

The Welwyn Magazine

with Woolmer Green



November 2022

60p

CONTENTS

November 2022

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Churchwardens

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Poppies at Lockley farm
Ian Blair

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The Rector's letter	3/5
Jessie The Rectors dog.....	5
Oaklands Post Office.....	7/9/11
Parish Registers	11
Neighbourhood watch defibrilators	13
Fellowship—William Blake	15/17
Welwyn Natural History Society	19
Baby elephant update	19
New director of Music	20
Junior Choir.....	21
Training medics in the Ukraine.....	22
Friends of Danesbury and QVM	23
Welwyn Pantomimes.....	24
Autumn quiz	25
Ayot St Peter's wartime rector	26
Ayot St Peter's roll of honour	27
Notes from the PCC	28//29/30
A Warm welcome	30
Mardley Heath WI	32
Antibiotics PPG	34
Welwyn Parish Council	36
Woolmer Green Parish Council	38/40
Your Scout group needs you.....	40/42
Church Notice Boards	46
Meditation	44/48
Remembrance Day Services	48

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

magazine@welwyn.org.uk

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The Rector's Letter



Dear Friends

I'm afraid that with copy deadlines I didn't get a chance to redraft my article last month, following the death of H.M Queen Elizabeth II – perhaps typically for someone so dedicated to service, there was very little warning that her condition was as serious as it turned out to be. I'm thinking particularly of that last smiling photograph, in which we see her meeting her fifteenth Prime Minister, Liz Truss, a couple of days before her death.

As you'll read this in early November, the events of that time may seem to be far in the past, and we may even have (just) about got the hang of singing 'God save the King.' For 80%+ of the population this will be literally changing the habit of a lifetime. But early November is of course a time, when the church and the nation thinks particularly about those who have died, who we now remember. 'Halloween' is in fact 'All Hallows Eve', the night before All Saints Day (November 1st), which itself precedes All Souls Day (November 2nd) – the day of which we remember all those who have gone before us. Then of course on the second Sunday of November as well as on the 11th itself, we remember those who have died in war – a particularly important remembrance this year, as we continue to think and pray about the current conflicts around the world, most notably Ukraine.

But we might ask what is all this remembrance about? It's a nice idea, but is it at all helpful? Is it just something which helps us to cope with a sense of grief and loss, but has no practical use? Is it in short just a memorial? Or on the other hand, is it something more – is it somewhere where we in fact are in touch with the spirits of our dead ancestors, in a rather literal way? Certainly there are plenty of belief systems which would affirm that that is the case.

These questions were very important to the Jewish community as they reflected on their escape from slavery in Egypt at the Passover. Also to Christians as they reflected on Jesus' promise that as they shared bread and wine, so he would be with them. In both cases Jews and Christians sought a middle way – this wasn't just a memorial of something which was long gone, but neither was it somehow

Continued on page 5

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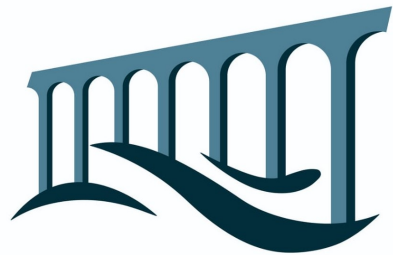


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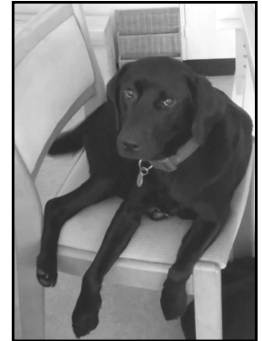
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the dead almost coming back to life. This was about taking the essence of that story and making it present – in the Passover, the Jews thankfully lived as a free people released from slavery; at the communion Christians are united with Jesus, whose essence is love. So too as we remember HLM Queen Elizabeth, we know that in one sense she is gone – Charles is now King Charles III – but her legacy of life long service to this country needs to be kept alive in our words and in our deeds

David

JESSIE, THE RECTORY DOG

Of all the images that I shall remember of the Queen's funeral (yes I did watch it) perhaps the most poignant was that of her own pony, Emma, standing at the side of the Windsor Great Park as her cortège went past. We Labradors throw the net of sympathy over very many species (perhaps something you humans could learn from), though often we draw the line at cats. You may also wonder how much sympathy we have for those rather odd little corgis of which the Queen was so fond – so much so it is rumoured she single handedly saved the breed. Well again that net is thrown wide. However, despite being best known for corgis, the Queen in fact owned many dogs, including a whole Labrador breeding kennels on the Sandringham estate. In fact apparently one of my more illustrious predecessors in Master's household, came from that corner of Norfolk.



The Queen was devoted to her horses and her dogs, who were therefore of course also devoted to her – as we are to any human being who shows us appropriate love and devotion. Though to be fair Master's bow and Mistress' curtesy to me, could be a bit deeper and more sincere as they enter 'the presence'.

Jess



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OAKLANDS POST OFFICE

How many people do you know who start work each morning at 5:15, finish at 19:30 every day, have done so for the past 20 years, yet still remain cheerful?

Jay Patel is one such man, who with his wife Sangita runs Oaklands Post Office and Newsagents.

I met with the two of them one evening in their beautiful home in Oaklands and heard how they came to buy a post office in this area, and how they met. It was an unexpected story.



Jay and Sangita during a busy time at work

“Our family have always been retailers,” explained Jay, “so having a shop seemed the obvious thing to do.” In India his family had a fabric shop, a chemists, a money-lending business and a die-casting foundry. In 1994 when he was 24, Jay came to England and gained a PhD in Engineering at Imperial College. “I had listened to the BBC as a child, yet the life-style here shocked me profoundly. In our culture one puts oneself last, yet here it seemed that people put themselves and what they wanted first. For Indians what comes first is family and education and helping one another without a thought for oneself, it's one's moral duty.”

Meanwhile in 1986 an eleven year old Sangita and her family came to the UK from Uganda. Growing up in Crawley, Sangita studied business and finance to HND level and found administrative work with a printing company.

Both Jay and Sangita are Hindu from Patel families. Jay explained how their meeting came about, “All Patels are originally farmers from groups of villages in India. Sangita's family comes from a group of 24 villages, I come from a group of 17 villages. Traditionally people marry within their village groups through family connections.” Although their villages lay only 20 miles apart in India, the couple met here in England: Jay's uncle with a fabric shop learnt that his friend at the grocer's shop opposite had a niece... introductions were made and after a six month courtship Jay and Sangita decided to marry and set up home in Croydon. So... why are they in Welwyn?

continued on p9



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OAKLANDS POST OFFICE (Continued)

Continued from page 9

Sangita explains, “Our daughter Vidhu, who is now 23, was born profoundly deaf. As a very young child she was given a cochlear implant at Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children. We wanted Vidhu educated at a school for the deaf but there were none near our South London home. We researched and found Heathlands School for Deaf Children in St Albans. We decided to move so that Vidhu could start at the school by the time she was three. After a start in St Albans we bought the Oaklands Post Office, living in the flat above for eighteen months with two small children.”

The move was worthwhile: Vidhu recently graduated from Central St Martins Art School, and despite losing out for two years by having to do her course online during the pandemic, she has achieved a first in Ceramics. Her parents are justifiably very proud and I was delighted to meet Vidhu, working on the computer in her studio, surrounded by her paintings and amazing ceramics. Vidhu's brother Raghav is 21 and is now in his final year at university in Norwich.

Oaklands Post Office is, according to Jay, as much a therapy centre as a shop: “During the day lots of our customers stop to chat and pass the day, I like to listen and I feel that they can talk to me with an element of trust. Our day starts with sorting the newspapers and sending out the paper boys at 5:30, occasionally we have to deliver some of the papers ourselves. People do still stop by for their papers although it's a declining trade, it's mostly older folk who still want a real newspaper. As well as the post office and newsagents our shop sells cards, confectionery, stationery and lottery tickets. Trade has certainly increased since Welwyn High Street Post Office closed, “We now have people coming in from Digswell, Tewin, even Hatfield, as well as Welwyn village,” says Jay.

For the past 14 years Sangita's mother has lived in an annexe on the side of their house. “At 80 my mother is fiercely independent,” says Sangita. “She doesn't drive but knows every bus timetable and route between Welwyn and Crawley where her sister lives. She visits her every week.”

In 2005 Jay's parents and his father's blind unmarried uncle came to live with them. Sadly Jay's mother only lived with them for six months before she died with cancer. In 2017 Jay's father and the uncle returned to India: Jay's dad then died aged 75. Uncle, now aged 96, has been unable to return here because of Covid restrictions and his own frailty. One aspect of British culture that horrifies this hard-working pair is the way people put their elderly relatives out of the way into care homes.

continued on p11

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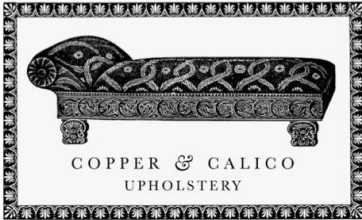
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OAKLANDS POST OFFICE (Continued)

continued from page 9

Finally I asked, did the appalling Horizon IT System disaster* affect their post office?

Jay told me “We were not affected by the Horizon IT system going wrong – it did seem to happen in post offices where the ATM machines were linked to Horizon, which fortunately ours was not. For sub-postmasters of SE Asian background involved, losing money would not have meant as much as the loss of honour, trust and credibility.”

Our conversation could have lasted much longer, except that Jay probably needed his bed for his early start again next morning.

For more about this, watch the programme made by **Panorama: The Post Office Scandal. First shown on Monday April 25 2022 at 8pm, it is still available on BBC iPlayer.*

Vernonne Allan

Editors note: Jay holds the record for the number of Parish Magazines sold per month. He has been selling forty and this month he has taken delivery of fifty copies.

Parish Registers

St Mary's Welwyn

Baptism

18th September

Aubriamna Ruby Gray



Weddings

3rd September

Natasha Eccles & Henry Blakemore

3rd September

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OUR LOCAL DEFIBRILATORS



For several months we had been planning to write about the availability of these in our neighbourhoods, so we were delighted when the editors included the location of 11 of them as a Snippet item in the September magazine. Who would have thought there would be so many? Indeed a 12th location has subsequently been identified and appeared as a further Snippet in the October magazine.

This is the full list: Welwyn Parish Council Offices, Church Street (Welwyn), the Sports & Social Club and the Tennis Club (Ottway Walk), Digswell Village Hall, Digswell Tennis Club, Welwyn North Station, Meadow View Childcare (near The Avenue), Canonsfield Road Scout Hut, Burnham Green Village Hall, The Red Lion (Woolmer Green) and Woolmer Green Village Hall.

When someone is displaying signs of possible cardiac arrest, it is important to ring 999 for advice and for directions to the nearest defibrillator. Time is of the essence and immediate CPR is desirable until either a defibrillator has been applied, or paramedics have arrived and taken over. The 999 call-handler will help you with this and also give you simple instructions on how to use it. Incidentally, once the defibrillator box is opened, the equipment inside can be removed and taken to the patient. It's not necessary to get the patient to the location of the defibrillator. Most defibrillator boxes are kept locked and the ambulance service will supply the code.

One of the locations currently without a defibrillator is Oaklands which has quite a density of population and a lot of passing customers using the parade of shops and the North Star pub. Any potential fundraisers amongst our readers may like to know that a public defibrillator (in a box, accessible on an outside wall), could cost less than £2,000 plus installation. Furthermore, there are sources of partial funding such as the British Heart Foundation and DiPPs (Defibrillators in Public Places). The latter is a local Welwyn Hatfield charity founded in 2016 following the death of a Hatfield school pupil.

In preparing this article we'd like to acknowledge valuable help provided by Sarah McGuinness, local defib expert.

John Mitchell and Valerie Richards

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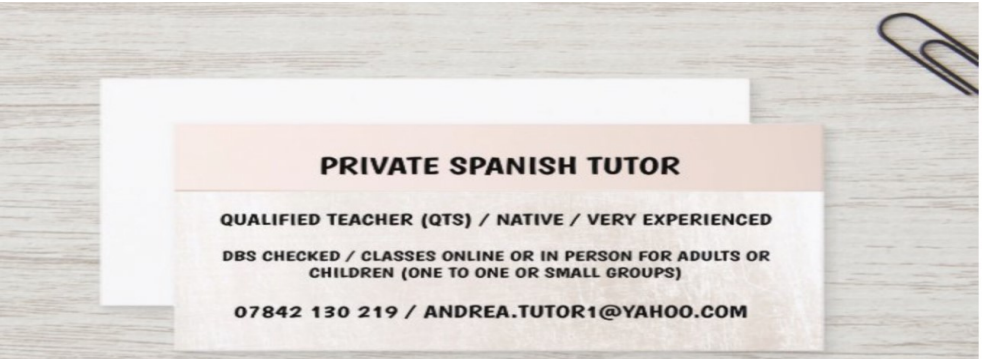
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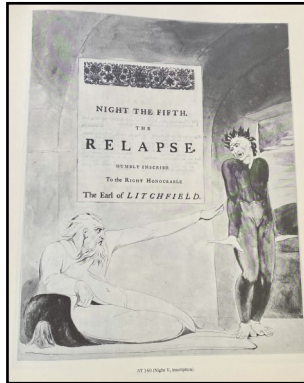
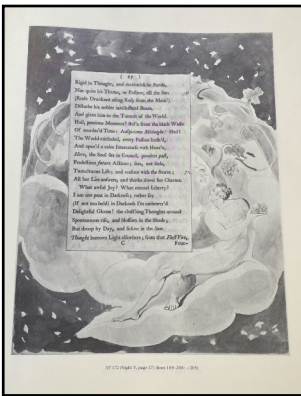
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FELLOWSHIP—WILLIAM BLAKE

William Blake has an association with Welwyn. In 1795 he was asked to illustrate the poem “Night Thoughts on Life and Death and Imortality” written by the poet Edward Young. Edward Young became the Rector of Welwyn in 1730 and lived in Guessens. The publishing of the book in 1797 was expensive and a complete failure. However in 1980 the Oxford University Press began publishing a five volume edition but only two have so far appeared. The Church has these two volumes and members of Fellowship were able to look and appreciate the large and beautiful books after a talk by Mavis Francis about Blake.



Three illustrations drawn by William Blake for Edward Youngs “Night Thoughts”

William Blake (1757-1827)

William Blake was an English painter, poet and engraver and was largely unrecognised during his lifetime but is now considered a key figure in the history of poetry. He was powerful in his directness, he used simple language and raised questions about many issues of his time. The family were part of a breakaway religious group called the Dissenters who disagreed with the teachings of the Church of England. He would spend hours devotedly reading the Bible and its words had a great influence on the young Blake’s imagination. At the age of 14 Blake was apprenticed to the engraver James Basire and at 21 became a professional engraver. In his mid-twenties Blake met and married Catherine Boucher. Catherine was illiterate but Blake taught her to read and write and she proved herself to be an invaluable aid throughout his life.

Continued on page 17



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FELLOWSHIP—WILLIAM BLAKE (Continued)

Continued from page 15

Blake abhorred slavery and believed in racial and sexual equality and this influenced his poems. Religious concepts and imagery figure centrally in his works. Apart from the first collection, Blake illustrated, printed, bound and offered for sale the books he had written. They resembled the beautiful illustrated manuscripts of the Middle Ages. Each page of text, with pictorial adornments, would be printed from a single copper plate. As he stated, this method combines the Painter and the Poet. His poems, 'The Lamb', 'The Tyger' and 'Jerusalem' are some that are most well-known. He moved to a cottage in Felpham, Sussex in 1800 to take up the job of illustrating the works of a minor poet and four years later he began his epic "*Milton a Poem*". The preface to this work includes a poem beginning "And did those feet in ancient times...". The poem was inspired by the apocryphal story that a young Jesus, accompanied by Joseph of Arimathea, a tin merchant, travelled to what is now England and visited Glastonbury during his unknown years. An interpretation, among Nonconformists, is that the phrase 'dark satanic mills' refers to the established Church of England who preached a doctrine of conformity to the established social order and class system. Many scholars argue that the 'mills' are churches and not factories. The poem was set to music by Sir Hubert Parry in 1916 for the Fight for Rights Campaign and then rescored by Elgar in 1922 for the Leeds Festival. It has become an anthem for many - the Suffragettes in 1918; the Women's Institute in 1928 (of which the late Queen was a member); the funeral of President Reagan; the memorial service of Gough Whitlam; the wedding of William and Kate; and the opening of the 2012 London Olympics. In 2019 it was voted the top hymn. It has also been proposed that it should be the English anthem.

Blake's last years were spent at Fountain Court. This property was demolished in the 1880s when the Savoy Hotel was built. He was still working in his bed on the day he died, telling his wife he wanted to draw her portrait. He died that evening after promising Catherine he would be with her always. George Richmond says in a letter to Samuel Palmer (both were painters who were influenced by Blake) "He died..... in a most glorious manner. He said he was going to that Country he had all his life wished to see and expressed himself happy, hoping for salvation through Jesus Christ. Just before he died his countenance became fair; his eyes brighten'd and he burst out singing of the things he saw in Heaven".

He is buried in London's Bunhill Fields alongside Daniel Defoe and John Bunyan.

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WELWYN NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

ALL CHANGE!!

Just when I thought things might be getting back to what we call ‘*normality*’, everything has gone haywire! Our proposed talk about the work on the River Beane did not take place. ‘Why’ you ask. one guess only, and of course you are correct again: the work hasn’t started! But we had a fascinating talk from Richard Pople based on his travels across Canada and entitled: “**BEARS, BIRDS and WHALES**”.

Change #2 Our meeting on November 23rd is published as being a joint meeting with the Hertfordshire Natural History Society and billed as the Gerald Salisbury Memorial Lecture. **THIS HAS BEEN CHANGED!** And this lecture will now take place in February and looks as though it could be entitled “Heartwood Forest 10 years on”.



Cloeon-dipterium
Copyright J K Lindsey

So.. what is happening in November? Robin Cole, one of our very active members and the warden at Tewin Water nature reserve, has had a very exciting time recently discovering rather interesting river flies that live in the River Mimram. He is awaiting publication of a scientific paper on the subject. This is special since, naturally, we are all acquainted with the Mimram, our own chalk stream, and our Natural History Society will be the first to hear about this.

Again, this is not written in stone – but nearly - and I suggest that you look at our website <https://www.welwynnaturalhistorysociety.co.uk/> or our Facebook page for confirmation.

Judith Watson,
07884946565

BABY ELEPHANT UPDATE (See October magazine)

The baby elephant has now been named by the Whipsnade conservation partners in Thailand. Her name is Nang Phaya (pronounced Nang-pie-yar), which means Queen or strong female monarch in Thai.

Rita McNeill

NEW DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

I am the new Director of Music at St Mary's and am delighted to be part of what is clearly a lovely community.

I thought I'd give you a bit of information on my background...

I have been singing in church choirs since I was 6 years old. (in Hythe, Kent). I had a hiatus in my 20s when I indulged in my love of musical theatre, moving back into church choirs after my first daughter was born (after Sunday lie-ins stopped and the vicar persuaded me at a Christening meeting). I've been running church choirs for 13 years – most recently at St Helen's Wheathampstead.



I live in St Albans with my wife Clare, my two daughters (one at university) and our spoodle Archie. I work as a programme director for a large IT company and I am a long suffering Manchester United fan!

Music-wise I am a baritone singer (not an organist) and sing with St Albans based Mosaic. I am currently rehearsing Gilbert & Sullivan's Iolanthe where I'm playing the Lord Chancellor (Feb – Watford Palace) and have previously played principal G&S roles – as well as musical theatre roles such as Higgins in My Fair Lady and most of the Rogers and Hammerstein leads. I've also directed a few shows – most recently Oliver! at the Alban Arena.

In lockdown I put together a lot of recordings for St Helen's (similar to the St Mary's choir) – mainly with my older daughter. One was played on R4's PM programme at the start of lockdown. Another was played on 5 Live and we were interviewed live on air. This was Tallis's motet Spem in Alium – a 10 minute long 40 part piece that has my and my daughter's voices multitracked. A labour of love! If you fancy hearing it go to [Soundcloud.com](https://www.soundcloud.com) and search "Robert Milner Choral".

Robert Milner

JUNIOR CHOIR

On 20th October the St Mary's church Junior Choir will re-start and I need everyone's help to ensure its success.

Music – and singing in particular – has so many benefits:

Singing is a life skill in itself and singing in a church choir means you are learning these skills under the direction of professional musicians. Choir singing has a number of academic benefits: music has a close association with Maths. Music Theory is mathematical in nature and is taught as part of the Voice for Life scheme. The lyrics sung in choir are poetry and language and reading skills are improved through singing with us. We also sing in different languages. We sing music from the last 400 years and what we sing about is significant both historically and culturally. Singing in a choir really helps with a child's academic development.

Being in the choir requires the discipline of focusing for the practice, it involves teamwork and interacting across age groups. Most of all singing in a choir makes you part of a lovely community and is GREAT FUN!

The choir is going to be from Years 4-8 but we're focusing initially on Primary age children. Older children are very welcome to join the adult choir if they wish. I will be running a recruitment session at St Mary's school and, of course, we will welcome children from any school. We need children from different year groups – and most definitely want a good number of boys!

Choir practice will be on Thursday evenings from 6:30-8pm. The last half hour will be a joint practice with the adults. Initially it is likely it will run from 6:30-7:30pm to give a bit of time to form the choir before joining with the adults.

The children will be asked to sing at two services a month – a morning service at 9:30am and an Evening service where we will meet at 5pm. We will build towards the evening service over time.

We will be following the Royal School of Church Music's Voice for Life scheme which has a series of awards – a little like grades. There will be separate ad hoc sessions to help the children achieve these awards.

Please share this as widely as you can and encourage any parents of children who might find this of interest to get in touch with me.

Robert Milner

TRAINING COMBAT MEDICS IN UKRAINE



Dr Jo England from Woolmer Green continues to spend much of her time supporting Ukrainians defending their country against Putin's war. At the beginning of October she wrote:

"This morning I had the privilege of doing some teaching with the combat medics of the Unit we support. I was pleasantly surprised with the level of their knowledge and the standard of equipment they have, and very happy to be able to answer their questions. With thanks, as always, to Dean Romochusky for translating.

We went through each kit to ensure they have not only the right gear but enough of it. When they deploy soon, we will have been able to pack plenty of equipment for resupply for them, as well as equip the unit medic with the things he needs to care for his guys. They told me they had been to a local hospital to learn how to insert a cannula ...so I offered to be a 'training arm' for them! Now what I didn't tell them is that I have notoriously bad veins - I'm talking harder to find than a straight politician! It was mean of me, but it was an exercise in learning to adapt when things don't go to plan. After a couple of attempts they realised they needed a smaller gauge, and one medic went to get some whilst another prepped the area. With the 'butterfly' needle correct insertion into a vein was achieved first time out. I then explained to them that I have micro-vessels plus I hadn't drunk the usual amount of water I do in the mornings and that this combination would make my veins very hard to find. I'm sure some of you are thinking it wasn't a nice thing to do, but it wasn't done to dent their confidence, it was done to show that they are not always going to have hospital surroundings and a patient with wonderful veins. It can't have been too bad - they asked to meet again tomorrow to practise a couple of other procedures! I'm so glad that I can pass on knowledge and tips that I've learned all over the world.



If you would like to support Dr Jo and her colleagues you can do so at:

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/medicaidukraine>

FRIENDS OF DANESBURY AND QVM

The Halloween window display this year again is amazing and very striking, hopefully you will be able to enjoy some of the terrific bargains we have in store. And so, we roll into another month, bonfire night and toffee apples at the ready before the Christmas decorations are dusted off and are put out on display.

This year we have been very lucky to have been so generously supported by the local community. Thanks to you our monthly income has allowed us to move past the hardship endured over the past couple of years and to enable us to continue helping Danesbury and QVM hospitals in so many ways. During the recent bank holiday, we provided cakes for the patient and staff in both units to enjoy whilst watching the late Queen's funeral on TV. The staff reported they enjoyed them and made the day a bit special for the patients. This month we have also funded additional training to the Neuro Community physiotherapists, purchased additional neuromuscular transmitters which enable patients to carry on their physio in their rooms, and the list goes on.

Here are photos of the window and patients and our new book Trolley



Andy Trotter, one of our many volunteers, very kindly funded the purchase of the book trolley for use at the QVM. Andy is restocking the book trolley with different titles each month. All patients at the QVM now have access to a large choice of printed books. Andy collects the books from those donated to the charity shop. Here is a photo of Andy proudly standing next to the book trolley. The Friends thank Andy and all the volunteers who make all the help we give to both Hospitals possible.

Do you or anyone you know have a few hours to spare?

Volunteers are desperately needed to help with small group sessions at Danesbury Hospital, Welwyn. The help would be to meet and greet patients, direct them to the meeting place, make them comfortable and perhaps give them a drink which would be provided. If you would like to know more please email info@danburyqvm.co.uk or pop into Danesbury Charity Shop, High St, Welwyn. Thank you in advance.

WELWYN PANTOMIMES

There are two festive pantomimes to be enjoyed in the village this year (oh yes there are):

St Mary's Drama Group presents:
Cinderella And Her Fella!

St Mary's Church House, Welwyn

Tuesday, 22nd November at 7.30 pm
Thursday, 24th November at 7.30 pm
Saturday, 26th November at 3.30 pm and 7.30 pm

Tickets are £10 for adults, £5 for 16s, and under- fives are free
Contact Stuart Jenkin on 07958 230007 or stuart.jenkin@gmail.com or buy from the Danesbury QVM Shop. Profits will go to the charity ALFS towards buying an ambulance for those people affected by the war in Ukraine

Welwyn Amateur Theatre Group presents:
Red Riding Hood & The Three Little Pigs

Directed by Stephanie Dunn and Stuart Carnegie
Civic Centre, Welwyn

Friday, 2nd December at 7.30 pm
Saturday, 3rd December at 2.30 pm and 7.30 pm
Sunday, 4th December at 3.00 pm and 7.30 pm

Tickets are £11 for adults and £8 for under 16s
Book online at www.welwyntheatre.co

CPRE Children's Art Competition



The countryside charity
Hertfordshire

The Campaign to Protect Rural England invites all children in Hertfordshire to enter this year's competition on the theme of **Hedgerows**. All primary schools in Hertfordshire have been invited to take part but children can enter directly if their school is not taking part. The overall winning school will win £500 and winning pupils will receive certificates and gift vouchers in three year-group categories.

Details on how to enter can be found on the home page of www.cpreherts.org.uk
Deadline for entry is 16th December.

AUTUMN QUIZ

All of these questions have something (however tenuous) to do with Autumn.

1. What was the date of the Autumn equinox in the Northern Hemisphere in 2022?
2. What is Autumn frequently called in America?
3. Why does it have that name?
4. What was the date of Canadian Thanksgiving in 2022?
5. What is the origin of the word Halloween?
6. What are the three months of Autumn in the Southern Hemisphere?
7. What Autumn activity was once a British courting activity?
8. Name the chemical which breaks down in leaves in the Autumn causing their colour to change.
9. What is the generic name for trees which lose their leaves in Autumn?
10. What happens in the UK at 2.00am on the last Sunday in October? (2 things)
11. When was British Summer Time (Daylight Savings Time) first introduced in the UK?
12. What and when was the British Standard Time Experiment?
13. Who first advocated Daylight Savings Time in the UK but died before he saw it come into effect?
14. Who was Prime Minister during the British Standard Time Experiment?
15. Which King did Mr. Fawkes try to blow up?
16. Who were his co-conspirators? (4 points – one for each name)
17. Hedgehogs hibernate in Autumn/Winter. What are their spines made of?
18. In which sport do the Autumn Internationals take place in England?
19. Which English Romantic poet wrote “To Autumn” after a walk near Winchester?
20. SAD is sometimes called Autumnal depression. What do the letters SAD stand for?

Answers in the December magazine

St Mary's Saturday Concert

12th November at 12 Noon

Eriko Nagayama—violin

Mihaly Berecz—piano

Two outstandingly talented young professionals from Japan and Hungary will play Mozart, Schubert and Ravel prior to their tour of Japan.

Retiring collection

AYOT ST.PETER'S WARTIME RECTOR

During the First World War the rector of Ayot St Peter was Richard Henry Ryland (known as "Henry"). He arrived in the village in 1912, having previously held numerous ecclesiastical and teaching posts, including four years as the headmaster of a school in South Africa.

One can only imagine the feelings in villages like Ayot St Peter after war was declared in August 1914. The popular idea that it would "all be over by Christmas" faded as the months dragged on and the first casualties were reported in 1915.

The picture shows a list of the men who died in the war, recorded by Reverend Ryland. The sequence of the names is very similar to the dates of death, so presumably this is the order in which the rector received the news. It is particularly poignant that he began writing the names double-spaced, but as the casualties of the Somme offensive became known, he reduced the list to single-spacing. Private Baker, who died of pneumonia shortly before the armistice in 1918, is squeezed in at the bottom of the page.

Reverend Ryland was an enthusiastic and popular rector, arranging outings for parishioners, and organising repairs to the church. He continued in his post for 27 years, until his death in February 1939, aged 84. Three weeks before he died, Reverend Ryland officiated at the funeral of 81-year-old retired gardener Joseph Fitt. Joseph's son Ernest is the first name recorded on the wartime casualty list.

Reverend Ryland married his first cousin, Florence Hodgkinson, in 1884. The couple had no children but Florence had her own career as an authoress, writing under her maiden name. Her stories were heart-warming and romantic moral tales which featured in magazines, newspapers and compilations. She was a well-known and popular writer with titles such as "Lonely Kitty", "Mr Madison's Ward" and "Rosemary's Romance". She also wrote at least one novel. Florence died in 1934 and she and Reverend Ryland are buried together in our churchyard.

The names of the men who lost their lives in the Great War are read aloud at our Remembrance Service, which begins around the war memorial in our churchyard at 10.50am on Sunday 13 November. Do join us!

Valerie Richards

AYOT ST. PETER'S ROLL OF HONOUR

Greater love hath no
man than this,



that a man lay down his
life for his friends.

Roll of Honour.

Names of the men from this Parish who have given
their lives for their King and Country.

Fitt, Sergeant Ernest	Beds. Reg ^t Fallen in France
Mardling, P. ^{te} Jesse	Beds. Reg ^t Fallen in France
Jephson, Com ^r George A.	Royal Navy Died at Cimiez.
Butterfield, P. ^{te} George	Royal Fusiliers. Fallen in France.
Harwood, L. Corp. Randall	Herts. Reg ^t Fallen in France.
Giddings, P. ^{te} Joseph	Beds. Reg ^t Fallen in France.
Philpotts, Corp. ^t Harold	City of London, Reg ^t Fallen in France
White, P. ^{te} Bertram G.	Royal Fusiliers. Fallen.
King, P. ^{te} Alfred	Beds. Reg ^t Fallen.
Shepherd, P. ^{te} Alfred	Herts. Reg ^t Fallen.
Day, Private George	Royal Fusiliers, Fall ⁿ in Fr.
Gamgee, Private Stacey	Fallen in France
Drapet, Rifleman George	London Rifles
Drapet, P. ^{te} Samuel	A. S. C.
Ellis, P. ^{te} John	Beds. Reg ^t
Ellis, P. ^{te} George	Beds. Reg ^t
Wigmore, Corp. ^t James	Beds. Reg ^t
Welch, Serg. ^t William	R. F. C. Fallen in France
Baker, P. ^{te} Alec Luther	died in Salonica

PCC MEETING ON 21st SEPTEMBER

Finance

St Michael's — Sue Keach was disappointed to note a loss of £769 for the year to date given the good level of income from letting to the Romanian Orthodox church for their services. The annual insurance premium of over £1000 has recently been paid so this deficit is likely to reduce.

St Mary's - Maggie Varco highlighted that the big issue at present is the cost of heating and lighting for both churches and Church House over the coming months. Her energy report shows EON's estimates of £17,071 for St Mary's and £4,097 for St Michael's based on current consumption for the next 12 months' electricity usage. Since this report was prepared at the beginning of September the Government has introduced a cap on the unit price of electricity of £0.21/KWh which would reduce the above estimates to £8,600 and £2,200 respectively. Further information is awaited in order to determine whether a variable or fixed rate contract would be advantageous.

St Mary's gas cost could double given the Government's cap has been set at £0.075/KWh as against the existing price of £0.035/KWh.

Maggie Varco suggested raising funds for the increased costs to come. Additionally, the following initiatives were suggested and generally agreed in order to reduce consumption. (1) The heating to be maintained at current levels for both the church and Church House. Stuart Jenkin to manually adjust the heating controls as required as the weather gets colder. (2) An audit of light bulbs to be carried out, some bulbs may be removed (particularly floodlight bulbs) and, possibly, reduce the times of switch on/off. Investigate the viability of changing floodlights to LED bulbs. Post notices reminding users to switch off the lights when leaving Church House.

Fabric reports

St Michael's – With reference to the white discolouration of some ceiling beams Stuart Jenkin has examined it and is satisfied that it is simply due to aging.

After a period of inactivity the contractors have mown the grass and tidied up the churchyard at St Michael's.

St Mary's – Stuart Jenkin presented his fabric report. There is a vacancy for a volunteer gardener to tend the Memorial Garden and Tower flower beds as Ann Harper, who has been diligently attending to them for many years, has advised that she will not be continuing. So, if you have green fingers or fancy having a go at caring for these gardens please contact any member of the PCC.

PCC MEETING ON 21st SEPTEMBER

Continued from page 28

The parish council has requested that the dead tree in in the churchyard and overhanging the pavement in Church Street be removed. Also some trees in the churchyard need topping, particularly the oak tree that is obscuring the view of the tower clock from some aspects. The parish council to appoint a firm to do this work.

Rector's items – Considering the challenges ahead this winter for people in financial difficulty: -

1. Warm spaces – Christie Gilfeather has written to Woolmer Green parish council to ask whether, in partnership with St Michael's, the village hall might be used when not otherwise needed to allow members of the public struggling with heating their own homes to come for refreshments and to keep warm during the winter. CG will attend a meeting to discuss this proposal and report back. It was suggested that Church House could similarly provide a warm place from autumn half term onwards. Tea and coffee making facilities will be made available on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays when either Tina or the Rector are on duty. Free Wi-Fi will be made available for a limited number of users, subject to demand.

2. Meal vouchers – In order to assist both families struggling to put a meal on the table and public houses struggling to pay the hugely increased cost of gas and electricity the Rector proposed to discuss a meal voucher arrangement with the Rose & Crown PH. Members of the congregation to be asked to purchase or contribute to the cost of a voucher for a family of four to be redeemed at the Rose & Crown.

A question was raised as to how any such offer of assistance would be publicised to those in need of it. In this connection another member asked whether or not the Welwyn United Charities [<https://welwyn-pc.gov.uk/welwyn-united-charities>] is still in existence. If so, this might be used as a channel to those in need of assistance. It was also noted that St Mary's School might be able to distribute vouchers to families although, of course, they have a duty of confidentiality. Finally, the local food bank staff could be asked to recommend those who might benefit to contact St Mary's or the charity.

Care of the elderly / planning for end of life / funeral wishes – The Rector thanked new PCC member Crystal Lam for her work on this project following which Crystal presented her report. It was agreed that the Church should assist older members of the community by signposting relevant organisations as

Continued on page 30

PCC MEETING ON 21st SEPTEMBER

Continued from page 29

outlined in the report and that support should be provided informally. For example representatives from Age Concern, Citizens Advice Bureau or a local hospice could be invited to Community Café to chat informally and leave literature. Similarly the Fellowship Group could be asked to invite a speaker from one of the above organisations.

It was agreed that Crystal and the Rector would have a conversation outside the PCC to contact appropriate organisations with a view to providing speakers. Crystal also suggested a stall at the Welwyn Festival next year which was enthusiastically supported. (Personally I can't think of anything less festive!).

Any other business – St Michael's has a number of old hassocks that need to be disposed of. Sue Keach had written to the Archdeacon to request permission. Permission was granted on a basis of it being "minor works".

David Hughes



WARM WELCOME

Woolmer Green Village Hall
1-4pm
Every Monday
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MARDLEY HEATH WI SEPTEMBER MEETING

This article is written in two parts
One from the head and one from our hearts
The death of the Queen, a member of the WI
Made the ladies want to reminisce and sigh
They had seen her grow from child to adult
From Princess to Queen, and the result?
A royal, respected by one and all
She made us proud, we all stood tall
A monarch who gave over and above
To nations she ruled with so much love
We wanted to spend time to remember our Queen
A lady who we know was often seen
Happy to be with her dogs and her horses
Delighted when they won at her favourite race courses
She held her family together with a mother's devotion
Regardless of any heartfelt personal emotion
Her annus horribilis was met with dignity and courage
An indomitable spirit to whom we paid homage
So now we pray that she may in peace rest
Our Monarch, our Queen, simply the best of the best!

Our speaker this month was Ruth Nieman
Who talked about a "Galilean Kitchen"
Cooking from Israel, learned from the people themselves
Our ladies are now ready to go looking on shelves
For spices that the taste buds tease
To create the autumn recipes with ease
An excellent talk, we learned a great deal
And the tasting element was almost a meal
Ruth told the story of the ladies from the middle east
Who shared their meals, each was a feast
Their religions and the seasons influenced food they would cook
And this led to her writing an amazing book

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 New members and visitors are always welcome.

Brenda Bigland CBE

Parkinson's UK

Welwyn Hatfield Hertford Branch

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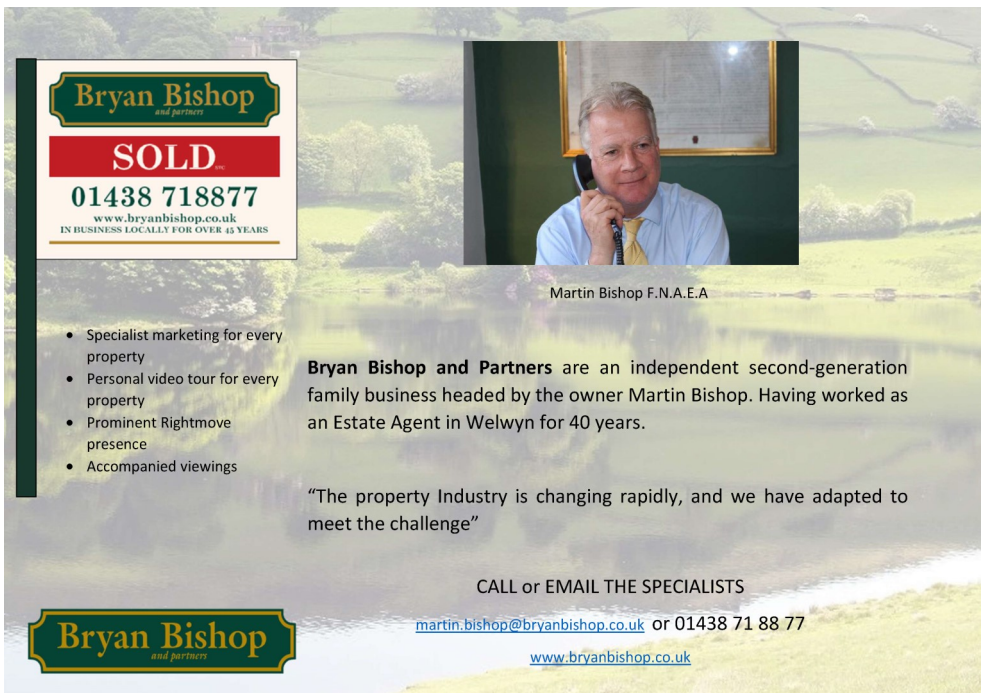
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ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE

The overuse of antibiotics in recent years means they're becoming less effective and has led to the emergence of "superbugs". These are strains of bacteria that have developed resistance to many different types of antibiotics. These types of infections can be serious and challenging to treat, and are becoming an increasing cause of disability and death across the world.

The biggest worry is that new strains of bacteria may emerge that cannot be treated by any existing antibiotics.

Both the NHS and health organisations across the world are trying to reduce the use of antibiotics, especially for health problems that are not serious.

What You Can Do

To help fight antibiotic resistance and protect yourself against infection:

Don't take antibiotics unless you're certain you need them. An estimated 30% of the millions of prescriptions written each year are not needed. Always ask your doctor if antibiotics will really help. For illnesses caused by viruses -- common colds, bronchitis, and many ear and sinus infections -- they won't.

Finish your pills. Take your entire prescription exactly as directed. Do it even if you start feeling better. If you stop before the infection is completely wiped out, those bacteria are more likely to become drug-resistant.

Get vaccinated. Immunisations can protect you against some diseases that are treated with antibiotics. They include tetanus and whooping cough.

Stay safe in the hospital. Antibiotic-resistant bacteria are commonly found in hospitals. Make sure your caregivers wash their hands properly. Also, ask how to keep surgical wounds free of infection.

Bridge Cottage Surgery Patient Participation Group

If you would like further details about this group please email ppgbridgectottage@gmail.com





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WELWYN PARISH COUNCIL



I cannot believe how quickly time is passing. It doesn't seem long ago that I was wishing you all a Happy New Year and here we are planning for Christmas. This year the Christmas Lights switch on will be on Friday 25th November. It will take place at St Mary's Church with the local school children singing and refreshments of mulled wine and mince pies.

Councillors have co-opted a new councillor to represent our Digswell Ward. He is David Cox and is very experienced in business and charity work. We are looking forward to working with David. His details will soon be on the Council Website. We will shortly be advertising for a new councillor to represent Welwyn Village where John Blackburn, sadly now deceased, worked so hard for the residents for 19 years. Our Deputy Clerk, Jasmine, left the council in September and we are in the process of recruiting a replacement. If you or anyone you know may be interested in this post, please contact our Clerk, Caroline, on 01438 716667, clerk@welwynpc.org.uk

At Welwyn Parish Council we are always happy to work with organisations who provide services and support for residents of the parish. We have recently received grant aid requests from Codicote Food Bank, Welwyn Amateur Theatre Group and Welwyn United Charities.

- Codicote Food Bank do not just help residents in Codicote but also people throughout our parish and beyond. If, on a personal level you are able to help by donating food you can do this at St Mary's Church or Belvoir Estate Agents.
- Welwyn Amateur Theatre Group is working hard on a pantomime that they will be performing at the Civic Centre this Christmas. As I write this article, at the end of September, I do not have the dates for the pantomime but nearer the time there will be many adverts so please look out for these and give this hard working group your support.
- Welwyn United Charities provide help to people in our parish in a variety of ways. The group does not advertise what it does but without its help many people would be in great need. Welwyn Parish Council is pleased to support it and its good causes.

Finally, don't forget our Craft and Farmers' Market which is open on the second Sunday in each month from 10am-1.30pm at the Civic Centre. This will be an excellent place to buy Christmas gifts for friends and family as well as local produce. Please support the stall holders.

Look after yourselves and each other.

Marj Otty
Chair, Welwyn Parish Council

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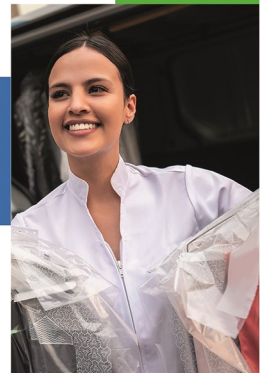
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WOOLMER GREEN PARISH COUNCIL



Village Hall as a Community Warm Space

The Parish Council welcomed the Rev'd Christie Gilfeather, the new curate at St Michael's Church, and a member of the church to its meeting in September. Christie asked if the Parish Council could provide a room at the Village Hall initially for one afternoon per week as a community warm space with volunteers from the church in attendance to run the space and make hot drinks. The Parish Council welcomed the proposal and this will be offered to residents as a trial starting soon when the weather turns colder. Christie also noted that there will be community warm spaces in Welwyn village which Woolmer Green residents would be welcome to visit on other days of the week. We will wait and see what demand there is for the space and volunteers may offer activities if that would be welcomed by those who attend. It may also be extended to more than one afternoon if there is a need. *(See page 30 in this magazine)*

Village finances and works

The Village Hall lettings income is not as high as planned so the Parish Council reviewed where spending could be reduced over the remainder of the year. However, vital maintenance works would continue and a wooden beam at the Hall will be replaced soon. You may also have noticed that the Parish Noticeboard has been looking very sorry for itself and has recently been removed from London Road. It is being refurbished by a local business and will be returned to London Road soon.

Carols round the Tree

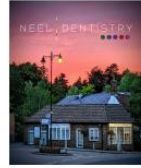
The Christmas Eve Carols round the Tree event will take place in the Village Hall grounds again this year but will be moved into the Hall if the weather is wet.

Continued on page 40

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WOOLMER GREEN PARISH COUNCIL (Continued)

Continued from page 38

Farmers Market – remaining dates for 2022 - 27th November and 11th December.

There are always lots of local food and craft stalls as well as hot drinks and bacon rolls. Woolmer Green Band will be playing Christmas music at the November market and there will be more festivities at the Christmas Market in December.

Sarah Hall
Woolmer Green Parish Council
sarah.hall@woolmergreenpc.org.uk

YOUR SCOUT GROUP NEEDS YOU

We are the victims of our own success.

Throughout Covid our beavers, cubs and scouts met throughout the two years, either via Zoom, or face to face.

Often those meetings were held outside, mostly at the 50-acre scout camp site in Oaklands, along Robbery Bottom Lane, or at Singlers Marsh.

Those meetings were made much harder due to the road and toilets being out of operation, so leaders bought treck carts, and pulled these to site with activity equipment, and walked the youngsters into the woods, so they got chance to get away from the claustrophobia of home and screen fixation.

This proved so successful that Scouts nationally have tens of thousands of youngsters wanting to join the movement and our waiting lists, meaning we cannot accept any new pre-beaver age children until 2023/4.

All sections are full, in fact cubs and scouts are each approaching 36 youngsters per section, when the normal compliment is 24.

BUT we need more assistant leaders, particularly ladies, as one third of our youngsters are girls, and we do not have a lady scout leader, which is not ideal.



Bear Grylls the Chief Scout



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YOUR SCOUT GROUP NEEDS YOU (Continued)

Continue from page 40

All sections need assistant leaders, to back up the experienced leaders that run the sections.

We are doing more and more adventurous activities and next year each section will have three camps, these often out of County.

This is a fantastic opportunity for us to teach them Skills for Life, the title of the programmes which offer up to 60 badges per section, and the Scouts version of the Duke of Edinburgh Awards, our Chief Scouts Challenge.

This can lead on to a scout becoming a King's Scout, and attending an award ceremony at Windsor Castle with Bear Grylls and a member of the Royal Family.



Bear Grylls taking a selfie



Bear Grylls and David Walliams

The programmes are fun, exciting and stretching..

They offer opportunities for all types of skill sets, and we welcome youngsters with various physical and mental challenges, to give them as fulfilling an experience as their peers.

SO can you offer a night a month, meetings run for an hour to two hours, or better still once per week in term time.

You will be introduced gently to helping with the programme, and I think that helping youngsters to grow their self-confidence, is the greatest gift that you can give them.

Andy Trotter

Chairman

1st Welwyn Scout Group

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REMEMBRANCE MEDITATION

Remembrance means so many things to so many people and probably means something different to everyone. Remembering our parents and members of our family and friends who have passed away. They all come to mind throughout the year, but I set a little time aside to remember them on their birthday, to recall the happy times we had.

Then of course there is All Souls, when we remember them in church.

But this meditation is for the November issue and there is of course a very special Remembrance in November, for those who have given their lives in the service of their country.

In the past I have covered what Remembrance means to their families, and what it means to their comrades. This year will be my last meditation on Remembrance, as I will cover the hardest one of all, what it means and has meant to me. For me it covers both family and comrades.

My paternal Grandfather was gassed twice and shot once in WW1 and still went back to the front. He returned alive but broken and died early, age 60 in 1941 so I never knew him.

Two of my uncles died because of WW2, one beaten to death by Japanese guards on the Burma Railway, while his brother was forced to watch. That brother committed suicide unable to live with having not been able to help his brother.

All of them were family whom I never met and little was said about them because the manner of their death was too painful to my parents' generation. This is a separation I have never been able to get over, I remember them out of love and respect for them as family but I never knew them.

As to my comrades, they were friends I flew with and we all placed our lives in each other's hands. My service was predominantly in peacetime, but I lost eight good friends, in air crashes or being shot down. Their loss has been very painful over the years. I tried remembering them quietly by myself, but found it was

Continued on page 48



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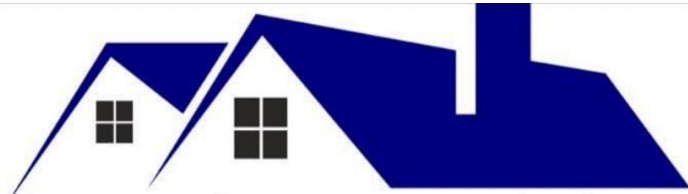
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ST MARY'S - Welwyn www.welwyn.org.uk

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.

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Saturdays 10.00 am to 11.00 am

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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

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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

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REMEMBRANCE MEDITATION (Continued)

Continued from page 44

just tears shed and couldn't make up for the fact I would never see them again. I included some of their names and stories in an Evening Remembrance service, and found myself choking up while leading the service. I visited the RAF memorial at the National Arboretum, I was not prepared for the impact of reading their names on the wall, I found myself reeling and had to go and find a seat before I passed out.

More recently I have joined the march past at the Cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday with a group of Maritime Aircrew. All of us have experiences and memories in common and all knew my friends. We feel our friends are marching with us. We go and have a beer afterwards and talk about the times we had with them and remember their life and the good times we had together, rather than their death. It has been a hard road to get there, but that is what Remembrance means to me.

John Burnapp

REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICES 13TH NOVEMBER

St Mary's Welwyn

10.50am at the War Memorial followed by service in Church.

St Michael's Woolmer Green

9.30am at the War Memorial outside church followed by family service in Church.

Ayot St Peter's

10.50am at the war memorial followed by service in Church.