

# The Welwyn Magazine



**HRH The Duke of Edinburgh**  
**10 June 1921 - 9 April 2021**

**May 2021**

*[www.welwyn.org.uk](http://www.welwyn.org.uk)*

**60p**

# CONTENTS

**May 2021**

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St Mary's Churchwardens

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*Flag on St Mary's Church at half mast.*

*Photo Nikki Lewis*

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The Rector's letter .....	3/5
HRH The Duke of Edinburgh .....	.5
Neighbourhood Watch.....	7
March PCC Meeting.....	9/11
Woolmer Green Parish Council .....	13/15
Christian Aid Week.....	17
Patient Participation Group.....	19
In Conversation - Sarah Butcher.....	21/23
Highways and Byways of Welwyn.....	24/25/26
Jessie the Rectory Dog.....	26
A Churchwardens responsibilities.....	27
News from Ayot St Peter.....	28/30
Welwyn Natural History Society .....	30/32
Climate Change.....	34
Welwyn Parish Council .....	36/38
Parish Registers .....	38
Friends of Danesbury and QVM.....	40/42
Welwyn Rubbish Action Group.....	42
Church Notice Boards .....	44/46
Meditation.....	48

**Editor Note**

We normally publish reports on activities and meetings occurring in the village but these activities have inevitably been cancelled due to Covid-19. Hence, therefore, there is little to report!

We would welcome any articles on local matters from our readers. Please send details by email to:

[magazine@welwyn.org.uk](mailto:magazine@welwyn.org.uk) or contact St Mary's church office on **01438 840964**

**EDITOR'S NOTES**

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

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

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# The Rector's Letter

## Dear Friends

The Greek philosopher Heraclitus famously said you can't step into the same river twice. He was wrong. And if you don't believe me, I've got Wittgenstein on my side.

What of course Heraclitus meant was that because every second the water changes and passes down stream, so each time you step into the river it will be different – but that is different from saying it is another river. It's the same river but different.

To take another example I have a friend called Andrew I've known since I was eleven. He was born on the same day as me, and we are now quite a bit older. Very few, if any, of the atoms, molecules or cells in my body will be the same as those when I was aged eleven. Similarly for Andrew. But he's still Andrew and I am still David, as we have been for all of those years.

At Easter Jesus rose from the dead. It's quite clear from the appearances that in some ways he had changed – he shows us what resurrection will be like, and has a body now equipped and ready for eternity. But it is still recognisably Jesus. The person the disciples knew both before and after the resurrection was Jesus. Notably although his body is now 'heaven ready' the gospels are

quite clear, he still bears the wounds of his death – doubting Thomas is invited to touch them to convince himself that it is Jesus. One of my favourite Advent hymns talks about Jesus

returning in glory, and asking how we will recognise him, it reads: 'With what rapture, gaze we on those glorious scars.' His wounds are now transformed, glorious not gory, but they are his most distinguishing feature.

All being well, this month will, we pray, mark, at least in this country, an emergence from the restrictions imposed by COVID19. I think the Easter story gives us some idea of how we might emerge, and how we might emerge well. Firstly if we could have avoided it by some magic time machine, we would have done – similarly Jesus makes no bones in the Garden of Gethsemane about wanting to avoid suffering and death. Because suffering and death are awful lamentable things. We face the reality of our losses and griefs. We have passed through a pretty terrible time. And frankly we don't need a lot of false positivity ('Well thousands have died, but on the upside lots of people have mastered zoom ...'). The scars and wounds are real. And when we go get back to life it will never quite be life as it was.



Continued on page 5

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## RECTOR'S LETTER (Continued)

Rector's letter continued from page 3

The generations after the two world wars were changed by them, just as we will be changed post COVID19. But a more real positivity says that despite the reality of the scars which we carry into our new life, those scars, whilst enduring, can become glorious. They can be healed, and just as Jesus passes into a fuller life, so we too can hope to pass to a world which has the capacity to surpass our previous experience of love and joy. Whether of course it does or not is rather down to us.



HRH The Duke of Edinburgh  
10 June 1921 – 9 April 2021

Sad news on 9<sup>th</sup> April of the death of Prince Philip two months before his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. We give grateful thanks for the years of devoted service he gave to our nation and remember in our prayers Her Majesty the Queen and all her family who will be mourning his loss. The Union Flag was raised at half-mast on St Mary's tower where it remained until after his funeral. The church bells were also rung in his honour and memory. Covid restrictions unfortunately prevent a physical Book of Condolence being placed in the church. Instead if you would like to send your thoughts and reflections to [hello@welwyn.org.uk](mailto:hello@welwyn.org.uk) they will be collated and published in due course.





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## Neighbourhood Watch – Dog theft

There has been much publicity during the pandemic about “lockdown puppies”, with more families wanting canine companions than ever before. Criminals have met some of this demand, by selling illegally farmed puppies, including those smuggled into the UK from overseas, and also by stealing family pets.

In some parts of the country dog thefts more than doubled in 2020. Hertfordshire is not one of the worst affected counties, but sadly these crimes still take place. OWL members will remember an attempted theft in Welwyn in February. More recently a dog stolen from Welwyn was very lucky to be recovered – it was found in Surrey.

Experts report that thieves are increasingly targeting breeders, taking the mother dog and puppies. Puppies have been selling for thousands of pounds during the pandemic, and some litters could be worth over £30,000.

Younger dogs are popular targets for thieves, including illegal puppy farmers, so it makes sense to get them neutered or spayed, and have this fact engraved on their collar tag. Sadly, dogs that are stolen for farming will never see a vet, so their microchip will not help them.

As well as cute puppies and dogs that could be used for breeding, working dogs such as gun dogs are also attractive to thieves. Their training is expensive and takes time, making these dogs a valuable commodity.

Dogs are sometimes stolen whilst out on walks, from outside shops, or from parked cars. There have even been reports of fake RSPCA inspectors taking dogs by force. However, most dogs are stolen from home. The Dogs Trust advises owners to make sure their garden is highly secure, and to never let the dog out of their sight. There is more detailed advice on their website, including a list of the steps to take if your pet is stolen. You should always report the theft to the police.

If you want a dog, the rescue centres are filling up with unwanted lockdown puppies. Take extreme care if buying a puppy from someone you don't know. The Dogs Trust website will help you avoid farmed or stolen dogs.



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## **St Mary's, Welwyn and St Michael's, Woolmer Green PCC Meeting 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2021**

Following my report of the last PCC meeting that appeared on the church's website and in The Welwyn Magazine I received a number of expressions of appreciation which was nice.

Unsurprisingly Monday's meeting was once again via Zoom only and was ably chaired by the Rev'd Dr David Munchin.

The main purpose of this particular meeting of the PCC was to receive the Treasurer's Annual Report & Financial Statement together with the other primary reports (legally required) as well as the secondary reports of group activities for the year 2020, to approve those reports and commend them to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

The minutes of the January meeting were unanimously approved and signed by David as an accurate record. (We must be doing something right!).

Under matters arising The Rector advised that the full cost of upgrading the live-streaming equipment had been raised by donations and the installation has been arranged for May 29<sup>th</sup>. It has also been agreed with Sheila Edmondson's family that the bench they have kindly offered in her memory should be placed under the east window of St Mary's facing Sheila's house.

The Treasurer, Maggie Varco, presented a full set of accounts covering the year to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020 (with a supplement covering January and February 2021). This was unanimously approved by the meeting and commended to the APCM with no queries.

Maggie informed the meeting that in spite of Covid-19 severely restricting church and fund raising activities 2020 financial results were "good", producing a surplus that will help to support the much greater expenditure planned in 2021 (new boiler and overhauling the heat pumps etc.).

The refurbishment to St Michael's House was completed on March 18<sup>th</sup> and the new tenants moved in the next day (under a twelve months tenancy agreement). Those who have seen it say that a very nice job has been made of the improvements and slightly under budget too. Altogether very pleasing.

The Fabric Action Group, (Stuart Jenkin), reported that the new boiler is in situ and the heating project is on track. The required new gas main necessitated a large

*continued on p.11*

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## PCC Meeting (Continued)

hole to be dug in the floor of room 4 but this has subsequently been made good.

The churchyard east wall: An email has been received from the parish clerk advising that the council has appointed an architect to draw up a plan for rebuilding the wall. They have asked whether it could be rebuilt a little less high. Stuart Jenkin and the PCC will review their plan when available and reply thereafter.

The Rector thanked Stuart for all his hard work in progressing these various projects.

The Rector also informed the meeting that he had been approached by Sarah Butcher (local environmentalist) with a view to placing trays (nesting boxes) for Peregrine Falcons on the roof of the flag tower, between the turrets. Permission was sought from the Diocese and was granted so this will go ahead. There may be an opportunity to place a webcam overlooking the nesting site in future, if inhabited.

By the time you read this report Easter Services will have come and gone but, at the March PCC meeting, it was mentioned that all the usual services would take place (in a Covid secure manner) with the exception of the procession and feet washing. In practice all services, not only Easter services, are being held in a Covid secure manner with live-streaming for those who cannot or do not wish to attend in person.

Under Safeguarding there were, thankfully, no issues reported. However under health and safety the accident to Peter Gill was discussed. Peter was winding the church clock when the strike barrel ratchet failed (a cast iron tooth broke) and the strike weight fell to the floor some way below (above the office ceiling). The recoil (Remember your school physics lessons? For every action there is an equal and opposite reaction.) caused the winding handle to fly back and hit Peter in the face necessitating a trip to casualty. Fortunately he has recovered and is managing the repairs (and a possible upgrade) to the clock. An appropriate report was made in the accident book.

A Dutch student had been expected to join the ministry team for four weeks as part of his training towards ordination but in the event was only able to join in via Zoom which was less satisfactory than joining in in person of course.

David Hughes  
March 26<sup>th</sup> 2021

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# Woolmer Green Parish Council



## Local Plan

The Planning Inspector continues to consider the Local Plan that was submitted for review in May 2017. The plan includes development of the Green Belt land behind Lessiters. The Parish Council has opposed the development of this site since it was first proposed and has responded to consultations with the support of a Planning Consultant. There are two brown field sites within the village – one in construction at the Entech site and the other the vacated Marshalls site – and these are preferred. Recently residents received an outline plan from a developer setting out how the site behind Lessiters may be developed and they were asked to comment. As the Local Plan is still under examination it is not a certainty that the development will go ahead, although it is looking increasingly likely. The Parish Council and many residents continue to oppose the development of the Green Belt land.



Continued on p 15





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# Woolmer Green Parish Council

Continued from p 13

## Woolmer Green Farmers' Market and other events



The Woolmer Green Farmers' Market returned at the end of February. There were a number of new stalls in March and many were operating outside while others were in the Hall served by a one-way route. It was good to see so many people supporting the local traders and enjoying the opportunity to buy fresh produce so close to home.

You can see more about the market and traders by following it on Facebook or by just coming along to see the stalls on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of most months (see left for dates and details of extra activities.)

Sadly restrictions mean that other annual events (the Car Show and Village Day) will not be able to go ahead as normal but the Parish Council will keep

an open mind on holding an event later in the year if this becomes possible.

**Sarah Hall**  
**Woolmer Green Parish Council**  
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## **Christian Aid Week May 10 - 16**

### **For climate justice and those worst affected by the pandemic.**

People in our churches and the wider parish have been generous supporters of Christian Aid. We kept this up last year, despite all the restrictions. We had a very successful online quiz, when people ‘booked their place’ by donating to Christian Aid.

So this year we are doing it again, on the evening of **Saturday May 15<sup>th</sup>**. We hope that many of you will sign up, enjoy the quiz and support the cause. Full details are in the church notices by email and in church: please be guided by those details, or contact me at the email address below to sign up.

We have decided not to deliver or collect envelopes house to house, even though it could have been allowed. There are many alternative ways of fund-raising and methods of giving, and we hope that with the quiz and other efforts we shall be able to keep up our track record.

This year’s theme is climate justice – standing up against the climate crisis which is not merely a distant threat, but a present reality. Kenya is an example of a country which is suffering the triple blow of drought and floods, the pandemic – and hordes of locusts. We may be so overtaken by our own news stories and challenges, that we do not even hear of the suffering and experiences like that.

Online information from Christian Aid will tell you much more. Or if you’d like me to send you video and other materials, just ask me by email and I will send some of it to you direct.

You can also pick up the printed devotional booklets, at the back of each of our churches, to help us support the work of Christian Aid, by our prayers, our thoughts and our action. Donation envelopes will also still be available.

Our gifts will help worst affected communities such as those in Kenya, to withstand the climate chaos which is already falling upon them. There are places where drought is followed by extreme rainfall, which causes flooding and further crop damage. They need our help to build better earth dams, they need help to harvest more water, and they need help to sow drought-resistant crops.

So let us join together in response, as every year, praying and calling for climate justice to be addressed, at every national and international level.

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# Patient Participation Group for



## The Welwyn Hatfield Healthy Hub

We'd like to make you aware of The Welwyn Hatfield Healthy Hub (<https://healthyhub.welhat.gov.uk>). This is a newly launched online one-stop shop providing access to local services, support groups, events and advice on issues affecting both mental and physical health.

Residents can access information on the support services available locally on a wide range of topics from anxiety and loneliness to back pain and weight management as well as details of the borough's sports clubs and health related events.

As well as looking at the information already on the site you are able to sign up to receive the latest local and national health and wellbeing news, events and training.

If you would like further information about the Bridge Cottage Surgery Patient Participation Group please email [ppgbridgecottage@gmail.com](mailto:ppgbridgecottage@gmail.com)



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## In Conversation with Sarah Butcher

Perhaps you know Sarah Butcher already: as the doyenne of the Welwyn litter picking group, as a fellow dog walker as she strides out with her lurcher or as an enthusiast on swifts and house martins (did you read her article in our April edition?). Maybe you have even unwittingly listened to an audiobook edited by her? ... More about that later. But now, meet Sarah Butcher the cellist.



Playing the cello has been the central part of Sarah's life since childhood. I asked her if she came from a musical family.

*"Not really, although my mother played piano and loved classical music. We lived in Kent - my widowed father still lives in the same house. As a child I loved listening to our Reader's Digest records of classical music on the radiogram. I was learning piano, but then, when I was eight, my school gave me the option of learning violin or cello; I was already quite tall so I started on a half size cello. Actually, eight is not particularly young to start on cello and they come in quarter size too."*

At eleven Sarah went to Tonbridge Grammar School for Girls, *"Our head of music was a composer, Michael Jacques. He wrote for the school orchestra, choir and for The Associated Board music exams. With his encouragement I got a scholarship into Saturday Junior Music School in Maidstone. As a teenager I played in the Kent Youth Orchestra and in the Royal Tunbridge Wells Symphony Orchestra."*

*"This latter orchestra is made up of amateurs who practise on Sunday afternoons plus some professionals who join for final rehearsal and performances. From being involved as a teenage amateur, I'm now the professional leader of the cello section!"*

On leaving school Sarah studied at The Guildhall School of Music for four years, but then what?

*"Well, no one gave careers advice in those days," laughed Sarah, "so one just went from one gig to the next. I liked playing with the English Touring Opera. We travelled all over the country. Sometimes the theatres' pits were tiny. We went everywhere, from Darlington to Lowestoft and up to the Lake District. It was a*

## In Conversation with Sarah Butcher

Continued from p 21

*great group of people. I toured with the company for nine years, only stopping in 1998 as Nicolas, my future husband, and I wanted to be more settled.*

*That same year I became a member of the London Mozart Players (LMP), a chamber orchestra with about 40 players. I'm still a member now, recording online concerts with Howard Shelley as part of their Piano Explored series.* <sup>[1]</sup>

*“Nicolas and I moved to Welwyn in 1999. Sixteen years ago we married in Hatfield and had a great party afterwards at our Danesbury Park home. Nicolas’s business was audiobooks for Naxos so he asked me to learn how to edit them. Our first small office was above the Funeral Directors in the High Street. I would listen to the recordings and correct any errors, listening for mistakes. Not music, but still using my ears, having to listen for the rhythm of the words. Sometimes I also helped choose appropriate music. In fact I have just finished editing Finnegans Wake by James Joyce. If you’ve read this you’ll know it as a stream of consciousness with strange words relating to myths and legends. I then programmed music to go with it – an enjoyable challenge.”*

I'd originally met Sarah in about 2003. When Naxos outgrew their office space Sarah took a room in Gothic House where I worked. This arrangement lasted a few years until Nicolas found larger offices above Lloyds Chemists in Welwyn.

Despite editing audiobooks, Sarah's musical career has never stopped, and she has played with artists from Pavarotti to Peter Gabriel, toured from London to New York and played in the Albert Hall and village halls as well as concerts in Welwyn St Mary's. *“I’ve also played with Glyndebourne on Tour for about 10 years. In 2020 there was no touring, they only managed to put on about eight shows at Glyndebourne, however it looks like we’re on for 2021 - Stravinsky, Beethoven and Donizetti!”* she exclaimed with delight. <sup>[2]</sup>

For the last two years Sarah has worked with a dance company in Croydon. Intrigued, as dance had never been part of her life, Sarah went along and is so pleased that she had done so. *“SLiDE (South London inclusive Dance Experience) is a dance company with professionals and adults with learning disabilities who are creating their own work from scratch. It's a wonderful company, very inspiring, I can improvise and make up my own music. It's very liberating.”* <sup>[3]</sup>

So, how has this extraordinary time been for Sarah since March 2020?

*“At first everything just stopped. But eventually some things did happen. For example, I was involved in the film Peter and the Wolf which LMP made at the end of the last lockdown.”* <sup>[4]</sup>

## In Conversation with Sarah Butcher

Do watch this if you can, it's absolutely charming, and you might spot Sarah and her cello as well.

*"I also play with The Hanover Band – a period freelance orchestra, when I play my 18<sup>th</sup> century cello with gut strings. I played for all of their Beethoven 250 Anniversary films last August & September."*<sup>[5]</sup>

*My musical work has been slow to start this year; I've done a few London Mozart Players films and one recording for a singer, but there's nothing much coming up. So, amongst other things, I've been editing audiobooks, putting a wildlife pond in the garden, installing house martin nests and campaigning for wildflower verges around Welwyn."*

A very enthusiastic environmentalist, Sarah is a member of Greenpeace, Woodland Trust and several other organisations. It has led to her involvement with counting butterflies, volunteering on Danesbury Reserve and litter-picking – in fact running that group. *"I phoned the woman listed as the leader of the volunteers and she said 'I've moved, can you take over?' So I got in touch with the council, and as you can see from the back of this magazine, we meet on the third Sunday each month at 11am."*

This certainly isn't Desert Island Discs, but I couldn't help quizzing Sarah about her choice should she ever get stranded on that mythical island where Radio Four have sent so many celebrities.

Put on the spot, Sarah immediately replied, *"My number one choice would be The Rite of Spring by Stravinsky, because I love it and it's thrilling to play. I'd also like the Walton Cello Concerto, a lovely piece."* After further thought, Sarah added, *"also Beethoven piano sonatas played by Bernard Roberts. And a late Beethoven quartet probably Op 130 with the fantastic Cavatina movement. Beethoven is probably my favourite composer, even though I chose Stravinsky and Walton!"*

Sarah exhibits so much enthusiasm for her music and all her interests that this conversation was a joy for me, I hope it was for you too.

Vernonne Allan

### References

- [1] <https://www.londonmozartplayers.com/piano-explored/>
- [2] <https://www.glyndebourne.com/tour/>
- [3] <https://slidedance.wordpress.com/>
- [4] <https://www.londonmozartplayers.com/peterandthewolf/>
- [5] <https://thehanoverband.com/beethoven250/beethoven-250-trailer/>

## Welwyn Highways and Byways (Part 2)

### Teachers, Curates, Plains and Mounts

Until the 1920s there was little development to the south of Welwyn with only one unmade road off Welwyn Hill marked on a map of 1922.

This road went along the side of the school and the playing fields to the Welwyn High Reservoir, by today's Bowling Club. At that time it was unnamed, but in the meantime it received recognition by Welwyn Hatfield Council in 1988. It is now called Ottway Walk, although it should more properly be spelt Otway Walk, since it is named after

Canadian William Otway who came to Welwyn in 1783. He

opened a school in the Old Rectory, which continued to be run by his son after his death in 1823. Otway Walk runs alongside another 'new' name, St. Mary's Court, the development which takes its name from St. Mary's school which originally stood on this site



St Mary's School 1908

An expansion of Welwyn to the south has really only come about since the end of the First World War and since then new streets and street names have come to this part of the village. In an arc around The Steamer lies Broomfield Road and Broomfield Close, which as we saw previously take their names from the plot of land known as Broomfield, marked on the 1837 Tithe Awards Map.

Slightly further to the south, opposite the school is the imposing building known as Becket Hall, which has given its name to the cul-de-sac known as Becket Gardens. Becket Hall was built in 1878 by Charles Wilshere of The Frythe as the Drill Hall for the Herts (1<sup>st</sup>) Rifle Volunteers (F Company). The Wilsheres often adorned buildings they donated with suitable inscriptions and Becket Hall bears an inscription to Thomas Becket, said to have first served as a curate in nearby Bramfield. It was used for religious services during 1911

## Welwyn Highways and Byways (Part 2)



Welwyn Workhouse 1904

when St. Mary's Church was undergoing substantial renovation work. Before leaving this road, there is another link to the past in the name of the Nursery School as Tenterfield appears as a plot, again on the 1837 Tithe map.

In the mid-1920s Welwyn finished just past the Old Workhouse, which still is still standing. Later developments have given us The Crescent, clearly named due to its shape and the Queensway Estate, with its street names reflecting national rather than local history, all derived from Royal Houses – Tudor

Road, York Way, Windsor Road etc.

Returning to the bottom of Welwyn Hill, a road now known as School Lane leads to some interesting tales of village roads and their names. The area at the junction of the High Street and School Lane was for many years known as 'The Plain'. The reason for this deserves some explanation and requires some imagination.

Anyone who has walked around Welwyn will appreciate that it is difficult to leave the village without a climb, unless you follow the river valley. It is quite hilly, but not as hilly as it once was. Anything more than a cursory examination of the area around the Civic Centre shows how much the landscape has been changed. The land to the side of the Hertford Road rises steeply towards Broomfield Road in front of the Fire Station, and also rises steeply behind the Fire Station. It is not difficult to visualise these two hills as one. The creation of these two hills from one started in 1907 when what we



The Plain 1903

Continued on p 26



## Welwyn Highways and Byways

Continued from p 25

now call the Hertford Road was opened.

This is the third route of the Hertford Road and was created by George Edward Dering of Lockleys House to move the traffic away from his house. To achieve his privacy he had dug a huge cutting through the hill to take his new road. He had thus divided the hill, or as it was popularly known 'The Mount'. As the Mount was high, so the area at the junction of the High Street and School Lane was low and became known as 'The Plain'.

The contrast is now difficult to see as the smaller part of The Mount was excavated in the 1930s for gravel and Welwyn gained a flat site, which now houses our Civic Centre.

From the Plain we will next time venture along a very old road - towards a School?

### JESSIE - The Rectory Dog

As I sit to write this today I note that for the first time for several months people are allowed to play tennis.

This is marvellous news. I am afraid I have to admit to Welwyn tennis club that I am quite good at stealing your tennis balls – if you ever run short, I have several hundred at my house, though most are a bit chewed.

To be fair I don't steal them from your courts but from the undergrowth around them, where they are pretty irretrievable for humans, but eminently stealable for a determined Labrador. But over the past few months pickings have been rather slim. It should be said of course, rather like on the BBC, that other ball games are available, but frankly it's tennis balls which do it for me. Golf balls are too small and hard, footballs are too big (though to be fair I will run after a crying child's football just to see how excruciatingly embarrassing it is for Master), and don't get me onto those tricky rugby balls which bounce every which way (though that might be a convenient excuse for England in the six nations ...). Just give me something round, bouncy, and mouth of Labrador sized – failing that some food would do.



*Jess*



## A Churchwarden's Responsibilities

As the husband of the Churchwarden, Sue, at St Michael's I am aware of the wide range of her duties. I had never seen a list of them so, as is my wont, I went on line and googled "Church Warden's duties". On the Diocese of London web site I found a mind boggling list. The list occupied two and a half A4 pages so I will not bore you by reproducing the whole lot but I thought you might be interested in a 'brief' summary.

Their roles and responsibilities include:

The first responsibility of the Churchwarden is to the Bishop.

Churchwardens with the parish priest are generally responsible for the day to day functioning of the parish.

They shall be foremost in representing the laity and in cooperating with the incumbent; they shall use their best endeavours by example and precept to encourage the parishioners in the practice of true religion and to promote unity and peace among them.

They should use their best endeavours to ensure that:

The parish financial affairs are in order

The PCC has a Mission Plan

The pastoral work is being undertaken in the parish

The PCC is caring for and maintaining the church, its contents and other buildings, and the church yard and grounds

People are properly welcomed to the church and to services, and that sidespeople are appointed.

I especially liked this responsibility:

In the event of a service being disrupted or there is a disturbance in church they should call the police, and, if necessary, may arrest a person, or escort them off the premises.

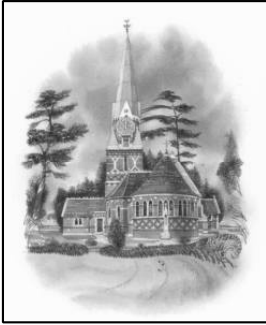
I have heard of occasions in other churches, at a midnight mass, people have staggered in from the pub and have been asked to leave. Luckily, five foot nothing Sue has not had to arrest an inebriated six foot rugby player!

There are many other responsibilities including quite a lot of record keeping which I have not included here. If you would like to know more go to <https://www.london.anglican.org/kb/churchwardens/>

Fortunately they do give this final statement "Churchwardens are not expected to do everything themselves but to make sure that there are other people available to carry out the various tasks." Sue has, as a result, been able to delegate some of these responsibilities to members of the St Michael's congregation and help is also available from St Mary's.

Tony Keach

## NEWS FROM AYOT ST PETER



Something I've missed during lockdown has been visitors phoning up asking to be shown round St Peter's. Apart from the pleasure of sharing our church and meeting interesting people, this also provides a ready excuse to get away from work and enjoy some country air.

But, even if you can't see inside the church, there's an item of interest tucked away in the north-west corner of the graveyard.

This is an engraved slate pillar, or 'stele' installed in 2009.



It replaced the original memorial to Baron Sanderson of Ayot (who died in 1971) and his wife. This memorial had a square paved area surrounded by a low stone wall. In the Centre there was a circular bronze commemorative plaque.

Over the years the brickwork had started to deteriorate, and with the surrounding wall less than two feet high it was easy for visitors to the church to miss the memorial altogether.



In 2007, the Sanderson's three children proposed that the memorial should be removed and replaced with a stele. There would be a hand-cut inscription on one side and the existing bronze plaque would be inset into the other.

Initially the PCC had some reservations when the change was proposed, given the church's architectural and Arts and Crafts heritage. But immediately we saw the drawing, our initial caution changed to whole-hearted acceptance of the family's generous offer.

Continued on p 30



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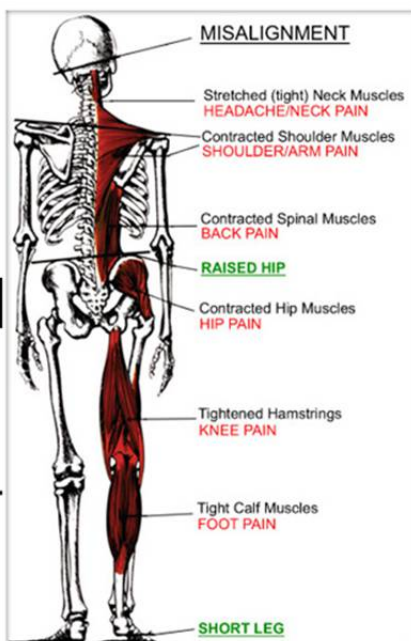
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## NEWS FROM AYOT ST PETER

Continued from p 28

Today the Arts and Crafts tradition is alive and well and one of its finest manifestations is the hand-cut inscription – truly calligraphy in stone and a combination of art and physical craft. The stele was to be commissioned from the Cardozo Kindersley Studio in Cambridge. Founded by the late David Kindersley, who was apprenticed to the famous sculptor Eric Gill in the 1930s, the studio continues to inscribe memorial stones commissioned by a wide range of public bodies and private individuals.

In case anyone wonders how you install a stele, underground there is another two feet of the green-gray slate embedded in concrete plus another two feet of concrete foundation underneath that.

Lots of people have asked what's happened to the bench that used to be located in a sheltered part at the front section of the churchyard. Popular with walkers, cyclists and those waiting to look round the church, the bench commemorated Leslie C. Bantin, a former churchwarden, who died in September 1986.

Unfortunately, with the years, the bench had become unsafe. However, the Bantin family has very kindly purchased a replacement, which will be installed in the coming weeks.

RF

## WELWYN NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

### **One of Britain's largest barbastelle bat populations found near St Paul's Walden**

A colony of a minimum of 90 bats was found as part of the Hertfordshire Barbastelle Project - a research collaboration between Herts and Middlesex Bat Group and Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust. The project aims to learn more about the barbastelle bat which is one of the rarest bat species in the UK. The maternity colony at St Paul's Walden is only the third to be discovered in Hertfordshire.

“This is a nationally important discovery – not only the existence of the population, but its sheer size is extraordinary”, said Matt Dodds from the Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust.

Continued on p 32

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# Welwyn Natural History Society

Continued from p 30



*Barbastelle bat © Cecilia Montauban Ashridge  
Herts and Middlesex Bat Group*

Fergus Bowes-Lyon who owns the land the bats were found on says: "We are thrilled to discover this amazing maternity roost for barbastelle bats. This shows the benefits of the conservation approach across Easthall Farm and the woodland. We are looking forward to continuing with this work with Natural England funding.

We believe that these environmental schemes, including grassland, hedges and field margins on the surrounding farmland, have made a significant role in creating a supportive habitat for these bats."

I imagine this talk at 8pm on Wednesday, 28<sup>th</sup> May will still be virtual and I will post the FREE link to it on our website or on our Facebook page nearer the time. Last time we had a talk on bats the speaker brought one into the Civic Centre but this time, unfortunately or not, you won't be able to hold one in your hands!

Dr Chantal Helm, who will be talking to us in May, is the Chair of the Herts and Middlesex Bat Group and co-leads on this project. Dr Chantal has said: "Thanks to our collaboration with the Trust and with the support of all the Bat Group members who contributed to the surveys, this discovery of a nationally important Barbastelle maternity colony will allow us to better understand the distribution and abundance of this rare species in Hertfordshire and help us to target monitoring and conservation efforts appropriately."



*Setting up the nets to trap the bats © Sarah Miller  
Herts and Middlesex Bat Group*

**[www.welwynnaturalhistorysociety.org](http://www.welwynnaturalhistorysociety.org)**  
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# Climate Change

These two words, climate change, can evoke passionate discussions amongst people from all walks of life. Whilst I do not doubt for a moment that we are making a serious contribution to the warming of the world, I do wonder if we should be concentrating more on how we can adapt to the threat. For example, the vast emissions of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere could be reduced by planting more and more trees, which take in the gas for photosynthesis. The Woodland Trust is doing a great job in doing just that, but of course, it takes many years for trees to grow to maturity. Cutting down trees is needed in the modern world as we expect to be supplied with paper, building materials, fuel, furniture etc, but the ruthless cutting down of trees as has been done in the Amazon Forest is a travesty.

Mankind, throughout the ages, has always proved to be adaptable to climate change. The River Thames has frozen over many times for two months at a time, the severest being the winter of 1814/5 and the most recent in 1962/3. On many of the earlier occasions, the Londoners set up Frost Fairs on the ice, installing markets and shops.

11,000 to 5000 years ago, the Sahara desert was green and fertile, until the earth's slow 'wobble', around 4200 BCE, caused the monsoons to drift further south, where they are today. This led to the present desert, where camels are the animals of burden for the nomads who live close to the oases.

When I was in southern Ethiopia in 2018, we had a guide who told us about the local farming communities and how they have had to adapt to climate change during the last century, which goes back before the days of any serious emissions caused by mankind. Years ago, cattle and dairy farming was the norm, but gradually, with climate change, the herds began to diminish because of the reduction in grazing land caused by severe reduction in rain. The Ethiopian farmers do still raise cattle, but they have diversified and now grow numerous plants in very neatly cultivated fields – peas, beans, lentils, wheat, sorghum (a kind of cereal) and coffee to mention a few. This has been of great benefit to the population, who now have a variety of food – and sometimes enough to export.

The terrible fires and floods in Australia surely cannot be blamed on the indigenous population, as the number of people living there, unlike the UK, is minute compared with the vast expanse of the country. As it takes about 5 hours to fly across the continent, perhaps the cause of the disasters lies in the upper stratosphere, or another 'wobble' of the earth.

So like the present pandemic of Covid19, which has made us adapt our way of living, (hopefully not for ever) I feel sure that mankind will be able to, indeed have to adapt to any change in climate.

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## WELWYN PARISH COUNCIL



I hope you have all been enjoying the Spring flowers which I know make me feel more cheerful after this long difficult year.

### WHITEHILL WILDFLOWER MEADOW

For those of you who do not know the location of the Whitehill Wildflower Meadow, the entrance is from the car park at the top of School Lane at Whitehill, where Acorn Playgroup is situated. I walked around the Meadow this week. My husband and I often stroll in this area but unfortunately have very little knowledge of the trees, shrubs and wildflowers. This time I was very fortunate to be in the company of three people who are very knowledgeable about what is growing and have some interesting ideas about how it can be developed into a pleasant circular walk. We will have picnic benches and information signs, litter bins and natural, not concrete, paths in keeping with the area. Already some work has taken place to clear self-sown ash saplings together with a few hawthorn and field maple. This will make the area more open.

The land is owned by Welwyn Parish Council who has funded a mowing and strimming programme to encourage wildflowers. To add to the existing flora, about 50 cowslip plants have been introduced. Ten apple trees were discovered to be already on the site and these have been labelled and will remain in situ. Our hope is that the area can be used by our schools for educational purposes and, also, as a fun place for families. Development of the meadow is very much work in progress and, although it is in embryonic stage, we are looking forward to creating an area that can be enjoyed by everyone.

I would like to thank Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust, Councillor Bill Morris for promoting this project and bringing it to the attention of the Parish Council, Richard Smith for agreeing to fund a picnic bench and litter bin, Neale Holmes-Smith and Leo Boon for their advice and the hard work they have done and continue to do and Sarah Butcher for her ideas and enthusiasm. I will keep you informed of the progress of the Meadow but encourage you to visit the site to appreciate the work that has and will be done to provide a lovely natural environment for all.

### OTTWAY WALK POTHoles

We are aware that Ottway Walk has several large potholes. We are arranging for them to be repaired, in fact this work may have been completed by the time you receive this Magazine.



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# WELWYN PARISH COUNCIL

*continued from p36*

## ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

Welwyn Parish Councillors have been holding all our meetings on Zoom. We have now been informed by the Government that to extend these virtual meetings beyond 7th May would require primary legislation. It has considered the case and has decided not to bring forward such legislation. The Council will, from 7th May, hold all its meetings in either the Parish Centre or the Civic Centre. The date for the Annual Parish Assembly with residents was scheduled to be held on 26th April. We were sorry that once again we were not able to host our meeting, with parishioners, at the Civic Centre. We hope that next year we will be able to hold our Assembly in the manner we all prefer.

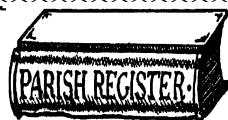
## VILLAGE PLANTERS

I know there are mixed opinions about the planters. Originally orange barriers were in place to ensure social distancing and restrict speed to 20mph. These were considered unsightly and HCC agreed to replace them with planters. Welwyn Parish Council has agreed to fund the planting for the next financial year. As I write this article at the end of March, the Government is still maintaining the social distancing rules and therefore the planters will stay in place. The safety of our parishioners is always at the forefront of our decision making. When social distancing is no longer an issue there will be a consultation with residents on whether or not the planters, or some of them, should remain. This consultation will also include the 20mph speed limit.

Take care and stay safe.

*Marj Otty*  
*Chair Welwyn Parish Council*

## Parish Registers



### St Mary's Welwyn

#### Funeral and Burial

Tuesday 9th March 2021

Michel Bartlett

### Harwood Park

#### Cremation

Wednesday 3rd March 2021

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## FRIENDS OF DANESBURY & QVM HOSPITAL



The memory of Easter eggs and outdoor BBQs with friends and family in rather chilly conditions seems to be a memory of the past as another month has gone by. It has been so wonderful to be able to meet up in outdoor settings with our families and friends whom we have missed seeing since before Christmas! Can you believe it!!

Behind the scenes we the Friends have been working hard to get the shop in Welwyn ready for opening on the 13<sup>th</sup> April, ensuring we adhere to all the Government COVID regulations. Our Click & Collect service has also been ticking along nicely, thank you to all of you who have helped support this during the lockdown. As has become expected of us, Georgia - one of the shops managers, had done another wonderful Easter window display (as shown above). Her various displays have definitely helped in lifting spirits in the village over the past year. We are so fortunate to benefit from her artistic window display abilities.

Now we look forward to welcoming you all back to have a mosey around our Charity shop – if you haven't already popped in. We are now also accepting donations again, please do visit our website for regular updates on this at [danesburyqvm.co.uk](http://danesburyqvm.co.uk).





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## FRIENDS OF DANESBURY & QVM HOSPITAL (Cont)

Up at Danesbury & QVM Hospitals it has been business as usual. It is still very busy and the staff are overworked but always seem to have a smile on their faces, How they do it I don't know! We try and support them as best we can, recently we have been able to provide clothing for patients, shower gels and some physio equipment. It has been difficult to support the Hospitals especially as we are still not allowed on site. Not much longer and we too should be able to go back to working from offices in Danesbury. This will be a welcome change to working from home.

We the trustees at the Friends of Danesbury & QVM thank you for all your continued support, wishing you all the best, and hope you can all enjoy being with your loved ones a bit more as the lockdown regulations ease up and the sun starts to warm up.

***Danesbury Neurological Centre***  
*School Lane, Welwyn, Herts AL6 9SB*  
*Tel: 01438 840514*  
*E mail: danesburyqvm@btconnect.com*

**Welwyn Rubbish Action Group**


**Sunday 16th May 2021** litter pick will take place.
 

★ Meet at 11am in the car park opposite Welwyn's doctors' surgery. Bags ★  
★ will be provided but let me Sarah know if you need a litter picker. ★  
★

Thanks and see you then!

**Welwyn Rubbish Action Group (WRAG)**

T:07885 875977

welwynrubbishactiongroup@gmail.com

★ <https://www.litteraction.org.uk/welwyn-rubbish-action-group-wrag> ★

★ WRAG dates for 2021 - May 16, June 20, July 18, ★

★ Aug 15, Sep 19, Oct 17, Nov 21, Dec 19 ★

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# Church Notice Board

*Worship may now have resumed in our churches.*

*If so, please continue to follow the social distancing guidelines, use of hand sanitiser and the wearing of face coverings is mandatory, unless you are exempt.*

*Details about Virtual Church, which continues at 9.30 am each Sunday, can be found at:*

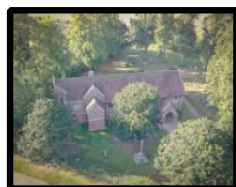
**[www.welwyn.org.uk](http://www.welwyn.org.uk)**

## Sunday Services

	<b>ST MARY'S - Welwyn</b>
8.00 am	Holy Communion
9.30 am	Parish Communion / Junior Church
6.30 pm	Evensong (2nd , 4th & 5th Sundays)



	<b>ST MICHAEL'S - Woolmer Green</b>
11.15 am	Parish Eucharist (1st & 4th Sunday)
	Family Service (2nd Sunday)
	All Age Eucharist (3rd Sunday)
	Morning Prayer (5th Sunday)



## Weekday Services

### ST MARY'S - Welwyn

Current week's services are on the notice sheet in church and on the website [www.welwyn.org.uk](http://www.welwyn.org.uk)

Tuesday	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (St Mary's)
Wednesday	9.00 am	Morning Prayer (St Mary's)
Wednesday	9.30 am	Holy Communion (St Mary's)
Saturday	9.00 am	Parish Prayers (St Mary's)

### ST GILES - Codicote

Tuesday	8.30 am	Morning Prayer (St Giles)
---------	---------	---------------------------

*Common Worship used at all Communion Services except where stated*

## Children

### ST MARY'S - Welwyn

3.30pm	Craftea (see Diary on back cover for dates)
--------	---

## Confessions

By arrangement with the Clergy.

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

## Clergy Surgery Hour

Saturday	10.00 am to 11.00 am
----------	----------------------

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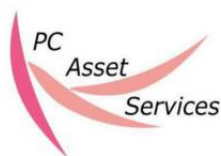
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# Church Notice Board *continued from p44*

## ALL SAINTS' DATCHWORTH

09.30 Sundays Holy Communion  
 18.30 1st Sunday Sacred Space  
 11.15 4th Sunday Family Service  
 17.00 Thursday Evening Prayer



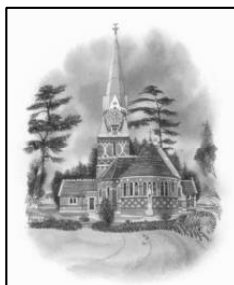
## ST PETER'S TEWIN

09.30 Sundays Holy Communion  
 11.15 3rd Sunday Family Service  
 18.30 3rd Sunday Holy communion  
 17.00 Monday Evening Prayer



## AYOT ST PETER

11.15 Sundays  
 1st: Matins:  
*(Book of Common Prayer, King James' Bible)*  
 2nd: Holy Communion  
*(Book of Common Prayer, King James' Bible)*  
 3rd: Family Service  
*(Common Worship, NRSV Bible)*  
 4th: Parish Communion  
*(Common Worship, NRSV Bible)*  
 5th: Holy Communion *(BCP, King James' Bible)*



## ST GILES' CODICOTE

08.45 Sundays Holy Communion  
 09.30 1st Sunday Worship 4U at Peace Memorial Hall  
 10.30 2nd,4th Sun Informal Worship  
 3rd Sunday Informal Worship with Communion

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09.45 Sunday Bible Classes *(All ages 7+)*  
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 18.30 Sunday *ditto*  
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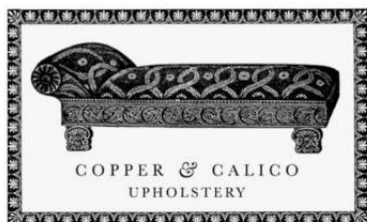
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## MEDITATION

### **Examining with God.**

Take time to sit with God, purposefully and prayerfully.

Spend a few minutes with each of these questions, casting your mind slowly back and forward, noticing what bubbles up in your mind..... Let the landscape of your experiences roll by, as if you were a passenger watching the terrain reveal itself slowly. Notice what you notice. If nothing comes to mind immediately, sit with the question a little longer.

So, looking back over the last month.....

**When did you feel closest to God? What was that like?**

**What has God prompted you to think or do?**

**When did you feel furthest from God? What was that like?**

Teresa of Avila said... “

“Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which he looks with compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good. Yours are the hands through which he blesses all the world. Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are his body. Christ has no body now on earth but yours.”

**When have you been Christ’s hands and feet? What was that like?**

Thank God for the opportunities!

Cast your sight over what gifts God has given you. Spend time noticing the gifts you have and thank God for them. Slowly pray with God about how He might want you to use these gifts. Notice what comes to mind.

Ignore the inner “I can’t...” “I don’t want to...” “I’m not good enough...” thoughts.

Stay with God’s wonderful hopes and dreams for you and your part in His Kingdom.

Su Blanch