

The Welwyn Magazine



July / August 2021

www.welwyn.org.uk

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July / August 2021

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St Mary's Churchwardens

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*'Summer Poppies in
Robbery Bottom Lane'*

Ian Blair

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Editor Note

We normally publish reports on activities and meetings occurring in Welwyn village and the immediate areas, but some activities have inevitably been cancelled due to Covid-19. If any reader would like to submit an article on local matters then please send the details by email to: magazine@welwyn.org.uk or contact St Mary's church office on **01438 840964**.

EDITOR'S NOTES

Articles by the 1st of the month preceding publication, see details above.

The Editors reserve the right to shorten or omit articles or refuse advertisements.

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The Rector's Letter

Dear Friends

By the time you will be reading this it will be well past June 21st, the earliest date on which according to the government plan 'all legal limits will be removed.' Given this stage plan was published several months ago, the precise details of this have remained rather vague. At each other stage more guidance has been issued about a week beforehand. So, whilst it may well be that now all restrictions have been removed, at the time of writing there was still debate as to whether some form of social distancing or other precautions should stay for a little while longer.

Of course people will also make their own decisions, and may feel safer personally keeping some of those precautions, even if they are not required by law. And I think that is right. In a democracy we cannot always expect or indeed desire that the government tells us exactly what to do in order to remain safe, some decisions we have to make for ourselves. And we need to put those decisions and risks in context.

The daily death rate from COVID19 is at the time of writing about the same as fatalities resulting from road traffic accidents, but generally we see no need

for restrictions on driving. Also there are knock on effects. A newspaper report I read yesterday suggested that

missed cancer appointments may now be more of a danger to life than COVID19. Now of course COVID19 is slightly different in that until all the adult population is effectively vaccinated those figures could easily increase if we are not careful. So this is not a time for complacency but for sensible and reasoned decisions.

Fundamentally though, Christianity tells us that life cannot be lived entirely without risk. Indeed Jesus warns us that even those who love their life are liable to lose it. The first Christians, and many more since, including many today, risk their lives to profess their Christian faith. The martyrs realised that there was something even more important than bare biological existence, and that was to live a life fully in the image of God.

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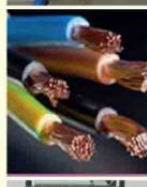
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MEN'S BREAKFAST - The Festival of Britain 1951



(Industrial Power). However, it was a truly National celebration with events held throughout the Country and exhibitions on a touring ship and in many towns and cities. There were also sporting events

Online talk on 5th June 2021

Geoffrey Hollis gave us a superbly illustrated talk about the origins, organisation and legacy of **The 1951 Festival of Britain**. He has attended St John's church Lemsford for many years and is the St Albans Diocesan Clock's advisor.

The Festival opened 70 years ago on 3 May 1951 and closed on 30 September. The Festival was intended to lift the spirits of the British people, still suffering six years on from the devastation of the Second World War and enduring austerity, rationing, making do, and widespread bomb damage. Its object was to celebrate new design and innovation and promote British science, technology, industrial design, architecture and the arts. The Festival's centre was in London on the South Bank of the Thames. There were events in Poplar (Architecture), Battersea (the Festival Pleasure Gardens), South Kensington (Science) and Glasgow

including air races at Hatfield aerodrome.

Herbert Morrison, Prime Minister Clement Attlee's deputy and the former leader of the London County Council, was put in charge of the exhibition. The Director General was Gerald Barry, the high-profile former editor of the News Chronicle newspaper and a strong advocate for the Festival. Not only was he in touch with the public mood but knew a lot of people, was a champion of the arts and had a strong interest in architecture. He appointed Hugh Casson as the Director of Architecture. His design team was composed of eminent modernist architects and engineers. The centrepiece of the South Bank Site was a massive aluminium dome, the largest in the world at the time. It was filled with exhibits that attracted huge crowds. To complement the Dome was a beautiful slim 90m high vertical feature called the Skylon, a futuristic bar and the glass fronted Lion and Unicorn building featuring

continued on p7

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MEN'S BREAKFAST - The Festival of Britain 1951

the achievements of Britain. The Festival Hall was the only building designed to be permanently on the site. The Festival's fun, colourful exploration of British ingenuity and creativity, its inspirational and optimistic look towards the brave new world of the future, helped foster a national sense of recovery. It was an enormous success. The South Bank, attracted 8.5 million paying visitors, half from outside the capital. It was estimated that over eighteen million of the British population of 49 million experienced the Festival in some way.

The riverside Battersea Pleasure Gardens added an important element of fun. The tent was the largest in Europe, the helter-skelter was one of the scariest and Rowland Emmett's railway the most eccentric.

The Festival achieved its objectives,

launched the careers of many inspired young designers and sculpturers. It raised awareness of modern design and gave a glimpse of what could be achieved in the future. For example, the Lansbury Estate in Poplar set the standard for the design of the New Town centres such as Hatfield, Stevenage and Harlow. Sadly, the Dome was demolished for the value of its aluminium, and the Skylon was never erected elsewhere, so all that remains is The Festival Hall.

Peter Lee

Subject to Government rules we have pencilled in a reunion Men's Breakfast at Church House on 11th September when Alan McNab will talk about restoring Bugattis. if you would like to join the Men's Breakfast Mailing list contact Jim Read: jimread55@gmail.com

Parish Registers



St Mary's Welwyn

Baptism

Sunday 16th May 2021

Sybil Lavender Lake

Wedding

Saturday 1st May 2021

George Day-Robinson and Felicity Reid

Funeral

Tuesday 26th May 2021

Daphne Smart - Church Service and Cremation

Harwood Park

Cremations

Friday 7th May 2021

Poppy Richards

Friday 7th May 2021

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Friday 28th May 2021

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DIGSWELL PLAYING FIELDS - Wildlife Area



to Hertford, with the Digswell Tennis Club and Children's Play Area on the right hand side.....

The site also has a wildlife area and pond and is one of the only public access points to our well-loved Mimram River.

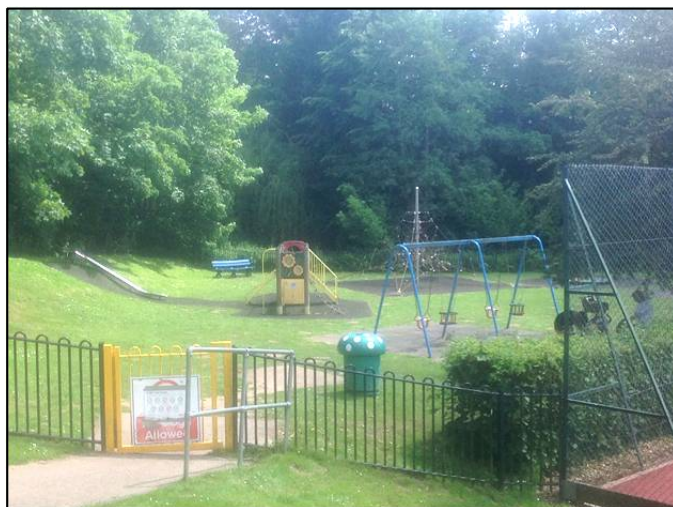
The famous Digswell Viaduct also forms a backdrop to this local leisure site.

For many years the Digswell Residents' Association has been helping the Council to maintain the pond and wildlife area. This year local Digswell volunteers, assisted by the Wednesday Volunteer Group, have continued with the on-going maintenance support for this local area.

If you would like to visit during the summer holidays this year there will be more wildlife and bird song to hear. However, many Welwyn parishioners may not realise where this site is, but you would be welcome to search it out and enjoy a little

One of the lesser known parts of the parish is the small nature reserve at Digswell Playing Fields. It is one of the sites in Welwyn that is owned and

managed by Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council.



managed by Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council.

I expect you will have passed the playing fields site many times on the way

peace and contemplation and prayer..... Perhaps bring a picnic.

Alan Sparshott
DRA June 2021



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Hare Coursing

Hare Coursing has been illegal for more than a decade, since the implementation of the Hunting Act in 2004. Sadly, this cruel activity still takes place and criminals use greyhounds and lurchers to chase hares, causing them great distress, and often killing them.

Hare coursing is usually carried out by groups of people controlling a number of dogs. The dogs flush out the hares in the fields and are then released from their leads to chase the hare. Frequently the practice is highly organised, and significant sums of money can change hands in the form of illegal betting on the outcome. The victor is determined by the first dog to catch the hare.

People involved in hare coursing trespass on private land, damage crops and property, and frequently intimidate or even attack those who challenge their presence. It can be very distressing for people who witness the cruelty involved in hare coursing. The police believe that many of those engaged in hare coursing also commit other offences against the rural community, such as theft of farm machinery, diesel, tools and off-road vehicles.

The most likely time for this crime is after the harvest, when large fields are clear of crops and sight lines are good. The participants need a discreet position that has good access to the field and space to park a number of vehicles. Before a hare coursing event takes place, the criminals will look around for suitable locations, and this is sometimes a time when they might be spotted by members of the public, who can warn the police.

There have not been any recent recorded cases of hare coursing in the Welwyn area, but this crime does occur in Hertfordshire – there was an arrest in Hitchin this year.

As restrictions ease and you venture further from home into the countryside, do keep a lookout for people who might be scouting for hare coursing locations. Never approach people you suspect might be hare coursers – some are dangerous individuals who are involved in serious criminal activities. The police advise that you call 999 if you believe you have witnessed hare coursing.

John Mitchell and Valerie Richards
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TERRACYCLE PROGRAMME EXPANDS IN WELWYN

Did you read about the crisp packet that was dug up in an allotment recently? Not that unusual, you might think, except that the packet was 20 years old and still in perfect condition. We know that a packet of crisps takes minutes to consume, but the packaging can take up to *eight decades* to decompose. In the UK we currently throw away an estimated 16 million packets *every day*, creating a huge waste problem for generations to come.

Thankfully, there is an alternative. For over two years, people in Welwyn have been recycling crisp packets through a fantastic scheme run by local residents Lisa Andrew and Lily-Grace Magner. Lisa and Lily-Grace have already collected around 20,000 crisp packets, which they then send to **Terracycle**, the innovative recycling company. The packets are made into tables, benches or playground equipment. So much better than being sent to landfill, or littering our paths and hedgerows....

We are thrilled to announce that this scheme has **just been extended**. Thanks to a partnership between the Parish Council and the Welwyn Sustainable Living Group, you can now recycle your:

- *Crisp packets and multi-pack outer packaging (includes Quavers/Wotsits/Sunbites packages)*
- *Flexible plastic cheese packaging, individual cheese wrappers and mini-cheese plastic nets*
- *'Marigold' durable and disposable household gloves and their plastic packaging*

Here is how (it is really simple!):

- *Bring your recyclable materials to the **Welwyn Parish Council offices** at 22 Lockleys Drive, Welwyn AL6 9LT – near the car park.*
- *Put them in the **Terracycle** bins that are available.*

When these bins are full, the local volunteers will seal them up and send them to **Terracycle**.

Council offices are open Monday to Friday from 9am to 1pm.

Please clean your materials first, just as you do for your fortnightly waste recycling.

The more we collect, the more recycled products there are, and we raise funds for charity too. Everyone wins, including the planet.

Local student Lily-Grace says we can all do more to protect our environment: *“Right now we’re seeing how nature is vulnerable to our greed and our waste – just look at the Great Garbage Patch in the Pacific Ocean. We often don’t see the detrimental effect of what we buy or what we throw away. We need to remember that we’re part of nature, not apart from it.”*

So, please remember to bring your **Terracycle** materials when you come into the village. It’s time to **Terracycle**!

If you want more information about the **Welwyn Terracycle programme**, please contact the Parish Council, or email Welwyn Sustainable Living group at welwynslg@gmail.com

Sarah Butcher

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Did you know there is a vaccine that helps reduce your risk of getting shingles and reduces the severity of symptoms if you do develop the disease?

Shingles:

- is a common disease that can cause long-lasting severe pain
- has been known to cause permanent disability
- occurs more frequently in those over 70 who are also more likely to have worse symptoms

The Vaccine:

- is significantly reducing the number of cases
- will reduce the severity of symptoms in vaccinated people if they develop the disease
- cannot cause shingles in healthy people
- you will only have the vaccine once, you do not need to be re-vaccinated every year
- is recommended even if you have had shingles before.

You become eligible for the shingles vaccine as you turn **70**. The vaccine is also available for those previously eligible (currently in their seventies) but who missed immunisation. People aged 80 years and over are not eligible because the vaccine becomes less effective as people get older. However, if you turned 80 in the last 12 months and missed out on the vaccine due to the COVID-19 pandemic, you may still be eligible, so please enquire if you are interested.

If you are eligible then please contact your GP surgery to make an appointment with a nurse to have your vaccination.

If you would like further information about the Bridge Cottage Surgery Patient Participation Group please email ***ppgbridgecottage@gmail.com***

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WELWYN ST MARY'S FOOTBALL CLUB



May 2021 Update

On a dry, bobbly pitch, St Mary's faced FC Cornerstone of Stevenage in early May which began with the home team putting Welwyn under pressure without creating too much. Welwyn came close to scoring from two corners as the half drew on, with the Cornerstone goalie equal to headers both times. St Mary's looked galvanised from the half time team talk with winger Archie Ariss tormenting the opposition fullback throughout, and his hard work paid off as he skipped past three challenges to allow

Tom Robinson to hammer home from 10 yards. Fellow midfielder Tom Reason got onto the scoresheet twice, first with a sliced cross which looped into the top corner before sealing a 3-0 victory with a perfect header over the Cornerstone keeper from Callum Reason's deep free kick.

With 2 points needed to clinch the league title, St Mary's travelled to Ruislip who play neat football and always provide a tricky test. The Ruislip goalie was on top form, keeping his team in the game as his palms were stung first from Dammy Owuladamilola and then Tom Robinson. With a few minutes to go before the half, Ruislip took the lead following their first period of pressure.





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WELWYN ST MARY'S FOOTBALL CLUB *continued from p17*

Welwyn didn't panic despite continuing to be frustrated by the opposition keeper and got their reward on 60 minutes as a deep free kick from Callum Russell was volleyed in by Tom Reason shortly after. The win and the league trophy was secured with Carl Webb smashing home from 10 yards after a tenacious run from George Ariss, who produced another lung-busting performance in midfield.

The final game of the season was away to St Albans Romans Reserves who started the game well, creating a few chances, but ended the half 2-0 down. Tom Robinson and Jim Stevens linked up well before Dammy Owuladamilola cut onto his right foot and finished superbly

into the top corner. Tom Reason added a second, running onto Robinson's through ball and hammering a shot onto the crossbar. Unchallenged, Reason blasted in the rebound giving the 'keeper no chance'. Reason added a third midway through the second half as Carl Webb drifted past two defenders by the left byline before squaring to Welwyn's captain who doesn't miss those kind of chances from 8 yards out. Goalkeeper Brad Cook was in fine form down the other end, producing several quality reaction saves to produce a third clean sheet of the season.

Michael Chehade

Jessie—The Rectory Dog

For the first time in a very long time we are going on our holidays! I know this because (apart from checking the booking on the computer whilst writing this column), I have noticed packing and preparations have been going on.

I should say that I love holidays. On holidays I am not left alone in the rented cottage. On holidays we go on nice long walks, because they do not have any of that work stuff to do. And often we choose to go to nice places for walking with lots of interesting

animals and lovely sniffs. Though I do see he is taking that stupid bicycle contraption with him..... will he ever learn!



Jess





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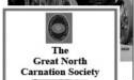
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PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

St Mary's Welwyn and St Michael's Woolmer Green PCC Meeting 19th May 2021

Once again, to the chairman's irritation, this meeting had to take place via Zoom only. Nevertheless, the Rev'd Dr David Munchin hosted the meeting efficiently and with humour. The meeting opened with a welcome and prayer as is customary, and apologies and absences were quickly dealt with. The chairman expressed his hope that this would be the last PCC meeting that had to be conducted exclusively via Zoom with meetings to resume in person with effect from the Standing Committee scheduled for 4th July (Independence Day – is that just a coincidence?) followed by the next PCC meeting on 19th July 2021.

Maggie Varco (Treasurer)

Louise Hughes (PCC Secretary)

**Susan Keach (Vice Chairman/
Chairwoman/Chairperson/Chair** – which do you prefer Sue?) were all appointed to office en bloc.

The Standing Committee was reappointed unchanged and consists of **The Rector, Churchwardens Stuart Westley, Diane Jenkin and Sue Keach—Maggie Varco, Stuart Jenkin, Louise and David Hughes.**

The minutes of the March meeting were approved without dissent and signed by Rev'd David Munchin as an accurate record. (Another one to chalk up! Talk about patting yourself on the back).

Under matters arising The Rector advised that the new and improved live-streaming equipment was already installed and in use thanks to the providers having had a cancellation. It was not due to have been installed until the end of May. There have been a few technical glitches along the way but these have been, or are being resolved, and the performance is much improved.

The bench that the late Sheila Edmondson's family kindly offered to donate in Sheila's memory has been delivered and installed. However, it does not carry a plaque. David has undertaken to endeavour to contact Sheila's family to find out what they would like done about that but noted that this will not be easy as they do not live locally and are quite elderly. Failing a satisfactory outcome the PCC will be called upon to think of a suitable form of words and arrange for a plaque to be engraved and affixed.

David informed the meeting that the peregrine falcon nesting trays that were requested to be placed on St Mary's flag tower have been installed but probably too late for this year's breeding season.

FINANCE

Maggie Varco had circulated a summary of the financial position January-April 2021 prior to the meeting and gave a résumé of it. The position is sound so far this year.

Maggie went on to talk about claiming Gift Aid (which as you are no doubt aware is a tax incentive scheme in which Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs



will pay 25 pence for every one pound donated to charitable causes providing the giver has previously paid basic rate tax

on the funds they donate.) But someone has to prepare and manage the claims for Gift Aid from HMRC on behalf of the organisation collecting charitable donations. At present this is managed on behalf of St Mary's church by Don Bell for which he uses dedicated software. We understand that he is the only person at St Mary's familiar with this software but wishes to relinquish the role. Maggie Varco wants it to be kept separate from her role as treasurer as it is an entirely different function, uses completely different, dedicated software, as well as to share the work and so that the knowledge of the software does not rest entirely in the hands (or head) of one person only. Applications to Maggie please margaret.varco@btinternet.com or Tel: 01438 715450.

In addition to the claiming of Gift Aid Maggie would very much welcome the assistance of someone or some people to help with the counting of cash received in the Church collections from time to time. Plenty to do – please offer your support.

FABRIC

Turning to the fabric reports, St Michael's had nothing to report other than that they lead uninteresting lives in Woolmer Green. At least that's what they

want us to think!

St Mary's new boiler is installed, commissioned and working well. Two out of the three ground source heat pumps have been reconditioned and are working but the third was found to be leaking coolant into the ground which is not good. Stuart Jenkin will request a quotation for tracing the leak and assessing whether it is possible to repair it, but he strongly suspects that the leak will be inaccessible (deep underground or beneath the floor of Church House) and as such an uneconomic repair. In which case the quotation will be for the cost of extracting any remaining coolant and decommission this pump, which probably simply means turning off the electricity that powers it.

Stuart's next project will be getting the fire safety measures up-to-date which means fixing those emergency lights that are not working and replacing all the out-of-date smoke detectors.

Another matter that needs attending to is a further repair to the flag tower roof which is leaking again. Just as well the peregrines haven't taken up residence in the recently provided nesting trays this year as they would have been seriously disturbed while roof repairs are carried out. It was noted that had falcons been nesting it would have been interesting to see who came off worse, the falcons or the roofer!

David Munchin advised that promising discussions are taking place with a possible new recruit as curate

PCC MEETING *continued from p22*

although whoever it may be is not expected to take up the post until June next year 2022.

Under the heading of Covid-19, David informed the meeting that following the relaxation of Government guidelines on May 17th meetings are now permitted indoors and refreshments may once again be served in Church House. Coffee is being offered after the Sunday services. Masks, sanitising and social distancing remain in place.

On behalf of several people who have commented that they cannot hear the choir singing in the chancel, Diane Jenkin asked when the choir might be allowed back in the choir stalls. The Rector said that he would discuss with the choir mistress when would be the appropriate time for their return to the choir stalls from the social distancing point of view. To comply with social distancing measures, a few members of the congregation have been sitting in the choir stalls. They will have to relocate. As I write this I understand that this move has already taken place, albeit with only six members of the choir able to sit in their stalls. You do not need to be told why!

Appointments and resignations – sadly Jane Carr has said that she wishes to step down from writing the twice weekly email bulletins and keeping the church website up-to-date. This is a pity because a lot of people have relied on those bulletins to keep in touch with St Mary's during the past year-and-a-bit, and Jane

did a first class job of it. So, a person or persons is/are sought to take over this role. A fair degree of computer literacy is needed although help will be available to a willing member. If anyone reading this would be interested in keeping up this important work then please contact the Rector. Contact details on the inside front cover of this magazine.

There is also a need to think about Church communications more generally as they now include social media as well as the website and emails. Social media is such that even if you do not use it much, it is fairly straightforward and would suit someone who, in a small team, would like to learn on the job. If you think that you have read that last item elsewhere you are quite right – plagiarism is alive and well! Just trying to spread the message farther and wider.

And finally – Housekeeping: It was noted that Church House cutlery was in a very regrettable state of (un)cleanliness. Thanks are due to Diane Jenkin for taking it home and dealing with the problem. It is thought that this situation may have arisen because some people think that the kitchen sterilizer also washes the cutlery. It doesn't! It simply sterilizes any food residue stuck to the cutlery. If you use cutlery in Church House, or tidy up after those who have, please be sure to wash it before putting it in the sterilizer.

David Hughes

WELWYN HIGHWAYS AND BYWAYS - Part 4

Houses, Romans and Scientists

The story of Trevena Gardens off School Lane shows how our local council applies its street naming policy to new roads. Welwyn Hatfield Council have the statutory responsibility to approve new names, which are generally put forward by developers. There are, of course, some restrictions to avoid duplication or confusion, and suggested names need to have some connection with the area. In particular, the Council gives preference to names which reflect the history of the site and area.

Work started on Trevena Gardens in 2010 by Netherdown Ltd, a respected local firm who have completed many projects in the village and are currently engaged in the sympathetic restoration of Guessens. After suggestions of Kiln Gardens and Cettus Gardens (reflecting

Roman artefacts found at the site) were rejected, the naming after Christopher 'Kit' Trevena, long time headmaster of St Marys School seemed highly appropriate.

On naming roads at their new development at the Frythe, Linden Homes also closely looked at the site's long history for ideas. The Frythe is first mentioned in documents from 1294, but the family most associated with the estate, the Wilsheres, came in 1539. The estate was leased to various people over the years, but by 1840 the Wilsheres were in residence. The name 'Frythe' is believed to derive from Old English, meaning a wooded place and gives us the first road name in Wilshere Park, Frythe Avenue.

In 1846 the present house was built by William Wilshere. Charles Wilshere inherited the estate from his brother

William, but in 1906 was succeeded by his three unmarried daughters who were all well known for their work in the Church and village community. The last daughter died in 1934 and the estate



The Frythe

WELWYN HIGHWAYS AND BYWAYS - Part 4 *continued*

went to a great-nephew Captain Gerald Farmer, who took the Wilshire name. Between the wars Captain Farmer opened the house as 'The Frythe Residential Private Hotel'. This enterprise flourished until August 1939 when it was commandeered by the War Office and it became Admiralty Station IX, a secret research centre for the Special Operations Executive.

In 1945 the estate was released and Captain Wilshire leased it to ICI for use as their Central Research Establishment. This was intended to be a temporary arrangement until new laboratories at a site at Butterwick Woods, near St. Albans were built. This plan was dropped but the Frythe became the Butterwick Laboratories, after which *Butterwick Way* is named. In 1955 it was renamed the Akers Research Centre, after ICI's Research Director. Sir Wallace Akers. He is still remembered, in the name of Akers Court. Joseph Chatt, head of the Inorganic Chemistry Dept. is also remembered (*Chatt Court*).

The remaining street names on Wilshire Park originate in the fascinating period when the estate was in use developing elaborate weaponry and equipment for undercover operations by SOE in World War II.

In charge of Station IX, Lieutenant Colonel John Dolphin (*Dolphin Court*) was a highly experienced engineer. He is credited with inventing a number of Station IXs creations including the 'Welbike' (the names of all the products

from the Frythe were prefixed Wel-), a folding mini-motorcycle which could be dropped by parachute, and the 'Welman', a one-man submarine used on several undercover missions.

Alongside John Dolphin, many engineers and scientists worked on secret projects, including Major Hugh Reeves (*Reeves Court*), responsible for the design of the 'Welgun', a silenced small calibre carbine and a motorised submersible canoe.

Royal Engineer Lt. Col. John Tomlinson (*Tomlinson Court*) arrived at the Frythe as Head of the Arms Section in 1940. Initially he set up the armoury in the requisitioned North Road Garage (*Church Street*) pending the construction of a hut at the Frythe.

In 1942 Captain John Meldrum (*Meldrum Court*) also arrived from the Royal Engineers, where he was involved in bomb disposal and worked closely with Eric Porteous (*Porteous Court*), a civilian draughtsman.

The various teams developing these devices were led by Prof Dudley Newitt (*Newitt Court*), who came from Imperial College to work as the SOE Director of Scientific Research.

But one street takes its name from a more unusual source. *Barbara Court* is not named after a lady called Barbara, but rather from Operation Barbara, a series of undercover SOE missions in 1943 against enemy shipping in Norway using the 'Welman' submarines.

Paul Jiggins

LINDEN IS RETIRING

As many of you will already have heard, our Director of Music, Linden Innes-Hopkins, is retiring at the end of August. Having steered the choir through the worst of the pandemic and having worked tirelessly to continue to deliver music of the highest possible standard for services, and to delight and entertain everyone with her monthly recitals, despite the ever changing and often anomalous restrictions thrown at her by the government guidelines, she has decided the time is right to take time to enjoy herself and her family.

Linden has not been with us as long as we would probably have liked but in that time, she has achieved an enormous amount. The children of Welwyn Tune rehearse with Linden and Jo Fozzard every Friday and take a regular part in morning services, sometimes taking responsibility for singing the whole service.

My personal highlight of her tenure is, of course, the choral wedding of my daughter in July 2018. With the bride walking in to Parry's "I was glad", Morten Lauridsen's "O magnum mysterium" (in nine parts, unaccompanied) as the anthem, three hymns and then "The Hallelujah Chorus" as the exit music, it was a huge production for one afternoon, but it went off perfectly and made one former chorister and her mother (current chorister) unbelievably happy. Linden took it all in her stride and put up with my fussing with admirable patience.

The choir continued to learn new music and to expand and change our repertoire according to the personnel available, and Linden's insight into the meaning of certain pieces helped us to increase our understanding of what we were trying to achieve and to enhance the worship in our services. We were able to give

performances of music written by Linden and by one of her daughters – both beautiful pieces.

Then came the pandemic and everything came to a sudden halt. No music making allowed, no services, nothing. Slowly, things relaxed a little and services were once again permitted, but no live music. Enter, Stephen Jupp, Nikki Lewis and Linden, who together, managed to produce every week, music which could be played for the congregation in live and online services. It was an enormous amount to learn in a very short time. Linden will forgive me, I hope, for saying she was a technophobe before the pandemic. She really didn't enjoy using technology. Suddenly, she is involved in recording tracks for people as far apart as Welwyn and Dundee to sing to in order to give our congregation quality music to hear, and then helping to edit them together pointing out where "tweaks" were necessary to make the best sound possible.

The second wave hit, and after the Christmas services, including two Carol Services with only 10 singers at each, we were shut down again for months. When we were finally allowed to sing again, the government decreed that only three singers were allowed. Has Boris never heard of four-part harmony? Anyway, Linden continued to find and rehearse (on Zoom – yes, more technology!) music which could be delivered by just three voices. The stricture was relaxed in time for Easter, but many of the Holy Week services still had only three voices available to sing live – and STARS, the online choir, continued. The most ambitious project was to record "*The Hallelujah Chorus*" for Easter. It took over 5 hours to record the

LINDEN IS RETIRING *continued from p26*

organ track alone, and then Stephen worked for days to stitch it all together. Those who were in church to hear it will agree that it was a magnificent achievement.

It is not just Linden's ability as Director of Music that we will miss, however. Her regular organ recitals throughout the pandemic have lifted the spirits of many. Her sense of humour has shone through on many occasions. Who can forget "*Watch with Mother*" being played on the piano with Michelle at the end of a children's service? Her kindness to so many people on so many occasions, her generosity with her time and expertise, her baking skills and regular delivery of sweet treats when the choristers were feeling stressed ... the list is endless. One thing few people outside the choir will know about is that, throughout the first wave of the pandemic Linden wrote a weekly reflection illustrating or illustrated by a piece of music. The

reflections were a way of keeping the choir together when we could not sing together and before we all discovered Zoom, and the STARS choir started recording. They went live on the choir website on Fridays – instead of choir practice. She wrote the first one on 19th March 2020 and there were 21 in total. In Holy Week of 2020 she produced three reflections – each one carefully considered, beautifully written and accompanied by her choice of some wonderful music. It was also Linden's suggestion which led to "*Lockdown Gardens*" on the choir website – a series of photographs of what we had all been doing in our gardens whilst forbidden to venture out. There were lots of photos of beautiful flowers but also cartwheels, handstands and trains ...

There is no doubt that Linden will be much missed, but we wish her all the very best in her new home in Alnwick.

Rita McNeill

CONCERT BY GLORIANA: Women in Harmony

Gloriana: Women in Harmony was founded in 2016 by Deborah Miles-Johnson. Deborah was, for many years, a member of the BBC Singers and is now in great demand both in the UK and internationally as a voice coach. Unlike the membership of many choirs, all the ***Gloriana*** singers have been handpicked by Deborah; many sing with other prestigious choirs including the local St Albans Bach Choir. From the very earliest exploratory rehearsals, it was clear that the group of singers assembled by Deborah was quite exceptional. As individuals the singers were skilled and experienced musicians but, with Deborah's enthusiasm and leadership, the

group has developed versatility and is able to perform music 'from brilliant to luscious...from wild to exquisite' with 'sensitivity and sublime quality'.

We are very fortunate and honoured that ***Gloriana's*** first post lockdown concert will be given at St Mary's, Welwyn, definitely not a concert to be missed! The choir will be performing a mixed and varied programme with several contributions from female composers, including Clara Schumann. English music is represented by Vaughan Williams and Charles Wood (his ravishing *Music When Soft Voices Die*); in lighter vein, Cecilia McDowall offers us advice on dating! The choir's richness in

CONCERT BY GLORIANA: SEE BACK COVER FOR DETAILS

multiple-voice pieces will be heard in pieces by Schumann and David Willcocks. What a feast!

Since its inception, *Gloriana* has performed several carefully-themed programmes in a number of London venues: *The Spangled Heavens* at St Paul's Knightsbridge, and (this the last concert before lockdown in March 2020) *It was a Lover and his Lass* at Rothschild's Sky Pavilion, to name but two. In addition, *Gloriana* has recorded a CD and – HM

Government and Covid-19 willing – has future plans for collaborations with St Albans Symphony Orchestra and also with Linden Baroque Orchestra.

So...save the date! Come and hear an extraordinary choir on a summer's afternoon. And there might even be tea afterwards; one of Gloriana's other inestimable skills is cake-making!

Linden Innes-Hopkins

Saturday 31st July, 3.30 pm
St Mary's Church, Welwyn

SEVENTY'S DREAM

I've passed my three score years and ten,
I'll not see sixty nine again,
And no more sex 'til who knows when,
Instead, I'm told to practise zen.

I don't feel I am growing old,
'Although you are', or so I'm told,
It's time to act, do something bold,
Before my body's dead and cold.

I must break out and make my mark,
Show the world my inner spark,
Prove I wasn't on the Ark,
Tending Noah's safari park.

The question is what should I do,
My clothes are grey or navy blue,
I stand in line in every queue,
My conversation's boring too.

I'll dye my eyebrows flaming red,
Shave the hair upon my head,
Wear a baseball cap instead,
Live it up until I'm dead.

I'll pierce my nose and have a ring,
Sew my wild oats, have a fling,
Wear lots of jewels and lots of bling,
And even try bungee jumping.

At football matches, you'll see me streak,
In libraries, you'll hear me shriek,
I'll answer back, gives lots of cheek,
To anyone who tries to speak.

I'll wear a shirt of shocking pink,
Keep warm in-a fur-coat made of mink,
Leave dirty dishes in the sink,
May even end up in the clink.

In swimming pools I'll wear a thong,
I'll go out clubbing all night long,
You'll hear me sing a bawdy song,
And forget about what's right and wrong.

I'll tour the world on a sailing ship,
Take a crazy psychedelic trip,
On Bondi beach, I'll skinny dip,
And show the tattoo on my hip.

But before I do these crazy things,
Letting wild imagination take wings,
Before I shock both commoners and kings,
And enjoy the pleasures that this brings,
I think I'll have an early night,
Tuck myself up in bed real tight,
Say my prayers, turn out the light,
And let these dreams of youth take flight.

Robin Wiseman



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2021 Mini Welwyn Festival: 25th June – 3rd July



www.welwynfestival.org.uk

Sadly Welwyn Festival as we all know and love it will not be taking place again this year due to the pandemic, BUT there will be a few individual activities for people to enjoy during the last week of June whilst raising funds for the Festival charities. Watch out for details of a few more activities in early September.

Cuckoo in the Nest / 4-7s and 8-11 yr-olds

Much loved by children and families, 'Cuckoo in the Nest' has been a staple of the Festival for many years. The quiz sheet can be downloaded from the website or available from Tesco and take part anytime during *Mini Festival week*.

Correct entries will go into a prize draw.

Walk Round Welwyn Quiz

Families and groups can download the question sheet and take part in the quiz anytime during the *Mini Festival Week*. Correct entries will go into a prize draw.

Rook's Tour: Weds 30th June at 7 pm

The local history walking tour around the centre of Welwyn village, devised and delivered by Tony Rook since 1970 continues in his name now that he has retired. Meet outside Civic Centre main entrance. Maximum 30 people (unless Covid rules are relaxed) on a first-come, first-served basis, so please do not be offended if we have to turn you away.

Welwyn 10k

Details and enter at www.welwyn10k.org.uk
Run the course anytime from 25th June to 3rd July wearing a specially designed T-shirt.

DEMENTIA FRIENDLY COMMUNITY CAFÉ

*The Dementia Friendly Community Café has re-opened and is held every alternate Tuesday at 11:00 am until 2.00 pm
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DO YOU KNOW THE SYMPTOMS OF PMR AND GCA?

I am usually found writing for the **Neighbourhood Watch** page where I use acronyms such as PCSO – this article introduces you to two acronyms that are very different, but equally important.

Polymyalgia Rheumatica (PMR) and **Giant Cell Arteritis (GCA)** are two uncommon and related serious diseases affecting people mainly in later life. Each disease seems to be linked to inflammation of the large blood vessels. Both deserve to be better known since outcomes are much improved by earlier diagnosis.

PMR

Can easily be mistaken for the aches and pains of growing older. Getting up and out of bed, getting dressed and brushing your hair may all prove difficult and painful. It may be an hour or so before easier movement is possible. And during the day, it may be difficult to get up from a sitting position. In my case I supposed that different exercises were needed but after some three months I finally concluded that I should seek medical advice. Whilst blood tests confirmed the doctor's diagnosis, there were several clues in my symptoms. The aching was in **both** shoulders and the pelvic girdle, rather than the actual joints. And the pain continued for more than 45 minutes after waking. Whilst I remained on medication for over a year, a few initial days on steroids removed the pain like a miracle cure. Why ever did

I wait so long to seek advice? Because I am a man?

GCA

Strikes more suddenly and needs to be treated as an emergency. Symptoms typically include severe headache usually on **one** side, tender scalp and temple, jaw pain when chewing, and blurred or interrupted vision. What is happening with **GCA** is that giant cells are forming inside the arteries, restricting the flow of blood to some muscles in the head such as those to the eye, and increasing the supply to other areas of the head thereby causing pain. Reader, I had **GCA** too before I developed **PMR**. This happens to about one in five people with **PMR** though the order may be reversed. In my case it was double vision that I noticed first, on a Saturday when my optician was away. An urgent visit to A&E was in fact what was needed and, after tests and a biopsy, steroids were prescribed to bring down the inflammation. In my case, normal sight was restored after some six weeks. But unfortunately, delay in getting a diagnosis and treatment leads to sight loss in over 20% of cases.

There is a national charity seeking to raise awareness of **PMR** and **GCA**, called **PMRGCAuk**. Their web address is <https://pmrgca.org.uk> and their helpline is **0300 111 5090**. There is also a local support group for sufferers which can be contacted via the charity.

John Mitchell

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NEWS FROM AYOT ST PETER



Read all about it!

A few years ago, a chance encounter in our churchyard started a chain of events that led to the publication of a new church newsletter. On that occasion, chatting with a visitor from Bedfordshire, we realised how difficult it was for people who tend our graves to keep in touch with news from the church, unless they happen to live in the village.

From this idea came a newsletter called ***"The Churchyard News"*** and a major detective project to track down people who have an interest in our graves. We looked through old registers, asked both current and former residents, and researched online to identify the descendants of some of our burials. We now have at least one contact for every grave that is still tended.

This proved useful almost immediately, when a tree branch fell on a gravestone, rendering it unsafe. Without a contact for that grave, we would have had no option but to lay the stone flat; instead, it was swiftly repaired by the family concerned.

We gradually realised that the newsletter would be of interest to other people connected with our



The Draper Family 1909

continued on p36

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NEWS FROM AYOT ST PETER *continued from p34*

church and the mailing list has grown to include members of the congregation, flower ladies, the clergy, bell ringers and the organist, to name a few! Our newsletter also goes to Ayot family members in the US, Canada, Hong Kong, Australia and France, as well as throughout the UK. It is a great pleasure when readers visit us or drop in on Open Day. Previously they might not have known the dates of special events, or how to get in touch. We also receive lovely messages of thanks.

There have been unexpected benefits, as some readers have shared wonderful photos and stories that now adorn our website, and help build up

the history of our village. A spectacular example was the discovery of the work of professional photographer David Knights-Whittome, who married into the Draper family of Ayot Green. The photo on the previous page shows the silver wedding anniversary of George and Sarah Elizabeth Draper in 1909. The version on our website gives the name of each individual pictured.

The Churchyard News is published quarterly and distributed free by email. If any readers have family connections to one of our graves and are not on the mailing list, then please get in touch via our website **www.ayotstpeter.com**.

Valerie Richards

SUE'S THEATRE NEWS

It seems an age ago that I was writing about St Mary's theatre club and it seems we have gone through a great deal of 'theatre' since then but not the genre that I usually take bookings for!

Milton Keynes Theatre is very keen to woo us back although prices have increased I am afraid. For the immediate future, I may only run two trips a year so it is affordable to all.

The first outing for next year will be on **Thursday 17th February 2022** and it is **Matthew Bourne's 'Nutcracker'**. This will be very popular so please let me know if you would like me to reserve tickets. The price of the ticket is £45 and coach price will be added when I know numbers of who is going. Payment will be due in December 2021.

Contact details are: Email: **Susie-q1@hotmail.co.uk**

Mobile: **07940320298**

Landline: **01480531717**

I hope that we can all support theatre and St Mary's and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sue Knowles



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WOOLMER GREEN PARISH COUNCIL



The Parish Council was required to return to face-to-face meetings in May after a year of online meetings. Only 6 could meet in the Hall so members of the public could still only join remotely.

The first meeting back in the Hall was the Annual Meeting of the Council. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman were appointed and the responsibilities were allocated to councillors.

Councillor Andy Gribble *appointed Chairman*

Councillor Phil Corke *appointed Vice-Chairman*

The specific responsibilities were allocated as follows:

Councillor Andy Gribble – *Transport, Young Persons Liaison and Staffing Committee*

Councillor Phil Corke – *Planning, Community and Staffing Committee*

Councillor Tim Dix – *Grounds*

Councillor Sarah Hall – *Finance, Staffing Committee and Allotments Liaison*

Councillor Rob Horton – *Planning and Environment*

Councillor Grant Pinney – *Hall and Community*

At the end of May, the Annual Parish Meeting was held with the Parish Councillors in the Hall and members of the public and our new County Councillor Tony Kingsbury joining remotely. The Chairman updated on the limited activities that had been possible during 2020/21 and a number of questions followed on a variety of matters including the precept, the village pond and concerns about flooding.

It has been difficult to plan community events in the current circumstances but Woolmer Green did participate in the **Great British Spring Clean** on 6 June when the villagers were out in force to litter pick around the village. **Village Day** has had to be cancelled again but the Parish Council is hoping to organise a community picnic event in August.

Sarah Hall
Woolmer Green Parish Council
sarah.hall@woolmergreenpc.org.uk

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WELWYN PARISH COUNCIL



I hope you are all keeping well? As I write this article at the end of May, we have enjoyed, and are still enjoying, glorious

weather. Isn't it amazing how much better we feel when the sun shines and we can change our winter clothes for summer ones?

In May the Parish Council had the first meeting of its 2021/2022 year. I was very pleased to be elected as Chairman again and delighted that Magdalene Benson was elected Vice Chairman. Magdalene and I have worked together for the last two years and I really appreciate the support she has given me. All our committees and working groups have worked very hard over the last year in difficult circumstances and I owe all the chairmen and committee members a debt of gratitude. Zoom meetings have worked well but cannot replace face to face discussions and decision making.

Welwyn Parish Council is now using different methods to communicate with residents including social media and the Welwyn Newsletter. This means that everyone is given the opportunity to understand what we are doing to represent you all. I am really pleased about this except that it does mean I have to be careful in my articles not to give the same information that you have already read.

I hope when you read this in July the decision about the planters will have

been taken and, regardless of each individual's opinion, we will all accept the result of the consultation. My thanks to Russell Haggard for bringing the consultation to everyone's attention. We all want to keep the village looking attractive and safe for the community; how we do that can be subjective.

Another meeting of our Climate Emergency Group is scheduled for July. We have done some of the work stated in our Action Plan, but it will be so much better if we can talk to residents about our plans and listen to their opinions. My thanks to the Welwyn Sustainable Living Group who have supported us and are doing some of the work required to reach our aim. The Whitehill Wildflower Meadow comes under our Climate Emergency Group. Although it is still work in progress it is worth a visit.

The answers to questions for the Neighbourhood Plan have proved interesting and will be very useful when we are thinking about the future of the Parish. As you know Councillor Bill Morris will be sharing details of the questionnaire response with you shortly. Thank you to all who responded.

I hope you enjoy the summer. The next article I write will be for the September issue with Autumn approaching. I find it quite scary how quickly time goes. Look after yourselves and each other.

Marj Otty
Chairman, Welwyn Parish Council

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Recently we have supported patients coming into the hospital who have become homeless. This has meant helping to set them up with everything from furniture, clothing and kitchen goods. Where possible we try to use what is suitable from within the charity shop, or other charitable causes and what we cannot get for free we help to fund. This is also why your donations are so important to us.

Summer is well and truly upon us, and with COVID restrictions easing we are able to enjoy being with family and friends in the warmth of the summer sun! And that in itself must be a reason to be thankful.

On a more sombre note, we recently funded the purchase of a crab apple tree and a plaque in memory of Dr Alfa S'Adu, who worked at the Queen Victoria Memorial Hospital. He came out of retirement to help during the COVID pandemic, sadly he contracted COVID-19 and passed away. A ceremony was held at the QVM when the tree was planted. The ceremony was attended by several members of staff who had worked with Dr S'Adu. We are pleased to support this good cause, a tribute to one of the many people who died due to this terrible virus.

The shop continues to do well, and we are so thankful for your donations. We have reopened the shop on Mondays and welcome back our regular Monday customers as well as receiving donations.

As has become expected of us, our window displays have become a bit of a feature and wonder in the village, thanks to one of our very talented managers, Georgia. Back in May she did a stunning wedding display. Georgia's displays allow us to highlight some of the amazing donated items the shop receives, and it is not unusual to receive requests to save items displayed in the window from customers....so if you see something you like in our window don't wait, pop in or telephone – if you leave it till later it may be gone!

Our website (danesburyqvm.co.uk), has lots of information about who we are and what we do. You can also support us by doing some of your online shopping via Easy Fund Raising at:

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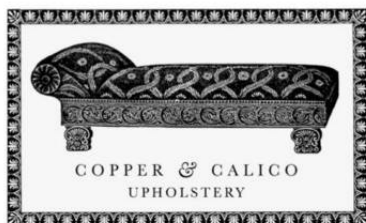
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Church Notice Board

Worship has resumed in our churches.

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use of hand sanitiser and the wearing of face coverings is mandatory, unless you are exempt.
Details about Virtual Church, which continues at 9.30 am each Sunday, can be found at:*

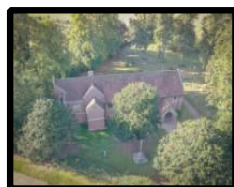
www.welwyn.org.uk

Sunday Services

	ST MARY'S - Welwyn
8.00 am	Holy Communion
9.30 am	Parish Communion / Junior Church
6.30 pm	Evensong (2nd , 4th & 5th Sundays)



	ST MICHAEL'S - Woolmer Green
11.15 am	Parish Eucharist (1st & 4th Sunday)
	Family Service (2nd Sunday)
	All Age Eucharist (3rd Sunday)
	Morning Prayer (5th Sunday)



Weekday Services

ST MARY'S - Welwyn

Current week's services are on the notice sheet
in church and on the website www.welwyn.org.uk

Tuesday	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (St Mary's)
Wednesday	9.00 am	Morning Prayer (St Mary's)
Wednesday	9.30 am	Holy Communion (St Mary's)
Saturday	9.00 am	Parish Prayers (St Mary's)

Common Worship used at all Communion Services except where stated

Children

ST MARY'S - Welwyn

3.30pm Craftea (*see Diary on back cover for dates*)

Confessions

By arrangement with the Clergy.

The Ministry of Counsel and Absolution is available to anyone
who seeks it at any time.

Clergy Surgery Hour

Saturday 10.00 am to 11.00 am

A member of the team will be available in church for any
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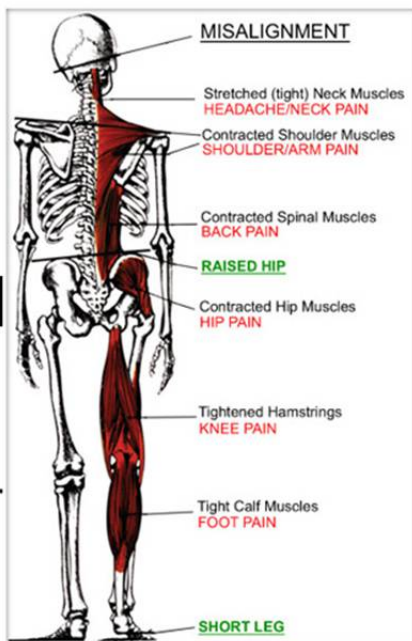
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Church Notice Board *continued from p44*

ALL SAINTS' DATCHWORTH

Sundays	09.30 am	Holy Communion
1st Sunday	09.30 am	Sacred Space
4th Sunday	11.15 am	Family Service
Thursday	17.00 pm	Evening Prayer

ST PETER'S TEWIN

Sundays	09.30 am	Holy Communion
3rd Sunday	11.15 am	Family Service
3rd Sunday	18.30 pm	Holy Communion
Monday	17.00 pm	Evening Prayer

AYOT ST PETER

1st Sunday	11.15 am	Matins: <i>(Book of Common Prayer, King James' Bible)</i>
2nd Sunday	11.15 am	Holy Communion: <i>(Book of Common Prayer, King James' Bible)</i>
3rd Sunday	11.15 am	Family Service: <i>(Common Worship, NRSV Bible)</i>
4th Sunday	11.15 am	Parish Communion: <i>(Common Worship, NRSV Bible)</i>
5th Sunday	11.15 am	Holy Communion: <i>(BCP, King James' Bible)</i>

ST GILES CODICOTE

Sundays	08.45 am	Holy Communion
1st Sunday	09.30 am	Worship 4U at Peace Memorial Hall
2nd & 4th Sun	10.30 am	Informal Worship
3rd Sunday		Informal Worship with Communion
Tuesday	08.30 am	Morning Prayer

EVANGELICAL CHURCH WELWYN

Sunday	09.45 am	Bible Classes <i>(All ages 7+)</i>
Sunday	11.00 am	<i>(facilities for young children)</i>
Sunday	18.30 pm	Ditto
Wednesday	20.00 pm	Bible Study <i>(except 3rd Wednesday)</i>

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MEDITATION

Do Animals go to Heaven?

Our dearest little cat died in March leaving us heartbroken. Lucie was so affectionate that, if she thought there was a possibility of a cuddle, she would abandon that meal or sleep in the sun and race to us, full of expectation. She never killed anything except one cabbage white butterfly after much dancing up and down. She left me wanting to find some comfort from the Bible, some hint of life after death for animals as well as us. I need to confess that making an effort to understand the Lord's mind when you are dead set on only one outcome is no way to do theology! However, bearing that in mind, here is what I found.

I looked at Isaiah Ch.11v6f where he speaks of Paradise regained, and the animals are there on God's holy mountain living peacefully together, no longer killing each other, led by a little child.

I looked at St. Paul's letter to the Romans Ch.8 v22 where he wrote of "the whole creation" groaning for restoration as well as "we ourselves." No animal excluded here I presume. It's *all* creation.

I also noted the presence in Revelation Ch.4v6f of John's vision of heaven, that there are 4 living creatures there in the throng around the throne of God who seem to be representing the animal world as well as humans. Not only that but they are leading the singing! Does that mean that animal voices are praising God too? Perhaps heavenly singing is not as mellifluous as I thought!

I started writing this as Easter approached when Jesus our Saviour gave his life for us.

The writer of Hebrews in Ch.7 says of Jesus's sacrifice "he did this once for all when he offered up himself." *Once for all!* An end to the sacrificial system at the Temple! This was brilliant news for the animals too, wasn't it? No more journeys to slaughter.

Then I remembered the confident belief of a friend of mine, now sadly dead, an animal lover like me.

*"Through midnight tears I heard her speak
My dear departed friend
When creatures die you don't suppose
That's when their lives will end?"*

*Round the back of heaven lies
A little wicket gate
Open wide to welcome in
All creatures small and great.*

*He who notes each sparrow fall
Delights for them to be
Winging their way to Paradise
Their tiny souls set free.*

*All creatures praise the Lord in heaven
Not only human souls,
With joyful roars and chirps and squeaks
The heavenly chorus rolls.*

But look!

*A little cat comes through the gate
And enters Paradise
Through fairest flowers escorted by
A cloud of butterflies!"*

Gay Carpenter