

The Welwyn Magazine

with Woolmer Green



July / August 2022

www.welwyn.org.uk

60p

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July/August 2022

PUBLISHERS

St Mary's and St Michael's
Churchwardens

COVER

Jubilee Street Party
Photo: Paul Clarke

MAGAZINE ARTICLES

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**Reports on the Welwyn Festival and Jubilee
Celebrations will be published in the
September magazine**

EDITOR'S NOTES

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

We aim to publish reports and articles that will be
of interest to our local community. If you would
like to suggest a theme or article please email
magazine@welwyn.org.uk

*The Editors reserve the right to shorten or omit articles or refuse
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The Rector's Letter

Dear Friends

At the start of this month we shall welcome Christie and Ryan Gilfeather to be curates in our team ministry. They'll be living in Woolmer Green, but we shall see them in all of the team churches and schools at some point during their time here. We are very much looking forward to their arrival.

On their first day of work they will be ordained as deacons in St Albans Cathedral (4pm Saturday 2nd July – All are welcome to this joyful service). This can be a little confusing to the uninitiated because it means that until they are ordained as priests (usually at the end of their first year), they cannot do some of the things which we expect clergy to do – namely celebrating the Holy Communion and conducting marriages. So what is then a deacon?

In the early church (see Acts 6), food was shared amongst the whole community. However the leaders, the apostles, didn't have time to organise and monitor this as they were busy preaching and teaching. It emerged that some were taking more than their share, and others, notably the elderly

and widows, were being left out, and went hungry. So seven deacons (the word simply means 'servant' in Greek) were appointed to



serve at meal times and ensure everyone was treated fairly. The most famous of them turned out to be St Stephen, the first Christian martyr.

That idea of service remains at the heart of being a 'deacon' in the church, and they wear a scarf around their sides during services, reminding them of the towel with which Jesus washed the disciples' feet. At the ordination the bishop sets out clearly what is expected of them:

They are to serve the community in which they are set, bringing to the Church the needs and hopes of all the people. They are to work with their fellow members in searching out the poor and weak, the sick and lonely and those who are oppressed and powerless, reaching into the forgotten corners of the world, that the love of God may be made visible. Deacons share in the pastoral ministry of the Church and in leading God's people in worship. They preach the word and bring the needs of the world before the

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Church in intercession. They accompany those searching for faith and bring them to baptism. They assist in administering the sacraments; they distribute communion and minister to the sick and housebound. Deacons are to seek nourishment from the Scriptures; they are to study them with God's people, that the whole Church may be equipped to live out the gospel in the world. They are to be faithful in prayer, expectant and watchful for the signs of God's presence, as he reveals his kingdom among us.

Importantly, once you are ordained as a deacon, even when you are then ordained as a priest, and even as a bishop, you are still a deacon. Even the Archbishop of Canterbury remains a servant, a deacon, throughout his ministry – that is his and our first calling.

Yours



Parish Registers

St Mary's Welwyn

Baptism

15th May

Freya Peggy Louise Hickling

Funeral

9th May

Georgina Johanna Berg

Ayot St Peter

Baptism

29th May

Francesca Louise Valentine

St Michael's Woolmer Green

Baptism

15th May

Eloise Olivia Townsend



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Notes from the PCC 18th of May

Finance

Maggie Varco had circulated the final annual report and financial statements together with Chris Burton's notes on matters arising following his independent examination of last year's accounts. Copies have been printed for the church as well as posting to St Mary's and St Michael's websites.

A review of contracts and direct debits at St. Mary's is necessary, to ensure we are carefully monitoring our expenditure. A volunteer with business or administrative experience who might be prepared to carry out this review is being sought. If you, the reader, would be willing to give a little of your time to assist with such a review please make contact with Maggie Varco (telephone number at the back of this magazine).

Latest estimate of monies raised for Christian Aid is £3,200.

Subsequent to Maggie preparing her report for the meeting she has paid £8,000 on account to Welwyn Garden Alarms towards the cost of installation of the fire safety systems.

St Michael's fabric report

Sue Keach reported that she had found more pieces of roof tiles lying on the ground. She has asked a roofing

contractor to inspect the roof and will be chasing him to get his report. Sue was also waiting to find out the origin or cause of white powder on the church floor. It might be dry rot – hopefully not.

The recently donated gates to fill the gap in the hedge around the churchyard are in place although, at the time of writing, the installation is not finalised.

The PCC approved an annual tuning and maintenance contract for the organ offered by Norman Hall & Sons. In addition the PCC agreed to spend £3,750 on essential repairs to the organ. Non-essential additional work to the organ at a cost of £1,250 will have to wait until the financial impact of any dry rot or roof maintenance has been quantified.

St Mary's fabric report

Stuart Jenkin reported that the first phase of the improvements to the fire safety systems had been completed (ref. above payment of £8,000) but that the second phase has been delayed awaiting the supply of parts, in particular micro-processors.

The tenants at St Michael's House moved out on May 9th. The house is being made ready for the new curates moving in on June 20th.

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Notes from the PCC (Continued from page 5)

Rector's items:

The Rector informed the PCC that the new curates, Christie and Ryan Gilfeather, will both be ordained at St Albans Cathedral on July 2nd. All members of St Mary's and St Michael's congregations are invited to attend. The following day all members of the congregations are invited to a "bring and share" lunch at St Michael's House where they will have an opportunity to meet Christie and Ryan.

Associate priest, Liz Lavelle, has now been appointed to a permanent role in Bedfordshire and will be leaving the Welwyn Team to take up the post in July.

The Rector advised that he is hoping to run a children's holiday club for

primary school age children from the 25th to 29th July 10 am to 12 noon.

Summer Evensongs will follow the usual format but with a royal theme commencing the last Sunday in July.

The PCC unanimously approved the re-appointment of Debbie May and appointment of Christie Gilfeather as governors of St Michael's school.

Colin Hull informed the meeting that plans are underway for a pantomime at Christmas and that Church House has been booked in anticipation.

Noises off remarked that he hoped it will be 'as awful as usual'!

And on that good humoured note the meeting was drawn to a close.

David Hughes
1st June 2022

Excuse of the month

The rector was expected to attend an evening meeting at St Michael's. Prior to the meeting I received a 'phone call from him explaining that he would be late for the meeting. His excuse was that he was "**helping the police with their enquiries**". (The police were investigating the discovery of the bones under the garage floor, see pp 19 & 21) I am pleased to relate that once he had explained to them that there had been no burials in the church yard for over 100 years he was released by the police and he was able to come to the St Michael's meeting.

Sue Keach

Adverts

Enjoy a real holiday

Lloyds Bank recently reported that the number of holiday scams had increased by a third in the year to March 2022. Fraud involving stays in caravans more than doubled, fictional hotel reservations and fake package holidays were both up about 20%, and flight booking scams were 13% higher.



Many of these frauds started with fake adverts on search engines or social media, with victims clicking on a link that appeared to take them to a genuine site. Fraudsters also lurked on real accommodation listing sites before convincing victims to transfer cash directly rather than via the platform. Other tactics included sending offers by email or text, pretending to be from a real company. With holidays in short supply, it can be tempting to rush to grab a booking when the opportunity presents itself. Fraudsters rely on this, so it is important to do proper checks before booking.

Don't reply to unsolicited emails, texts, social media or calls offering holidays. Book directly with an airline or hotel, or through a reputable agent or holiday company. Agents should be members of the Association of British Travel Agents (ABTA) and airlines should have an Air Travel Organiser's Licence (ATOL). If booking online, start by visiting the company's home web page – don't click on links as this could take you to a fake site.

If you decide to deal directly with the property owner or a letting agent, ask them questions about the booking, room, location and area. Do your own research. If booking a caravan or chalet on a park, look up the manager's number and call them direct to check. In the UK, you might get reassurance from a local tourist information office.

When paying, use a credit or debit card if you can. Make sure the website has the letters "https" and the padlock icon in the address bar. Be extra cautious if you are encouraged to pay by bank transfer or international money transfer as it would be difficult to get a refund. As with so many things, if a holiday looks too good to be true, it almost certainly is.

John Mitchell (Welwyn East)
Valerie Richards (Welwyn West)
www.owl.co.uk/herts

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Mardley Heath WI

The Covid-cancelled Christmas party finally flourished on May 19th, after the Annual Meeting. Sangria stood in for mulled wine, with glasses refilled during a great buffet supper.

The Agenda started with a unanimous decision to approve the National WI resolution - to call on the Government and various bodies to fund research into the female presentation of ASD (Autism) and ADHD (a condition that affects behaviour). According to the National Society's Centre for Autism, professionals often don't recognise and understand the different ways autism can manifest in women and girls. Symptoms are often misdiagnosed.

Beryl Hill presented her Financial Report, which was approved. She was applauded for her work during a difficult year.

Secretary Brenda Thomas gave the Committee's Report on the year's activities, and President Jean Stephens gave her address, during which she thanked the Committee, who all agreed to continue, once again voting that she should continue as President. A happy situation!

Cath Felthouse, an independent audiologist (Herts Hearing) spoke to us about Modern Audiology. After a degree in Physiology, she studied Audiology, which includes the anatomy of the ear, balance problems and hearing loss. She brought along a display of different hearing aids.

Babies are now tested within four days of birth, so problems are picked up early. From middle age our hearing deteriorates, but gradually so this can go unnoticed for years. Then one day we have to ask for the TV to be turned up, or we complain that people are mumbling. Background noises, a problem even if hearing is good, interfere with our understanding. If we don't seek help we can find it difficult to communicate, then perhaps withdraw from social events and generally feel frustrated. Without stimulation dementia might come sooner.

Members enjoyed this informative and amusing talk, and laughed as they recognised aspects of their own hearing.

Marjorie Sandiford

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Beyond the Farm Gate

Summer is upon us

Hello and welcome again to beyond the farm gate. As is always the case with farming, time really does fly. Having established our new vineyard crop in May, we turn our focus back to our arable crops. Arable refers to our crops, as opposed to livestock such as cattle and pigs. At the farm we have a range of arable crops in our annual rotation, and this year we have a number of cereals: wheat, barley, and oats.

Having carefully nurtured these cereals from the day they were planted back in September/October, to the present day, it is no wonder that arable farmers prepare for stress, late nights and prayers to the weather come summertime. This is the season for harvesting our cereals, which will in turn top up the coffers again ready for restarting the cropping cycle. Many of you will have heard about the devastating effect of the conflict in Ukraine on global markets such as fertiliser. These costs have hit farmers very hard, and so this year, a high-yielding, high quality harvest will be more important than ever to try and make up the huge holes in our bottom line.

So how does harvest actually work, and what does a typical day look like? As the fields turn golden, farmers begin to look for signs of a ripe crop. Thankfully, in the last few weeks our cereals have had a long overdue drop of rain on them, which will help 'plump' the grains of the cereals. As these ears (grain-bearing part) begin to ripen, they will turn golden in the sun. Once the straw (stem of the crop) starts to turn golden, then we start to get excited!

Before anything can begin, we must first test the moisture of the grain. This is so that the mills or buyers have consistency in their grain, and the maximum quality and nutritional value. On a typical harvest day, we will pick some grains and grind them into a powder. We will then test them in a 'moisture meter' (pictured). With our cereals, we aim for around 14.5% moisture. If we hit our target, it is time to call on the combine harvester and start harvesting!



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Beyond the Farm Gate

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The combine is an extremely complex machine; it cuts, sieves and separates the grain from the ears and the straw in a matter of seconds. The grain is sent via a spout into a trailer drawn by a tractor, which is then taken back to the farmyard and deposited in a barn. The straw, which is a by-product, never goes to waste. It is either chopped up by the combine to be ploughed in as green manure, or it is baled for animal bedding or feed.



This process may be obvious to some, but it is easy to forget that from our fields we harvest the essence of our dinner table. Thanks to the harvest on our farm this summer, there will be hundreds of thousands of extra loaves of bread, pints of beer and bowls of porridge on our tables. It is hard not to get hungry when we are collecting our golden grains and thinking where they may go!

Give us a wave if you see us at work and feel free to ask us questions via email about the wonderful world of farming. We will be holding an open day for the vineyard in late summer, so keep in touch via the link below.

Join me again next time as we venture beyond the farm gate.

Farmer Hannah

Farm information: www.lockleyfarm.co.uk

Vineyard information: www.lokkelebery.co.uk

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

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A Surprise Discovery

I happened to be in hospital when the discovery of the bones took place. As I emerged from the anaesthetic I phoned Mike to let him know I was still alive, and just asked how things were going back home.

“Well,” he answered, “we have police cars

here and scene-of-crime tape cordoning off our garage.” Not quite the news I was expecting! He explained that the builders, beginning to convert our garage as a kitchen for our refugees, had encountered some bones in the trench they had dug. There was a skull which identified them as human. The police had remained overnight, and the forensic team and archaeologist were due.



Fortunately I was at home for the rest of this drama, and when the archaeologist turned up he was able to confirm that the bones were very old and no recent crime had been committed. He could see leg bones in the trench which were aligned east/west suggesting a Christian burial, and by the teeth discovered, the person had probably been in their late teens. It seemed highly likely that the burial was Anglo-Saxon as it was in a line with the 5 complete skeletons discovered at the Grange next door to us together with bones of 8 other people. These had been dated.

Stephen Jupp, hearing about our discovery, visited us with Catherine bringing with them Sheena Wenham who just happened to be staying with them. Sheena is the widow of Terence Wenham who, in 1986, had been the Rector at St. Mary's church in Welwyn when the discoveries had been made at the Grange. The excavation had been carried out by Welwyn Archaeological Society. Stephen gave us a copy of the 1990 Parish Magazine recounting the re-interment of the 5 skeletons in the chancel of St. Mary's church using a Gallican liturgy from the 7th century which may have been familiar to the people then.

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A Surprise Discovery

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Dr. Sarah Foot visited Welwyn in 1990 after a 4 year investigation of the bones, giving a fascinating talk. Radiocarbon dating had revealed that these people had lived somewhere round 670 AD and it was interesting to speculate on the community that had been living here. Terence was one of the people proposing that there was perhaps a “minster” here which would have been a Christian community looking after their probably wooden church, living life in a community and taking the message out to the surrounding countryside. He had wanted to call the village Welwyn Minster.

Concerning the remains found on our side of the wall now separating us from the Grange, we had a very helpful letter from the Diocese advising us that if the bones remained where they were found it would be possible to resume the building works, and that if our Rector, David, could say a prayer as the hole is backfilled, as Mike had proposed, that would be “entirely appropriate”. So on a Wednesday morning David appeared. He said it was the first time he had ever carried out such a burial, not surprisingly! Our Bible Discovery people had decided to call this fellow-Christian Leofwine, a good Anglo-Saxon name and we had a lovely short service of prayers and a reading of the 23rd Psalm. The final prayer of committal was said as Adam, a member of our builders’ team, shovelled the earth back and our one-time resident was left in peace. Our wake consisted of shortbread and coffee and, as David remarked, there could be none of the usual things you can say about the deceased at such a time, but just further speculation about the life they might have led and what Welwyn was like all those many centuries ago.



We have never lived in a place as historically rich as Welwyn with all the Roman remains here as well as the Anglo-Saxon.

Mike and Gay Carpenter

The Welwyn Bypass

Prefabs and Bypasses

Today to stand in the middle of Welwyn High Street is to invite an encounter with a 301 bus; two hundred years ago it would have been a horse drawn Mail Coach which posed the threat - for at that time this was the Great North Road, carrying traffic from London to Leeds, York and destinations on towards Edinburgh. This led to prosperity for the village as well as plenty of traffic, but by the 1860s the day of the coach was in decline as the popularity of the railways rose. Welwyn High Street however remained The Great North Road until 1927 when the Welwyn Bypass, one of the first in the country, was opened to take traffic around the village.



Welwyn Bypass 1927

Whilst complaints of disruption and loss of countryside in The Times of 1927 show that ‘nimbyism’ is not a new phenomenon, it was felt to be of use by some, as reported.

‘..Villagers will agree that the elimination of what has long been known as a death-trap –the particularly dangerous crossing by the White Hart, where the Hertford Road meets the Great North Road was an urgent necessity.’



Welwyn Bypass 1931

At the start of the Bypass today we have a new development of houses on a site occupied until 1961, as some may remember, by the Pavillion Cinema (see Welwyn Magazine May 2020). Subsequently the site was used by car dealers Acland and Tabor and Godfrey Davis until 2008. These dealerships also ran the Nodeway filling station, which gave its name to the development on the opposite side of the Bypass – Nodeway Gardens.

The Welwyn Bypass (Continued)

This part of Welwyn's road system changed dramatically in 1976 with the building of the motorway. Before that time, a road ran from the Bypass through Nodeway Gardens. On its left was the rear of the offices of Welwyn Rural District Council and on its right were the sewage works. This was the original Maran Avenue, Maran being an alternative name for the Mimram. Today what remains of Maran Avenue has been almost marooned from the village by the A1 (M).

At the end of the war there was another small road built off Maran Avenue – Maran Close. Now lost under the motorway, this was a site of Welwyn's pre-fabs – those amazing factory made houses which did much to alleviate the post war housing crisis. The first tenants, Mr. and Mrs Sid Nottage received their keys from the Council in 1946. The event must have been remarkable for Sid, who had not long returned from service in the Far East, where he spent years in Japanese hands after the fall of Singapore.

Along the Bypass there are other 20th century developments created as Welwyn has expanded out of its historic boundaries. Just after the Bypass crosses the Hertford Road, Parkside sits on ground which had previously been the gardens of Parkside House, a 17th century house which stands in the short dead end spur of Prospect Place. At one time this stood on the second route of the Hertford Road, created by Sir George Shee of Lockleys in 1823.



Parkside House 1998

It was Phillips Loft, resident of Parkside who in 1926 seems to have been most critical of the building of the Bypass.

'.. not only will it pass over the kitchen gardens and tennis lawns, but being raised will cut off the charming view which is enjoyed at the current time.'

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Highways and Byways (Continued)

Continued from page 23

The crossing of the river under the Bypass goes almost unnoticed these days, such as the landscape blended around the road. Just north of the river bridge Lockleys Drive, the original Hertford Road, ceased to be a drive for Lockleys in 1927 as the new road dissected it, let alone in 1976 when the embankment of the A1(M) overshadowed it.

To see the origin of the name of our last road in this series, Dicket Mead, we should return to our starting point – the 1837 Tithe Map. Dicket Mead was then a meadow owned by the Rector, Johnes Knight and occupied by Joseph Parker.

In 1837 Joseph would have worked his meadow in the peace of the countryside. We can only speculate as to what he might think today, sitting in his meadow and looking around.

Paul Jiggins

Saturday concerts at St Mary's Church

The above programme has now resumed at St Mary's with a series of lunchtime concerts, usually on the second Saturday of the month. Tickets are not needed; just turn up, and consider contributing to a retiring collection. All funds raised go towards church running costs. Details of programmes will be posted on the church website, Facebook page and in the church porch. Forthcoming dates for your diary are:

Saturday 9 July 2022 at 12 noon

Recital by Kirsten Jenson (cello) and John Thwaites (piano)

John is Head of Keyboard Studies at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire and has recorded over 20 CDs. Kirsten is a well known professional cellist who has studied with world-famous cellist, Johannes Goritzki.

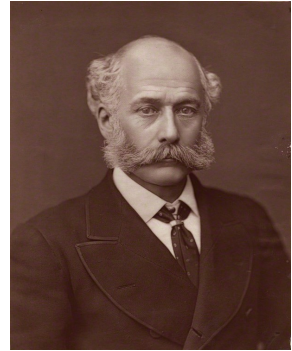
Saturday 17 September 2022

Return of The Cambridge Chamber Ensemble - Programme tbc

The Fellowship

The May meeting's subject encouraged casual visitors to hear the talk given by Chris Bazalgette about his ancestor Sir Joseph Bazalgette.

Sir Joseph Bazalgette was a 19th century English civil engineer of the London Metropolitan Board of Works. His major achievement in 1858 was the creation of a sewage system for the City of London which was instrumental in relieving the city from cholera epidemics while beginning to clean the River Thames. At that time the river was little more than an open sewer, empty of fish and an obvious public health hazard.



Sir Joseph Bazalgette

The expectation was that enclosed sewers would eliminate the 'stink' (miasma) and this would reduce the incidence of cholera. Bazalgette's solution was to construct a network of 82 miles of enclosed underground sewers to intercept the raw sewage which flowed freely through the streets of London.



Joseph Bazalgette had many successful engineering projects in the City of London which included bridges. He was knighted in 1875 and there is a Blue Plaque by the door of the house where he lived at 17 Hamilton Terrace, St John's Wood and he is also commemorated by a formal monument on the Victoria Embankment which is pictured on the left

This talk was quite topical because during the next few years it is expected that the new sewerage system, which has been in the process of completion for quite a few years, will be ready and opened.

The presentation of the talk was helped by on screen plans. It was a most unusual subject but everyone appreciated the significance of the development.

Marjorie Lyon

The Romanians at St Michael's

Some months ago the Rector, David, was approached by a priest of the Romanian Orthodox Church who lives in Stevenage. The priest, Father Cosmin Muresan, has recently moved to Stevenage from East Finchley, where he previously had a parish. He has now taken over the responsibility for serving the members of the Romanian Orthodox faith living in Hertfordshire. He was looking for a church building in the area where he could hold services. David checked with the Diocese and they were happy, in the spirit of inter-denominational relations, for Welwyn to provide the premises.

Father Cosmin required a building where they could hold their Sunday services which can last for up to three hours in the early morning. The reason for the early start on Sundays is that they fast from the Saturday night and cannot break their fast until after the Sunday service. He also has Christening services which normally take place on Saturdays. St Mary's could not meet their needs because of all its existing activities. It was however possible for St Michael's Church to be used since the Romanian Mass, starting at 6.00am and finishing at 9.00am, would not interfere with the existing Anglican Sunday morning service which starts at 11.15am. St Michael's does occasionally have weddings on a Saturday but the agreement is that any additional St Michael's Church of England services will always take precedence.

The Romanian congregation come from all over Hertfordshire so parking might have been a problem. However Jackie at The Red Lion has kindly agreed to their use of the pub car park on Sundays.

Father Cosmin is married to Nikki. They have three children Justin (16 years old), Maria (6 years old) and Petru (3 years old).

Talking to Nikki and "googling" I have learnt something about the "Romanian Orthodox Church". There are many orthodox churches Russian, Greek,



The Muresan family

The Romanians at St Michael's

Coptic, Serbian, Romanian etc. They are autocephalous, that is they each have their own head of the church. Each church has a ruling bishop and a holy synod to administer its jurisdiction and to lead the Eastern Orthodox Church in the 'preservation and teaching of the apostolic and patristic traditions and church practices. The Eastern Orthodox Church



traditionally does not use any musical instruments in the liturgy. Instead they rely entirely on choral music and chanting. Essentially all the words of the Orthodox services, except sermons and such, are either chanted or sung by readers and choirs and when possible by the congregation.

We at St Michaels are delighted that they are using our church and that we are in contact with another Christian community. They are charming friendly people, who are keen to help us in the cleaning and maintenance of the church building and churchyard.

We were pleased to receive a traditional "Easter Bread" from Nikki. We shared it after our service and it was delicious.

The calendars of the Eastern Orthodox Church and the Western churches are different. The Eastern Orthodox Church follows the Julian calendar whilst the Western churches follow the Gregorian one. As a result Easter in the Eastern Church is a week after Easter in the Western church. This meant that we both could have our extra services over Easter without clashing. Similarly Christmas for the Orthodox Church is on the 7th of January.

We look forward to building a close relationship.

Susan Keach

Friends of Danesbury and QVM

It's worth remembering that "it is often the small steps, not the giant leaps, that bring about the most lasting change." – Queen Elizabeth II. These are the same sentiments, I feel, the occupational therapists try to get across to the patients that come and stay at both Danesbury & the Queen Victoria Memorial hospitals. With each small achievement the patients become one step closer to living an independent life and being able to return to their homes and be with their loved ones. The road to recovery after a stroke or a tragic neurological injury, is a long, slow journey that requires dedication and perseverance. It is always wonderful to hear from past patients who have gone through this journey and are giving thanks to the staff who have helped them on their road to recovery.



The past month saw the build up to the Queen's Jubilee and the staff at both hospitals made sure the patients were able to partake in the celebrations. A tea party was held at both hospitals, whether in the wards or in the day rooms. The patients were able to celebrate the occasion which lifted spirits within the units. We were pleased to be able to provide funding for the occasion ensuring that there were ample decorations and food for all. Patients were able to invite one guest, as Covid guidelines are still in place within both hospitals. It certainly made a welcome change to the daily routine. Unfortunately, the weather over the Bank Holiday weekend was not as we had hoped – warm and sunny with a gentle breeze. Instead we got a 'mixed bag', with more grey clouds and drizzle. We have recently had a request to order some outdoor furniture for Danesbury, to help encourage the patients and their guests to benefit from the outdoors. Here's hoping that there are warmer days ahead during the summer months.

The charity shop in Welwyn was also decorated in Jubilee regalia. Tesco's on the High St. held a Jubilee raffle with proceeds benefiting our charity, The Friends of Danesbury & QVM. Thank you to all who supported us by purchasing tickets for the raffle and to all who came into our shop and made a purchase or donated items to us. We are so pleased that we are still in a position where we are able to keep the shop open. Many retail shops were not as fortunate after

Adverts

Friends of Danesbury and the QVM

Continued from page 28

Covid. This is only possible because of our hard-working Trustees, volunteers and you the public who give so generously. The Trust and all those involved work tirelessly to help raise funds for Danesbury & QVM hospitals as well as other units throughout Hertfordshire. The money raised goes to supporting these units where the NHS is not able to help- be it purchasing magazines and daily newspapers for the patients, monthly fish & chips suppers, refurbishing the rehabilitation kitchens for use by the patients to buying specialised wheelchairs and vehicles to transport patients.



Wishing you all a happy and healthy July!

Jessie - The Rectory Dog

There is great excitement in the house as we await the arrival of Christie and Ryan. Master is quite excited at the thought of Ryan arriving because he is also a cyclist – a time triallist – though secretly he is slightly peeved that he'll become the second fastest cyclist out of a random selection of five team clergy – an occupation group not normally known for athletic performance.

However that is all irrelevant – because for me there are only two issues. Firstly they will be arriving as 'deacons' – a word which in Greek, Master assures me, means 'servant.' Can I ask what kind of servanthood will be manifest as it applies to the canine

constituency of the team parishes?

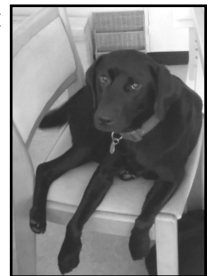
How good are they at throwing a ball?

Filling a bowl with dog food?

Accidentally dropping a sandwich here and there?

Secondly, and most

obviously, when will they meet the requirement, quite clearly stated at the interview phase, that the curate must get a dog? I understand they may need a few hours to sort stuff out as they move in, but after that I hope the hunt will be in earnest. I like having new friends.



Jess

Adverts

Our beautiful clock

Visitors to Ayot St Peter often remark upon the delightful chimes of our church clock, which can be heard from far away across the fields on a still summer's evening. A timeless and evocative sound, unchanged for almost 150 years.

The clock is very unusual with a blue mosaic face that was designed by the church architect J.P Seddon. Seddon's design was realised by the renowned mosaicist Jesse Rust, who also decorated the font and created mosaic flooring inside the church. Rust had invented a method of making mosaic tiles from recycled glass, and used his skills as a former chemist to colour them.



The clock mechanism was manufactured by Gillett & Bland of Croydon, a firm that still exists today. When it was originally installed it ran for exactly 48 hours before it required winding – if it was left a moment longer it would stop. For this reason, it was wound every day by noble volunteers who climbed two flights of steep steps and wound both the clock movement and the chime with a large handle. In those days the clock was kept a few minutes fast as it was extremely difficult to correct if it became slow. The clock was driven by large heavy weights on cables that went through the floor of the clock room and hung precariously close to the bell ringer on the level below.

A plaque on the mechanism states that it was partly reconstructed in May 1926. What this involved is unclear, but a significant change came in 1999 when the winding mechanism was finally electrified.

The clock keeps good time but sometimes requires adjustment, especially when the seasons change, as temperature and humidity affect the length of the wooden pendulum. There is a regulating nut at the bottom of the pendulum which allows the weight to be altered by fractional amounts. The lower the weight, the slower the pendulum swings and the slower the clock operates, and vice versa.

In 2020, our church secretary took over responsibility for the clock and has employed a specialist restoration company from Boston in Lincolnshire to give the clock an annual service and carry out any necessary repairs. With good care, we hope the clock will be chiming for many more generations to come.

Adverts

The Impact of 'Did not Attends'



At Bridge Cottage Surgery, during any month, an average of 100 patients are recorded as being a 'DNA', meaning that the patient neither attended their appointment nor advised the practice prior to the scheduled appointment, to enable a cancellation or change to their appointment being made.

The effects of DNAs are:

An increase in waiting times for patients, resulting in the risk of worsening patients' health

A waste of practice time – not simply the clinicians' time, but also the administration team's as the appointment invariably needs to be rebooked

Cost to the wider NHS in the requirement of additional clinicians

Each appointment costs an average of £30, putting the total cost to the NHS nationally at more than £216 million pounds on top of the disruption for staff and fellow patients that would pay for:

The annual salary of 2,325 full time GPs

224, 640 cataract operations

58,320 hip replacement operations

216,000 drug treatment courses for Alzheimer's

The annual salary of 8, 424 full time community nurses

(information taken from NHS England article on 2/1/2019 - <https://www.england.nhs.uk/2019/01/misssed-gp-appointments-costing-nhs-millions/>)

If you cannot get to an appointment, feel that you are running late for a pre-booked appointment or do not need the appointment anymore, please ring to cancel before the appointment time, so it may be offered to another patient.

We aim to provide all our patients with the best possible service and to achieve this we need your cooperation. Please help us to help you.

If you would like further information about the Bridge Cottage Surgery Patient Participation Group please email ppgbridgecottage@gmail.com.



Adverts

Welwyn Parish Council



I hope you are all keeping well.

In May the Parish Council held its AGM which is the first meeting of the 2022/2023 year. I was surprised but pleased to be elected as Chairman again and delighted that Magdalene Benson was elected Vice Chairman.

Magdalene has been an excellent Vice Chairman for the last three years and I thank her for all the support she has given me. I would also like to thank all the committee and working group chairmen who have worked so hard to get back on track and move their work forward after the difficulties of the pandemic.

In April we held our Annual Parish Meeting. It was really nice to be able to have a meeting with residents in the hall at the Civic Centre instead of the on line meetings of the last two years. Thank you to all who attended and also thank you to the staff of the Parish Council who work so hard throughout the year. Our Clerk Caroline baked all the cakes which were enjoyed at the meeting; she says she finds baking therapeutic!

We are holding our Farmers' and Craft Market on the 2nd Sunday of each month. We are getting a steady number of people attending which is good. Thank you to all of you who have supported this event and, if you haven't been able to come yet, we look forward to seeing you soon.

We are still working hard on moving forward with our Neighbourhood Plan. As I have said before, delays in the Welwyn Hatfield Local Plan have impacted our work. Our task now is to continue to draft sections of our plan and to begin the process of testing it with residents across the parish via Focus Groups and exhibitions. Looking ahead we will take residents through the completed draft as part of a consultation; this will be followed by submission to the Borough Planners for further consultation. If that is satisfactory an independent inspector will be appointed to scrutinise the draft and from there it will proceed to a local referendum. A simple majority will mean our plan will become a legal document. It is a long process but, we hope, it will be worth the work.

Our Community Engagement Committee looks after community events that the Council may be involved with. These can be either Council led or supporting other local organisations. The YMCA had, before the pandemic, run an

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Adverts

Welwyn Parish Council (Cont)

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invaluable carer and toddler group that met weekly in the Civic Centre. The Council is currently helping to restart this programme. As with many other local groups and organisations, we allow them to use the hall at the Civic Centre, free of charge. If any one person or group of people, has an idea or project that you think the Council can help with, please contact our office 01438 716667, office@welwynpc.org.uk or come along to one of our meetings.

I hope you agree with me that the High Street planters are looking attractive. We have a different company planting and watering them and they will also be keeping the space around them clear of soil and dirt.

Finally, thank you to all who have supported Welwyn Parish Council during the 2021/2022 year. We really appreciate it.

Take care of yourselves and each other.

*Marj Otty
Chair, Welwyn Parish Council*

Welwyn Festival Events in July

Friday 1st July, Saturday 2nd July

10:00 - 15:00

Cat Survival Trust Visit, Farm Shop, Welwyn: See the Big Cats of Welwyn

To book date and time, on the hour every hour – Phone: 07956 458762
Visitors need to join as members to cover licence conditions. Membership details at www.catsurvivaltrust.org

Friday 1st July

1800 –2000

Open Garden at 1 Bowmans Close AL6 9QE

Saturday 2ND July

12:50 for 13:00

Fancy Dress Parade: High Street to Singlers Marsh

Theme: KINGS AND QUEENS

13:00 - 17:00

Family Fun Day: Singlers Marsh, Codicote Road

Classic Cars on the Marsh, plus old favourites – Duck Race, Kid’s Corner, Punch and Judy, children’s rides, ice creams, tea, beer and food tents, tombola, raffle and much more!

SUNDAY 3RD JULY

14:00 - 16:00

Welwyn Tennis Club Open Day: 7 Ottway Walk AL6 9AT

15:00

Music Recital and Afternoon Tea: St Mary’s Church House

Performers Hannah Lang & Peter Hewitt

Adverts

Woolmer Green Parish Council

Annual Meeting of the Council

The May Parish Council meeting was the first of the new year and Councillor Andy Gribble was elected as Chairman and Councillor Phil Corke as Vice Chairman. The other responsibilities were then allocated to councillors and a number of annual reports and confirmations were made.

The Parish Council has been seeking to restore the tennis/ball skills court in the hall grounds. It was agreed to seek quotes to prune the vegetation around the perimeter fence and to replace two broken fence poles. It was also agreed to arrange a date for the resurfacing work and to look again at alternatives for a tennis net. A permanent metal 'net' and an opening metal 'net' had been investigated but the alternative of a more traditional net that would be removed in winter was also to be considered.

Wheels on Woolmer Green

The first May Bank Holiday saw the return of Wheels on Woolmer Green after a two year break. The field was full of vehicles well before the start of the show and it was great to see so many people and such a variety of vehicles. There was also the very popular breakfast served and live music including from Woolmer Green Band. Thanks to Councillor Grant Pinney for all his work to make the event a success. An impressive £650 was raised for the mental health charity "Just One Click Away".



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

Adverts

Welwyn French Circle

Would you like to improve your understanding of written & spoken French? Perhaps you have French speaking relatives or friends? Or maybe you're hoping to resume holidays in France or another French speaking country?

The **Welwyn French Circle** (also known as the **French Circle of 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 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.

French reading and conversation groups meet regularly at Campus West, Welwyn Garden City.



Celebrate 50 years of the Welwyn French Circle in 2022

– Join in the fun and celebrations on 16 September!

Details of our programme for 2022/23 feature on

www.cerclefrancaisdemidherts.org.uk.

Meeting dates are booked for:

2022:

16 September: La Chanson Française (50s, 60s & 70s) – Vincent Raymond-Barker

21 October: Jean-Jacques Rousseau – Annie Kean

11 November : Maurice Ravel – Emilie Capulet

9 December: Quiz

Adverts

Meditation– Seeking Refuge

One day, having just listened to the news from Ukraine where people were fleeing from their homes, bombs going off all around them, I stood in our sunlit sitting room looking out at our garden and thought of what it must be like to be caught up in a war, what we would have to leave behind—friends and relatives, our daily life, our pet cat, a refugee herself, our lovely garden, our home. There might be no time to take anything with us...

Jesus became a refugee when he was about two years old. Mary and Joseph were warned that their child's life was in danger. This short sentence says so much: "...he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed for Egypt." Did the child wake when he was grabbed out of his bed? Surely he would have sensed the rising panic as a blanket was pulled off to keep him warm. Did he start to cry? The fear that the noise would attract attention. What else to take before running out into the night? Did they hear the beginnings of the massacre as they fled? Screaming breaking out into the silent night air, shouting, wailing, as the soldiers barged into village homes, wrenching the little ones out of their parents' arms and murdering them. Then the long journey to another country.

All down the centuries people have fled their homes. Sometime it's not for war but water supplies drying up or flooding sweeping homes away and ruining harvests, famine, disease. In the last 400 years fleeing to England have been Huguenots, French, Irish, Jewish, Belgians, Germans, Polish, Ugandans, Hungarians, Chilians, Vietnamese, Tamils, Kurds, Cypriots, Bosnians, Syrians, Afghans, and many more. We all probably have all sorts of refugee blood coursing through our veins. Today our focus is on Ukraine. There has been a wonderful outpouring of welcome and care from the public but not from all government departments.

Michael Morpurgo spoke very movingly on this theme on Point of View, Radio 4 on Sunday 22nd May. His grandfather was a Belgian and fled here during the 2nd world war. "For 250,000 refugees their only hope of saving themselves was in their boats." No visa, no sending him on to another country, obviously there were some dangers

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Adverts

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)

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

Anglican/Methodist LEP T: 01438 510391

Sunday	11.00 am
2nd and 3rd Sundays	Methodist (3rd: Holy Communion)

Adverts

Meditation (Continued)

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but “when they had needed help Britain had welcomed them with open arms.” It was a time when we could ill afford the generosity, he argued, “but it was the right thing to do.” He poses the question are we “forgetting how our freedom was won?”

Unlike most European countries, we haven’t suffered invasion for a very long time: since the Normans came in 1066 in fact. It was a near thing in the 2nd world war when my father, a bomber pilot, was sent down to the south coast to meet an expected invasion.

When we came to Welwyn 11 years ago our home was in such a parlous state that we were able to organize it to fit our own requirements. We built a downstairs bedroom with an ensuite bath/shower room, adjoining a sitting room overlooking our garden. This was for us when we got too feeble to stagger upstairs, or when we were needing a live-in carer. So when the nation was asked to provide homes for the refugees we couldn’t escape the fact that we had the ideal set-up. When in a moment of doubt I asked Mike why we were doing this he said “because we can.” And that was that. We somehow knew that was to be our response. It’s a good thing it wasn’t everyone’s response since we now have a great community outpouring of all sorts of different types of help. It’s been great for coming together with people we would otherwise not have known. And it feels like a privilege to be able to be alongside people in such a desperate situation.

The big day is nearly here when Maria and Nadia will come to live with us. Our garage, adjoining their bedroom, will soon be a kitchen for them and they can be as independent as they want to be, but while they are with us we will have a new sister and a new daughter to welcome into our family.

Gay Carpenter