



12 JULY 2026

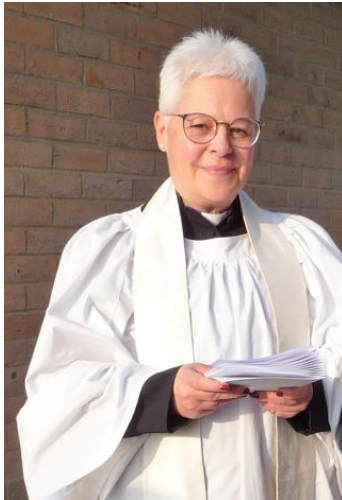
The Parishes of Chapel St. Mary with Little Wenham and Great Wenham
A very warm welcome awaits you from all who worship at St John's and St Mary's

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

A warm "Welcome Home" from Rev Sally Letman and everyone at St Mary's!

TODAY'S LINK NEWSLETTER FOR: 12 JULY to 26 JULY

A gentle reminder to us all:



Rev Sally is our Priest-in-Charge and is employed by the church on a part-time basis. You may not have noticed this - because up to now she has been effectively at the service of all in the benefice (and indeed further afield!) virtually 24 hours a day and seven days a week. Sally, however, now has two new grandchildren and a brand-new house which she is gradually furnishing for her eventual retirement.

So it is incumbent upon all of us to grant Sally two days rest from work each week - these will be on Thursdays and Fridays with immediate effect.

Please do defer from contacting Rev Sally on these two days unless absolutely crucial that she is brought aware immediately to an issue.

I know from personal experience that the vast majority of issues to be brought to her attention can be held over for a few days. Ed.,



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## **WORSHIP TIMELINE**

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

### **2026**

**TODAY!...**

10 July, 6.00pm, *Deanery Garden Party*  
at St Mary's Rectory.

12 July, 9.30am, St John's, *Morning Prayer.*  
10.45am, St Mary's, *Holy Communion.*

15 July, 10.00am, St Mary's, *Benefice Holy Communion*

18 July, 4.00pm, St Mary's *Wedding blessing.*

19 July, 9.30am, St John's, *Holy Communion.*  
10.45am, St Mary's, *Family Service led by Julie with  
St Mary's choir.*

20 July, 2.00pm, St Mary's Hall. *Compassionate Cafe*

21 July, 12.30pm, St Mary's *Luncheon Club*

22 July, 10.00am, St Mary's, *Benefice Holy Communion.*

26 July, 9.30am, St John's, *Family Service.*  
10.45am, St Mary's, *Holy Communion.*  
6.30pm, Churches together in Capel @ St Mary's.

27 July, 10am to 2pm, *St Mary's Spud Club.*

28 April, 12.30pm, St Mary's Hall, *Luncheon Club*

29 July, 10.00am, St Mary's, *Benefice Holy Communion.*



## NEW TESTAMENT READING - SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

### Matthew 13: 1-9, 18-23

#### *The Parable of the Sower*

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake.

Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore.

Then he told them many things in parables, saying: "A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up.

"Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root.

"Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.

"Whoever has ears, let them hear."



### Sally's Reflection

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

Proper 10 Matthew 13: 1-9, 18-23

*In 2020 we were shut for Covid, from March until July.*

*The sermon below was my first sermon, 'live' so to speak, after I had arrived in June 2020.*

Our lectionary goes in cycles and it is pertinent to take time and reflect and to give thanks because the word of the Lord is transforming, and I take the liberty of repeating it once again:

Well, thanks be to God we are here. It is a time of mixed emotions. Joy that we can finally be together to worship in our church building and sadness because some members of our church community aren't here.

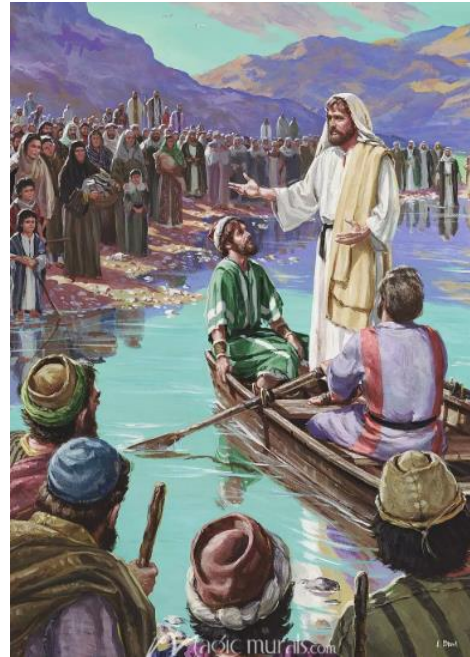
We have an anxiety about what our new normal will look like, yet are grateful and thankful to all the people who have worked in the communities of Capel and Wenham to keep church going in many different forms.

My footpath with the Lord has brought me here. I am so grateful and thank you for your kindness and support. As Stephne read out my licensing signing in, I am grateful to

be a lay minister and look forward to my Ordination in September, which I hope you will celebrate alongside me.

Sometimes life can seem like a rather hazardous footpath, sometime a maze of twists and turns. The words of the Gospel are so important, but they also make demands on us as how to live and which footpath to choose.

In our reading, Jesus stands on the boat, using it as a pulpit before the crowds of people. Perhaps he could see a sower in the field as says look and see and listen.



In Palestine the sower would walk and throw and scatter the seed. The fields would be in long, narrow strips, and the seed would fall on hard paths, fall in cracks of dry earth, or on stony ground.

The earth would be shallow and the seeds would not thrive in dry places, yet the weeds seem to flourish. The good ground was deep and weed free and the seeds would be nourished and abundant crops would be able to grow.

Our hearts need to be the good soil and our ears attuned to listening well. If we listen with our heart, then the fruits of our faith will be bountiful and abundant.

Sometimes there are other sounds that clamour to be heard; things we want, jobs we started and haven't finished, new fads and fashions. These sounds distract us, cause us to turn away from really hearing the word and the seeds of those words fall on dry ground and wither.

If we are prepared to really hear, to have our hearts open and we stop and listen to the word of God, then we choose the right path, the right fertilizer!

This is a parable to encourage us. Haven't we in Lockdown really listened, to the birds, to nature and many of you have enjoyed your gardens. And certainly, everyone has enjoyed the weather. We can speak of our faith at a time when people are more receptive.

We can sow the seeds even if we don't always see the harvest. When we sow the seed, we must not look for quick results, there is no haste in nature's growth, only quick growing weeds.

It takes a long time for an acorn to become an oak but often a

word dropped into someone's heart will lie dormant and take years to germinate. God's timing is different to ours.

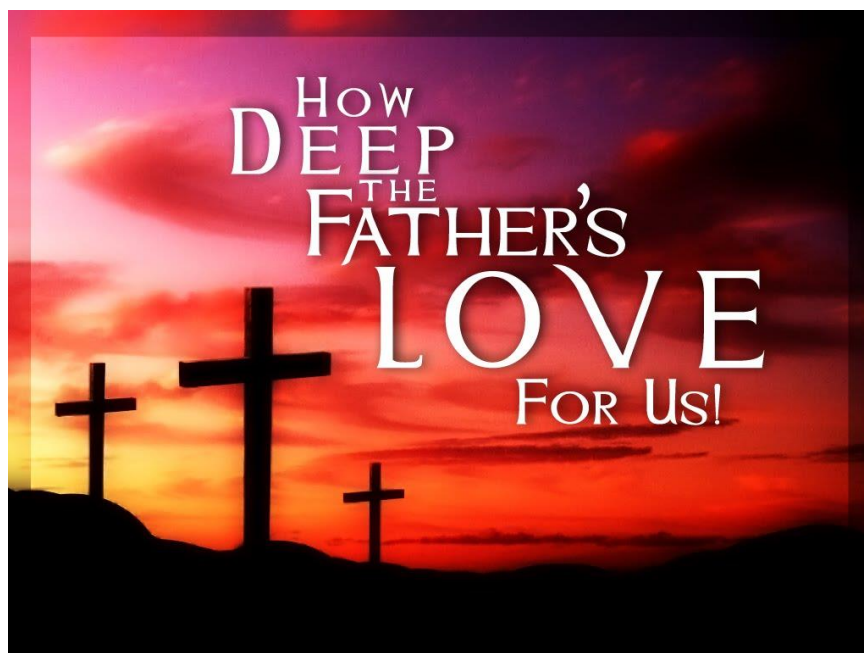


Do not despair because God will whisper on the wind, we just have to sow that seed. Because I may be a lay

worker, but we are all workers and we all have God given gifts. Some of those gifts we have only just discovered, and God knows of gifts we have that we aren't yet aware of. 1 Corinthians verse 6, Paul tells us *'There are different ways of doing His work. But it is the same God who uses all these ways in all people.'*

During this time of interregnum and the pandemic you have all shown that. The promise of the seed that really does bear fruit takes time and understanding. Care and thought are needed to really study the word of God. We need to pay special attention to really hearing, for our Faith to really take proper root. We are warned to be careful in what God is sowing, it might not be what we were expecting, or even what we want. Because Parables are challenging and demanding, they are designed for us to understand deep, abstract, sometimes uncomfortable truths. The truth and reality are that the Lord's word does sometimes fall on shallow ground, but if we work hard and really listen then that hearing brings understanding and we get nearer to the heart of the maze.

*We are nearer to becoming Kingdom people and we will bear fruit.  
We begin a journey together today, in a slightly new looking world. The word of God becomes incarnate and bears fruit, the spirit is a divine gift but we must be receptive to its work. Let us scatter the seeds together and God will work His Wonders,  
Amen*





Theronda Hoffman visits St Mary's *Art for Fun Club* - and the painting of the day is: ***A STREET SCENE***

We are thankful to Pauline for capturing several of the end results.....





*Happy Birthday in July to:*

- 4 July *Jean Yule*
- 6 July *Georgia Stark*
- 10 July *Roxanne Rodrigues*
- 23 July *Chris Tewkesbury*
- 30 July *Jim and Frank Pendorf.*

*happy  
birthday  
i thank God  
for you.*

*With thanks to Trevor Bailey*





**WELCOMERS  
REQUIRED FOR ST  
MARY'S.**

Church Welcomers are the first point of contact, essential for creating a warm, inclusive atmosphere that makes visitors feel valued and comfortable.

They, along with other key volunteers, often help with parking, guiding, and answering questions before and after services to ensure a positive, lasting first impression.



**Jenny says:**

Several members of the congregation are stepping aside temporarily from their Welcomer duties at present due to various reasons - so we are getting rather short of people Welcoming folk into church.



**Could you offer to step in from time to time?**

The duty involves welcoming people, handing out the readings leaflet, selecting two people to take the elements up to the server on Communion services and taking the collection basket round.

It is a simple task but we do need more people to come and assist in the running of the services on Sunday mornings.

**Is God calling you? I do hope he will give you the nudge!**

Many thanks , Jenny Hickley





## ***Our Giving is an Act of Worship***

Perhaps the most powerful text in the Old Testament concerning **giving** can be found in Malachi 3:8-10, where God accused the Israelites of robbing Him.

God's chosen people questioned this claim and asked, "*How do we rob You?*"

God's response was, "*By not making the payments of the tenth and the contributions.*"

God then went on to make a powerful challenge: "*Test Me in this way. ... See if I will not open the floodgates of heaven and pour out a blessing for you without measure*" (v.10).

***That is a powerful promise from our gracious, giving God!***

When it comes to the New Testament, the actual word tithe is no longer mentioned, so does this mean the strong message of giving to God in the Old Testament is no more? Nothing could be further from the truth! In light of what Christ has done for us on the cross and the amazing grace we receive, our giving should be a reflection of what our heart treasures.

*"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also"* (Matt. 6:21). Our giving should be viewed as a part of our worship to the Lord.

If we are just giving to mark off a line on our spiritual checklist, we are merely involved in charity and we are missing out on the great joy of being a cheerful giver.

This idea of our giving being a part of our worship is expanded upon in 2 Corinthians 8-9 as the apostle Paul makes the following points:

- *Those who follow Jesus should excel in the grace of giving;*
- *Giving is an expression of the love one has for Jesus;*
- *God loves willing and cheerful givers;*
- *A willingness to be generous in giving is more important than the amount given;*
- *Our giving will result in praise and thanksgiving to God; and*
- *Our giving should be a natural response to God's gracious gift to mankind.*

In light of what Christ has done for us, why would we not want to give Him our best? I am blessed to be able to speak to many groups on the subject of biblically-based giving. It has been my experience that once people hear this lesson, they respond in one of three ways.

The first response is **understanding** — their giving is a joyful act of worship, and they are greatly blessed to be part of God's sovereign plan by making kingdom-significant investments. These people are filled with the joy of the Lord.

The second response is **conviction**. There are many reasons why a person cannot give. Conviction for a Christian comes from the Holy Spirit, and it is actually a good thing. God's love for us is so great. He wants us to turn in a different direction and exhibit

different actions or behaviours. It is wise for the believer to take heed when conviction comes over us.

The third response is *irritation* — people are upset that they had to sit through a message on money in a church environment. I can understand people being disillusioned, because we all know how false teachers have taken advantage of good-hearted people.

This problem dates back to the church in Ephesus as the apostle Paul instructed Timothy to address this issue of false teaching on money; but, Paul encourages the church to be generous and ready to share, thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life in heaven (1 Tim. 6:18-19).

*Ron Kelley was writing in Lifeway.*



**Rev Sally adds:**

*Someone once said that on average we give less than we pay for our daily newspaper, although I think Capel gives more than average. If you consider other religions it is expected that a percentage is tithed.*

*In Acts, everyone shares everything and in Acts 5: 1-11 Annias and Sapphira drop down dead for lying to the disciples and keeping some money for themselves!*

*Giving is generosity and worship, when we hold up the collection, we say, 'all things come from you and of our own we give you'.*

*Proverbs reminds us in 11:24 and 25 that generous people prosper,*



# NEWS



## AN IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING GEOFFREY OUR ORGANIST

Since late 2023 Geoffrey's mobility has deteriorated and he has had to give up driving- and more recently cycling. This is now beginning to affect his fortnightly organ-playing at St Mary's Chapel.

His increased immobility has led a driver from St Mary's Ardleigh collecting him from his home in Greensted Road, Colchester to take him to play for the Ardleigh service - and I collecting him at Ardleigh to bring him to St Mary's in time for our 10.45am service.

Then he needs to be returned to his home following our service.



**The hard facts of this** are that the time I spend driving Geoffrey to and fro on Sunday mornings exceed the time I attend church service. In addition it eats into my family activity on Sunday afternoons.

Jim Kelland has given me superb backup and so, on occasions, has Mike Johansen. Disappointingly however, appeals to our congregation for additional names for the collect-Geoffrey rota have fallen upon deaf ears.

As a consequence I must give notice that I am not prepared to collect or deliver Geoffrey again after this weekend. The alternative could be a series of taxi runs which he could arrange - and perhaps we pay for?

Brian Rogerson



## ***The miracle of gold coins stashed under the altar which could help save the church***

Kaya Burgess in The Times tells the story of the story of a stash of gold coins, now valued at £30,000, which were found by accident in a 14<sup>th</sup> century church that is under threat of closure because it can't afford the repairs.

The vicar of St Wilfrid's, in the village of Melling in Lancashire, the Rev Jane Lee, and a parishioner, were cleaning the church for its last Easter

services, when they found a bag behind the wedding kneeler under the altar, with a note dated 2022 saying: "Hi there, I'd like to donate these nine gold Britannias to Melling church", and signed "James, servant of the living God."

Three churches and a school in the area have also reported finding gold coins, but the identity of the donor is unknown. The money will not pay in total for the repairs estimated at £750,000, but the injection of cash has also brought hope and the local community has started a heritage fund to try to save the church. Rev Jane lee said the find was "just like a miracle".



## ***BISHOP JOANNE CONDUCTS HER FIRST ORDINATION SERVICE IN SUFFOLK***

***More than 20 men and women of all ages and varied backgrounds were ordained by Bishop Joanne at St Edmundsbury Cathedral, on Saturday 27 June.***

The communities represented by the newly appointed clergy include Haverhill, Hadleigh, Woodbridge, Ipswich, Framlingham, Bungay and Lavenham.

Bishop Joanne said: "These new priests and deacons will be a vital presence in our Suffolk communities, making a difference in the towns and villages they serve. They are bringing Christ's message of hope and compassion to every place they minister. "



Initially, candidates are ordained as deacons, a servant-hearted ministry, in which they act as a bridge between the church and community. Usually, a year later, they are then ordained as priests, which allows them to preside at services of Holy Communion and to give blessings.

The ordinands included **Jonathan Boast**, a 52-year-old father with three children, who has been ordained a deacon for the Lark Valley and North Bury team. Jonathan, an artist whose first job after university was as a roadie for the Rolling Stones band setting up stages on tour, said: *"Thriving churches are transformational, providing a sense of belonging, growth, hope and being loved. They develop friendship, support networks and belonging in a society where many feel increasingly isolated. They can provide practical and emotional help to those in need and create opportunities for people to develop their skills, serving one another."*

**Simon English**, a 55-year-old married company director with two children and a background in transport and agriculture, has been ordained a deacon for Ipswich St Matthew with Triangle and All Saints. *"I spent many years commuting from Suffolk to London, working as a civil servant in the transport sector, before moving into the agricultural sector, where I became a company director managing businesses supplying fresh produce to major UK supermarkets,"*

As we say congratulations to the new ordinands, we think closer at home of our own Jim and Christina who are both working along the road to ordination.





## ***A New Hymn for Today -***

### ***Song of the Saints - by Phil Wickham***

*As played by Martyn at last Sunday Eucharist service.*

*Click below:*

**<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nmrbs8pIGHU>**



*Philip David Wickham is an American contemporary Christian singer-songwriter and musician from San Diego, California. He has released 14 worship albums: Give You My World in 2003, a self-titled album in 2006, Cannons in 2007, Singalong in 2008, Heaven & Earth in 2009, Response in 2011, Singalong 2 in 2012, The Ascension in 2013, Singalong 3 in 2015, Children of God in 2016, Living Hope in 2018, Hymn of Heaven in 2021, I Believe in 2023, and Song of the Saints in 2025.*





***An old favourite hymn for today:***

***As played by Carole at last Sunday's service....***

***Love divine, all loves excelling.....***

**<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8q3jmXn6HTQ>**



***Watch this spectacular rendition of one of our all-time favourite hymns from the heart of the Royal Albert Hall, London.***





# DAVID WILLIAMS

*From St Mary's Family Service .....to  
CapelFest 2026!*

As a member of the Breakfast Club at St Mary's, led by Penny Thompson, David first played the guitar in public at the family services which they sometimes led. He was aged around 13, and a little nervous to start with, but received a lot of help and support from Chris Hall, who

he played alongside.

Incidentally, David's guitar teacher at East Bergholt High School commented at the time that hymns are quite tricky to play on the guitar!

He gained in confidence over the next few years, playing in school concerts, passing his grade 5 Rock School exam with a merit and achieving a GCSE in music amongst his other studies.

After leaving sixth form college and starting work and studying for his degree in civil engineering, he enjoyed singing and playing his guitar at home in his spare time. In recent years he has played alongside Jim Kelland and Matt Toone at a few services at St Mary's, and with Matt's encouragement he went along to his first 'open mic' evening.

Since then he has become a regular performer at local 'open mic' events, gaining in experience all the time, and has started playing a few gigs in local pubs.

This has led to him being asked to play at CapelFest 2026 on 11 July at Capel St Mary playing field, which he is really looking forward to!

He plays an acoustic guitar, and enjoys covering songs from the 60's onwards, from Johnny Cash, the Beatles and Simon and Garfunkel to Oasis, Ed Sheeran and George Ezra, and particularly likes performing country and indie music.

He also enjoys writing and performing his own songs. David is available to play at functions - please contact him at: [davidwmusic03@gmail.com](mailto:davidwmusic03@gmail.com) for more information.

Gill Williams

(Right) David playing at the *Cars at the Case* classic car show at Bentley last weekend





# NEWS *from the* PEWS

**SAMFORD**

## **DEANERY GARDEN PARTY**

**Friday 10 July @ 6.00pm at the Rectory,  
Capel St Mary IP9 2LE**



Rev Sally says: "bring a plate of food and a bottle please,"

"This is extended to anyone who contributes to our churches in the deanery - all are welcome!"



This is a superb opportunity for our five benefices:

*To come together for a summer social event.*



# BRIGHTER FUTURE INTERNATIONAL

At Capel St Mary Methodist Church  
Monday 13<sup>th</sup> July evening  
6.30 pm for 7.00 pm start (with light refreshments)  
All are very welcome

An informal evening with Victor Parisipogula,  
Director of Brighter Future International  
([Vizianagram](http://Vizianagram), Andhra Pradesh, India)  
([www.brighterfuture.org.uk](http://www.brighterfuture.org.uk))

Homes in 'Children's Village' for street children;  
children from leprosy affected families in leprosy  
colonies; and children affected by HIV/AIDS  
Care for leprosy affected people in leprosy colonies,  
especially the aged and disabled

Supported by The Leprosy Mission, India. Partnering  
with The Leprosy Mission to improve the homes and  
lives of leprosy affected in colonies in Odisha, East  
India

*Brighter Future International is a Christian organisation  
committed to rebuilding lives ravaged by leprosy, HIV,  
neglected tropical diseases, disability and poverty.*

*We work in partnership with individuals, families and  
communities to restore health, dignity, independence and  
hope. Following Jesus' example, we want to bring life in all  
its fullness to the people we serve.*

*We are inclusive, helping and respecting people of all faiths  
and none, striving to achieve equality for all.*

For more information contact Margaret Mahato :  
Email: [margaretemahato@hotmail.com](mailto:margaretemahato@hotmail.com)  
Phone: 07899 75003

*With thanks to Margaret Mahato*





## COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS CAFÉ

At St Mary's Church Hall has its next meeting on Monday 20 July @ 2.00pm

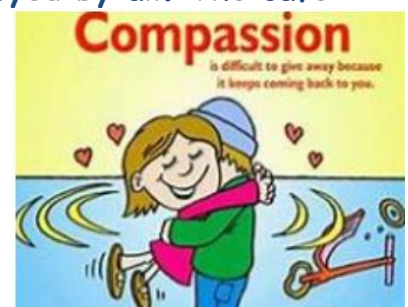
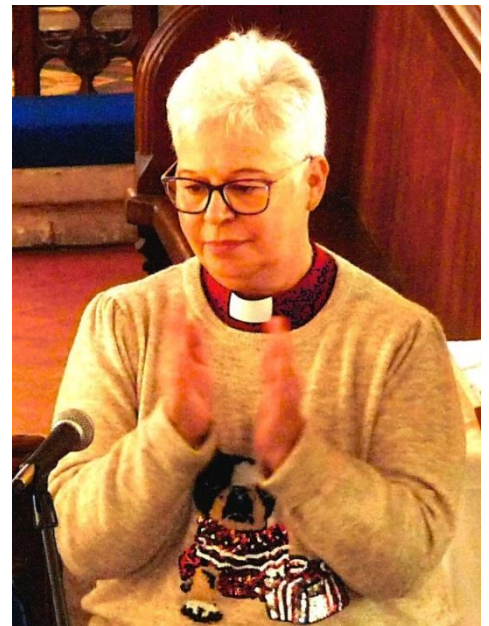


### Rev Sally says:

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 20 July at 2.00pm. Do come and bring a friend. You will leave feeling better! Rev Sally x



# ST MARY'S CHURCH, BENTLEY

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> July 2026**  
**Doors open at 2pm for 2:30pm**

## Jane & Julie



We are excited to welcome sisters Jane & Julie to St Mary's Church, Bentley. They enjoy performing together playing various instruments including the saxophone, trombone, flute, recorders and the clarinet.

They cover a wide variety of music, with over 700 songs in their repertoire throughout the decades.

Come and join us for a great afternoon of musical entertainment and chat.

Ticket price includes refreshments – All proceeds to St Mary's

**Tickets £10 from**  
**[bentleychurchevents@gmail.com](mailto:bentleychurchevents@gmail.com)**

**With thanks to Alison Partridge**



# Burstall Horticultural Society

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## 71st ANNUAL FLOWER SHOW, FETE, CLASSIC VEHICLES & FUN DOG SHOW

To be held in  
The Village Hall IP8 3DR  
and adjoining meadow on

**SATURDAY 1st August 2026**  
**from noon**

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**ROCK 2 POP VISITS  
DOVE CLOSE**

***Come and join us at  
Dove Close (Capel St  
Mary)***



to enjoy a musical evening with



**ROCK 2 POP**

***Listen to: Popular  
rock and Pop covers***



Friday 21 August 7.00pm start

Free Entry and there will be  
refreshments and a raffle.  
call Carolyn on 01473 310032

For more info please





The Friends of St Mary's  
Registered Charity Number 286971

## ***DONATIONS URGENTLY WANTED!***



### ***Sue and Julie say:***

St Mary's Church is organising a ***Fashion Show*** in September (date to be confirmed) of pre-loved clothing, accessories, shoes and handbags and would appreciate any donations of good quality items you no longer wear. Male, Female or Teens.

Either drop of in church hallway or call:

Sue 07773042910 or Julie 07539249234 to arrange pick up.

Many thanks in advance, Sue Dale and Julie Wardley





**Pre Loved  
Clothes**

**Accessories  
Bags &  
Shoes**

# **FASHION SHOW**

**Friday 11th September**

**7.30 PM**

**St Mary's church Capel St Mary**

**Tickets: £5** Include a glass of Prosecco on arrival...

**Tickets from: Sue 07773042910 or Julie 07539249234**

# ***PILGRIMAGE OF SONG***

***Saturday, 19 September 2026 - Blythburgh to Southwold***

Christina says: "Cantus Firmus, the Christian project choir based in Suffolk and Essex, is doing another one of its wonderful Pilgrimages of Song."



It's a day of walking through the beautiful Suffolk countryside around Southwold. Usually, the route takes in several churches, with a short reflective service held in each one.

There is a communal meal at the end of the day (optional). We bring a packed lunch, and usually churches on the way provide refreshments.



***You do NOT need to be an experienced choral singer to take part!***

The day is open for all, so if you sing hymns in church or sing in the shower, you'd be absolutely fine.

On the online form, just tick the box that best describes your voice, e.g. alto or bass.

You do not have to walk all the way - you'll see information on this on the online form.

You can find information here:

<https://cantusfirmus.org.uk/events/pilgrimage-of-song-southwold.html>

and the booking form is here:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdzNb4EHCd1h9X50Vpw02GoIXpbO6gvRiHgHUjgZCqGZOrIPq/viewform>

I've been to many of these over the years, and they are always really lovely.

Christina



NEW FOR 2026

*COMING SOON*

# The ALPHA'bet Bundle

A-Z of Natural Treats

One unforgettable chewing challenge.

Can your dog complete  
the Alpha'bet Challenge?



ALPHA

DOG SUPPLIES

[www.alphadogsupplies.co.uk](http://www.alphadogsupplies.co.uk)

NATURAL • HEALTHY • ETHICAL

Get 10% Off  
Your First Order  
With Code 'ALPHA10'



*With thanks to Diane*



## VIEWPOINT

### **Susan Leafe asks: Is it any wonder that trust levels are falling in the Church of England?**



*"The fight for trust is the battle that defines our age."* So said Sir Keir Starmer to his supporters moments after Rishi Sunak conceded defeat.

This was not news to those who attend or follow General Synod.

It used to be that you would hear a few mutterings of dissent in the corridors, but more lately members have articulated their concerns publicly in questions and speeches. That the number of written questions submitted by members has more than doubled over the past five years is a tangible manifestation of these decreasing levels of trust.

In 2023, the Rt Hon Sir David Lidington, Chair of the Project Board examining the governance of the Church of England, told General Synod, *"Let me be frank, having never previously been involved in Church governance, I have been personally shocked by the depth of resentment and mistrust that pervades relationships between different organisations, traditions and people within the Church family. Governance reform will not on its own deliver the cultural change needed, but it can help. Without governance reform, I believe it will be very hard to overcome mistrust."*

He pointed to the 2022 Governance Review Group's Report which he said set out *"a confusing lack of clarity over who was responsible for decisions ... pervading everything, a lack of transparency with a plethora of committees, subcommittees, commissions and boards, a bureaucratic tangle in which it was almost impossible to take even urgent decisions clearly and quickly, or to hold decision-takers to account"*.



The day after Keir Starmer took office, the Church of England's General Synod listened to a presentation from Professor Veronica Hope Hailey, (pic left) Dean of the University of Bristol Business School. She is a co-author of the recent report, ***Trust and Trustworthiness in the Church of England***".

#### ***Patchy distrust***

Professor Hope Hailey offered four criteria by which people judge the trustworthiness of leaders: ability, benevolence, integrity and predictability. Of the four, a breach of ability or competence is the easiest to repair, because no one expects anyone to be perfect.

However, when there is doubt about whether those asking you to trust them have your best interests at heart or share your values or when they give conflicting messages, trust quickly vanishes.

The 2024 report found, "*Pervasive yet patchy distrust is manifest in different ways across the Church,*" and that "*the major and traumatising breaches of trust that have been of deep concern to the General Synod and many, inside and outside the Church, have brought profound and sustained breakdowns of trust into the life of the Church*".

The report lists "racism, sexual abuse and issues relating to Living in Love and Faith as amongst the issues that deeply affect the life of the church". To which could be added the decision by the Church of England to close churches during the Covid lockdown, rather than campaign to have them designated as an 'essential service'.

*The local Parochial Church Council (PCC) can see the empty pews and are doing their best. They can also see the roof that needs repairing and the demands from the diocese to increase their parish share, reach Net Zero targets and enter into discussions with the neighbouring churches about sharing a vicar.*

All too often it seems the problems are created by those with the power and then those on the ground are expected to clear up the mess. Is it any wonder that trust levels are falling and that the **Save the Parish** campaign is gaining influence amongst the grassroots?

And then there are the 'big issues' of safeguarding and the fiasco surrounding the Living in Love and Faith process.

### *Descended into Chaos*

Last July, General Synod watched on as a presentation from the Archbishops' Council about the sacking of the Independent Safeguarding Board (ISB) descended into chaos. Standing orders, of the procedural type, were traded in an attempt to hear from those who had lost their jobs. When Mr Reeves, a former member of the ISB was finally able to speak, he said that one of the challenges of working with the Church had been language. The Church had a different understanding of the word "independence": "*They mean semi-detached.*" *When they talk about "trust", "they mean obedience,"* he said, and when they talk about "*communication*", "*they mean loyalty.*"

Similarly, the 'Questions' were even more heated than usual, with a number of people enquiring whether the decision of the Archbishops' Council to sack the ISB had been unanimous or not. While the Archbishop of Canterbury suggested it might not have been, the Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell, (pic right) stated otherwise.



Twelve months later and the Archbishop of York had cause to make what he described as a "*a small correction to the record*". It turned out that the vote had not been unanimous at all, with four voting against the decision and four abstaining. "*I spoke incorrectly,*" he told General Synod, "*and since it's been pointed out to me, I wanted to take this opportunity to apologise.*"

It seems extraordinary that a matter of 'fact', which could easily have been checked immediately against the minutes, has taken 12 months to be 'corrected'. In that time General Synod has met twice and the Archbishops' Council has met on numerous occasions.

Whether it was a lack of competence, benevolence or integrity - there is no doubt that an organisation will find it hard to regain trust when the recollection of their senior leaders about important matters is so unpredictable.

In February 2023 the Archbishop of York told the world, "*It has been a long road to get us to this point. For the first time, the Church of England will publicly, unreservedly and joyfully welcome same-sex couples in church.*"

### **Wranglings**

Some 18 months later and standalone services have yet to be commended.

There have been wranglings over doctrine, legal advice and transparency.

Frustration has been voiced about the House of Bishops' continual flip-flopping but in the end it comes down to trust.

What the Bishop of Bath and Wells described as "*a gloss that I just don't think will do*", lay member of Synod, Aneal Appadoo, (pic right) said more plainly, "*I for one feel I have been tricked.*"



The '**Trust and Trustworthiness in the Church of England**'

report offers some advice about how the Church of England

might become trustworthy again, but it also warns: "*Occasionally all these efforts to reset the culture, values and behaviours are still inadequate and the institution may fail over time to recover. Roy Lewicki (2017) has called this the Humpty Dumpty syndrome.*"

*"As the nursery rhyme tells us: All the King's horses and all the King's men couldn't put Humpty together again. In these grave circumstances a public sector organisation is often broken up, merged into other departments or relaunched as a separate structure with a different remit. In the private sector, a business may not recover from the impact upon its reputation."*

There is certainly deep theological division within the Church of England, and the ability, benevolence, integrity and predictability of leaders may be in short supply, but one thing on which everyone can agree is that there is eggshell wherever you step.

*Susie Leaf is director of Anglican Futures, which supports orthodox Anglicans in the UK.*



## ST MARY'S HALL BOOKINGS

*With many thanks to Valerie Franklin*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
<b>JULY</b>			10.00 Midweek Communion 17.00-20.00 Street Dance	9.30-10.30 Pilates		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
10.45 Communion Rev Sally 12.00 Christening	10.00-12.30 Art Club 18.15-19.30 Brownies	18.00-19.00 Rainbows 19.30 Ladies Meeting Point	10.00 Midweek Comm 13.30 – 15.30 Make & Mingle 17.00-20.00 Street Dance	9.30-10.30 Pilates		12.00 Wedding
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
10.45 Communion Rev Sally 14.30-17.30 Irish Dancing	10.00-12.30 Art Club 18.15-19.30 Brownies	18.00-19.00 Rainbows	10.00 Midweek Communion 17.00-20.00 Street Dance	9.30-10.30 Pilates		16.00 Wedding
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
10.45 Family Service Led by Julie	10.00-12.30 Art Club 14.00 Comp Cafe 18.15-19.30 Brownies	12.30 Lunch Club 18.00-19.00 Rainbows	10.00 Midweek Communion 17.00-20.00 Street Dance	9.30-10.30 Pilates		
26	27	28	29	30	31	
10.45 Communion Rev Sally	10.00-12.30 Art Club 18.15-19.30 Brownies	18.00-19.00 Rainbows	10.00 Midweek Communion 17.00-20.00 Street Dance	9.30-10.30 Pilates		





# In Loving Memory

## IN MEMORIAM

*With thanks to Trevor Bailey*

2 July	Thomas Wilfrid Flaxman	2004
	Kathleen Naomi Field	2021
5 July	Sandra Johnson	1996
	Ronald Norton	2013
	Chris Hall	2024
6 July	Muriel Clare Campbell	2003
	Harry Bywater	2004
7 July	John Rider	1999
8 July	Anthony John Wares	2017
9 July	Dorothy Muriel Barnard	2014
11 July	Annie Emily Keenor	
	Mary Page	2014
12 July	Winifred Grace Mann	2014
15 July	Maureen Webb	2013
16 July	Sylvia Joan Barker	1998
17 July	Ena Maud Lee	
19 July	Joseph Taylor	1994
	Josine May Taylor	2009
20 July	William James Blacksell	
21 July	Leila May (Peggy) Walsh	2015
22 July	Tara Harris	2014
23 July	Madeline Sarah Page	1990
27 July	Margaret Curwen	
28 July	Doreen Myrtle Ablitt	2012
30 July	Veronica Bush	
	Gertrude Ellen Hood	2015
31 July	Frederick Keenor	
	Joan Edith Brundle	2021



# ST MARY'S PRAYER LIST



## PRAYER LIST 12th July 2026

We pray for the medical and humanitarian needs in Venezuela after the earthquakes.

We continue to pray for all the conflicts in the world and especially the Middle East and Ukraine.

Also prayer for David Jacobs as he bravely travels back and forth to Ukraine.

## LONG TERM SICK AND HOUSEBOUND

Pat Gladwin, Becky Carpendale, Rachael Martin, Brenda Green, Zoe & family.

## SICK

Kevin Austin, Penny & David Thompson, Rev. Stephne, Molly & Mike Johannesen, Sandy Mansfield, Geoff Cox, Pauline Stark, Andrew Skinner, Barbara Rogers, Doreen Parker, Eric & Sandra Doe, Malcolm & Chris Fenn, Angie Heath, Jane Hubert, Rev. Adrian & Rosie Waller, Canon Jim Pendorf & Sharon Pendorf, Glyn Terry and Sue Dale.

## FOR THOSE MAKING A RECOVERY

Shirley Streatfield, Laura Towells, Peter Ellis (Methodist), Norman Peartree

## FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED

Theresa Barrett

Please contact Maureen Hill [mo.hill02@live.co.uk](mailto:mo.hill02@live.co.uk) for new entries - or if people have made a recovery.

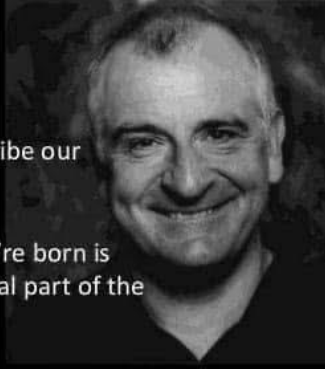
And with thanks to St Mary's Prayer Team



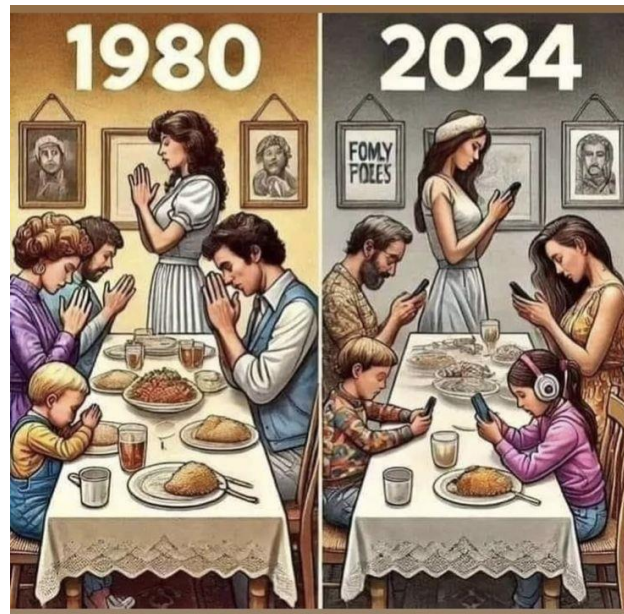
Douglas Adams

"I've come up with a set of rules that describe our reactions to technologies:

1. Anything that is in the world when you're born is normal and ordinary and is just a natural part of the way the world works.
2. Anything that's invented between when you're fifteen and thirty-five is new and exciting and revolutionary and you can probably get a career in it.
3. Anything invented after you're thirty-five is against the natural order of things."



## FUNNY THINGS TO PONDER



# ODEON

FANATICAL ABOUT FILM

Mansfield

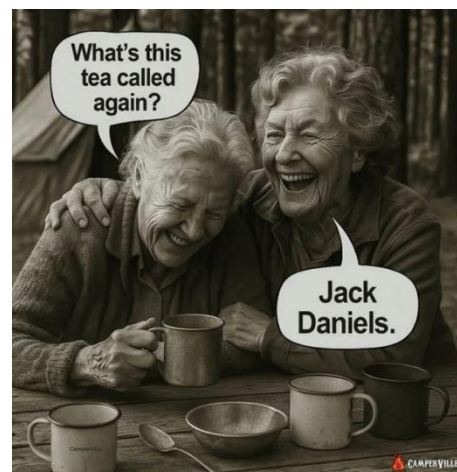
2 x Adult	£29.95
2 x Child	£19.95
2 x Popcorn	£15.90
2 x Pepsi Max	£11.95
16 x Stella Artois	£107.50

**Total: £185.25**

Credit Card	£185.25
Cash	£0.00
Change	£0.00

VAT 20.00 % (£154.37): £30.88

If you had an ODEON Premiere Club Card you could have earned 1852 points on this transaction.



*Avoid all Odeon Cinemas! Nearly £200 to watch a film with the family! Since when has the cinema got so expensive?*

# **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*                              *Rev Sally, Mo Hill and her team*

PCC Secretary

*@ St Mary's*                              *Jenny Hickley*                      310991

Hall bookings

*@ St Mary's*                              *Valerie Franklin*                      314179

Check out our website: [www.capelstmarychurch.org.uk](http://www.capelstmarychurch.org.uk)



***AND FINALLY- HOW WE INTERPRET THOSE CONFUSING  
OLD PICTURES .....***

***"Careful today lads, the Met Office has issued a red weather warning.  
Might take my jumper off.."***



***"Roses are red, tacos are delicious,  
I use paper plates 'cos I hate doing dishes"***



**When you've just started the washing machine and spot a sock  
on the floor...**



### **EDITOR'S NOTE**

The Link Newsletter shall continue to be published electronically on a fortnightly basis - please let me know of any news or views you may have for inclusion in the magazine.

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

[briancrogerson@btinternet.com](mailto:briancrogerson@btinternet.com)

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Kindly note that editorial and production attempts to reflect accurately all submissions; however apologies are readily offered for any errors in transmission.

All features & news items & opinions in The Link are introduced & published by the Editor and only the church service, readings and reflection and prayers are submitted & authorised by the Priest in Charge and the PCC officers unless otherwise highlighted in the text.

