

Welcome! to St Mary's

Services at St Mary's

Holy Communion

9.15am on 1st, 3rd and 4th Sundays (not August)

10.00am Altogether Communion Service 2nd and 5th
Sundays

9.30am Thursdays followed by Coffee Morning

Open Door, an informal service for all ages

10.45am on 1st & 3rd Sundays, with Children's Church

10.45am on 4th Sundays – All age worship

*Refreshments are served after all regular services.
Please do stay and have a chat.*

Morning Prayer

8am on Mondays and Tuesdays

Night Prayer

8–9pm Wednesdays on Zoom

Please contact the Church Office for link

Youth Groups

2nd and 4th Sundays – please contact Kathryn for details

*The church is open for private prayer during daylight hours
Winter 9am–3pm and Summer 9am–4pm (approx.)*



Email: office@stmaryssawston



St Mary's Church, Sawston



www.stmaryssawston.org.net

Welcome! to St Peter's

Services at St Peter's

Morning Worship

11am on 1st Sunday

Holy Communion

11am on 3rd Sunday

Morning Prayer

8.15am on Wednesdays

Wednesday

12–2pm Time for a coffee and chat
(Full details on page 6)

The church is open
from 9am–4.30pm daily



St Peter's Church, Babraham



www.stpetersbabraham.org.uk



See pages 7 and 22 for details of the Art Exhibition
on Saturday 13th September,
Harvest Treasure Trail on Saturday 4th October
and the Harvest Festival on Sunday 5th October

ALL WELCOME

WHAT'S ON IN SAWSTON AND BABRAHAM

REGULAR ACTIVITIES



Baby and Toddler Group

Mondays 9.30 –11.30am

Chat – toys – rhymes – story – craft

Sawston House Groups

- Mondays 8pm on Zoom
Contact: Rosie Whitmell: rosie.whitmell@gmail.com
- Mondays 8pm at Andrew & Joanne Beale's
Contact: thebeales44@gmail.com.
- Fridays 10am at Petra Shakeshaft's
Contact: petra.shakeshaft1@outlook.com for dates



First Tuesday of each month
2pm or 7.30pm in St Mary's Church

Contact: Janet Martin, tel: 835028, email: janetm.martin@ntlworld.com

TEA AND FRIENDSHIP

warm drinks, warm friendship

First Thursday of each month

2pm–3.30pm in St Mary's Community Hall



SOUP AND SANDWICHES

Second Thursday of each month 12.30–2pm

In St Mary's Community Hall, Church Lane

Supported by Central Cooperative



CRAFT GROUP

Last Thursday of each month 2pm–4pm

In St Mary's Community Hall

Contact: Tina Casey

tina.e.casey@gmail.com



Bring your own craft

From the Vicarage



Dear Friends

I have recently been reading *Orbital* by Samantha Harvey. In this beautifully written book, 24 hours in the lives of the cosmonauts/astronauts aboard the International Space Station are described as the station travels 250 miles above the Earth, at a speed of 17,500 miles per hour. The astronauts look out the windows of the station at 'Mother Earth', on the sunsets and sunrises below them, on the land, at lightning storms, and at the lights of the cities shining in the darkness of the Earth's night. The first pictures of the Earth taken from space changed people's perception of the planet on which we live; it is a beautiful planet which is currently reaching crisis point.

By the time this magazine goes to press, we will be in the church season of Creationtide, culminating in our Harvest Festival services when we think about, and pray for, the broken world in which we live. The Christian doctrine of creation says that all creation is a living organism of which humans are a vital part. In other words, like it or not, we are part of creation and as Christians we should be caring for it, not because it is our duty (as the stewardship ethic proposes) but because we are part of it. This perspective of creation fits with the Franciscan view of creation, which emphasises the interconnectedness of all creatures, animal and human alike. Being a part of creation means that we need to consider what we do both individually and collectively as a church to respond to the environmental crisis. As a group of people, we have more agency together than if we act alone. We need to think about what energy suppliers we use, when and how we replace our aging boiler in the church, and how we care for the churchyard and burial ground. Babraham has already started to work on increasing the diversity of

the wildlife in the churchyard and hope to have gained at least the Bronze award from the Cambridge Wildlife Trust this autumn. At St Mary's this autumn, we are hoping to construct a temporary labyrinth in the churchyard. This will be an opportunity to spend time with God, outside, in the beauty of creation; to walk with God and to listen to what God is saying to us. Let's pray that God will guide us all as individuals, and as a church, to respond as part of God's amazing creation to care for it.

... And news from St Peter's



It has been a busy and exciting few months at St Peter's. Ian celebrated his first Holy Communion at St Peter's on 29 June, marking the church's patronal festival. It was great to see the church full of people at what was a beautiful service. The following weekend the patronal festivities continued with the annual concert and strawberry teas. The musicians were wonderful, and we discovered more about John Bryden (who often plays the organ for us) as he told his own story between playing different organ pieces. The scones were much appreciated too!

The Year 6s from Babraham Primary School visited the church on the penultimate day of term (which was, of course, also the penultimate day for them at the school). We had some reflective time, moved between prayer stations placed around the church, and spent some time in silence: an opportunity to pause and reflect at the end of a busy term for the children. As well as saying goodbye to our Year 6s as they move to secondary school, we also said a fond farewell to Mrs Victoria Penty, the head teacher, who is retiring. We will be welcoming Mrs Suzanne Wernham as the new head teacher in September.

On Saturday 13 September we will be holding our annual art, craft and photography exhibition, from 10am to 4pm. Tea, coffee and cake will be available throughout the day. Please do come along to support

our local artists. On Saturday 4 October, we will be holding a Harvest Treasure Trail and offering afternoon teas ahead of our Harvest Festival the following day, so please do come along.

With every blessing,




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12–2pm**



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St Peter's Babraham

A little church with a big heart

ART, CRAFT AND PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION

St Peter's Church, Babraham

Saturday 13 September, 10am-4pm

Celebrating local
artists, crafters and
photographers.



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Please contact

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vicar@stmaryssawston.org.uk

for further information.

Set up Friday 12th, 10am-6pm or

Saturday 13th, before 10am

Free entrance and
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gratefully received.

Directions: From A11, proceed on A1307 towards Cambridge. Turn right into Babraham Village. Sign for Church is on right just after small stone bridge in High Street.

Proceed along long drive and park near church



Welcomes and Farewells



On 1st June we welcomed Dagmar, Bishop of Huntingdon, to St Mary's for a joyful service during which members of our church family were baptised and confirmed.



28th June Ian's ordination as priest and 29th, his first Mass. See next item.

A Note of Thanks – and a Glimpse of Grace

Reflections on Ordination and First Mass

Over the course of two extraordinary days, I was ordained priest at Ely Cathedral and celebrated the Eucharist for the first time at St Peter's, Babraham. I am aware that others are writing about these services more fully, but I want to add just a few words of personal gratitude and reflection.

Firstly, thank you. Thank you to every single person who played a part. I cannot begin to name you all, but I must acknowledge the forbearance and patience of Kathryn, my training incumbent, who has walked so closely with me on this journey. I am also deeply grateful to my father Craig, whose musicality and stunning organ playing on the Sunday was both a gift and a memory I will treasure for a lifetime. Alongside Georgie (who sang the solo so beautifully), and Kieran with the choir, the music that shaped that day was profoundly meaningful to me. It was a privilege to share it with you all.

From those who travelled long distances – Carlisle, I believe, wins the prize – to those who made the splendid lunch, prepared flowers, moved chairs, cleaned the churches, prayed, read, sang, and helped the children bring forward the offertory: thank you. I was humbled by your cards and gifts, but most of all by your presence and support. To serve in these parishes is a joy, and I pray that my ministry here will be fruitful, both in what I learn and in what I am able to share.

The days themselves were framed by an amazing retreat and by worship. To kneel and pray as the choir sang during the ordination liturgy, to feel the weight of hands upon your head and the movement of the Spirit among the gathered body of Christ – it is hard to describe. Words fall short. The anointing of my hands was a moment that caught me off guard; a tear escaped, I think only Kathryn saw it.

And then, to return the next morning and stand at the altar at St Peter's for their patronal festival – to offer word and sacrament

among those I now serve – was pure joy. It felt as though heaven brushed earth.



I do not yet know what kind of priest I will be. But I know I wish to be faithful; I wish to be present; and I wish to make space for the Spirit of God to move in unexpected ways.

Thank you for holding me in prayer as I begin this new chapter.

Ian



Farewell from Will and Laura

It hardly feels like ten minutes since Laura and I first arrived in the parishes of Sawston and Babraham, and yet we also feel we have become part of the furniture. As they say: time flies when you're having fun!

Laura and I have had a wonderful and happy time here. It has been a privilege and a pleasure to meet and journey with you all, and to share in the life of our parishes, our villages and the surrounding countryside for the past nearly two years. I have been so grateful for all the opportunities I've had during my time here, be it at the altar, with our weekly groups, in school, in our care homes, and elsewhere around our two villages. I have also greatly valued my weekly visits to Addenbrooke's, where I have volunteered on the wards with the Chaplaincy there.

As your curate, I am thankful for all that I've learned. In particular, I feel I've got better at going outside of my comfort zone. As someone who is of the Catholic tradition, I remember one day, just before my arrival, remarking to Kathryn how I'd never be any good at leading more informal worship ... well, I'm glad to have proved myself wrong! I rejoice in the many different ways in which the same Holy Spirit moves. My curacy here has certainly been a time of growth for me, and I rejoice that learning is a lifelong journey.

In the Gospels, Jesus Christ commissioned His disciples to love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your mind, with all your soul, and with all your strength – and to love your neighbours as yourselves. These are often known as the two great commandments, but I think there are actually three elements to them: loving God, loving other people, and loving yourself. I commend this thought to you – it's what I always do my best to practise.

After four years of ordained ministry in the diocese of Ely, my next post is now ready to start. In September, I will be licensed as Team

Vicar of the Cottesloe benefice, a group of eight village churches in the beautiful countryside of Buckinghamshire, in the diocese of Oxford. Both Laura and I are looking forward to becoming part of our new community there, but we will miss you all and I look forward to coming back to visit soon.

In the ministry in which I share, for all that has been, I give thanks to God; and for all that is to come, I will do my best to follow God's holy will in my thoughts, words and deeds. Please be assured of our prayers – and please keep us in your prayers, too. Thank you.

Will & Laura



From the registers 2025

Funerals:

- 30 May Effie Crompton
St Mary's and burial in the churchyard
- 24 June John Harvey
St Mary's and Cam Valley
- 19 July Brian Page
Interment of ashes at St Mary's

Baptisms:

- 1 June Benjamin Chiang, Robin Ingle, Gabriel Jardin,
Ivy Tang and Hayley Webb.

At the same service Candice Bacelar, Marco Bacelar, Yvonne Denny, Robin Ingle, Joanna Johnson, Ivy Tang and Hayley Webb were all confirmed by Bishop Dagmar the Bishop of Huntingdon.

- 15 June Delphi MacDonald Watson



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**Bereavement Café:
a space of comfort and connection,
a place to share and be heard**

There was something quietly beautiful about our first Bereavement Café on Thursday 17th July. It was a truly moving experience as people arrived with stories, memories and the silent weight of loss. No one needed to explain their grief, or compare it, just to share in the simple truth that they were not alone. Stories were shared, tears gently shed, laughter found its way in, and – of course – there was tea and cake. Most of all, there was community.

Thank you to everyone who came, helped or simply brought their stories and listened to others. The room was filled with compassion, courage and kindness as people from all walks of life gathered with one thing in common: the experience of loss.

We were reminded that grief does not follow a timeline, and nor should it. Each person's journey is different, but in that shared space, many found comfort in knowing they weren't alone. Whether the loss was recent or many years ago, there was room for every story, every silence and every smile.

We're planning another session this autumn, and we would love you to come. If you've experienced bereavement, whether it was last month or decades ago, please know that you are welcome. There's no pressure to speak, no expectations to explain. Just space to be, with others who understand. If you know someone who might appreciate this space, then please do invite them along.

Grief can feel isolating. The Bereavement Café reminded us that we do not have to carry it alone.

Ian Henderson

Bereavement Café

St Mary's Community Hall

Our next cafés will be on:

Thursday 18 September, 2pm-3.30pm

&

Saturday 8 November, 11am-12.30pm



All Welcome

Tea, cakes and an opportunity to share memories of loved ones and experiences of loss whether that is recently or some considerable time ago



Remembering Service

St. Marys, Sawston
Sunday 2 November
3.00pm

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remember loved ones who
have died

For more information please contact:
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SAWSTON: 8 Morley's Place, Sawston, Cambridge, CB22 3TG - 01223 830065

HOW OBSERVANT ARE YOU?

Have you noticed the white/creamy patch on the north side of the church facing Church Lane? This is an experimental area to show us how the exterior of the church could be plastered in the future. Our architect tells us that this would allow rainwater to slide off the wall more effectively and so help to remove the damp in the wall, But it would, clearly, alter the appearance of the church very considerably and require planning permission. The church was quite possibly plastered in this way when it was first built and certainly was in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. Hauxton church has been recently restored in this way, so, if you are passing through Hauxton, you can stop to have a look. Please do give your views on this proposal to any member of the PCC.

PCC members should be easily identifiable as they are now wearing lanyards to Sunday services, or at least they are asked to do so!

Mary Dicken Secretary to the PCC

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From the Past

The autumn of 1925 was marked by some good advice in the magazine for the months ahead. 'The broken weather and the variable thermometer remind us that another winter is approaching with its long evenings. The home fireside, with perhaps a book from the Village Library, will renew its attractiveness and some will be able to enjoy their 'wireless'; but, after all, we are social beings and enjoy meeting our neighbours for occasional recreation. So, it will be welcome news that our Sawston Choral Class is reopening and that the Church Institute with its augmented membership is planning to increase its attractions; while the Women's Institute has prepared its usual excellent programme.

'No doubt the Whist Drive will have a place among our winter fixtures, and rightly so, for it provides pleasure for many; but it is to be hoped that during the winter months we shall see a revival of such entertainments as give scope to that most delightful of all pleasures, the opportunity of widening our interests and increasing our knowledge.

Fifty years ago, the magazine noted that the 'St Mary's Estate to the east of Church Lane is now beginning to be inhabited; some are already parishioners moving from one part of Sawston to another, but others are newly come into the parish and I hope they will receive a big welcome from us all and be made to feel that they are among a friendly and helpful community'. The magazine also reported on an event where 'after morning service members from every Church left Sawston and met at Bury St Edmunds and picnicked in the Abbey Gardens.

The weather was perfect and the sun shone on this undertaking. It was a splendid sight to see everybody spread out on the grass near the old Abbey ruins eating their lunch. Many families came, there were two babies, both the Vicar and Fr O'Toole were present and the oldest participant was over 80. It was a glorious get-together. After the lunch had been consumed the time soon came when we were due at the Cathedral for Evensong, which was beautifully sung by a mixed choir. The Precentor gave us a special welcome and everyone must have returned to Sawston with the feeling that a unique and enjoyable experience of ecumenism had been well worth-while'. This

may sound rather an exaggeration, but fifty years on, I do recall it as a very special day out!

Communicate, 22 years on...

The first issue of the magazine dates from the 1880s and one had been published each month up to the late 1990s, when no-one seemed willing to edit a magazine. A small group revived the magazine in 2003 as *Communicate*, but decided to publish it quarterly rather than monthly and that it would be free and financed by advertising income. It was edited first by Sue Hunting and then more recently by Dianne Conway. That first issue noted the fiftieth birthday of the Community Hall which was marked by a weekend of celebrations in October 2003 and also included a review of a recent book by David Sheppard, former test cricketer and later bishop of Liverpool. The PCC recently discussed the future of the magazine and decided it had a useful role in both church life and our outreach, and so hope it will continue to flourish.

Mary Dicken

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HARVEST FESTIVAL

Saturday 4 October

2.30pm-4.30pm

Harvest Treasure Trail
& Afternoon Tea at St Peter's

Sunday 5 October

11am Harvest Festival Service
at St Peter's

Sunday 12 October

10am Harvest Festival Service
at St Mary's



St. Mary's Church
SAWSTON



St Peter's Church
Babraham

A little church with a big heart

THE WORLD-WIDE MISSION COMMITTEE

CURRENT FUNDRAISING

We will be supporting the **Amos Trust** from 1 July to 30 September 2025. The Amos Trust is a small creative human rights organisation, committed to challenging injustice, building hope and creating positive change. Its vision is for a world where justice flows, the silenced are heard and no one is forgotten. Its mission is to challenge injustice, restore rights and create hope. It works with grassroots partners, listening to their needs and acting on their concerns in order to build local creative solutions to global issues.

One of the members of the Mission Committee knows the work of this charity very well, and we are planning to invite a guest speaker during their three months as our overseas charity. We will also be holding a fundraising coffee morning on Saturday 20 September, 10–12 noon at St Mary's. There will be coffee, tea and cakes, a tombola and a craft stall. All are very welcome to join us.

For the last quarter of the year, we will be supporting **Emmaus Cambridge** from 1 October to 31 December 2025. Emmaus offers a home, work and personal support to a community of formerly homeless people. Their Companions all work in the shop in Landbeach, where they sell donated furniture, clothing, homewares and more. Living in a stable environment with the opportunity to gain new skills helps the Companions to regain any lost esteem and confidence so they can get back on their feet. Research shows that for every £1 invested in an Emmaus Community, there is an £11 social, environmental and economic return, with savings to the benefits bill, health services and a reduction in crime.

DONATIONS MADE

East Anglian Air Ambulance was our home charity from 1 April to 30 June. Thank you all for the excellent three months of fundraising for EAAA. In total we raised £709 for EAAA.

- £300 was raised at the Strawberry Tea on Saturday 14 June.
- £409 was raised via the Mission Plate (including the PCC allocation).

- 5 EAAA Gift-Aided envelopes were donated during Lent. Christine Wright, Community Fundraising Lead at EAAA, contacted Kathryn to thank St Mary's. She said, 'thank you for choosing us as your charity of the quarter and supporting us in this way. Our supporters are truly at the heart of everything we do. Without you, we would not be able to continue to deliver and develop our lifesaving services 24/7 by air and by road. Because of your fantastic support, we can help the most critically ill or injured people in our communities – often at the most traumatic time in their lives. What a truly remarkable thing to do!'

Christian Aid Week was held from 11 to 17 May. St Mary's donated £60 via the Christian Aid envelopes. Sawston Free Church held a Quiz Night and a collection outside the Co-op. The funds raised at these events, together with the envelopes from both the Free Church and St Mary's, amounted to a grand total of £942.09. Thank you very much.

Sue Lowdell

St Mary's Craft Group

At our June meeting we all enjoyed cake and tea to celebrate the ninth anniversary of the formation of the Craft Group – how time flies! The number of members has grown over the last nine years, although there is sometimes a slight drop in attendance during the holiday season.

During the time that I have been running the St Mary's Craft Group I have been supported by my two 'deputies': Dorothy Ward and Geraldine Stott. I would like to pay tribute to the support I have had from Dorothy over the last nine years. Dorothy has been a great help to me and also a warm and welcoming friend to one and all, loyally supporting the group. Meanwhile, Geraldine has told me that she is already working on the design for her next workshop at the October and November meetings: making another beautiful Christmas decoration. Grateful thanks to Geraldine for her hard work and commitment to the group. I know her workshop will be eagerly awaited by all the members who are interested in taking part.

I am hoping that I will be able to have a craft stall at the next Mission Committee coffee morning. This will be on Saturday 20th September. Not only do I have some lovely goods donated by members of the group, but I also have quite a few donations from people who have heard about the group and had surplus items that they were glad to find a home for. Crafting and generosity often seem to be found together in people. There will probably be another coffee morning in December, as has happened in previous years, so do keep an eye out for news of that too as I will hopefully have a craft stall there as well.

The talents that the members of the group have never ceases to amaze me at and this is never more evident than at our monthly meetings. There is a good variety of craft skills among the members, and if anyone has any problem or difficulty with their work, there is always someone there who is willing and able to help them out.

We warmly welcome visitors to the group, whether it is just a one-off or with a view to joining the group on a regular basis. Meetings are held in the Community Hall, Church Lane on the last Thursday of the month from 2pm to 4pm.

Tina Casey, Craft Group leader
01223 836240

Coffee Morning
in support of
The AMOS Trust
The AMOS Trust works to challenge injustice, restore rights and create hope.

Saturday 20th September
10am - 12noon
St Mary's Church

There will be coffee, tea, refreshments, cakes, and side stalls. Everyone is welcome.

Hosted by
The Mission Committee



 **St. Mary's Church**
SAWSTON

COFFEE AND CHAT with

Sebastian and Marcela



Have you lived in Sawston long?

We have lived in Sawston for two years and before that we were in Cardiff.

Tell us a little about your family and work.

Sebastian: I was born in Madrid and lived in Spain and France until I was ten before my family moved back to the UK. After university I was in Mexico for nine years working as an English teacher and studying painting. I then moved to Bristol and became a secondary school Spanish and French teacher at various schools in Bristol and Teesside. Over the last twelve years I've been an art tutor as well as developing my own painting practice.

Marcela: I was born in Bogota, Colombia where I grew up and studied Microbiology before completing my MSc in Belgium and PhD in Holland. I moved to work in a lab in Oxford and then Cardiff, where I met Seb. We moved to Cambridge for work and I am enjoying this new experience. I feel lucky living in Sawston while keeping strong ties with my friends in Wales.

What attracted you to St Mary's and what do you like about the worship here?

Sebastian: The first time we came to a service we stayed for coffee and received a very warm welcome from the congregation, and I feel that the respect that people feel for each other is very valuable. I feel that there is a sense of people coming together to learn and to share experiences. I can see the efforts that are made to cater for different people and welcome new members such as Marcela and me.

Marcela: Yes, I agree with Seb, and besides it has been lovely to be a part of a community that cares and which makes life in a small village meaningful.

In your role as church warden has anything surprised you?

Sebastian: At being asked to consider the role of church warden I felt both surprise and a feeling of joy that I was being asked to be part of the community in this way. With no prior experience in church roles

nearly everything is new to me, but I feel very grateful and privileged to have been accepted in this capacity. It does feel a bit daunting when I see how people have given up so much of their time over the years to make the church function and prosper.

Do you have a favourite hymn or Bible passage?

Sebastian: I'm constantly moved and challenged by the Beatitudes and feel a great affinity with the Prodigal Son.

Marcela: I like the parable of the mustard seed illustrating the immense growth potential of the Kingdom of God. I also like that time when Jesus was angry and overturned the tables at the temple market because it had become a house of trade. Regarding the hymns, I don't have any favourites, but it has been really nice to recognise that some of them are the English version of songs that I used to sing at my school in Bogota.

Interview by Dianne Conway

... AND CAKE

If the previous items have left you fancying a cup of coffee, Will has very kindly agreed to share one of his famous cake recipes.

Banana loaf

1. In a mixing bowl, add and mix the following:
 - 150g self raising flour,
 - 150g caster sugar
 - 150g butter
 - 5g baking powder
 - 2 large eggs
 - 2 bananas, chopped up
2. Pour the cake mix into a prepared and lined loaf tin. Bake it in the oven at 175 degrees Celsius, for 45–50 minutes.
3. When the cake is baked, sprinkle with granulated sugar.
4. Enjoy!

David Hatter

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or 07951 061339

Find us online:

www.britishlegion.org.uk

National helpline:

0808 802 8080

(calls free from UK landlines)

The Beale's House Group

During term-time, we meet at Andrew and Joanne Beale's house. It is a very supportive and welcoming group of (mostly) younger adult members of our congregation. Andrew and Joanne lead the sessions and we tend to explore a set theme each half-term. This is usually a book of the Bible, but more recently we have looked at different kinds of prayer, and made an in-depth study of the Nicene Creed to coincide with its 1700th anniversary. Each session ends with a time of prayer and we are invited to make prayer requests that may be personal, or for situations around the world. It is a safe space to explore faith, ask questions and wonder together. It is also a nurturing place where we each know we are supported and prayed for.

Back in May we had a family awayday at Little Gidding. This was a lovely, restful, prayerful day with children and adults exploring faith through worship, art and craft and Lego, eating together, and exploring the beautiful gardens using all our senses during a brilliant

'Treasure Hunt' devised by Andy Beale. If you would like to know more about this group, please see contact details on page 3.

Petra Shakeshaft



Friday Morning House Group

This group began during Lent, meeting weekly at Petra's house. After Easter the group decided to continue to meet. We begin with coffee and cake, which definitely helps to make us ready for the rich and deep conversations that happen afterwards. Currently we are meeting approximately fortnightly to explore the gospel reading for the coming Sunday. It is always surprising and rewarding to hear what can be elicited from a few paragraphs of scripture in an hour or so, and how much we are able to apply it to our own lives and experiences. This is really 'doing' theology, but thankfully, doesn't involve any great impenetrable books!

If you would like to come along, even just to see what it's like, you'd be most welcome. Please see contact details on page 3.

Night Prayer

A quiet time to end the day

Wednesday Evenings

8.30pm – 9.00pm

on Zoom

Various styles of Prayer

Compline, Lectio Divina,

Examen, Northumbrian Prayer.



Zoom link on the weekly notices
or from church office



Sunday 14 September
Patronal Festival
All Age Holy Communion
10.00am

 **St. Mary's Church**
SAWSTON



SAWSTON YOUTH GROUP



SYG had a successful summer term, with a varied programme that the children have enjoyed. The Explorers and Juniors sections took part in activities including archery, canoeing on the River Cam, outdoor laser tag, visiting local parks, and an H₂O evening where everyone got very wet!

The Seniors and Amicus sections enjoyed wide games and challenges. They also took part in a village Monopoly-themed scavenger hunt. All sections enjoyed the final evening of the term, which was celebrated with a picnic and an awards ceremony where we presented our Jimmy Higgins Shield along with two Bronze and one Silver DofE Awards.

We also had a wonderful camp this year at Vinery Hill Christian Adventure Centre with 40 members and leaders from across three different Boys' Brigade companies. All the young people conquered many different challenges, from climbing walls to kayaking river trips and cycling in the forest.

The Band members had a great time at their final summer event, leading the Saffron Walden Carnival parade with a big band supported by lots of other companies.

We hope you all enjoyed the summer holidays and are looking forward to our already packed programme for the new term in September. We are recruiting more Juniors (school years 3-6), so do get in contact if you know anyone who would like to join us.

All information and photos can be found on our website at www.syg.org.uk.





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Labyrinths



The Chartres Labyrinth

Back in the depths of the Covid pandemic, I went on retreat to a place called Sheldon, in Devon, which specialises in supporting people in ministry. It was a very solitary week – there was no corporate worship at the time and no community meals were provided. There was however, a well-equipped art studio and some beautiful grounds to explore. On the first day, on reaching the top of a hill, I discovered a labyrinth marked out in the ground. During my curacy in Cambridge, I had built labyrinths in the garden at the front of the church and we watched, in delight, as toddlers, children and adults of all ages made their way round, deep in concentration, contemplation or prayer, towards the centre.

On this solitary day in Sheldon, I began to trace the path of this labyrinth on the hill, overlooking the woods below, trying to focus my thoughts, forcing myself, unsuccessfully, to make a prayer of this journey. At the centre I discovered some other pilgrim(s) had been before me and left some stones, leaves, and a couple of acorns. I wondered about the person/people who had left them

there and, as I focused on the acorn, found myself thinking of Julian of Norwich's reflection on the hazelnut.

And in this he showed me a little thing, the quantity of a hazel nut, lying in the palm of my hand, as it seemed. And it was as round as any ball. I looked upon it with the eye of my understanding, and thought, 'What may this be?' And it was answered generally thus, 'It is all that is made.' I marvelled how it might last, for I thought it might suddenly have fallen to nothing for littleness. And I was answered in my understanding: It lasts and ever shall, for God loves it. And so have all things their beginning by the love of God.

In this little thing I saw three properties. The first is that God made it. The second that God loves it. And the third, that God keeps it.

And somehow, it made sense of why I was here. Having stepped out of the calamitous world for a few days, I was here to be; to take time to notice the things around me, the trees, rocks, hills and the small things, the stones, and tiny acorns. These small things someone had left behind for another's eyes to ponder had taught me why and *how* to be here. And this is the purpose of a labyrinth.

Unlike a maze, which is designed to confound, frustrate and lead astray with many paths and dead ends and more than one entry point, a labyrinth has a single path leading to the centre and the same path leads you back out again to where you started. Walking a labyrinth is a kind of short pilgrimage, a journey towards somewhere, some 'thing', that may bring enlightenment, a sense of God's presence, a prayer and often the 'thing' may surprise. It's not simply about arriving at the destination, but about the journey itself, and having arrived at the centre, spent time there in prayer, contemplation, discerning, you take the same path out towards the place you started from – though you may be different; changed by the experience. I am reminded of some words from T. S. Eliot's poem, 'Little Gidding':

*What we call the beginning is often the end
And to make an end is to make a beginning.
The end is where we start from ...*

*With the drawing of this love
And the voice of this calling
We shall not cease from exploration
And the end of all our exploring
will be to arrive where we started
and know the place for the first time ...
And all shall be well and
All manner of thing shall be well.*

Labyrinths are found all over the world and are used as a support for prayer. We plan to build a (temporary) labyrinth in the churchyard behind the church. If you are unable to walk a labyrinth, you might like to use the 'finger labyrinth' on the back page for your own prayerful reflection. There is no right or wrong way or pace ... just follow the path in your own time.

- You may like to read and reflect on a passage of scripture as you 'walk' the labyrinth.
- You may like to hold a photograph of someone you'd like to remember or pray for.
- You could walk a prayer of thanksgiving or forgiveness.
- You can be as open or focused as you like.

Happy wanderings!
Petra Shakeshaft

WORDSEARCH

L	A	E	P	I	C	E	R	B	W	C	C	F	I	L
A	A	Z	R	E	M	E	M	B	E	R	I	N	G	V
H	R	B	A	W	D	T	N	K	L	O	N	O	W	X
A	W	T	Y	F	O	S	W	V	C	C	L	I	P	P
R	B	C	E	R	T	G	O	T	O	E	D	T	N	I
V	A	Z	C	H	I	N	H	W	M	T	X	A	O	H
E	P	W	E	L	I	N	G	C	E	A	S	M	I	S
S	T	N	X	C	V	B	T	E	P	U	Y	R	T	D
T	I	R	R	E	T	R	I	H	D	S	K	I	A	N
I	S	K	E	L	C	N	X	T	P	U	N	F	N	E
E	M	Y	Y	R	R	L	W	O	I	U	I	N	I	I
C	E	D	A	B	J	E	E	F	F	O	C	O	D	R
V	D	F	R	H	S	T	M	J	E	Q	N	C	R	F
M	T	Z	P	F	E	S	T	I	V	A	L	Q	O	D
M	I	S	S	I	O	N	Z	B	N	C	A	K	E	F

Find these words, all of which appear in the magazine.

LABYRINTH

COFFEE

PRAYER

REMEMBERING

MISSION

ART EXHIBITION

WELCOME

CRAFT

FRIENDSHIP

CONFIRMATION

BAPTISM

ORDINATION

RECIPE

HARVEST

FESTIVAL

CAKE

Quiz Questions

What sea creature swallowed Jonah?

How did God speak to Moses in the desert?

What was the fruit the serpent tempted Eve with?

Answers on page 39

PCC Officials

Vice Chairman	Corinne Roughley
Secretary	Mary Dicken
Treasurer	Sue Chase (not PCC member)

Other Officials

Assistant Secretary	Joanna Johnson
Electoral Roll Officer	Janet Martin
Gift Aid Officer	Marian Watson
Safeguarding Officer	Barbara Hylton
Sidesmen	Sarah Bard, Andrew Beale, Joanne Beale, Peter Green, Jeannie Green, Suella Hunting, Barbara Hylton, Wendy Redgewell, Mary Richmond, Hilary Streeter, Marian Watson
Website and Social Media Co-ordinator	Joanna Johnson

Committees

Standing Committee	Vicar (chairman), churchwardens, secretary and treasurer, David Bard, Suella Hunting.
Fabric Committee	Vicar (chairman), Sebastian Aplin, David Bard, Mary Dicken (secretary), David Holloway, Suella Hunting, Corinne Roughley, Paul Shakeshaft, Marian Watson
Magazine Committee	Petra Shakeshaft (editor), Mary Dicken, Rachel Norridge,
World-wide Mission Committee	Christine Casey, Sarah Caswell, Jose John, Anne Little, Susan Lowdell (chairman), Janet Marven, Elizabeth Parker, Agnes Stamper, Marian Watson

Community Hall Management Committee

Jeanette Harvey (bookings secretary),
George Haddad (treasurer), Katharine
Holloway, Suella Hunting (chairman), Jane
Moloney, John Poulter, Stephen Roughley,
Hilary Streeter (minutes secretary), Vicar.

Ratified appointments which are made externally

Mothers' Union Leader Janet Martin
SYG Chairman Alistair Montgomery

Leaders of Activities

Beale's House Group Andrew and Joanne Beale
Children's Work Corinne Roughley
Church Office Joanna Johnson
Craft Group Christine Casey
Flower Arrangers Barbara Hylton
Friday House Group Petra Shakeshaft
Monday House Group Rosina Whitmell
Open Door Music Group Clare Hulme
Night Prayer Dianne Conway
Refresh Rebecca Herrick
Sacristan Marian Watson and
Anand Pillai (deputy)

Soup and Sandwiches
and Tea and Friendship Mary Richmond
Working Parties and
Burial Ground
Maintenance David Holloway

Quiz answers (page 37)

○ Jonah was swallowed by a great fish, not a whale!
(Jonah 1.17)
○ God spoke to Moses in a burning bush. (Exodus 3. 1-5)
○ The serpent tempted Eve with the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. (Genesis 2.17 and 3.1-6)
Rowan Williams suggests the apple identification is probably bound up with the *malum* pun, which rests on the different lengths of vowel in *malum* / apple (long a) and *malum* / evil (short a). "It appears that people confused the word *malum* which means 'evil' with the word *malum*, pronounced differently, which means 'apple' and somehow conflated the two different meanings in the vernacular."

ST MARY'S COMMUNITY HALL
REGULAR GROUPS

Rosy Beginnings (baby massage)	Monday morning	Annie
Line Dancing	Monday lunchtime	Lisa
Contento Pilates	Monday evening	Maria
Sawston Toy Library	Tuesday morning	Katie
Contento Pilates	Tuesday afternoon	Maria
Line Dancing	Wednesday morning	Lisa
Contento Pilates	Wednesday lunchtime	Maria
Tai Chi	Wednesday afternoon	Dan
Studio Fit	Wednesday evening	Georgia
Sawston Beavers	Thursday early evening	Yousuf
Sawston Scouts	Thursday evening	Amit
Fitsteps	Friday lunchtime	Kelly
<i>Also</i>		
Tea and Friendship	1st Thursday afternoon	Mary
Soup & Sandwiches	2nd Thursday lunchtime	Mary
St Mary's Craft Group	Last Thursday afternoon	Tina
Youth Group	2nd & 4th Sunday evening	Kathryn

All users are expected to sweep the floor before leaving, to leave the premises clean and tidy, to take bulky rubbish home with them and to report any damage as soon as possible.

For further information and booking please contact

Mrs Jeanette Harvey hallbookingsa@stmaryssawston.org.uk

Or leave a message via the Church Office: 01223 837298

Hall Management Chair: Sue Hunting (sue.hunting@ntlworld.com)