



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

www.stotfoldchurch.org.uk
Charity No: 1131275

Summer
2023

Parish Magazine



Thank you to everyone who has so far registered to use 'easyfundraising', a free fundraising platform that allows us to earn money when you shop online. Visit <http://efraising.org/IyGmgIrbYD> or scan the QR code. It only takes 2 minutes to register with just your email address.

easyfundraising works with over 7,500 online retailers including Tesco, eBay, John Lewis, Sports Direct, M&S, Boots, Amazon and Screwfix to name a few. Please do support us.

TOUR DE STOTFOLD!

This year we are planning a new community event for the weekend of 24/25 June.

The idea is that members of the community create a trail of decorated bikes, part bikes or anything bike themed around Stotfold with entries displayed in gardens or other social spaces.

For further information and to register your interest phone Maureen on 07727 688877 or maureen.winters5@gmail.com



Stotfold & Fairfield Parish Church Welcomes All

Your Parish Church is Open Every Day for:

a time of quiet, personal prayer, reflection or to light a candle.
There is also a Prayer Box where you can ask the vicar to pray for a person or situation at our daily services.

Mon - Sat: 9.30am to 4.30pm

To receive the Weekly Messenger email: stotfoldparishchurch@gmail.com



Our theme for this summer edition of St Mary's Parish Magazine is pilgrimage.

It's also the subject of my three-month Extended Study Leave, (which comes every 10 years and used to be called a sabbatical) and falls in June, July and August of this year. Along with time out for spiritual refreshment and holiday, I will be studying the theology of place and pilgrimage.

I also plan to link several churches in northwest Hertfordshire with a pilgrimage trail, accompanied by a booklet of prayers tied to the landscape.

I've set up one pilgrimage trail already. You may remember that last September a crowd of us took part in a Chalk River Pilgrimage from Ivel Springs in Baldock to Radwell. It was hosted by All Saints Church in Radwell and the RevIvel Association, a group formed in 2019 to protect the River Ivel from excessive abstraction.

If you missed the walk, you can download a map, and a set of directions with special prayers to say at six stations along the riverbed for the revival of this rare chalk stream, one of only 250 in the world. Here's the link: <https://radwellchurch.org.uk/index.php/map-and-instructions-for-own-chalk-river-pilgrimage/>

We are planning to do the walk again this year on Sunday 10 September, followed by a short service at All Saints, Radwell. Do mark your diary and plan to join us.

Even closer to home, a brand new Stotfold to Radwell Circular Pilgrimage has just been written. The pilgrimage booklet not only includes a map, it has short reflections on local points of interest and special prayers and poems linked to the landscape. More information about this can be found on page 11. A group of us will inaugurate this Circular Pilgrimage on Bank Holiday Monday, 29 May, starting from St Mary's Church at 10.30am. Do join us for the pilgrimage if you are able.

Of course not everyone is physically able to walk several miles, so we are also making available a booklet I wrote in 2018 on pilgrimage called: "A Wilderness Journey Through Your Home." More details about this and how to get a copy can be found on page 12.

Theresa and I are excited about the pilgrimages we will be making this summer and look forward to seeing you in September.

Bill

Discover Bell Ringing

The ancient art enjoyed by thousands of people today



At our Coronation Celebrations we had two very successful ringing talk/demonstrations on the ringing platform.

We had more people who wished to join in but not enough time and so if we can get a group of interested people together we will do this again later in the year. Please email stotfoldparishchurch@gmail.com to show your interest and we will keep your name on file for when we have more information.

We have eight bells fitted in a metal frame.

Bell	Cast	Inscription	Dia. Inches	Weight cwt,qtrs,lbs	Note
Treble	1976	Given by ringers and friends of St Mary's and ringers from the district	23.5	2-3-16	G
No 2	1976	Given by Enid and Roy Webb for the joy from ringing	24.5	3-0-6	F #
No 3	1948	Saint Mary pray for us	26	3-2-24	E
No 4	1948	Memo Mortalium Omnibus Horis Sapit Thanks for Peace	28	4-1-23	D
No 5	1948	In memory of Stotfold men who gave their lives 1939-45 and of Charles John Penrice Vicar 1923-1929	30.5	5-2-16	C
No 6	Recast 1948	Thomas Russell of Wootton made me	32	5-2-22	B
No 7	1484	Sancte Patra Ora Pro Nobis	36.25	8-1-6	A
No 8	Recast 1948	Miles Graie made me 1615 recast John Taylor Loughborough 1948	39	11-0-2	G

The bells are rung most Sunday mornings at 10am and also for weddings and special occasions with bell practice on Thursdays at 7.30pm - 9pm. Anyone willing to learn bell ringing will be made very welcome so if you are interested in joining our team please contact our Tower Captain Richard Castledine on 01462 629075.

Reflections on the Camino



The many ridges of a scallop shell draw towards a single point. This is one reason given for its use as a symbol of pilgrimage, and specifically for the medieval pilgrim route that draws people from across Europe to the tomb of St James the Apostle at Santiago de Compostela in Galicia, northwest Spain. Another explanation is that the scallop shell could be used to beg for alms, or as a drinking vessel, by those on the journey. Whatever the origin, the scallop shell can be seen across Galicia, which is saturated with legends related to the pilgrimage, known simply as the Camino – the Way. Many of these stories are hard to take at face value, even for the most earnest of believers. At its heart is the story that the body of St James, who had preached to the people of Spain before his martyrdom in Jerusalem, was carried in a boat to the Galician coast and was then borne inland to the location of the present cathedral. Another legend recounts how the living apostle was visited by the Virgin Mary, who similarly arrived miraculously from out of the Atlantic on a boat made of stone.

The cult of St James became a central part of the narrative of the Reconquista, the series of sporadic conflicts between the Christian north of Spain and the Muslim rulers to the south, with St James appearing to ride to battle alongside the Spaniards and earning the name Santiago Matamoros – St James Moor Killer. Personally, I'm not sure whether decapitating anyone really is that saintly, but then again England's patron saint is very much cast in the same mould.

The factual truth of the saint's intervention is eclipsed by the spiritual value of the pilgrimage itself. The route has been hallowed by centuries of devotion, prayer, and hospitality. The Camino is now as much a modern cultural phenomenon as it is religious, attracting pilgrims of all creeds and none, drawn to the deep spiritual heritage that it offers those who would take up the challenge.

The late Pope Benedict XVI said: "It is a way sown with so many demonstrations of fervour, repentance, hospitality, art and culture which speak to us eloquently of the spiritual roots of the Old Continent."

The Camino starts wherever you happen to be, but the most famous route is the French Way from the Spanish French border in the Pyrenees and passes across plains and mountains before arriving at Santiago. This normally takes around a month.

Galicia prides itself on its Celtic heritage and pilgrims arrive in Santiago to the sound of bagpipes – its green hills and craggy coast feel uncannily like Cornwall, Wales or the West of Ireland. In the UK we are fortunate to have similar places where the landscape and spiritual heritage have drawn pilgrims over the centuries, most with legends no less remarkable than that of St James. Any visitor to Glastonbury knows its otherworldliness is as much to do with its imposing tor and weird and wonderful visitors, as to the veracity of its Christian, Arthurian or pagan legends.



From Santiago, some pilgrims carry on for a day or so to reach Land's End – Fisterra – where was considered the end of the world in ancient times, and from where the souls of the dead followed the setting sun out of this world and into the next. The rays of the scallop shell are many, but they all ultimately lead to the same place.

With spring finally here, and summer around the corner, there's no better time to set off on our Camino, even if, for now, we get no further than Hertfordshire.

Paddy Harris

Stotfold Parish Church

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



The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it



P is for Pilgrim

How many of us are pilgrims on a journey who are seeking spiritual fulfilment, enlightenment or guidance?

As you ponder this thought how many words of **4 letters or more that start with the letter P** can you make from the following phrase?

TO BE A PILGRIM

Each letter to be used only once. UK spellings only. No proper nouns. Over 50 words? Email stotfoldparishchurch@gmail.com with your answers. There is no prize - just the joy of taking part!

At the  of our community

Stotfold
NEWS
Magazine

Delivered FREE to every home in Stotfold www.stotfoldandarleseynews.co.uk

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



Contact:
Ann Scarr - 01462 834844

Smile Line

The Blessing

It was the five-year-old boy's first trip down to the Communion rail at church. Fascinated, he watched the vicar place a wafer in the palm of each person kneeling before him. When the vicar reached the little boy, he ignored the child's outstretched palm, and laid his hand on the child's head in a gentle blessing instead. The boy, utterly bewildered, whispered to his father in a piercing voice; "He's put it on *my head!*"

**The letter below is from the Rev'd Pete Farquhar,
written in February by the curate of two churches in Luton.**

The Curate's Letter:

This is God's house so can we have a postal address?

During the ongoing adventures of arranging an internet connection for the Church Premises, I have been informed that our Church of St Augustine (and up until recently also Holy Trinity) is classed as a "Non-Served Premises" location. This means a premises which is not for normal business or dwelling purposes and would not normally be "manned". It therefore cannot have a postal address. Whilst drafting my response to have this classification overturned, I considered making a cheeky comment to Royal Mail about how our church is God's dwelling place. Therefore (depending on your eucharistic theology) our aumbry light somewhat contradicts the church being a building that is not normally "manned"! As we approach Lent, which starts in a few weeks' time, we can reflect on God's loving presence being with us wherever we go. Also, that God's loving presence does not only reside at the newly registered address of either Holy Trinity or St Augustine's churches.

Rev'd Pete Farquhar

www.staugustinewithholyltrinity.co.uk

The Aumbry

In Anglican churches, an aumbry is a recessed niche in the wall that is used to store consecrated bread or wafers which is called the reserved sacrament and is used for home communion.

In addition to this, it may also be used to store other sacred objects such as the chrism oil used for anointing during baptism and confirmation.

The light is kept burning as a symbol of the presence of Christ in this reserved sacrament which is stored in the aumbry.

Here at St Mary's Church the aumbry is located by the side of the altar in the south aisle. It has a lockable door and it is covered by a white embroidered curtain and there is the light above.



How smart is your right foot?

Next time you get bored at your desk or sitting anywhere, although not in public sight, just try this. It was discovered by an orthopaedic surgeon, and will prove that your right foot isn't as smart as you thought it was.

- While sitting, lift your right foot off the floor and make clockwise circles.
- Now, while doing this, draw the number '6' in the air with your right hand.

Your foot will change direction. Told you so! There seems to be nothing you can do about it. It's silly, trivial... but chances are, you'll attempt it again in a minute or two!



Observations on our Christian pilgrimage...

- When we take least notice of our good deeds ourselves, God takes most notice of them. – *Matthew Henry*
- *George Muller* said that the most important part of prayer was the 15 minutes after he had said 'Amen'.



THE SECRET WARDROBE
Beautiful Fashion Accessories
Luxurious Soaps & Hand Creams
Stunning Greeting Cards
Unique Gifts



No 1 The Wynd
Letchworth Garden City SG6 3EN
Tel: 07921 869771
judyshiach@gmail.com

Holy Day: 9th June - Columba of Iona, missionary to the UK

Here is a prayer of St Columba:

*Christ With Us
My dearest Lord,
Be Thou a bright flame before me,
Be Thou a guiding star above me,
Be Thou a smooth path beneath me,
Be Thou a kindly shepherd behind me,
Today and evermore.*



In 563 AD St Columba sailed from Ireland to Iona – a tiny island off Mull, in the Western Highlands. He brought Christianity with him.

Columba (c. 521 -97) was born in Donegal of the royal Ui Neill clan, and he trained as a monk. He founded the monasteries of Derry (546), Durrow (c.556) and probably Kells. But in 565 Columba left Ireland with twelve companions for Iona, an island off southwest Scotland. Iona had been given to him for a monastery by the ruler of the Irish Dalriada.

Why would a monk in his mid-40s go into such voluntary exile? Various explanations include: voluntary exile for Christ, an attempt to help overseas compatriots in their struggle for survival, or even as some sort of punishment for his part in a row over a psalter in Ireland. Whatever the reason, Columba went to Iona and spent the rest of his life in Scotland, returning to Ireland only for occasional visits.

Columba's biographer, Adomnan, portrays him as a tall, striking figure of powerful build and impressive presence, who combined the skills of scholar, poet and ruler with a fearless commitment to God's cause. Able, ardent, and sometimes harsh, Columba seems to have mellowed with age.

As well as building his monastery on Iona, Columba also converted Brude, king of the Picts. Columba had great skill as a scribe, and an example of this can be seen in the Cathach of Columba, a late 6th century psalter in the Irish Academy, which is the oldest surviving example of Irish majuscule writing. In his later years Columba spent much time transcribing books.

Columba's death was apparently foreseen by his community, and even, it seems, sensed by his favourite horse. He died in the church just before Matins, and it is a tribute to this man that his traditions were upheld by his followers for about a century, not least in the Synod of Whitby and in Irish monasteries on the continent of Europe.



25 Marigold Way
Stotfold
SG5 4HQ

- ◆ **Complete Bathroom Installations**
- ◆ **Shower Installations**
- ◆ **Boiler & Gas Cooker Installations & Servicing**
- ◆ **Underfloor Heating & Heating Upgrades**
- ◆ **All Plumbing & Heating Installations**
- ◆ **Power Flushing**
- ◆ **Small Jobs Welcome**

Andy Martini

Tel: 01462 835617 Mob: 07950 311963
almplumbing17@gmail.com
www.almplumbingandheating.co.uk



REGISTER
208308

Smile Line: I have this son...

One day a Jewish man named Leo heard from his son attending university: "I've decided to become a Christian, Dad."

Leo panicked. The only thing he could think to do was call his rabbi.

"Funny you should come to me with this problem, Leo," says the rabbi. "Not two years ago my son came to me with the same speech. I had no idea what to do. I panicked, and the only thing I could think to do was go to God."

"What message did you get from God?" asked Leo.

The rabbi laughed. "God said to me, funny you should come to me with this problem ..."

Friends of St Mary's Church

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

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

Stotfold - Radwell Circular Pilgrimage

This pilgrimage should take an able-bodied person just over an hour-and-a-half to complete, depending on whether they read this guide word-for-word at each stopping point, in which case it might take considerably longer, or just snippets.

The walk starts and finishes at St Mary the Virgin church in Stotfold (61 Church Rd, SG5 4NE), where ample parking can be found in the carpark, or next door at the Roecroft Centre, and there are toilet facilities.

Printed copies of the guide are available on the shelf by the north door or can be downloaded from either our website (see QR code) or our facebook page: [Stotfold Parish Church | Facebook](#)



Whether you are travelling on this pilgrimage independently or with us walking together in fellowship on the inaugural walk on Bank Holiday Monday 29th May at 10.30am we are pleased you are using these resources.

Whatever the reason for you, your family or friends joining us on this pilgrimage perhaps start at St Mary's by lighting a candle on the votive candle stand - if all goes to plan it should still be burning on your return.

I don't know how to pray.

I can't find the words.

I carry in my heart

so many emotions:

joy and sorrow, hope and despair,
heartache and wonder, anger and love.

I carry in my heart

so many people:

those I love most deeply in this world,
family and friends, neighbours and colleagues,
even strangers in distant lands.

But I don't know how to pray,
and I can't find the words.

So I'm lighting this candle as a silent prayer.

Lord, would you listen to my heart?



**We look forward to seeing you all as we walk together
in fellowship on Bank Holiday Monday 29th May at 10.30am
for our inaugural Stotfold - Radwell Circular Pilgrimage
starting at St Mary's Stotfold.**

Excerpt from 'A Wilderness Journey through your Home'

Continuing our theme of Pilgrimage, in 2018 Revd Bill produced a booklet entitled 'A Wilderness Journey through your Home' which was adapted from Sally Welch's book "Every Place is Holy Ground." If you would like a complete copy of the booklet please email stotfoldparishchurch@gmail.com and we will gladly email a copy to you.

Place: Front Door

Read: Genesis 28.10-18

Jacob left Beer-sheba and went towards Haran. He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And the Lord stood beside him and said, 'I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.' Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, 'Surely the Lord is in this place—and I did not know it!' And he was afraid, and said, 'How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.' So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it.

Action:

Look around the area outside your front door and find a stone. Pick it up and look closely at it. Sometimes our hearts can be cold to others, while other times we are kind and caring. As you hold the stone in your hands, remember God's loving-kindness to all people. As the stone gradually becomes warmer, allow God to melt the cold hard places in your heart. Place your stone at the corner of the front door of your home as a reminder that the Lord is in this place.

Prayer

Lord God, just as you created Adam and Eve by your life-giving breath, fill me again with your spirit.

Help me to feel alive to the world and to you, rejoicing in my place in your creation, ready to explore it further.

Loving God, fill my heart with the knowledge of your love and my mind with an awareness of your presence.

Help me to remember in the journey ahead that I am a container for your grace and as such that I am precious in your sight.





We help all girls know they can do anything

Volunteer with Girlguiding

It's totally flexible and there's no commitment too small. You can volunteer in a group or use your skills behind the scenes, you don't need any guiding experience and everyone is welcome!

Find out more
Girlguiding.org.uk/volunteer

Charity No: 274225

Regency Flowers

**47A High Street
Stotfold**

**For a truly personal touch
telephone us on**

01462 732616

The Deeble Hudson
Cancer Wellness Support Group

Supporting all through a personal cancer journey

"When "I" is replaced with "we" even illness becomes wellness."

- Malcolm X

Your own personal journey through diagnosis treatment & beyond

Our vision is to create a warm and welcoming environment for all to come along, gain support, valuable information and the tools and techniques to gain positivity.

Contact us for more details:
 Anna Davies: 07968 014720
 Clare Teale: 07776 481481

Cancer Wellness

Kmec

electrical services ltd

Domestic • Commercial • Industrial

Offering

- New Installations
- Fault Finding
- Test & Inspection
- Outside Electrics
- Energy Saving Solutions
- Certificates Issued By Requirement

Work completed by a friendly & reliable
 Apprentice Trained & Approved Electrician

All Enquiries Welcome

07837 866922

kentonsmoore@hotmail.co.uk



A Summer Soirée

Sunday 16 July 6pm St Mary's Church, Stotfold

Tickets: £10 Contact: djwwoods1995@gmail.com

IN CASE YOU ARE STRUGGLING AND NEED A LISTENING EAR:

The Samaritans: 116 123

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

Anxiety UK: 03444 775 774

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

Mind: 0300 123 3393

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

Refuge's National Domestic Abuse Helpline: 0808 2000 247

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

Child-line: 0800 11 11

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

Human Trafficking: one of the greatest violations of human dignity

If you suspect an instance of trafficking in your area you can contact:

The Police (101 or 999 if someone is in immediate danger)

National Modern Slavery Helpline 0800 0121 700 /

Crimestoppers 0800 555 111

Do not confront a suspected trafficker or victim of trafficking.



St Mary's Church Hall

Hall dimensions are:

15.5m x 6.4m (51'x21')

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

Kitchen facilities

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

UK Foodbanks Busier than Ever!

More food parcels were given out in the UK this past year than ever before. During December 2022, an emergency food parcel was handed out the equivalent of every eight seconds. These are the most recent figures from the Trussell Trust, which supports more than 1300 foodbanks in the UK.

In all, the charity says it gave out nearly three million food parcels between April 2022 and April 2023. More than one million of these were for children.

These three million parcels from the charity's foodbanks represent a 37-per-cent increase in England on 2021. And more than 760,000 people used a foodbank for the first time, which is up more than one third in 2021-22.

Soaring inflation and energy costs have driven the increase in demand. The charity reports an unprecedented rise in the number of employed people using their foodbanks, because they are "no longer able to balance a low income against rising living costs."

The problem now, says the trust, is that food donation levels are not keeping up with the need. "This is putting us under a lot of strain."



The Need Project

All donations for The Need Project which are left with us at St Mary's are delivered to them weekly and we are always thanked for what has been given by our church family

Should you wish to donate and are not sure what is best to give they are always short of fruit juice (long life please) and bottles of fruit squash. Toiletries are always also gratefully received.

35 Brook Street Stotfold SG5 4LA
01462 731098
www.thestagpubstotfold.co.uk



Serving traditional pub food all week exc. lunchtime Monday
showing all live Sky & BT Sports matches,
Quiz Night every Sunday.

Crafting sessions Monday 8-10pm & Wednesday morning 10-12
Open for breakfast Sat & Sun 10am to 12 noon

Entrance to the
rear of The Stag



Sixpence's place

Mon + Wed + Fri 9-12

A place to catch up with friends, chill with
your little ones or 4 legged varieties.

Teas, coffees, cakes, sandwiches and
freshly cooked food. Full English £5.50
Sky TV and kids colouring available.

Follow sixpencesplace on facebook



To us, it's not just another funeral. We care for your loved ones as
though they were our own.

NEVILLE. Because there is a difference.

HITCHIN

96 Walsworth Road SG4 9SU

t: 01462 444910

e: hitchin@nevillefuneralservice.com

SHEFFORD

24 Clifton Road SG17 5AE

t: 01462 813258

e: shefford@nevillefuneralservice.com



www.nevillefuneralservice.com

As your Parish Church we are grateful for every donation.



Donate by Debit or Credit Card
at www.tinyurl.com/StMarysDonate
or scan the QR code



There is also a 'donate' button on our website
www.stotfoldchurch.org.uk

**Your support helps make our ongoing work possible:
thank you so much for sharing in this ministry with us.**

For those who prefer not to use online processes for banking
and would like to make a donation
to Stotfold Parish Church by cheque
please speak to our Treasurer Alison Collis
who can be reached on 01462 625637 or by email on
alison.collis@ntlworld.com

Are you interested in becoming a regular
giver to your Parish Church? Use this link:
www.tinyurl.com/stotfoldparishgiving
or use your smartphone or tablet to scan
this QR code.



You will then access our
dedicated landing page on
the Parish Giving Scheme
website and from here it is
simple to set up and manage
your regular giving online.

If you prefer you can give anonymously.

DONATING BY TEXT

**To donate £5 to our church
Text STOTFOLD to 70580**

Texts will cost the donation
amount plus one standard
network rate message.

Alternatively scan the QR
code with your phone.



Baptism

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

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

Please contact Sara Clark to discuss the arrangements on 01462 625270 or email sara.clark3@ntlworld.com.



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

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

In partnership with the Good Neighbour Group this 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.

If you are interested, contact the library:

stotfold.library@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk 0300 300 8068

or stotfoldgoodneighbour@gmail.com 07599 925587



MARTIN BALL PLASTERING

All aspects of plastering covered

- ✓ Float and set
- ✓ Tacking
- ✓ Skimming
- ✓ Dry lining
- ✓ Screeding
- ✓ Through Coloured Spray Rendering



I have been in the plastering trade for over 12 years, and gained lots of experience having worked on many commercial and domestic projects. We promise an excellent job at an affordable cost. You can also look me up and read some reviews on:



**CONTACT US:
07842 204359**

martinballplastering@gmail.com



**It only takes a moment!
So please support us!**
<http://efraising.org/lyGmgIrbYD>

Summer Fete: Saturday 8 July 2pm

St Mary's Vicarage Garden, Church Road

Lots of traditional stalls, games, refreshments and entertainment

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

Come and join this friendly group. Refreshments served.
Further details: Elaine Drury 07925 192007



COMMUNITY COFFEE MORNINGS

**1st Wednesday of each month
In Church 10.30am - noon**

Hymn Singing: for all those who love them

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

Everyone is welcome: come along and have a good sing

Men's Big Breakfast

Join us for breakfast and an informal chat at The Box of Cakes.
Last Saturday of the month at 9am. Contact Roger: 730103

Friendship Lunch: The Stag 12 noon for 12.30

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

Summer Reading Challenge 2023

Ready, Set, Read!

Presented by the Reading Agency
Delivered in partnership with Storyline.

Stotfold Library

is getting ready for this year's Summer Reading Challenge!

Starts – Friday 21st July 2023

Finishes – Saturday 9th September 2023

Ready, Set, Read! This year's Summer Reading Challenge is all about games and sports. Children will join our fictional team (and their animal mascots!) as they use their skills to weave their way through a summer obstacle course.

It's FREE to take part at the library.

Read or listen to as many library books as you can over the summer holidays and collect special stickers and rewards along the way, including a medal and certificate if you manage to complete the challenge and read six books!

Plus, there will be loads of activities taking place in the library over the summer holidays! Pop in or give us a call to find out more on 0300 300 8088.

summerreadingchallenge.org.uk

Observations on our Christian Pilgrimage

Man's way leads to a hopeless end – God's way leads to an endless hope.

M. J. Ryall

Building Supplies Ltd.

Suppliers of Timbers and all Building Materials

- Paving & Walling
- Bricks
- Aggregates
- Timber
- Turf
- Fencing
- Calor Gas
- Plumbing
- Tools
- Top Soil

Tel. 01462 730169

100 Norton Road, Stotfold SG5 4PG

www.mjryall.co.uk info@mjryall.co.uk

OUR WORSHIP SERVICES

Mon - Sat 9am: Morning Prayer

Short service where we pray for our community and the wider world.

Wed 9.45am: Holy Communion. A said service.

Every Sunday:

9am Morning Prayer

10am: Parish Communion/Sunday School

First Sunday of the Month:

8am: Said Communion 9am: Morning Prayer

10am: Parish Communion / Sunday School

4pm: Tea Time Praise



Sunday School

In the Church Hall
at 10am



Stoffold Dental Clinic

5 The Avenue, Stoffold SG5 4LY

Call 01462 731938 or email

info@stoffolddental.co.uk

www.stoffolddental.co.uk



post-whitening

after dental implant

cosmetic smile post-treatment



A free phone line of hymns,
reflections and prayers

Safe Sedation, Dental Implants, Teeth Whitening,
Cosmetic Veneers, Clearstep Braces.

For a consultation, please contact the clinic

- 0% finance facility available for private treatments

Late evening appointments between 5pm to 7pm for PVT PTS on Mondays and Thursdays

HELPING YOU EVERY STEP OF THE WAY

Your Local Funeral Professionals

E H CROUCH

54 High Street, Stotfold, Hertfordshire SG5 4LD

Tel: 01462 834040

www.dignityfunerals.co.uk/local



Part of Dignity plc. A British company



Observations on our Christian Pilgrimage

Kindness is a language that the deaf can hear and the blind can see – Anon

Silent company is often more healing than words of advice. – Anon

Tuesday - Saturday 9am - 4pm Eat In/Outdoor Seating/Takeaway

Full English Breakfast, Breakfast Baps, Jacket Potatoes, Bacon Rolls,
Toasted Sandwiches & Paninis, Fresh Soups

Afternoon Tea, Delicious Cakes, Teacakes & Scones

Freshly Ground Lavazza Coffee, Cadbury Hot Chocolate, Selection of Teas,
Icecream Milkshakes & Cold Drinks

Daily Lunchtime Specials

Box of Cakes
Café & Cake Shop
07812 055587



5 STAR FOOD RATING
Hallworth Drive
Stotfold
We accept cash or card

www.boxofcakes.co.uk

God in the Sciences

A scientist reflects on God’s heart for the suffering

It’s difficult as a scientist to hear information that is fascinating, but which also involves so much suffering for other people. I worked for a time in a leukaemia research lab. We had to let other people’s pain drive our research without it crippling our ability to concentrate on our work. But, during lockdown, I found myself – as a biologically-educated bystander – avoiding looking into the science of COVID-19, because the reminders of its impact on people’s lives were everywhere that I looked.

One of the ways I managed my own feelings during the pandemic was by digging deeper into what God has revealed to us about His character, letting that fuel my faith, my prayers, and my actions. For more academic types like myself, study – particularly of the Bible – can be one of the primary ways we connect with God and hear from Him. It’s not wrong to be comforted by books, so long as the contents turn our eyes upwards and outwards.

First of all, God hears: “The Lord is close to the broken-hearted’ (Psalm 34:18a). In Jesus God took on human form, and He showed us His heart for the world. When His friend Lazarus died, He wept (John 11). God is “the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort” (2 Corinthians 1:3).

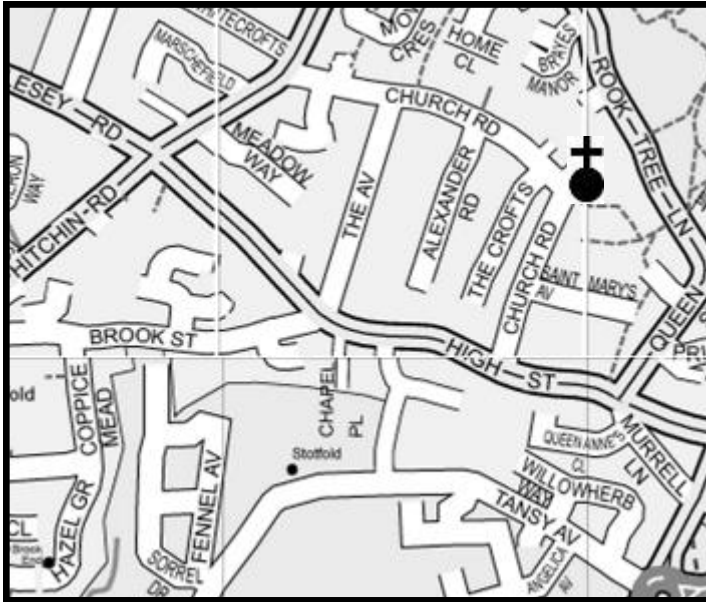
Human sin has affected the whole of creation, and I believe this is largely the direct impact of our mismanagement of creation and mistreatment of each other. COVID-19 may well be another animal’s friendly virus, pushed by human activity into causing havoc in bodies where it doesn’t belong.

But God’s world remains good. It is still fruitful, praising Him, as Psalm 19 describes. Even pictures of a deadly virus can seem beautiful – especially to a biologist! These good things are hints of the promised “new heavens and new earth” mentioned in the New Testament. One day “creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay” (Romans 8: 21), and for everyone who follows God, “He will wipe every tear from their eyes” (Revelation 21: 4).

Behind the debates about suffering is sometimes the assumption that God doesn’t care. My experience is that God does care deeply, and He invites His Church to care for those around them – especially the most vulnerable. He is with us, He hears us and grieves with us, He helps us and promises a better future.

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

St Mary's Church
Church Road Stotfold SG5 4NE



www.stotfoldchurch.org.uk

RECTOR:

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

ASSOCIATE MINISTER:

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

CHURCHWARDENS:

Jenny Bennett 07885 833615 jenny.bennett105@gmail.com

Steve Hardman 01462 733861 stevehardman@outlook.com

BAPTISMS:

Sara Clark 01462 625270 sara.clark3@ntlworld.com

WEDDINGS:

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

CHURCH HALL:

Maureen Winters 07727 688877 stotfoldparishchurchhall@gmail.com

TREASURER/

MAGAZINE EDITOR:

Alison Collis 01462 625637 alison.collis@ntlworld.com