

9 FEBRUARY 2025

With prayer & faith in God we seek to engage
with the community - *inside* we enrich &
equip: *outside* we give & care.

**A warm welcome from
Rev Sally Letman and
everyone at St Mary's!**

*Our brilliant new Lent course based on the King's
Speech is starting on 10 March - check details on
page?*





**TODAY'S LINK NEWSLETTER FOR:
9 FEBRUARY to 23 FEBRUARY 2025**

LET US ALL CELEBRATE A PRIEST'S LICENSING.....



In the service led by Rev Sally, on Sunday 23 February Rev Adrian Waller (right) is to be licensed into the Benefice of St Mary's Chapel, St John's Great Wenham & All Saints Little Wenham.



Archdeacon Rich Henderson (left) will be presiding....



"All beneficed clergy are licensed to their cure of souls, but the term 'licensing' is properly used for the formal admission of priests in charge, team vicars and others of 'incumbent status'. The bishop or their commissary grants the spiritualities in a licence that sets out their responsibilities and the limitation to their term."

What's in this week's LINK.....

Page 4: Worship Timeline - Details of services coming up;

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Page 26: Chrissie is just back from India – this is what she found!

Page 33: Hille's Prayer List

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Happy Birthday in February
to:



11 Feb	<i>Claire Cowgill</i>
	<i>James W. Pendorf</i>
12 Feb	<i>Hille Peartree</i>
	<i>Bill Hayward</i>
13 Feb	<i>Pat Gladwin</i>
16 Feb	<i>Jane Tewkesbury</i>
18 Feb	<i>Steve Ursell</i>
19 Feb	<i>Brian Rogerson</i>
28 Feb	<i>David Williams</i>

With thanks to Trevor Bailey

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WORSHIP TIMELINE

St Mary's is open for private prayer every day.

2025

21 Jan to 4 Feb, Rev Sally's visit to New Dawn India.

9 Feb 9.30am, St John's, *Morning Prayer.*
10.45am, St Mary's, *Holy Communion*
Led by Rev Sally.

12 Feb 10.00am, St Mary's, *Benefice Holy Communion*

16 Feb 9.30am, St John's, *Holy Communion.*
10.45am, St Mary's, *Family Service*

17 Feb 2.00pm, St Mary's, *Compassionate Cafe*



19 Feb 10.00am, St Mary's, *Benefice Holy Communion*

22 Feb 3.00pm, St Mary's, *Trianon String Concert.*
(No entry charge; donations appreciated)

23 Feb 9.30am, St John's, *Family Service.*
10.45am, St Mary's, *Holy Communion*
Led by Rev Sally and *Rev Adrian's licensing*
With *Archdeacon Rich Henderson* presiding.

26 Feb 10.00am, St Mary's, *Benefice Holy Communion*

2 Mar 9.30am, St John's, *Holy Communion.*
10.45am, St Mary's, *Holy Communion.*

5 Mar 10.00am, St Mary's, Ash Wednesday
Ashing Service.

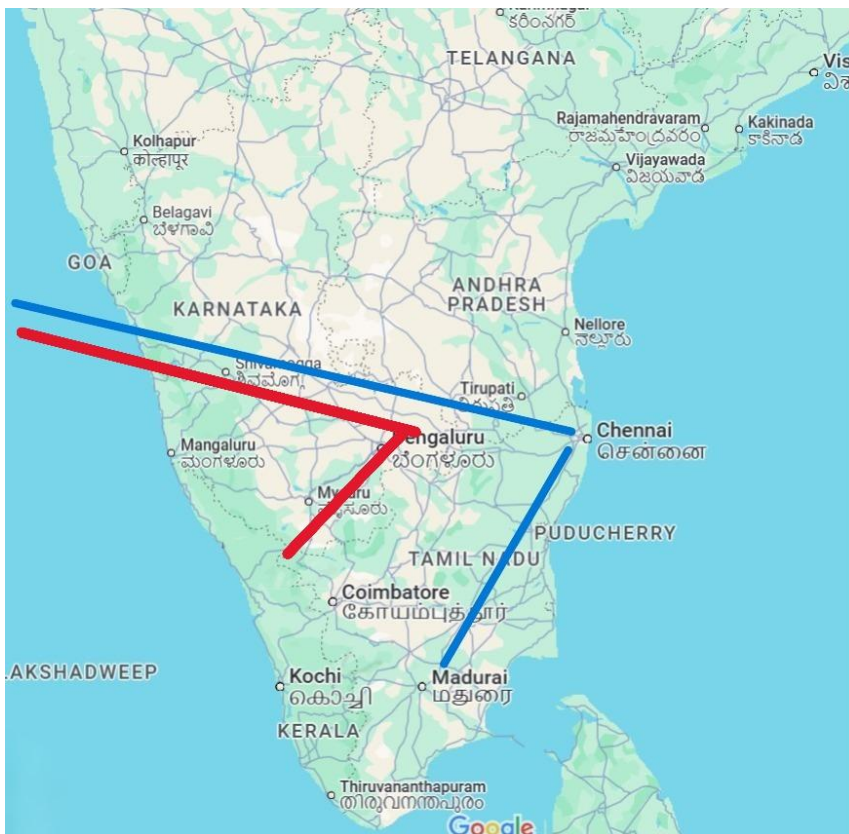
9 Mar 9.30am, St John's, *Morning Prayer.*
10.45am, St Mary's, *Holy Communion.*



As Rev Adrian and Rev Sally return from India - Chrissie

Hart tells an exciting tale of travelling in tiger country in her New Year India adventure

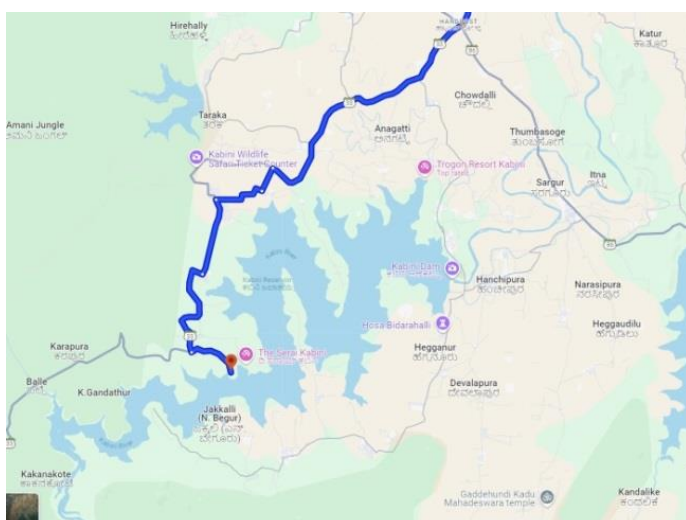
Page 26 below



(above) Rev Sally's journey in blue, Chrissie's in red.

"Tuk tuks and cows on the road" in epic journey into southern India by road to the **Nagarahole tiger reserve**

(right) *"Goats, dogs and cattle mingle with motorcyclists & Tuk Tuks"*



Fourth Sunday before Lent - Readings



Luke 5, 1-11.

Jesus Calls His First Disciples

One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, the people were crowding around him and listening to the word of God.

He saw at the water's edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore.

Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat.

When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch."

Simon answered, "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets."



When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. So they signalled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink.

When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!" For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, and so were

James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon's partners.

Then Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will fish for people."

So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.

Sally's Reflection

"Heavenly Father, through weak human words, give us grace to hear your true and living Word, Jesus Christ our Lord"

1 Corinthians 15:1-11 and Luke 5:1-11

We often use the analogy of walking a path in our lives, sometimes the path can be challenging, at other times the path is smooth and full of flowers on the banks.

Often, we feel that the path chosen for us is just too challenging. The paths we have lived have made us the people we are, and we identify ourselves by how we have negotiated the paths, and the lives we have lived. We come, during the journey to know ourselves and our privileges and our weaknesses.

Untouchables

In India I walked into the slums along a very dirty and sandy paths and I was very apprehensive at what I would see.

The people are 'untouchables', the lowest castes, living at the edge of towns, forgotten and ignored. They have little choice of the paths they tread and their work is in sewers or scavenging.

I felt uncomfortable, we prefer our own 'tribes' and people who are like us don't we?

As I walked, I thought of Jesus; he walked on dusty path and touched and spoke to outcasts on the edge of society.

In our reading today he has walked and taught and the disciples have followed and listened and learnt. They have not any responsibility; they are intrigued and curious but perhaps detached. Jesus is now ready to give them more responsibility.

Symbol of the church

The crowds are pushing forward; eager to hear the words of the Lord, as they push forward, eager for a new way of life, Jesus has to step into a boat.

At the time that Luke wrote his Gospel, the boat had become a symbol of the church; a symbol of community, a community that will extend Christ's mission and to 'The ends of the earth'.



Simon and his companions are fisherman, they know their trade. They have fished all night to no avail and now in the heat of the day are mending their nets.

Jesus has a different trade and as far as the disciples know, knows nothing about fish! But he surprises Simon by asking him to put out to sea. Simon says but we have fished all night and caught nothing, but then says reluctantly, 'if you say so.....'

The result is a catch so abundant; the mended nets begin to break. Fruitless fishing and reluctance have turned to abundant rewards. Ordinary, everyday tasks and worries have become overflowing with blessings. A miracle becomes a call and Simon is totally overwhelmed; at this moment he comes Simon Peter and Jesus changes from Master to Lord.

Overcome by the divine presence he falls to his knees; he is just too sinful. But Jesus says, 'don't be afraid', from now on you will be catching people.

The disciples will change the paths of their lives, in the face of divine generosity and abundance, our weakness and unworthiness become our blessings, we become aware of our need to learn, and to act and to become part of the 'catching people' that is our church mission.

Share in the lifestyle

Simon Peter, and James and John, immediately, 'left everything' and followed him. They will begin their commissioning of finding and feeling the people. They bravely leave their known lives; they enter a life detached from wealth and share in the lifestyle of Jesus.

Simon Peter, singled out to begin the path of leadership. Here he is converted and convinced, later he will deny Christ three times. It is in our brokenness we emerge stronger, strengthened by God's hospitality and generosity.

As Paul writes to the Corinthians, 'I am the least of the apostles' but he worked hard with God's Grace and He proclaimed and the people believed! We need also to stand firmly in the 'good news' of our God, because we are who we are and are loved by God's Grace.

Amen



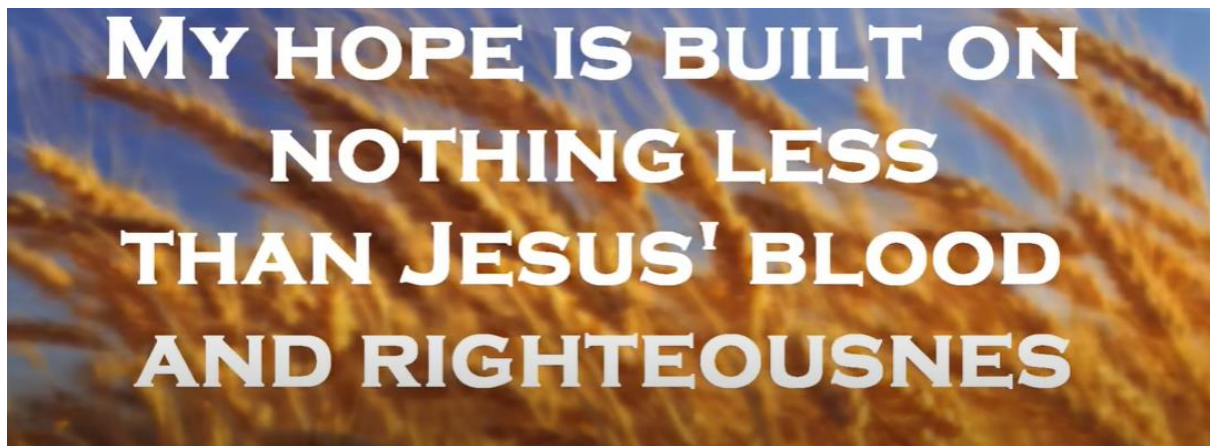


A New Hymn for today - Cornerstone sung by Hillsong

As suggested by Martyn Dowsett

Click here to watch and play...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QvLxZEU02uI>



In 2011, Hillsong took the hymn "The Solid Rock" and added a chorus that produced an awesome praise song called Cornerstone. This song celebrates Christ as the Chief Cornerstone of our faith who shed His blood for the forgiveness of sins and access to eternal life.

"In every high and storm gale, my anchor holds within the veil." Nothing can separate us from the love of Christ because nothing can un-anchor him from us, or us from him. No storms of sin, no gales of guilt, no floods of fear. We may be tossed about, but our anchor holds.



VIEWPOINT:

The new spiritualism dawns among young people

David Goodwin reports that Young People are Spiritually Open but Struggle with Established Religion



Despite the gloomy narrative being pushed by the media, a new survey has revealed that reports of God's death in Britain, and across the Western world, may be exaggerated.

Commissioned by author Christopher Glasson in the leadup to the release of his new book, *The Devils' Gospels: Finding God in Four Great Atheist Books*, the recent work surveyed 10,000 Britons to discover their thoughts on religion—and delivered some surprising results.



"What is surprising is that young people seem more inclined to spirituality than old people," Glasson told The Sunday Times. "This could be because of societal change: the financial crisis, Covid, the epidemic of loneliness all might encourage young people to look beyond the material world for meaning.

"It could also be because no one ever asked this question before: young people might simply be more idealistic."

Contrary to popular wisdom, the results suggest that atheism may have peaked among Generation X, those aged between 45 and 60, with a quarter identifying as atheists. This was higher than the 20% reported both by the Baby Boomer generation (those over 65) and Millennials (aged between 25 and 44). But, what will give those in the Church the most hope is that only 13% of respondents under 25 identify as atheists, with 62% saying they are "very" or "fairly" spiritual.

However, Glasson warned that church leaders should not be too quick to seize the results as a sign that Christian belief in the West is not facing serious challenges.

He said: *"I imagine many church leaders will be rubbing their hands thinking this is the answer to their prayers but unfortunately for them, it isn't."*

Saying that it was time to "go back to the vestry for a rethink", he added, "Whatever the survey might say about young people being more spiritual and religious than old people, it is equally clear that they are put off by established religion."

The survey found that the Church as an institution has been damaged by the many public scandals it has faced over the years, and that many young people find it hard to engage with traditional expressions of faith.

"The largest proportion of Christians (43%) have their own idea of God while a further 9% don't accept every aspect of the religion," Glasson wrote as part of his report on the findings.

"This suggests that the Church's interpretation of God is at odds with the majority of Christians' understanding of God. It seems to imply that Church leaders should listen more if they want to win back their flocks."



One way of bridging this gap could be becoming more present and supportive in local communities, with almost a third (32%) flagging this as a priority. Only slightly less (31%) called on religious groups to respond to claims or incidents of abuse in the Church with honesty and by implementing effective preventative measures if they wanted to rebuild trust.

The survey collected responses from a range of ages, with 1,039 under 25, 1,696 aged 25-34, 1,637 aged 35-44, 1,667 aged 45-54, 1,605 aged 55-64. and 2,356 over 65. While 69% aged over 65 identified as Christian, young people reported far more diverse beliefs. Among those aged under 25, 40% identified as Christians, with Muslims making up 21% and Hindus 3%.

This backs the findings of reports showing Christian parents have been typically less successful in passing their faith down to their children compared with Muslim parents. Muslims were also much more likely (41%) to "worship regularly and accept the authority of the leaders of my faith" than Christians (14%).

While the survey reveals a number of challenges facing traditional Christian churches, with many young people reporting that they were more likely to express their spirituality through "*enjoying nature*" and "*mindfulness*" than "*participating in religious practices*", it also shows that there is an opportunity for the church to recapture the spiritual battlefield.

Glasson wrote in his conclusion: *"What I think is happening now is that we have two generations of people (the Millennials and Generation X) growing up in Britain feeling emotionally bereft and struggling with conventional material life goals," "I am sure that this is an opportunity for all kinds of spiritual entrepreneurs, but I don't think we should write off conventional Christianity just yet."*

David Goodwin is a journalist writing in Christian Today.





"God will sort it all out....."

A grandfather was walking in a lane when he heard his granddaughter repeating the alphabet in a tone of voice that sounded like a prayer. He asked her what she was

doing.

The little girl explained: *"I'm praying, but I can't think of exactly the right words, so I'm just saying all the letters, and God will put them together for me, because He knows what I'm thinking."*

Charles B. Vaughan (with thanks to Sue Dale)



Freezing Haze: *As dawn breaks over a Suffolk field the photographer captures the crispness of the frozen grass*



A good way to learn German is to try reading a children's book to familiarise yourself with basic grammar vocabulary.
A German children's book....



Normally, I'd have questions..



But after the last 3 years,
I think I'll just keep driving.

Electricity bill. Oil on canvas



Just caught my tomatoes trying
to sneak out.



Cop: You were going fast.
Me: I was just trying to keep
up with traffic.
Cop: There isn't any.
Me: I know! That's how far
behind I am.



Just some country people having some fun in the
woods....



NEWS

The Revd Canon Katherine (Katy) Helen Cunliffe (pic right) has been appointed *precentor and residentiary canon of St Edmundsbury Cathedral*.



Katy is currently the Incumbent of Holy Trinity, Shaw, Incumbent of St Mary High Crompton and St James, Thornham Assistant Priest of East Crompton St James with St Saviour and also an Honorary Canon of Manchester Cathedral in the diocese of Manchester. She replaces Rev'd Canon Philip Banks who has joined St Paul's Cathedral as Residentiary Canon and Precentor.



Beating the Bounds

Come and beat the bounds around Belstead Village with our Priest Natalie (pic right) and congregation. Meet at the Church at 10am on Sunday 23 March for this ancient Christian tradition



Graham Jonathan David Miles

Has been appointed *Diocesan Lay Agricultural Chaplain*

He said: *"My main responsibility is to reach out to the rural and farming communities across Suffolk, visiting farmers and growers and building relationships and sharing God's love."*

I write articles for many publications including

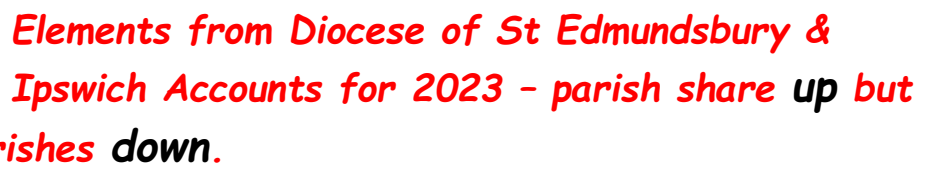
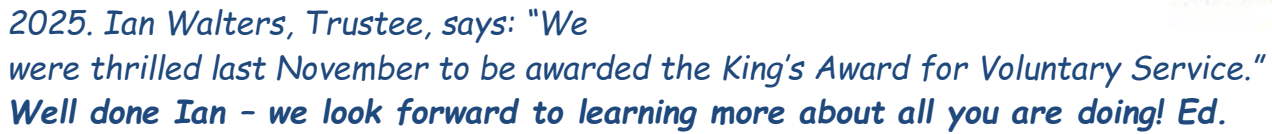
local newspapers and farming magazines and am really pleased to be part of the Suffolk Sound team.

Something you might not know about me is that I used to be a Ballroom and Latin dancer, representing East of England in the original BBC show Come Dancing !





Helping the homeless and needy within Ipswich



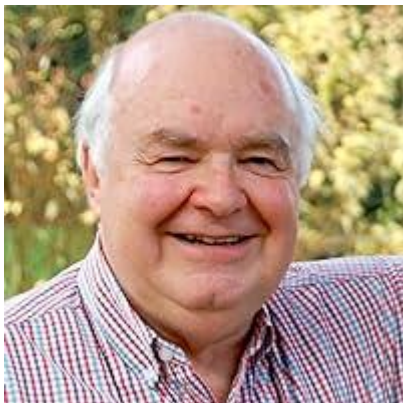
The main significant change between the 2023 accounts compared to 2022 relates to the sale of the former St James School site in Bury St Edmunds, accounting for £3,216m restricted income and £785k restricted expenditure.

Without this transaction, total income was £9,824m with expenditure of £9,859m.

Parish Share, the money given by parishes to the Diocese to fund the mission and ministry of the diocese, is the main incoming resource for the Diocese - providing 74% of its total regular income

**Deanery
Wedding
Preparation Day
1 February.**

Was held at St Mary's East Bergholt this year. Here Rev Liesbeth Oosterhof, rector at Shoreline Benefice offers preparation advice to the 18 couples opting for church marriage this year.



***JOHN LENNOX – SOME MORE SELECTED
QUOTES:***

"The world of strict naturalism in which clever mathematical laws all by themselves bring the universe and life into existence, is pure (and, one might add, poor) fiction. To call it science-fiction would besmirch the name of science."

— John C. Lennox, *God's Undertaker: Has Science Buried God?*

"Of course, I reject atheism because I believe Christianity to be true. But I also reject it because I am a scientist. How could I be impressed with a worldview that undermines the very rationality we need to do science? Science and God mix very well. It is science and

atheism that do not mix."

— John C. Lennox, *Can Science Explain Everything?*

"Judah had failed to grasp that God's loyalty to his own character, and therefore to his own creatures, has serious implications. Some of Judah's leaders had fallen into thinking that, because their nation had been chosen to play a special role for God in history, it did not really matter how the leaders or the nation behaved. This was dangerously irresponsible and undermined the moral fibre of the people, because it led to the rationalization of corrupt and immoral behaviour that was incompatible with the law of God, albeit widely practised in the surrounding nations."

— John C. Lennox, *Against the Flow: The inspiration of Daniel in an age of relativism*

"To postulate a trillion-trillion other universes, rather than one God, in order to explain the orderliness of our universe, seems the height of irrationality."

— John C. Lennox, *God's Undertaker: Has Science Buried God?*

"Both Genesis and science say that the universe is geared to supporting human life. But Genesis says more. It says that you, as a human being, bear the image of God. The starry heavens show the glory of God, yes; but they are not made in God's image. You are. That makes you unique. It gives you incalculable value. The galaxies are unimaginably large compared with you. However, you know that they exist, but they don't know that you exist. You are more significant, therefore, than a galaxy."

— John C. Lennox, *Seven Days that Divide the World: The Beginning According to Genesis & Science*

"A.W. Tozer captured these ideas very well when he wrote: Here is my view: God sovereignly decreed that man should be free to exercise moral choice, and man from the beginning has fulfilled that decree by making his choice between good and evil.

When he chooses to do evil, he does not thereby countervail the sovereign will of God but fulfills it, inasmuch as the eternal decree decided not which choice the man should make but that he should be free to make it.

If in His absolute freedom God has willed to give man limited freedom, who is there to stay His hand or say, "What doest thou?" Man's will is free because God is sovereign. A God less than sovereign could not bestow moral freedom upon His creatures. He would be afraid to do so.

— John C. Lennox, *Determined to Believe: The Sovereignty of God, Freedom, Faith and Human Responsibility*

John Lennox is Emeritus Professor of Mathematics at the University of Oxford, an Emeritus Fellow in Mathematics and Philosophy of Science at Green Templeton College, Oxford University. He is also an Associate Fellow of the Saïd Business School and a Senior Fellow at the Trinity Forum.





NEWS from the PEWS



Jean Goyder says:

The Childrens' Society -collection box time!

Please may I have your Childrens' Society box as soon as possible as I would like to get the money paid in before the end of February.



The boxes may be given to me at church, delivered to 3 Days Green or, if you ask me, I can collect it from you.

Many thanks, Jean G

St. John's Church, Gt. Wenham

Why not join us for our

Soup & Roll Lunches



All are welcome

11th January 2025
8th February 2025
8th March 2025

Donations
gratefully received.
Midday to 1.00 pm

All proceeds to the upkeep of St. John's Church

Coffee Morning

The Methodist Church,
Capel St Mary

Saturday 8th February
10.00 to 12 noon.



Coffee, Tea,
Scones, Cake and Chat
Donations for Action for Children

CAPEL
Daisy Chain

'where you can link up with friends!'

Sit and Get Fit! Chair Yoga

(suitable for all!)

with **Linda Moore**

Thursday February 20th

7.30pm Capel Library



Women of all ages + interests WELCOME!

Admission £5 Visitors,

Free to members paying subscriptions

Raffle + Refreshments



For more information text 07795523298, or visit our Facebook page

With thanks to Sue Woolgar



St. Mary's Church, Capel St. Mary



An hour-long programme including pieces by Purcell and
Holst performed by Trianon String Players and a
collection of Sea Songs for Recorders

Saturday 22nd Feb 2025 - 3.00 pm

~ Free Entry ~
Retiring Collection
for church funds

St. Mary's Church
The Street
Capel St. Mary
IP9 2EL

Refreshments available after the concert in the Church Hall
www.tmg.org.uk ~ www.capelstmarychurch.org.uk

With thanks to Gill Williams



COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS CAFÉ

at St Mary's Church Hall has its next meeting

on Monday 17

February @ 2.00pm

Rev Sally says:

Our compassionate café has become the in-place to share our stories with each other, with people who understand what it means

to lose someone you love.

There is much chatting, laughter, reminiscing and cake enjoyed by all. The café enables us to help each other - and build a community together.

The next Café is on 17 February at 2.00pm. Do come and bring a friend. You will leave feeling better! Rev Sally x



The Friends of Capel Library Community Cinema



Tuesday 18th February 2025 at Capel Library

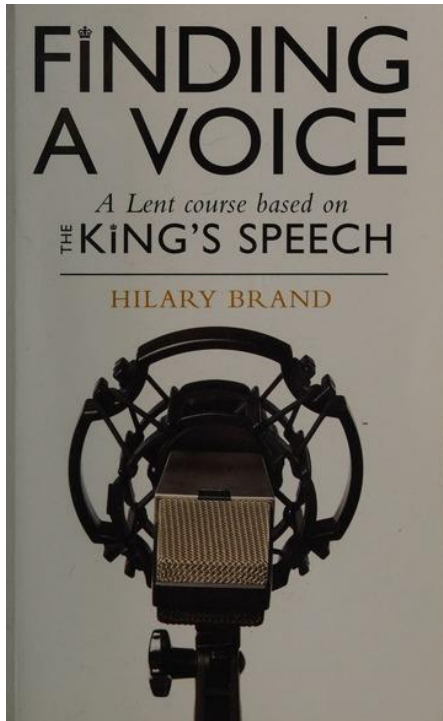
Doors Open: 7pm, film Starts: 7.30pm

Tickets in advance: £4.50 members, £5 non-members

On the door: £5.50

Fully Licensed Bar & Air Conditioning





ST MARY'S NEW LENT COURSE STARTS MONDAY 10 MARCH AT 7.00pm

Rev Sally says:

Please join us for our 2025 Lent Course.

*This time we shall be looking at **Finding a Voice** Lent course which is based on the movie **The King's Speech**.*



We will explore themes such as overcoming fear, finding one's authentic voice, and facing personal challenges, all often used as reflection tools during the Lenten season in Christian practice.

Key points about the "Finding a Voice" Lent course:

- **Focus on the film "The King's Speech":**

The course uses scenes and dialogue from the movie to spark discussion about overcoming personal obstacles, particularly related to communication and self-expression.

- **Spiritual application:**

While using the film as a starting point, the course encourages reflection on how these themes apply to one's spiritual life and relationship with God.

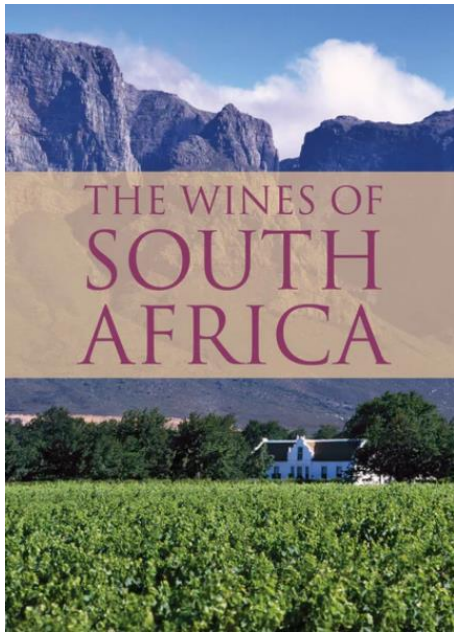
- **Themes explored:**

Fear, vulnerability, finding one's true voice, perseverance, and the power of support.

Held at St Mary's Church over a four-week period.

This is a fascinating and very moving film which presents many opportunities for a Lenten reflection: Ed., One not to be missed!





The Friends of St Mary's
Registered Charity Number 286971

***Jim Kelland is holding another
fun evening introducing the wines
and food of South Africa.***

Don't miss this brilliant wine tasting evening to
be held at 7.00pm - for 7.30pm at St Mary's
Church Hall on:

FRIDAY 28 MARCH 2025

*As ever, Sarah will be preparing a range of delicacies from
that part of the world - and Jim will select his personal
choice of wines for us to taste.*

***Tickets will be £20 per person (as previously)
and available prior to the event from Jim himself.***



Ipswich Chamber Choir Presents:
Saturday 05 April, 6pm
Snape Maltings Concert Hall

J S Bach St Matthew Passion

Amici Voices

Rachel Ambrose Evans soprano

Rebecca Leggett mezzo-soprano

Sebastian Hill tenor

Edmund Saddington bass

Nick Pritchard Evangelist

Michael Craddock Jesus

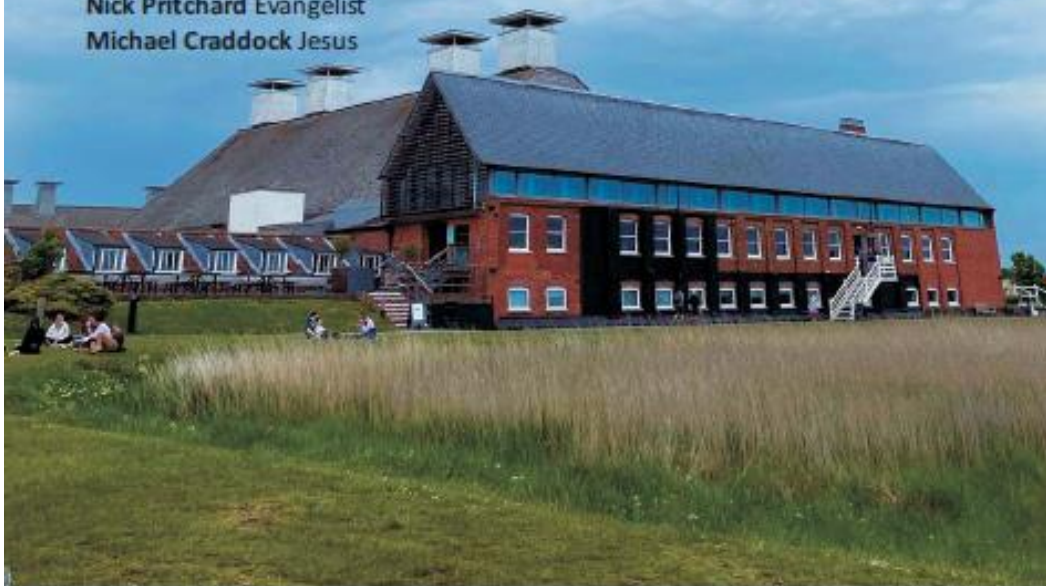
Ipswich Chamber Choir

Choristers of St Edmundsbury Cathedral

The Geldart Ensemble

Rachel Stroud leader

Benedict Collins Rice conductor



Tickets £15-35

box office 01728 688303

Online at brittenpearsarts.org



With thanks to Chris Yule





(above) Chrissie captures some Langur monkeys on camera

FROM CAPEL TO THE FORESTS OF INDIA ON A TIGER HUNT

CHRISSIE HART TELLS A REMARKABLE TALE

Being keen wildlife watchers and photographers Steve & I booked a trip to the tiger reserve of Nagarahole in Karnataka, south west India .

The idea to leave the British weather behind for a few days in January whilst experiencing these majestic big cats was born during an evening with friends and the 4 of us flew from Heathrow arriving at Bangalore International Airport in the early hours of 8 January 2025.

Having been ill with flu from Christmas until the New Year I was still suffering from respiratory symptoms and the idea of a day's tour around Bangalore was dismissed when there was an "Air Quality Index" alert because of high pollution and foggy conditions.

So a quiet day in the hotel and a good night's rest saw us embark on a 225km, 4.5hr journey along route 33 south west of Bangalore, bypassing Mysuru before dropping south to the banks of the Kabini River.

Most of the journey was on a 2-3 lane dual carriageway which was very busy. We shared the space with everything from tuk tuk's, cars, a lot of motorcycles and many HGV's, (the majority of which do not look, or sound, like they would pass a british MOT or emissions test), and the occasional cattle.



Drivers suddenly stop on the side on the road, get out and pray before returning to their vehicles to continue on their way. Our taxi driver, with no warning did just that. Traffic did not always travel in the same direction and at one point we found ourselves travelling against the oncoming flow to reach a very nice coffee and comfort stop! Apparently this is all perfectly normal behaviour. On leaving the major road the next few miles were a pleasant, if still busy, journey through the rural landscape, several villages and small towns. Goats, dogs and cattle mingle with motorcyclists in a sort of organised chaos in which no human

or animal appears to get injured. Ladies working the field in their beautiful sarees was a sight to behold.

For the next week we would be based at a lodge, on the banks of the Kabini River. The river was dammed in 1974 to form a reservoir supplying water & electricity to 22 local villages & 14 hamlets. It has an area of 2,142 sq km (Suffolk's Alton Water has 1,642 sq km).

A former hunting lodge of the Maharajas of Mysore, Kabini River Lodge in its current form was the brainchild of R. Gundu Rao, a former Chief of Karnataka, and

The amazing Colonel John Wakefield.

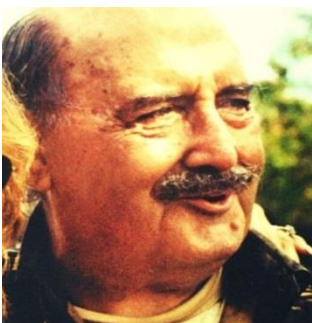
John was born on 21 March 1916 in Gaya, Bihar, he came from a long line of Englishmen, starting with his great grandfather, who came to India in 1826 to join the army of the erstwhile Bengal Presidency under the East India Company. His father, meanwhile, was employed by the Maharaja of Tikari in Bihar.



Growing up in the private forest of the Maharaja he picked up his first passion for hunting. He shot his first tiger at the age of 9 and first leopard when he was 10. It was a childhood largely filled with fun and adventure, but his father soon sent him to England for his formal studies. Upon his return to India, he furthered his passion for hunting. During the second world war he saw service in Burma before rekindling his love of hunting when returning to India in 1954. He ran tourist hunting trips to local areas.

Poacher turned Gamekeeper It was during the 1970's, with growing public discourse on wildlife conservation, highlighted by news of the dwindling number of tigers and the subsequent enactment of the Wildlife Protection Act of 1972, that finally converted him into a conservationist.

With his extensive knowledge of the forest and the wildlife that lived within it he, together with R. Gundu Rao, Chief Minister to Karnataka, transformed the former hunting lodge of the Maharajas of Mysore from a tourist destination full of guns and death into a place of tranquility, filled with those passionate about wildlife.

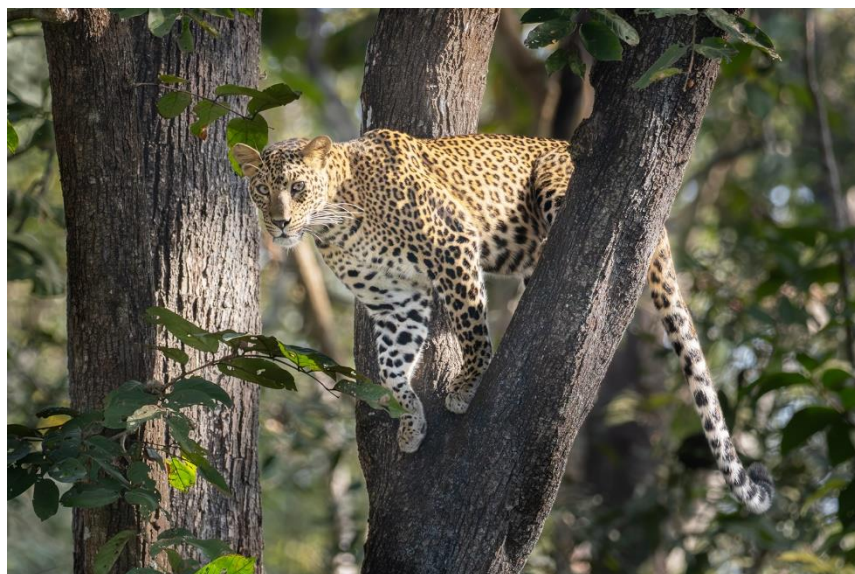


The only shooting done today is that with a camera. We spent many a pleasant evening in the original hunting lodge with its well stocked bar including local beers and my favourite, a G&T, whilst bats flew around the lights and wild boar ran across the lawns. Many original photographs of its previous gruesome life as a hunting lodge adorned the walls.

"Papa John" (pictured above) as he was known to the locals, offered employment to the local villagers, brought produce from the local farmers and educated both tourists and the local community in conservation. He ran tourist trips into the nearby Nagarahole Tiger Reserve. By involving those from the local community, showing them the benefits of tourism, the venture was a success and has the same philosophy today. He lived in Kabini for over 30 years and, until his death in 2010, at the age of 94, was still heavily involved in the conservation of wildlife in India. His ashes are buried in the grounds of Kabini Lodge.

Nagarahole tiger reserve

forms a critical connecting habitat for tigers and elephants to other areas of Western Ghats through Brahmagiri wildlife sanctuary and to the Eastern Ghats through Bandipur Tiger reserve. It covers an area of 847.981 Sq km. and is acclaimed as having one of the highest populations of tigers in the country.



Each morning we would rise at 5am, coffee at 5.45am and be in the reserve by 6.30am.

The climate was very pleasant with cool mornings necessitating a jacket and hat in order to keep out the cool air whilst travelling in the open safari vehicle.

These mornings made for some very atmospheric misty light in the forest. Afternoons gave way to warm but pleasant temperatures allowing for shorts and T-shirts and the evening game drives from 3pm until 6.30pm were warm also.

The weather was very dry and a scarf or face covering was essential to keep the dust off your chest. The amount of dust in the atmosphere, together with low light conditions made the photography very challenging, often pushing my ISO to 10,000, much higher than I would normally use.



As well as tiger we also saw many leopards, langur monkey, macaque, sunbirds, peacock, serpent eagle, sambar and chital, elephant, mongoose, wild boar, wild dog, scops owl, brahminy kite, guar, Indian mouse deer and a changeable hawk eagle.

After a wonderful 7 nights it was time to reverse our journey, endure the delights of Route 33, and return to Bangalore for our flight back to the UK -



THE poor will always be with us, but will we always be with the poor?

Parliament got in on the act with the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, and the two endowments are now joined and looked after by the Church Commissioners.



We know, now, clearly what the consequences are of these closures and mergers and stripping parishes of priests: dramatically reduced numbers.

The Church's official report on the disastrous "*Transforming Wigan*" project — in which 29 parishes were turned into one benefice, and the clergy were slashed from 18 to 13 (having been 24 in 2013) — showed that giving and attendance collapsed by one third.

In Launde, in Leicester diocese, another pilot project, giving has dropped by one half. This month, the report *New in the North* showed that, in churches where the number of services were cut, attendance fell by 14%, while in churches where the number of services was increased, attendance rose by 21%.

You might think that these findings should be obvious. It is really useful, however, to have them in black and white, because there is a reason that these mergers and closures have been happening so often recently, and that the poorest parishes are the worst-hit.

This is a direct consequence of the decision in 2016 that the Church of England would "stop subsidising decline" (as the former finance chair of the Archbishops' Council, John Spence, put it). Money has been redirected away from funding parochial ministry on a sustainable basis towards making short-term grants for new church projects.



This led to the withdrawal of hundreds of millions of pounds from funding parochial ministry, with all the consequences that we can see today.

How was this allowed, given the strict rules limiting what the Commissioners' money can be spent on?

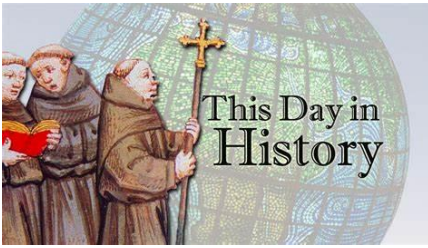
The answer is a small clause in the Miscellaneous Provisions Measure 2018: "*The Church Commissioners may make grants out of their general fund to the Archbishops' Council for the purposes of the Council's functions.*"

Although the General Synod was told that this Measure dealt only with "*uncontroversial matters that do not merit separate, free-standing legislation*", it has apparently justified the total redirection of the Church's endowment away from its primary purpose. Only £33 million a year is now spent on the Lowest Income Communities Fund, and, in 2022, of that, only 61% makes its way to parishes.

Since the Synod is not able to vote on the detailed budgets of the Archbishops' Council or the Commissioners, the enormous decision to defund the poorest parishes of the Church has been taken without the agreement of the Church gathered in the Synod — until now.

The Revd Marcus Walker is Rector of Great St Bart's in the City of London He is co-founder of the *Save the Parish* movement and acts as its Chairman. He was writing in Church Times.





9 FEBRUARY

Rev Francis Kilvert hears of the fighting vicar who liked to drink.

Clyro, Radnorshire, 1872

I walked to Hay. The afternoon was brilliant in its loveliness. The sun was under a cloud from behind which streamed seven broad rays on to the mountain and valley.

I had some great business at Owen's getting some crackers. The people seemed to me to be all mad or drunk.

A chorus of boys in the street was singing and enquiring in loud strains: "*Where is now the prophet Daniel? Where are now the Twelve Apostles?*"

Home across the river roaring in the dark.



Before I settled down for the evening I went into old Hannah Whitney's and sat awhile with her. She spoke of the two extraordinary sermons she heard preached in Llanbedr Church by Parson Button.

"He was a good churchman but he was a very drunken man."

I replied: *"How then being a very drunken man could he be a good churchman?"*

"Oh," she said, "he read the Lessons very loud and he was a capital preacher. He used to say to the people in his sermons: 'My brethren, don't do as I do - but you do as I say.'"

"He was very quarrelsome, a fighting man, and frequently fought at Clyro on his way home from Hay.

"One night he got fighting at Clyro and was badly beaten and mauled. The next Sunday he came to Llanbedr Church bruised black and blue, with his head broken and swollen nose and two black eyes."

"However, he faced his people and in himself and his prowess and gave a battle at Clyro in which he was which he represented himself as victorious."

"His text was taken from Nehemiah contended with them and cursed them them and plucked off their hair, and God."



his sermon glorified false account of the worsted, but in having proved

xiii, 25 'And I and smote certain of made them swear by





In Loving Memory

IN MEMORIAM

With thanks to Trevor Bailey

1 Feb	Frank Richard Wright	1995
	Colin Bevington	2016
3 Feb	Philip Roger Blurton	2002
	Jill Pamela Gooderham	2005
4 Feb	Marjorie Hilda McArthey	2012
6 Feb	Gordon Wright	1974
8 Feb	Amy Oldfield	1984
12 Feb	Thomas Oldfield	1993
	Tim Gooderham	2016
13 Feb	Giles Langton	2019
15 Feb	Angela Alice Adams	2017
16 Feb	Benjamin James Alcock	1992
17 Feb	Gladys May Rush	2006
18 Feb	Edith Anne Hearne	1999
	Daniel George Goyder	2004
20 Feb	Ruby Virginia Sybil Sporle	1998
	Beryl Muriel Leeks	2017
23 Feb	Peter Walter Chapman	2008
	David Leon Pollock	2013
25 Feb	Valerie Symonds	2013
28 Feb	Lisa Jane Fuller	1998
	Doreen Pamela Poulter	2003
29 Feb	Joan Winifred Matthews	2008

*In Loving
Memory*



*In Loving
Memory*





PRAYER LIST FOR 9 FEBRUARY 2025

We pray for all the conflicts in the world at this time, and that peace will come soon. Also we continue to pray for David Jacobs, who still bravely travels to Ukraine, helping those in need.

LONG-TERM SICK AND HOUSEBOUND

Samantha Streatfield, Pat Gladwin,
Becky Carpendale, Rachel Martin,

SICK

Kevin Austrin, Zoe and family, Shirley Streatfield,
Penny & David Thompson, Rev Stephne.
Sandy Mansfield, Geoff Cox, Pauline Stark,
Andrew Skinner, Molly Johansen, Mark Dale,
Barbara Rogers, Doreen Parker

FOR THOSE MAKING A RECOVERY

Sylvia Lambert

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED

Prof Chris Green

Please contact Hille at hillepearz@gmail.com
If people have made a recovery





In the next LINK:

Don't miss Rev Sally's adventures with the children of NewDawn India - one of St Mary's special charities for 2025.

As told by Rev Sally - and Elaine

Wright of Capel Methodist Church.

It is estimated that there are 30,000 children living rough on the streets or in the slums of the city of Madurai in Tamil Nadu, South India. They survive by rag picking, begging and scavenging in sewers which run right past their homes. The caste system keeps these families in poverty.



NewDawn India exists to provide support for the **Vidiyal Programme**, run by Dr. Jim Jesudoss, his wife Dr. Sharmila and their dedicated team, which works towards the relief of poverty in the Madurai slums. '**Vidiyal**' means a new dawn or new beginning, and new hope.



New Hope -



From this....to this...



CONTACT NUMBERS FOR BENEFICE MINISTERS

Priest in Charge Rev Sally Letman 311505

Church wardens

@ St Mary's Mel Sutcliffe 310967

Valerie Franklin 314179

@ St John's John Cresswell 311975

Diana Hunt 310441

Pastoral care

@ St Mary's Hille Peartree 310146

PCC Secretary

@ St Mary's Jenny Hickley 310991

Hall bookings

@ St Mary's Malcolm Fenn 310901

(But during Malcolm's extended absence from 1 December - until further notice please contact Valerie Franklin - 314179)

Our website: www.capelstmarychurch.org.uk





Nice try Mark Zuckerberg!



The editor - after spending 2.5 hours trying to find a comfortable sleeping position.....





Please be sure to forward any items for news to the editor at:

