

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

SUNDAY 22ND AUGUST

St Mary's Saffron Walden - in Church

8.00am Holy Communion 1662 President: Jeremy Trew

St Mary's Saffron Walden - in Church/YouTube

10.00am Holy Communion President: Jeremy Trew

St James' Swards End - in Church

9.30am Holy Communion President: Chris Bishop

St John's Little Walden - in Church

11.15am Holy Communion President: Michael Lovegrove

All Saints Ashdon - in Church

9.30am Holy Communion President: Caroline Currer

St Mary's Debden - in Church/Zoom

9.15am Holy Communion President: John Saxon

CAM VILLAGES ONLINE

Wendens Ambo - Zoom

9.30am Holy Communion President: Angela Want

Great Chesterford - Facebook

11.00am Holy Communion President: John Risby

TUESDAY - Zoom

5.00pm Evening Prayer Leader: Rufus Barnes

WEDNESDAY St Mary's Saffron Walden - in Church

9.30am Holy Communion President: John Sibson

SATURDAY - St James' Swards End - in Church

Wedding of John Revell & Leanne Hardingham

**NEXT SUNDAY 29TH AUGUST
SERVICES IN CHURCH AND ONLINE**

St Mary's Saffron Walden - in Church

8.00am Holy Communion 1662 President: Chris Bishop

St Mary's Saffron Walden - in Church/YouTube

10.00am Holy Communion President: Jeremy Trew

All Saints Ashdon - in Church

9.30am Holy Communion President: Caroline Currer

All Saints' Wimbish - in Church/Zoom

9.15am Holy Communion President: John Saxon
(Joint Service with Debden)

CAM VILLAGES ONLINE

Wendens Ambo - Zoom

9.30am Matins Leader: John Risby

Great Chesterford - Facebook

11.00am Family 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

The Grapevine

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

Welcome to our services today

Twelfth Sunday after Trinity

22nd August 2021

Collect

Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray and to give more than either we desire or deserve: pour down upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid and giving us those good things which we are not worthy to ask but through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

First Reading: Ephesians 6.10-20

Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. Put on the whole armour of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armour of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

Gospel: John 6.56-69

Jesus said to the crowd: 'Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live for ever.' He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum. When many of his disciples heard it, they said, 'This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?' But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, 'Does this offend you? Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But among you there are some who do not believe.' For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. And he said, 'For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.' Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. So Jesus asked the twelve, 'Do you also wish to go away?' Simon Peter answered him, 'Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.'

Post Communion

God of all mercy, in this eucharist you have set aside our sins and given us your healing: grant that we who are made whole in Christ may bring that healing to this broken world, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

In August please pray for: **Saffron Walden Baptist Church, R A Butler Schools**

The family and friends of those who have died recently:

Rhoda Wilkinson

Those who are getting married at St James' Swards End on 28th August: **John Revell & Leanne Hardingham**

REFLECTIONS - CHRIS BISHOP

The closing words from St John's Gospel are **'there are many other things that Jesus did, which, if each of them was written individually, I don't think the world would contain the written scrolls'**.

Yes, so much that, unfortunately, we do not have, even though what we do have is enough to challenge us, as well as to strengthen our faith.

When we read the Gospels and the Epistles, it is reassuring to know how honest the writing is. The word 'spin', which we are used to hearing these days in the world of politics, doesn't seem to feature in these precious scrolls. For instance, read about the disciples' mistakes and blunders. One writer said about the disciples, **'if they were these perfect followers who always did things right and never stumbled along the way, well, I could not relate to that'**.

So, having said that, we come to the Gospel reading for today and are told, in no uncertain terms, that, **'because of this (what Jesus said about himself) many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him'**.

They were some of the many who were followers but, when Jesus challenged the 12, the inner cabinet, if you like, with **'Do you also wish to go away'**, he received the positive response of **'Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life'**.

Hindsight is a great thing.

What would have been our reactions if we had been there within that motley crowd of followers, listening to the words we hear recorded in today's Gospel? Here are incredible and rather chilling words about flesh and blood, even for members of a society living under occupation, with all the violence and uncertainty of life at that time.

For those who did not leave Jesus, despite everything else, they obviously saw love, healing and hope, and saw that there there was nowhere else to go and, therefore, no one else to follow!

PRAYER FOR THIS WEEK

Father, we praise you for the gift of words: the words we hear and read, the words we speak and write. As we handle and use the Holy Scriptures, make us more sensitive to what they say, more appreciative of the life and truth in these pages, and of the love and courage of those who wrote them; and open our ears to your voice, and our lives to yourself; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(source unknown)

BIBLE READINGS FOR THIS WEEK

Mon 23rd	Morning Psalm 98 & Mark 6:45-end Evening Psalm 105
Tue 24th	Morning Psalm 86 & John 1:43-end Evening Psalm 91 & Matthew 10:1-22
Wed 25th	Morning Psalm 111 & Mark 7:14-23 Evening Psalm 119:129-152
Thurs 26th	Morning Psalm 115 & Mark 7:24-30 Evening Psalm 116
Fri 27th	Morning Psalm 139 & Mark 7:31-end Evening Psalm 130
Sat 28th	Morning Psalm 121 & Mark 8:1-10 Evening Psalm 118

NEWS

SERVICES IN CHURCH Whilst restrictions have been lifted, we want you to continue to feel safe so we are keeping some measures in place for everyone's benefit. We will request Track and Trace details when you arrive and we encourage you to wear a face covering whilst in the church building, particularly if singing. Hand sanitiser will be available and we will ensure that anyone wishing to maintain social distancing will be able to do so. Precise guidance may vary from Church to Church across the team. Please follow that where given.

ONLINE SERVICES St Mary's, SW will continue to stream one service each week on YouTube as at present. Debden, Wimbish and Wendens Ambo continue to offer Zoom services – details on the bulletin.

4th & 5th September FLOWER FESTIVAL, All Saints Church Wimbish CB10 2XG. Theme: 'Praise and Thanksgiving'. Please note timings Saturday 1.00pm - 5.00pm BBQ and Teas. Sunday 2.00pm - 5.00pm Cream Teas. Refreshments served outside. Music and stalls both days. Sunday 5.00pm 'Flower Festival Praise' with Rev Jeremy Trew. Further details on www.wimbishchurch.org.uk Fran Johnson

From 7th September, **EVENING PRAYER** will be in the North chapel SW every first Tuesday of the month and on zoom for the rest of the month.

SAFFRON WALDEN BIBLE FOCUS

Saturday 11th September 2.30 - 7.00pm at Abbey Lane URC 'Get Ready! The day of the Lord is coming' Speaker: Revd. Rob Hudson. Pre-booking required. Parallel children and youth programme available. For more information, pick up a flier from St Mary's church, SW, or look at the website www.waldenbiblefocus.com

THE TRANSITION PROJECT will open up again in St Mary's Parish Rooms on **Tuesday 21st September** from 10am till midday, and will offer its services to parishioners and all others seeking to improve their ability to find work. Please let any friends who are unfortunately out of work know that they can be helped. Until then, its services remain by telephone contact or online (swtransitionproject@gmail.com). Initial contact should be by telephone to 07901 173763. *Anthony Armon-Jones*

CHRISTMAS FAIR STALLS - Saturday 27th November If you haven't already been contacted regarding running or helping on a stall, please contact Pamela on 521697 as soon as possible. Lots of help is required to make this a special year. Thank you.

LIFTS TO CHURCH We would like to restart offering lifts to St Mary's Saffron Walden 10am service to those otherwise unable to attend. We need more drivers who can help out on a rota once every 4-6 weeks. Please contact me for more information. *Judith Hasler*

Please send items for the **GRAPEVINE** to secretary.swrectory@ntlworld.com by 9.00am on Wednesday.

MINISTRY TEAM

Rector: Revd Jeremy Trew	01799 500947
Email: rector@stmaryssaffronwalden.org	
Revd Alex Jeewan	01799 531153
Revd John Saxon	01799 541619
Revd Dr Caroline Currer	01799 584839
Parish Administrator: Dawn Saxon	01799 506024
Email: office@stmaryssaffronwalden.org	
Pastoral Assistant: Judith Hasler	01799 525041
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