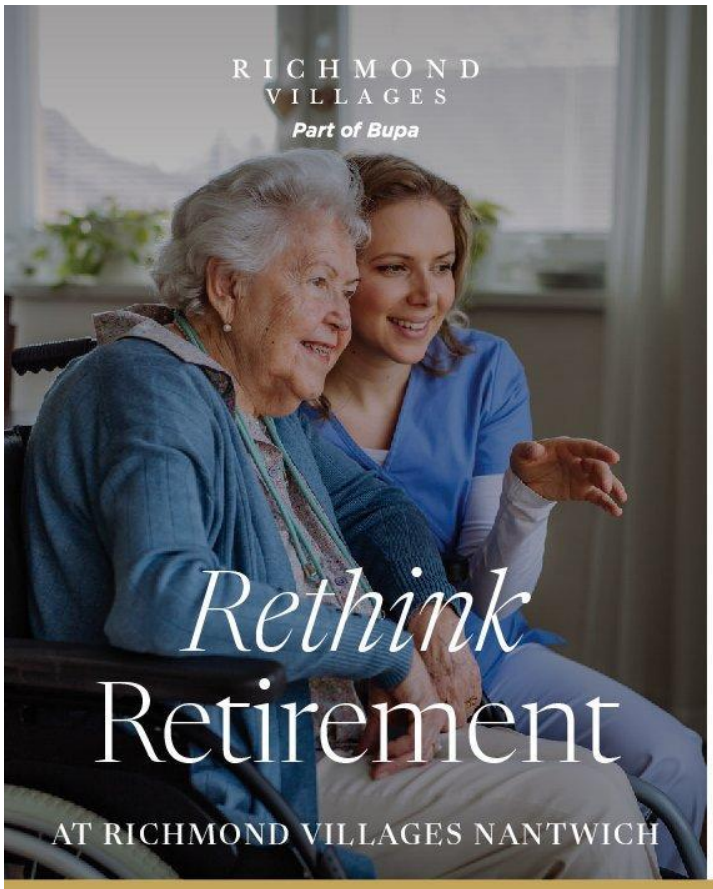
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Special Services & Events Calendar October-November 2026

October	7th	Sound Bath in church, 7.15pm
	10th	Community Choir Singing Concert, 10.30am
		Music from the Movies by Candlelight in church, 7.30pm
	11th	Harvest Festival Services and Bring & Share Lunch
		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
	18th	Civic Service, 10.45am
	24th	Encounter Explore Day in church: Through the Wardrobe - The World of C S Lewis, 10am-4pm
		The Royal British Legion Riders Branch Poppy Appeal, 4pm on the Square
	31st	Light Party in the Parish Hall, 3-5pm
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

Details of December events and special services are available on the church website and will be printed in next month's issue.



Christmas Tree Festival

Scan me

Dazzling display of over 55 Christmas trees

Supported by Nantwich Christmas Tree Farm

An enchanting display of individually decorated Christmas trees. Created by local businesses and individuals.

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

www.slhospice.co.uk/treefestival