

# INSIDE OUT

news from

WOODBIDGE, ST MARY

Issue 3 June 2021



## *Caring for God's Acre Churches Count on Nature*

Lord, purge our eyes to see  
within the seed a tree,  
within the glowing egg a bird,  
within the shroud a butterfly.  
Till taught by such, we see  
Beyond all creatures Thee.

Christina Rossetti (1830-94)

## CARING FOR GOD'S ACRE

Warm Greetings All, to (nearly) everyone in Woodbridge!



Only recently, I said publicly, introducing our 10am Sunday Family Parish Eucharist at St Mary's: "We gather to worship the God who is beyond our understanding, yet as close to us as the air that we breathe. Let us rejoice that the creator of the universe is also the Saviour of the world and the guiding Spirit of our lives."

You will read in these pages about our recent 'Churches Count on Nature' Week which was inspired by two Eco-charities involving over 400 Churchyards nationally.

I am delighted to report that we welcomed three separate classes from our CE Primary School, our 'B Club' Junior Church, and our uniformed organizations at St Mary's – along with a host of keen and intrepid adult explorers - who have sent off their recordings of all the amazing biodiverse habitat spotted in our own churchyard 'haven'. Insects, trees, plants and shrubs, and occasional 'flying' creatures were all noted and pictured on particular days with great excitement and, not a little, new discovery and learning. Fantastic!

Less encouraging, (after our Government was the only G7 country to cut overseas aid before their meeting in St Ives), is whether the time has come for as many of us as possible to 'think globally and act locally' when it comes to the urgency of climate change also and our response to cherish and protect the beautiful environment and 'green' our God has made.

When I joined the RSPB and Woodland Trust a few years back, I knew that local partnerships were more important than ever to overturn the empty promises of so much political rhetoric. Which is why 'Churches Together' are planning (with your help) a 'Climate Sunday' Event in Kingston Field with keynote speakers on the afternoon of Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup> September. It would be great if as many local organizations (regardless of creed) like Transition Woodbridge, Suffolk Wildlife Trust, Fairtrade, Woodbridge Swifts, you name it, could be represented and bring their own imaginative and colourful stalls? We probably need some TikTok dance volunteers as well, and some trumpets or, Magic Flute?

We need to build up a united front and 'call' for justice before COP26 in Glasgow for what are undoubtedly the most urgent international and moral issues of our age. In our neighbouring Diocese of Norwich, the Bishop is the new C of E Lead on our Environmental programme and, apparently, every new confirmation candidate receives a hazel tree to plant as a nod to Mother Julian of Norwich, the 14<sup>th</sup> century mystic, who reflected on the glory of God as she held a hazelnut in the palm of her hand. That has to be encouraging 700 years on, but the clock is ticking away faster now, and we must face the music – or do I mean the planting?

There is no Plan(et) 'B' so let's start to make and grow the pressing links between human and divine - and save our sacred world!

**Fr Nigel**

## ON THE MOVE AND UPDATES!

URGENT WORKS will soon be carried out to the walls and end piers of the main entrance to St. Mary's Churchyard in Church Street. Due to the presence of a large plane tree on the eastern boundary, with a large and encroaching root structure, this has now become an issue of safety to the public.

We are grateful for the advice and funding from East Suffolk Council to dismantle the tops of both 'white' piers, the red pier and associated railing panels, down to the level of the coping stones. After this emergency work is completed, phase 2 will see the rebuilding of the pillars in a new position and the historic metal gates restored and rehung. Watch out for an update on works in the next issue!



### REVD ANDY TODD

Our Assistant Curate, Rev Andy Todd, will be ordained as a Priest on July 4<sup>th</sup>, at a service in the Cathedral (subject to Covid restrictions). We offer him our prayers and very best wishes on this occasion. His First Celebration of the Eucharist will be on July 11<sup>th</sup> at St. Mary's, Woodbridge. Preacher: Canon Aidan Platten. You can book a place via the Benefice Office for this special service. All are warmly welcome.



### CHURCHWARDEN BARBARA

Recently, Barbara Stear stepped down as Churchwarden after seven years. Veronica Howe expressed our gratitude for her kindness and commitment. Barbara thanked the PCC and the church, and the Rector thanked everyone involved . . . and also David Sharples who will be taking on the role as new churchwarden.



### FUNDRAISING PILGRIMAGE - Via Francigena

This summer I'm walking 1200 miles from Rome to Canterbury along the Via Francigena, an ancient pilgrimage route, to support two charities.

**Mary's Meals** is a global movement enabling education by providing school meals. It costs just £15.90 to feed a child for a year. **ABF The Soldier's Charity** helps soldiers, veterans, and their families in need along the road to dignity and independence.

I start in July. Please join me by helping these charities:

<https://www.justgiving.com/team/patlovet>

You can follow me here:

[https://www.instagram.com/via\\_francigena/](https://www.instagram.com/via_francigena/)

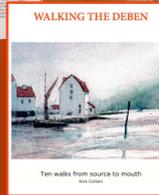
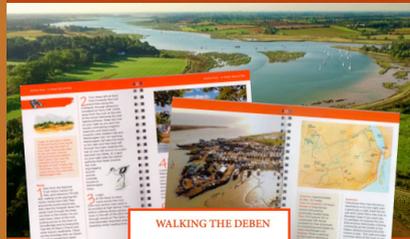
Patrick Lovett





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## WALKING THE DEBEN



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## YOUNG ENTHUSIASTS RECORD NATURE IN THE CHURCHYARD



BUSY BEES.... Ten of our Junior Church children went into St Mary's churchyard on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> June, to hunt, search and count the diversity of life there! They succeeded in identifying thirty six species of flowers, trees and insects with the help of their magnifying glasses, magnified bug boxes and identification charts. And their parents and carers did well too! The hunt was rounded up with the making of Nature Hunter Masks..... and eating Colin the Caterpillar cake! The National Churches Count on Nature will formally record the findings.

**Liz Prior**



## GOD'S ACRE

Old churchyards with history, are best left untrimmed and wild. These areas of quietness - home for a variety of flora and fauna – delight us with their beauty, inspire us to write, paint, construct poems and compose music. And to sit in peace, allowing divine communication . In such places there is a good collection of flora – primroses, violets, buttercups and celandines, red deadnettle, daisy. Wordsworth, enamoured of this flower wrote several Daisy poems, including 'To that same flower.'

Common and traditionally found in churchyards - the Yew, heavy, green with red berries – food and shelter for the birds. Tombstones, often encrusted with moss and lichen, are home to all manner of insects which hide where stone meets earth. Snails banded, and slugs heavy, black, slide through vegetation, sought by blackbirds and thrushes. On church walls we might find more mosses, and perhaps the flower, Pellitory-of-the-wall. Ivy too, climbs walls, offering berries beloved by wood pigeons. Grasshoppers, a large variety of aphids, worms buried in the earth. Ladybirds can be spotted in low cover! Foxes, hedgehogs, will seek sustenance at night. Owls too hunt nocturnally. By day a variety of birds seek their lunch – robins, flycatchers, woodpeckers.

Come and help discover who and what lives in, and shares, our churchyard. Help to count and to care for God's acre – with dignity, remembering those who rest therein.

**Michael Stagg**

## St Mary's Church Shop on the Market Hill



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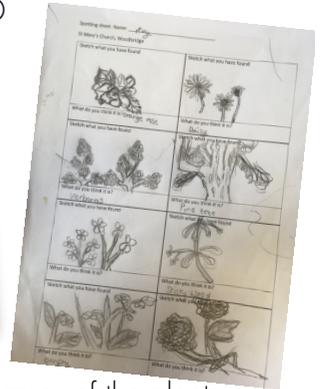
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# ST MARY'S CHURCH of ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL RECORD NATURE IN THE CHURCHYARD



Some quotes...

"I thought it was very interesting. I liked finding out the names of the plants and leaves". **Darcy**

"I thought it was very calming and relaxing.

It helped me to appreciate nature more". **Erin**

"It was interesting to watch the ants busily scutterling on the steps". **Phoebe**

HOME-START DO SOMETHING AMAZING! BE A VOLUNTEER!

Home-Start in Suffolk is the county's largest family support charity. They offer struggling families throughout Suffolk, practical help and emotional support in a friendly, non-judgemental way through their network of over 270 award winning volunteers who have recently been honoured with the prestigious Queen's Award for Voluntary Service – the MBE for Voluntary services!

The families supported by Home-Start in Suffolk are facing a wide range of challenges including mental health issues, disability, physical health problems, poverty, isolation, domestic violence and much more.

Our amazing volunteers provide weekly 1-1 support through telephone and video calls and home visiting. **Have you considered Volunteering?**

**Could you offer support and friendship to a Suffolk family?**

Join our amazing community of over 270 volunteers and make a difference to a family in your area! Our volunteers support Suffolk Families on a weekly basis via telephone, video call and home-visiting.

By joining our team, you will receive full training with the option to complete accredited work, as well as ongoing support from our staff team.

For more information on getting support or volunteering please call the Martlesham office on 01473 621104 or email

[headoffice@homestartinsuffolk.org](mailto:headoffice@homestartinsuffolk.org). To find out more about the work of Home-Start in Suffolk visit: [www.homestartinsuffolk.org](http://www.homestartinsuffolk.org)



## MAKE IT A DATE!

**Sunday 11 July 10am** Andy Todd presides at the Parish Eucharist for the first time - Woodbridge St Mary. Preacher: Canon Aidan Platten (Retiring Collection Sea Sunday)

**Tuesday 13 July 10am** St Mary's CE School Leavers Service  
(with Presentation of Bibles) in Church

**Sunday 1 August 9.30am** (Lammas Day) Great Bealings St Mary  
Outdoor Family Eucharist .

**11am** Woodbridge St Mary - Indoor version

**Sunday 15 August 11am** United Benefice Eucharist at Woodbridge  
(on the Feast of the Assumption), followed by Hog Roast + Summer Fete

**Sunday 5 September 11am** United Benefice Eucharist at Great Bealings  
(on the Feast of the Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary), followed by BBQ

**Saturday 11 September** Ride'n' Stride between different rural churches.  
This is a sponsored charity event. Will you take part for us?

**Sunday 19 September from 2pm** (service at **4pm**)

'Climate Change Sunday' outdoor community event  
with stalls and music on Kingston Field.

## LOOKING AHEAD TO OCTOBER...

**Sunday 3rd** Our Harvest Celebrations in both Churches

**Monday 4th** Our Day of Reflection (Snape Maltings or Brandeston)  
with Fr Nigel and Guest Retreat Leader. Booking essential.

**Sunday 17th 3pm** Pet Blessing Service at Great Bealings. Bring wellies!

We livestream all our main services at Woodbridge St Mary (check website  
**[www.stmaryswoodbridge.org](http://www.stmaryswoodbridge.org)** and **@StMarysWoodbridge** for links)

Please remember that you must book your place for Sunday services in advance by emailing [parish.office@stmaryswoodbridge.org](mailto:parish.office@stmaryswoodbridge.org) with your name and the service you wish to attend by noon on the preceding Friday.

**RECTOR:** The Revd Nigel Prior **ASSISTANT CURATE:** The Revd Andy Todd  
Email [rector@stmaryswoodbridge.org](mailto:rector@stmaryswoodbridge.org) Email [andyjtodd@aol.com](mailto:andyjtodd@aol.com)  
Day off: Wednesday Day off: Friday

BENEFICE OFFICE 01394 388820 Email: [parish.office@stmaryswoodbridge.org](mailto:parish.office@stmaryswoodbridge.org)

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