



8 APRIL 2026

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:
8 APRIL 2026 to 22 APRIL**

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And a special message of thanks to Rev Adrian, Jim and Christina for all their invaluable contributions in Rev Sally's absence.





WORSHIP TIMELINE

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

2026

8 Apr, 10.00am, St Mary's, *Benefice Holy Communion*

10 Apr, 7.00pm, St Mary's, *Friends Wine Tasting Evening (Austria & Germany),*

12 Apr, 9.30am, St John's, *Morning Prayer.*

10.45am, St Mary's, *Holy Communion led by Rev Adrian*

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

19 Apr, 10.45am, St Mary's, *Holy Communion led by Rev Anthony Lurie.*

20 Apr, 2.00pm, St Mary's *Compassionate café*

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

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

26 Apr, 10.45am, *Holy Communion,*

4 May, 4pm to 6pm, *St Mary's Churchyard Clean-up Day.*

8 May, 10.00am, St Mary's, *Benefice Holy Communion*

10 May, 10.45am, St Mary's, *Holy Communion*





Good Friday Walk of Witness Churches Together in Capel St Mary

Led by Methodist Minister Steve Mann

**Capel
Community
Church** - the
gathering:



Matthew 27:11-14.

Jesus stands silent before his accusers, refusing to defend himself. This silence is not weakness, but a conscious choice to entrust himself to the Father, fulfilling the role of the suffering servant in Isaiah 53:7

Saxon Meadow: *Matthew 27:15-26.* The crowd chooses a convicted murderer, Barabbas, over the innocent Jesus. This scene highlights the tragic reversal of justice and the preference of humanity for rebellion over truth.



St Mary's Church. *Matthew 27: 27-31.* Roman soldiers mock Jesus as "King of the Jews", putting a crown of thorns on his head and spitting on him. Matthew highlights the physical

brutality to show the serious nature of sin and the depth of Jesus' love - suffering intense humiliation to save sinners.





The Street. *Matthew 27: 38-46.*

Jesus cries: "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani? - My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" He voices the ultimate agony of bearing human sin and the separation from the Father that our sins deserved.

The War Memorial, *Matthew 27: 47-54.*

When some of those standing there heard this, they said: "He's calling Elijah," Immediately one of them ran and got a sponge. He filled it with wine vinegar, put it on a staff, and offered it to Jesus to drink. The rest said; "Now leave him alone. Let's see if Elijah comes to save him." And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom.



When the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened, they were terrified, and exclaimed: "Surely he was the Son of God!"

"This is our God the servant King:" was sung aloud in Capel Street by the 55 people who joined the Walk of Witness.

Later, coffee and hot cross buns were available at Capel Methodist Church.

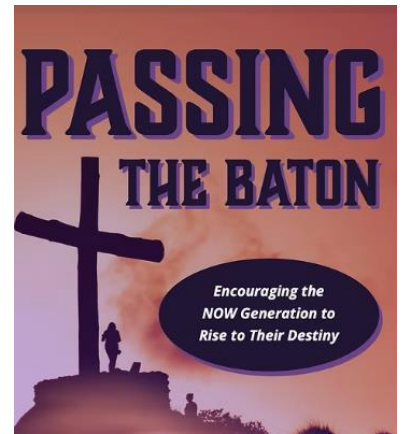


Bishop Joanne's Easter Message

LET US PASS ON THE BATON.....

Easter assures us that nothing, not hardship or death, can separate us from the love of God, offering hope to a world that faces so much suffering.

Even in a world filled today with conflict, war and injustice, Easter brings the message that love has won and God's promises can be trusted. Christ's resurrection triumphs over the broken world's darkness, fear and death.



At Easter, we are invited to trust in a living God who shares in our suffering and brings new life.

This season calls us to move from despair to joy, carrying the light of faith. As Christians we arrive at Easter Sunday via the events of Holy Week. We travel with Jesus from Palm Sunday as he enters Jerusalem on a humble donkey, to sharing a last supper with his disciples, and then experiencing the pain of crucifixion in the Garden of Gethsemane.

It's no wonder that we can feel all wrung out by the time we get to Easter.

A new day

Jesus was put to death on a cross by those who hated what he stood for. After his crucifixion, he was buried in a tomb, and a stone rolled across the entrance.

But then we reach Easter morning. The sun comes up and it's a new day. The stone has been rolled away, and Jesus's tomb is empty.

He is risen again! There is no more striving needed; the work has been done, and we know that we are saved.

The risen Christ does not simply promise us life after death. He draws us into life before death — into courage, forgiveness, hope and joy now.

John's gospel, a kind of eyewitness account, focusses in on the moment when Jesus's friend Mary Magdalene finds the tomb empty, and Jesus gone.

I love the way he tells the story of how the resurrection

was made known to the world. Like athletes in a relay race, those first believers passed on the story of how Jesus defeated death. You couldn't make it up.



Mary Magdalene, who is full of fear, tells Peter and John. Peter and John run to the tomb. They are scared, and they go home. Weeping, Mary tells the angels. Weeping some more, Mary tells the gardener... who she then recognizes as Jesus. He tells her to tell his brothers. And she tells the disciples, "I have seen the Lord!"

Choosing ordinary people, especially women and fishermen, to tell everyone that there's a place waiting for them in heaven may seem like a crazy decision - but it worked. They passed the truth on; they ran the resurrection relay. Because of their experience of seeing the risen Jesus, his followers went from fear to courage. By preaching that he was alive, they put their own lives in danger. Some were persecuted or imprisoned. Some died for their faith.

But they passed the baton on, telling the good news that Jesus lives, running the resurrection relay. And they brought hope, for they passed on nothing less than the promise of everlasting life.

That hope is as powerful now as it was in those early days.

Our hope as Christians is founded on the resurrection, God's sign to the world that his love can never be defeated, even by sin and death. Our hope is founded on what God has already done in history. And it's founded on what God is still doing today, even in our own troubled times.



In churches around England this Easter season, people are being baptised and confirmed.

Each of them, adults and children, will have received the truth of the gospel from someone among their families, friends, schools and church communities. Someone passed the baton on to them.

We can all be people who pass on the baton of faith. We can pass it on when we stand up and say what we believe - even when that might be unpopular in the world.

We can pass it on by sharing the hope and joy that come from knowing that we can pass it on in the market square, in the workplace, at school or college, among our families and friends.

We can sing it from the rooftops - and we can also tell it quietly, with servant-hearted actions, showing love and compassion to those in need.

So, this Easter, take the baton. Pass it on. And join the resurrection relay!



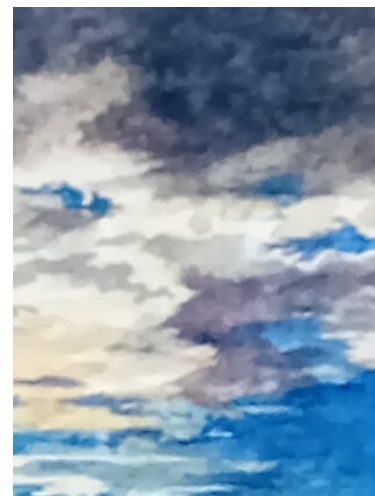
ST MARY'S ART FOR FUN HITS THE AIRWAVES

"Today's challenge – paint a skyscape"

Hazel Bradshaw, the local Suffolk artist, returned again to St Mary's Art for Fun Club to introduce the challenge "Paint a Skyscape"

But this time she invited Luke Deal from BBC RadioSuffolk to interview the members.

Luke, who had recently been stranded in Dubai due to missile strikes in the Middle East with his wife, lives near Colchester in Essex.



(Above: Hazel, Sue and Nicola decide on colours)

One of the delights of an art club is the wide-ranging interpretations bestowed on each individual piece of work.....



Happy Birthday in April to:



- 1 April Yvonne Rogerson*
- 6 April Angie Heath*
- 10 April June Hall*
- 12 April Chris Terry*
- 15 April Christine Wansbury*

With thanks to Trevor Bailey





*Springtime in
Capel St Mary*



Capel is at its best in Spring (notwithstanding the potholes!) - and it was not hard to find the

evidence.....



Fourth of May is Churchyard Clean-up Day

Do you remember last year (2025) when Imogen (Magical Owl) led a team of over 20 Brownies and their adult helpers to St Mary's Church to assist Mel and Paul clear weeds from the footway?



(Left) Imogen (junior) assisted Rev Sally in weeding the Easter Garden. While..

(Right) Cheryl did a terrific job mowing the upper churchyard.



(Left) Meanwhile, Imogen (Magical Owl) headed down to the lower churchyard with a wild-flower seeding team...



And later there were much-needed refreshments in the church hall



WE'LL BE DOING IT AGAIN THIS YEAR! LET'S HAVE SOME FUN AND JOIN IMOGEN AND THE BROWNIES FROM 4.00pm to 6.00pm on May Bank Holiday Monday afternoon to bring St Mary's Churchyard into springtime.





St Mary's celebrates its very first Compline service - Maundy Thursday 2026.

The ancient office of Compline derives its name from a Latin word meaning 'completion' (completorium). It is above all a short service of quietness and reflection before rest at the end of the day. It is most effective when the ending is indeed an ending, without additions, conversation or noise.

Our inaugural Compline service was led by Jim Kelland: His reflection for the service was:

The promise of Jesus

This is the greatest promise every given. A promise given to all of us so when we truly repentant we can be forgiven our sins and so become closer to God

through Jesus Christ. God is within all of us.

We can see God in everyone we meet as he created us in his likeness, and we carry his mission within us. Knowing this we can go out as disciples of God and be his missionaries telling all of the good word that is Jesus Christ.

We all give out promises and we all break them. Some promises are small. "*Jimmy did you wash your hands before you sat down for your tea?*" "*Yes, mum I promise*".

Others are a little bit more serious. "*I swear by almighty God that I will tell the truth the whole truth and nothing but the truth so help me God*".

The wedding vows where we promise to love honour and obey. These are more solemn and are not meant to be broken.

We read in Matthew 26 of the last supper that we are celebrating here tonight.

This is where Jesus presents himself to his disciples to be the sacrifice for our sins.

I wonder if they really understood what was going on.

We know that they had a good idea, but it was only later through their own reflection of the importance of what was being said.

This is the start of the new covenant. The new promise. "*Take eat this is my body of the new covenant. This is my blood of the new covenant which I give to you for the forgiveness of your worldly sins*".

This is the moment when humanity is given a new relationship directly to God through his only son who was sent to save us. The connection of God to his creation through his Son.

We remember Jesus' sacrifice for us every time that we take the bread and the cup. Like the disciples that were there at that table we too must examine ourselves. To look into our inner eye and remember that God is within every one of us. When we sin, we





NEWS from the PEWS



Beverley announces a "FIRST" for St Mary's Church

MAKE & MINGLE

Starting 8 April on a monthly basis.

From 1.30pm to 3.30pm in St Mary's Church Hall.

Beverley says: "This is an opportunity for us to come together for two hours to Make and/or Mingle.

Knitting, crochet, sewing, cross stitch, tapestry, decoupage, banner making or anything you enjoy making. Bring your own craft project to do while chatting, share your skills with others and just have fun or come and have a go.

If you are not into craft making just come and enjoy some company.

Open to all - No charge just a donation towards tea and coffee.

Regards and hope to see you there! Beverley



TM G

TRIANON MUSIC GROUP
 Trianon Choir and Symphony Orchestra
 Leader: Steve Browne

Soloists: Julie Roberts (soprano), Mark Saberton (Baritone)
 Conducted by Adrian Brown

*Enchanting Music
 for a
 Spring Evening*

*An evening of evocative and uplifting music from four much-loved composers:
 Enigma Variations & Psalm 29 – Edward Elgar
 Banks of Green Willow – George Butterworth • Te Deum – Antonín Dvořák
 In Windsor Forest – Ralph Vaughan Williams*

Supported by The Chris Green Bequest

Saturday 18 April 2026, 7.30pm
St John's Church, Ipswich
 Cauldwell Hall Road, IP4 4QE

For full details of the programme, visit the Trianon website at www.tmg.org.uk
 Tickets: Full price £14, concessions £12, under-18s no charge
<https://www.trybooking.com/uk/FFHQ>

Trianon Music Group is a member of Ipswich Arts Association and Making Music
 Reg charity no. 276715

www.tmg.org.uk • [Facebook](#) Trianon Music Group • [Twitter](#) @MusicTrianon

With thanks to Gill Williams who says: "If anyone would like tickets please let me know"





COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS CAFÉ

At St Mary's Church Hall has its next meeting on Monday 20 April @ 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 April at 2.00pm. Do come and bring a friend.

You will leave feeling better! Rev Sally x



DO YA WANNA BUILD A SCARECROW?

For the 2026 Capel St Mary Scarecrow Trail - Thursday 25th to Sunday 28th June



It can be as sophisticated or simple as you like and there are no themes so anything goes. Here are some of the Scarecrows from the last few years that got voted for as Favourite Scarecrows, and the positions they achieved - "No rest for the wicket" 1st, "Men at Work" 2nd (as you can see, just some inflatable Mr Men, a ladder, and some clever imagination), "Take It Off" 2nd, "Thank you for bringing this in" 1st, "Who came to tea?" 3rd (Pretty simple but the children loved it. In case you hadn't guessed, it was the Tiger).

If you have made a Scarecrow in the last two years, we will be contacting you in April to ask if you would like to make one again this year.

If you haven't made one before but would like to have a go, please either Message me, Jim Hill, on 07951 411720 or email me at jim.hill1@live.co.uk NB Don't miss out the "1" or your email will disappear into the ether and you will NOT get a failure notification. Please provide your name, street address, mobile number and email. Myself or my wife Mo, will then be in touch to answer any questions you may have. Any contact information you provide will be held for Scarecrow Trail use only.

Jim Hill

The Friends of St Mary's

Registered Charity Number 286971

With thanks to Jim Hill



LADIES MEETING POINT – 2026 NEWS UPDATE



Ondra Butler Says:

As you know we have decided to meet during the summer months only this year. Hopefully this will encourage more ladies to come along, as we appreciate that turning out on dark cold winter evenings is not so appealing. The committee remains the same and volunteers for prayers, vote of thanks and refreshments would be appreciated.

The charge for membership will be £5, plus £2.50 per meeting. Guests will be charged £4. These charges will hopefully cover ongoing expenses. Below is the planned programme and we hope that you and any friends will support this group.

2026

- | | | |
|----------|------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| APRIL 7. | Truffle Making. | <i>Val Bridgeman</i> |
| MAY 5. | The Role of a Parish Nurse. | <i>Caroline Ursell</i> |
| JUNE 2. | Women of Felixstowe. | <i>Catherine Buchanan</i> |
| JULY 7. | The Canary Girls - Muniton workers | <i>Sandra Gold-Wood</i> |
| AUG 4. | More Royal Occasions. | <i>Ken Stone</i> |
| SEPT 1. | AGM & Fish & Chip Lunch | |
| DEC 1st. | Christmas Lunch | |



Was £6.66
Now £5.66
Venison Skins 250g

Was £17.28
Now £15.55
10 Sow Ears

Was £10.80
Now £9.18
10 x Hairy Cow Ears

Was £10.80
Now £9.18
10 X Plain Cow Ears

Rabbit Skins 50cm
£4.05
B.O.G.O.F

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Perfect time to grab a bargain
and keep those tails wagging

Products added daily Free Delivery
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With thanks to Diane Rogerson

ALPHA'S
March Madness!

DEAL ALERT FOR DOG OWNERS

We've just restocked...
and added a batch of **SHORT DATE DEALS**

That means:

- ✓ Premium natural treats
- ✓ Reduced prices
- ✓ Limited availability

Swipe to see deals →

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SHOT OF THE WEEK 1.....



A church for the whole nation and for the world

Entering the West Door of Canterbury Cathedral, Sarah Mullally declared: "I am Sarah, a servant of Jesus Christ". And at the historic moment when she became the first woman to be installed as Archbishop of Canterbury, she was met with warm and enthusiastic applause. Her installation marks a significant milestone for the Church of England. It is 39 years since women were allowed to become deacons, 32 years since they could be ordained priests and 12 years since they could be bishops.

Her appointment as leader of the Church of England and the wider Anglican Communion, smashed a glass ceiling that had held for 1500 years.

In an interview on the eve of the service, she promised that part of the installation service would have "women's voices right the way through", and their presence was prominent.



SHOT OF THE WEEK 2...

CHURCH OF HOLY SEPULCHRE CLOSED FOR WORSHIP



The Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, Cardinal Pierbattista Pizzaballa, and the Rev Francesco Ielpo were stopped by Israeli police from entering the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, believed to be the site of Jesus Christ's crucifixion, where they planned to hold a mass on Palm Sunday.

They said this was "*manifestly unreasonable and grossly*

disproportionate" and was the first time in centuries that Palm Sunday mass had not been celebrated there.

Public worship gatherings have been prevented over safety concerns, and the Palm Sunday procession from the Holy Sepulchre to the city was cancelled.

But the mass was planned as a private service with just two clergy broadcasting to the public. Worship went ahead, as the Cardinal moved the Palm Sunday mass to the Basilica of All Nations in Gethsemane.

At 10pm that night, Prime Minister Netanyahu announced he had instructed relevant authorities to grant the Latin Patriarch "*full and immediate access*" to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre so he can "*hold services as he wishes*". The Israeli President Isaac Herzog said he had phoned Cardinal Pizzaballa to express his "*great sorrow*" over the "*unfortunate incident*".



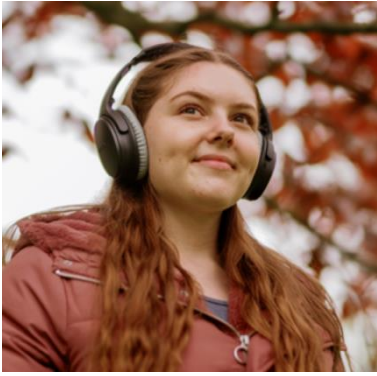
Jean gives update on The Children's Society collection

Thank you to the 21 Children's' Society box holders who, over the last year raised a magnificent £349.72 to support the good work of the society.

I took to the bank £239.72 in small change (it did weigh a lot!) and £110 of generous bank notes.

It is amazing how all the small coins add up so if there is anyone who would like to have a box to relieve their purse or pocket of small change please do ask me for one (01473 310583)

With thanks on behalf of the Children's' Society
Jean Goyder.



A brighter future - Eva's story from The Children's Society

From a young age, Eva struggled with feeling rejected and let down by her dad, which affected her confidence, mental health, and ability to connect with others.

School was a challenge, and she eventually moved to home-schooling. While this gave her independence, it also left her isolated, with little social contact or structure. To cope, Eva turned to controlling her diet and fitness. But this only increased her distress.

For a time, support felt out of reach. Referrals to mental health services left her feeling dismissed and unheard.

Then, a family friend recommended ***The Children's Society*** to her, where she was paired with Emily, one of our project workers. Over time, Eva found a safe, non-judgmental space to share her feelings at her own pace.

Eva explained; *"It was some of the best support I'd ever had, I think because it was so drastically different. With Emily, I was able to go at my own pace."*

Emily helped Eva rebuild her confidence, engage with her community, return to education, and explore volunteering opportunities.

Writing became a lifeline for Eva, helping her process her experiences and connect with others. Today, she has self-published a book of poetry and essays, is working on a novel, and hopes to study journalism to become a foreign correspondent.



Julie says:
"The Friends Quiz Night



The Friends of St Mary's
Registered Charity Number 286971

on Friday 27 March was a huge success with all tables taken and a total of £478 raised for our charity on the night".



OUR BRILLIANT NEW THREE ALTAR CLOTHS



Beverley said:
Julie spoke to me about making banners and we came up with the idea from there. Also it uses some of the stars. (from the earlier Star Festival) Julie and I designed them and Julie did all the sewing so it's mainly her work.



"The table one is detachable so we can make ones for different seasons of the year."

(Right) the altar table cloth



(Above) the lectern banner



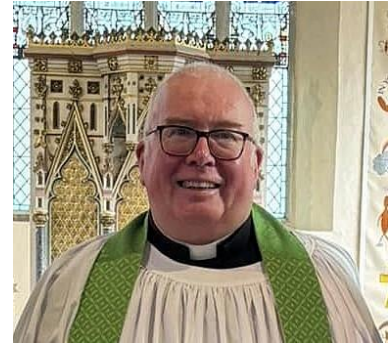
(Above), the piano cover



EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE – AND BAPTISM



Amelie Daisy (in her mother's arms) who was baptised and christened on Easter Sunday by Rev Adrian.



SING TO THE LORD A NEW SONG ...

St Mary's Choir was accompanied by the extremely harmonious trio of Carole on piano, Jim on guitar and Christina on her flute.





A Hymn for today -

***See What a Morning
(Resurrection Hymn).....***

Click here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=57C7uBkbO5E>

Was one of the hymns sung so movingly by our choir, led by Gill Williams, at last Sunday's Easter Day Service.

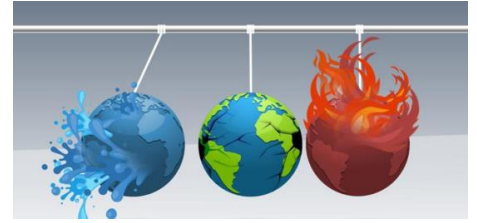


(Below) from Coventry Cathedral





Carole's 2025 Weather Report reveals a **WEATHER WHIPLASH** as climate change hits Capel!

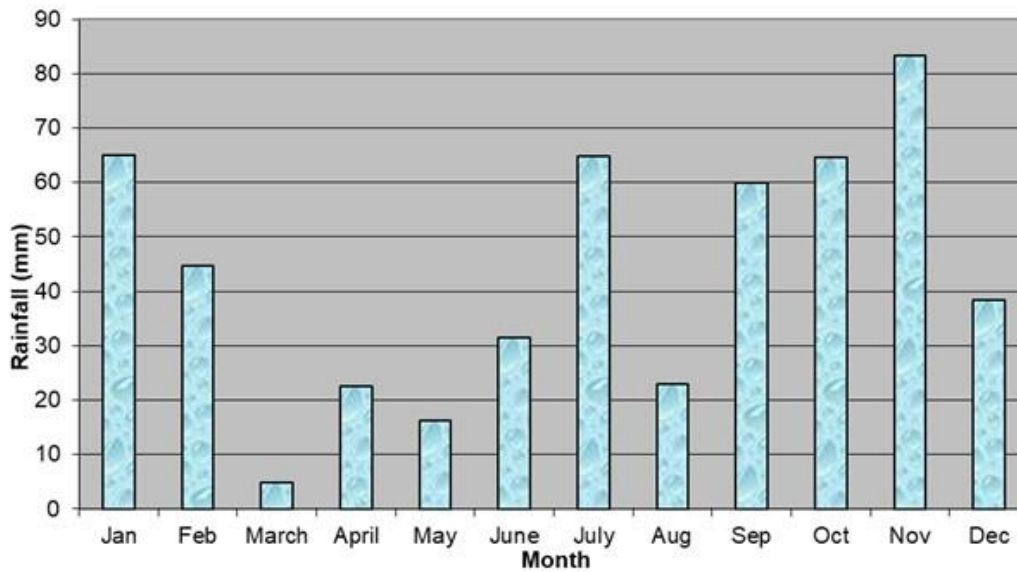


As I write this in March 2026, after the wettest January and February since 2014, it is easy to forget that 2025 was the fourth driest year in my 34-years of records, as well as the third warmest.

In fact, the five warmest years in my records have all been in the last six years. The warmest year was 2022, followed by 2024, 2025, 2023 and 2020.

The average temperature in 2025 was 1.1C above the average for the 34 years, and January and February 2025 were the only months in the year with below average mean maximum temperatures. We had 519mm of rain in 2025, only 80% of the average, and it was the driest year since 2022. Only January, July, September and November had above average rainfall, with the other 8 months drier than average.

Capel St Mary rainfall 2025 (mm)



We continue to see a pattern of weather extremes, lurching from one extreme of weather to another.

In the last couple of years, climate scientists have begun to use the term "**weather whiplash**" to describe this rapid shift from one weather extreme to another, in our case from persistent drought and heat in spring and summer 2025 to persistent wet weather in January and February 2026.

According to climatologist Michael Mann, professor at the University of Pennsylvania, these events are becoming more frequent and severe because of human-caused climate change from the burning of fossil fuels and release of greenhouse gases (such as carbon dioxide) into the atmosphere.

Becoming stuck

The Arctic is warming three or four times faster than the rest of the northern hemisphere, reducing the temperature difference between the tropics and the Arctic. Scientists believe this weakens the jet stream, the core of strong winds about seven miles up in the atmosphere at our

latitude, so that it meanders more, just like a river meanders in its lower course. Heavy meanders in the jet stream can lead to weather systems becoming stuck, causing prolonged periods of a particular weather type, such as long-lasting heatwaves or prolonged rain and flooding.

Records broken in 2025 included the driest March in my records, the warmest May and June and the warmest spring and summer.

January 2025 started very mild, wet and windy, with 12C recorded on 1 January and 37mm of rain in the first 5 days of the month. The 2nd and 3rd weeks of January were cold and dry, and temperatures overall were slightly below average.

(Left) Minsmere in January 2025



We had the coolest **February** since 2018, and it was quite cold and grey for much of the month.

March 2025 was a record breaking month. It was the warmest and driest March in my records. The mean maximum temperature of 14C was over 3C above the norm and we had less than 5mm of rain, only 11% of the average.

April was another warm and dry month, the warmest April since 2011 and the driest since 2022, with 60% of the expected rainfall. Half of the month's rain fell on one day, the 14th April.



(Left) Bluebells in Bentley Woods

The warm and dry weather continued into **May**. It was the warmest May in my records and the second driest, after May 2020. The temperature reached a sultry 29C on 31 May and all of the month's rain fell in the last week.

After recording the warmest spring in my records in 2024, spring 2025 was even warmer, nearly 2C above average. It was the driest spring since 2011, with only 33% of the expected rainfall.

(Right) Signs of spring at Abberton Reservoir

The warmth continued into **June**, with mean temperatures 3C above average, the hottest June in my records. Maximum temperatures exceeded 25C every day from 12 June onwards, and peaked at 32C



on 21st. We had only two thirds of the expected rainfall in June, but it wasn't quite as dry as in June 2024.

The first six months of 2025 saw only 185mm of rain falling, just 64% of the average, and it was the warmest January to June period in my records.

1 July was a stiflingly hot day, with temperatures reaching 34C, the hottest day of the month, and of the year.

Thankfully only one other day in July reached 30C, but the month was still warmer than average - the warmest July since 2022. July had the same average temperature as June, which had been exceptionally warm. It was the first wetter than average month since January, with 122% of the average rainfall, most of which fell on 2 days - 6th and 20th July.



(Left) Hot and sunny at the Tendring Show on 12 July.

August was another hot and dry month, with temperatures around 1C above average. It was the fourth year in a row of warmer than average Augusts, and six out of the last seven Augusts have been drier than average. The temperature peaked at 30.5C on 12 August.

The summer months of June to August 2025 were the warmest in my 34 years of records, with mean temperatures of 1.8C above average. 8 of the 10 warmest summers in my records (since 1992) have been in the last 9 years.

It was also the driest summer since 2022, with only 72% of the expected rainfall.

(Right) Harvest in Capel in August 2025

My bee colonies both in Capel and at my Mum's in Eight Ash Green were plagued by wasps, which stole honey and weakened the colonies. The hot and dry weather also reduced the amount of nectar and pollen available for the bees, and my honey crop was only just over half of what it was in 2024.



(Left) Bee hives at Eight Ash Green in August 2025

September and **October 2025** were both fairly average months weatherwise. Much of September's rainfall fell in the first four days of the month, with more falling then than in the whole of August. Storm Benjamin on 22 October brought strong winds and 14mm of rain.

November 2025 was another warmer than average month, the warmest November since 2022. We had to wait until 17 November for the first frost of the season, the second latest first frost in my records (- the latest was in November 2024).

It was a month of two halves: the first half of the month had average maximum temperatures of 14C and the second half only 6.5C.

It was the wettest month since February 2024, but not as wet as November 2022 and November 2023.

Much of the month's rain - 33mm (or 1.3 inches) fell on 13 and 14 November, with Storm Claudia.

Autumn 2025 (September to November) had 208mm of rain, around 10% above average - wetter than autumn 2024 but drier than autumn 2023. Although temperatures were around average, it was the coolest autumn since 2019.

Temperatures in **December 2025** were similar to those in December 2024 but cooler than December 2023. It was the 4th warmest December in my records.

It was also the driest December since 2016, with only 62% of the average rainfall.

(Right) Sunset at Landguard, Felixstowe, on Boxing Day



January 2026 started cold, sunny and dry. We had a centimetre of snow overnight into 5 January, but it didn't last long. The real change in the weather pattern came on 8 January with Storm Goretti, which brought 25mm of rain (one inch). After that, there were only four days without rain in the rest of January. Another named storm, Chandra, on 26 and 27 January, saw another 22mm of rain. The total rainfall for January was 104mm, 182% of the average. It was the fourth wettest January in my records, and the wettest since January 2021.

February 2026 continued the wet theme, and there were only five days without rain. After seven weeks of persistently wet and cloudy weather, we eventually saw signs of spring in the last week of February, with less rain and warmer temperatures, and the drier theme has continued into March.



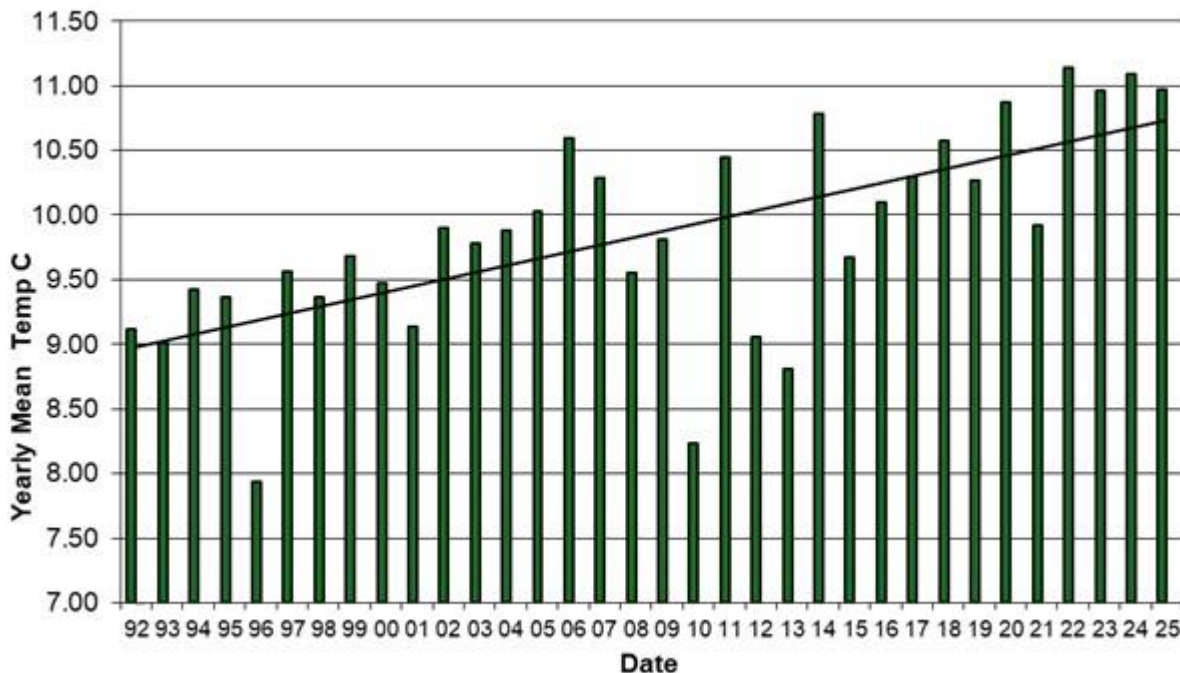
(Left) Peacock butterfly in Capel in early March 2026

The winter of 2025/26 (December to February) was warmer and wetter than average - the second warmest winter in my records (after the 2023/24 winter) and one of the wettest, with 134% of the average rainfall.

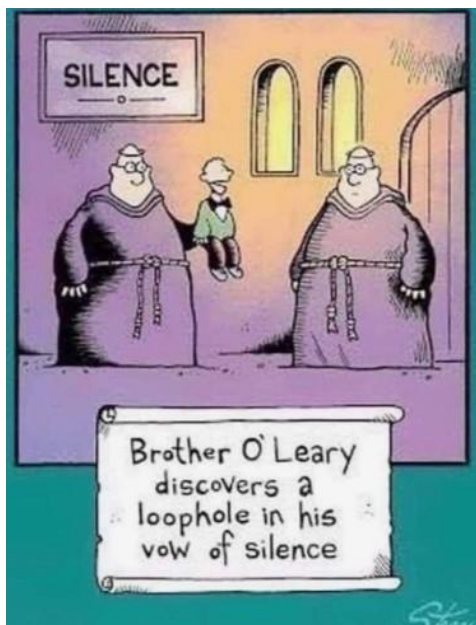
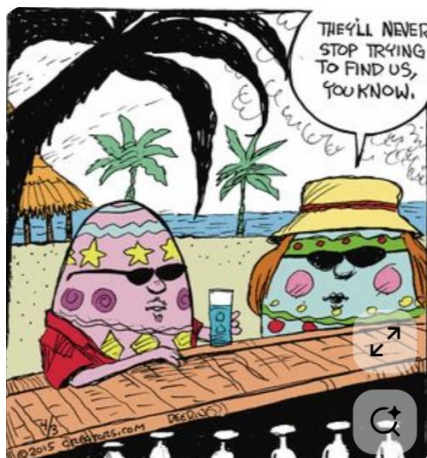
The graph below plots the annual average mean temperatures in Capel for the 34 years from 1992 to

2025. It shows the warming annual trend, with an increase of around 1.5C over those 34 years. It also shows that five of the last six years have been the warmest.

Annual average mean temperatures



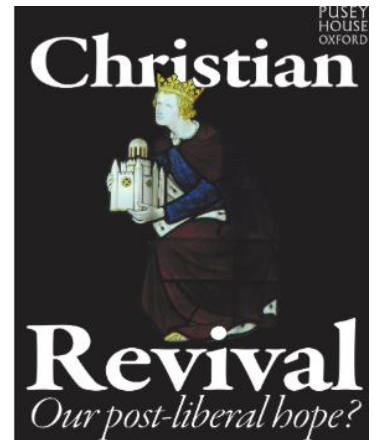
Thank you Carole for your amazing work in capturing and recording our weather history.





VIEWPOINT

Sebastian Milbank says: ***We need a loud revival!***



The dream of a "quiet revival" always misunderstood the problem faced by British Christians

For a while Christians have been talking about something called the "quiet revival" — the idea, trumpeted in research commissioned by the Bible Society, and carried out by YouGov, that young people were returning to the pews. The number seemed dramatic: an increase from 4% to 16% of 18-24 year olds regularly attending a church.

Right from the start, there was justified scepticism. It didn't fit any prior statistical models, and many experts expressed doubt. But the bigger problem was that it was "quiet". If four times as many young people were really going to church, people would notice. Priests would shout it from the pulpit and young people would discuss it on social media. Teachers would notice it, and public figures would see it in their own social circles.

In private conversations, many friends expressed doubts.

On the one hand, we all know lots of young people who have recently converted or started attending church, and for those in the social circles where the "vibe shift" feels most embedded, and inclusive of faith, it was possible to argue yourself into the idea that a massive Christian revival was just round the corner. But we were also intensely aware of how little the cultural zeitgeist had really tipped towards religion in practice.

So the revelation, after months of growing criticism, that the polling behind the quiet revival was deeply flawed, was disappointing but scarcely a surprise to many who wished it were true.

The Bible Society, it should be emphasised, did nothing wrong. It was the polling company YouGov which offered up faulty data.

Is there no quiet revival at all?

It depends how you define it. In many places, churches and denominations, there is very real growth and renewal. But for every church that is booming, there is one in precipitous decline, and for every adult baptism there are a dozen new parents who won't be continuing the ritual for their own children.

I am not entirely sad to see the quiet revival put firmly to bed. For all that I would welcome a revival, the dream it represents was always built on a misguided premise. For a certain sort of worthy, charity sector, establishment Christian

— the sort of people, in short, who govern the Church of England — the ideal path to renewal was by its nature quiet.

If only, the argument went, we could find a sufficiently polished, accessible and contemporary mode of Christianity, our numbers would once more swell.

Missing in all this, and missing in the quiet revival, was the matter of culture itself. The question is not and should never have been “how do we get people to become Christian?”, but rather:

“Why did people stop being Christian?”

The answer can be spun out into limitless complexity, but its essence is simple. People were presented with what appeared to be a more compelling and attractive worldview and way of life — one backed by powerful elites, institutions and, in time, legal sanction.

Secular liberalism may not literally prevent you from going to church or being Christian, but it strips out the central social logic of doing so, leaving faith as a private eccentricity or a fading cultural habit.

As one item in a multicultural marketplace, governed by rationalists and utilitarians, Christianity is not only far less appealing, it is not really itself. Christianity overthrew a pagan empire, converted and reconverted a continent, and spread to a third of the world not as a spiritual viewpoint, but as a civilisational project.

To be a Christian means to live in a Christian family, to enact Christian laws, to have a Christian politics, to create Christian communities, cities and nations.

The route to revival is real,

We have spent so long waiting around to be wanted, that we have forgotten that Christianity flourished and continues to flourish where it is needed. When a revival happens, we will not be debating about whether it’s happening, we will be debating what to do about it.



The route to revival is real, but it passes directly through many ideas, norms and institutions that establishment Christians cherish.

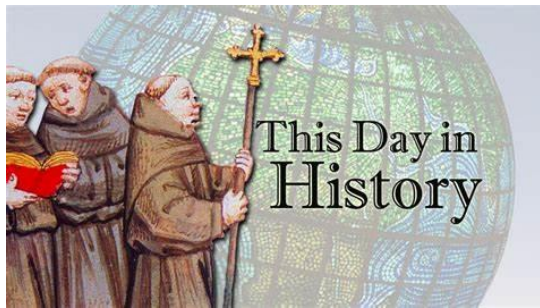
If Christians really want to see people flock back to church they will have to exert cultural power in ways that progressives and secularists will strenuously oppose.

For one thing, it means teaching Christianity in schools, something the Church of England refuses to do even within its own faith schools. It also means a strong identification between nation and faith, and an assertive cultural self-confidence amongst Christians. It means sponsoring art, plays, TV and films. It means creating parallel institutions, and reclaiming public spaces.

It is going to mean battles in classrooms and courtrooms, and it will spark fury from opponents. A loud revival would be a death-knell for the cosily managed decline of the British religious establishment. No wonder they would rather keep things quiet.

Sebastian Milbank is Associate Editor of the Critic.





8 APRIL 1667

SAMUEL PEPYS MAKES AN ABSOLUTE NUISANCE OF HIMSELF IN CHURCH

I walked towards Whitehall; but being weary, turned into St Dunstan's church where I hear an able sermon of the minister of the place.

And stood by a pretty, modest maid, whom I did labour to take by the hand and body; but she would not, but got further and further away from me, and at last I could perceive her to take pins out of her pocket to prick me if I should touch her again, which seeing, I did forbear, and was glad I did espy her design.



And then I fell to gaze upon another pretty maid in a pew close to me, and she on me. And I did go about to take her by the hand, which she suffered a little and then withdrew.

So the sermon ended and the church broke up, and my amours ended also.



ST MARY'S CHURCH HALL BOOKINGS - with thanks to Valerie Franklin

APRIL

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
				Maundy Thursday 19.00 Compline	Good Friday 09.30 Walk of Witness 19.00 Compline	Holy Saturday 19.00 Compline
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
10.45 Easter Sunday/Christening Rev Adrian		19.30 Ladies Meeting Point	10.00 Midweek Communion		19.00 Wine Evening	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
10.45 Easter 2 Communion 14.30-17.30 Irish Set Dancing	10.00-12.30 Art Club 18.15-19.30 Brownies	11.00 Funeral 18.00-19.00 Rainbows	10.00 Midweek Communion 17.00-20.00 Street Dance	9.30-10.30 Pilates 18.15-19.30 Qi Gong		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
10.45 Easter 3 Family Service	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 18.15-19.30 Qi Gong		
26	27	28	29	30		
10.45 Easter 4 Communion	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 18.15-19.30 Qi Gong		



ST MARY'S PRAYER LIST



FOR 8 APRIL 2026

We pray for all the conflicts in the world, especially the war in the Middle East and Ukraine.

We continue to pray for David Jacobs as he bravely travels back and forth to Ukraine.

Please continue prayer support for Becky Garland the new East Bergholt school chaplain.

LONG-TERM SICK AND HOUSEBOUND

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

SICK

Kevin Austin, Penny & David Thompson, Rev Stephne, Molly & Mike Johannsen, Sandy Mansfield, Geoff Cox, Pauline Stark,

Andrew Skinner, Barbara Rogers, Doreen Parker, Eric Doe, Malcolm & Chris Fenn, Peter Ellis (Methodist) Angie Heath, Jane Hubert, Rosie Waller

FOR THOSE MAKING A RECOVERY

Shirley Streatfield, Laura Towells, Zena Steward, Carol Cowgill,
Rev Sally Letman

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED

Mark Easton

Please contact Maureen Hill mo.hill02@live.co.uk

For new entries - or if people have made a recovery.

And with thanks to St Mary's Prayer Team





In Loving Memory

IN MEMORIAM

With thanks to Trevor Bailey

3 April	Peter John Allbutt	2015
6 April	Hendricke Janna Gough	2005
8 April	Veronica Ann Hearne	2014
	Brian Grover	2020
10 April	Norman Dan Bennet	2020
11 April	Maurice George Mann	2012
	Ian Fraser	2020
12 April	Reginald Rooke	2003
13 April	Ray Quinn	2021
14 April	Jim Chamley	2008
15 April	Colin Maurice Burman	2002
21 April	Henry Butler	2009
22 April	Elizabeth Mary Stark	1998
23 April	Gerald James Sporle	1995
	Dennis Pearce	2005
24 April	Rose Agnes Dawson	2008
	Elvira Joan Simmonds	2013
	Doris Ella White	2016
25 April	Carl Harvey	2020
26 April	Margaret Joan Gilbert	2007
	James Harry Woodward	2010
28 April	Christine Grover	2020
	Margaret Congdon	2024
29 April	Annie (Nancy) Evans	2002



Points to Ponder



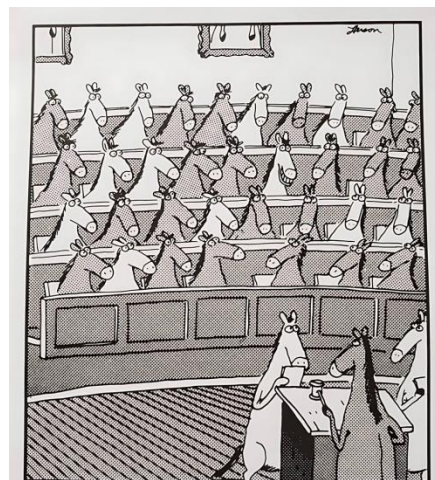
Right: The worst super-hero ever.....



THE SWORDFISH HAS FEW PREDATORS TO WORRY ABOUT IN THE WILD,

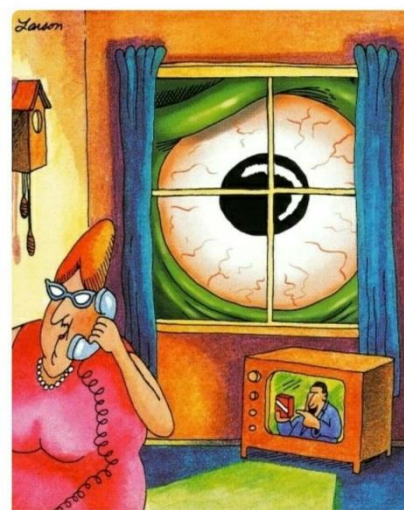


EXCEPT FOR THE SELDOM SEEN PENFISH WHICH IS SAID TO BE EVEN MIGHTIER.



The entire parliament fell dead silent. For the first time since anyone could remember, one of the members voted "aye."

Fun fact: To keep production costs low, many Star Trek scenes were actually filmed on Earth rather than on location in outer space. 🌍 🪐



"Hello, Emily. This is Gladys Murphy up the street. Fine, thanks. ... Say, Emily, could you go to your window and describe what's in my front yard?"



ARE YOU THE OWNERS?

WE'RE TENANTS

CONTACT NUMBERS FOR BENEFICE MINISTERS

Priest in Charge *Rev Sally Letman* 311505 *(But during her recovery from operation please contact either churchwarden)*

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



***AND FINALLY- HOW WE INTERPRET THOSE CONFUSING
MEDIEVAL PAINTINGS***

*This 16th century chap was miles ahead of hipsters everywhere with his amazing cat T-shirt.
He knows he's going to be on trend in five centuries' time....*



When you are sitting in the salon chair after a haircut and wondering if you can make this work.....



THEM: *Why don't you just let your hair dry naturally?...*
ME:.....



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

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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.

