

INSIDE OUT

news from
WOODBRIDGE, ST MARY
Issue 7 Summer 2022



BLOOMING MARVELLOUS!



Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth beat us to it! She was there at the Chelsea Flower show in a great new electric buggy and, of course, looking radiant. As you will see in these pages, our own recent celebration in flowers for the Platinum Jubilee at St Mary's was also a great event, and so thank you to everyone who came along to enjoy it and support us.

Woodbridge has been a 'buzzy' place and thankfully all the parties and entertainment have shown we have been able to let our hair down a little more than has been possible in recent years. As well as enjoying our gardens, (as much as the bees are visiting them), we are looking forward to some summer sun and more opportunities to see and enjoy our families and friends. We are looking forward to holidays and taking a break from everyday stresses and strains. Even God rests on the Sabbath!

There is so much to reflect upon and take stock: about how we live and who we care for. Whether you have offered to host Ukrainian friends in your own home or offered to help in other practical ways, it is good to know that we can fly so many welcoming 'flags' of hospitality and compassion because these flags actually 'make' community. I think of a nearby Suffolk resident who decided to create a map of her village to welcome Ukrainians, with all the important buildings and shops marked out and, alongside all the English words, she 'Googled' their Ukrainian equivalent...just to make life that little bit easier if and when they arrive.

When I asked some primary school children about the number of different countries visited and 'cared for' by our Queen, they understood at once how important it is to look beyond our own borders or territory; we are 'internationalist' now in our thinking and praying and doing. Sometimes the church 'catholic' needs to remind herself that we really are 'the rainbow people of God' as Archbishop Tutu affectionately called us. What we say and do can and does affect people thousands of miles away. How we support and help each other and break down nationalist barriers or oppressive regimes, is actually a sign of how seriously we believe in our

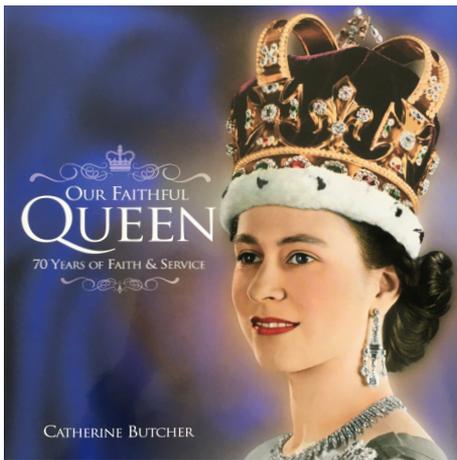
common humanity, regardless of colour or creed. Remember John Donne's words of meditation:

"No man is an island entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main" . . . so if your favourite flower is a sunflower, lily of the valley, or something more exotic, just putting them into one and the same arrangement is a symbol of our belonging to the same creation, formed and tenderly nurtured by the same loving and colourful Creator.

Every summer blessing,

Fr Nigel

Email: rector@stmaryswoodbridge.org



OUR FAITHFUL QUEEN

Our Faithful Queen – 70 Years of Faith & Service is a 64-page glossy souvenir booklet written by Catherine Butcher especially for the Platinum Jubilee. It is wonderfully illustrated with photographs and looks at a number of aspects of the Queen's life, starting with how she prepared spiritually and emotionally to become the Sovereign. We find that central to this were 33 days of Bible readings, meditations and

prayers found in a small leather-bound book called *A Little Book of Private Devotions* written for her by the then Archbishop of Canterbury, Geoffrey Fisher, who officiated at the Coronation. The symbolism of the ceremony is also explained, as is the most sacred portion that was hidden under a canopy away from the view of television cameras. This involved anointing the Queen with oil to mark her new relationship with God at the commencement of her life of duty and service.

Elizabeth II was, of course, not born to be queen, as her father was the second son of George V. Her expectations of becoming the Sovereign only changed when her uncle Edward VIII abdicated.

There are sections in the booklet that focus on promises, her faith, the things she values, the responsibility she carries and the sources of her strength.

Copies of *Our Faithful Queen* are available from St Mary's Church Shop and at both our Benefice churches. We ask for a minimum donation of £3 please.

'HERE & THERE'

SING WITH US! At our special Platinum Jubilee service, some extra singers 'popped up' for a specially commissioned RSCM anthem – didn't they do well? If you would like to join our regular Choir (or just come along to join our practice and find out if you like it) on any Thursday night in St Mary's House at 6.30pm, everyone is welcome. And if you are a TENOR, you will be given red carpet treatment!



Our Organist and Pianist is Dr Sarah Dodds, who will be pleased to meet you. Shortly we shall also be advertising for a Choir Leader to join her as a colleague.

ADULTS SEEKING CONFIRMATION Please have a word with any of the clergy team if you would like to make this next 'stepping stone' in faith or, just find out more? We are thinking about October locally when the Bishop will be available to do the honours. It is hoped to plan six or so informal teaching sessions beforehand.

SWIFT ALERT IN MARKET HILL! We are delighted to have been given consent from East Suffolk County Council for St Mary's House to install specially designed swift nest boxes tucked closely under the eaves, with each unit between a pair of windows. Our special thanks to Dr Jenny James, John Davis, and the Rector for all their hard work – which will hopefully pay off by next year.



OUR CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES to our newly elected Town Mayor, Councillor Patrick Gillard - who now wears the chains of office, formerly worn by Councillor Sue Bale. Thank you for opening our Jubilee Flower Festival!

BOOKINGS FOR ST MARY'S HOUSE are now being managed by Linda Rumbold in the Parish Office, following the distinguished 'record' of care by Veronica Howe over many years. We have slightly increased our charges not only because of inflation, but because we have to run these large premises independently of the Church. We look forward to hearing from new prospective hirers. We would very much like to have a weekly mothers and toddlers' group/crèche, for example – if there is any group out there who would like to help us?

LIVE-STREAMING - to help members of our church family who are no longer able to join us 'in person' we've been weekly live-streaming our main Sunday service on Youtube for just over a year, making it possible for people to continue worshipping with us from their homes. The live-streaming cameras were installed last June with funding help from the Friends of St Mary's. The link for the live-stream is published each week on our website and the live-stream can be accessed 'live' or later in the week. Do join us!

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK A big thank you to all who supported Christian Aid Week by delivering envelopes, returning envelopes or donating online. The total of cash and cheque donations including gift aid is £1320 so far.



BELLS FOR QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE

A Service of Thanksgiving for The Queen's reign was held at St Paul's Cathedral on 3 June. Great Paul, the largest church bell in the country, was rung for the Service. The bells of St Mary's Church, Woodbridge, were also rung out on the 3 June at 11:30 am when Woodbridge Ringers came together to mark the occasion and raise a celebratory glass to the Queen!!

At our other Benefice church, the five bells of St Mary's Great Bealings, which had been silent for a number of years, have been refurbished and brought back into ringing-order as a special Jubilee Project. This allowed people from the village and local bell-ringers the opportunity to try their hand at ringing them over the Platinum Jubilee weekend. All bells have their own character, but what makes the bells of Great Bealings special is their 'Ellacombe' apparatus. This unusual device allows all the bells to be chimed by a single person standing in the vestry. It was wonderful to hear the bells ring out across the valley once again after so long!



'QUOTE OF THE QUARTER' (this is a new regular feature, so if you have something you want to share with every home in our Parish, please send it in to us):

"I am pleased to acknowledge the leadership of the Bishop of Norwich, who heads up the climate crisis response for the Church of England, and in my own diocese it is the suffragan Bishop of Dunwich, who has a vested interest since most of his see is already under the sea and he cannot afford to lose any more."

+ *Martin Seeley*, House of Lord's maiden speech, 16 May.

THE QUEEN'S CANOPY - A CELEBRATION IN FLOWERS

If you didn't get to see the wonderful Flower Festival at St Mary's church to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee you missed a spectacularly creative event! The colourful and imaginative exhibits illustrated different aspects of Her Majesty's past 70 years. These photos show a flavour of the themes.





PLATINUM JUBILEE QUIZ

Answer our 10 questions about the Coronation. First correct set of answers posted through the letterbox at St Mary's Shop before Sunday 19 June will win a Fairtrade chocolate bar!

1. When did Elizabeth become Queen?
2. Who crowned her Queen?
3. How many guests attended the Coronation?
4. What was the 'most valuable thing' given to her at her Coronation?
5. One of the swords presented to the Queen at the Coronation has a blunt tip – what's it called?
6. What is used to hold the anointing oil for the Coronation?
7. What did the Queen wear when she was anointed?
8. The Sovereign's Sceptre is set with 393 gemstones; one is one of the world's largest diamonds. What's its name?
9. St Edward's Crown is used for the crowning. What does it weigh?
 - a) 1.35 kg
 - b) 2.04 kg
 - c) 3.12 kg
10. The Imperial State Crown is encrusted with diamonds. How many?
 - a) 2,010
 - b) 2,567
 - c) 2,868



HELPING TO INCREASE BIODIVERSITY IN ST MARY'S CHURCHYARD



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SPRING RING 2022

Each year bell-ringers, family and friends of the Woodbridge Society of Ringers embark on a 'Spring Ring'. This involves forgetting for a day the eight wonderful bells that hang in the tower of St Mary's Church, Woodbridge, to find out about, listen to and usually try a hand at ringing bells in a selection of other churches. No two ringing chambers or set of bells are the same. Indeed, when rung, each individual bell feels differently from and sounds differently from every other bell. This year the event took place on Saturday 23rd of April, and East Bergholt, Langham, Stratford St Mary and Higham churches were visited. The East Bergholt bells are, of course, unique as they are sited in a 'cage' on the ground. Ringing them poses a risky challenge to the uninitiated, so here the focus was on finding out about their fascinating history and just enjoying their sound. Then it was on to the three other lovely churches for more active involvement!



Bell-ringing does take a little time to master, but many find it a highly enjoyable activity. If you think you might be interested in joining the Woodbridge team, as a novice or returning bell-ringer, do get in touch.

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FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

HOLY BAPTISM

On 24 April 2022 Isobel Mary-Jane MORRIS
was welcomed into our Christian family.

IN MEMORIAM

Susan Linda LANE - 24 February 2022
Elizabeth Anne KERSLEY - 14 March 2022
Merete JEFFREY - 14 March 2022
Judith Ann RIGGS - 5 April 2022
The Hon Mary Jill GANZONI - 22 April 2022
Sylvia Margaret Rose BENNETT - 30 April 2022
Christopher Keith WOODS - 6 May 2022

THANKSGIVING

Professor John MIDWINTER - 25 February 2022
Janet KERSEY - 20 May 2022
Michael MCKAUGHAN - 21 May 2022
Nancy MARTIN - 23 May 2022

FILM REVIEW *MARIUPOLIS* (with English Subtitles) 2016

From recent TV images we've all seen the Ukrainian city of Mariupol has now been largely obliterated. This film by Lithuanian director Mantas Kvedaravičius, was first released in 2016 and depicts Mariupol as it was during an earlier phase of the Russian onslaught when it was attacked several times, and indeed was under the control of pro-Russian forces for two months before Ukrainian Armed Forces recaptured the city with the help of militia groups from the local steelworkers.

Mariupolis is made up of a series of beautifully observed multiple perspective vignettes and fragmentary film sequences woven together into an impressionistic whole, rather than into the telling of one fully coherent narrative. Its focus is not on war as such, but on people trying to hold onto life with some semblance of normality in the shadow of war. Mariupol residents continue with their daily business and try to maintain, and even entertain, their community as best they can against a backdrop of shelling, damaged buildings and constant threat. The Russian aggressors are never seen.

The film, made even more powerful and poignant by the tragic death of director Kvedaravičius who was killed while trying to flee Mariupol in April this year, was shown in Woodbridge on 22 May as part of a collaborative project between Musicians for Peace and The Riverside in association with Friends of Refugees Suffolk and Woodbridge School. Further Musicians for Peace concerts are being planned - watch out for further updates.



WOODBIDGE
ST MARY
with Great Bealings

QUARTERLY DIARY "HIGHLIGHTS"

JUNE

- Tues 14th 7.30pm** Archdeacon's Visitation at Woodbridge, St Mary
Sun 19th 10am CORPUS CHRISTI SUNDAY
Mon 20th 7.30pm Licensing of Revd Charles Trefusis as new Vicar of Woodbridge, St John with Bredfield
Tues 21st 7.30pm 'New' PCC Meeting Woodbridge
Thur 23rd 7.30pm Woodbridge Deanery Synod with Environmental Lead
Sat 25th Open Gardens in Great Bealings
Woodbridge St Mary's CE Primary School Summer Fair
Diocesan Synod
Sun 26th 10am SS Peter & Paul (Fr Nigel's 40th Anniversary of Priesting)

JULY

- Sat 2nd - 16th** Art Exhibition 'Celebrating 70' at St Mary's
Fri 8th 11.15am Woodbridge Prep School End of term Service
Sat 9th 7.30pm 'Illuminati' Concert at Great Bealings, St Mary
Sun 10th 10am 'SEA SUNDAY' (There will be a Retiring Collection for the R.N.L.I.)
Afternoon Summer Fair at Woodbridge, St Mary
Sat 16th Day Pilgrimage to Walsingham
Sat 16th 4pm 'Friends' Early Music Concert with Ravenscroft Consort at Great Bealings, St Mary
Sun 17th 3pm 'Friends' Early Music Concert with Ravenscroft Consort at Woodbridge, St Mary
Mon 18th 9.45am Woodbridge St Mary's CE Primary School Leavers' Service

AUGUST

- Sat 5th 7.30pm** 'Joyspring' Jazz Concert, Woodbridge, St Mary
Sat 13th 1pm Wedding of Stuart Wade and Rachel Mayes
Sun 14th 10am FEAST OF TITLE (Assumption of BVM), followed by Cake and Fizz!

(Please remember in your prayers the Lambeth Conference, 'God's Church for God's World': July 26th - August 8th)

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www.stmaryswoodbridge.org