



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

www.stotfoldchurch.org.uk
Charity No: 1131275

Autumn
2021

Parish Magazine



Community Scarecrow Festival

**Weekend 18 & 19
September
10am - 5pm**

How can you get involved?

Register by emailing your name, organisation if applicable, address, telephone number and title of your scarecrow by Sunday 12 September to:

stotfoldparishchurch@gmail.com

Addresses of all our scarecrow participants will be available to view or download from 16 September on our website: stotfoldchurch.org.uk

or

Stotfold News Magazine
Facebook



Their future is really in **our** hands.

Climate Sunday on 5 September, to share church commitments and pray for bold action and courageous leadership at COP26, has been organised by Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI) with support from charities including CAFOD, Christian Aid, Tearfund, A Rocha UK, and Operation Noah.

www.climatesunday.org

Stotfold & Fairfield Parish Church Welcomes All

For current information on our services: stotfoldchurch.org.uk
To receive the Weekly Messenger email: stotfoldparishchurch@gmail.com



Dear Friends,

It is a real pleasure to write the opening letter for our September parish magazine. I have been reflecting on our shared responsibility to be good stewards of our planet. Here is part of the account of God's creation of the earth that we read in the book of Genesis: 'And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there he put the man whom he had formed. Out of the ground the Lord God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food ... The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it.'

Now, however we interpret the story of creation, the Bible makes it clear that the earth was created by God for humankind and that God wants us to use and enjoy but crucially also to care for his creation.

The UK government is hosting the world, as delegates gather in Glasgow for November's global climate conference known as COP26. On Sunday 5th September, we at St Mary's church are marking 'Climate Sunday.' The Church of England has called upon all churches to explore what the Bible tells us about care for creation, to pray and to commit to action. As I was preparing this letter for the magazine, a shower of almost Biblical proportions was pouring off our house roof onto the patio below. In July, we heard stories of the record rainfall in parts of western Europe that caused major rivers to burst their banks with the loss of over 150 lives and the destruction of countless homes and businesses. In August, 25 Algerian soldiers and 17 civilians were killed in the wildfires in Algeria amid temperatures reaching 48 degrees Celsius. Climate change increases the risk of hot, dry weather that is likely to fuel wildfires but also the warmer air can carry more water vapour leading to a greater risk of heavy rain and flooding.

In August, we also had news of a major UN scientific report which confirmed that human activity has been changing the climate in unprecedented and sometimes irreversible ways. The world has already warmed by about 1.2 degrees since the industrial era began and temperatures are set to keep rising unless governments around the world make steep cuts to emissions. The report also said that it is still not too late to act. So, what can we do? Here are a couple of things that you might like to consider. Use your voice to tell politicians that you want a cleaner, greener, fairer future by signing the Climate Coalition's 'The Time is Now' declaration at www.climatesunday.org.

St Mary's uses a green energy provider to ensure that the electricity we use in church is 100% UK-generated renewable energy. If you haven't already done so, could you also switch to a renewable energy provider?

With every blessing,

Graham

Revd Graham

Stotfold Parish Church

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



The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.



**Climate
Sunday**

Creationtide or the Season of Creation is the period in the annual church calendar, from 1st September to 4th October, dedicated to God as Creator and Sustainer of all life.

In the year leading up to the UN global climate change talks in November 2021 (COP26), the Church of England are encouraging churches to hold a special Climate Sunday service or event, to make a commitment to tackle climate change, and to raise their voices to call on world leaders to do the same.

The culmination of this campaign will be a national Climate Sunday event on Sunday 5 September 2021, to share church commitments and pray for bold action and courageous leadership at COP26.

Quote from Joni Eareckson Tada

The weaker we feel, the harder we lean on God. And the harder we lean, the stronger we grow.

A diving accident in 1967 left Joni Eareckson Tada a quadriplegic in a wheelchair. Today, she is an internationally known mouth artist, a talented vocalist, a radio host, an author of 17 books and an advocate for disabled persons worldwide.

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Day one brought heaven earth and light.

It must have been so very bright!

Day two God made the clear blue sky.

A place for many birds to fly.

Day three brought land apart from seas.

With all the plants grass and trees.

Day four shone forth moon, stars and sun.

The work of God was not yet done.

Day five we see the fish and birds.

God did all of this with just His words.

Day six God formed all beasts and man

To finish His creation plan.

Day seven was especially blessed,

A day for worship and for rest.



ENVIRONMENT



World Wide Fund for Nature celebrates 60 years

The World Wildlife Fund (now the World Wide Fund for Nature) was founded 60 years ago in Switzerland, on 11th September 1961. It is now believed to be the world's largest conservation group, working in wilderness preservation, and reducing human impact on the environment.

A group of distinguished scientists, conservationists and businessmen, including Sir Peter Scott and Sir Julian Huxley, put the organisation together and chose its original name and the famous panda logo. It changed its name to the World Wide Fund for Nature in the UK and several other countries in 1989, but it still uses the initials WWF all over the world in advertising campaigns.

The late Prince Philip has been President of both the UK and international branches, and he was concerned particularly with encouraging faith communities to involve themselves in the environment. This led to a major conference in Italy in 1986, resulting in huge global publicity and tens of thousands of faith-led environmental initiatives around the world.

Although there has been criticism centring on the placing of environmental issues above human rights in some areas, the WWF now has more than five million supporters worldwide, working in more than 100 countries and supporting around 3,000 projects.

www.wwf.org.uk

Tuesday - Saturday 10am to 3pm (9am Fridays)

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Thomas Traherne

English poet, Anglican cleric, theologian & religious writer

Thomas Traherne (1636 – 1674) is a good saint for anyone who loves our planet, and who wants to preserve creation and is commemorated by the Anglican Communion on the 10th October. This 17th century poet and clergyman wrote extensively about his love for nature, seeing in it a reflection of the glory of God.

Traherne was not of a literary family, for his father was either a shoemaker or innkeeper in Hereford. His birth and baptism were not recorded in the parish registers and therefore he was about five when the Civil War came to the city.

He did well at the Hereford Cathedral School and went on to Brasenose College Oxford, one of the most puritan colleges, gaining his BA in 1656. But he could find no one who would teach him felicity – happiness, which he wrote of as ‘the mistress of all other sciences’. And so he returned to Hereford and became rector of Credenhill near Hereford in 1657, and ten years later was appointed to be the private chaplain to Sir Orlando Bridgeman, the Lord Keeper of the Great Seal to King Charles II, who lived at Teddington.

Throughout his years at Credenhill and then Teddington, he led a simple and devout life, and his friendliness drew people to him. He was described as “one of the most pious ingenious men that ever I was acquainted with”, and being of “cheerful and sprightly Temper”, ready to do “all good Offices to his Friends, and Charitable to the Poor almost beyond his ability”. Aside from his beloved books, he seems to have possessed very little.

Instead, he poured his energy into his writings, which had an intense, mystical, metaphysical spirituality. His poems and prose frequently mention the glory of Creation, and his intimate relationship with God, for whom he had an ardent, childlike love. Traherne has been compared to later poets such as William Blake, Walt Whitman and Gerard Manley Hopkins, and his love for nature has been seen as very similar to the Romantic movement, though he lived two centuries earlier.

He is best known for his *Centuries of Meditations*, which has been described as “one of the finest prose-poems in our language.” Lost for many years, and then finally first published in 1908, it was a favourite of the Trappist monk Thomas Merton, the Christian humanist Dorothy Sayers, and the writer C.S. Lewis, among others. C.S. Lewis considered *Centuries of Meditations* “almost the most beautiful book in English.”

Traherne died in 1674, and is buried in St Mary’s Teddington, under the church’s reading desk. Today he is counted as one of the leading 17th-century devotional poets.

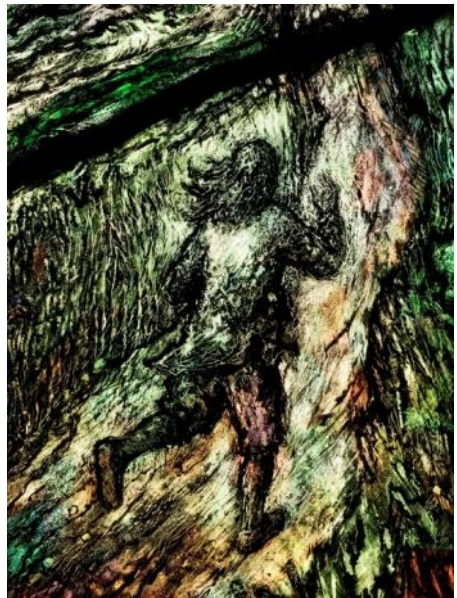
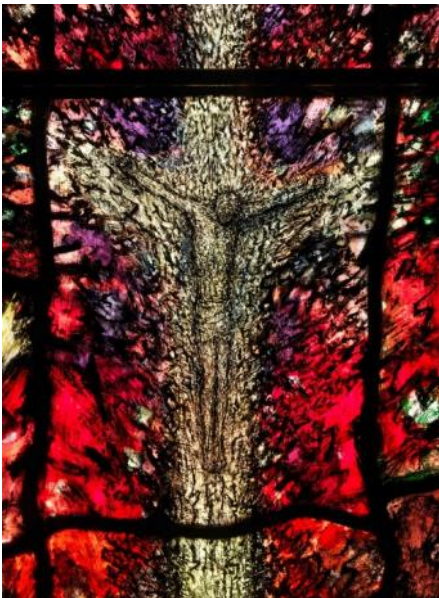


St Mary's Church Credenhill

"Is it not easy to conceive the World in your Mind? To think the Heavens fair? The Sun Glorious? The Earth fruitful? The Air Pleasant? The Sea Profitable? And the Giver bountiful? Yet these are the things which it is difficult to retain. For could we always be sensible of their use and value, we should be always delighted with their wealth and glory."

~ Thomas Traherne

Hereford Cathedral, The Thomas Traherne Windows



Sections from the Thomas Traherne Windows

Installed in 2007 in the Audley chapel at Hereford Cathedral were a pair of windows the subject being the writings of Thomas Traherne and his association with Herefordshire. "This visible world is wonderfully to be delighted in, and highly to be esteemed, because it is the theatre of God's righteous Kingdom." ~ *Thomas Traherne*

The windows were made by Thomas Denny who is a stained glass artist and painter.

Thomas Denny - Stained glass artist and painter

Thomas Denny was educated at Edinburgh College of Art in the 1970's and in the 80's and 90's he exhibited his paintings in London and New York. However, latterly Denny has concentrated on stained-glass and has now made some fifty windows for churches and cathedrals, almost entirely in England but with a few projects in Germany and Scotland. Recent commissions include the Transfiguration Window in Durham Cathedral and also at Leicester Cathedral is a pair of windows installed with the re-interment of King Richard III entitled the Redemption Windows. Here at Leicester, stories that emerge from an individual life are intended to become stories for all of us: loss, courage and redemption. There are other commissions found in extraordinary buildings all over the country including Gloucester Cathedral, Tewkesbury Abbey and Malvern Priory.

On his website Thomas Denny states 'Most of my windows are in churches, and their themes are scriptural. Several new projects, however, have also been celebrations or commemorations of remarkable people, incorporating their relationship with a particular place and landscape.'

All of his windows are made with materials and techniques largely the same as those used in 14th century stained glass, with the addition of much acid etching of flashed glass, a technique that developed in the 19th century. This helps, he believes, to incorporate them in their settings; treatment of imagery can be very different, but colour, texture and the intransigence of lead and glass all make connections with what is already there, whether it is other stained glass, or the forms and surfaces of surrounding architecture and artifacts. Stained glass must be interesting and beautiful in its own right, but it must always acknowledge its context.

www.thomasdenny.co.uk

Smile Lines

Whenever I try to eat healthy a chocolate bar looks at me and snickers.

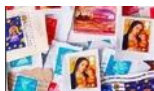
Nothing tops a plain pizza!

Water is heavier than butane because butane is a lighter fluid.

Used UK & Foreign Stamps

We are now supporting MND, a charity supported by Keryle Rutherford and family in memory of Iain. The MND Association is a charity focused on improving access to care, research and campaigning for people affected by motor neurone disease.

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Should you already donate to a charity and wish to change to ourselves just click the charity you currently support on your header and click change charity. Unfortunately, we have a very long charity name 'The Parochial Church Council of The Ecclesiastical Parish Of St. Mary The Virgin, Stotfold' and so the easiest way to find us is to search Stotfold and we come up as one of the options.

To support us in future you just need to remember to go to smile.amazon.co.uk whenever you wish to place an order, or why not bookmark this as Amazon Smile which then makes it all so simple.

Domestic Abuse can happen to anyone, at any age and in any type of relationship. One area that is not often discussed is Child or Adolescent to Parent Abuse (CAPA). CAPA is not a one-off issue; it's a pattern of behaviour that makes a parent or carer scared of returning home and can include verbal, physical, economic, or even sexual abuse. For some, it makes the home a place of fear.

Victims can include parents, carers, stepparents or grandparents who might feel judged or fearful of seeking help or reporting the abuse to the police.

One in ten families are impacted by this kind of abuse, with parents worrying about being judged as a 'bad' parent by seeking support.

An organisation called CAPA UK First Response supports families who are affected by this kind of abuse. If you would like to speak to someone who understands the issues relating to child and adolescent to parent abuse, CAPA UK First Response offers free 20-minute one-to-one support and advice sessions every Friday afternoon.

To book, email info@capafirstresponse.org or find out more on their website. Support is also available from the National Domestic Abuse Helpline on 0808 2000 247. Or visit the Bedfordshire Domestic Abuse Partnership's website for local/national support services that can help you.

IN CASE YOU ARE STRUGGLING AND NEED A LISTENING EAR:

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Anxiety UK: 03444 775 774

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

Mind: 0300 123 3393

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


Child-line: 0800 11 11

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




Do you have any old pairs of glasses lurking in drawers or other hideaways?

There is a box in the north aisle for any unwanted spectacles so that we can send them to Zimbabwe


 The Debbie Hudson
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 - Malcolm X

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Quote by Bishop David Atkinson, Bishop of Thetford in Norwich Diocese (2001-2009) and former Operation Noah trustee. Author of *Renewing the Face of the Earth*.

'Our Christian story is not about "the acquisitive society" but rather about a cooperative society and the common good, which implies an approach to economics based not on the assumption of individual self-interest, but on living within God-given limits, on shared human values and the welfare of all God's creation.'

St Mary's Church Hall

Hall dimensions are:
 15.5m x 6.4m (51'x21') and the ceiling just over 3m high accommodates a bouncy castle.

Booking Secretary:
 Maureen Winters
 07727 688877
 or email:
stotfoldparishchurchhall@gmail.com



We are pleased Sunday School resumes 10am - 12 September

We are looking forward to meeting you all again in our church hall.

Flying bishop

The new Bishop wanted a bird's eye view of his new diocese, so he had an idea. He rang his local airfield to charter a flight, and was told that a twin-engine plane would be waiting for him. Arriving at the airfield, the bishop spotted a plane warming up outside a hangar. He jumped in, slammed the door shut, and shouted, "Let's go!"

At once the pilot taxied out, swung the plane into the wind and took off. Once in the air, the bishop spent several minutes enjoying the views, and looking for local landmarks. Finally, he instructed the pilot, "Fly down the valley now and make low passes so I can take pictures of some of the best of the old parish churches."

"Why?" asked the pilot.

"Because I'm the new bishop," he replied happily, adjusting his camera, "and I want some good aerial views of my diocese."

The pilot was silent for a moment. Finally he stammered, "So, what you're telling me, is, you're NOT my flight instructor?"

Smile Line

Why is it that everyone can remember their childhood phone number, but can't remember the password they set up yesterday?



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God in the Sciences

Exploring the Big Questions: scientists and theologians share their views

It's important to have debates about science and Christian faith and to dig into the hot topics, but we can't exist solely on a diet of controversy. I find it helpful, at times, to simply enjoy the wonders revealed by science and the big questions they raise about meaning and purpose. What's the universe for? What do you do with your feelings of awe and wonder? Where do we get our sense of the value of the living world from? I had the privilege of meeting a group of Christian scientists and theologians who shared thoughts about these big questions, and will share some of their thoughts here.

The Oxford-based theologian Alister McGrath shared that "science is wonderful at asking questions. Some of those questions can be answered, but very often when you do answer them, they simply open up yet more questions. But of course, there are some more fundamental questions I think science simply cannot answer...questions like, "Why am I here?"

Rhoda Hawkins, a physicist at Sheffield University, has had a similar experience. "I never cease to be amazed at quite how impressive the world is, and how impressive the mechanisms are for how things work...It really is beautiful in many ways, and it leads me to think about God. I'm not saying that I have any proof, but I'm saying that by looking at the world around me it tells me more about God and it leads me to worship Him."

Another scientist who appreciates beauty is Jeff Hardin, who explained that "studying the wonders of the living world is an exercise in art appreciation. For me, God is the creator of everything... so the joy of discovery is also the joy of appreciating the world that God has made...and leads me to thank God for the amazing world that we have to enjoy and to explore."

I will close with some words from Jeff Schloss, who – like the others quoted – finds that Christian faith makes science more satisfying for him. “Once I became a Christian...I had the sense that I was studying the marvels of the natural world, which are marvellous in their own right but become more profoundly engaging and enticing when one thinks that you’re studying the works of God.” Perhaps if we can spend more time listening to people like this, our discussions about science and faith will also be richer and deeper.

Dr Ruth M Bancewicz is Church Engagement Director at The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge

Quotes from videos on www.wondersofthelivingworld.org

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

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

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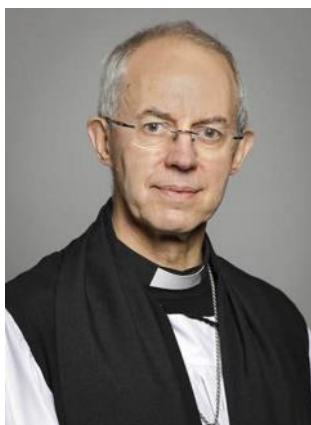
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BEDS & HERTS Historic Churches Trust

From their website bedshertshct.org.uk "We are grateful that our AGM was able to take place, face to face at St Mary's Church, Stotfold where we received a very warm welcome. Chairman Malcolm Grant spoke about the work that Trustees have done in the past year approving grants, and outlined some of the challenges facing churches in the coming year. Despite the impact of Covid, the Trust's work continued and it has been a successful year.



Everyone present was delighted to hear of the success of Bike 'n Hike, with last year's record breaking fundraising of £112,000. Trustees awarded over £160,000 in grants to churches and chapels despite the impact of covid restrictions. The Endowment Campaign Board generated £11,300 from its summer auction.

Although events such as tours and talks have been put on hold, they are all planned and ready to go as soon as it is considered safe to do so. We can't wait, so look out for news.



We were very pleased to welcome the Bishop of Bedford who spoke about the key role that church buildings play in the life of their communities.

Although we were unable to have our usual refreshments, church tour and evensong, people were able to catch-up with others in a safe way in the churchyard and Theresa Britt gave an excellent verbal guide to the special historical features of St Mary's."

There are posters in church regarding this year's sponsored Bike 'n' Hike which is taking place on Saturday 11th September. If you are interested in taking part, whether individually or as part of our group, please contact Jane Hyde on 730305.

Half of every cyclist's and walker's sponsor money goes to the Trust and half goes to the church of their choice.

**Your Parish Church is Open Every Day
for a time of quiet or personal prayer
or reflection or to light a candle.**

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

Mon - Sat: 9.30am to 4.30pm

WORSHIP SERVICES

Mon - Sat 9am: Morning Prayer

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

Wed 9.45am: Holy Communion

Sunday Services

9am: Morning Prayer

10am: Parish Communion

1st/3rd Sunday 4pm: Tea Time Praise

A family friendly service for toddlers, young children, parents and carers.

Email: stotfoldparishchurch@gmail.com
to receive our Weekly Messenger and be kept informed of updates and our community events as they restart or check our website: stotfoldchurch.org.uk

Men's Big Breakfast Last Saturday of the month 9am The Wilbury

If you would like to join us for breakfast and an informal chat please contact Roger Billson on 730103 as we currently need to book multiple tables.

FRIENDSHIP LUNCH

As we seem to be getting back to some sort of normal, we thought that we would hold a Christmas Friendship Lunch at The Stag, on a date yet to be advised, and then next year resume the monthly lunches on a day to be decided.

If you are interested in either the Christmas Lunch or joining us next year then please contact Carolyn Bleach on carolyn.bleach@sky.com or 733981. There is an answerphone so please leave your name and number so Carolyn can call you back.

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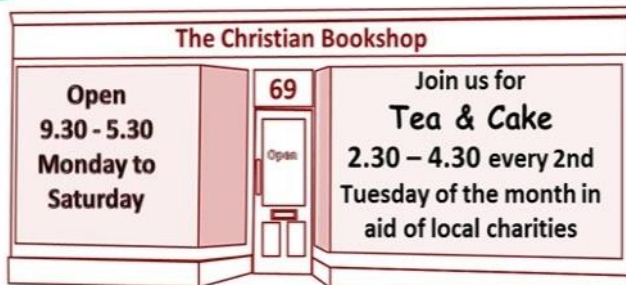
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Smile Line

The sentence, 'Are you as bored as I am?', can be read backwards and still make sense.

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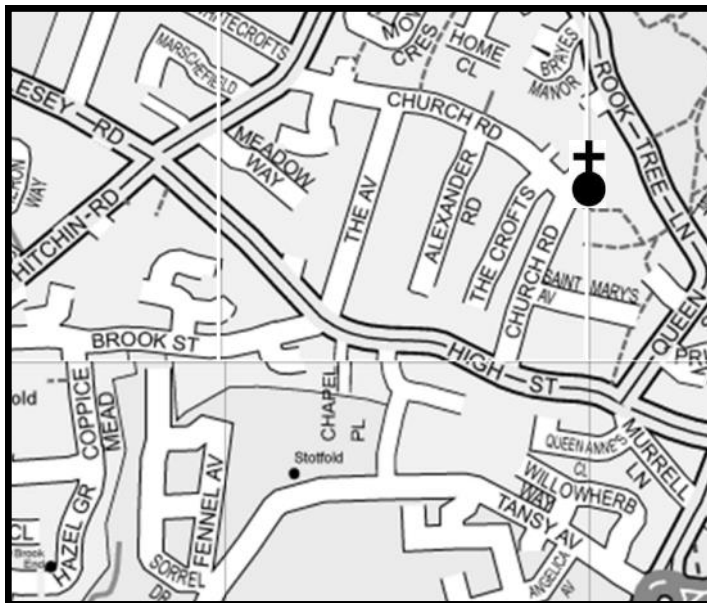
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St Mary's Church

Church Road Stotfold SG5 4NE



www.stotfoldchurch.org.uk

RECTOR:

Revd Bill Britt	01462 730218	revd.bill.britt@gmail.com
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CURATE:

Revd Graham Clark	01462 625270	graham.clark20@ntlworld.com
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