

St Mary's Parish Magazine



September - October 2024

50p

Notes from the Editor

'At first the trees are tinged with yellow or red, then a few leaves start to fall; the first chilly morning is felt, the days are noticeably shorter, and there's a hint of change in the air. The abundant growth of high summer looks blowsy now, and in the kitchen garden the harvest gathers pace. This is a magical time of year when the contrast between light and dark is most apparent, and there is a richness in the land. It's time to celebrate the bountiful earth.'

September is a time when we celebrate our patronal festival as well as harvest. This year we also give thanks for the restoration of the iconic landmark which is St Mary's church tower – a special service of celebration is to be held on Sunday 22nd of September.

Autumn is also a season filled with hustle and bustle. It's the time when children go back to school, young adults go away to college, and parents are pulled in a thousand directions! Autumn is an exciting time – but in the midst of all of our activities, it's important to stay focused on God and make the most of every precious moment.

Tony King - Editor

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REFLECTIONS FROM THE RECTORY



In the east window of the Deans Chapel at St Marys we see Jesus in the garden with Mary Magdalene, who is shedding tears of grief, after his resurrection. Mary takes a while to recognise Jesus thinking he was the gardener. When he speaks her name 'Mary' she recognises him and approaches him. Jesus says '*Noli me tangere*' – 'Do not touch me', as he had not yet ascended to his Father. Mary goes to the disciples proclaiming 'I have seen the Lord'.

The window offers a fitting focal point for prayer in this chapel reminding us how Jesus speaks to us, calling us by name, giving us comfort, hope and task us to go and tell others. In this chapel visitors leave their prayer requests on a small slip of paper which we then include in our intercessions during our Wednesday morning Eucharist.

Prayer is one of the most important things we as Christians can do, it expresses, in the words of St Augustine, our thirst for God.

"Whether we realize it or not, prayer is the encounter of God's thirst with ours. God thirsts that we may thirst for him."
- *St. Augustine*

This desire, this thirst, effects not just us but those we hold in prayer. The late Archbishop Desmond Tutu said '*I certainly know that I would not be able to survive if it were not for the fact that I am being upheld by the prayers of so many people*'. Let us uphold each other as we say together the prayer our Saviour taught us:

*Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen*

DO YOU HAVE A MOMENT?

“Do you have a moment?” Tommy asked. I told him I would certainly be willing to take a moment for him. I had a small business I worked on Saturdays, to make a little extra cash. The garage, where Tommy worked, was one of my customers. Tommy told me he wanted to talk to me for more than a moment, stating he had an hour lunch break starting in a few minutes, if I could take the time. I told him I would need to rearrange my very full schedule, which I was willing to do, but next Saturday would be a lot better for me, if that would work for him. Tommy said that would work even though his reply seemed half-hearted.

I was puzzled. What was so important Tommy needed at least an hour of my time? My relationship with everyone at the garage was very cordial, but none of the employees were close friends. It is impossible to explain the feeling that came over me then, and even now as I remember, when I received word Tommy committed suicide a few days later. It didn't get any easier when a couple of the other employees at the garage told me that Tommy commented to them that he felt I was different than most everyone else he knew.

I often wondered what it was that Tommy saw in me that made him feel he could unload his burdens to me, knowing I would listen and hopefully help him through the apparent dark valley he was travelling through. The Lord obviously opened an opportunity that my “busy” schedule prohibited me from availing. Tommy's eternal destination could have been determined that day if I had taken the time to share Christ with him.

Do you have a moment? People both within and without the body of Christ need encouragement, an advocate, or a caring person to help lift their burden. If they are a member of the body of Christ, they have personally accepted Christ as Lord and Saviour, it is our obligation to be there for them. If it is someone outside the body of Christ, it is a God-given opportunity. How many times have I failed because someone did not see Christ in me, or because I was too busy? Do you have a moment?

“And let us not be weary in well-doing; for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.” Galatians 6:9

HARVEST FESTIVAL

An early harvest festival used to be celebrated at the beginning of the harvest season on 1 August and was called Lammas, meaning 'loaf Mass'. The Latin prayer to hallow the bread is given in the Durham Ritual. Farmers made loaves of bread from the fresh wheat crop. These were given to the local church as the Communion bread during a special service thanking God for the harvest. Nowadays the festival is held at the end of harvest, which varies in different parts of Britain. Sometimes neighbouring churches will set the Harvest Festival on different Sundays so that people can attend each other's thanksgivings.

Until the 20th century most farmers celebrated the end of the harvest with a big meal called the harvest supper, to which all who had helped in the harvest were invited. It was sometimes known as a "Mell-supper", after the last patch of corn or wheat standing in the fields which was known as the "Mell" or "Neck". Cutting it signified the end of the work of harvest and the beginning of the feast. There seems to have been a feeling that it was bad luck to be the person to cut the last stand of corn. The farmer and his workers would race against the harvesters on other farms to be first to complete the harvest, shouting to announce they had finished. In some counties the last stand of corn would be cut by the workers throwing their sickles at it until it was all down, in others the reapers would take it in turns to be blindfolded and sweep a scythe until all of the Mell was cut down.

Some churches and villages still have a Harvest Supper. The modern British tradition of celebrating Harvest Festival in churches began in 1843, when the Reverend Robert Hawker invited parishioners to a special thanksgiving service at his church at Morwenstow in Cornwall. Victorian hymns such as *We plough the fields and scatter, Come, ye thankful people, come,* and *All things bright and beautiful* but also Dutch and German harvest hymns in translation helped popularise his idea of harvest festival, and spread the annual custom of decorating churches with home-grown produce for the Harvest Festival service. On 8 September 1854 the Revd Dr William Beal, Rector of Brooke, Norfolk, held a Harvest Festival aimed at ending what he saw as disgraceful scenes at the end of harvest, and went on to promote 'harvest homes' in other Norfolk villages. Another early adopter of the custom as an organised part of the Church of England calendar was Rev Piers Claughton at Elton, Huntingdonshire in or about 1854.

GOD'S ARTISTRY IN AUTUMN

What is it about autumn colours that attract us? I want the summer to



linger on longer, yet the coziness, warmth and eye delight of burnt oranges, mellow yellows, deep reds and crisp browns invite my heart into autumn. Part of me screams to stop the calendar from turning from August to September, yet when I see those autumn colours my will to fight this change flutter away like the leaves will also soon do.

God is quite an artist this time of year. His hues hint of hope and a purpose to the changes we often struggle with on our path. I used to fight autumn, dreading the coming winter. Now in the second half of life, I am learning to embrace its beauty as part of the transforming process and rhythm of life. Here are some quotes about autumn to share with you:

“Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower.”

Albert Camus

“Even if something is left undone, everyone must take time to sit still and watch the leaves turn.”

Elizabeth Lawrence

“Autumn is the mellower season, and what we lose in flowers we more than gain in fruits.”

Samuel Butler

“Summer is already better, but the best is autumn. It is mature, reasonable and serious, it glows moderately and not frivolously...It cools down, clears up, makes you reasonable...”

Valentin, Finnish writer

“October was a beautiful month at Green Gables, when the birches in the hollow turned as golden as sunshine and the maples behind the orchard were royal crimson and the wild cherry trees along the lane put on the loveliest shades of dark red and bronzy green, while the fields sunned themselves in the aftermaths. Anne revelled in the world of colour about her.... ‘I’m so glad I live in a world where there are Octobers. It would be terrible if we just skipped from September to November, wouldn’t it?...’”

Lucy Maud Montgomery

Winter is an etching, spring a watercolour, summer an oil painting and autumn a mosaic of them all.

Stanley Horowitz

"I prefer winter and fall, when you feel the bone structure of the landscape – the loneliness of it, the dead feeling of winter. Something waits beneath it, the whole story doesn't show."

Andrew Wyeth

"It is only her in large portions of Canada that wonderful second wind, the Indian summer, attains its amplitude and heavenly perfection, — the temperatures; the sunny haze; the mellow, rich delicate, almost flavoured air: Enough to live — enough to merely be."

Walt Whitman

How do the autumn colours affect your spirit? Do you have a favourite quote about autumn?

Jean Wise

ST LUKE – PATRON SAINT OF PHYSICIANS



Luke, the writer of the Gospel and the Acts of the Apostles, has been identified with St. Paul's "Luke, the beloved physician" (Colossians 4:14). We know few other facts about Luke's life from Scripture and from early Church historians.

It is believed that Luke was born a Greek and a Gentile. In Colossians 10-14 speaks of those friends who are with him. He first mentions all those "of the circumcision" -- in other words, Jews -- and he does not include Luke in this group. Luke's gospel shows special sensitivity to evangelizing Gentiles. It is only in his gospel that we hear the parable of the Good Samaritan, that we hear Jesus praising the faith of Gentiles such as the widow of Zarephath and Naaman the Syrian (Lk.4:25-27), and that we hear the story of the one grateful leper who is a Samaritan (Lk.17:11-19).

In our day, it would be easy to assume that someone who was a doctor was rich, but scholars have argued that Luke might have been born a slave. It was not uncommon for families to educate slaves in medicine so that they would have a resident family physician. Not only do we have Paul's word, but Eusebius, Saint Jerome, Saint Irenaeus and Caius, a second-century writer, all refer to Luke as a physician.

We have to go to Acts to follow the trail of Luke's Christian ministry. We know nothing about his conversion but looking at the language of Acts we can see where he joined Saint Paul. The story of the Acts is written in the third person, as an historian recording facts, up until the sixteenth chapter. In Acts 16:8-9 we hear of Paul's company "So, passing by Mysia, they went down to Troas. During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, 'Come over to Macedonia and help us.' " Then suddenly in 16:10 "they" becomes "we": "When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them."

So Luke first joined Paul's company at Troas at about the year 51 and accompanied him into Macedonia where they travelled first to Samothrace, Neapolis, and finally Philippi. Luke then switches back to the third person which seems to indicate he was not thrown into prison with Paul and that when Paul left Philippi Luke stayed behind to encourage the Church there. Seven years passed before Paul returned to the area on his third missionary journey. In Acts 20:5, the switch to "we" tells us that Luke has left Philippi to rejoin Paul in Troas in 58 where they first met up. They travelled together through Miletus, Tyre, Caesarea, to Jerusalem.

Luke is the loyal comrade who stays with Paul when he is imprisoned in Rome about the year 61: "Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, sends greetings to you, and so do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, and Luke, my fellow workers" (Philemon 24). And after everyone else deserts Paul in his final imprisonment and sufferings, it is Luke who remains with Paul to the end: "Only Luke is with me" (2 Timothy 4:11).

Luke's inspiration and information for his Gospel and Acts came from his close association with Paul and his companions as he explains in his introduction to the Gospel: "Since many have undertaken to set down an orderly account of the events that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed on to us by those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and servants of the word, I too decided, after investigating

everything carefully from the very first, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus" (Luke 1:1-3).

Luke's unique perspective on Jesus can be seen in the six miracles and eighteen parables not found in the other gospels. Luke's is the gospel of the poor and of social justice. He is the one who tells the story of Lazarus and the Rich Man who ignored him. Luke is the one who uses "Blessed are the poor" instead of "Blessed are the poor in spirit" in the beatitudes. Only in Luke's gospel do we hear Mary's Magnificat where she proclaims that God "has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty" (Luke 1:52-53).

Luke also has a special connection with the women in Jesus' life, especially Mary. It is only in Luke's gospel that we hear the story of the Annunciation, Mary's visit to Elizabeth including the Magnificat, the Presentation, and the story of Jesus' disappearance in Jerusalem. It is Luke that we have to thank for the Scriptural parts of the Hail Mary: "Hail Mary full of grace" spoken at the Annunciation and "Blessed are you and blessed is the fruit of your womb Jesus" spoken by her cousin Elizabeth.

Forgiveness and God's mercy to sinners is also of first importance to Luke. Only in Luke do we hear the story of the Prodigal Son welcomed back by the overjoyed father. Only in Luke do we hear the story of the forgiven woman disrupting the feast by washing Jesus' feet with her tears. Throughout Luke's gospel, Jesus takes the side of the sinner who wants to return to God's mercy. Reading Luke's gospel gives a good idea of his character as one who loved the poor, who wanted the door to God's kingdom opened to all, who respected women, and who saw hope in God's mercy for everyone.

The reports of Luke's life after Paul's death are conflicting. Some early writers claim he was martyred, others say he lived a long life. Some say he preached in Greece, others in Gaul. The earliest tradition we have says that he died at 84 Boeotia after settling in Greece to write his Gospel. A tradition that Luke was a painter seems to have no basis in fact. Several images of Mary appeared in later centuries claiming him as a painter but these claims were proved false. Because of this tradition, however, he is considered a patron of painters of pictures and is often portrayed as painting pictures of Mary. He is often shown with an ox or a calf because these are the symbols of sacrifice -- the sacrifice Jesus made for all the world.

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

Alas poor John
Is dead and gone
Who often tolled the bell
And with a spade
Dug many a grave
And said Amen as well.

John Bowles, Sexton – Stratford

He angled many a purling brook,
But lacked the angler's skill;
He lied about the fish he took,
And here he's lying still.

Fisherman – Alcester

Here old John Randal lies,
Who counting from this tale,
Lived three score years and ten,
Such vertue was in ale.
Ale was his meat,
Ale was his drink,
Ale did his heart revive,
And if he could have drunk his ale,
He still had been alive.

John Randal – Great Wolford

As a warning to Female Virtue,
And a humble Monument of Female Chastity,
This stone marks the grave of MARY ASHFORD.
Who, in the 20th year of her age,
Having incautiously repaired
To a scene of amusement,
Without proper protection,
Was brutally violated and murdered,
On the 27th May, 1817.

Mary Ashford – Sutton Coldfield

WHAT SWEETER MUSIC?

The nineteenth Leamington Music Winter Season begins in St Mary's on Tuesday 8th October.

The eagle-eyed amongst you will spot that we have updated the name of our series this time: the Early Music series becomes 'Leamington Music at St Mary's Church, Warwick'. The catalyst for this change was our inclusion last year of the Rachmaninoff *Vespers* in our Early Music series which felt somewhat incongruous. Updating the name of our series allows us just a little more freedom to expand our horizons although, of course, the heart of the series – Early Music – remains unchanged, but we open up the opportunity (as last year) for more.

Each concert in the series in St Mary's this year is introduced by a free pre-concert talk where we invite you to take a closer look 'Behind the Music'. Before Christmas, we focus on vocal and choral music with The Gesualdo Six (8 October), The Binchois Consort (12 November), and the Choir of Clare College Cambridge (10 December), all back by popular demand. In 2025, the Monteverdi String Band with soprano Hannah Ely and lutenist Toby Carr take us to Italy to reimagine the Madrigal (25 February), and our season concludes on 18 March with another new young group – Rune – who, championed by the Brighton Early Music Festival, are making strides to reacquaint audience ears with the true delights of Mediaeval music which has inexplicably dropped off the Early Music radar in this country in recent years, and which is much deserving of a "comeback".

Tickets for all Leamington Music concerts are on sale at Visit Warwick in the Court House or online on www.leamingtonmusic.org, where you can find full details of the complete Winter Season. Telephone bookings can be made on 01926 334418.

Helen Beecroft, Artistic Director

NEVER A CROSSWORD!

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ACROSS

1. Adages in favour of 'doing' words. (8)
5. Where Paul went for a lettuce? (3)
8. Saint who gradually fades away? (5)
9. Sailors with hives about to get absolution. (7)
10. Remit about a bishop's hat. (5)
11. A prophetess, whichever way you look. (4)
14. Let 'em quietly run to church. (6)
15. Photos of a royal, we hear. (6)
18. Backspace for a Muslim. (4)
19. I'm on a bender with Elimelech's wife! (5)
21. Strong alcohol for ghosts? (7)
22. Tax Inspectors start to collect the church tax. (5)
23. Visualise a diocese. (3)
24. Government department for clergymen? (8)

DOWN

2. Friendship found in the Old Testament. (4)
3. Musical sentence that requires a response. That is clever! (8)
4. A sorry state for these beads. (6)
5. Contract used by a convent. (8)
6. Father Christmas found in pleasant apparel. (5)
7. Saint gets to long for an instrument. (6)
12. Pagan people, anti memo construction? (8)
13. Archbishops found in the jungle? (8)
16. There's confusion in the Old Testament. (6))
17. Clergyman equal to his male offspring. (6)
18. It's about some small Biblical character. (5)
20. Celebrity found in the East? (4)

THOUGHT FOR FOOD

Garlic and rosemary chicken with summer ratatouille

Ingredients

- 4 garlic cloves
- 4 small chicken breast fillets (about 150g/5½oz each)
- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 3 rosemary sprigs, leaves finely chopped
- 1 lemon, zest only
- 25g/1oz butter
- 500g/1lb 2oz cherry tomatoes, halved
- 1 large courgette, chopped
- 1 red pepper, thinly sliced
- 1 tbsp balsamic vinegar
- 500g/1lb 2oz fresh gnocchi
- handful fresh basil leaves, plus extra to serve
- grated pecorino, to serve
- sea salt and freshly ground black pepper



Preparation time: 30 minutes

Cooking time: 10 to 30 minutes

Serves: 4

Chop the garlic. Sprinkle with sea salt and use the side of the knife to crush the garlic until a rough paste forms. Add the rosemary and lemon zest and finely chop everything together. Put the chicken fillets into a large bowl along with a tablespoon of the olive oil and the garlic and rosemary paste. Stir to fully coat the chicken. Heat a large non-stick frying pan with a tight-fitting lid over a high heat. Add the remaining tablespoon of olive oil. Once hot, fry the chicken breasts for 2 minutes on each side until golden-brown. Transfer to a plate and set aside. Add the butter, cherry tomatoes, courgette, pepper and balsamic vinegar to the pan. Cook, stirring often, until the tomatoes start to soften. Reduce the heat and return the chicken to the pan, nestling it into the vegetables. Cover with a lid and cook for 10 minutes, or until the chicken is cooked through and the tomatoes have cooked down slightly. Remove the lid and cook for a further 5 minutes. Use a fork to burst some of the tomatoes to release some of their juices for the sauce. While the chicken cooks, bring a large saucepan of salted water to the boil and add the gnocchi. Cook for 1–2 minutes until they float to the surface, then remove with a slotted spoon and add straight to the chicken pan, along with the basil leaves.

Serve the chicken and gnocchi in wide bowls garnished with extra basil leaves, pecorino and a seasoning of salt and pepper. Maybe a glass of rosé would be nice?

NEW KID ON THE BLOCK!



Harry Sullivan, originally from Norfolk, began learning the piano aged six, not before long starting the organ aged ten, an instrument in which he had long shown interest. At twelve, he was offered an organ scholarship at the church of St Peter Mancroft, Norwich, where he studied for the next six years with Julian Haggett.

Harry spent two years attending the University of Exeter, initially reading for a degree in Mathematics, before transferring to a programme in Economics. However, realising his true passion was music, decided to make a career change. Whilst in Exeter, Harry was organ scholar for both the University of Exeter Chapel Choir and St Michael and All Angels, Mount Dinham, along with being a highly in-demand accompanist for various university societies and ensembles.

Upon leaving Exeter in 2019, Harry worked as Organ Scholar at St German's Cathedral, Isle of Man until the Covid-19 Lockdown of March 2020.

Harry then moved to Bangor in North Wales, to study for a BA in Music, from which he graduated in 2023 with first class honours, with additional awards for best recital, editorial musicology project, and overall attainment. For his latter two years in Bangor, he was organ scholar at the Cathedral and Metropolitan Church of St Deiniol and accompanist to the University Chamber Choir.

Harry is currently completing an MLitt in Sacred Music at the University of St Andrews in Scotland, where he has been awarded the St Leonard's Masters Scholarship, the School of Divinity Postgraduate MLitt Scholarship, and a Campbell Watterson Organ Scholarship in association with St Salvator's Chapel Choir.

We welcome him to St Mary's as our new Organ Scholar, and look forward to his time with us.

LUNCHTIME RECITALS AT ST MARY'S

Fridays 1:15 – 2:00pm

6 th September	Organist (St Mary's, Warwick)
20 th September	Simona Fruscella <i>organ</i> (Casalmorano, Italy)
4 th October	Organist (St Mary's, Warwick)

Admission free – retiring collection

AND FINALLY

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

ACROSS 1 Proverbs 5 Cos 8 Peter 9 Shriven 10 Mitre 11 Anna 14 Temple
15 Prince 18 Moor 19 Naomi 21 Spirits 22 Tithe 23 See 24 Ministry

DOWN 2 Ruth 3 Versicle 4 Rosary 5 Covenant 6 Santa 7 Spinet 12 Ammonite
13 Primates 16 Esther 17 Parson 18 Moses 20 Star

Who's Where in The Warwick Team

Contacts in our partner churches in the Warwick Team include:

All Saints

Revd Diane Thompson (Team Vicar)

492073

St Nicholas

Revd Linda Duckers (Team Vicar)

496209

ST MARY'S CONTACTS

Revd Canon Angus Aagaard	07810 646644
Parish Office	403940
Doreen Mills (Reader)	494692
Oliver Hancock (Director of Music)	403940
John Luxton (Church Warden)	07740 046718
Julie Blake (Church Warden)	
David Benson (Deputy Church Warden)	882207
Godfrey Hill (Deputy Church Warden)	02476 464432
Carol Warren (Deputy Church Warden)	07836 635236
Bell Ringers	492783
1 st Warwick St Mary's Rainbows/Brownies/Guides	403185
Choir	403940
Friends of St Mary's Choir	07549 534339
Collegium	498851
St Mary's Scholars	403940
St Mary's Study Group	07799 682872
Flowers	857351
Church Guides	403940
Gift Shop	403940
Sunday School	312861
St Mary's Guild of Servers	07713 997769
Sidesperson team	07836 635236
Churches Together in Warwick	428420
Guild of Ex Choristers gec@stmaryswarwick.org.uk	740181
Tony King (Magazine Editor)	497349

Church Council Members

The Rector, the Reader and Church Wardens	
Tony King (Vice-Chair)	497349
Lis Antrobus	
Lynn Bolton	07514 412339
Tim Clark	
Helen Dodsworth	
Clare Gould (Operations Manager)	403940
Oliver Hancock	403940
Desmond Jack	495795
Gill James (Synod member)	
Jayne McHale	497106
Chris Spencer	
Carol Warren	07836 635236
Amelia Webster	amelia.fewtrill@yahoo.co.uk