

The Welwyn Magazine

with Woolmer Green



May 2022

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EDITOR'S NOTES

Articles by the 1st of the month preceding publication, see details below.

We aim to publish reports and articles that will be of interest to our local community. If you would like to suggest a theme or article please email

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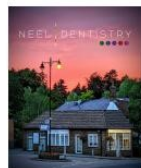
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The Rector's Letter

Dear Friends

Events on the ground in Ukraine are moving so quickly that by the time you read this, it may be a hopelessly inadequate response or simply out of date. However as I type, pinned to my computer is an icon by Mikhail Vrubel of the Blessed Virgin Mary with child. The original icon of Our Lady of Kyiv is found at the entrance of the twelfth century church of St Cyril in Kyiv. The ground around the church has been raised, so that to enter it you have to walk several steps down from street level, and it is here that you are greeted by the image of Mary and Jesus.



The Blessed Virgin Mary With Child
Mikhail Vrubel

As an icon it is unusual, and foregoes many of the usual conventions of icon writing. However by doing so, Mary and Jesus, mother and child, meet us directly with their gaze. It is beautiful but also rather disturbing to look at – what expression is captured in their gaze? Love certainly, also wisdom and compassion, but also perhaps a challenge, and a sadness. For as Mary wraps her arms protectively around her child, she also knows that ‘a sword will pierce her own soul too.’ There have been many images of mothers and children on our television screens in the past month. Many show extraordinary bravery and compassion; some it is difficult to hold their gaze, because of their suffering. I think particularly of the unspeakable bombing of a maternity hospital in Mariupol by Russian forces earlier this month. Logistics in this conflict are difficult, and progress

is slow, but there is a chance that by the time you read this the gaze of Ukrainian mothers and children will not be confined to our televisions, but thanks to the generosity of people in Welwyn and throughout the country, we may well be seeing them on our streets, in our churches, and in our schools. They may well be traumatised and bewildered, scared and worried for members of their family, unsure of if and when, they can return to their homes. Let us take this opportunity to return that gaze with our own compassion and care.

David

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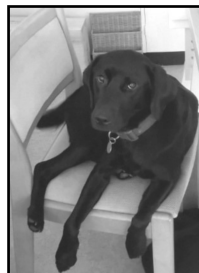
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Jessie - The Rectory Dog

May is one of my favourite months. Now we have longer evenings, and more time for walks, but also sometimes it is still chilly enough that I have to snuggle up on the sofa. Tennis players are back and therefore more balls to be found lost in the brambles around the club courts. There is a chance of open air events and sometimes picnics to be raided, in a manner utterly humiliating to Master. Also I'm not averse to an odd bit of dancing around a maypole even if it does make me go a bit dizzy.



And as I am utterly spoilt and treat my humans as though they were servants here to do nothing but my bidding, the idea of a May queen makes complete sense – that's me, ordering my minions around my realm. I've also just looked up the annual cheese rolling ceremonies, in which everyone runs down a hill *away* from the cheese – this is sheer madness. Just stop the cheese and eat it.

Jess

Photographic Club

Welwyn Garden City Photographic Club meets every Tuesday, sometimes in person and sometimes over 'Zoom', on Tuesdays at 8pm. We embrace all styles of photography, with members interested in wildlife, portraiture, landscapes, phone photography and many other genres! With workshops, competitions and interesting talks from inspiring speakers, we have something for everyone to learn and progress in their photography.

This month at the club, we have been treated to a talk by Martin Patten (LRPS, DPAGB) on 'how to improve your photography'. He offered great tips on really seeing the scene in front of you, and considering light and angles. Another evening was spent with renowned flower photographer, Cherry Larcombe, who spoke about creativity when photographing flowers, leading to many of our members playing with light and textures in a new way. The club recently came seventh in the EAF print championships against other clubs across East Anglia.

If you have an interest in photography, we would be delighted to have you join us! Sign up for a free 'taster' meeting by contacting membership-secretary@welwynphotoclub.org.uk or find out more at www.welwynphotoclub.org.uk. You can also find us on Facebook by searching 'Welwyn Photo Club'.



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Fellowship—The Church House Story

Church House is a vital part of St Mary's Church. Peter Lee and John Swift came to our March meeting and explained the concept of the new building. They both had significant responsibilities within the development. In 2003 the project began. A generous donation was received and a team was formed. The estimated cost was £800,000. There were guarantees of loans, donations and the sale of Old Church House. The congregation and the local community had fun with an auction of promises and the sale of roof tiles etc. The finished House is connected to the church building and the requirement was for it to be more than just 'for Sundays'. The need was for a working and meeting place for a variety of activities for all ages.

Toilets were most important.

Facilities for hospitality.

A safe environment for children, young people and the elderly.

A place for nurture and learning in faith.

A welcoming, living building.

This they have achieved.

Church House was opened by the Rt Rev'd Christopher Herbert, the Lord Bishop of St. Albans, on Sunday 4th February 2007. There is a plaque on the wall at the entrance acknowledging this

Also, there is a plaque listing all the names of the people buried in the churchyard whose memorial stones had to be removed and placed against the surrounding wall. The remains were not disturbed and remain under the building.

I did ask John Swift if the design could have been better and his answer was minimal. A larger kitchen (which was not possible) and the acoustics could be better in the large room.

This has been a marvellous achievement and much appreciated by everyone.

Marjorie Lyon

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Don't let your shed be a crime scene



According to the Hertfordshire police website, the top five most common items stolen from garden sheds are bikes, mowers, power tools, other garden tools and sports equipment.

Many sheds are designed simply to keep relatively inexpensive garden tools clean and dry. However, the UK insurance industry has reported that the average value of shed contents exceeds £1,000, a tempting target for thieves. Also, criminals may break into a shed simply to see if there's anything worth stealing, leaving the homeowner with a broken door and lock, even if nothing is missing. They may also use something from your shed to break into your home.

The police advise you to look at your shed and consider how you would break in. It's worth having a good padlock on the door fixed to hasp and staple using coachbolts rather than screws. A shed door security bar would be better. Pay attention to hinges, as these are sometimes easily removable. If you have windows then these could be vulnerable unless they're secured with wire mesh or grills.

Battery-operated shed alarms may look low key, but they respond to movement or door contact with an extremely loud siren which should deter thieves.

Consider keeping your tools in a locker or box fastened to the shed building with a chain and if you keep your bike in the shed, use a lockable stand to secure it to the floor or a wall. You might consider etching your postcode and house or flat number onto valuable tools.

Any property that has a serial number can be registered on www.immobilise.com. This helps the police identify the owners of recovered property. The police prefer that you register your bike on www.bikeregister.com. Both these websites are used by the police when they recover items that they suspect may be stolen.

What insurance cover do you have for items stored in your shed? Sometimes people lose hundreds of pounds because they are unable to claim for losses. If you are going away on holiday, it may be worth moving some valuables into your home.

John Mitchell and Valerie Richards
www.owl.co.uk/herts

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Saturday Concerts At St Mary's

Wow - knock Brahms out of the park, why don't you? We had the privilege of hearing two outstanding young musicians at the March (regular second Saturday of the month) midday concert. Fittingly in these difficult times we had Anastasia Matkovskaia (piano) from Odessa and Aline Vorobyeva (clarinet) a Polish Jew from Russia, both graduating from the Royal Academy of Music in 2021. Whilst relieved to be in London, they are both obviously worried about their families. Both spoke eloquently and emotionally about the difficulty of playing and the peace that they felt was part of music.

Anastasia made the church piano sing in a way I have not heard since Madeleine Russell played the Beethoven late piano sonatas 35 years ago. Anastasia's mastery of the instrument demonstrated why she received an unusually high mark in her final recital at the Academy. Her performance in both Brahms and Bruch went from stroking the keys to produce a lilting pianissimo through to electrifying double forte,

showing precisely why the instrument is called a piano-forte.

Aline danced her way through Brahms and Bruch with carefully nuanced phrasing and a beautiful tone, particularly on the really high notes. Her mastery of her instrument was obvious, as was her enjoyment of making beautiful music with Anastasia (and Stephen in the Bruch).

The concert began with parts of the Bach cello suite, played on the viola (the viola has the same string tuning as the cello but an octave higher) by Stephen Foster, who organizes the St Mary's concerts. every other month. It's always a pleasure to listen to Bach, and the cello suites work so well on the viola an octave higher.

The next concert organised by Stephen is on Saturday 14th May at midday by a string quartet from the Royal Academy. If they are even half as good as Anastasia and Aline, it is not to be missed!

Stephen Jupp

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The Green Agenda

Welwyn Natural History Society 25th May A County Councillor's perspective on Hertfordshire County Council's 'Green Agenda'

Cllr Sandy Walkington is a Welwyn resident and has been the St Albans' Liberal Democrat member of Hertfordshire County Council since 2013. He has always taken a close interest in the green agenda which is ever more pertinent as the scale of the climate emergency challenge becomes starkly apparent.

I have always found it quite difficult to know exactly what HCC does on this subject so am particularly delighted that Sandy is bringing with him two of the officers from the Sustainability Department: Julie Greaves and Tanya Pascual.



Julie is the Head of Sustainability and leads on all matters relating to the implementation of the Sustainable Hertfordshire Strategy and Action Plan – delivering the County Council's ambitions relating to climate change and sustainability. She chairs the LGA Climate Action Group and the Hertfordshire Sustainability Officer Group, whilst Tanya is the Community Engagement Programme Manager and is responsible for taking Sustainable Hertfordshire strategy and COP26 actions out into the community with a wide range of events and initiatives reaching to all areas and communities of the county.

And, of course, the Natural History of our County is being massively influenced by Climate Change or is it? And is one part of it being more influenced than another? For instance, what effect is it having on the Mimram and the other bodies of water in our area? It looks as though we are in for a fascinating evening and I am sure there will be many questions asked of our speakers.

Very much hoping to see you at 8pm in the Civic Centre in Welwyn – it will cost you £4 unless you buy an annual subscription for £15 – definitely worth the money.

Judith Watson



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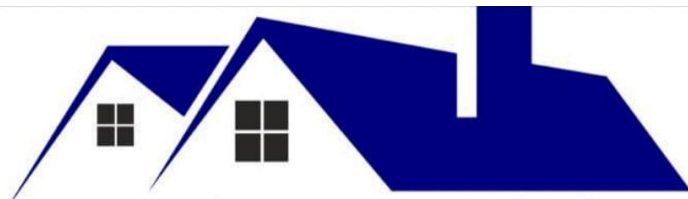
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Meningitis—Adults get it too!



Meningitis is often thought of as a disease that only affects babies and young children. But the truth is that meningitis can affect anyone of any age, with the risk increasing in older adults as our immune systems weaken as we get older.

Meningitis is the inflammation of the membranes that surround the brain and spinal cord. The most common causes of meningitis are bacteria and viruses. **Bacterial meningitis** can be fatal and needs rapid admission to hospital and urgent medical treatment. Whilst most adults will make a good recovery, around 10% will die and some will be left with lifelong disabilities. Some bacteria that cause meningitis can also cause septicaemia (blood poisoning).

Viral meningitis is very rarely life-threatening, but can still make people very unwell. Most people will make a good recovery, but recovery can be slow.

Common Signs and symptoms of meningitis and septicaemia in adults:

- Fever, cold hands and feet
- Vomiting
- Drowsy, difficult to wake
- Confusion and irritability
- Severe muscle pain
- Pale, blotchy skin. Spots/rash
- Severe headache
- Stiff neck
- Dislike bright lights

Someone with meningitis or septicaemia can get a lot worse very quickly. Keep checking them.

Trust your instincts – get medical help immediately.

Information taken from www.meningitisnow.org.



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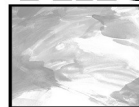
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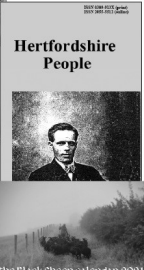
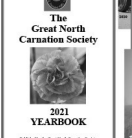
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Mardley Heath WI

As I fell out of bed this morning my husband heard a few moans and groans. “Problem?” said the man in my life. “No, I responded, just my body reminding me that I am not as young as I used to be”. Poor hubby did not know what to make of that! Last evening the WI were entertained by Lynda Styan, a Professional Vintage Singer – who took us through the 1920s, 30s, 40s, 50s, and 60s in song. She brought with her Steven Forward – a singer/crooner of nostalgic music from the 1950s through to the 70s.



It was a relaxing and entertaining evening, which had the smiles growing on all the ladies' faces as we remembered songs from our youth. By the end of the evening the ladies were clapping along, singing with our entertainer and even dancing. Now there's the rub. I forgot about my arthritic knee as I got carried away – hence the moans as I got out of bed, but I don't regret one moment, because I had so much fun.



The evening was rounded off by the (much delayed, due to the pandemic) awarding of trophies to the winners from last autumn's Produce Show, and the winner of “Best in Show” was Brenda Thomas.

Earlier this year members returned to one of our annual events. Fifteen of us enjoyed an excellent lunch at the Red Lion, Woolmer Green. It was another lovely opportunity to catch up with each other's news.

We have so many more delightful events planned for this year. On 21st April we had a presentation from Brenda Harley entitled “Sew-it to Poet”. Why not come along and join us for a “taster” session, new members and visitors are always welcome.

Most meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month at 7:30 pm at the Oaklands Primary School, Gt North Road, Welwyn. For any additional information, please contact our Secretary by e-mail at: secretary.mhwi@gmail.com

Brenda Bigland CBE



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Beyond the farm gate

The vineyard arrives

Hello and welcome again beyond the farm gate. Since I last wrote we have had a rather significant addition to our crops. The arrival of the vineyard, which we are calling LOKKELEBERY VINEYARD, marks the start of an exciting new journey for our farm.



I have been preparing for the vineyard much like the arrival of a new addition to the family, the only difference being I will have 25,000 of them! Preparation of the soil is the most important element in preparing for a vineyard. We have conducted extensive soil analyses to ensure that each area has the perfect pH and nutrient levels. While nutrients can be added later down the line, there is nothing like giving the vines the best possible foundations to start with. With nutrients such as potassium selling at an all time high at present, turning our hand to even more precision agriculture and efficiency has never been more relevant.

As farmers we do not like to meddle with nature, rather we must 'go with the flow' of whatever it throws at us. Where we can, we lend a helping hand by creating the best possible environment for our crops to grow and this is where precision is key. For example, our soil sampling maps every area of the vineyard with special colours and rates of application for the addition of nutrients. These maps are uploaded into a GPS computer system in the tractor which automatically spread the nutrients at the exact spreading rate for that area. As soon as it crosses into a lower application area for example, it automatically spreads less. Working with technology such as this is helping farmers keep costs down in times of drastic inflation, while working towards environmental goals and greater efficiency.

With the soil foundations laid for our vineyard, it was time to cultivate them with a machine called a 'Sumo'. This acts as a 3-way tool: deep cultivating, refining, and pressing. In other words, turning a hard compact soil layer into a nice fine 'tilth' much like a crumble on your pudding. The vines are planted with a large planting rig which digs a trench, drops the vines in and then covers the vine roots over. Without this fine soil, the machine struggles to tuck the roots in properly,

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Beyond the Farm Gate *(Continued from p. 19)*

leaving air gaps or even exposed roots, which will result in the plant dying.

While these preparations take time, it is important to remember that a vineyard may live for around 30-40 years. The start we give them now will (hopefully!) result in vigorous growth and many grapes for our wine!

Join me again next time as we venture beyond the farm gate.

Farmer Hannah

Vineyard & Farm information: www.lokkelebery.co.uk

My website *Agri Unwrapped* for more on British farming:
www.agriunwrapped.com



Fellowship

Everyone is very welcome to come to hear an interesting speaker and enjoy friendship and fellowship, followed by refreshments. We meet on the second Tuesday every month at 2.30pm in Church House, Welwyn.
For further information contact 01438 487851
The programme for 2022-2023 is as follows:

2022

10th May The building of the London Sewer. Chris Bazalgette
14th June Readings from Freya Stark- an Anglo -Italian explorer and travel writer about the Middle East. Barry Northrop
12th July Strawberry tea for members
9th August No meeting
13th September Experiences with Hearing Dogs
11th October The history of Welwyn and its shops. Paul Jiggins

8th November Sending a life-line, writing to Death Row prisoners. Catherine Foster
13th December Christmas Surprise!

2023

10th January Lunch for members
4th February The role of Butterfly volunteers at the Lister hospital
14th March The History of Bread. Linda Dobbs
11th April A.G.M.

Fine Cell Work: Handmade in Prison



Thanks to a generous legacy left to St Mary's Church by the late John Sainsbury, and after consultation with his widow Gill, it was decided to use the money to produce a new set of altar coverings and vestments to replace those that were becoming increasingly worn. Following much research, 'Fine Cell Work' was commissioned in 2019 to produce a set in green, which is the colour used during 'ordinary time'. This might seem a strange term, but it is the period between major festivals such as Christmas, Easter and Advent and thus green is used in the church for many weeks in the year.

Fine Cell Work is a charity and social enterprise which enables prisoners to build fulfilling and crime-free lives. They are trained in high-quality, skilled, creative needlework undertaken in the long hours spent in their cells to foster hope, discipline and self-esteem. The aim is to allow men and women to finish their sentences with work skills, money earned and saved, and the self-belief not to re-offend. Training is delivered by a formidable and dedicated team of volunteer prison mentors.

continued on p23

Fine Cell Work: Handmade in Prison

"Fine Cell Work has impacted my life in prison beyond measure. It has been a financial crutch - sending my family money and gifts would be impossible without earnings from my stitching. I spend my time productively making something that means a difference for good in the world and I take pride in completing projects."

Andrew, Fine Cell Work stitcher

"Fine Cell Work has helped me deal with my mental health problems in a practical way, it has helped me manage my self-harming, it has given me back my sense of pride in myself, my self-esteem and self-worth. These are things I can hold onto forever."

Stephen, Fine Cell Work stitcher

"One of the most gratifying things about stitching is the time it affords me to both focus and reflect. Having had poor and inappropriate coping strategies in the past – when faced with stressful or problematic issues – it is wonderful to know I can sit down and pull my sewing easel towards me. It acts as a "comfort blanket" and shield when things are trying and I'm not quite ready to involve anyone else."

Sebastian, Fine Cell Work stitcher

As well as commissions, cushions and gifts stitched by prisoners are sold through their website: finecellwork.co.uk

Production was held up by Covid but the new altar frontals and vestments were first used in St Mary's in mid-February and can be seen again from 6th June once 'ordinary time' resumes after Eastertide.

Jane Carr

Editor's note: Re-offending rates in the general prison population = 48%: re-offending rates in those on the Fine Cell Work Programme = 2%!

The Story of St Michael's Church, Woolmer Green

Although Sunday services, since 1878, had been held in the school there were many people in Woolmer Green who thought it was high time that the village had its own church. This was a wish very dear to the heart of the Revd Edwin Hoskyns who, at the time when part of the school was consecrated as a church, was a curate at Welwyn under the Rector the Revd Charles Lee Wingfield. The problem of finding a suitable site for the new church, which was to be dedicated to St Michael and All Angels, was soon solved when Lord Lytton presented the Church authorities with the plot of land at the junction of London Road and Mardleybury Road. This was to prove an ideal site with easy access for the majority of the villagers. The foundation stone was laid in September 1899 by Lady Lytton who used a silver trowel for the task.

It was suggested in the Parish Magazine in October 1899 that the children of the parish should contribute towards the cost of the font: *'Each can give very little, but the pennies and half-pennies of 350 children will quickly mount up, and all alike will feel they have a share in the new building'*

The church was designed by Robert Weir Schultz (1860-1951), a modest example of late Arts and Crafts (it was said that the church design was suitable for the village of Woolmer Green!). The estimated cost was £2500 and the contract was given to Mr E Lawrence of Datchworth. By October only £1500 had been promised so the decision was taken that only the walls and the roof of the church should be built, and the internal fittings left to be proceeded with as the money came in.



It was originally felt that the church should have a tower but it proved impossible to raise the necessary funds. The drawing to the left gives a feel of what the church would have looked like had the tower been incorporated.

The church was to be named St Michael and All Angels in the hope that it would be consecrated at Michaelmas, 29 September 1900. However, it was not until 3 November 1900 that the consecration of the church and burial ground took place. The service was conducted by the Rt Revd John Festing, Bishop of St Albans:

The Bishop has appointed 3 o'clock on Saturday, November 3rd, for the consecration of the Church and Burial Ground at Woolmer Green. As the

The Story of St Michael's Church, Woolmer Green

accommodation in the Church will be limited, tickets will be issued, which will be given in the first instance to those who have subscribed to, or collected for the Church, and to the inhabitants of Woolmer Green and Potters Heath.

The new church and burial ground meant that the people of the village no longer needed to 'marry and bury' at Datchworth or Welwyn.

Among the many benefactors of the new church we find the name of Colonel Arthur Maurice Blake of Danesbury whose uncle had given the land on which the school was to be built. Colonel Blake presented the porch and the contractor, Mr Lawrence, gave the front gates of the churchyard.

The porch was dedicated at Easter 1901, and in May: *'The Rector appointed Mr. R.C. Vaughan to act as his churchwarden at Woolmer Green, and Mr. J.T. Cross was elected people's warden.'*

The church screen is a significant example of late Arts-and-Crafts design and carving.

Since the Revd R Cattell was appointed there have been a total of 31 curates, living in various houses in the area until St Michael's House was built in the 1950s. Of the many curates, Father Leslie (1975-1978) is remembered for organising a hay waggon to take the children around the village to bless the crops.



The church screen

The church has generally remained sound, although on two occasions in the past 30 years substantial re-tiling has been required. The money to do this has been raised mainly by public subscription and some grants.

In 2004 the comfort of the congregation was enhanced by the addition of a kitchen in which refreshments can be prepared and a loo, which is greatly appreciated by visitors who come from far afield for funerals and marriages.

Continued on p. 26

The story of St Michael's Church, Woolmer Green

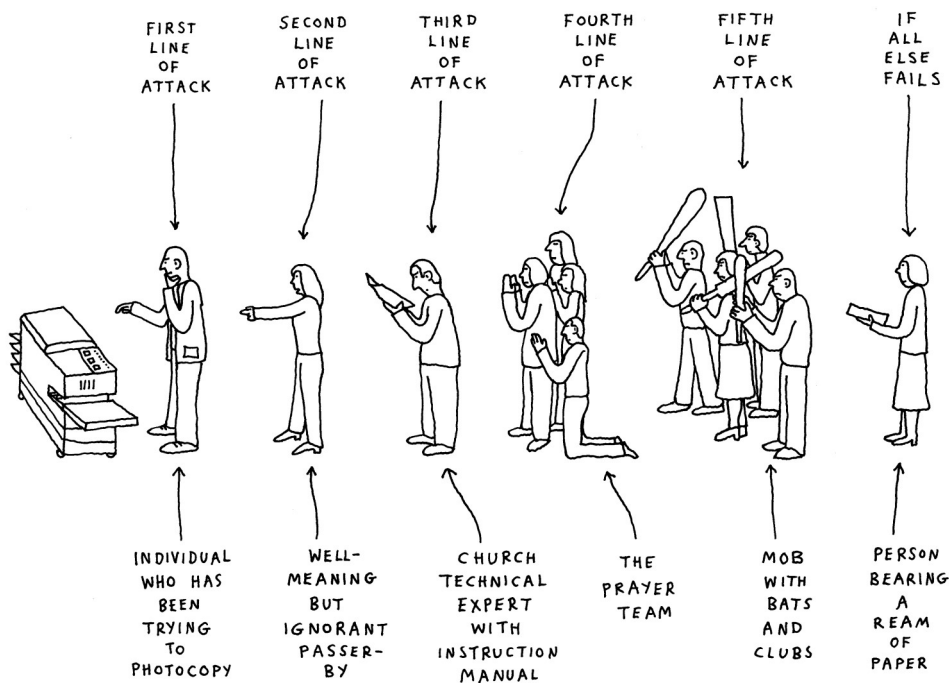
The churchyard has been extended twice and over 800 burials have taken place. The most recent extension will provide adequate space well into the future.

Thanks again to Judith Watson who has given permission for edited extracts to be taken from The Book of Woolmer Green.

Last month I wrote that the Book of Woolmer Green is out of print. I have since learnt that copies are still available from the publisher Halsgrove House for £19.95 web site <https://halsgrove.com/>.

Tony Keach

THE PHOTOCOPIER



CartoonChurch.com

This CartoonChurch.com cartoon by Dave Walker originally appeared in the Church Times.

Hatfield Park Estate



Hands up how many people have never visited the Hatfield Park Estate despite it only being 15 minutes from Welwyn? It's a place steeped in history with many different associations.

In around 1485 the Old Palace was built by John Morton, Bishop of Ely on the ancestral soil of his predecessors; subsequently he became Archbishop of Canterbury. This manor house was chosen by King Henry VIII to be the nursery of his children and notably is the place where Queen Elizabeth I spent much of her girlhood. After Henry's death and the accession of the next two short-reigning monarchs, Edward VI and Mary Tudor, Elizabeth was considered a traitor and side-lined for a while. Her mother was the ill-fated Anne Boleyn. It was reputedly while sitting under a gnarled oak tree in the Great Park at Hatfield that Princess Elizabeth heard of the death of her sister Mary, and she unexpectedly acceded to the throne in 1558 aged 25. Elizabeth reigned until 1603 and continued to spend some of her time at Hatfield as the royal household moved from palace to palace.

Hatfield Park Estate *(Continued from page 27)*

In 1611 Robert Cecil, 1st Earl of Salisbury, built a very fine Jacobean house a hundred yards or so from the Old Palace, having exchanged the home and land he owned in Cheshunt at Theobalds Park for the land at Hatfield. The new house was splendidly decorated with fine furniture, tapestries and paintings, suitable for entertaining the Royal Court. The layout of the gardens has changed many times but still retains a 17th century character with terraces, parterre and topiary along with herb and vegetable gardens. The park, containing many ancient trees has also been home to herds of deer since the 13th century. The current herd of fallow deer numbers around 160.

At the top of Fore Street we find a church dating from the 13th century dedicated to the Anglo-Saxon princess, St Etheldreda, who founded the monastery at Ely. Three Prime Ministers are buried or commemorated in the church, the 1st and 3rd Lords Salisbury and Lord Melbourne, together with his wife Lady Caroline Lamb of Bocket Hall (but that's another story). From the church you can walk through into the Hatfield Estate's old stable yard which is now given over to shops and restaurants.

Hatfield House and estate has featured in many films and dramas including 'Batman', 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory', and 'The Crown'. Ticket prices and opening times for visiting the house, gardens and park can be found at www.hatfield-house.co.uk.

Jane Carr

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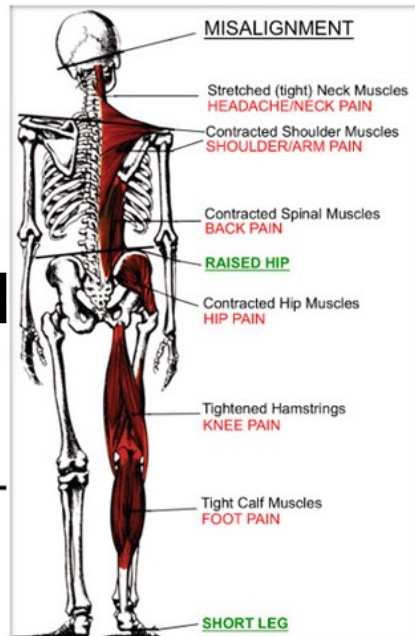
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Snippets

WAFTA (Welwyn Anglo French Twinning Association) is holding a general knowledge quiz night (with a few questions about France) on Saturday 21st May in the main hall at the Civic Centre in Welwyn. Start time is 7:00pm prompt. Quiz master is Simon Edwards. Teams of up to 8. Ticket price of £15:00 includes fish and chips supper (or vegetarian alternative). Prize for the winning team, and spot prizes. Raffle. Get your tickets (in advance only - not on the door) from Graham Howat on 01438 717879 or grahamhowat1@gmail.com

Magazine Subscriptions
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News from Ayot St Peter

Arts & Crafts in the 20th century

Our church was completed in 1875 and is a fine example of early Arts and Crafts style. The beautiful original features have been carefully preserved over the years, and there were also some notable additions to the church interior during the twentieth century.

The first of these arrived in 1908, when a magnificent wrought iron screen was added around the chancel steps. This was donated in memory of Rear Admiral Francis Marten and his wife Agnes, who lived on Ayot Green. The screen is a popular feature with our flower ladies, who weave flowers and foliage through it for weddings and other special occasions.

In the 1980s and 1990s, a group of talented needlewomen created a set of charming tapestry kneelers, which are interesting and attractive additions to the church.

Most of the kneelers are marked with the name of the maker and some also carry dedications to loved ones. A few are commemorative, such as the beautiful example that celebrates the Golden Wedding anniversary of the Queen and Prince Philip in 1997. Another displays the insignia of the RAF and is touchingly marked on the back "For friends who did not return, 1939-1945".

In the late 1990s, the Ayots WI set to work on a Millennium project, to create a splendid collage





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News from Ayot St Peter *(continued from p 32)*

depicting key buildings in both the Ayot villages. Some of the ladies made an image of their own house; whilst others recreated the public buildings – the Waggoners pub and St Peter’s church in Ayot St Peter, and the Bocket Arms, St Lawrence Church and the ruined church in Ayot St Lawrence. The result of this effort is an impressive collage panel, that hangs directly opposite the church door and is always greatly admired by our visitors.

Around the same time, two elegant church warden’s staves were added to the church. These were fashioned by Ternex sawmill from the wood of an old cedar tree that had previously stood in the churchyard. They are attached to the pew ends with wrought iron fittings crafted by a local blacksmith, designed to complement the screen.

We like to think that the core characteristics of the Arts and Crafts movement continue in our church, with craftsmanship that stresses the inherent beauty of the materials and the value of simplicity and utility.

Valerie Richards

We are sad to report the death of Mary Gregory who died peacefully in her sleep in the night of 28th/29th March after two years of suffering a very debilitating illness.

Mary, together with her late husband David, was a stalwart member of the Welwyn Magazine team for more than 20 years. We are grateful to both of them for their enthusiasm and input to the magazine.

Also together with David, she was a staunch bell-ringer for many years, ably climbing the stairs into the bell-tower every Sunday.

After David’s death, Mary started Network, with the aim of providing an opportunity for people living on their own to meet perhaps for a walk, a cup of tea or a meal. Sunday lunches were very popular and were enjoyed by many of us at various restaurants in the vicinity. The next lunch will be held in memory of Mary. She will be remembered with great affection.

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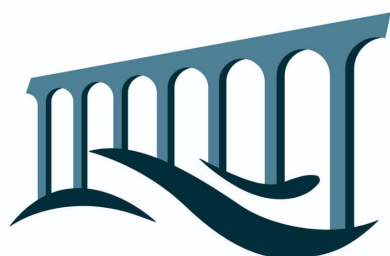


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Welwyn Parish Council



I hope you are all keeping well, enjoying Spring and looking forward to lighter nights and the summer months ahead.

At our Full Council Meeting on 28 March we were delighted to welcome Graham Baskerville as a new councillor to Welwyn Parish Council.

Graham lives in Welwyn and will be representing Mardley Heath Ward. All councillors and staff of the Council look forward to working with him.

As a Council we are looking at projects for 2022/2023 and reviewing our work over the past year. Future projects include:-

- Additional seating, litter bin and an information board at the Whitehill Wildflower Meadow
- Repair work to the collapsed wall at St Mary's Church closed churchyard
- Repair work to Ottway Walk road surface
- The introduction of sustainable practices at all our venues
- An eco-audit of the Council activities to help tackle the climate emergency at a local level
- Additional Terracycle opportunities for residents to access

I have previously mentioned that we will be planting a white beam tree at the Civic Centre as part of the Queen's Canopy to celebrate her Platinum Jubilee. We have been advised that the best time to plant this will be August/September and we are planning to invite residents to join us. Further information will be given nearer the time.

Our venues are now fully open to regular and new hirers. Residents and businesses in the Parish are offered a discounted rate when hiring one of our halls. We now have several baby and toddler groups in the village, two of which use our halls. I am aware that while these are an excellent facility for children and parents, we need to think of how we can cater for older children and teenagers. If you have any ideas please

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The Parish Council has entered a new contract with the company “Making Life Beautiful” who will be planting up the village planters. Just to remind village users, the planters are not just in place to widen the pavements but to narrow the carriageway thereby slowing the traffic. The Parish Council is working with Highways to decide on the continuation of the 20mph speed limit as it is, or whether this should be extended to roads surrounding the village.

We still have a problem with “dog poo” not just being left but also by dog walkers putting it in bags and leaving the bags on the ground or hanging from trees etc. A resident of Oaklands did put up signs asking residents to keep pathways clear. This seems to have improved the situation but he recently went out with a pickup stick and collected 20 discarded full bags which he disposed of in the correct way. They were all bright green in colour but the person is now using bright blue bags! The main areas where these bags are discarded are Robbery Bottom Lane near the viaduct, Hempstall Spinney and the bridle path towards Burnham Green. I know these are not the only areas in the Parish where there is a problem and that the majority of dog walkers are considerate and dispose of the bags properly. However, we also have a minority who seem to think that it is someone else’s problem to pick them up! We are privileged to live in a lovely area, please keep it that way and be considerate of other residents.

Look after yourselves and each other.

Marj Otty
Chairman, Welwyn Parish Council

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Woolmer Green Parish Council

Another year ends and a new one begins – a look back at 2021/22

The Parish Council year ended on 31 March and it has been good to get back to some degree of normality for most of the year. Hall users are back at the Hall and the welcome buzz of the Farmers' Market and Sunday football are also back .

This year there haven't been big visible improvements in the Hall but the Council installed a new panel on the Hall fire alarm system which replaced one that was likely to fail. It turned out to be a complex high spec system so took £1,510 from the maintenance budget. The playground inspection identified rotten posts on some of the swings but fortunately these were replaced by the supplier as they were still within their ten year guarantee.

In November, our morning caretaker, Madeleine, retired after 18 years working for the Council. She was presented with a bouquet and a shopping voucher and the Council thanks her for all her hard work and wishes her a happy retirement. The position is still vacant and is advertised.

Around the village, the Council applied for a grant to 'Plant a Tree for the Jubilee' and has purchased three trees shortly to be planted along London Road. Thank you again to volunteer Jenny for another year of fabulous planters which cheer everyone up as they drive or walk through the village.

The Annual Parish Meeting took place at the end of April (more on that next month) and we look forward to 2022/23 and the return of Wheels on Woolmer Green (Monday 2 May) and Village Day (Sunday 5 June).

Great British Spring Clean

Councillors Andy Gribble, Rob Horton, Sarah Hall and Tim Dix along with the Clerk, some volunteers from the village and our PCSO participated in the Great British Spring Clean litter pick on 27 March. Thank you to the volunteers who got up early to come out on the



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morning after the clocks went forward (which was also Mothering Sunday) and joined the councillors to pick up litter from the B197 and side roads. Once again, we ended up with quite a mountain of black sacks so it was well worth doing. The litter pickers were rewarded with a free cup of tea at the Farmers' Market – thanks to Tracie Harris, Market Manager, for that – it was much appreciated!



Sarah Hall

Woolmer Green Parish Council

sarah.hall@woolmergreenpc.org.uk



Parish Registers

St Mary's Welwyn Funeral

3rd March 2022

Beryl Margaret Hammond



Ayot St Peter Funeral

18th March

Daphne Muriel Pamela Lyness

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Meditation: Can war ever be just?

The impact of war and the depth of human misery have become all too clear over the last few weeks. History shows that humanity seems more ready to go to war than to work for peace. And once a war has started seeking peace becomes ever more difficult.

Traditional Christian responses to war include:

1 **Pacifist.** This is based on the premise that any killing, including in the context of war, is wrong. War is human in origin and never commanded by God. And it flies in the face of the command to “love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.”. This is so difficult. Remember Archbishop Runcie praying for the Argentinian victims of the Falklands war to the rage of Margaret Thatcher.

2 **Activist.** This is based on the belief that obedience to governmental structures is a duty. And anyone who resists participation in a war if demanded by their government is also showing resistance to God. “All that is necessary for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing.” Yet in most conflicts both sides claim to be right. So the activist argument would be that even where one country is unjustly engaged in war, its citizens should still accept being required to fight, because disobedience to government, even an evil one, is a greater evil than obedience to it in an unjust war.

3 **Selectivist.** This recognizes that war is not always contrary to love; love sometimes demands active resistance. But it is human judgment that seeks to discern what is just and unjust. And human judgment can be subjective and fallible.

The Just War theory fits within the selectivist category.

St Augustine expounded on the Just War theory in the 4th century. His main points were:

- war is justified when it serves to protect innocent civilians from an invader
- the implementation of justice sometimes demands that we engage in war
- individuals do not have the right to carry out a war - this is the job of legitimate governments
- war must be carried out in the most just way and not only with just cause. The ends do not justify the means used to achieve them.

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Sunday	8.00 am	Holy Communion
Sunday	9.30 am	Parish Communion / Junior Church
Sunday	6.30 pm	Evensong (2nd, 4th and 5th Sundays)
Wednesday	9.00 am	Morning Prayer
Wednesday	9.30 am	Holy Communion
Saturday	9.00 am	Parish Prayers

Confessions By arrangement with the Clergy.

The Ministry of Counsel and Absolution is available to anyone who seeks it at any time.

Clergy Surgery Hour

Saturdays 10.00 am to 11.00 am

A member of the team will be available in church for any enquiries. Mainly intended for Baptisms or Weddings, but not exclusively restricted to those matters.

ST MICHAEL'S - Woolmer Green www.stmichaels-wg.org.uk

Sunday	11.15 am
1st and 4th Sundays:	Parish Eucharist:
2nd Sunday:	Family Service
3rd Sunday:	All Age Eucharist
5th Sunday:	Morning Prayer

AYOT ST PETER www.ayotstpeter.com

1st Sunday	11.15 am	Matins: <i>(Book of Common Prayer, King James' Bible)</i>
2nd and 5th Sundays	11.15 am	Holy Communion: <i>(Book of Common Prayer, King James' Bible)</i>
3rd Sunday	11.15 am	Family Service: <i>(Common Worship, NRSV Bible)</i>
4th Sunday	11.15 am	Parish Communion: <i>(Common Worship, NRSV Bible)</i>

EVANGELICAL CHURCH - Welwyn www.welwyn-evangelical.org.uk

Sunday	9.45 am	Bible Classes (All ages 7+)
Sunday	11.00 am and 6.30 pm	(Facilities for young children)
Wednesday	8.00 pm	Bible Study (except 3rd Wednesday)

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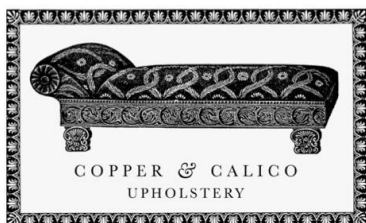
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Meditation *(Continued from page 44)*

What conditions should be satisfied if a war is to be described as just? Perhaps this list - a just cause; just motives; just means; just enough action; just no alternative; reasonable hope of success (as otherwise great harm will be inflicted for no benefit); and a contribution to a new sense of peace?

By contrast a “bad” war is likely to include some or all of these - loss of life (particularly amongst non-combatants); injustice, lack of peace, squandering of precious resources, desolation of land and property, resentment, hatred, humiliation; destruction of cultural treasures.

The Just War approach would allow wars to be fought in self defence and possibly to repossess territory annexed by an aggressor. But how far back would it be just to take the repossession concept?

This approach would, for example, rule out wars stemming from national pride or acquisitiveness, greed, hatred or a desire to control others.

But if a war has occurred what would be a just peace? And how should this be achieved? Help!!

To finish with a poem by Wendell Berry

“When despair for the world grows in me
and I wake in the night at the least sound
in fear of what my life and my children’s lives may be,
I go and lie down where the wood drake
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.
I come into the peace of wild things
who do not tax their lives with forethought
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.
And I feel above me the day-blind stars
waiting with their light. For a time
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free”

Mike Carpenter