

The Welwyn Magazine

with Woolmer Green



February 2024

60p

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St Mary's and St Michael's
Churchwardens

COVER

Fallen tree in St Mary's Churchyard
after storm Henk
Rita McNeill

MAGAZINE ARTICLES

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Include your contact details.
email: magazine@welwyn.org.uk

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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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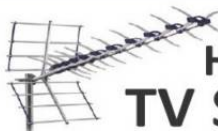
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The Rector's Letter

Dear Friends

Every year in Welwyn we have three carol services. Everyone thinks that carols are songs you sing at Christmas, but in fact there are carols for all times and seasons – a carol just means a jolly song, often one you could dance to. So, we have one carol service for the start of Advent and one at Christmas – but the third one is probably the one which is least well known. The season of Christmas ends with the feast of Candlemas, and so we have a third Candlemas Carol Service, probably on the weekend this magazine comes out – this year Sunday January 28th at 6.30pm. Appropriately for Candlemas, it is also candlelit.

Candlemas is in fact properly February 2nd – the day forty days after his birth in which Jesus was presented in the Temple, and the relevant Jewish sacrifices made for the safe delivery of a first born son. As well as still being in the darkest part of the year, the name Candlemas comes from a line in Luke's gospel, spoken by the Prophet Simeon. When aged Simeon takes Jesus in his arms, he suddenly recognises him for who he is, and says: 'This child will be a light to lighten the nations, as well as being the glory of his people Israel.'

Simeon goes on to say, somewhat ominously, to Mary, that 'a sword will pierce your own soul too' – a reference to the life and more importantly death which will befall Jesus. Candlemas has often been described therefore as the 'hinge' festival of the year – it completes the Christmas season but also looks forward to Lent, Good Friday and Easter.

This year Lent, and thus Easter, is very early. So soon after this (in fact on St



Valentine's Day perhaps slightly awkwardly) comes Ash Wednesday. There are only two and half weeks between the end of Christmas and the start of Lent. But maybe that is as it should be – Simeon reminds us that although we rejoice at the birth of baby Jesus, we should not forget that our rejoicing is based in his role as Saviour and Messiah. We, and indeed some of those who knew and loved Jesus, perhaps wish that salvation can come through a smooth passage from stable to kingdom – but it doesn't. It goes through the cross, and only then stretches to heaven.

Yours

David



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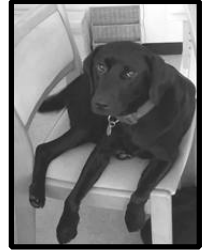
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JESSIE THE RECTORY DOG

There is something innately sad about a MAMIL (look it up if you don't know) going off a Balearic Island, hiring a bike, and struggling up various well known cycling climbs, and calling it (albeit tongue in cheek) a 'winter training camp' – as though he were with a professional team, training for the Tour de France. Maybe I shouldn't make fun in this way, but of course, inevitably it entails me being left behind whilst he flies off (don't feel too sorry, as I simply go a week of being spoiled with the grandparents, who it is commonly acknowledged, I have wrapped around my little finger). This year however, even Mistress is hiring a bike and going for rides herself.

Whether Master will cope without someone helping him up the stairs on return, driving the car to pick him up after some self-inflicted injury or mechanical failure, and opening a cold beer at the end of ride, has yet to be seen. Or indeed the crushing realisation that she has beaten him on a Strava climb (again, if you don't know, look it up).



Jessie

HELP REQUIRED

The Church is looking for a volunteer or possibly a paid consultant/contractor who has knowledge of heating systems or buildings run by a building management system (BMS) or Ground Source Heat Pumps (GSHP). The church's heating system comprises a new gas boiler, three GSHP and a Trend BMS. If anyone is interested, please contact Stuart Jenkin via the Church office - secretary@welwyn.org.uk

Helen Thompsett, who has been looking after advertising in this magazine for many years has moved from Welwyn and would like to retire. We are therefore looking for a volunteer Advertising Administrator to take her place. Currently the magazine has about 60 advertisers. All advertisements are booked on a yearly basis. The administrator liaises with the advertisers, sends out bills and collects payments.

If you are interested or would like to know more before committing yourself please contact Helen at her current email address advert@welwyn.org.uk

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LENT/HOLY WEEK

Easter is very early this year and the Easter activities are spread over February and March. We include details here on those activities which will be taking place in February.

Rectory evening – come and enjoy a drinks and pancakes party with friends on Saturday 10th February at 8pm at the Rectory – 2 Ottway Walk. A last chance to indulge before a Lenten fast....

Shrove Tuesday



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Hopefully you will see the publicity for our Village Pancake Race. This will be on Shrove Tuesday 13th February at 3.45pm outside St Mary's church, Welwyn, and running along Codicote Road. There will be various age categories, and the race will be a relay of four teams of five runners. This year there will be no pre-booking of teams – but all should arrive by 3.35 to register. Teams need one frying pan each, and fancy dress is much encouraged – come along and cheer on the various teams, and make this a really good church and village event.

Ash Wednesday (February 14th)



At 9.30am and 8pm there will be a Eucharist with Imposition of Ash at St Mary's Welwyn. All are welcome and encouraged to make this start to the Lenten season.

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LENT COURSES

You may not be aware but one of the most important collections of modern religious art in the world is held by the Methodist Church of the UK. It so happens that it is being exhibited at the Focolare Centre, AL8 6JG, in Welwyn Garden City over the period of Lent (from March 1st to April 7th).

To accompany this exhibition our local ecumenical group is producing study material for the use of Lent groups . This is a unique opportunity to see this collection locally and to reflect on it. All the material will be provided free of charge in both hard copy and electronic form. The Lent groups in the Welwyn team are listed below – do please feel free to join any of them, or if needed different ones on different weeks. It would be great to see you to study and think together. In addition we will arrange several visits to the exhibition, or you may wish to make your own arrangements to see it

David Munchin

Lent Groups 2024

(Groups start after Ash Wednesday – there are six weeks in the course)

Tuesday 7.30 – St Michael’s Woolmer Green group

Led and hosted by Christie and Ryan Gilfeather, 01438 561702, 3 London Road, Woolmer Green

Wednesday 10.30am St Mary’s Church House,

Led by David Munchin, 01438 714150

Wednesday 7.45 for 8pm, 1 Codicote Road, Welwyn,

Led by Gay and Mike Carpenter 01438 718439 (to be confirmed)

Thursday 7pm Datchworth Church hall Led by Jo Sampson, 01438 816005 (beginning with soup and cheese supper)

Thursday 7pm at Codicote Parish Centre (next to St Giles Church), led by Catherine Jupp 01438 716622.

Friday 9.30am Time for Reflection Group at St Mary’s Church House Contact Mavis Francis 01438 487851 and Marcia Khan

Friday 12:30pm 30 Godfries Close, Tewin. Led by Susannah Underwood, 01438 817183 Beginning with soup lunch



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CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR THE CHILDREN OF UKRAINE

“Hello,” said a voice on the phone, “can you tell me – is the war in Ukraine sorted? We don’t hear anything about it now.” Well, the answer is a resounding NO! Our dear guest, Nadia, updates us day by day about the terrible loss of life and the grim conditions people are living in, and the hardship suffered by soldiers in the trenches in mud, rain and snow.

We have now achieved charity status for Alfs (no mean feat!) and we are so fortunate to have a wonderful team of faithful contributors collecting things that the Ukrainians themselves have asked for, and donating money. There is always a need for toiletries, instant food, everything you can think of for the frontline field “hospitals”, generators, torches and specific things each time when a different need arises.



As Christmas approached, our Bible Discovery groups decided to organize some treats for the children, and we purchased little boxes to fill with sweets. On Wednesday 15th November we offered coffee and biscuits and a chance to put together and fill the boxes. To our amazement about 50 people turned up, many we didn’t know! We started with a prayer and were surprised and greatly encouraged by the round of applause following “Amen”. The feeling of support for Ukraine was tangible. Then the massive piles of sweets so generously given were tackled. Boxes were filled with chocolate bars, packets and rolls of sweets, and we added a Christmas card in each with the messages written in them translated by Nadia and Anna, both hardly able to draw a breath as queues formed. We also put in a tiny bag containing a crocheted “worry worm” with a little poem, all to encourage the children that they weren’t forgotten either by God or by us. We filled 170 boxes that evening!

The articulated lorry left on the 4th December with all the sweets on board, and we received a photograph on December 15th of the lorry being unloaded in Ukraine, to be taken by the Ukrainian team off to the children in time for Christmas. So many of you are the most wonderful supporters even in these hard times! Thank you so much!

Michael and Gay Carpenter



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St Mary's Concert 19th February

The February concert in the '*Second Saturday Recitals*' series at St Mary's will feature the return of the Cambridge Chamber Ensemble for a violin and piano recital. Stephen Foster and Maya Irgalina will play music by Brahms, Mozart, Debussy and Dvořak. The concert is on 10 February at 12 noon and will last for one hour. Entry is free to all and there will be a retiring collection for church funds.

The violinist Stephen Foster is well known to Welwyn audiences and he also happens to be the organiser of the '*Second Saturday Recitals*' series at St Mary's, which is attracting a growing following with audience numbers regularly topping 100.

London-based Maya Irgalina is a Belarusian pianist of Tatar origin. Her musical interests include jazz and contemporary classics, as well as Spanish and French impressionism alongside her European and Russian repertoire. Maya has been a Britten-Pears Young Artist and was featured in Semyon Bychkov's 'Beloved Friend' project about Tchaikovsky with the BBC Symphony Orchestra. As a guest pianist, she has played with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, Manchester Camerata and Belarusian Opera House Orchestra to name just a few. Maya has been a prizewinner in many competitions in the UK and overseas.



Pianist Maya Irgalina

She holds the International Artist Diploma in Solo Performance, the Gold Medal from the Royal Northern College of Music and a Master's Degree in Music from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama.

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Every year we join with the Hertfordshire Natural History Society for a rather special talk. This talk is titled the Gerald Salisbury Memorial Lecture and this year it will take place at the Civic Centre at 8.00pm on February the 28th,

Gerald Salisbury was a brilliant naturalist and devoted much of his time to the management of the Chess Valley nature reserve, as seen in his obituary in 2015:



Gerald Salisbury

“We are hugely grateful to Gerald Salisbury for his devoted volunteering at Frogmore Meadows and we are thrilled that we are able to use his legacy to extend the nature reserve that he loved so much. The meadows on the reserve are a rare and precious habitat and we’re really looking forward to being able to manage this enlarged site to protect its wildlife and allow people to enjoy it”

Welwyn Natural History Society enjoys its co-operation with the Hertfordshire Natural History Society. We arrange the venue (at the Civic Centre, 8pm) and they arrange the speaker and the refreshments (usually a glass of wine and some nibbles). I have a little problem though in that they haven’t yet arranged a speaker! So, even though I am sure it will be a fascinating evening, you will need to check on our website or Facebook page if you want to know who will be entertaining/informing us!

Incidentally, last month saw our Annual General Meeting on 24th so now is a good time to become a member. If the yearly sub hasn’t changed, it is only £15 a year to join, otherwise it’s £4 per meeting... easy to see the better option when there are ten meetings a year....

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Find the words listed below. They are always in a straight line but can be in any direction.
Answers in February 2024.

REINDEER	MINCEPIES	SHEPHERDS	SANTA
SLEIGH	PRESENTS	ANGELS	ELVES
MAGI	STOCKING	DONKEY	RUDOLF
MISTLETOE	TREE	MARY	STABLE
IVY	WREATH	JOSEPH	STAR
HOLLY	CANDLE	JESUS	CHIMNEY
TURKEY	CAROLS	GABRIEL	FRANKINCENSE
PUDDING	MANGER	HEROD	MYRRH

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RIBA

DECEMBER / JANUARY QUIZ ANSWERS

1. What is the date of the Winter solstice 2023? **Friday 22nd December**
2. When is St Nicholas' Day? **6th December**
3. Traditionally, who is said to have introduced Christmas trees to Britain? **Prince Albert**
4. What colour are reindeer's eyes in Winter? **Blue**
5. How many Magi came bearing gifts to baby Jesus? **No idea. There is no number given in the Bible.**
6. What gifts did they bring? **Gold, frankincense and myrrh**
7. In France, when is the Christmas feast eaten? **Christmas Eve, in the evening often lasting past midnight. It's called Le Réveillon.**
8. When is St Lucy's Day? **13th December**
9. How is that day celebrated in Scandinavia? **Procession of girls dressed in white, wearing wreaths of lighted candles on their heads.**
10. Which saint's day is 31st December? **St. Sylvester**
11. When is Christmas celebrated in the Orthodox Church? **6th and 7th January**
12. Who gave Santa's reindeer their names? **Clement Clarke Moore – He wrote 'Twas the night before Christmas, which was the first time the reindeer were named.**
13. When did Rudolf the red nosed reindeer first appear? **1939 in a short story by Robert L May. The song was written by his brother-in-law Johnny Marks in 1949.**
14. How many of Santa's reindeer were male? **None of them. If you got this one wrong you didn't read the December/January magazine properly!**
15. When and where is Hogmanay celebrated? **Scotland. 31st December.**
16. What should a "First foot" look like and be carrying? **A tall, dark-haired male carrying wood or coal, food, drink and a coin, to symbolise warmth, plenty and prosperity.**
17. What are the origins/meanings of the words December and January, and why is December no longer an appropriate name for the 12th month? **December from the Latin word Decem, meaning ten. It was originally the 10th month of the year. January, from the Roman god Janus, who had two faces. January looks back at the old year and forward to the new year.**
18. When does the Christmas season start and end? **24th December (Christmas Eve) – 2nd February (Candlemas).**
19. Traditionally, what was hidden inside a Christmas pudding? **A silver threepenny bit, later a sixpence was used.**
20. Who wrote the words to the famous Christmas Carol, "In the bleak midwinter"? **Christina Rosetti**

Rita McNeill

Notes from the PCC 20th November meeting

The Chairman began the meeting as usual. Apologies for absence were noted. The minutes of the 20th September meeting met with no objections so were duly signed by the Chairman.

Under matters arising and consequent upon a light-hearted remark in the September issue of The Welwyn Magazine that the archdeacon's inspection at St Michael's had not been possible due to keys not being available. It was requested that the Minutes of the meeting should record the reason that keys were not available at the material time was because no one at St Michael's had been notified of the archdeacon's intended visit. If they had been informed someone would have been present to greet the archdeacon and show her the relevant, up-to-date paperwork.

Turning to **finance** the treasurer for St Michael's presented her report. St Michael's have decided against purchasing a payment card reader for donations for the time being.

For St Mary's the treasurer had circulated her report in advance of the meeting. It was pleasing to hear that the income generation appeal had been successful to the extent that the forecast deficit for 2023 has been reduced by more than 50 percent but, obviously, more is required for this year and into the future for St Mary's and St Michael's to remain financially sustainable. It was agreed that the PCC would report the progress of the appeal to those on St Mary's and St Michael's electoral rolls as well as via a notice in

the pew sheets and weekly Church email.

It was agreed that the Giving Action Group would be asked to work together with a member of the PCC to create a new stewardship leaflet. It was also agreed to update the Newcomers leaflet.

Regarding **church fabric** – St Mary's heating system remains a problem. It's a software problem in the control computer that controls the boiler and heat pumps. Finding someone with the requisite knowledge (and willingness) to re-programme the system is proving very difficult. An advertisement will appear in this magazine.

Some of the uplighters in Church House need replacement (incandescent) bulbs. It was agreed that 30 new bulbs be bought in order to postpone the forthcoming obligation (and significant expense) to replace the light fittings (not just the bulbs) with LED compatible fittings and bulbs.

At St Michael's it was reported that a warning (reflective) strip is to be placed on the step in the porch as it is quite a dark area.

Rector's items – Crafta has been discontinued due to lack of uptake. The Rector and the Director of Music are working to re-launch Junior Choir for Sunday services at St Mary's by recruiting at the team schools. The Rector will liaise with the organist to discuss the possibility of setting up choir sessions at Woolmer Green.

Notes from the PCC 20th November meeting

Giving Weekend – 11/12th May 2024 – It was recommended and agreed by the PCC to make this a once a year event to focus attention on church finance and income generation.

The Rector notified the PCC that Mr Mick Simmons has retired as a Reader and gave thanks for his long service.

The Deanery Synod report – was presented by the PCC representative. Other than the usual business of the Deanery Synod meeting the feature talk centred on the question “How worried should we be about AI?” After a wide ranging and interesting talk the conclusion was “We don’t need to worry about AI, we need to worry about the people using AI.”

Regular renewals – The health and safety policy had been under review and updated. It was broadly agreed by the PCC. A member of the church will be approached to ask whether he agrees to take the role of Health & Safety Officer. Options are to find a local volunteer, employ a company to carry out an annual audit or refer to the ‘Persons Responsible’ list.

Appointments & Resignations – The extension of Ashley Cordell’s tenure as a governor of St Michael’s School was agreed by the PCC. One more governor is still required for St Mary’s School.

The Welwyn Anglo French Twinning Association has presented a painting of St Mary’s by a French lady artist (name unknown) to the Church which will be displayed in Church House. The curate will be asked to bless the painting following a Sunday service. WAFTA have requested a formal unveiling ceremony next May during a visit from their French associates.

A booklet has been prepared about the history of St Michael’s Church. The PCC agreed to finance its printing and publication.

This magazine is seeking a new advertising manager – interested? Get in touch – magazine@welwyn.org.uk

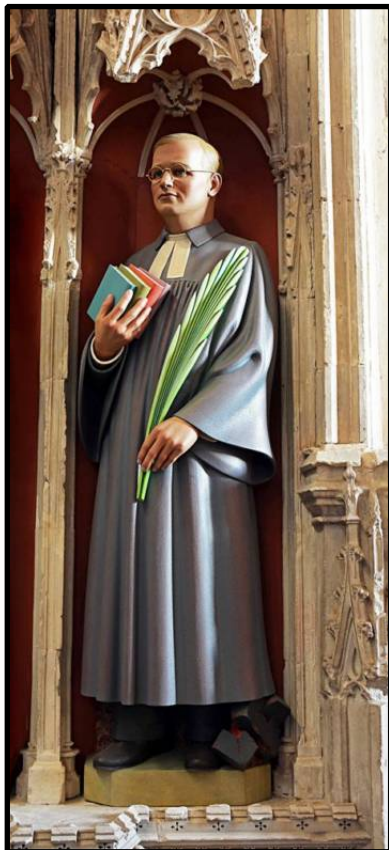
Gift list – from time to time parishioners approach the Rector with offers of cash donations but ask what the money will be spent on, implying that they would prefer their cash to be spent on something tangible rather than Church running expenses. This is not easy to respond to ‘off the cuff’ so it was agreed to prepare a ‘wish list’ of items that the Church needs (essentials) or would like (nice to haves) to assist with this.

David Hughes
5th December 2023

DIETRICH BONHOEFFER

In St Albans Abbey, above the altar, there are statues of martyrs and saints and one of these is the figure of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, who died in Flossenburg concentration camp after his involvement in a plot to overthrow and kill Hitler.

Bonhoeffer was born in Breslau, Poland, in 1906 and grew up amid the academic circles of Berlin where his father was a professor of psychiatry and neurology. From 1923 to 1927 he studied theology at the universities of Tübingen and Berlin. He moved to London in 1933 and became the pastor of two small German congregations, after spending time as an exchange student at a seminary in New York. He became a leading spokesman for the Confessing Church, the centre of German Protestant resistance to the Nazi regime, and was fierce in his support of the Jews who were being persecuted by the Nazis. Nazi ideology defined Jews by blood, based on the religion of an individual's grandparents. Bonhoeffer insisted that Jews, who had converted to Christianity, had the same rights in the church as other Christians and this put him at odds with many other Christian leaders.



The statue of Dietrich Bonhoeffer in St Albans Cathedral

After attending a conference at the University of Cambridge in 1931, Bonhoeffer was appointed to be a European youth secretary of the World Alliance for Promoting International Friendship through the Churches. He remained an active participant in ecumenical affairs despite the increasingly nationalistic mood in Germany.

In 1935 Bonhoeffer was appointed to organise and head a new seminary

DIETRICH BONHOEFFER

of the Confessing

Church at Finkenwalde (Pomerania) which continued in disguised form until 1940, despite it being banned by the political authorities in 1937. Here he introduced the practices of prayer and private confession.

In 1938 he was introduced to a group seeking Hitler's overthrow and in 1939 he considered taking refuge in the United States, but returned after only two weeks in New York saying "I have no right to participate in the reconstruction of Christian life in Germany, after the war, if I do not share the trials of this time with my people".

His involvement in one of twenty five plots to overthrow Hitler led to his arrest, imprisonment and death in Flossenburg concentration camp, aged just thirty nine.

Just before he died, on 9th April 1945, he said "In order to help people suffering (ie the German people) one had to be prepared to suffer oneself".

Joyce Davis

WELWYN ANGLO FRENCH TWINNING

WAFTA QUIZ

Date: Saturday 20th April

Venue: Civic Centre, main hall

Time: 7:00 - 10:30pm

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ST MARY'S CHURCH CHOIR

St Mary's Church choir's primary aim is to enhance the worship at choral services. My old choir director once said that he wanted the choir to give the congregation people a glimpse of heaven.

There are lots of other choir aims and I'll go into many later. However, I'm writing this as I wind down in Lapland for New Year – relaxing after a busy period of trying to achieve this prime aim.

When you read this we'll have completed the extended Christmas season with the last of the three carol services - Candlemas. Our advent service is my favourite service of the year. It's more reflective and spiritually fulfilling than Christmas and in my view has a real sense of purpose. Our Nine Lessons and Carols was great (for the choir at least) with the readings and music tying together to tell and reinforce the Christmas story and message.

One regular service I'm passionate about and is generally the church's best kept secret is Evensong. It is at 6:30pm on the second Sunday of most months and is a musical and spiritual extravaganza. Make of it what you wish. I find it a highly spiritual event. I know congregation regulars find the same. Others just enjoy the music and the comfort of the ancient words of the Book of Common Prayer. If you haven't given it a try please do. It's a good opportunity to invite those who find church intimidating to come along and experience a more passive service for the congregation.

The choir isn't just about enhancing worship. It fulfils many other roles. I'm passionate about teaching music to children. I believe that it gives children a boost educationally and socially and I'm convinced that children who spend a significant time in a church choir enrich the rest of their lives as a result. Adults get many of the same benefits. You can teach adults new tricks! Singing technique, interpretation, sight singing and, of course, the sense of being part of a team.

We've introduced a few new initiatives in my time here: choral scholarships for young people (generally 14-18) to sing with us and get some remuneration in return. My scholars from a previous church have gone on to great success. We're also considering looking to appoint an organ scholar which will benefit the individual (a great opportunity to learn to accompany a good choir in a musically rich environment on a great instrument – and get paid). In addition it will benefit the choir, St Mary's and potentially the wider team churches as it will increase our list of accompanists.

Both these initiatives tie in with another aim – keeping a choral tradition thriving in the UK. Some may prefer a more modern style of worship at their church.

ST MARY'S CHURCH CHOIR

There's clearly a place for both. But you need to feed and water something for it to thrive. It is churches like St Mary's that need to keep things going so that the next generation of singers and organists can grow and develop. Parish choirs play just as important a role as those in cathedrals.

In times where the church is contracting, choirs offer a beacon of hope for growth. Adults joining the choir helps grow the congregation but it's children where the real opportunity lies. Examples of work in Portsmouth diocese, Sheffield and the Roman Catholic diocese of Leeds show that choral music can make a congregation bloom and flourish.

My favourite part of choir, however, is another key purpose: having fun! We work as a team. We socialise with a few of us heading to the Rose & Crown after 9pm on a Thursday. Singing is a social activity and gives us all a sense of community and purpose. And that purpose leads us back to enhancing worship and we've come full circle.

A choir has a constant turnover of membership despite having many long serving members. We've had a few retirements in the last few years. We know one or two will be moving away soon. If this article doesn't lead to one or two more joining us then that will be a frustration to us – we need more singers (particularly men). If you have any interest in singing please do give it a go. It would be lovely to have a large influx of experienced singers join us. However, it's really rewarding to see new members – young and old - grow their singing capability with us. It helps to read music but there are other ways of learning the pieces and we can help those who wish to develop these skills.

In summary, a church choir is good for the church, community, young people, mental health, social cohesion of its membership and is great fun. Please support us by coming to Evensong and by thinking about who you know who might like to join us.

A church choir is for the whole year – not just Christmas!!!

Rob Milner

WOOLMER GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Carols Round the Tree

Woolmer Green celebrated Christmas at the Village Hall around the tree on Christmas Eve.

Revd. Christie Gilfeather led the singing with Woolmer Green Band playing. It was a lovely festive evening with friends and family along with mulled wine and hot chocolate to keep us warm.



We were lucky the rain held off but a gust of wind took the Christmas tree to the ground with a crash and it had to be rescued before we continued singing!

There was a collection for the Parish Council's chosen charity, Mind in Mid Herts, which had been nominated by a resident.

Woolmer Green Band also collected for the same charity at several events in Datchworth, Burnham Green and the Woolmer Green pubs.



We are yet to confirm the total raised and will provide an update next month but the Parish Council and Woolmer Green Band thank everyone for their generous donations.

Thanks to Rev Christie and everyone involved in organising this lovely annual event.

WOOLMER GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Other news from the Parish Council

The Parish Council agreed at its December meeting to join the One Welwyn Hatfield Community Lottery with the aim of raising funds for a mature living Christmas tree and lights. Hopefully this will avoid a repeat of the issue we had on Christmas Eve 2023!

A further grant from the UK Shared Prosperity fund will be used to fund a durable soft surface under the Garden Road Playground climbing frame to replace the bark chips. The Clerk is seeking quotes for the work.

Woolmer Green Market

2024 9-1pm

28 January

25 February

24 March

28 April

19 May

23 June

21 July

No market in August

22 September

27 October

24 November

8 December Christmas

Market 9-2pm

Woolmer Green Farmers' Market

These are the dates in 2024 when the market takes place in the Village Hall which is always full of local crafts and food. There are usually hot drinks and bacon rolls served through the morning too. Please come along and support local traders.

Sarah Hall

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

WELWYN PARISH COUNCIL

Firstly, a happy new year to all.

It seems a long time ago since mulled wine and mince pies were well received on a cold and wet morning in December courtesy of the Welwyn Allotments Association (WAA) Christmas party at their 'head office' (hut) in the heart of the Welwyn Village conservation area.



The hut actually sells all sorts of goods for allotment or garden use and is open to all parishioners every other Saturday from early March each year whether or not they are plot holders. The close to 100 allotment plots are very popular due to their quality, price, management and location in the village centre with free parking in WPC's Lockleys Drive car park. Notwithstanding this, plots do become available each year. If you are interested in tending a plot for yourself either fill in an online application form or pop into the Welwyn Parish Council (WPC)

office and get your name down on the waiting list.

Nice though the mince pies were... I think the girls were hoping more for sausage rolls and so it wasn't long before Brunel and Bernoulli wanted to move on for their now delayed morning walk. Sensing where they were, the red setters got up a head of steam passing the Church and down Codicote Road before being let loose for a run on Singlers Marsh. They hadn't been to it for a while. I'd been there a week earlier with the Leader of Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council (WHBC) discussing their new 10 year Management Plan for the marsh and Danesbury Nature reserves and of course their objection, as landowners, to the WPAG Village Green application. WPC had reviewed the consultation for the 10-year plan and agreed with the content. A few weeks prior to this the Leisure and Open Spaces Committee had noted that the new 10 year plans were virtually the same as the previous, expiring, 10-year plans. A couple of differences on the new Singlers Marsh plan are the shoring up of the riverbank to prevent further erosion at a couple of points where dogs enter the river at the bridge end, and the introduction of water troughs at the other end to help prevent cattle entering the river and disturbing the riverbed – which seem sensible improvements. While WHBC owns the nature reserves and employs contractors to maintain it, it's the Welwyn parishioners who pay for it via 'special expenses' in your council tax – It's £10.46 per band D household this year.

The WPAG Village Green application is a little more emotive with views being somewhat entrenched. WPC have written in support of the application which would enshrine in law that the marsh can continue to be used as it

continued p29

WELWYN PARISH COUNCIL *continued from p28*

has been for many decades. It is hoped that the Borough will withdraw its objection which would cost the Borough taxpayers tens of thousands of pounds. It's tricky to understand what WHBC are objecting to given that their own plans demonstrate commitment to the local nature reserve and their statement that they have no intention of building upon Singlers Marsh, both of which lend themselves perfectly to being a village green. It's perhaps a case of "it's my ball"..... It looks like the courts will decide, but whichever way it goes rest assured that the marsh will not be built on as firstly nobody has suggested or wants to build on it and secondly it is a class 3b flood plain, which means that you can't build on it!

Of course, none of that makes any difference to the wet, dogs as we loop, via Fulling Mill up into the Danesbury Nature reserve and into the fernery. It is amazing the work that has been done here in the last 8 years to bring it from being a derelict forgotten site (except to the local exploring children who knew it as the Tarzan caves amongst other things) into a gold award winner in Anglia in Bloom 2023. If you haven't been it is well worth a visit, website <https://danesburyfernery.org.uk/>.

Leaving Danesbury we head down Church Street in search of a bowl of water and some mini cheddars. The girls bypass the excellent Rose and Crown, as I think that Brunel isn't keen on the football being shown in their sports bar, and we head to the White Hart which is now accepting dogs in the bar for the first time in many years. Although there are many dogs in the pub, Brunel and Bernoulli didn't find Jessie the Rectory dog. They suspect that she must be teetotal.

Alex Bardett

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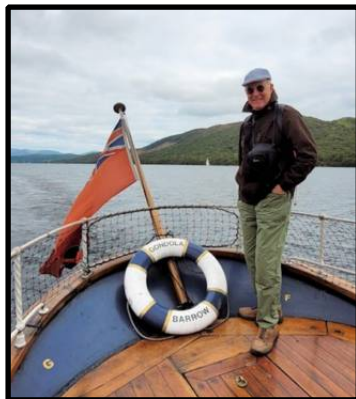
15th February 2024
The Welwyn Civic Centre

This month's talk is by Geoff Cunnington on "Grand Fleet Lives: picturing Royal Navy sailors' postcards in the First World War"

Geoff Cunnington is a retired company secretary with a life-long interest in the Great War,

Geoff is an independent researcher in the field of naval history with a particular focus on the social history of the Royal Navy from the late Victorian and Edwardian eras through to the end of the First World War.

He graduated from the University of Portsmouth with an MA in Naval History in the summer of 2023. He has recently spoken at the Great War Group Conference in Brighton and at The Society for Nautical Research (South) in Portsmouth.



Geoff Cunnington

For this visually rich presentation, Geoff will draw upon his extensive collection of Royal Navy sailors' postcards from the First World War. He will use the unique visual-textual format of the postcard to explain and contextualise the lives and experiences of the ordinary sailors and their families. This brings a novel dimension to the historiography of the cultural history of the lower-deck of the Royal Navy in time of war. The presentation is about 45 minutes in duration, with additional time for questions afterwards.

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

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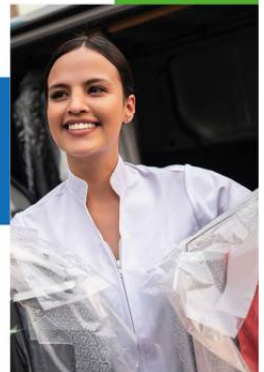
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Beacon is the name given to the Hertfordshire Victim Care Centre. Located at police HQ, it is staffed by professionals from Herts Constabulary and Catch 22, an independent organisation that supports victims of crime. The primary focus is to help victims cope and recover from their ordeal.

If you report a crime of any sort to the police you will be contacted by a member of the Victim Support Team who will advise your crime reference number, what happens next and the services available to you. As the investigation of the crime proceeds, you should be updated within five days of a suspect being arrested, released without charge, considered for a change in bail conditions or released on police bail.

Not every victim chooses to report a crime to the police, but confidential support is still available from Catch 22 using the contact details at the end of this article.

Beacon has several specialist units that meet particular needs. The Beacon Fraud Hub was set up in 2019, fraud now being the most prevalent type of crime. It aims to contact everyone in Herts who reports a fraud to the police or Action Fraud. This is typically 650 victims each month. The Hub doesn't investigate crimes but will liaise with agencies such as financial institutions on behalf of victims, and this has led to recovery of stolen money. Hertfordshire is one of only a handful of counties to offer such a facility.

The Beacon Family Hub supports families experiencing child on parent violence. Their website says it "uses a trauma informed approach to provide support to the family as a whole, providing tools and techniques to lower risk and prevent escalation as well as repairing the relationships between all family members." After an assessment of needs, a support plan is put in place by Beacon Support Workers. The Family Hub acts on professional referrals from social workers, the police and other agencies.

Beacon offers a number of other services for victims of crime, and details of these can be found on their website hertfordshirebeacon.org. The contact number for Beacon is 03000 11 5555.

John Mitchell and Valerie Richards
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NEWS FROM AYOT ST PETER

The first (and last?) Lord Sanderson of Ayot



An era ended last November with the death of Pauline Matarasso, a respected medieval historian, poet, scholar, and translator. Pauline was brought up at

Ayot Bury and was the last surviving child of Baron Sanderson of Ayot.

Pauline's parents Basil and Evelyn Sanderson are buried in the churchyard at Ayot St Peter – their grave is marked by an impressive Westmoreland stone stele (obelisk). The edge of the stone is engraved with the names of the Sanderson's children – Pauline, Alan and Murray. The boys were twins, with Alan the elder by just a few minutes.

Basil Sanderson had a successful career with the shipping company Shaw Savill, and was chief executive by the time of his retirement. During the second world war he worked as a civil servant, heading a group of shipowners in an important organisation called 'Port and Transit Control'. Under his leadership it handled all merchant ships using British ports and later in the war, they had the additional task of importing 20,000 tons of supplies for the US army each week.

Evelyn Sanderson was the daughter of Bruce Ismay, the infamous managing

director of the White Star line at the time of the Titanic disaster. Basil and Evelyn married in 1927 and lived in Ayot Bury from 1937.

A terrible tragedy struck the Sanderson family in 1940, when Evelyn was killed in a riding accident. Basil threw himself into his war work, doing regular six-day weeks. The three children went to boarding school and a family friend moved into Ayot Bury to act as housekeeper.

Basil returned to Shaw Savill after the war and was active in rebuilding the war-ravaged fleet. In 1960 he was astonished to be made a baron in recognition of his wartime contribution and his subsequent activity in industrial relations. He accepted gladly and got on with retirement. He was a keen tennis player and frequently proved his superiority against local friends and business associates. He was active in the village, especially with church duties.

When Basil died in 1971 his elder son Alan disclaimed the title, so it does not currently exist. Alan died in 2022 and it is not known whether his heir could regain the title, or whether he would wish to.

One of Pauline's many publications was her memoir of an Ayot childhood, entitled 'A Voyage Closed and Done'.

Valerie Richards



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FRIENDS OF DANESBURY AND QVM



Thanks to your generous donations and the hard work of all our staff and volunteers the festive period in the Danesbury shop in Welwyn was particularly successful. We had a beautiful window display from our talented shop manager Georgia. Trading was very good and the raffle raised £1191 for our charitable funds.

The Friends of Danesbury and QVM Hospitals made various small contributions to the Christmas celebrations at the two hospitals including paying for parties with an entertainer. No one wishes to be in hospital at Christmas but the staff in both units work very hard and do their very best to provide as much festive cheer as possible.

At the end of last year the Friends were very pleased to be able to make a much more long term significant contribution to the two hospitals when the charity's trustees agreed to fund a four year lease purchase by the NHS of a new Renault Traffic minibus for use by the patients. For some years patients have enjoyed dedicated transport in the form of a mini bus originally purchased outright by the

Friends. Paul Risley, the lead physio at Danesbury described the patient vehicle as probably the most useful item that the charity had ever purchased. He described it as hugely beneficial for the patients in both hospitals giving the therapy teams flexibility and enabling them to conduct properly organized visits to patients in the community. The existing vehicle, although serviceable, is beginning to age and wheelchairs and specialist seating have been getting bigger. The agreement the Friends have entered into is to fund a four-year lease of the mini-bus at approximately £10,000 per year. The fact that we are able to agree to this financial commitment really demonstrates the level of generosity of everyone who contributes to the Danesbury Friends Charity – so again a big thank you to you all.

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



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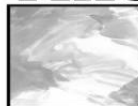


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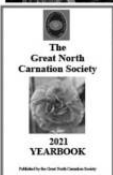
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ARPEGGIO BELL RINGERS



In 1986 some unused hand bells were found in a cupboard in the vestry of St Mary's church. These had previously been used by the Church tower bell ringers for practising. A group of us decided it would be fun to ring them so we set up the Arpeggio hand bell ringers. We really had no idea what hand bell ringing was all about.

Initially we found pieces to play from hymn books and folk music. We tried to find ways to compensate for the fact that not all of the group could read music. All the bells had their note

stamped on the leather handle so we tried transcribing music using only the letters A to G. This didn't really work since although the order in which the bells should be played could be defined, it gave no indication of how long the notes should be held! In the end we found that standard music notation was really what worked best.

The bells were allocated in pairs (one for each hand) and people were handed pieces of music on which the notes which corresponded to their bells were highlighted. Now all we had to do was follow the music, count and then play when our time came. It all sounds so simple but it didn't always work that way. Plaintive bleats would be heard, 'Where are we?', and it was amazing to find that there was some discrepancy in the answers. This probably accounted for the lack of harmony in the music which we were attempting to play.

Through all this we remained remarkably self-confident and as the Christmas season dawned we agreed to play at carol concerts, and did a round of the pubs in Welwyn hoping to add to their festive cheer. The pub clientele contributed generously to our collection but didn't attempt to join in the carols, and were probably pleased to see the back of us. It was at one carol concert that we really came unstuck. Several of us suddenly had a very bad attack of stage fright. Whilst others kept going, all was not well. After the performance a family member in an attempt to cheer us up said, 'Your big mistake was putting the name of each piece in the program. It sounded pleasant and atonal but we did expect to recognise the tune!'

It was while we were licking our wounds and wondering where to go next that two remarkable ladies came into our lives. The first was Pauline Anderson who sadly died last month.

Continued on page 40

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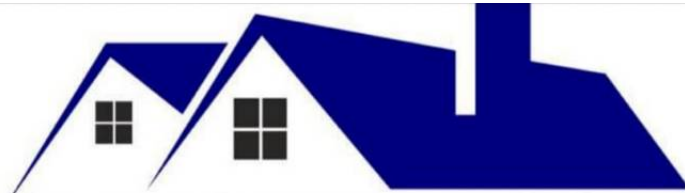
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ARPEGGIO BELL RINGERS

Continued from page 38

The arrival of Pauline transformed us.. She registered us with the ‘Hand bells of Great Britain’ who were a much better source of music than ‘Hymns Ancient and Modern’. Our repertoire grew and so did our confidence. We began to entertain W.I’s and play at church events. Pauline added booking agent to her list of roles.

Music was not the only thing that Pauline sourced. We were furnished with covers and foam for the tables, bags to store and transport the bells, music stands and mallets to strike the larger bells.

Pauline was such a kind unflappable person. On occasions when we had overstretched ourselves and not played as well as we should, she would always have something reassuring to say.

The second transforming angel was Sandra Yates. Sandra had recently returned from America, where she had lived for several years and where she had been a member of an American Bell choir. She knew how to play hand bells properly! We were very impressed to see her don white gloves before she even picked up a bell. This was to become standard practice to keep the bells clean. If they were to become contaminated with sweat etc from our hands they would not ring so well. We learnt so much from her and under the help and guidance of these two ladies we went from strength to strength.

We grew in numbers and realised that if we were going to improve our repertoire we needed more bells. After fund raising and a very generous donation we were able to order further bells from the John Taylor bell foundry in Loughborough. When the bells were ready for collection a coach was organised and we plus friends and relations went to collect the bells and visit the foundry.

What an amazing experience. John Taylors is now the only bell foundry in the country and they make all sizes of bells from a very small hand bell to Tower Bells weighing tons. The methods used have not changed very much from those used in medieval times. A good description of their bell foundry is on this web site <https://www.treblesgoing.org.uk/bellfounding.html>

I hope this article has shown what fun bell ringing has been for us all. Since 1986 nearly 30 people have played with us and I’m sure that they all have happy memories . At the moment things are difficult following the death of Pauline, our chief organiser, and several people feel the need to hang up their bells after many years of ringing. We are therefore looking for new members. If you would like to have a go please contact: Marcia Khan 01438 715450.

We are especially looking for someone who would be prepared to become our musical director.

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ST MARY'S PANTOMIME



Aladdin's Wedding

St Mary's Drama Group's pantomime for 2023 was the much-loved tale 'A ladd in Trouble'. Beginning to rehearse once a week from late summer, the small cast worked hard. The end result was a performance full of magical moments, toe-tapping music and good measures of humour, applauded by packed audiences.

Every year the pantomime raises thousands of pounds for charity. Each year a different charity is chosen. Last year we supported those suffering in the Ukraine war, This year we managed to raise £2,141.21 and it was decided that the money should be used to help to reduce St Mary's Church deficit. .

Although we have a core team who work well together and devote much of their time and talents to this annual event, new members who wish to join either the cast or to work backstage are very welcome. It is hard work but bonds are also created of friendship, fellowship and fun. If you would like to become involved in the 2024 pantomime please email me on usha.hull@me.com.

Usha Hull

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St Mary's Welwyn

Baptisms

19th November	Daisy King
	Thomas Booker



Funerals

29th November	Olwen (June) Thomas (Harwood Park Crematorium)
30th November	Tony Barber

St Michael's Woolmer Green

Funeral

17th October	Duncan Medhurst
18th December	Joan Burge
21st December	Charles Brinkley

Ayot St Peter

Baptism

26th November	Amelia Warren
---------------	---------------



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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	7.30 pm	Bible Study (except 3rd Wednesday)

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH of the HOLY FAMILY - Knightsfield, Welwyn Garden City

Fr Norbert Ferbandes T: 01707 323234 www.wgc-catholics.org.uk

DIGSWELL VILLAGE CHURCH www.digswellvillagechurch.org.uk

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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MEWDITATION

On Cabbages and Kale

Welcome to February – a month named after the ancient Roman festival of purification and atonement which fell within it. In old English it was known as Solmonath (mud month) and Kale-monath (cabbage month) which were presumably descriptive terms denoting the effect of months of wet and cold weather, shortened days and lack of warmth in the northern hemisphere when few of the more exciting vegetables or fruits grow. Originally it was the last month of the year with New Year's day occurring on 1st March.

Coming at the end of winter there is little to commend it. The excitement of Christmas is a distant memory and New Year's resolutions have been made, broken, abandoned and forgotten. Spring has not yet arrived and appears a long way off as we can barely remember long, warm, dry and sunny days.

Our locally-sourced, seasonal vegetable box contains cabbage, kale, occasional sprouts and cauliflower and I have yet to meet anyone who rates cabbage as their favourite treat. Cabbage does, however, have an interesting range of health benefits being high in fibre, vitamins C, K and B9, manganese, phytonutrients and anti-oxidants thereby promoting gut health and reducing heart disease, diabetes, cancer and Alzheimer's disease. Whilst not exciting, it is good for us.

Similarly, a month where it is cold and wet outside and little exciting happens can be good for us. We can use the time to reflect and to nurture our relationships either within or outside our homes. We can warm each other's hearts with kind words or a smile. We can reflect on our lives and make lasting changes rather than the socially-expected knee-jerk quick fixes of January. As nature prepares for the outburst of new life and growth, we too can prepare for the year ahead.

Liz Tilson

Bell Tower Secretary	John Williams	01438 715679
Book Stall	Pat Brooks	01438 715811
Christian Aid	Vernonne Allan	07710 271896
Church Bookings (inc Ayot St Peter)	Church Office	01438 840964
Church Fabric	Stuart Jenkin	07958 230007
Church House Manager	Stuart Westley	07921 568187
Coffee Rota (St Mary's Welwyn, Sundays)	Vernonne Allan	01438 716732
Electoral Roll Officer	Diane Jenkin	01438 840710
Fair Trade	Maggie Varco	01438 715450
Fellowship	Marcia Khan	01438 716625
Flowers (St Mary's Welwyn)	Jenny Wiseman	01438 715426
Gift Aid Secretary	Maggie Varco	01438 715450
Giving Action Group	Geoff Cummings	01438 820271
Hand Bells (Arpeggios)	Marcia Khan	01438 715450
Play and Praise	Susan Wray	01438 715187
Sacristan	Linda Dobbs	07817 933352
Sidespersons' Rota	Elizabeth & Martin Browne	01438 716359
Sunday Notices (by <i>midday Tuesday</i>)	Tina Hassan	01438 840964
The Big Breakfast	Jim Read	<i>jimread55@gmail.com</i> 01438 714 111
The Junior Choir	Robert Milner	07540 847599
Time for Reflection	Mavis Francis	01438 487851
Verge	Nikki Lewis	
Welcome Team	Jenny Wiseman	01438 715426

SCHOOLS

Welwyn St Mary's C.E. Primary School	15 London Road, Welwyn AL6 9DJ	01438 714169
<i>Head teacher - Mr Stuart Whiteland</i>		
Woolmer Green St Michael's Primary School	London Road, Woolmer Green SG3 6JP	01438 813267
<i>Head teacher - Mrs Jan Martin</i>		
Oaklands JMI School	Great North Road, Oaklands, Welwyn AL6 0PX	01438 715278
<i>Head teacher - Mr Tom Hassan</i>		
Tenterfield Nursery School and Children's Centre	London Road, Welwyn AL6 9JF	01438 714564
<i>Head teacher - Mrs Vicky Beare</i>		

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

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

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	Advertising	
Distribution	Rita McNeill	01438 880488
Treasurer	Tony Keach	01438 716657

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - February 2024

8th	8.00pm	Garden Club Welwyn	Life on an Island, living and growing with a 3-acre smallholding - Helen Reynolds <i>tonycoxall25@gmail.com</i>	Civic Centre, Main Hall Welwyn
tbc	2.00pm	Welwyn Floral Group	<i>joycefurssedonn7@virginmedia.com</i>	Civic Centre Welwyn
10th	12 noon	St Mary's Church Welwyn	Second Saturday Recital <i>See pages 17 & 32 for details</i>	St Mary's Church Welwyn
13th & 27th	11.00am / 2.00pm	Dementia Friendly Community Cafe	Dementia Friendly Community Café <i>Contact: Jane Andrews 01707 240 650 jane.andrews@homeinstead.co.uk</i>	Digswell Hall 30 Harmer Green Lane, Welwyn
13th	2.30pm	Fellowship St Mary's Welwyn	Volunteering at Whipsnade Zoo - Rita McNeill <i>marcia.khan.emk@gmail.com</i>	St Mary's Church House Welwyn
13th	3.45pm	St Mary's Church Welwyn	Shrove Tuesday - Pancake Race <i>See page 7 in this magazine</i>	Codicote Road Outside St May's church
15th	10.00am	Danesbury Fernery and Nature Reserve Work Group	Fernery: gardening and maintenance Nature Reserve: clearing and habitat Mgmt <i>chairman@danburyfernerly.org.uk</i>	Nature Reserve, Fernery Field (top North Ride) Welwyn
15th	7.30pm	W.I Mardley Heath	Welwyn Village - Paul Jiggins <i>Alison Barrett - Secretary mardleyheathwi@gmail.com</i>	Oaklands Primary School Welwyn
15th	7.30pm	W.I Digswell	Magnetic Health <i>kate.stabler@talktalk.net</i>	Village Hall Digswell
15th	7.30pm	Herts at War 'Free' Talks	'Grand Fleet Lives: picturing Royal Navy sailors' postcards in the First World War' - Geoff Cunnington - see page 30 in this magazine <i>jontywild@hertsatwar.co.uk</i>	Civic Centre Welwyn
18th	11.00am	Rubbish Action Group Welwyn	Rubbish Action Group Collection <i>Contact: Sarah Butcher 07885 875977 welwynrubbishactiongroup@gmail.com</i>	Car Park opposite Welwyn Drs Surgery
25th	9.00am	Village Market Woolmer Green	Food and Craft Village Market <i>https://www.facebook.com/ farmersmarketwoolmergreen</i>	Village Hall Woolmer Green
28th	8.00 pm	Welwyn Natural History Society	Joint meeting with Herts Natural History Soc <i>watson.winfield @btopenworld.com</i>	Civic Centre Welwyn
Tuesdays	10.00am / 12 noon	Community Café	<i>Contact: Liz Hesketh 07825 093855</i>	St Mary's Church House Welwyn
2nd Weds of month	2.30pm/ 3.45pm	Afternoon Book Club	<i>Contact: Joan Spruce 01438 840821</i>	St Mary's Church House Welwyn
Thursdays	2.00pm/ 3.00pm	Arpeggio Bell Ringers	<i>Contact: Marcia Khan 01438 715450.</i>	St Mary's Church House Welwyn
Thursdays	7.00pm / 10.00pm	Welwyn Bridge Club	<i>Contact: Cheri Pemberton 01438 360522</i>	St Mary's Church House Welwyn
Saturdays	10.00am / 11.30am	Café	<i>Contact: Maggie Varco 01438 715450</i>	St Mary's Church House Welwyn