

**THIS WEEK'S SERVICES
IN CHURCH AND ONLINE**

The following services are available across the team - full details on the website and email bulletin.

SUNDAY 16TH MAY

St Mary's Saffron Walden - in Church

10.00am Family Service Leader: Rachel Prior
Talk: Tracey Nicholls

St Botolph's Hadstock - in Church

9.30am Holy Communion President: Paula Griffiths
Preacher: Jeremy Trew

All Saints Ashdon - in Church

9.30am Holy Communion President: Caroline Curren

All Saints' Wimbish - in Church/Zoom

9.15am Holy Communion President: John Saxon
Preacher: Pete Gray

CAM VILLAGES ONLINE

Wendens Ambo - Zoom

9.30am Morning Prayer Leader: Alan Curren

TUESDAY

5.00pm Evening Prayer Leader: Alan Curren
Zoom

WEDNESDAY

9.30am Holy Communion President: Rachel Prior
Zoom

**NEXT SUNDAY 23RD MAY
SERVICES IN CHURCH AND ONLINE**

St Mary's Saffron Walden - in Church/YouTube/Zoom

10.00am Holy Communion President: Rachel Prior
Preacher: Jeremy Trew

St James' Searoad - in Church

9.30am Morning Praise Leader: Chris Bishop

St John's Little Walden - in Church

11.15am Holy Communion President: Michael Lovegrove

St Botolph's Hadstock - in Church

9.30am Holy Communion President: Paula Griffiths

All Saints Ashdon - in Church

9.30am Holy Communion President: Caroline Curren

St Mary's Debden - in Church/Zoom

9.15am Family Communion President: John Saxon

CAM VILLAGES ONLINE

Wendens Ambo - Zoom

9.30am Holy Communion President: Alex Jeewan

Great Chesterford - Facebook

11.00am Holy Communion President: Alex Jeewan

See St Mary's Church, SW, website at
www.stmaryssaffronwalden.org to find out more.



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www.facebook.com/saintmaryschurchsaffronwalden

SAFFRON WALDEN & VILLAGES TEAM MINISTRY

The Grapevine

COVERING THE PARISHES OF SAFFRON WALDEN,
WIMBISH, DEBDEN, ASHDON AND HADSTOCK

Welcome to our services today
Seventh Sunday of Easter
16th May 2021

Collect

O God the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: we beseech you, leave us not comfortless, but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us and exalt us to the place where our Saviour Christ is gone before, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

First Reading: Acts 1.15-17,21-26

In those days Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred and twenty people). He said, 'Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus – for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry. So one of the men who have accompanied us throughout the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us – one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection.' So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. Then they prayed and said, 'Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.' And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

Gospel: John 17.6-19

Jesus looked up to heaven and prayed: 'Father, I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.'

Post Communion

Eternal God, giver of love and power, your Son Jesus Christ has sent us into all the world to preach the gospel of his kingdom: confirm us in this mission, and help us to live the good news we proclaim; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

In May please pray for: **Swards End & Little Walden C of E, Radwinter Primary School**

Those whose wedding banns are being called at:
St Mary's, Saffron Walden: **Jonathan Irving & Sophie Parkin**

The family and friends of those who have died recently:
Reginald 'Burton' Chalmers, Joanne Reay, Peter Johnson

REFLECTIONS - JOHN RISBY

There is so much for us on which to reflect as we read today's Gospel reading, part of our Lord's prayer for himself and for his followers. I was struck by a recurring phrase that Jesus used to describe his twelve disciples, he speaks of them as **'the people you gave me out of the world...'**, and later he says that this prayer is not for the world but for **'those who you have given me.'**

And again thinking of the times when he would no longer be with them, he prayed **'Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me.'**

This theme of giving runs through the whole prayer, beginning with the gift of eternal life which is mentioned in an earlier verse 3 [just before our reading], the gift to the disciples of **'the words that you gave me'** and they have received, and the **joy** he was to impart when he had left them.

It is amazing to think that in his wisdom God chose to entrust this 'Gospel' to this small mixed group of people. The fact is that God called them, and in a real sense, gave them to his Son to be instrumental in the mission to the world. They had responded and Jesus shared with them a three year preparation time followed by the vitally important gift of the indwelling Holy Spirit for each of them.

What a wonderful prayer this is, for Jesus prayed not only for the twelve, but **'also for those who will believe in him through their word.'**

What encouragement for each of us to know that Jesus **'ever lives to make intercession for us.'** [Hebrews 7.25]. It is the privilege of the believer to know that God has given them to the Lord Jesus, to hear and receive his word, to share in his joy and the calling to be his witnesses in the world today. This remains our great challenge - for as someone said, the world isn't waiting to hear about Christian doctrine, he wants to see in the lives of Christ's followers whether it makes any difference!

PRAYER FOR THIS WEEK

Remember O Lord what you have wrought in us and not what we deserve, and, as you have called us to your service, make us worthy of our calling, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

BIBLE READINGS FOR THIS WEEK

Mon 17th	Morning Psalm 93 & 1 John 2:18-end Evening Psalm 18
Tue 18th	Morning Psalm 99 & 1 John 3:1-10 Evening Psalm 68 & Luke 8:1-15
Wed 19th	Morning Psalm 29 & 1 John 3:11-end Evening Psalm 46
Thurs 20th	Morning Psalm 24 & 1 John 4:1-6 Evening Psalm 139
Fri 21st	Morning Psalm 28 & 1 John 4:7-end Evening Psalm 147
Sat 22nd	Morning Psalm 43 & 1 John: Chapter 5 Evening Psalm 48

NEWS

Disasters Emergency Committee - Coronavirus Appeal for India - SPECIAL COLLECTION during May. Please donate by using the blue envelopes in church, or by donating to St Mary's online specifying DEC appeal or you can donate directly at <https://donation.dec.org.uk/coronavirus-appeal>

I'm delighted to say that I have been **APPOINTED THE RECTOR** of Black Notley, Great Notley and Rayne near Braintree. Sam, Magdalene and I will be moving in the summer, dates TBC. After almost four wonderful years with you, it will be very hard to leave but we are excited for all that lies ahead. Many thanks for all your support. *Rachel*

SERVICES IN CHURCH Services are taking place in all our churches this week. Numbers are restricted to be COVID safe. If you wish to attend St Mary's SW in person, please book your place in advance by telephoning the Parish Office by noon on Friday or by booking online using the bulletin link.

PRIVATE PRAYER St Mary's, Saffron Walden is open on Sunday and Wednesday afternoons from 2pm - 4pm. Ashdon is open every day and Hadstock is open by appointment.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK: 10th - 16th May If you do not receive an envelope and want to donate to the vital work of Christian Aid in Christian Aid Week, you can do so online www.christianaid.org.uk or you can take a donation to James the Jewellers in Church Street, where they will have envelopes available.

THY KINGDOM COME RETURNS! From **Friday 14th to Sunday 23rd May**, there will be an all age Prayer Trail in St Mary's, journeying from Ascension to Pentecost, open every day between 2 and 4pm. As we focus on prayer, consider joining in with Evening Prayer on Tuesday at 5pm, on Zoom, and a Prayer Walk on Thursday at 7pm, meeting at the west door, as we pray for our town and businesses. More information and details on our website. *Matt*

THE SILENT PRAYER GROUP will restart on **Thursday 3rd June** at 10am in the Parish Rooms. Sitting in a socially distanced circle we start with a brief introduction leading into 20 minutes of silent prayer. All very welcome. Do contact me if you would like more information. *Judith Hasler*

A PLANT SALE in aid of St Mary's Debden will be held on **Saturday 5th June** 11am - 3pm in the front garden of Barltrops, High Street, Debden. Kindly wear a mask and maintain social distancing. Please be patient if there is delay to enter the garden! Everyone welcome. *Hilary Davey*

We are looking for **NEW SIDESMEN/WELCOMERS** If you would like to enrol, or even re-enrol, we would love to welcome you on board. Please reply to the Parish Office. *Pamela Mugliston*

BELL RINGING With the easing of Covid restrictions, bell ringing will resume as from 18th May. For the time being we will only be allowed to ring six of our bells and limited to Sunday services and practice nights. Not having rung for some time, we may be a little out of practice. Ringing will improve as we brush away the cobwebs. *Stephen Wood*

MINISTRY TEAM

Rector: Revd Jeremy Trew	01799 500947
Email: rector@stmaryssaffronwalden.org	
Revd Rachel Prior	01799 500047
Parish Administrator: Dawn Saxon	01799 506024
Email: office@stmaryssaffronwalden.org	
Pastoral Assistant: Judith Hasler	01799 525041
Email: judithhasler@btopenworld.com	
Revd Paula Griffiths	01799 599141
Revd Alex Jeewan	01799 531153
Revd John Saxon	01799 541619
Revd Dr Caroline Curren	01799 584839