



**St Mary's Church**  
**Stotfold & Fairfield Parish Church**  
**Church Road**  
**Stotfold SG5 4NE**

**[www.stotfoldchurch.org.uk](http://www.stotfoldchurch.org.uk)**  
**Charity No: 1131275**

Autumn  
2022

# *Parish Magazine*



## **September: the Season of Creation**

This period in the church calendar, from 1st September, World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation until 4th October, the feast of St Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of ecology and beloved by so many is the period dedicated to God as creator and sustainer of all life.

During the pandemic, many of us have become familiar with the concept of being muted in conversations. Many voices are muted in public discourse around climate change and the ethics of Earth-keeping. These are voices of those who suffer the impacts of climate change. These are voices of people who hold generational wisdom about how to live gratefully within the limits of the land. These are voices of a diminishing diversity of more-than-human species. ***It is the voice of the Earth.***

*The following two pages are written by Rev Bill in support of being good stewards of the environment and details of our Chalk River Pilgrimage on the 11th September from Baldock to Radwell.*

There are posters in church regarding this year's sponsored Bike 'n' Hike which is taking place on Saturday 10th September.

If you are interested in taking part, whether individually or as part of our group, please contact Jane Hyde on 730305.

## **Stotfold & Fairfield Parish Church Welcomes All**

### **Your Parish Church is Open Every Day for:**

a time of quiet, personal prayer, reflection or to light a candle.

There is also a Prayer Box where you can ask the vicar to pray for a person or situation at our daily services.

**Mon - Sat: 9.30am to 4.30pm**

For current information on all our services: [stotfoldchurch.org.uk](http://stotfoldchurch.org.uk)  
To receive the Weekly Messenger email: [stotfoldparishchurch@gmail.com](mailto:stotfoldparishchurch@gmail.com)



## Season of Creation at St Mary's

On three different days in August I walked along the River Ivel from Baldock to Radwell. I enjoyed the exercise, but these journeys were made to help plan a public walk organised by Radwell Church and the RevIvel Association, a local group which was formed in 2019 to protect the Ivel's future. A Bishop and a MP are joining us on the 11 September Chalk River Pilgrimage and I hope you will also. (More about the walk and church service later).

I wore a clerical collar and on each day several walkers stopped to inform me that the river had dried up and how beautiful it had once been. The fact that people were mourning this loss of a river that once brimmed with fish to a vicar, reminded me that Church needs to be involved in protecting the environment.

Along with proclaiming the Good News, nurturing believers, serving those in need and seeking justice, The Anglican Church's fifth and final mark of Mission is to "strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth."

During the month of September, St Mary's will be focusing on how to be good stewards of the environment. You may have heard of church "seasons" such as Advent and Lent. This year St Mary's will be celebrating a less well-known season – the Season of Creation. It begins on 1 September and ends on 4 October. The Season of Creation is designed to raise our awareness of the impact of humanity on the natural world and encourage us to live harmoniously with creation.

For five weeks we will be exploring the urgent ecological challenges facing our generation, praying about it and considering what environmental actions we can take.

Our Sunday Services will have five themes: 4 September - Climate Sunday; 11 September – Water; 18 September – Land; 25 September – Animals; 1 October – Harvest Sunday.

Caring for the environment will also be the theme of our Wednesday services and four Wednesday evening discussion groups during September based on Ruth Valerio's book, "Saying Yes to Life", which challenges us to look at how our choices as consumers impact the environment and the lives of people in developing countries.

*Bill*

## 11 September Chalk River Pilgrimage

St Mary's will be supporting our sister church, All Saints, Radwell which is organising a two-mile chalk river pilgrimage from Ivel Springs in Baldock to Radwell on Sunday 11 September. We will pray for good stewardship of the River Ivel so that water levels will be restored. The Ivel once provided a unique habitat for plants and wildlife.

The walk is 1.75 miles and will take approximately one hour. The walk begins at Ivel Springs Local Nature Reserve in Baldock at 2.00pm and is followed by a short service at All Saints Church Radwell at 3.30pm

Those taking part in the walk can join in prayers at various points on the route, led by the Bishop of Bedford, the Rt Revd Richard Atkinson. After the walk, everyone is invited to a short church service at Radwell's fourteenth century church, to pray for the stewardship of the River Ivel and that a healthy flow be restored so that it can provide a unique habitat in which special plants, invertebrates, fish, birds, and mammals can thrive.

North East Herts MP Sir Oliver Heald, who helped set up an All-Party Parliamentary Group on Chalk Streams, will be joining the walk.

In September more details of the walk can be found online at [www.radwellchurch.org.uk](http://www.radwellchurch.org.uk) or by emailing [revd.bill.britt@gmail.com](mailto:revd.bill.britt@gmail.com). There will be refreshments in Radwell, where there are toilets at the campground. The walk begins in the car park of The Arena, Norton Road, Baldock.

[Please check your route on your satnav before you set out. The Arena's postcode of SG7 5AU is likely to send you to the A1(M). An alternative postcode that may work is SG7 5AW, which takes you near The Orange Tree Pub. From here, with the pub on your left hand side, take the first left turn onto Norton Road and then a right into our carpark after passing under the railway bridge. If you are coming from Stotfold, drive out on the Norton Road, turn left again on the Norton Road just before Bickerdikes Garden Centre and left into the car park.]

### Stotfold Parish Church



As part of our commitment to being good stewards of the environment we have committed to purchasing electricity that is 100% generated from renewable sources as accredited by OFGEM through the Parish Buying Energy Basket.

***The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it***  
Psalm 24: 1

**Their future  
is really in our hands**



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## Friends of St Mary's Church

St Mary's Church is the oldest church in this area and the present building dates from 1150 or even earlier. Friends of St. Mary's are a group of people, who wish to preserve this building because it is ancient, fascinating and part of Stotfold's heritage.

If you would like to become a Friend of St Mary's Church there are forms just inside the north door or contact Ann Scarr on 01462 834844.

### ***Friends of St. Mary's Church, Stotfold***

#### **Bringing Alive Names on the St Mary's Vicars' Board: Stories of our Vicars from the Past**



**Speaker: Theresa Britt**

**Thursday 27th October 3pm  
to be held in our church**

**All are Welcome**

**Refreshments**

**Donations are gratefully received**

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## **It was very good**

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You saw everything that you had made – and it was very good.

We are awed by what we see that is still good but weep for what we have spoilt.

Give us the heart and will in our living and praying to restore all creation to the very good.

So we may show our love to you, the Lord of love. Amen

**Revd Linda Atkin**

I was regretting the past  
And fearing the future.  
Suddenly God was speaking.  
“My name is ‘I am’”.

I waited. God continued,  
“When you live in the past,  
With its mistakes and regrets,  
It is hard. I am not there.  
My name is not ‘I was’.

When you live in the future,  
With its problems & fears, it is hard.  
I am not there.

My name is not ‘I will be’.

When you live in this moment,  
It is not hard. I am here.  
My name is ‘I am’.

If you would like an arrangement  
to be placed in Church  
to celebrate a special occasion  
or in remembrance of a loved one



**Contact:**

**Ann Scarr - 01462 834844**

## **Synod Endorses Plan to Reach Net Zero Carbon by 2030**

The Church of England's General Synod has endorsed detailed plans designed to help the Church to reach net zero carbon by 2030.

The Routemap to Net Zero Carbon by 2030, published this Summer, encourages cathedrals, churches, schools and theological education institutions to make changes to their daily activities to reduce carbon emissions.

The Bishop of Norwich, Graham Usher, the Church of England's lead Bishop for the Environment, said: "The 2030 target is hugely ambitious, but the process is as important as the target. I see it as a key part of our obedience to God's call to be stewards of creation."

The Routemap, he said, "has been refined in consultation. It's a pragmatic, step-by-step approach." It focuses first on "simple steps that every church community can take": such as changing to LED lighting on a renewable energy tariff, reducing draughts, good maintenance, and heating people, rather than the angels carved on church roof bosses.

The Routemap is not legislative and does not obligate any part of the Church but is the basis of the road to net zero carbon by 2030.

## **General Synod**

### **Welcomes £3.6bn Investment in Mission & Ministry**

The Church of England's General Synod recently welcomed the Church Commissioners' and Archbishops' Council's long-term spending plans.

The Archbishop of York said that the plans, which cover £3.6bn over the next nine years, amounted to the Church "putting our money where our missional mouth is."

The spending would "underpin transformation towards being a 'Simpler, Humbler and Bolder' Church." Money will be invested in local ministry as part of diocesan strategies.

Priorities for the spending include £190m to help the Church of England transition to net zero, £20m on work to promote Racial Justice and £400m over the next three years towards achieving the outcomes and priorities that flow from the Church's Vision and Strategy for the 2020s.

The Archbishop of York said: "We will be simpler, more responsive to dioceses and more accountable about how we distribute money across the whole eco-system of the Church – rural and urban, all church traditions, with the single purpose of making Christ known and building God's kingdom in the world."

## **'Tis the gift to be simple**

Have you ever read a book by Robin Meyers, 'Morning Sun on a White Piano'? It is subtitled 'simple pleasures and the sacramental life.' Its theme is that we can easily pass life by, as we search for it. We shun the 'ordinary' and the simple in pursuit of more worthwhile endeavours because we equate the 'ordinary' with the mundane and unrewarding.



The Shaker melody 'Tis the gift to be simple, 'tis the gift to be free' is the origin of the popular hymn 'The Lord of the Dance.' It says: Look closely at the simple things of life and find in them depth and divinity. The 17<sup>th</sup> century Dutch artist Vermeer created masterpieces out of the ordinary – a woman reading a letter or pouring water into a basin. Critics have described his work as 'the timeless contemplation of the ordinary.'

Over 200 years later, a Danish artist found his inspiration in that same world of the simple and the ordinary. Vilhelm Hammershøi lived a reclusive life in Copenhagen with his wife, painting only a few pictures a year. Hammershøi died of throat cancer in 1916 at only 52 years. The theme of most of his paintings is limited to the world of his apartment at different times of the day and night. His painting, 'Dust Motes Dancing in Sunbeams,' was painted in 1900. We are shown quite simply an empty room with a wall, a window, a floor and a door. There is no handle on the door. All is stillness and peace. And all is shadow until the winter sun streams into the room, catching in its rays the dust and lighting up the floor. It is the miracle of sunlight bringing life into the stillness. An ordinary aspect of creation, but lighting up a room and bringing wonder in its wake. One critic has called it 'a hymn to an everyday marvel.'

In this and in all of his paintings, Hammershøi seems to be saying: Accept the simplicity of the present, find beauty there and live in that beauty. For him the grass is never greener in the next field – it is here and now in the world we have that we find beauty and meaning.

John Keble's hymn 'New ev'ry morning is the love' says that 'the trivial round, the common task will furnish all we need to ask.' The artist is echoing that truth on canvas, telling us that the ordinary and common things of everyday life can provide the backcloth against which we can live and act.

When we are young, that backcloth stretches out to embrace the wider world and time: it is full of potential and promise. As we grow older, that world shrinks to our home, our church, our town. If illness comes, our world may be bedroom or the hospital ward. In that smaller world life can seem trivial and ordinary. But wherever we are, Hammershøi invites us to pause, to ponder and to find there beauty and light which will bring us 'daily nearer God.'

*By The Rev Michael Burgess looking at 'Dust Motes Dancing in Sunbeams'  
by Vilhelm Hammershøi. It is found in Ordrupgaard, Copenhagen, photo Pernille Klemp.*





**If you would like to display a tree at our  
Christmas Tree Festival  
on the 10th/11th December**

**Please email  
stotfoldparishchurch@gmail.com  
or telephone Alison on 01462 625637**



### **St Mary's Church Quiz**

**Saturday 15 October 7.30pm in the Church Hall.  
Teams of 4-6, £6 per person to include a Ploughman's Supper  
Contact Lyn Hayes: 01462 834165**

### **IN CASE YOU ARE STRUGGLING AND NEED A LISTENING EAR:**

#### **The Samaritans: 116 123**

Whatever you're going through, you can call us any time, from any phone for free

#### **Anxiety UK: 03444 775 774**

Our team often have their own lived experience and understand the distress, isolation and misery that anxiety can cause. We are here to help and can support you to find ways to control anxiety instead of it controlling you.

#### **Mind: 0300 123 3393**

If you're finding things hard emotionally right now, you're not alone. Mind are there to provide information and support.

#### **Refuge's National Domestic Abuse Helpline: 0808 2000 247**

We can talk in confidence, in many different languages, 24-hours a day, 365 days a year, for as long as you need.

#### **Child-line: 0800 11 11**

We are here for all young people, whatever you're going through.

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- The Police (101 or 999 if someone is in immediate danger)
- The National Modern Slavery Helpline 0800 0121 700
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**Do not confront a suspected trafficker or victim of trafficking. Your safety and that of any possible victims is of primary importance.**

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—Malcolm X

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### Points to Ponder

Why is it that when you're driving and looking for an address, you turn down the volume on the radio?

Why is the word for 'fear of long words' -  
'Hippopotomonstrosesquippedaliophobia' - so long?

Why is 'W' called a double 'U'. Shouldn't it be called a double 'V'?

It is impossible to think of a colour that doesn't exist.

## **Hedgehog-friendly Gardening Tips**

***Here's what you can do  
to keep your  
garden hedgehogs safe***



Cover holes: hedgehogs can easily fall into uncovered drains or holes in your garden. Cover holes or check them every day to make sure no hedgehogs have become trapped.

Give them a way out of ponds and pools: place bricks or stones at the side of ponds, or create a sloped edge on part of the pond to give hedgehogs a way to climb out if they fall in. Cover swimming pools overnight and when they're not in use.

Check for hedgehogs before using strimmers or mowers - particularly under hedges, where they might be resting during the day. If you're forking over a compost heap, check them for any nesting hogs first.

Always thoroughly disturb bonfires immediately before you light them, as there could be hedgehogs nesting or hiding inside. Moving the whole bonfire by hand immediately before setting it alight is the best way of ensuring that hedgehogs and other wildlife aren't sleeping in there.

Litter is a real hazard to hedgehogs - they can get their heads stuck in tins, plastic bags, binders from drinks cans or discarded yoghurt pots. Make sure you dispose of your rubbish safely and check there's no litter in your garden.

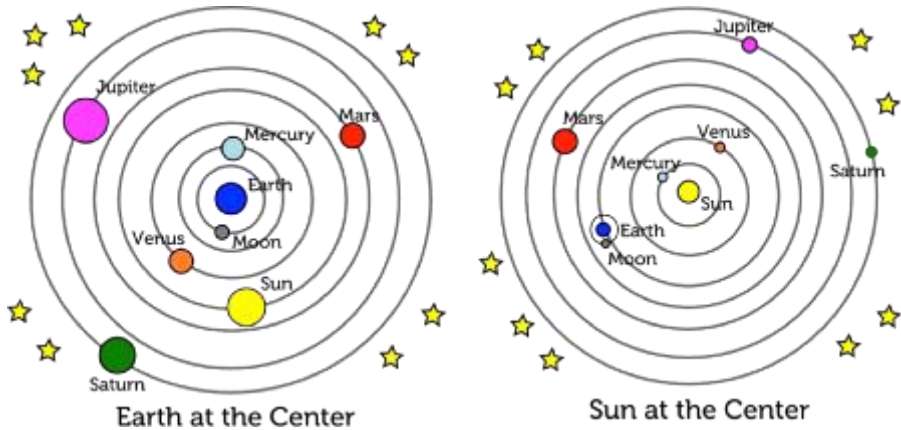
Raise any netting: if you have any netting or wire in your garden, make sure it's at least a foot above ground level, as hedgehogs can easily become tangled up in it. Pack away or roll up fruit nets, tennis and goal nets when they're not in use. We recommend replacing any netting in your garden with solid metal mesh if possible, as it's less likely to entangle hedgehogs.

Don't close your shed doors if you usually keep them open, as there might be hedgehogs nesting inside. Keep any dangerous chemicals or tools well off the ground. If you need to dismantle your shed, check carefully underneath the floor first for nesting or hibernating hedgehogs.

Avoid slug pellets and pesticides - these can poison hedgehogs and should only be used as a last resort. Instead, try using one of many natural alternatives, like sprinkling crushed eggshells or coffee grounds around the plants you need to protect. If you have to use pellets, place them under a slate that's inaccessible to hedgehogs. The outdoor use of slug pellets containing metaldehyde was banned in Great Britain from March 2022.

**[www.rspca.org.uk](http://www.rspca.org.uk)**

## When the Church first agreed that the Earth went around the Sun



It was only 200 years ago, on 11th September 1822, that the Roman Catholic Church admitted that the 16th century astronomer Galileo Galilei might have been right about the Earth orbiting the Sun. The College of Cardinals reversed the Church's condemnation of his ideas. Galileo had spent the last nine years of his life under house arrest for publishing his work on the subject.

Galileo (1564 –1642) was a brilliant scientist and a pious Catholic. Albert Einstein called him the father of modern science, and he was one of the first to state that the laws of nature were mathematical. He was not infallible, however: his theories on tides were quite wrong: he described the idea that the moon influenced them as “childish” and “occult”.

His support for heliocentrism, a theory that had existed since the Ancient Greeks, however, was spot on, but the consensus at the time – political, scientific and religious – held that the Earth was the centre of the universe, and that any other view was “foolish, absurd and heretical”. That was the conclusion of the Inquisition in 1615.

Some 17 years later, Galileo published his theories, but unfortunately in a way that alienated the Pope, who until then had given him support as a scientist. He was tried by the Inquisition, who found him “vehemently suspect of heresy”, forced him to recant, and subjected him to house arrest. It could have been worse.

The Cardinals' decision in 1822 was a bit late to help Galileo, but it represented a big shift for the Roman Catholic Church – though it was not until 1835 that his work was removed from the Vatican's list of banned books. And it was only in 1992 that Pope John Paul II conceded officially that the Earth was not stationary in the heavens. Eight years after that he apologised to Galileo for the way he had been treated.

## **God in the Sciences - Big perspective, big questions**

This summer the first operational images from the James Webb Space Telescope astonished and delighted astronomers, as well as the rest of us.

Those of us who have grown up in an age when 'astronaut' is a career option (albeit a pretty specialist one) might struggle to identify with the wonder of these events, and the true scale of the challenge. Human beings developed the technology to send first a probe, then living people, out of Earth's atmosphere, and cross the 252,000-mile gap to the moon. It was in 1959 that the Luna 3 probe managed to send back grainy images of the far side of the Moon, and in 1969 Apollo 11 managed to actually land on it, take off again, and arrive back in one piece. It's the safe arrival home that gets me – like hitting the bullseye twice in a row.

For some space-travellers, seeing Earth from a distance is a life-changing experience; a shift in thinking dubbed 'the overview effect'. The observer feels a sense of awe at seeing the whole planet as a single entity rather than a fragmented collection of countries, and at getting a sense of the fragility of the whole system. It brings people out of themselves – something psychologists call a 'self-transcendent experience'.

Some people claim to have a 'nothing but science' approach to life that trusts only in things for which we can produce very concrete, measurable, evidence. Is it perhaps ironic, then, that this overview of the whole globe – which is made possible by science – can trigger such a deep sense of meaning?

Science can bring us to the big questions of meaning and purpose, but it doesn't answer them. It's important to recognise that science, wonderful though it is, has limits. Beyond those boundaries we step into other ways of knowing, such as philosophy or theology. At the interface between science and theology we can have some fascinating conversations.

The discussions about science and religion that I enjoy most happen when people share what really matters to them. What do you find beautiful? Which scientific discoveries changed the course of your life? How do you see yourself in relation to the cosmos?

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### **James Webb Statement:**

"Christians should embrace astronomy even if they disagree with the mainstream secular worldview. The awesome, amazing images just continue to show the amazing works of our awesome God, of our awesome creator".

Webb acknowledged his worldview is different from that of NASA. In a news release, NASA said the image shows what the galaxy cluster looked like roughly "a billion years after the big bang."

## St Mary's Church Hall



### Hall dimensions are:

15.5m x 6.4m (51'x21')

The ceiling is 3m high  
and therefore can accommodate  
some bouncy castles.

Kitchen facilities

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or email: [stotfoldparishchurchhall@gmail.com](mailto:stotfoldparishchurchhall@gmail.com)

### Library Outreach Service - Not able to come to the library?

In partnership with Stotfold Library and Stotfold Good Neighbour Group, the Library Outreach Service is designed for anyone who wants to borrow books, audio books, DVDs or jigsaws and has no one else to choose and collect them from the library. It is also available to carers. You will receive a monthly delivery of items tailored to your interests.

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## **Smile Lines**

### **Pay for what you get**

A man and his ten-year-old son were on a fishing trip, miles from home. At the boy's insistence, they decided to attend the Sunday worship service at a small rural church. The father forgot to bring any cash, so he reached in his pocket and gave his son 10p to drop in the offering plate as it was passed. As they walked back to their car after the service, the father complained. "The service was too long," he lamented. "The sermon was boring, and the singing was off key." Finally the boy said, "Daddy, I thought it was pretty good for 10p."

### **Old leaf?**

A little boy opened the big Family Bible. He was fascinated as he fingered through the old pages. Suddenly, something fell out of the Bible. He picked up the object and looked at it. What he saw was an old leaf that had been pressed in between the pages. "Mum, look what I found!" the boy called out, turning the leaf over and over.

"What is it, dear?" asked his mother.

With awe in his voice, the young boy ventured: "I think it's Adam's underwear."

### Smile Line

A couple took their five-year-old young daughter to church. During the service, the minister conducted the baptism of a tiny infant. The little girl watched in wonder as he held the baby, said solemn words, then poured water over its head, and then carefully wiped it dry. Finally, she turned to her father. "Daddy, why is he brainwashing that baby?"



### Baptism

In Baptism a person joins the family of God, marking the first step in a Christian's journey with God which continues for the rest of our lives.

Here at St Mary's the Baptism of an infant or child takes place in our Christening Services, which are held on Sunday afternoons.

Please contact Sara Clark to discuss the arrangements on 01462 625270 or email [sara.clark3@ntlworld.com](mailto:sara.clark3@ntlworld.com).

For any questions regarding Baptism as an adult please contact Revd Bill Britt on 01462 730218 or email: [revd.bill.britt@gmail.com](mailto:revd.bill.britt@gmail.com)

### Smile Line

#### Spider

Whoever said "Out of sight, out of mind" never had a large spider disappear in the bedroom.

**Are you interested in joining a discussion group, bible study or Christianity course?**

If so please contact:  
Revd Bill Britt on 01462 730218  
or email: [revd.bill.britt@gmail.com](mailto:revd.bill.britt@gmail.com)



## Dates for Your Diaries - *ALL ARE WELCOME*

### **The Moonlighters: Singers directed by Simon Berridge**

**Sunday 9 October 2.30 - 3.30pm**

Light Refreshments

Donations on the day to St Mary's Church

Further Details: Revd Jane 731170

### **The Whist Group: Church Hall 2nd & 4th Tuesday 2pm**

Come and join this friendly group. Refreshments served.

Further details: Elaine Drury 07925 192007



### **COMMUNITY COFFEE MORNINGS**

**1st Wednesday of each month**

**In Church 10.30am - noon**

### **St Mary's Women's Fellowship**

**Church Hall - 3rd Wednesday of the Month - 3pm**

Sept 21 Theresa Britt - Travels to the Golden Triangle of India

Oct 19 Sophie Newton - History of the CWGC

Nov 16 Members' Favourite Readings

*There is no meeting in December*

### **Hymn Singing: for all those who love them**

Do come and join us in the Church  
on the second Wednesday of the month at 2pm

**Everyone is welcome: come along and have a good sing**

### **Men's Big Breakfast**

Join us for breakfast and an informal chat at The Wilbury, Letchworth.

Last Saturday of the month at 9am. Contact Roger: 730103

### **Friendship Lunch: The Stag 12 noon for 12.30**

**Last Wednesday of the month.** If you would like to come along please put your name / menu choices on the sheet in Church or contact Carolyn Bleach 07759 914891 or carolyn.bleach@sky.com

## **Antiques Valuation Day at St Mary's Church**

**TUESDAY 11 OCTOBER 11.00 – 3.00**

Valuations by Peacock Auctioneers - £2 per item

Plus pop in for tea, coffee and cakes

## **JIGSAW SALE - St Mary's Church Hall**

**Saturday 1 October 10.00 – 12.00**

Wonderful display of jigsaws for sale at bargain prices.

All boxed and checked as complete.

## **CREAM TEAS IN ST MARY'S CHURCH**

**SATURDAY 10 SEPTEMBER 2.00 – 5.00**

Enjoy a sweet or savoury cream tea in our beautiful church

Fruit or plain scone with jam & cream

or cheese scone with cheese & chutney - £5

Children's cookie and drink - £2



*M. J. Ryall*

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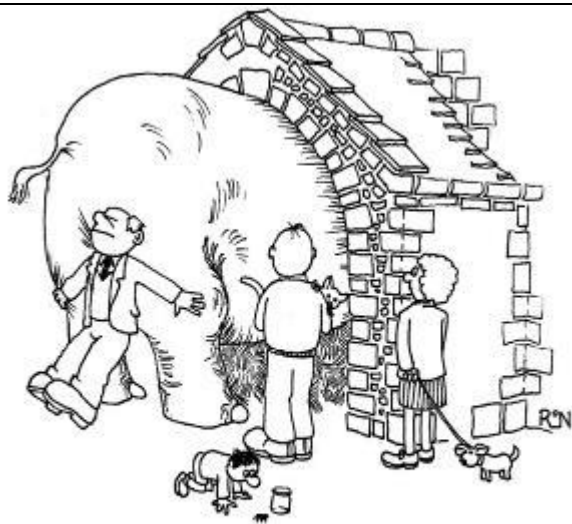
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Eventually they decided to hold the  
pets' service outdoors

## Our Pet Service held on Sunday 17th July

Previously we had  
always worried  
about the rain!

However, on what had  
been a very hot week  
at 4pm we gathered on  
the north side of our  
church in the shade of  
the trees for our annual  
Pet Service.





## WORSHIP SERVICES

**Mon - Sat 9am: Morning Prayer**

A short service where we pray both for our community and the wider world.

**Wed 9.45am: Holy Communion**

### Sunday Services

**Every Sunday:** 9am Morning Prayer 10am: Parish Communion/Sunday School

**First Sunday of the Month:** 8am: Said Communion 9am: Morning Prayer  
10am: Parish Communion / Sunday School 4pm: Tea Time Praise

**Second Sunday of the Month:** 9am: Morning Prayer  
10am: Parish Communion / Sunday School 6pm: Evensong



## Sunday School

**In the Church Hall at 10am  
(exc: 18th September)**



**0800 804 8044**  
**DailyHOPE**  
A free phone line of hymns,  
reflections and prayers

## Stoffold Dental Clinic

5 The Avenue, Stoffold SG5 4LY

Call 01462 731938 or email

[info@stoffolddental.co.uk](mailto:info@stoffolddental.co.uk)

[www.stoffolddental.co.uk](http://www.stoffolddental.co.uk)



Safe Sedation, Dental Implants, Teeth Whitening,  
Cosmetic Veneers, Clearstep Braces.  
**For a consultation, please contact the clinic**  
• **0% finance facility available for  
private treatments**  
Late evening appointments between 5pm to 7pm for PVT PTS on Mondays and Thursdays

## Used UK & Foreign Stamps



We are now supporting MND, a charity supported by Keryle Rutherford and family in memory of Iain.

The MND Association is a charity focused on improving access to care, research and campaigning for people affected by motor neurone disease.

Please either give your used stamps to Keryle or alternatively leave in the basket on the shelf by our north door.

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*kentonsmoore@hotmail.co.uk*



**BEDS & HERTS**  
Historic Churches Trust

**East Hertfordshire**  
**Saturday, 17 September**  
**Led by William Marsterson**

## Programme

### Meet at Ware Railway Station 10am

**St John the Baptist Great Amwell**, “A small church of great antiquity distinguished by its Norman apse.”

**St James Stanstead Abbots** (Churches Conservation Trust), “Few churches have so well preserved an C18th village character.”

### Lunch

**St Dunstan Hunsdon**, Tudor and later additions include a sumptuous Jacobean screen and good monuments

**St Andrew Much Hadham**, Visually probably the best village in the county.

**St Mary, Ware** – A typical Herts town church – “Very large, very handsome.” (Sir John Betjeman)

Tea and return to Ware railway station

**Further details: [www.bedshertshct.org.uk](http://www.bedshertshct.org.uk)**

## **Keep highlighting abuses of freedom of religion and belief, bishops urge**

Politicians from around the world have been urged to 'keep up the momentum' on tackling abuses of freedom of religion or belief, by the Church of England bishop who led a recent key review of Foreign Office support for persecuted Christians.

The Bishop of Truro, Philip Mounstephen, told a recent global summit on Freedom of Religion or Belief (FoRB) hosted by the UK Government, that there had been some good progress since the publication of the review in 2019, but 'much' still needed to be done.

Bishop Philip said: "My key message to Parliamentarians would be: understand what the main drivers behind freedom of religion or belief abuses are – we are looking at totalitarian regimes, religious fundamentalism, militant nationalism. These are really serious issues that must be addressed. So please Parliamentarians, make this a bipartisan issue, espouse it across the political spectrum."

Bishop Philip also welcomed the creation of the UK Freedom of Religion or Belief Public Forum, made since the publication of the 2019 report.

**Release International** is a Christian ministry working through local church partners in around 30 countries across the world, helping persecuted Christians prayerfully, pastorally and practically.

Imagine, after travelling hundreds of miles to escape those who seek to cause you harm, you finally arrive exhausted and scared in a refugee camp.

Or you end up alone in a big, foreign city where you have no friends or family. This is what thousands of Christians who flee their homes because of war and persecution are faced with. "And we know that in all good things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." Romans 8: 28

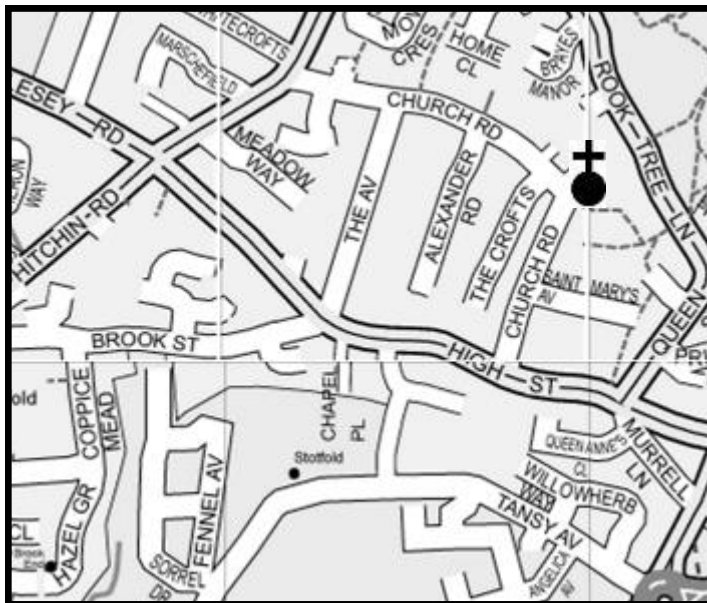
[www.releaseinternational.org](http://www.releaseinternational.org)

With all your help so far this year we have managed to send over 725 pairs of glasses to help those in need in Zimbabwe. Thank you to you all. There is a collection basket in the north aisle should there be any still lurking in anyone's drawers or other hideaways.



# St Mary's Church

**Church Road    Stotfold    SG5 4NE**



**www.stotfoldchurch.org.uk**

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**BAPTISMS:**

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