

INSIDE OUT

news from

WOODBIDGE, ST MARY'S

Issue 11 Summer 2023



MARY, MOTHER OF GOD, PRAY FOR US!



The conflicts and controversies of Reformation England are still alive in the Church of England, centuries later! Even though the majority of Suffolk Churches are named after 'Saint' Mary, she continues to be largely sidelined by our prejudice or 'rejection' that she is a (dead) Roman Catholic!

In the ancient and beautiful porch of St Mary's, Great Bealings, you can see the empty plinth above where once she would have stood proud, welcoming us all in. And we know how Cromwell's troops vandalised and abused her memory as if somehow her 'Magnificat' should be erased or even worse, forgotten completely. In Playford, St Mary, you can look up to a new and modern sculpture and 'replacement' which, I believe, is

a wonderful and important spiritual and theological legacy to keep, and treasure.

Her 'revival' at the different shrines of England's 'Holy Nazareth' in Walsingham tell a similar and contemporary story: of candles lit, prayers answered, pilgrimages enjoyed, and shared (ecumenical) faith renewed.

Mary was and always will be, the 'God-bearer' (*theotokos* in Greek) who suffered much and sacrificed much more: to not only reveal the infant Jesus but to see him grow up and inspire so many, to see him cruelly killed, and to literally hold him after his body came down from the cross...hence the pictures and icons of the Pieta, Our Lady of Sorrows... until the dawn of the Resurrection broke, when Christ 'burst from the tomb.' We only have a very limited 'biblical biography' but do we really need to know any more? Mary was no ordinary Saint but so much more...

Which is why she has more 'Feast Days' than anyone else in the worship and tradition of so many Churches across the world. We always need to revisit her vocation and calling and sacrifice if we are to ever imitate or come closer to her binding relationship with Her Son and the incarnate love of God offered to each of us, and all whom we love. So if you are a child at St Mary's primary school, be proud of the name and her meaning for us. Ditto, for our local churches who bear her name also, and walk in her ways of commitment and devotion to Our Lord.

For those of you who, like me, love the sculptures of Elizabeth Frink, see her figure of Mary 'striding' confidently, purposefully, in front of Salisbury Cathedral; this is no coy, submissive, oppressed woman but 'modern' in the best sense – representing empowerment, freedom, and inner strength – mental, physical, spiritual.

For those of you who, like me, love the haunting and lyrical Greek Orthodox music of John Tavener, his 'Hymn to the Mother of God' surely brings even the disbelieving to their knees as he concludes so triumphantly:

"In You, O Woman full of Grace, all creation rejoices."

We really do need to demystify and relearn the radical message of Mary's everyday 'Magnificat' message for Woodbridge, and be inspired by the wider world she embraces and intercedes for. Her beautiful statue is 'out in the open' at our Parish Church for all to see, and no longer hidden away in the tiny Epiphany Chapel. Candles are indeed lit in front of her every day, praise be!

We shall keep the Feast of 'The Annunciation to Mary' (Lady Day) at Woodbridge on Sunday, 2nd July and 'The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary' will be celebrated in Great Bealings on Sunday, 10th September. These are our special, annual HOLY-days, where feasting and fellowship afterwards are encouraged and shared. Please join us and let's be open to God's visiting and speaking to us in however new, surprising or joyful of ways.

With every blessing:

Fr Nigel (Rector, Woodbridge with Great Bealings)

Cover photo - Tapestry by Revd Siw Carlsson (1943-2021)

This gem of a prayer was used on Ascension Day in Fr Nigel's address, quoting from the Church of Scotland's Book of Common Order (1994):

“ Lord Jesus Christ,	Jesus the Saviour: save us from ourselves.
We acknowledge your rule over	Jesus the Life-giver: renew your Church.
every realm of life:	Jesus the Crucified: reveal your
Subdue the world by the might of	love and power to all who suffer.
your love.	Jesus the King: raise us to live and
Son of Mary: consecrate our homes.	reign with you for ever.
Son of David: cleanse our politics.	Jesus the Word of God: perfect
Son of God: grant us eternal life.	your creation
Jesus the Carpenter: hallow our	And bring the world to the knowledge
daily work.	of your love.”

PARISH CONTACTS

Rector: Rev'd Nigel Prior 01394 610424 rector@stmaryswoodbridge.org
Churchwardens: David Sharples and Veronica Howe - contact via Parish Office
Parish Administrator: Linda Rumbold 01394 388820 parish.office@stmaryswoodbridge.org
Choir and Music: Sarah Dodds doddssj21@gmail.com
St Mary's Shop: Jackie Shipley shop@stmaryswoodbridge.org

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FAIRTRADE IN WOODBRIDGE

Fairtrade has always been important to many people in Woodbridge. A small band of determined folk are coming together in a bid to register Woodbridge as a Fairtrade Community once more.



Why is this important? Life has thrown us a few curve balls over the last few years. Costs are rising, we are less adventurous in our travel plans, and maybe we have taken our eye off the wider world. There has never been a more important time to focus on where we source the things which make our lifestyle comfortable.

The world is a global village and the pressures from climate change are impacting countries which supply us with goods we cannot grow or make locally.

Even small actions help. Next time you purchase a hot drink or relax with some chocolate, have a thought for who produced your treat. Ask if it is Fairtrade.

On Saturday 8th July we will be hosting the Suffolk Association of Fairtrade Towns event in The Longshed, Whisstocks Place, IP12 1FP. Mike Gidney the CEO of the Fairtrade Foundation will be our guest speaker. It is a chance to learn from other towns' experiences and keep up to date with current Fairtrade issues. The event begins at 10.30am. Helpers needed! If you would like more details please contact info@fairtrade4woodbridge.org.uk



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SHED

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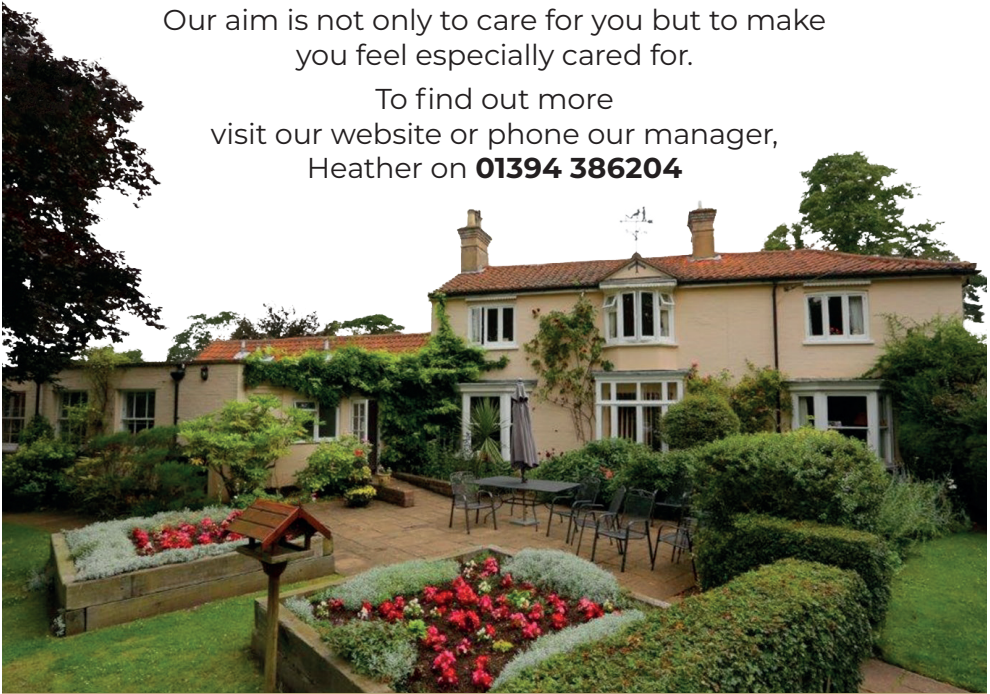
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Heather on **01394 386204**



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Overall rating
GOOD ●

highlands-care.org

'HERE & THERE' - PARISH UPDATES

PLANNING PERMISSION and, a separate Diocesan Faculty, have now been applied for by East Suffolk County Council to restore, renew and move forward the brick piers and wrought iron gates at the top of Church Street, as you enter the churchyard. We are very grateful to Laura Hack for doing all the detailed liaison with Fr Nigel and a host of advisors as well as, arranging funding - some 12 years after our original application - when the roots of the large plane tree first began to make the entrance unstable.



BEAUTIFUL BATS! These are protected too so we have recently put up a bat box on the 'listed' Cedar Tree at the rear of St Mary's House. Please tell us if you see any nightly visits? We've also put up two bird nesting boxes and wait patiently for blue-tits to investigate them. Our bird feeding 'station' has been moved to a more accessible position.



As St Mary's churchyard has been 'closed' since 1854 the responsibility for maintaining the churchyard is primarily that of East Suffolk Council. They advocate an environmental policy to protect and encourage wildlife and it is their boards that we see saying

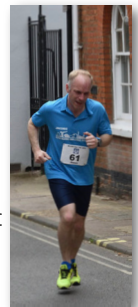


"Pardon the Weeds we are Feeding the Bees"

21 MAY WOODBRIDGE 10K ROAD RACE Our congratulations to

Stuart and Simon (wearing race numbers 11 and 61) who completed the course . . .

while the rest of us looked on !



Race photo credits Phil Donlan



'HERE & THERE'



CORONATION DAY - RINGING THE BELLS

On 6 May, twelve bellringers climbed the tower to join with churches across the UK ringing for the King's Coronation. They each have an official badge to prove it!



Bruce Wakefield, our Tower Captain is really proud to be able to say he's rung for the coronations of both Queen Elizabeth II and King Charles III. Bruce comes from



a very large ringing family and it's also highly likely that his father, as well as ringing for the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in 1953 would have also rung for the coronation of King George VI in 1937, because then he was a member of a band of young men ringers in the village in Gloucestershire where he lived.

Bruce's daughter Alyson, and his granddaughters Willow and Poppy, who live in Cornwall are all bellringers and rang for the coronation too. The two girls also play in a brass band that is frequently called upon to take part in special events, and they found themselves playing for other coronation-related events in Cornwall.

His son Paul learnt to ring, but the church he and his family attend in Colchester does not have bells, so he no longer regularly rings - although on rare occasions he's been persuaded to ring here in Woodbridge when visiting for special events.

Bruce's two brothers, one who lives in Lincolnshire and the other who lives in Staffordshire also rang for the Coronation of King Charles III in their respective churches.

CORONATION DAY - WATCHING THE CEREMONY

Around sixty people watched the coronation on the big screen in church. Visiting tourists and local people joined in and it was a great way to celebrate the occasion, in the company of others, and with Prosecco and 'jolly nice' refreshments provided by the pop-up 'Royal Cafe' at the west end. The church looked wonderfully decorated with beautiful flowers.



CORONATION DAY - SINGING IN THE ALBERT HALL

Two of our choir members, Patricia Ford and Annie Lines were given a fantastic opportunity to sing on Coronation Day at the special concert in the Royal Albert Hall.



"The participation and preparation was organised locally through Cantus Firmus by Richard Hubbard, who is well known in the town, through St Mary's Church and Woodbridge School, and who did a splendid and faultless job. The choir from Cantus Firmus numbered 77 and we became a massed choir from other churches and choirs across the uk, numbering 320 in total. In addition to the choir, there was an All Souls 120 piece orchestra conducted by Michael Andrews, a charismatic and interesting individual who only added to the amazing ambience of the evening.

There were other performers, The Kingdom Choir and Joanne Lunn, a renowned Baroque Soprano, adding beauty and professionalism to the concert.



Prior to the event, we had to attend a number of practice sessions which were great fun and a lot of laughing was involved culminating in the concert itself. To be in the great Royal Albert Hall is wonderful but to sing in a choir there is surely a privilege and we are both so grateful to have been given that honour on such an auspicious day."

SUNDAY 7 MAY - CORONATION EUCHARIST

The then Mayor, Patrick Gillard and County Councillor Caroline Page joined us and our guest preacher was Lay Canon Roy Tricker. Rainbows, Brownies and Guides and Junior Church all took part in this joyful celebration.



'HERE & THERE'

'ZINGY SINGERS' SCHOOL CHOIR are the latest creation from an after school club at St Mary's CE school! We wish them the best of luck for their forthcoming singing of 'The Selfish Giant' produced by Liz Prior.

OUR SATB CHOIR is seeking to welcome a new Choral Director (please see separate advertisement on the back of this issue), so wouldn't it be great if we could attract some additional tenors and basses too, before an appointment is made? Plans are also out there for a possible 'Junior Choir' to be formed from September, alongside an annual 'Organ Scholarship' – so we hope our local schools (and music departments) will be reading this! Please have a word with our resident organist,



Dr Sarah Dodds, for an informal chat if you would like to find out more and, hopefully, join us in the near future. (On special occasions we also invite people to form a 'Pop up Choir' and talented 'Pop up' instrumentalists also).

'STRAWBERRY BLONDE?' Our congratulations to Revd Peter Wintgens who recently gave up his dog-collar for a rather splendid judicial gown and wig as the insightful judge in the Agatha Christie classic, 'Witness for the Prosecution'. The Deben Players put on four great performances in the packed Seckford Theatre!



RECENT PCC ELECTIONS Our congratulations to Veronica Howe and David Sharples who were newly elected as our Churchwardens (but Veronica will be stepping down in May 2024 so we must all be thinking ahead) and Cath Eaden who was elected as our new PCC Secretary.

QUOTE OF THE QUARTER

"Thoughtful eating reminds us there is no human fellowship without a table, no table without a kitchen, no kitchen without a garden, no garden without viable ecosystems, no ecosystems without the forces productive of life, and no life without its source in God".

(Norman Wirzba in A Rocha UK's Root and Branch magazine)





A Tradition of Quality Care since 1587

Seckford Care is one of Suffolk's oldest charities, created when Queen Elizabeth I granted our benefactor Thomas Seckford permission to build Almshouses in Woodbridge for older people. Our focus is to continue to provide housing, support and care services for older people and to maintain our 'Outstanding' rating with the Care Quality Commission.

At Seckford Care, our priority is always to put people first throughout their personal care journey, which includes keeping couples together and offering options for people to move across into our residential care service, if their needs change.

We recognise that working in care is a valued and skilled occupation, and we are committed to acknowledging the efforts of our entire staff team, through salaries, benefits, wellbeing initiatives and opportunities to progress in their careers.

We are delighted that three members of our team have all been nominated and shortlisted in the 'Housing with Care Awards' in June 2023, for Manager, Maintenance and Activities.

We provide a variety of accommodation, with personal care options available 24 hours a day, which include:

- 30 Extra Care self-contained apartments, with a personalised care and support service
- 26 Residential care rooms in Jubilee House, inclusive of care, meals and activities
- 10 self-contained properties, receiving a wellbeing and support service

We ensure that our housing and care services are inclusive and are, not only a viable option for those who fund privately, but also accessible to those who qualify for Local Authority assistance.

Our Extra Care apartments are set at an affordable rent and, if eligible, residents can apply to have their wellbeing and care charges funded.

Seckford Care is seeking individuals who may be interested in joining its Care Committee, who meet three times a year, and are invited to attend social events throughout the year.

If you are interested in supporting a local charity, committed to supporting older people, you have experience in social care or housing and would be willing to volunteer your time, Seckford Care would love to hear from you.

Please contact Gemma Bloomfield at gbloomfield@seckford-foundation.org.uk or Verity Sharratt at Verity@seckford-foundation.org.uk for further information.



To find out more information about Seckford Care, please visit the website at

www.seckfordcare.org.uk or call 01394 386520.

Seckford Care, Seckford Almshouses, Seckford Street, Woodbridge, Suffolk IP12 4NB

A part of the Seckford Foundation Registered Charity No. 1110964.

ST MARY'S SHOP ON MARKET HILL As far as possible, 'Fairtrade, sustainable or local'

Thanks to our wonderful band of volunteers St Mary's Shop is now open Monday to Friday 10am to 4pm, 10am to 1pm on Saturday and after the 10am Service on Sunday until 12 noon (except on the first Sunday of the month).

Since January 2020, through lockdowns and the demise of Traidcraft our Fairtrade wholesaler, the shop has been managed by Sue Todd, keeping the 'show on the road' during very difficult times, to whom we offer our grateful thanks.

The shop is now managed by a small team and we are very pleased to say that Fairtrade appearing back on our shelves, new range of gift items, note books and pens, incense sticks, and, not forgetting, St Mary's Church (wooden) mice, with new stock arriving just about weekly. Of course, we still have our very popular range of greetings cards - perhaps the best selection in Woodbridge?

goods are together with a including beautiful



Please call in and have a look around....you may be pleasantly surprised!
shop@stmaryswoodbridge.org



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FINANCIAL HARDSHIP?

Support can be found locally through:

Citizens Advice Bureau at Woodbridge Library, New Street from 10am to 12 noon each Monday, or ring 01728 832193 between 10am and 2pm on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday or Friday.

Food Bank at Salvation Army Hall, Woodbridge (supported by all Woodbridge churches and others). Tel: 01394 389591

Home Start Suffolk is ready to support families through their toughest times. Call 01473 621104 or go to www.homestartinsuffolk.org

Credit Union Open on Thursdays 10am to 11am at Woodbridge Salvation Army Hall. Tel: 01394 690690. A Credit Union is a cooperative financial institution owned and controlled by its members and operated for promoting thrift, providing credit at reasonable rates, and other financial services, to its members. Authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority, and savings are covered by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme, so you can be sure your money is safe and protected by law.

CAP Debt Help Call Laura Knight on 07942 359865, or email lauraknight@capuk.org and you will be given help and confidential advice.

Warm Homes Suffolk is a service designed to help vulnerable and low-income households make their homes less expensive to heat. Call 03456 037686

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FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

HOLY BAPTISM

On 16 April 2023 Malaya-Rose Ann WARD
was welcomed into our Christian family.

FUNERALS


Anthony Joseph HUBBARD - 31 March 2023
Vivian Lilian ALDOUS - 13 April 2023
Barbara Joan KIRBY - 27 April 2023
James Robert Hugh LOWEN - 5 May 2023
Annette Kitty WHITE - 11 May 2023
Joan Marion WATKINS - 18 May 2023
Christopher Neil BATES - 25 May 2023

INTERMENT OF ASHES

Beryl LINSEY - 20 April 2023

THANKSGIVING

Janet TURVEY - 1 April 2023
Dame Clare MARX - 13 May 2023



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QUARTERLY DIARY "HIGHLIGHTS"

JUNE

- Sat 10th 6 - 8pm 'Fizz in an English Garden' Soiree (Friends of St Mary's event)
Sun 11th 10am Benefice Eucharist **Barnabas the Apostle (RSCM Music Sunday)**
Thur 15th 7.30pm Woodbridge Deanery Synod, at Clopton Village Hall
Sun 18th 12 Noon Woodbridge Regatta
3pm Baptism, at St Mary's, Great Bealings
Tues 20th 7pm Woodbridge PCC meeting, St Mary's House
Thur 22nd 10am Eucharist with KS2 children from St Mary's C.E. Primary School
Sat 24th 12 Noon - 2pm St Mary's C.E. Primary School Fair
Tues 27th 7.30pm Archdeacon's visitation, at St Bartholomew's, Orford
Thur 29th 10am Said Eucharist on the **Feast of St Peter & St Paul**

JULY

- Sun 2nd 11am **Benefice Feast of Title, St Mary's, Woodbridge**, guest preacher: The Precentor of St Edmundsbury Cathedral. Followed by drinks & lunch
Tues 4th 7pm PCC Fabric Committee meeting, St Mary's House
Fri 7th 11.15am Woodbridge Prep School end of term service
Sat 8th 10.30am - 3pm Fairtrade Towns conference, The Longshed, Woodbridge
Tues 11th 5.30pm St Mary's C.E. Primary School governors' meeting
Sun 16th 2pm Elders' Talk on dementia over a cup of tea in St Mary's House
Tues 18th 10am St Mary's C.E. Primary School end of term service
7.30pm Great Bealings PCC meeting, St Mary's, Great Bealings

AUGUST

- Sun 6th 11am Parish Eucharist **The Transfiguration of our Lord**
Tues 15th 10am Said Eucharist **The Assumption of Mary** followed by coffee & cake at the Rectory

SEPTEMBER

- Sat 2nd 11am - 3pm **Summer Fair in St Mary's, Woodbridge church grounds**, with **Woodbridge Excelsior Band**
Sat 9th The Annual **Ride 'n' Stride** event. Please have a go on behalf of the Benefice!
Sun 10th 11am **Benefice Feast of Title at St Mary's, Great Bealings**. Followed by alfresco lunch.
5.30pm **Songs of Praise St Mary's, Woodbridge** followed by drinks

We live-stream all our main services at Woodbridge, St Mary
(check website for links)

BENEFICE OFFICE 01394 388820 parish.office@stmaryswoodbridge.org
www.stmaryswoodbridge.org



WOODBIDGE
ST MARY
with Great Bealings

St Mary the Virgin, Woodbridge, are seeking a new Choir Director

The Church:

- In a beautiful riverside town, with a strong, well-resourced and 'catholic' musical tradition, and a congregation which appreciates music
- RSCM-affiliated choir rehearses weekly, Sung Eucharist and anthems weekly, and some Evensongs; would like to develop choral and organ scholarships for young people
- A beautiful space for music
- Benefice 'pop up' choir at festivals
- Two wonderful organs in the Benefice

What we'd like from a Choir Director:

- Share enthusiasm for church music, and help the choir and congregation enjoy their music
- Give guidance in singing well; aspire to a high standard
- Work on the ongoing task of recruitment
- Inspire, encourage and challenge people in their faith through music; contribute to building community through music
- Work creatively as part of a team

The Church is willing to negotiate on time commitment to make it possible to fit the job around family/other work commitments.

Remuneration in line with RSCM rates.

We'd love to hear from you if this appeals.

**Please contact Fr Nigel by phone 01394 388820
or via email: parish.office@stmaryswoodbridge.org**