

The Welwyn Magazine

with Woolmer Green



**December 2023 /
January 2024**

60p

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St Mary's and St Michael's
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COVER

'Father Christmas'

Tony Rook

MAGAZINE ARTICLES

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EDITORS' NOTES

Please submit articles by the 1st of the month preceding publication. 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

The Editors reserve the right to shorten or omit articles or refuse advertisements.

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The Rector's Letter

Dear Friends

This Christmas as we gather in our churches we shall proclaim the coming of the 'Prince of Peace' as prophesied by the prophet Isaiah. Writing in November just before Remembrance Sunday, and also even more immediately this year with wars raging in Ukraine and Israel / Palestine – not to mention the perhaps equally tragic but forgotten conflicts elsewhere in the world – this acclamation seems perhaps more urgent and pertinent than in other years.

Yet we might also ask whether this is just a pious hope; after all we are celebrating the birth of Jesus over 2000 years ago, and yet there seems to be little progress towards that peaceable rule. It is worth noting that Jesus himself was not unrealistic about the prospects for peace amongst a world riddled with conflict. After all, he was himself violently assaulted and crucified by the plotting of various factions, Roman and Jewish, who though in many ways opposed, crudely calculated that both of their worlds would be easier if they were to rid themselves of this troublesome rabbi. Moreover, and perhaps somewhat contradictorily, Jesus himself said that he 'came not to bring peace but a sword.' It should be said that Jesus nor his disciples used violence, in fact even in the extremis of his arrest Jesus tells Peter to put away his sword, and heals the person whom Peter has struck. Rather Jesus was

simply saying that though he and we might come in peace, realistically the world will respond with violence, indeed perhaps it is that very act of defiant pacificism which will provoke a violent response.



I and many other Christians, are not fully pacifists, indeed Christian theologians first developed the doctrine of 'just war.' However, I do think that in most cases violence is not the answer, it makes things worse, and just makes the inevitable and final negotiations for peace more difficult. Tragically, of course, often a violent answer to a violent action is exactly what is expected and indeed desired. The extremists of Hamas indeed want to provoke a show down with the Israeli military. They have never wanted peace, and moreover for many of them their own violent death is of no consequence. Sometimes even in the face of the worst provocation, peaceful and stubborn refusal to play the game can be the most effective resistance to evil.

Yours

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

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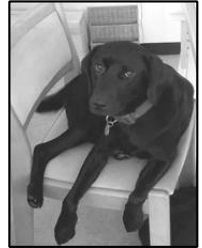


JESSIE THE RECTORY DOG

Well, off they went to Iceland for two whole weeks. It just so happens that reading up on the place it seems they have some of the strictest quarantine regulations, so I take it as a personal and hurtful decision to go on a trip to a country where I would be least welcome.

But no worries, I went off to see the grandparents in Lincolnshire. Here suddenly I become like most grand children, utterly charming. I don't even ask to sit on the sofa. Walks can happen as and when. Food is still an issue but if I sit around in the kitchen looking appealing, it appears more productive than the advanced and

intrusive begging techniques which being at home requires. Being retired they, of course, refuse to leave me, and have no work which requires this of them. My charm, for these occasional visits, means that actually they are easier to manipulate to my will, even though they think they are being strict. And as they hand me back, they can't help saying *'What a good dog she has been, absolutely no trouble at all.'* I can hear Master grinding his teeth.



Jessie

THANK YOU - Children in Gaza Crisis Appeal

UNICEF would like us to pass on their acknowledgement and gratitude to all those who recently contributed towards the above appeal, and the vital work UNICEF does for children. £335.89 was raised and this kind gift will help protect children affected by conflict and disaster in Gaza, by providing life-saving food and other essential supplies.

'Thanks to the commitment of all our dedicated supporters, UNICEF ensures more of the world's children are vaccinated, educated and protected than any other organisation. We have done more to influence laws and policies to help protect children than anyone else. In 190 countries and territories we are working to save children's lives, to defend their rights, and to help them fulfil their potential, from

early childhood through adolescence. We never give up. Children are at the heart of everything we do, and it's because of supporters like you that we can reach children all around the world with the life-saving, essential support that they need. Thank you for helping us to be there for the world's most vulnerable children.'

If you would like to learn more about what your support is achieving, please visit the website at unicef.org.uk or contact the friendly Supporter Care Team by email at supportercare@unicef.org.uk or phone **0300 330 5580**.

'Thank you, once again, for your incredible support and for helping us to give children around the world the opportunity to survive and thrive.'

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WOOLMER GREEN PARISH COUNCIL



The Welwyn Hatfield **Local Plan** was submitted for examination by a government appointed planning inspector in 2017 and has been the subject of many meetings, consultations and updates since then. The Parish Council, following feedback from the local community, has argued consistently that the two brownfield sites (the former Entech site now developed and occupied, and the car dealership) could deliver sufficient housing without resorting to building on the Green Belt. Concerns were raised with the additional Green Belt development regarding insufficient infrastructure, the road capacity and flooding risks.

Despite the many arguments raised, the planning inspector regarded the site as suitable and it was included in the **Local Plan** that was approved on 12th October 2023 by the Borough Council. For Woolmer Green this means that the Green Belt site and car dealership site are earmarked for another 184 homes. Plans for these sites will have to be submitted via the normal planning application process. The Parish

Council still opposes the development of the Green Belt for all the reasons above that have been argued over the past few years. The Chairman, Clerk and I met with Grant Shapps' constituency agent, Nat Chapman, at the end of October to discuss what support Grant and his team could provide to the Parish Council. The support offered by Grant and his team in this matter throughout the iterations of the plan has been appreciated and we continue to hope that the Green Belt site may be preserved.

Clothes Bin

I mentioned the clothes recycling bin last month and it is now installed in a corner of the car park (on the left as you head towards the orchard).

Please use it for recycling as the Parish Council will be paid 30p per kilo collected which will be used towards maintaining and improving village facilities.

Christmas events

The Woolmer Green **Christmas Market** takes place on Sunday 10th December in the Village Hall and will be full of lovely local crafts and food. Please come along and support local traders.

Woolmer Green **Carols round the tree** will take place on Christmas Eve at 5.00pm accompanied by the Woolmer Green Band. There will be a collection for a charity (still to be chosen) and some festive singing.

Sarah Hall

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





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The wonderful team at Sherborne Abbey have arranged a special Christmas carol concert especially for our visit here. You have a break of over three hours at Sherborne so there will be plenty of time to explore the town as well as to enjoy the unique atmosphere of the carol concert. All fares include a contribution to Sherborne Abbey for the concert.

On the return journey, enjoy a delicious traditional Christmas dinner with all the trimmings (and maybe a mince pie or two!).

First Class Dining includes The Great British Breakfast and a four course Christmas dinner. A buffet car is available. First Class Dining is not available from Slough or Reading. All timings are provisional and intended only as a guide.

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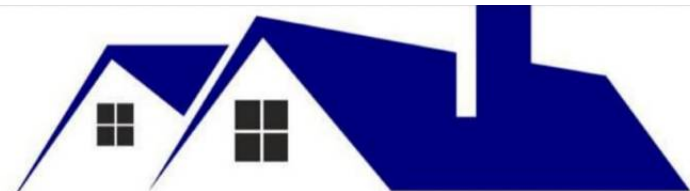


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THANK YOU - MacMillan Coffee Morning

*Held on Saturday 30TH September 2023
at St Mary's Church, Welwyn*

I have been completely overwhelmed (and not a little humbled) by the fantastic generosity and kindness shown whilst organising the above event so would like to offer a most sincere thank you to everyone who helped and supported this very special event which raised a grand total of £671.21 all of which will be allocated to Hertfordshire.

Apart from my many church and special friends, and family, who not only baked and donated cakes and some fantastic raffle prizes, a special mention must also go to the following establishments for their amazing raffle contributions:

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Vanstone Garden Centre

All remaining cakes after the event were taken to the local QVM Hospital where they were very eagerly received.

Having been a volunteer fundraiser for Macmillan for many years I have decided that this will be my last fundraising event as it is now time to hand over the baton to a much younger and more energetic individual.

To everyone who came to support and help this most worthy cause my very grateful and sincere thanks for your fantastic generosity and kindness which has allowed me to 'go out with a bang!

Joan Shelley

NEW ADDITIONAL BUS ROUTE

Arriva Bus has begun operating on weekdays and Saturdays a new additional 'hourly' bus route - the **908**. The starting points are the Bus Stations at Stevenage and Welwyn Garden City.

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REMEMBERING PETER LEE.....

Peter Lee died on 10th September 2023 and a Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving for Peter was held at St Mary's on 25th October. The Church was full, giving testament to the high regard and love in which Peter was held by his family and all his many friends.

Peter loved St Mary's and his connection with the Church goes back many years. Peter moved to Welwyn in 1950 with his parents, Jack and Marjorie, and his brother John. Jack and Marjorie were great supporters of St Mary's, Jack being a Churchwarden for some years. Peter and John went to St Mary's Primary School and spent much time in and around the Village, hanging over the stable door of Mr Dyer the village cobbler in Church Street on the way to and from school, making camps on Danesbury fields and trying to raft on the Mimram – idyllic and open days of youth as they were then. They were both in the choir and in 1952, saw from their home at The Chequers, the flames and smoke from the fire at St Mary's which so badly damaged the chancel.

After St Mary's school, the boys went to boarding school in Suffolk – a school with a strong emphasis on Christian values. Their connection to St Mary's and the village became restricted to school holidays. However, their parents volunteered them for jobs connected to St Mary's like cutting the Rector's lawn – these jobs were clearly unpaid chores but somewhat mitigated by the fact that the Rector of the day, Canon Bate, had four eye-catching daughters!!

Boarding schools in those days were spartan and character forming!! Peter flourished at school and moved on to become a King's Scholar at the King's



School, Ely. He flourished academically and in sport but also in terms of leadership. He was made head boy, chairman of a number of school societies and a cadet sergeant leading the Combined Cadet Force. Thus was nurtured so many of the leadership, organisational and inter-personal skills which we so associated with Peter in his later life.

Peter, following in the footsteps of his father, qualified as a chartered surveyor, auctioneer and estate agent. After gaining very practical experience with a number of companies, he joined WH Lee and developed and grew the commercial side of the business.

In the midst of a very busy and successful business life, Peter joined the Welwyn Round Table and the Welwyn Young Conservatives (seen as the marriage bureau of the day) and sure enough it worked. Peter was bowled over by Adrienne, firstly at a Burnham Green party and then appropriately at the Stevenage Bowling Centre!! It was love at first sight and Peter and Adrienne married in St Mary's in 1969, a very long, happy, loving and supporting relationship with sons Nick

continued p13



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REMEMBERING PETER LEE *continued from p11*

and Simon, and the grandchildren.

Peter spent 31 years variously in Rotary, Round Table, 41 Club and Probus, always leading, organising and building friendships and fellowship. He became President of Rotary in 1993 and was also Chairman of the Stevenage Chamber of Commerce. Then there was his volunteering in the charitable works of these organisations. Visits to old folks' homes where Peter entertained with his conjuring tricks and the Romanian Project, which over 10 years gave compassionate and practical support to the children in those homes we all saw pictures of.

On the fun side, Peter organised bike rides to France, days out to Lords, the Oval, Twickenham, Steele-Bodgers at Cambridge, steam railway journeys, The Christmas Show at Thursford, and we remember Peter and Adrienne's very generous hospitality at their garden parties.

Peter loved his breakfasts (full English of course). We together ran the very successful St Mary's Men's Breakfast for many years, and Peter was a member of the Dot Breakfast Club and the Redcoats Club. He loved his lunches too, the End of Month Club, and the Commuters' Club. Then there was the Danesbury Investment Club, the friendship and social side of which we all enjoy so much – makes up for the investment side!!

In retirement, Peter used his experience to help property-owning charities, including Herts Action for the Disabled and St John Ambulance and was made a member of the St John's Order – a signal honour. He was chairman of the Ayot Green Parish Council. All these organisations were very important to Peter and Peter was very important to

all of these organisations. In all that he did, Peter exuded friendship and I think that is why so many gathered at his Thanksgiving Service. He offered a very respectful, reliable and, it must be said, very generous friendship to all he knew.

At his Thanksgiving Service we gathered in the church, which Peter loved and to which he contributed so much:

- The beautiful **Processional Cross** which he gave in memory of his parents Jack and Majorie.
- The **Church Office** which Adrienne and Peter gave in memory of Simon.
- **Church House** which Peter and I worked together on with others and brought to fruition in 2007.
- Peter was Chairman of the **Fabric Committee** for 14 years, and the fine state of the St Mary's building is a tribute to his stewardship.

We gave thanks to God for the gift of Peter's life and thanks to Peter for living that life as he did – a full and very good life.

Peter of course lives on. He lives on in the hearts and minds of us all.

The choir sang the anthem *'The Lord Bless You and Keep You, the Lord make his face to shine upon you and give you his peace'*.

I am sure that is what we all wished for Peter but I am equally certain that this is what Peter wished for all his Family and all his friends present.

'The Lord Bless You and Keep You, the Lord make his face to shine upon you and give you his peace'.

Peter was that type of man. AMEN.

John Swift

with thanks to Peter's brother John and friends Lyn and Brian



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Welcome back beyond the farm gate. As autumn draws on and winter approaches, it is time for arable farmers like me to take stock of the year that has passed, what is growing now, and what needs doing over the colder months.

Since my last article, all of our winter crops have been planted, including wheat and oats. We used a mixture of soil preparation methods this year to try and combat issues with black grass, a particularly problematic weed in British agriculture. On those fields worst affected, we ploughed to give the soil a fresh start and to disturb the roots of those weeds. In doing so, we hope to reduce the amount of herbicide needed to control the weeds, by quite literally removing the source of the problem. We also ploughed those parcels containing straw stubble. This is the remnants of the stems of our previous crops and acts as a great organic matter to fertilise our soil.

In those parcels less affected by weeds, we used a machine called a Sumo. It has 3 elements: 1: plough-like tines, 2: rotating serrated disks and, at the very back, 3: heavy rolls. The tractor pulls this machine along the field. As it does so, 3 processes occur at once; the tines plough up the ground, the disks cut through the large slabs of earth which have been ploughed up, and finally the rolls press and crumble these clods of earth onto a finer texture. The Sumo is ideal for creating a fine tilth and a perfect seed bed for next year's crop.

Having drilled our winter seed, we had

a few days of agony as the heavens opened. As much as we felt pleased to have finished our drilling before the rain (as our machinery was likely to get stuck), there is also a high risk of seeds drowning or, if the rain is heavy enough, being washed away. Time will tell whether or not the rain had a severe impact on our seeds, or indeed the cold snap we experienced in early October. That is the way of farming; when working with nature there is always an element of risk, especially with the increased extremities of the climate today.

As we head into winter, there is always more to do than meets the eye. While you may not see us out on the fields in the tractor, we are always busy no matter the season. At this time of year, we spend a lot of time preparing for future months, repairing that machine that we have postponed since harvest, fixing fences, or managing the woodland. As I have previously mentioned, there is also a mountain of paperwork to tackle, qualifications to renew for health and safety, spraying or Red Tractor. It is also a chance to review business plans and prepare for the new year. It is easy to forget that farming is a business. We too make plans and budgets, undertake training, organise the accounts, the list goes on- much like any other business. Usually this is undertaken between tasks outside, and during harvest, when time allows (usually late at night!).

As we approach winter, we can take stock and look back on the past year and

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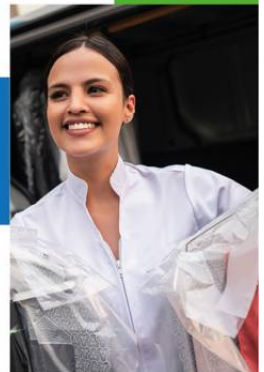
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BEYOND THE FARM GATE *continued from p15*

try to plan for the following. As you have probably guessed by now, this is not at all easy. Not only are we driven by nature, but we also find ourselves in an incredibly volatile market, affected by climate change, shifting governments, and global affairs. Making a business plan under these circumstances may appear impossible. However, as farmers we are used to being resilient and flexible. We know that very little is for certain, but one thing is for sure. We will continue to grow the best quality products, while protecting our environment and ensuring we maintain a sustainable business. That plan never changes.

Thank you for reading and supporting British Farmers by buying local, seasonal products and those carrying the Red Tractor logo. Wishing you the very best for 2024, when we will be back beyond the farm gate.



Farmer Hannah

Farm & Vineyard information: www.lockleyfarm.co.uk
My website *Agri Unwrapped* for more on
British farming: www.agriunwrapped.com

EMINENT PIANIST TO PERFORM - 9th December

The December concert in the 'Second Saturday Recitals' series at St Mary's Church will be given by Elizabeth Altman. She will play music by Scarlatti, Chopin and Rachmaninoff. The concert at 12 noon will last for one hour.

The 88 people who attended the October concert to hear the Cambridge Chamber Ensemble, experienced Elizabeth's playing when she stepped in at short notice to replace the young Ukrainian/Russian pianist Anastasia Matkovskaia.

Elizabeth Altman made her concert debut at the age of 6. She went on in her young teens to represent Leeds in a BBC TV Series;

and to perform Mozart and Beethoven concertos for BBC TV, as well as making the first broadcast performance of Thomas Pitfield's Piano Concerto.

Following success in the BBC Piano Competition, the forerunner of the BBC 'Young Musician of the Year', the Daily Telegraph singled out the 'rare distinction' of her playing, and the Arts Council promoted her South Bank debut to critical acclaim. She has since toured the UK in concerts and major festivals including Aldeburgh and Leeds.

Elizabeth is music director of the English Camerata Soloists' annual

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A CHRISTMAS/WINTER WORD SEARCH

R	A	B	D	E	S	L	E	T	Y	L	L	O	H	J	C	S	E	F	M
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A DECEMBER / JANUARY QUIZ

1. What is the date of the Winter Solstice 2023?
2. When is St Nicholas' Day?
3. Traditionally, who is said to have introduced Christmas trees to Britain?
4. What colour are reindeer's eyes in winter?
5. How many Magi came bearing gifts to baby Jesus?
6. What gifts did they bring?
7. In France, when is the Christmas feast eaten?
8. When is St Lucy's Day?
9. How is that day celebrated in Scandinavia?
10. Which saint's day is 31st December?
11. When is Christmas celebrated in the Orthodox Church?
12. Who gave Santa's reindeer their names?
13. When did Rudolf the red nosed reindeer first appear?
14. How many of Santa's reindeer were male?
15. When and where is Hogmanay celebrated?
16. What should a "First foot" look like and be carrying?
17. What are the origins/meanings of the words December and January, and why is December no longer an appropriate name for the 12th month?
18. When does the Christmas season start and end?
19. Traditionally, what was hidden inside a Christmas pudding?
20. Who wrote the words to the famous Christmas Carol, "In the bleak midwinter"?



R McNeill

Answers in February 2024

RUDOLF THE RED-NOSED REINDEER WAS A GIRL!

Photo by Nicolas Lafarque
on Unsplash



In real life reindeer might not be able to fly but they are still amazing creatures. Here are a few facts about them which might interest and amuse you.

You will all have seen pictures of Santa's sleigh being pulled by reindeer and many of you will know all their names, too. What you possibly don't know is that they all must have been females. Uniquely among the more than 45 species of deer, both males and females grow antlers BUT the males shed their antlers in Autumn or early Winter (after the rut), whereas the females keep theirs until Spring in order to defend their fawns and dig in the snow for food. Since Christmas falls towards the end of December, and the pictures show reindeer with antlers, it follows that they were all female – including Rudolf!

If you see reindeer in the snow, you will notice that snow doesn't melt on their coat, and if they lie down in the snow, it doesn't melt underneath them. This is because they

have an incredibly dense, soft undercoat and the top layer consists of long, hollow hair tubes. The two coats trap air and prevent heat escaping from the animals' bodies and the hollow tubes also give the reindeer their white colour.

Reindeer eyes change colour according to the season. In Summer their eyes are golden brown, but they change to blue in Winter to help them to see in the Arctic darkness. They are also able to see ultraviolet light – the only mammals that can.

Another way reindeer have evolved to avoid freezing in Winter is, they produce their own antifreeze! They have ethanol in their blood, which comes from the moss and lichen they eat. The amount of ethanol in their blood is 1.3 times greater in Winter than in Summer. As ethanol is a type of alcohol, you could say that reindeer are permanently tipsy once the weather turns cold. Reindeer are the only deer with this ability, but there is a type of horse, the Yakut horse, which can do the same thing.

Reindeer feet change shape in Winter. In order to be able to travel in snow and ice, reindeer footpads shrink and tighten in Winter exposing the edge of the hoof. This gives them better grip and protects the soft part of the foot. In Summer the foot pads spread and become spongy making it easier to travel across the soft tundra.

Reindeer are unique in many ways, but I am afraid they still can't fly (except at Christmas, of course!).

Rita McNeill



WELWYN NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

And so... we have come to the end of another year, a rather special one for the wide range of talks we have enjoyed on Wednesday evenings. I hope you didn't miss the one about growing and using different plants to provide the dyes for various materials; nor the one where Robin Cole told us about the river flies in the Mimram – such a good indicator of a healthy river; and those polar bears (!) not to mention the talk from Steve Brooks from the Natural History Museum in London about one of the top dragonfly sites in Herts being built over; we tried to stop it but failed.

On 13th December we have our light-hearted quiz and Christmas gathering (with the best of Christmas nibbles!) and then on 14th January it is our Annual General Meeting when members are also able to give a short talk about their favourite natural history subject. February

28th is the evening when we host the Herts Natural History Society in Welwyn with them providing a speaker... but it is not up on their events list yet so I cannot tell you who it is and what it will be about.

Finally, I need to thank the members of the Letchworth Natural History Society for sadly they have had to close their group but shared the remainder of their cash in the bank with three natural history societies of which we were one... very grateful.



*Wednesday 22nd November 2023
8.00pm Civic Centre, Welwyn*

Judith Watson

WELWYN CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTS



'Switch On' event

Friday 1st December 2023

St Mary's Church, Welwyn

*Our very talented primary school choirs will be singing
from 4.30pm with the lights being switched on at 5.15pm*

Light refreshments will be served so please join us.

CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS

Christmas just wouldn't be the same without traditional food and activities, but have you ever wondered where our festive customs come from?

Writing this still almost two months before Christmas Day, the first thing that we associate with Christmas is already in evidence....mince pies! Have you had one already? When did they become part of our tradition and were they always a sweet, spiced filling in shortcrust pastry? No, they were not. In 1413 King Henry V served a mincemeat pie at his coronation. As the name suggests, the filling would have been finely minced mutton, rabbit, pork or game with chopped up fruit and a preserving liquid and served as a main course.

Sticking with the food theme, are you looking forward to a turkey dinner? Turkeys seem to have begun to feature in Christmas dinners during the sixteenth century, increasing in popularity until now there are some nine million turkeys bought each year in the UK for Christmas. Do not be thinking that they originated in Turkey though. They came from the Americas and arrived in Europe after the Spanish conquest of the Aztec empire. Welwyn being a rural community, holly and mistletoe are not hard to see. Using holly as seasonal decoration for our homes has pagan origins. But it was subsequently adopted as a symbol of Christ's crown of thorns, the crimson berries a symbol of his blood and the evergreen a metaphor for life after death. Mistletoe on the other hand has rather

different, romantic connotations. Once again, hanging mistletoe was done by Druids to protect against evil spirits. It was in Norse mythology that kissing under the mistletoe originated. In the UK this seems to date back to the 1700s.

Some 150 years ago, Tom Smith invented the Christmas cracker with its explosive mechanism to simulate the crackling of a log fire, and inclusion of a motto. His son, Walter, added the hats and novelties.



A much more recent tradition, (not yet universally adopted!), is the Christmas jumper. Snowflake symbols were incorporated in the designs of Nordic jumpers some time ago, but more demonstrably Christmas scenes seem to have been popularised after the film *Bridget Jones' Diary* appeared in 2001. They now even have their own day: Thursday 7th December. Time to get yours out of storage!

John Mitchell and Valerie Richards



ST MARY'S CHURCH WELWYN

SANTA'S SINGING WORKSHOP

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Admission is completely free but places are limited
Email or text message Rob Milner at
milnerrobert1@me.com or 07540847599 to book
your place or ask any questions



CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Welwyn, Woolmer Green and Ayot St Peter

St Mary's Welwyn

Sunday 3rd Dec 6.30pm Advent Candlelit Carol Service
Sunday 10th Dec 3.30pm Christingle Service *
Sunday 17th Dec 6.30pm Candlelit Service - Lessons & Carols
Sunday 24th Dec 9.30am Parish Eucharist
Sunday 24th Dec 3.30pm Crib Service *
Sunday 24th Dec 11.00pm Midnight Mass
Monday 25th Dec Christmas Day
Monday 25th Dec 8.00am Said Eucharist
Monday 25th Dec 9.30am All Age Eucharist *
Sunday 28th Jan 6.30pm Candlemas Candlelit Carol Service
Each Wednesday in Advent Candlelit Compline at 9pm

St Michael's Woolmer Green

Sunday 10th Dec 4pm Christingle *
Sunday 17th Dec 4pm Candlelit Carol Service
Friday 22nd Dec 7.30pm Blue Christmas Reflective Service
Sunday 24th Dec 11.15am Parish Eucharist
Sunday 24th Dec 3.30pm Crib Service *
Monday 25th Dec Christmas Day 9.30am All Age Eucharist *

Ayot St Peter

Sunday 10th Dec 11.15am Carol Service
Sunday 24th Dec 11.15am Crib Service *
Monday 25th Dec Christmas Day 11.15am BCP Holy Communion *

*Children are welcome at all our services.
Those marked * are particularly suitable for children.
For other services please see church notices.
Collections will be for The Whitechapel Mission.*

WHAT INVENTION MADE IN YOUR LIFETIME.....

The question above was recently put to me by my daughter Alexis. She has been putting a different question to me each week and plans to put all my answers together for the grandchildren. Perhaps this question might have you wondering what your reply might be?

Here's what I wrote:

Inevitably the first thing that comes to mind is the mobile phone, or more specifically the smartphone which now does everything one previously needed to open a computer for. Before that we used books, a library, even one's brain. Thanks to the internet one can now check out all those things that one can no longer remember, or never knew in the first place. Yes, I have probably googled a few things for this, to find out what was invented in my lifetime or before that. But has the smartphone with its camera, access to the internet, my calendar, emails and more, really had the biggest impact on my life? That's worth a bit more thought and research...

In the home automatic washing machines, dishwashers etc have all made life far easier than it was for my grandmother, but they were mostly invented way before I was born. The first dishwasher was invented by a woman in the 1920s. Washing machines have become far more automated in my lifetime; as a child we had a round tub with a paddle that went round and back, swishing the clothes in soapy water. There was a mangle on top to wind the washing through to take out the water.

Our cat was fascinated by the swishing paddle and walked around the rim watching! I seem to recall she once fell in, but I might misremember this as it was a continuous worry that she might. So household appliances, many and useful as they are, are not really most impactful for me.

Cars, too, are far more sophisticated than when I learnt to drive. The first automatic gear car was back in 1940, so although I love the ease of automatic gear change, it was invented before my birth. Electric cars are more recent, but probably these will be short-lived soon only to be overtaken by hydrogen as a fuel. I loved riding my bike as a teenager, but it had no gears. When my friend got a new one with gears I tried it and thought it too complicated!

The NHS was hardly an invention, but I include it as it started in 1948 when I was two, and surely it has impacted everyone's life ever since, health care that is free. Dentistry that allowed me to have straight teeth: I wore the inevitable brace from age 10. Back then braces were not fixed so I had to put mine in at night and they could be gradually tightened. Fixed braces were not commonly available until the 1970s, but wire braces like mine were around way before I was born.

A medical invention of 1950 caused a transformation in the lives of my generation of young women. First prescribed in the UK in 1961 and known as The Pill, was an oral contraceptive to be taken daily, giving

continued p27

.....HAS HAD THE BIGGEST IMPACT ON YOU?

women the freedom to follow careers and have their families at a time to suit them.

At the turn of the millennium, a further medical invention was approved, that of freezing eggs which allowed women to delay the start of their family (to say 35 or even 40 years of age) knowing that their career is established enough at that point.

Another medical advance to help women is HRT (hormone replacement therapy) which controls the unpleasant side effects of menopause. This was widely popular when first introduced in the 1990s, but has since attracted controversy, with links to increased risks of breast cancer. Like all new advances in medicine there are risks as well as benefits. Recent research now claims benefits outweigh the risks.

In about 1971 I was chosen to be a “guinea pig” at Moorfields Eye Hospital where research was being conducted on newly invented soft contact lenses. Previously, perfected around 1948, only hard contact lenses were available, and they took quite some getting used to. The new soft lenses could be worn comfortably straight away. There was a bit of a fuff having to sterilise the soft lenses overnight but I happily went back and forth regularly to Moorfields for the researchers to study these lenses and their effect on my eyes. They discovered my eyes did not make enough tears and that the soft lenses became scratched. They had to be replaced fairly frequently, all for free. At the end of the research

I could have continued to wear them, except I would have had to pay for new lenses every few months at a cost of about £100, an astronomical sum in the early 1970s (equal to over £1,900 in today's money). I went back to wearing glasses!

In 2008 I had another go at wearing contact lenses, and by then daily contact lenses were available. However, I needed glasses for reading, so varifocals were much easier than having contact lenses and reading glasses as well. Varifocals were invented in 1959 so could possibly be a contender for the biggest invention to affect my life, but.....

There is yet another medical invention which has most affected my life today. This is a surgical procedure first done in 1968 and was seen as one of the most important orthopaedic surgical advances of the twentieth century - a total knee replacement. My left knee was replaced in 2018. In 2021 I received a right knee operation which was an Oxford partial knee replacement. These were a later innovation, and first implanted in a patient in 1976. It is an operation with a faster recovery time. The arthritic pain I would now be in if knee replacements had not been invented is unimaginable.

So my vote goes to ‘knee replacement’ for being the invention that has had the biggest impact on my life. What would yours be?

Vernonne Allan

WELWYN PARISH COUNCIL



I popped into Welwyn Parish Council Offices at the end of October and it was a hive of activity. The team of volunteers who put up the Christmas lights

in Welwyn village were busy making preparations, replacing bulbs, checking connections and PAT testing all of the electrical equipment. There was also a team of workers installing electric panel radiators which are being re-used from the Whitehill Centre following the installation of their new boiler and central heating system by the Parish Council, drop off's for *'Fixed by Dave'* were taking place and the staff were busily collating entries for the KS1 and KS2 childrens' Christmas card competitions while taking seasonal bookings for the Parishes numerous function rooms / halls.

For 10 months of the year the Christmas lights are unceremoniously stored in a couple of wheelie bins and locked up in the disused public toilets next to the Parish offices in Lockleys drive, then at the end of October under the supervision of Cllr Bill Morris the Welwyn Village Christmas light operation springs into action. Once the checks have been completed the installation volunteers take to the streets armed with high visibility waistcoats and ladders to string the lights along the building facades. It is not just the volunteers that

we need to thank for this, there are also the businesses and private individuals that agree to plug the lights in to their properties – with arrangements often as simple as opening a sash window plugging the lights into a wall socket and sealing any draft off with a towel as a draft excluder under the closed sash!

Fingers crossed that the weather holds for the annual event of turning on the Welwyn Christmas lights. This occurs at 5.15pm or thereabouts on Friday 1st December and is assisted by the overall winner of the annual Christmas Card competition arranged by Welwyn Parish Council. Entries closed for this on 15th November to allow time for judging the entries from children in the Parish (Digswell, Oaklands, Mardley Heath and Welwyn) in Reception/KS1 (aged 4-7) and KS2 (aged 8-11). It is always such a difficult decision for the judges with so many fabulous entries, prizes are awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd in each Category. Prize giving takes place at 4.30pm at St Marys Church just before singing starts in the Church. Do come along if you are able to.

As mentioned above, Welwyn Parish Council in Lockleys Drive, Welwyn, AL6 9NT is a drop off location for *'Fixed by Dave'*. This, for those of you who have not heard of it yet, is a repair service for small electrical appliances. Rather than throwing away that faulty food mixer or garden pressure washer you can get it repaired for a small fee by *'Fixed by Dave'*, a local company. Simply book a repair online,

continued p29

WELWYN PARISH COUNCIL *continued from p28*

choosing your collection point as *Welwyn Parish Council* in the dropdown box, deliver it to the office and it will be picked up on a Tuesday and it will soon be back to you in working order. <https://www.fixedbydave.co.uk/book-in-your-repair>. Becoming a drop off location is one of the Parish Council's Climate Emergency Action Group's initiatives to encourage repair and re-use where possible.

Repair and re-use has been the modus operandi for maintenance in our busy Welwyn Parish offices at Lockleys Drive for many years. This wooden building was erected 50 years ago. Now some 20 years later its design life is no longer fit for purpose by modern standards and is in need of replacing. We will be bringing

forward plans within the next 12 months to replace this building and re-purpose the site of the former public toilets, hopefully this time with a more sympathetic design to complement our conservation area, with a new building to serve the Parish for another 50 years or more, with modern staff offices and vastly improved hire facilities for parishioners. We look forward to sharing the details in the next few months.

Finally on behalf of all councillors and staff at Welwyn Parish Council I would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Alex Bardett

01438 716667

office@welwynpc.org.uk

<https://welwyn-pc.gov.uk/>

HERTS AT WAR FREE TALKS

21st December 2023 The Welwyn Civic Centre

This month's talk is WW1 related and is by **DOUG KIRBY**

A LONDON SOLDIER OF THE GREAT WAR

Doug will tell the story of his great uncle, a Londoner, who joined a London battalion and arrived in France in June 1916 just before 'the big push'. He and his battalion were involved in the diversionary attack at Gommecourt. The presentation includes photos from the period and a letter written during the war which is crucial to the story. The presentation lasts about 1 hour 20

minutes and he will be happy to take questions afterwards.

As always, our talks are at 7:30pm, on the 3rd Thursday each month in the Welwyn Civic Centre. Our talks are FREE, but if you enjoy them, cash donations are encouraged. We rely totally on them to cover our costs, venue, speakers etc.! Whenever possible a complimentary drink will also be provided.

Jonty Wild

Herts At War Project:

Project Manager & Roll of

Honour Research Coordinator

jontywild@hertsatwar.co.uk

www.hertsatwar.co.uk

THE WHITECHAPEL MISSION

St Mary's Church charity this Christmas

This year the collections at St Mary's Christmas services will support **The Whitechapel Mission**, who have been helping rough sleeping Londoners since 1876. They tell us:

Every day of the year, we welcome the weary faces of men and women facing despair. Many have tried surviving on the streets. Others are encountering homelessness for the first time after losing jobs or facing personal crises. Hundreds of people literally feel that they have nowhere else to turn for help. But through your gifts, we are here for them in a time of need. *And we do all this without public funding.*

We are volunteer-led with very few staff, but this does not mean we are a small organization.

- We can see as many as 350 people a day, looking for our assistance
- We remain open every day
- We can do this for a fraction of the cost of other day centres
- We recognize the value of everybody coming through our doors.

First, we help people by meeting immediate needs: food, shelter, clothing, and medical care. In our recovery programmes, we address deeper needs for life-skills and job-skills training, and addiction recovery. We measure our progress against four criteria, which indicate to us that a life has been transformed from homelessness to hope:
** connection to family*

- * commitment to sobriety*
- * a job and a place to live*
- * a plan for the future*

We have a day centre and offer:

- * breakfast*
- * showers*
- * clothing*
- * an advice centre*
- * a computer suite*

Our Purpose

The Whitechapel Mission is called to serve the men and women caught in the cycles of poverty, hopelessness and dependencies of many kinds, and to see their lives transformed to hope, joy and lasting productivity.

Our Goal

To be the most effective provider of compassionate care and life transformation for needy people living in London.

We promote the concept of being part of the Mission and taking ownership of the Mission. Any and all who come are welcome. The services we offer are built upon trust and belonging. We are an inclusion centre rather than an exclusion centre.

*Please do give generously to **The Whitechapel Mission** at one of our services this Christmas.*

There will also be a justgiving page at welwyn.org.uk over the Christmas period.

Parkinson's UK

Welwyn Hatfield Hertford Branch

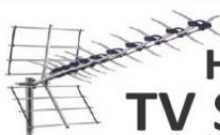
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- Upgrades of hardware and software carried out.

CHRISTMASSY CRIMES



Some crimes are more prevalent over the festive season. Parcel scams surge because people are pleased, rather than puzzled, to receive

news of a surprise package. Ignore messages supposedly from delivery companies unless they include information that makes it certain they are genuine. Never pay an extra fee. The text may say £1.99 but once you give scammers your payment details, they will take a lot more.

Make sure the Christmas presents in your home cannot be seen through any window. After Christmas, do not leave the boxes for expensive gifts outside by the bins, this advertises that the item is in your house and the packaging would allow a thief to pass it off as new.

Burglars know that many people go away for Christmas, so do everything possible to make your house look 'lived in' while empty. As well as leaving lights on indoors, festive outside lights set on a timer switch are a good addition. They require a plug

socket that can be accessed without leaving a window or door open.

When you are at a busy public event, such as a Christmas market, remember there may be pickpockets in the crowd. Keep your handbag closed, and your wallet and phone in a secure pocket. Take care when paying, and watch out for sudden distractions that could be a deliberate ploy to rob you.

If you are shopping or delivering presents, keep any tempting items in the boot of your car and make sure nobody sees you put them there.

Do not let pressure to buy the ultimate gift stop you from taking the usual sensible precautions when shopping online. Take great care if there is a 'hard to get' item this Christmas as this is a perfect opportunity for scammers. Never buy in haste.

As this edition of the Magazine covers January as well as December, we would like to propose a New Year's resolution – join OWL (if you are not already a member). In fact, don't wait for the New Year – do it now! The website address is below.

We wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

John Mitchell and Valerie Richards

www.owl.co.uk/herts

EMINENT PIANIST *continued from p17*

chamber music course, which attracts international amateur musicians of serious ability to its courses at the Purcell School. She enjoys a reputation of being a teacher of piano and of chamber music to a very high standard and has been honoured by the Royal Academy of Music, as a former student, for her lengthy and distinguished contribution to the music profession. The

concert is free to attend and everyone is welcome.

There will be a retiring collection for artists' fees and church funds.

Stephen Foster



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STORIES FROM THE BAPTISM BOOK AT AYOT ST PETER



In 1896, the Ayot St Peter rector, Henry Jephson, completed the title page of a smart new baptismal register. He would perhaps

be surprised to learn that the same book is still in use in our church today! A glance through the pages gives a snapshot of some of the social changes over the years. The very first entry on 30th August 1896 was for Irene Thomas, whose father was a surgeon. The family lived in Welwyn and by the 1920s occupied Bridge House. This baptism was followed by many for children whose fathers were agricultural labourers. There were numerous rural occupations that barely exist today, such as *'cowman'*, *'shepherd'* or *'ploughman'*. Other entries tell of the time when more people were employed as domestic servants, including *'coachman'*, *'gardener'* and *'groom'*.

Some occupations remain familiar – *'farmer'*, *'carpenter'*, *'plumber'*, *'game keeper'* or *'publican'*, whilst others, such as *'blacksmith'*, are perhaps less common but remain skilled crafts today. Other jobs are representative of the time when our village had a railway station – *'plate-layer'*, *'railwayman'* and *'loco driver'*. Violet Etteridge of Whitehill, baptised in 1903, had a father who was a *'gas maker'* which

sounds most unusual, and possibly rather dangerous!

On 28th July 1918, baby Stanley Peglar was baptised. His father Ralph was a *'soldier on active service'*. Happily, Ralph survived the war and afterwards worked as a domestic gardener in Northaw. In the Second World War, the fathers' occupations included *'gunner'*, *'soldier'*, *'RAF'* and even *'Lt Colonel, Royal Engineers'*. Several residents worked at nearby de Havilland in Hatfield and had roles such as *'aircraft fitter'* and *'aeronautical engineer'*.

Nowadays, the occupations of mothers are also included. Looking at the recent entries, there are some jobs that would have been familiar in Victorian times, such as *'lawyer'*, *'banker'* and *'teacher'*; but I wonder what they would have made of *'PR consultant'*?!

Back to the present day, our festive season begins with the Carol Service on Sunday 10th December and continues with the traditional Crib Service on 24th December. On Christmas Day our service will be Holy Communion. Why not walk to the church to work up an appetite for lunch?

All services will be led by The Rev'd Canon Dr David Munchin and begin at 11.15am.

We wish all our readers a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Valerie Richards

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MARDLEY HEATH WI

October Meeting 2023

Bill Hamilton gave us a very interesting and amusing talk about his travels during his career as a BBC journalist. He had visited many countries throughout the world and told us stories such as the train which was lost under 20ft of snow for 24 hours. It was eventually found with the help of a helicopter and all of the passengers rescued. In the same snow-drift, in one car a man survived as he was a salesperson for Pretty Polly! He used his samples to cover himself with hosiery and when the rescuers found him he looked like a "MUMMY!"



Communication for reporters was very challenging in those days with no mobile phones, and it was often necessary to find a phone box, sometimes

in freezing conditions if the report was going to be in time for the 6 o'clock news. Throughout his talk, he showed slides including ones of various dignitaries including royalty he had met during the course of his work. He met the Pope in 1982 during his visit to the U.K. which nearly didn't happen due to the political situation between the U.K. and Argentina.

There were several funny slides showing things he had seen throughout the world. One of which particularly amused me, it said "KEEP RIGHT" and underneath a large arrow was pointing to the left! One of his favourite places to visit was the Isle of Skye which was so peaceful - the slides showed the beautiful scenery and wonderful sunsets. Bill spent 3 days there and was fascinated by the one shop on the island which sold everything and the shopkeeper who knew everything!

Apart from having an interesting speaker it was also our Produce Show. There were some very attractive items of



craft, photography, baking and gardening produced by our members. I always think there is a lot of talent in the WI and this certainly confirmed it.

A most enjoyable evening and the contributors of the Produce Show went home happy with their awards! Mardley Heath WI are looking for new members and meet on the third Thursday evening of each month. If you would like to join us at our next meeting, email us at mardleyheathwi@gmail.com

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FRIENDS OF DANESBURY AND QVM

Now that the festive season is nearly upon us it seems more important than ever that the **Friends of Danesbury and the QVM** do everything they can to provide some extra treats and light relief to the patients at Danesbury and the QVM. In the run up to Christmas both hospitals will have parties funded by the Friends and an entertainer has already been booked for the afternoon of 14th December at Danesbury.

As we come to the end of the year you may be interested in some figures which give you an idea of the present scale of the operation to raise money centred on our charity shop in Welwyn High Street. In 2022, the profit from the shop and online sales was more than £45,000. We are so grateful to our wonderful staff and volunteers and to those who generously give us their pre-loved items to be sold. Without you the charity would be nothing. This profit was all spent on helping patients and making their lives more comfortable. Things like free newspapers and magazines for everyone, and monthly fish and chip suppers are very popular. The Friends also contributed to the upkeep of the patient transport vehicle and paid for the gardener who looks after the beautiful hillside gardens as well as buying new outdoor furniture for the patients to use. There were parties to celebrate Christmas, and of course extra specialist medical items needed

but not funded by the NHS. This is particularly important in physiotherapy where specialist equipment is much in demand to help everyone to be as well as possible.

Recently we have been providing new televisions and sockets, including for use with mobile phones, and new individual directional lights above the beds in the QVM hospital so patients can see without disturbing others.

Please do come to our shop in the run up to Christmas. As well as beautiful clothes, including for special occasions, we have lots of jewellery and other small gifts and cards especially made for us. We would love to see you.

Everyone at the Friends extends a really big thank you for all your support through the year and wishes you all a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

Jennifer Fowler

*Friends of Danesbury and
Queen Victoria Memorial Hospital
Email: info@danburyqvm.co.uk*



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ISABEL HOSPICE PRE-LOVED FASHION BOUTIQUE

Now Open

Isabel Hospice opened their sixteenth shop, 'Always Loved by Isabel Hospice' at the end of last year. The pre-loved womenswear shop, based in Welwyn Village is a step away from the traditional charity shop.

Focusing on affordable, sustainable fashion in a boutique environment, it heavily aligns with Isabel Hospice's sustainability strategy, the *Tonnes of Care* initiative, launched in 2022 and conceived with a mission to turn pre-loved items into nursing hours.

Isabel Hospice's Head of Retail & Marketing, Charlotte Greenwood, commented on the opening 'There has been a noticeable

shift towards shopping second hand, reflecting a change in consumer mindset towards sustainable fashion. It is wonderful to see shoppers becoming more conscious of the environmental impact of fast fashion. Whilst not forgetting, every purchase made in an Isabel Hospice shop raises vital funds for the palliative care the hospice provides to those in the local community. Please do make sure to pop in and say hello. We are

confident you will find some unique, and quality pieces to add to your wardrobe'.

In order to keep our shops fully stocked, Isabel Hospice need the community's support with donations. These can be dropped off directly at the new shop, 21-25 High Street, Welwyn, AL6 9EE, during opening hours Monday to Saturday, 9am-5pm.

As a charity, Isabel Hospice also relies heavily on volunteers to support the running of their shops. Even giving two hours on an ad-hoc basis, or a morning or

afternoon of your time each week really helps the charity. If you have an interest in retail, fashion, and sustainable shopping, get in touch today.

Due to extending

opening hours into evenings and weekends, there are currently numerous opportunities also available to volunteer within the Isabel Hospice eBay team, based in Hall Grove, Welwyn Garden City. Any interest in photography, books, art, media (including vinyl records), antiques and collectables and online selling would make a great eBay volunteer. Email: volunteer.office@isabelhospice.org.uk or call **01707 382500**, option 4.





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Saturday
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from 11.00 am

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listen and join in.

MAGAZINE CORRECTIONS from November 2023

Unfortunately **Francesca Weal** (who did a very interesting talk on St. Michael's Heritage Day) was wrongly called Francesca Weir in the November issue. We apologise.

Unfortunately the proposed new shop **Imogen's Canine Theracare**, which was highlighted in last month's magazine, will not now be opening in February because through no fault of her own the negotiations for the lease have fallen through. Imogen is currently looking for new premises, so watch this space!

WAFTA WINE TASTING - CANCELLED

Letter sent to WAFTA Members

Dear Members

I very much regret having to tell you that we have decided that we must cancel the WAFTA Wine Tasting scheduled for 4 November due to the prolonged closure of our partner in the event, XO Wine Merchants, over the past three weeks. We are unable to conduct any dialogue with them regarding the arrangements for the event and, with less than two weeks to go, that puts us in a situation which is unworkable and leaves us with no alternative but to cancel it. All £17.50 ticket payments will of course be refunded.

Graham Howat - Vice-Chair, WAFTA

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St Mary's Welwyn



Baptisms

17th September	Albert Louis Doel
15th October	Jordan Rose Piercey
15th October	Mabel Rose Gladys Mead

Weddings

2nd September	Sophie Archer & Tyrone Brede
15th September	Kate Surplice & Jordan Hardwidge
23rd September	Emily Thomas & Thomas Axon
23rd September	Orla Keaney & Michael Lamb
5th October	Courtney Upton & Jordan Saba

Blessing of 10th Wedding Anniversary

15th September	Amy & Terry McCormack
----------------	-----------------------

Funerals

6th October	Elizabeth Stanley
16th October	Anthony Gerald Rook
25th October	Peter Charles Stuart Lee (<i>Thanksgiving</i>)

St Michael's Woolmer Green

Baptism

15th October	Matteo Pons-Williams
--------------	----------------------

Ayot St Peter

Baptism

22nd October	Sophie Anna Rule
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Church Notice Board

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

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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

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+)
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Wednesday	7.30 pm	Bible Study (except 3rd Wednesday)

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MEDITATION

The Shepherd

Let me tell you about the night that my life changed for ever. A very ordinary night. It was cold. Clear sky and biting wind. The sheep and goats huddled safely behind the dry-stone wall. I pulled my cloak more closely around me and huddled nearer to the fire. Chilly nights always seem longer. We shared our bread and cheese, keeping half an eye and ear open for any threat to the flock. After the simple meal I settled down to sleep for a while. It would, soon enough, be my turn to stand guard until dawn.

I started at the brightness of the light, jumping to my feet ready to flee.....

'Do not be afraid.....'

Flooded with a sudden overwhelming calm, I turned.....

'I bring you good news of great joy. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born....'

'You will find the child wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger...'

Then the whole sky ablaze, and a multitude of voices combined in divine harmony. Their music swelling to fill the heavens and my own heart bursting with inexplicable joy within my chest.

Silence.

The whirlwind of thoughts suddenly stilling in echo.....
.....and a still small voice of certainty.

We must go! We must see! And we did!

Jo Fozzard

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Fellowship	Marcia Khan	01438 716625
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Woolmer Green St Michael's Primary School	London Road, Woolmer Green SG3 6JP	01438 813267
<i>Head teacher - Mrs Jan Martin</i>		
Oaklands JMI School	Great North Road, Oaklands, Welwyn AL6 0PX	01438 715278
<i>Head teacher - Mr Tom Hassan</i>		
Tenterfield Nursery School and Children's Centre	London Road, Welwyn AL6 9JF	01438 714564
<i>Head teacher - Mrs Vicky Beare</i>		

WELWYN MAGAZINE e:mail: magazine@welwyn.org.uk

All articles and information for the magazine to be e:mailed to the magazine address above or placed in the 'Magazine' pigeon hole in St Mary's Church. Publishers are the Churchwardens.

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Treasurer	Tony Keach	01438 716657

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - December 2023 / January 2023

1st Dec	4.30pm / 5.15pm	Christmas Tree Lights Switch on Event	4.30 pm Primary School Choirs 5.15pm Lights Switch on	St Mary's Church Welwyn
5th & 19th D 16th & 30th J	11.00am / 2.00pm	Dementia Friendly Community Cafe	Dementia Friendly Community Café <i>Contact: Jane Andrews 01707 240 650 jane.andrews@homeinstead.co.uk</i>	Digswell Hall 30 Harner Green Lane, Welwyn
6th Dec & 3rd Jan	8.00pm	Garden Club Welwyn	AGM and Christmas Social Evening <i>tonycoxall25@gmail.com</i> Coffee Morning	Civic Centre, Main Hall Welwyn
7th Dec	2.00pm	Welwyn Floral Group	Christmas Wreath workshop <i>joycefurssedonn7@virginmedia.com</i>	Civic Centre Welwyn
9th Dec	12 noon	St Mary's Church Welwyn	Second Saturday Recital <i>See pages 17 & 32 for details</i>	St Mary's Church Welwyn
10th Dec	9.00am	Village Market Woolmer Green	Food and Craft Village Market <i>https://www.facebook.com/farmersmarketwoolmergreen</i>	Village Hall Woolmer Green
12th Dec & 9th Jan	2.30pm	Fellowship St Mary's Welwyn	Christmas Surprise! <i>marcia.khan.emk@gmail.com</i> Lunch at 1.15 pm	St Mary's Church House Welwyn
13th Dec & 24th Jan	8.00 pm	Welwyn Natural History Society	Light-hearted Quiz and Christmas gathering!! <i>watson.winfield @btopenworld.com</i> AGM	Civic Centre Welwyn
14th Dec & 18th Jan	10.00am	Danesbury Fernery and Nature Reserve Work Group	Fernery: gardening and maintenance Nature Reserve: clearing and habitat Mgmt <i>chairman@danburyfermery.org.uk</i>	Nature Reserve, Fernery Field (top North Ride) Welwyn
14th Dec	7.30pm	W.I Mardley Heath	Christmas Party and Social Event <i>Alison Barrett - Secretary mardleyheathwi@gmail.com</i>	Oaklands Primary School Welwyn
14th Dec & 18th Jan	7.30pm	W.I Digswell	Christmas Supper <i>kate.stabler@talktalk.net</i> Walking the Thames Path - Barbara Foster	Village Hall Digswell
16th Dec	7.30pm	WAFTA	Christmas Lunch <i>lindacurriel28@yahoo.co.uk</i>	Civic Centre Welwyn
17th Dec	10.00am / 1.30pm	Welwyn Craft and Farmers Market	Craft and Farmers Market <i>clerk@welwynpc.org.uk - 01438 716667</i>	Civic Centre Welwyn
17th Dec & 21st Jan	11.00am	Rubbish Action Group Welwyn	Rubbish Action Group Collection <i>Contact: Sarah Butcher 07885 875977 welwynrubbishactiongroup@gmail.com</i>	Car Park opposite Welwyn Drs Surgery
21st Dec	7.30pm	Herts at War Free Talks	A London Soldier of the Great War - Doug Kirby <i>See page 29 inside. jontywild@hertsatwar.co.uk</i>	Civic Centre Welwyn
Tuesdays	10.00am / 12 noon	Community Café	<i>Contact: Liz Hesketh 07825 093855</i>	St Mary's Church House Welwyn
2nd Weds of month	2.30pm/ 3.45pm	Afternoon Book Club	<i>Contact: Joan Spruce 01438 840821</i>	St Mary's Church House Welwyn
Thursdays	2.00pm/ 3.00pm	Arpeggio Bell Ringers	<i>Contact: Paulline Anderson 01438 716783</i>	St Mary's Church House Welwyn
Thursdays	7.00pm / 10.00pm	Welwyn Bridge Club	<i>Contact: Cheri Pemberton 01438 360522</i>	St Mary's Church House Welwyn
Saturdays	10.00am / 11.30am	Café	<i>Contact: Maggie Varco 01438 715450</i>	St Mary's Church House Welwyn