

The Welwyn Magazine

with Woolmer Green



September 2023

60p

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September 2023

PUBLISHERS

St Mary's and St Michael's
Churchwardens

COVER

Harvest time in Robbery Bottom Lane
Ian Blair

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

Last week at church (this was written at the start of the summer holidays) we had our annual children's holiday club. Having very little imagination when it comes to such things, every year I buy a pack of material from Scripture Union, which is always excellent. Each year it has a particular theme, and I have to say this year as I looked at it, I was not convinced. Often it has very obvious child holiday themes: Olympics, space travel, secret agents, or seaside for instance – but this year was called *'Restoration Station'*, and was based around the idea of TV programmes such as *The Repair Shop*. So we found ourselves in a workshop at work benches, surrounded by tools and hard hats. I worried that this was a rather adult programme, and that the idea of being in a workshop would not be as appealing as outer space or the seaside. I was wrong.

It helped having a great group of children and helpers, but everyone really entered into the spirit of the thing, and I hope and believe, a good time was had. Of course being a church club, there was a theological theme within the fun (I don't feel any need to apologise for this for I was once a mathematician and I have nothing against hooking children into

mathematics by making it fun, though it may be a more difficult

cause). That theme was of course, that as individuals and a world we stand in, is in need of restoration and repair. It is God in Jesus who achieves that. But it made me reflect whether that was something that people readily sense. Do we think of ourselves as broken and in need of repair? Perhaps we might more readily see the world and society as in need of repair, but I would guess that fewer individuals see themselves in the same way. I always wonder whether the church's insistence on describing us individually as sinners – quite correctly incidentally I think – doesn't lose it some friends. People these days don't like that.

So for these reasons I wondered whether the theme would fly. Of course there are other factors which make these things a success or failure, and perhaps many children, and indeed adults, present didn't really notice the theological narrative – but I couldn't help feeling that at some level the narrative of brokenness in need of healing, struck a chord.

Yours





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Thank you from Ukraine

Maxim lives in the partially flattened village of Chernihiv. Many of you, through 'Alfs', have sent shoes, clothes, toys, food and school equipment to this village. He works tirelessly delivering the aid we send to the people in his area, as well as journeys of many miles to Kherson with aid for the flood victims. He said he and his family are kept going by their strong Christian faith. He has sent us all a 'thank you' message for the help we have been able to provide.

Below is a translation:

"Many thanks to all members of the group and to all those who help Ukraine to this day. Thank you for dreaming and believing in our victory in a war that was not declared by us, and we also understand how everyone is tired of hearing about Ukraine on the news in groups and just on the street, but understand, we are the same people as you. And God willing, and I believe in this, everyone will be rewarded by the Almighty. Peace and love and eternal health to each of you. And only in trouble can the true face of a person be known."

The children of the school in Chernihiv also want to say 'thank you'. They have been colouring in hearts in the Ukrainian colours. This little boy shows you his colouring and is thanking you for the toy bear he is cuddling.



Gay Carpenter

Can you help?

At Alfs, we are in great need of a new storage facility. Every month we take supplies to Ukraine, responding to the information from the Ukrainians of the things they urgently need. Because of the incredible generosity of people in this community (and outside it) we have been able to provide full lorry loads every month so far.

A new storage facility for us would need to be able to accommodate 20 pallets, about 300 square feet, and allow access for an articulated lorry for a day every month. It could be a warehouse, a barn, even a row of 5 or 6 garages. Please help us if you can. contact:

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Jessie the Rectory Dog

This August is unnervingly odd. True we aren't particularly restricted to school holidays (I graduated *summa cum laude* many years ago) but often we go away at the end of the school holidays, but this year there is a suspicious lack of planning and suitcases, and I hear snatches of conversations – *I'll be around for all of August...* 'Now I have a sneaking suspicion that this is all to do with an earlier overheard conversation, something to do with Mistress coming into (say it quietly) her sixth decade in September (Master can't remember this event it is so long ago). Where did she want to go? Apparently ... Iceland. Well that is a come down from Waitrose (boom tish, the old

ones are the best), but I guess with the cost of living etc... Now I also have a suspicion that Iceland (I didn't graduate in geography, feminist literature since you ask) isn't reached through the Channel Tunnel – which means an aeroplane, which means I'm not going. This is very sad But in fact I get to go and stay with nana and grandad, which means constant attention, a slave to throw the tennis ball, and lots of sofa timeit's a dog's life, you should try it.



Jess

What's UP?

Has it ever occurred to you that most people wake **UP** at about 7.a.m.? They sit **UP** and then get **UP**. They warm **UP** some milk, eat **UP** their porridge and then they are what you might call '**UP** and running.

I came downstairs this morning and on the draining board was a white bottle on which was printed 'washing **UP** liquid'. That started it all. We wash **UP** pots – in fact if you stop to think about it for a minute we '**UP**' a thousand and one things. Can I invite your co-operation?

Take a piece of paper and down the left-hand side write all the letters of the alphabet. Against each letter write a word beginning with that letter which is

used with the word '**UP**' i.e. catch **UP**, eat **UP**, give **UP**, hurry **UP**, make **UP** etc. Not counting the letter Z, there are 25 letters. Can you, or your children, or your family think of four words against each letter to make a hundred? Can you think of eight words to make two hundred?

You might be interested to know that Shakespeare used the word **UP** well over 100 times:

*'Winding **UP** days with toil, nights with sleep.'* (Henry V)

*'Go thou, Juliet, help to deck **UP** her.'* (Romeo and Juliet)

Eric Hill

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Ayot St Peter Church 'Open Day'

Regular readers will know that we always join in with the National Trust's annual Heritage Open Day event, and this year is no exception!

The church will be open on Saturday 9th September from 10am to 5pm, and will be beautifully decorated for the Harvest Festival. We will be selling delicious home-made jam, chutney and marmalade, in aid of our church and the Hertfordshire Air Ambulance. At the time of writing, we are the only participating property in Welwyn Hatfield, although there are over 3,000 in the whole country. More details can be seen on the website: www.heritageopendays.org.uk Open Day coincides with the annual sponsored 'Bike and Hike' for the Herts and Beds Historic Churches Trust, when cyclists and walkers are sponsored to visit churches in support of this worthwhile charity.

This year we will host an evening concert on Open Day. This will feature a programme of popular romantic songs from stage and screen, performed by acclaimed local singing group, the Felici Company. The evening will begin at 7.15pm. Tickets cost £15 for adults and £5 for children and are available from Zoë on 07712 530550 or via the Felici Company's website www.feliciopera.com

In a very happy coincidence, we recently discovered that the son of our post-war Rector is the next-door neighbour of the brother of one of our residents. They live in Somerset! The Rector in question was Jim Davies, who arrived in our village in 1947 and left in

1962. His son has kindly donated a collection of pictures and ephemera relating to the family's time here. Included

in this bundle is a charming oil painting of a fête in the Ayot St Peter Rectory garden in 1958, painted by then resident, John Emmerson Walker. "Jack" Walker was an engineer who designed the engine installation for the Mosquito fighter bomber plane, and accompanied Geoffrey de Havilland on the very first test flight of the prototype aircraft. The Mosquito went on to be an immensely successful addition to the war effort and the prototype is on display at Salisbury Hall, London Colney. The oil painting, photographed below in black & white, is of a delightful scene of activities against a backdrop of trees laden with rosy apples and, as it fits so nicely into a "harvest" theme, will be on display in the church on Open Day. Come and see it.



Valerie Richards




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Stalking

No doubt you will have read of instances of stalking but hopefully they will have been somewhere other than Welwyn. Stalking has been a recognised criminal offence since it was included in the 'Protection from Harassment Act 1997'. The definition of stalking is behaviour which is fixated, obsessive, unwanted and repeated. For those of you who like mnemonics as memory aids, FOUR is the word to remember.

Hertfordshire police have a specialist Domestic Abuse Investigation and Safeguarding Unit (DAISU) which works with other agencies to safeguard victims and bring offenders before the courts. Stalking will not necessarily involve an offender following a victim. Social networking sites, chat rooms, gaming sites and other forums could be where stalking occurs.

Stalking can affect people of all ages, genders, identities and backgrounds. The police would like us to be aware of the signs to look out for in our children, friends or neighbours. These can include being withdrawn, becoming more introverted or anxious, and perhaps having suicidal thoughts.

You can report the crime in any of the usual ways: by calling 999 or 101, or by using the online crime reporting service on the Herts Constabulary website. Advice is available from the National Stalking Helpline on 0808 802 0300, operated by the Suzy Lamplugh Trust.

If you, or anyone you know, are being stalked it will be important to gather evidence. Keep detailed records of all



events as soon as possible afterwards and include the time and date.

- note details of any witnesses who may have seen or heard anything
- keep a record of how the person stalking you looked; details of their clothes or car
- keep messages or record any phone calls you receive
- use 1471 on the phone and write down the details of calls, including times and the telephone numbers (including unanswered calls)
- ask neighbours, friends and people you work with to record any details if they witness anything
- If the stalking is online, take screenshots of all messages

Remember that stalking is not your fault, but the result of the obsessive/compulsive behaviour of the stalker.

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

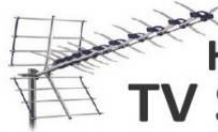
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Beyond the Farm Gate - issue 8



Welcome back to **Beyond the Farm Gate**. The weather continues to keep farmers on their toes year by year, although now more than ever. Looking back, it seems all I talk about is the weather, but have you known many farmers to say otherwise? As much as this may be a stereotype, when your livelihood and the food of others depends on it, it is no wonder we find ourselves glued to the weather forecast all year, but most importantly during the summer months.

When working around mother nature, there is no such thing as a plan. You can try and prepare as best you can, but harvest will rarely start on the same day or even in the same week year on year, especially with the weather of today. In 2023 we started our harvest on the same day which we had finished in 2022, such are the extremes in the weather. Of course, last year we had a terrible drought, meaning that the harvest came

early or else burned in the 43c heat. This year we have had one of the wettest Julys that I can remember, dodging in and out of showers as we try to combine our crops. As such, planning is very difficult and summer continues to be a juggling of barn storage, tractors and the weather, with usually all three being put under pressure. We need a week of dry weather to cut all of

the hay, barley and wheat. All of it needs to go into just a few barns. Such is the balancing act of farming!

As if this wasn't enough to do, we have been trying to coordinate our vineyard work into the arable work. This means that you may find us out on the tractor at 3am to get the job done! We are very lucky to have great help from local volunteers who assist with various tasks. In early summer we swept through the vineyard 'tucking in', which involves tucking unruly shoots into the trellis wires. This is very important for the training of the vines while creating a safe passage through the alleys with the tractor.

For now, it's back to the barley between the showers.

Farmer Hannah

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

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



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A Refugee Child

I am ten years old and living in something called a refugee camp. Lots of children, and we have lessons and games and food. But I stop speaking and sit in a corner rocking myself. Hands try to hug me, children ask me to play.

And I hear grown ups talking about me, wondering how they can help me and what they can do for me.

They are so stupid! I want to go home! I want to play games with my brothers, help my mother to cook our meals. Wait for our father to come home. He picks us up in a huge hug.

And we get letters from my big sister. She is in a country called England and is at school because girls can't go to school in this country. And I miss her so much. One day a big van arrives and the children rush out because there are presents. But I stay in my corner, a lady comes and sits beside me. I'm given a box. If I open it perhaps she will go away. With a big sigh

I take off the lid. It's a doll, a beautiful doll with a lovely dress. I take her out, hold her for a moment then put it back.

The lady is crying "what have I done?" Another lady comes and says I'm crying because I don't want the doll.

And at last I can speak, say that I do want the doll but she's so beautiful, so nice that I didn't think she could be for me. I hug the lady and oh it's so nice to be hugged and held. I call the doll Asher, my sister's name.

And then I'm so excited I could burst! My sister has written and I'll be able to leave the camp and go to England. While I am writing I must go to the camp school and learn ready for when I join her.

I used to be scared of the dark but Daddy said if we didn't have the dark we wouldn't like the light so much. I didn't understand that but now I think, yes, I'm sure I do.

Julie Cuthbert

Pill-Poppers Take Note

For several months, along with many other pill-poppers (people on prescriptions) we have been taking our used blister packs to *Welwyn Parish Council room recycling collection point*, along with the occasional pair of worn-out Marigold gloves.

So imagine my despair on being told that they can no longer take used blister packs as the pharmacy can no longer collect.

Now, it is necessary to take these to a **Superdrug** store with a pharmacy. Unfortunately, the Welwyn Garden City branch has no pharmacy so our nearest

drop-off is the **Superdrug Pharmacy** in Stevenage (39-41 Queensway, Stevenage, SG1 1DN) who will still take drop-offs from individuals.

At this point I haven't yet made the journey and have failed to find any other pharmacy offering this service.

If any reader has further information, please let us know at:

magazine@welwyn.org.uk

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Romance is in the air!

Saturday 9th September 2023

Ayot St Peter's Church at 7.15pm for 7.30 pm

We are holding a concert in St Peter's Church on Saturday 9th September, when the church will be beautifully decorated for harvest. It will be the finale to our annual 'Open Day'. The concert will be given by the performance group **Felici Opera Singers**. The concert will feature popular romantic songs and favourites from stage and screen.

*Tickets are £15 for adults, and £5 for children.
These can be bought from Zoe Jasko on 07712 530550
or through the Felici website www.feliciopera.com*

We are raising funds for pew cushions

Parish Registers



St Mary's Welwyn

Baptisms:

16th July	Wilfred Terence Brede
16th July	Betty Florence Brede

Wedding:

22nd July	James Moseley and Carla Knighton
-----------	----------------------------------

Funerals:

5th July	Ruth Elizabeth Priestley (Harwood Park Crematorium)
10th July	Freda Samuel (Harwood Park Crematorium)
14th July	Michael John Clements (Memorial Service)
20th July	Patricia Winnifred Goodwin (Crematorium only)

St Michael's Woolmer Green

Baptism:

16th July	Rory Stanley Perrin
-----------	---------------------

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Bike 'n Hike - 9th September 2023

Churches in the St Mary's team are taking part in this year's **Bike 'n Hike** for Beds & Herts Historic Churches Trust, and you can too.

You and your family can get sponsored to take part and have a great day out visiting beautiful churches. All money raised is divided equally between our own churches and the Trust, which provides grants to repair churches and chapels in Beds and Herts. Anyone can take part, you don't have to be a church goer or even a cyclist!

Last year the event raised over £91,000 thanks to bikers, hikers, sponsors and helpers. The money makes a real difference to churches that receive grants, helping keep them open for local communities. You may choose your own route, distance and pace for **Bike 'n Hike** and any mode of transport you wish.

To take part, or to sponsor a cyclist or walker, collect a sponsorship form from St Mary's Church, open every day. Details of all 600 churches and sponsor forms can also be found at:

<https://bedshertshct.org.uk>

St Mary's organiser is Peter Harris who will be getting on his bike, as will Geoff Cummings (07766 543066) and of course so will The Rev'd Canon Dr David Munchin. Why not join them or, if not, please sponsor them. Geoff is hoping to cycle 72 miles, that's a mile for every year of his age!

St Mary's will also be supporting **Herts Welcomes Refugees** with its share of the money raised. Sponsor them all online at: <https://www.justgiving.com/page/peter-harris-1691398872256>

Vernonne Allan

Welwyn Anglo-French Twinning Association (WAFTA)

WAFTA's origins date back to 1971/72, as do those of **The Welwyn French Circle** but whereas the French Circle has always focused on proficiency in the French language, WAFTA is a product of the 'Twin Town' concept under which people visited and experienced life in a foreign land and forged lasting personal relationships. Developing language skills was simply part of that story.

Another key differentiation between the two organisations is that the Twinning Agreement, or 'Jumelage', was actually made between the two towns themselves and signed by the Civic

Officials of both. WAFTA was created to deliver the twinning agreement and oath.

The drivers of the early relationship between Champagne-sur-Oise and Welwyn very much centred on St Mary's School, Welwyn.

WAFTA Annual Membership is £10 per family or £5 individual. For details contact Graham Howat on:

grahamhowat1@gmail.com or visit our website: welwyntwinning.org

WAFTA members have recently enjoyed a twinning visit. Please read the write up overleaf..... *page 20.*

Graham Howat

WAFTA - Bonjour Champagne!

On a warm Friday morning in mid-June, a group of WAFTA (Welwyn Anglo French Twinning Association) members met on the platform at Welwyn North station for our first post-pandemic visit to France. After joining the Eurostar at St Pancras we arrived in Paris, Gare du Nord, and from there we soon reached the station at Champagne-sur-Oise where our host families were waiting to greet us. Following refreshments in “our” French homes we proceeded to the town hall for an official welcome by Monsieur le Maire, complete with champagne and nibbles. As this is our 50th anniversary year, the French twinning group had made an impressive photographic montage of the highlights of some of our previous visits.

On Saturday morning we boarded the village coach, along with our host families, for a really interesting excursion to L’Abbaye de Mortemer. After a picnic lunch in the Abbey park, we began our tour with a walk around the lake. The woodland clearings were peopled with beautifully carved wooden statues of the Dukes of Normandy and their families. Among them we recognised William the Conqueror and his son. Next, we had a guided tour of the themed apartments at the Abbey. We hadn’t realised that, like us, the French had had their own Dissolution of the Monasteries at the time of the French Revolution. To our disappointment we didn’t see the resident ghost in the Ghosts and Legends Museum, who appears in white gloves if all is well, but in black gloves if a calamity is imminent. After the Abbey, we drove to

a stunning medieval village, Lyons-la-Foret, for sightseeing and refreshments. In the evening we met at La Tabletterie, a former factory that had specialised in making pearl buttons and that was now partially converted into a restaurant. But not just any restaurant! This meal was really special: we were eating a gourmet dinner in an exquisite setting.

We were kept busy again on Sunday, as there was another ceremony at the town hall, this time in memory of L’Appel: the broadcast that General de Gaulle made to the people of France from the BBC headquarters in London in June 1940, after the fall of France to Nazi Germany. This ceremony was followed by more champagne. To our great surprise, we were presented with a painting of St Mary’s church in Welwyn, painted by a member of the French twinning group who was very taken with the church on a previous visit to Welwyn.

We then spent the rest of Sunday “en famille”, in our case at the house of our host’s daughter (this being Fathers’ Day in France), having a barbecue around the swimming pool. Other members visited Isle Adam, which has a fabulous Sunday market. A great time was had by all!

On Monday we said ‘*au revoir*’ to our French friends and took the train home to Welwyn.

We are now planning the next French trip to Welwyn in May 2024. As regards what happened to the painting: watch this space!

Linda Curiel

Le Cercle Français de Mid-Herts

Would you like to improve your understanding of written and spoken French? Perhaps you have French speaking relatives or friends? Or you are hoping to resume holidays in France, or another French speaking country?

The **Welwyn French Circle** (also known as **Le Cercle Français de Mid-Herts***) was established in 1972. The Circle meets once a month on Fridays to hear a talk or to take part in a social evening between September and June each year.

Normally our meetings are held in the Small Hall at the Welwyn Civic Centre from 7:30pm. Talks, in French, last about one hour and are followed by a light buffet. Members and visitors have an opportunity to chat in French and exchange ideas until 9.30 or 10.00pm. Details of our programme for 2023/24 feature on:

www.cerclefrancaisdemidherts.org.uk

Meeting dates:

2023:

15 September:

Our holiday in Normandy, Giverny and Paris - Helen Glenny - plus AGM

6 October:

Madame Tussaud - Isabelle Schloesing

10 November:

The curious fate of Chevalier d'Eon - Annie Kean

8 December:

Christmas Quiz

2024:

12 January (Zoom):

Vincent Van Gogh in France - Vincent Raymond-Barker

9 February (Zoom):

Conquering Mont Blanc - Thierry Viennois

8 March:

Bécassine...she's my cousin! - Catherine Greensmith

12 April:

Annie Ernaux, journey through five decades of French society - Maryse Wright

10 May:

Entertainment tbc, plus AGM

June:

Visit to France

Cost - *Annual Membership* - £25

Event Entrance Fees (includes a light buffet with wine and other refreshments)
Members - £2; Non-members - £10
(£5 for Zoom conferences)

Contacts

President - Annette Musk

Tel: 01727 825281

Treasurer - Roger Moulding

Tel: 01707 324991

Membership - Helen Glenny

Tel: 01438 717583/07798 692809

The French Circle of Mid-Herts is affiliated to the Alliance Française de Londres, one of London's foremost French language providers. The Alliance Française de Londres proudly supports affiliated French circles which hold an annual programme of lectures and socio-cultural events across the UK. Our mutual endeavours are part of a global network of like-minded associations.

Helen Glenny

Just Keep Walking to Cancel the Deficit

St Mary's Walking Group 'Sponsored Walk'

Between them St Mary's and St Michael's churches are forecast to incur a deficit of £35,000 this year, mainly due to the huge increase in the cost of gas for heating used to keep the churches and Church House warm – remember that both churches offered a warm space to anyone unable to afford the cost of heating their own home last winter.

St Mary's Walking Group began a fund raising campaign in August with a sponsored walk to help offset the loss. We hope that this walk will have raised a worthwhile contribution towards reducing the deficit. If you would like to contribute as well, please contact ***louise@elhughes37.plus.com*** to find out how.

The walk held on Monday 21st August was led by Anne Lloyd and was based around The Lytton Arms at Old Knebworth. The route followed footpaths behind the pub before heading towards Knebworth House, crossed Park Lane and Old Knebworth Lane and then entered Knebworth Park by the cricket ground. As usual, a good old natter and a lot of fun was enjoyed. It's a shame there wasn't a way of sponsoring that (a 'talkathon') – we could probably have extinguished the forecast deficit in one fell swoop!

In the planning of this particular 'Sponsored Walk, we hoped to have

had a good turnout from the over seventy strong members of the walking group although many were away on holiday or looking after grandchildren during the month of August.

If you (or you and your dog) enjoy walking in the countryside and can't resist a pub lunch (not compulsory!) you might like to consider joining the St Mary's walking group.

The group was founded in 2006 by Joy and Robin Whitten with about twelve friends. After 15 years of running the group, Joy and Robin decided it was time to step down and asked us, David and Louise Hughes, if we would take over the reins. So we have been running this group since the middle of June 2021.

Walks take place once a month (no walk in December), normally on a Monday and are usually about 4 miles or 2 hours long. They are generally circular, starting and ending at a pub willing to serve lunches to groups and allow us to use their car park during the morning.

If you live in the locality of Welwyn and Woolmer Green and would like to join the group please do contact Louise Hughes by email at:

louise@elhughes37.plus.com

David and Louise Hughes

Zoo babies - latest news!



There have been several new arrivals at Whipsnade Zoo since my last bulletin. On Sunday 23rd July, after a 13-month gestation Henna gave birth to Zenabi – a new Grevy's zebra foal. He was up and walking about very soon after his birth, which is a necessity in the wild in order to avoid predators. I was lucky enough to see him in the paddock with his Mum when he was just 24 hours old. He is continuing to thrive and can be seen in the large zebra paddock most days. Grevy's zebras are listed as endangered because there are fewer than 2000 breeding males and females in the Horn of Africa which is their natural habitat. The threats they face in the wild include habitat loss, degradation of grazing land caused by livestock, and disease transmitted from unvaccinated livestock.

Other exciting news includes the birth of two baby red pandas. Whipsnade only announced the news very recently although the cubs were born on 25th June. Ruby is a first time Mum, but she is

looking after her twins very well, wrapping them up with her beautiful long tail to keep them warm and safe. Their eyes should be opening around now (30 days after birth) but they are unlikely to emerge from their nesting box for several weeks yet. Once they have their first health check (at around eight weeks of age) their sex

will be determined and the keepers will be able to choose names for them. Red pandas are also endangered with only about 2500 remaining in the wild as a result of habitat loss and hunting, for their meat, their sumptuous fur, and for medicine. Red pandas have also been taken from the wild for the illegal pet trade.

Leaving the mammals and turning to the birds, a beautiful Japanese crane chick has hatched and can be seen trotting around their enclosure and there are more flamingo chicks to augment the Whipsnade flamboyance (one of the better collective nouns!).

Come to the zoo and who knows what else you might spot as you walk around this amazing site. Each paying visitor and member contributes to the conservation work done by ZSL worldwide and you can see a huge selection of animals in the largest zoo in the UK.

Do remember to wear comfortable shoes!

Rita McNeill

WNHS - The Realm of the Polar Bear



Well now, the summer is nearly over and I am wondering how it was for you. Did you have to endure the unbelievably hot weather – if so, this is for you. Or did you spend the months in your winter woollies, wondering if it you would ever see a warm sunny day again? This is definitely for you! We are so lucky in that we do have the technology to see us through difficult times: radiators in the cold weather – air conditioning when it’s hot ... even though they do use energy, cost us money and are not good for the environment. Do we think about the wild animals that share our planet with us? Well do we??

How do polar bears manage when there is a heatwave in the arctic circle? What happens when the ice melts and they can’t jump from one ice floe to another? Can they swim? What about young polar bears? How old do they have to be before they are self-sufficient?

It’s a good thing Richard Bashford will be coming to give us the answers to all our questions in his talk: *‘Spitzbergen, the Realm of the Polar Bear’*.

Hoping to see you there:

Welwyn Natural History Society

8.00pm; 27th September 2023

Welwyn Civic Centre

Visitors £4; Children FREE

Judith Watson

HARVEST FESTIVALS

Sunday 10th September 2023

Ayot St Peter's Church at 11.15 am

Harvest Holy Communion

All Welcome

Sunday 1st October 2023

St Mary's Welwyn at 9.30 am

All Age Harvest Eucharist

All Welcome

Sunday 8th October 2023

St Michael's Woolmer Green at 11.15 am

Family Harvest Service

All Welcome

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 30th September 2023

St Mary's Church, Welwyn

Church House

10.00 am to 1.00 pm

RAFFLE

EVERYBODY WELCOME

BRING YOUR FRIENDS (AND A CAKE!)

ALL DONATIONS WELCOME FOR THIS
VERY WORTHY CAUSE

Third season of
Second Saturday Recitals!
9th September at 12 noon
St Mary's Church
Recital by Alla Kravchuk (soprano)
and Oksana Germanchuk (piano)
Two Ukrainian musicians who
appeared in Welwyn in March.
Programme to include songs by
Schubert, Vaughan Williams,
Strauss, Brahms and Ukrainian
composers. Plus Chopin Waltzes
and Nocturnes for solo piano.

PCC Report - 17th July 2023

The Chairman opened the meeting with a welcome to those present and a prayer which, this being almost the end of term, included the two church schools.

The minutes of the May 17th meeting were approved without comment and signed by the Chairman. There were no matters arising that were not covered elsewhere in the agenda.

Finance report – the treasurer’s report had been circulated prior to the meeting. By mid July the deficit for 2023 stood at £21,432 and is clearly a serious problem for the PCC and St Mary’s and St Michael’s more widely. The PCC, and more specifically, a small working party are looking at various ways of raising funds to offset the £35,000 deficit forecast by the end of the year.

At the time of the meeting the treasurer, Maggie Varco, was not a signatory to St Michael’s deposit account and it was agreed that she should be. Arrangements are now in hand. Also, Tony Keach is taking over from Sue Muncer as treasurer of The Welwyn Magazine. It was therefore agreed that both Tony and Maggie be added as signatories to The Welwyn Magazine bank account and that Tony be the person to whom all bank communications be sent.

Buildings’ Fabric - the fabric officer, Stuart Jenkin, had circulated his report prior to the meeting. The successful evacuation drill at St Mary’s was reported on, accomplished in under three minutes (but not in 2.3 seconds as erroneously reported elsewhere!). It was suggested

that, in the event of an evacuation a marshal should stand half way along the church to direct folk out of the back door as well as the main door.

The meeting then went on to discuss **Net Zero Carbon** (Church of England initiative) by 2030. The achievability of this target date was questioned. It was suggested that the PCC should re-visit the initiatives to establish what is feasible as currently the initiative is not being met and that if, after further review, the target of net carbon zero could not be achieved by 2030 a written submission should be sent to the C.o.E. to clarify the position. The Chairman pointed out that the target is an aspiration by the C.o.E. and he expects to receive further guidance from the

diocese in due course. It was also noted that the diocese has appointed a Net Zero Carbon officer and that grants have been available since mid June to help churches attain net zero carbon. It was proposed that in any new projects or purchases consideration should be given to the most environmentally friendly option.

An update to the report from the Fund raising working party was presented by Crystal Lam and Maggie Varco. Colin Hull proposed a *Giving Day* in the autumn, all agreed. Further support will be required of the PCC and others to implement the various fund raising ideas. Suggestions for fund raising and offers of support should be sent to Maggie Varco who will distribute them to members of the fund raising working group. A *literary and/or music festival* was suggested as a fund

PCC Report *continued from p26*

raiser, could be well received in Welwyn. **Rector's items** – financial giving actions covered above under fund raising.

The Holiday Club is due to re-start on July 24th with a good number of children and volunteers registered. Donations of non-dangerous, non-valuable and modelling materials will be appreciated.

After School Club 'Craftea' It is planned to reinstate this in September with a few more volunteers.

The Rector is considering options for a monthly **non-Eucharistic service** in the autumn to take place on Baptism Sunday, hopefully with some musical resources.

Health and safety – accidents (tripping on the footpath outside the church) had been reported for three people. The council, who are responsible for the

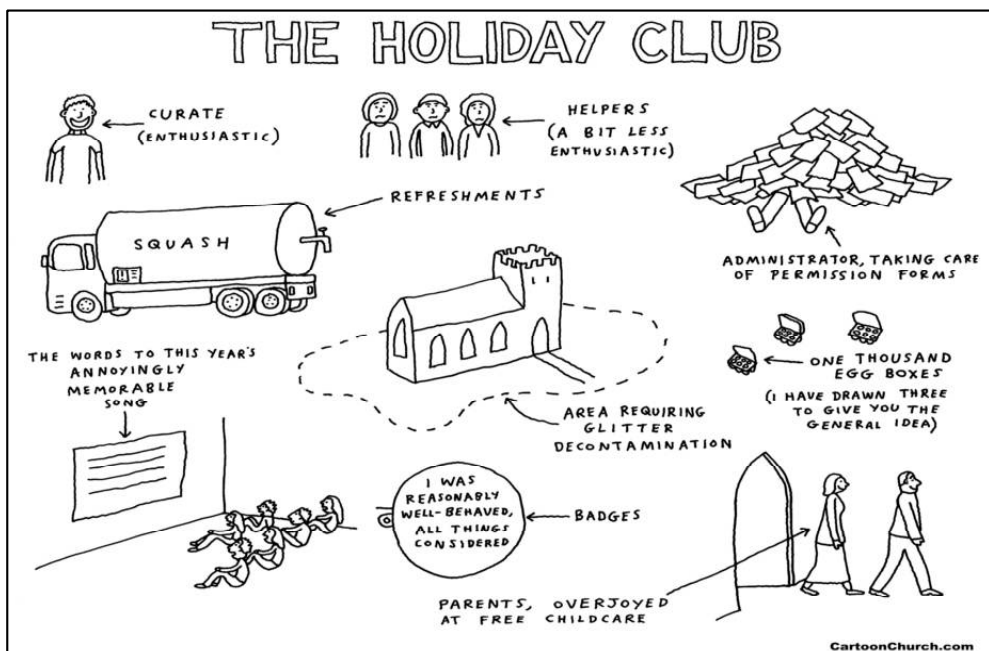
churchyard, have placed high-viz adhesive tape over the uneven joints in the footpath. Not sure if they see this as a permanent fix!

Deanery Synod - It was agreed that the PCC should set a legacy policy and update their leaflet.

Any Other Business - Colin Hull informed that Usha Hull is working on a script for a Christmas pantomime to be loosely based on the story of Aladdin.

Age Well Initiative - Crystal Lam gave feedback on her meeting which had been well received although less well supported than she had hoped for.

Stuart Westley is planning to talk to Catherine Farrell with a view to establishing closer cooperation between St Mary's Church and the Welwyn Festival



Lexophilia

Although not in the dictionary, it is reported that "Lexophile" describes a person who loves sentences such as:

"You can tune a piano, but you can't tuna fish."

and

"To write with a broken pencil is pointless."

An annual competition is held by the 'New York Times' to see who can create the best original Lexophile. This year's submissions:

I changed my iPad's name to Titanic. It's syncing now.

England has no kidney bank, but it does have a Liverpool.

Haunted French pancakes give me the crepes.

This girl today said she recognized me from the Vegetarians Club, but I'd swear I've never met herbivore.

I know a guy who's addicted to drinking brake fluid, but he says he can stop any time.

A thief who stole a calendar got twelve months.

When the smog lifts in Los Angeles, U.C.L.A.

I got some batteries that were given out free of charge.

A dentist and a manicurist married. They fought tooth and nail.

A will is a dead giveaway.

With her marriage, she got a new name and a dress.

Lexophilia *continued from p28*

Police were summoned to a daycare center where a three-year-old was resisting a rest.

A bicycle can't stand alone; it's just two tired.

The guy who fell onto an upholstery machine last week is now fully recovered.

He had a photographic memory but it was never fully developed.

When she saw her first strands of gray hair she thought she'd dye.

Acupuncture is a jab well done. That's the point of it.

I didn't like my beard at first. Then it grew on me.

Did you hear about the crossed-eyed teacher who lost her job because she couldn't control her pupils?

When you get a bladder infection, urine trouble.

When chemists die, they barium.

I stayed up all night to see where the sun went, and then it dawned on me.

I'm reading a book about anti-gravity. I just can't put it down.

Here is my contribution:

A well designed fireplace is just grate.

What might yours be?

Send yours to ***magazine@welwyn.org.uk***

Peter Branchflower

Woolmer Green Parish Council



Village Day

The sunshine returned for Village Day 2023 and the field was busy all afternoon. Thank you to everyone who attended and to all those who contributed to making it such a success. Particular thanks to our Parish Councillors Phil Corke and Grant Pinney pictured below, as they organised the tug of war.



The Bake Off returned with an English Literature theme, the Woolmer Green Band played (see below), the Church team was kept very busy making tea and serving cake; and the Red Lion team served drinks.

We look forward to doing it all again in 2024!



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Woolmer Green Parish Council *continued from p30*

Woolyfest

On the evening before **Village Day**, the Village Hall became a music festival venue with several live bands through the evening. There was food by **Wild Fire Catering** and drinks by **The Red Lion**. It was well attended and a future event is likely to follow next year. It was agreed at the June Parish Council meeting that, as future **Woolyfest** events are likely to become larger, it would be more appropriate if they were independently organised. Watch this space!

Alongside all the fun, the normal business of the Parish Council has continued through June and July and now the Council has a month off from meeting in August.

An update on other news will follow next month.

Sarah Hall

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

Herts at War - Free Talks

21st September 2023
The Welwyn Civic Centre
7.30 pm

This month's talk is WW2 related and is by Jim Nicholson on Flight Lieutenant (later Wing Commander) 'Nick' Nicolson VC, DFC – **The Battle of Britain VC**.



SO BRAVE: 'Nick' Nicolson with his VC in 1940. Top: A painting of his air battle

Nicolson was the only Battle of Britain pilot and the only pilot of RAF Fighter Command to be awarded the Victoria Cross during the Second

World War. Come and find out why.

'With the flames in his cockpit growing, Nicolson knew he had only seconds to escape but, as he pushed upwards, his head hit the buckled cockpit frame and his planned exit seemed impossible.'

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 donations to cover our costs* (venue, speakers etc.). Whenever possible a complimentary drink will also be provided.



Jonty Wild
Herts At War Project

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Summer Quiz - The Answers

1. Whose Summer residence is Castel Gandolfo? **(The Pope's)**
2. Which British pop group had a big hit with "In the Summertime"? **(Mungo Jerry)**
3. Which Shakespearian sonnet has the first line "Shall I compare thee to a Summer's day?" ? **(Sonnet 18)**
4. By what name is the character Puck in Midsummer Night's Dream also known? **(Robin Goodfellow)**
5. Compo was the nickname of a character in Last of the Summer Wine. What was his proper name? **(William Simmonite)**
6. What term is used for a period of hot dry weather in Autumn? **(Indian Summer)**
7. On what date does Summer officially begin? **(21st June)**
8. Which saint's day falls on 15th July each year? **(St. Swithin's)**
9. What old wives' tale is associated with that day? **(If it rains on St. Swithin's Day it will rain for the next 40 days, if it's fine there will be 40 days of fine weather.)**
10. In which country is the First Day of Summer an annual public holiday, celebrated in April? **(Iceland)**
11. Name the cities which hosted the Summer Olympics in the following years:
a)1952 b)1960 c)1972 and d)1988. **(a) Helsinki b) Rome c) Munich d) Seoul)**
12. Where is the UK's longest pier? **(Southend 1.38 miles)**
13. Who wrote the lyrics to Summertime from Porgy and Bess? **(mostly DuBose Heyward with some Ira Gershwin)**
14. In which month and year did the first Glastonbury Festival occur? **(September 1970)**
15. What is the fictional town in which the Australian sitcom "Home and Away" is set? **(Summer Bay)**

The next set of questions had nothing to do with Summer (or each other!) and are all True or False:

16. In Star Wars, Darth Vader says "Luke I am your father." **(False)**
17. There is a turtle that can breathe through its bum. **(True – it's Australian!)**
18. Oprah Winfrey's real first name is Susannah. **(False – it's Orpah. No that's not a misprint!)**
19. Mercury is the hottest planet in the solar system. **(False – it's Venus)**
20. Ants have extremely large lungs compared to their body size. **(False – they have no lungs)**
21. The leading role for Forrest Gump was originally offered to John Travolta. **(True)**
22. The planet Uranus was almost called George. **(True – after George III)**
23. Elephants can't jump. **(True)**
24. Hamsters are illegal in Hawaii. **(True)**
25. Wild hippos can only be found in Africa. **(False, they can now be found in Columbia)**

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Changes in the High Street

Take a walk along Welwyn High Street and around the corner into Church Street to see what changes have recently taken place.

Come down London Road into the High Street and soon you pass Lloyds... Oh no, you don't as it is now Barnes Pharmacy. Those who have lived here for some time may remember when the chemist was Nina Barnes and the new name reflects this.

A step or two further for an Italian lunch at Aqua, but it's gone! The name has come down, the restaurant (at the time of writing) is closed, reportedly new owners are taking over. Perhaps by the time of publication a new restaurant will have opened.

Strolling further along I always used to glance across the road at the fashions in Susu. Sadly no longer. As I write the premises are revealed to become an Isabel Hospice Charity Boutique for ladies' clothes and they are advertising for volunteers. Perhaps by September it will be open for you to choose your designer wear for autumn, unless you find something in the Danesbury Charity Shop first.

Thank goodness the post box still stands, but no longer outside a post office (much missed). Now it's a Turkish barbershop. Not knowing what the numbers meant when asked here whether he wanted a one, two or three, my friend replied "oh well I'll have number one". He unexpectedly ended up with a shaved head. He may return to the

High Street's more traditional barbers next time – who remembers when that was the butchers?

There are still opportunities on both sides of the road to buy, sell or rent a house as Country Properties, Bryan Bishop and Belvoir continue to display a large choice of property. It struck me that we have the same number of estate agents as food shops! Thankfully Tesco Express is still in place, as are our two lovely bakers, Katie's and Simmons – but that's it for your food shopping choice in the village.

However, if you can afford to eat out, you don't need to go hungry in Welwyn. Indeed the choice of eateries in the village has recently increased: the Rodi Greek restaurant opened in June on the site of the sadly missed Barclays Bank. Along with most local high streets, eating places proliferate while other retailers disappear.

In addition to those already mentioned, here's where you can get a meal in the village: The White Horse (Mill Lane), The White Hart, The Wellington, The Rose & Crown, Lemon Place, Vita, The Taj Mahal and for tea & cake, Laura Kate. Only The Tavern stays traditional for those who like a pub that's not become a restaurant too.

Vernonne Allan



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Welwyn Parish Council



Chairman—Alex Bardett

While driving through the Parish the other day the growing vines of Welwyn's new vineyard caught my eye, with the rows of some 25,000 vines rising neatly up the hillside. **Lokkelebery Vineyard** is located within, and takes its name from, Lockley Farm which stitches together the wards of Digswell, Welwyn and Oaklands in the Parish. Planted in spring 2022 we will have to wait another couple of years to taste the wine produced from the Chardonnay, Pinot Noir and Pinot Meurier grape varieties. In the meantime though if you want to know more see page 13 of this magazine, and keep an eye on their website, or the "Lokkelebery Vineyard" Facebook page – there are often tours or volunteering opportunities which many may find therapeutic. I look forward to finding the Lokkelebery Vineyard wines in the fridges and cellars of our local pubs and restaurants.

Talking of which, a new Greek restaurant, **Rodi**, has opened in Welwyn village on the site of the former Barclays Bank. It is great to see another offering in the village which helps make it a real

dining destination. Other changes see **Aqua** at the other end of the high street changing hands but remaining as an Italian restaurant, **Barnes Pharmacy** taking over from Lloyds and a pre-loved fashion store taking over the premises recently vacated by Susu. The shop, to be named **Always Loved** will sell women's clothing and accessories exclusively. It will be operated by Isabel Hospice but will step away from the traditional charity shop model.

In the previous issue I wrote to advise that a plethora of electric vehicle charging points would soon be descending on Welwyn Village. The six outside the Civic Centre and eight in Whitehill car park, promised by the Borough Council, are yet to materialize. The White Hart however has had its three superfast 75kW EV (electric vehicle) chargers installed. These are available for anyone to use. I expect that these will soon be added to the 'Zap Map', the EV owners bible of charging stations, so that they will draw people to the village in need of a quick 'top-up' and then hopefully discover and spend in our fine shops, pubs and restaurants.

Other driver news that is going to affect the Parish is the start of roadworks through Digswell on 4th September and lasting for most of the month. The chicanes on Herford road either side of the viaduct are being removed. These are being replaced by speed humps, which Hertfordshire Highways oddly call 'speed cushions in pairs', accompanied by a new Zebra crossing *continued on p40*

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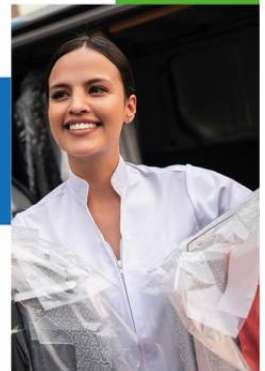
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Welwyn Parish Council *continued from p38*

with Belisha beacons opposite the tennis pavilion. The zebra crossing will give safer access to the playing fields, tennis court and recreation area. It will be interesting to see if the speed humps calm traffic more than the current chicanes.

At the other end of the Parish in Oaklands, the consultation period regarding reducing the speed limit, introducing a cycle lane and a new pelican crossing by the school closed at the end of February. Detailed plans are currently being drawn up and it is expected that these will be published within the next couple of months for final consultation. Hopefully these sensible safety changes will be implemented

shortly afterwards so that the traffic through Oaklands can be calmed and the road safely crossed.

Finally, just a note to say that if you didn't know a new recycling centre ('dump' in old money) has opened in Tewin Road in Welwyn Garden City. Having visited it I have to say that it is well designed, has very little queuing and also has a re-use shop on site. If you have good quality unwanted items there is a re-use drop off point so that your items can be used again rather than end up in landfill.

Alex Bardett

01438 716667

office@welwynpc.org.uk

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

Mardley Heath W.I

We have enjoyed two meetings this summer, a garden party and a trip to Waterend Houseover.

In our June meeting, not only did Graham Harrison give us a talk about Victorian medicines where we found out that these often contained alcohol or poisons. The Rose Cup was awarded, and we ate ice cream provided by the tea volunteers! Later in June, we visited Waterend House in Wheathampstead and spent time exploring the wonderful gardens and having afternoon tea.

July's meeting was full of tales of the 1940s and 1950s. Brian Carline entertained us with his childhood memories from growing up in a world of Penny for the Guy, school dinners, Davy

Crocket and Tarzan films, pulling your own teeth out with a piece of cotton tied to a door, and fierce landladies in Blackpool boarding houses! The meeting ended with us planning our annual garden party.

Most meetings are held at Oaklands School on the third Thursday evening of the month. New members and visitors are always welcome so please email at: **mardleyheathwi@gmail.com** if you are interested in joining us.

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St Michael's Church Arts and Crafts Festival



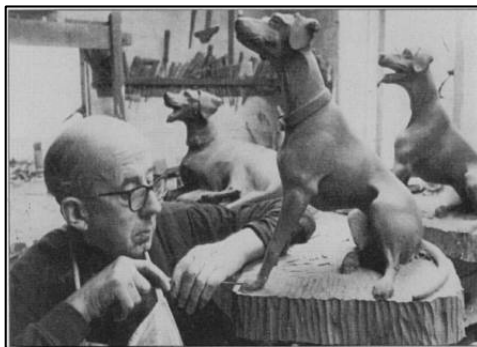
St Michael's Church is very proud of its Arts and Crafts heritage and so to celebrate this we have decided to hold a very special Patronal festival weekend this September. On the 23rd and 24th of September our beautiful little Church will be open for everyone to share some of its delights.

Visitors can learn about the church's fascinating history. From how the original services of worship were held in a room at Woolmer Green school, through to the planning and building of St Michael's by the esteemed architect Robert Weir Schulz, on land donated by the Lytton family of Knebworth House. R.W. Schulz was a very highly regarded architect who won many prestigious accolades for his design and restoration work.



Basrelief over the porch

Throughout the weekend there will be exhibitions and talks about the building, the Arts and Crafts movement and the various characters who have been part of St Michael's history, most notably, Harry MacDonald the wood-carver and his memorable model village. We will also have some examples of Harry's work on display. There will be a film shown about Harry's life and work which is sure to evoke many happy memories.



Harry MacDonald - Wood Carver

There will also be a fun quiz for our younger visitors and refreshments. So do come and join us for what we hope will prove to be a very interesting weekend.

A full programme of the events can be found nearer the date on the St Michael's Facebook page or our website: www.stmichaels-wg.org.uk



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Friends of Danesbury and QVM

31st August marks the official end of another summer and whilst the weather has been mixed, sometimes dull and wet, the hospital grounds have been a mass of colour. The Friends have provided lovely bedding plants and roses and replaced shrubs which did not survive the winter. The garden is now back to its former glory. The patients and their relatives really do enjoy the outside space. It is so important for their recovery and rehabilitation.

This month the Trustees have agreed to fund several new and replacement TVs at both the QVM and Danesbury Hospitals. When the project is complete, every patient will we hope have access to a TV to enjoy sport, gardening programmes, etc.

The Trustees have also agreed to fund several handheld devices to use in the rehabilitation gym or by the patients near their beds to help improve their upper limb movement and strength.

The well researched equipment the Friends agreed to fund has provided benefits to both the patients and staff. However, like most things in today's world, the cost of the items we agree to fund is rising. Your continued support by making donations or purchases from the charity shop, or from our eBay shop are

essential, and we really do value everyone who supports this wonderful charity.

During the summer we celebrated the 30th anniversary of the opening of the newly built Dansbury Neurological centre, and the 80th birthday of our esteemed manager, Brian King, one of the managers of our charity shop on Welwyn High Street. The staff, volunteers of the shop and members of staff from the hospitals really enjoyed a social gathering to mark such milestones.



Brian King and Joy Wearing



*Marianne Hawes
Friends of Danesbury & QVM Hospitals*



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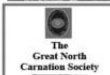
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Church Notice Board

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

Confessions By arrangement with the Clergy.

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

Clergy Surgery Hour

Saturdays 10.00 am to 11.00 am

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

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

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

AYOT ST PETER www.ayotstpeter.com

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

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

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

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Methodist/Anglican LUG	T: 01438 510391
1st and 3rd Sundays	11.00 am Methodist (1st Holy Communion)
2nd Sunday	11.00 am Anglican
4th Sunday	11.00 am Family Service
5th Sunday	11.00 am alternate Methodist/Anglican

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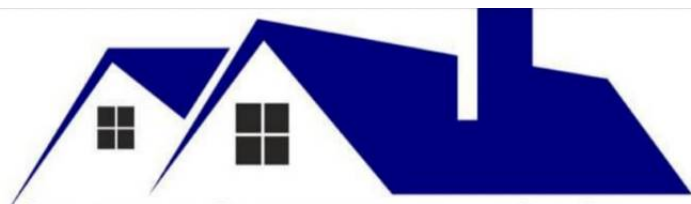
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Meditation - ‘What are you doing this weekend?’

Romans 1: 16 “For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes...”

When someone asks you ‘*What are you doing this weekend?*’, what do you say? Seeing friends, family time, going away, the dreaded housework? Do you mention going to Church?

For some reason, it wasn’t until quite recently that I ‘admitted’ to my friends, colleagues and newly found mum friends that I was doing this as part of my weekend plans. But why? I think this was because I didn’t want to be judged as being odd, uncool or different to people of a similar age to me.

Unfortunately, not many of my peers attend Church on a regular basis. An article in *The Independent*, published in January 2023*, reported that the 2021 census showed that the average age of people in England and Wales identifying as Christian was now 51 (the average age was 45 in 2011). 29% of those who considered themselves to be Christian were aged 65+, up from 22.3% in 2011. In contrast, those aged 21-25 who considered themselves to be Christian had fallen from 5.1% in 2011 to 3.9% in 2021. In fact, the majority of young adults (aged 22-30) said that they had no religion.

For me, it wasn't until a passing comment from one of my colleagues about how much they admired the fact I take my boys to Church, that I realised they didn't think I was ‘boring’ or ‘uncool’ – they respected my choices. It shouldn't have taken that comment to make me feel comfortable about saying ‘*I'm going to Church on Sunday morning*’, but it was the reassurance I needed to start feeling more confident about including it in my rundown of my weekend plans.

It is very easy to shy away from our beliefs so we fit in with others, but we should not be ashamed to let others know what we believe in. Our commitment to Christ may even inspire others....

Helen McKay

*<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/england-christian-office-for-national-statistics-wales-sikh-b2271849.html>