

Church and Chapel

Ashwell Parish Church St Mary the Virgin

www.stmarysashwell.org.uk



St. MARY'S
ASHWELL

2018 was another busy year at St Mary's. The project to restore the tower started in earnest, although the only visible progress has been the placing of security fencing around its base. This is to prevent anybody suffering from an unexpected headache owing to falling debris. There have been a number of important meetings with the many different organisations

involved in this massive project. St Mary's has now been put on the Churches at Risk register by Historic England, which will help us when we start applying for grants.

The traditional round of activities throughout the year all went well. The Music Festival was very well supported and finished with our Festal Evensong when we welcomed the Revd George Bush as our guest preacher. The Flea Market, Book Fair and Christmas Fair were all well attended.

Thank you to all who work so hard to make these events so successful. We were also very pleased to welcome the Horticultural Society back again for their annual show. Around 100 people (and the donkey) took part in the Real-Life Nativity which, because of the appalling weather, was held in the Church. We did, however, venture over the road to the Bushel and Strike for the Inn and Stable scenes.

There have been significant changes in the structure of the choir as the choir report shows. My thanks to John Rowlands and Bene't Coldstream for managing choral concerns while Judy Catterick has been unwell. The Sunday services benefit hugely from the support of an active choir. The spiritual side of the church has benefited from Lent and Advent courses and a group from the benefice enjoyed a retreat to the Isle of Wight.

We have suffered some petty losses in the church during the year, but I think it is really important that the church is kept open daily. The comments in the visitors' book and from people I meet in the church tell how much this is appreciated. My thanks go to all who support the church and its activities.

Revd Robert Evens
109 High Street
☎ 742277

Ashwell Parish Church Choirs

2018 was a year of change for the church choir. This change was mainly a separation into junior, morning and evening choirs, although some choir members sing at both services. During the illness of the church's music director, Mrs Judy Catterick MBE, the choirs were largely directed by Bene't Coldstream and John Rowlands. Judy is now back in the choir stalls. Her presence at rehearsals and at evensong was missed and we are glad she is back. She continues to look after choral evensong and Bene't looks after the mornings and the evening services for major festivals. John is also the church organist, so his efforts in keeping the evensong choir going during Judy's absence have been extraordinary and the church is indebted to him.

Musically 2018 was an uplifting year with a sprinkling of new music. On Palm Sunday the choir juniors and adult ladies sang the first movement of Pergolesi's Stabat Mater. This piece is haunting and describes Christ's suffering on the cross. The music is a slow, high voice duet with many suspensions (dissonant notes that resolve into harmony) and, with the passionate singing of the choir, the congregation were treated to this gem. The full morning choir performed Thou knowest Lord (Purcell), Ubi Caritas (Gjello) and two chorales from Bach's motet Jesu, Priceless Treasure. With Bene't Coldstream now running the morning choir in an official capacity, we look forward to more uplifting music in 2019.

Our evening choir had a number of high spots during the year. The home team of Bene't and John guided the choir along



The Royal School of Church Music Medal awarded to Rodney Worboys for his many years of service as man and boy to the Choir and Church of St Mary's Ashwell is now on view in Rodney's pew. Photo by Margaret Budgen

the journey to the Festal Evensong, which closed the 2018 Ashwell Music Festival, most notably singing the challenging setting of the canticles by Bryan Kelly in C major. At the service for All Souls, the Fauré Requiem was sung liturgically and we sang at the Service of Lessons and Carols in December. We have recruited an organist, Andrew Henthorn, from outside the parish. He plays at evensong once a month and is a most welcome addition to our ranks.

We had a number of new recruits in the autumn. More are welcome and, if you are interested in joining one or more of our choirs, do please speak to Bene't, Judy or John. You will be made to feel very welcome.

Bene't Coldstream, ☎ 742288
✉ ben.coldstream@resmsl.co.uk

Judy Catterick, ☎ 742635
✉ judy@beckets.eclipse.co.uk

John Rowlands, ☎ 742758
✉ john@ashwell.org.uk

Bellringers

During 2018 we played host to several groups of visiting ringers. In July we had a midweek visit from the Gidding ringing group – a team of ringers from the Peterborough area who are all retired. They found our bells somewhat harder to ring than those they are used to. In August the local district of the Herts County Ringing Association split their regular monthly meeting between Ashwell and Hinxworth, with ringers of all abilities ringing a variety of methods. In September our own band was joined by a group on a weekend away to ring for Sunday morning service. In addition, the Ashwell Scout Troop visited the tower in June.

We rang to celebrate four weddings during the year as well as ringing for other special occasions, such as half-muffled to mark the centenary of the ending of the First World War on Remembrance Sunday. We rang for Sunday services at least twice each month, although, as some of our ringers come from outside the village, it was not always possible to ring all six bells.

Our newer ringers continued to make progress, learning the art of ringing from the more experienced ringers who came to our practice nights from time to time. Although we lost two of our learners owing to pressure of work and family commitments, we gained two new recruits in the autumn, who are learning to ring with the support of more experienced ringers.

New ringers are always welcome, experienced or beginners. We would love to have more Ashwell people learning to ring, and we are happy to teach those who have never rung before. We practise on Thursday evenings from 8:00 pm, so, if you would like to learn to ring or just see how we do it, come along to the tower where you will be made welcome.

Steve White, Tower Captain ☎ 834244
Ian Chandler, Tower Secretary ☎ 743091

The Friends of St Mary's Ashwell

The sole aim of the Friends of St Mary's Ashwell is to raise money for the repair and maintenance of the fabric and contents of our beautiful parish church. We are all the beneficiaries of the craftsmanship, hard work and generosity of many previous generations of Ashwellians, often given in very difficult circumstances. It is vital for us to continue this work for generations of Ashwellians to come.

The Friends had a quiet 2018, but we have continued to attract new Friends and contributors to our work. I would like to thank all our Friends, old and new, and those who have contributed so much to our continuing success. This year we give a special thank you to Karen Rogers and her co-workers who raised a magnificent £3,453.75 for the Friends at the Ashwell Book Fair in October. We are in the early stages of planning a series of autumn concerts and other events for 2019 to raise money for the Friends. All are welcome at our events and we look forward to seeing you in 2019.

If you wish to join our committee, give a one-off donation to the Friends or become a regular donor, please let me know. Thank you.

Stephen ten Hove, Chairman ☎ 742262
✉ stephenthove@icloud.com

BERRY ACCOUNTING SERVICES LITLINGTON, ROYSTON

Offering a friendly personal service for small
businesses

- Self Assessment Tax Returns
- Annual Accounts
- Tax Planning
- Business Start-up Specialist
- Business Planning & Support
- Compliance / Disputes with HMRC
- Mentoring
- VAT Returns
- Payroll Services

Contact [Jim](#) or [Maeve](#) to discuss your requirements

Tel: 01763 852622

Mobile: 07850 426325

E-mail: jim1berry@aol.com

Web: www.berryaccounts.co.uk

St Mary's Church Discoverers and Children's Activities

Jesus said, "Let the children come to me, and do not stop them, because the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these."

Children are valued members of our church family and our community. Our church activities for children and young people are open to all, whether they are regular churchgoers or not. We are always pleased to see familiar faces and newcomers alike. We run an inclusive session for all ages, which lasts for about 30 minutes during the 10:45 am Sunday service. On the first Sunday each month we join in the "Thank God It's Sunday" service at 9:30 am.

During our Discoverers sessions we look for fun and creative ways to understand God's message through bible stories or seasonal activities. Subjects covered during the year have included: truth, trust, loving your neighbour, remembrance, the Holy Spirit, discipleship, talking to God, and many more. In addition to singing hymns and anthems during the services, junior choir members play an important role by joining in with our Discoverers activities. Along with other young people in the congregation, they entertain the congregation by sharing what they have learnt each week through dance, drama and artwork. Young people often join in our informal "Thank God It's Sunday" with bible readings or prayers and by helping to teach the congregation to learn new songs as part of our worship.

In 2018 we hosted two messy church sessions: in March we made gifts for Mothering Sunday, which included decorated frames with a message about love, paper bouquets and hands which represented our family. As always, we offered Easter activities for young people, including the building of the Easter garden and an egg hunt for little ones, followed by the Easter story. At Christmas our theme was the message of peace that is epitomised by the arrival of baby Jesus. We looked at verses from the popular carol "Hark the herald angels sing" to focus our craft activities and worship, culminating in the revelation of our Advent window.

If you would like to find out more about Discoverers and youth activities, please come along to church at 10:45 on a Sunday morning, give one of us a call or visit our website at www.stmarysashwell.org.uk

Jo Adams ☎ 01763 241587
Sarah Talks ☎ 742182

St Mary's Church Flowers

The talented team of flower arrangers has kept the Church filled with gorgeous flowers week by week, including arrangements for weddings, christenings, funerals and other special occasions. They deserve warm thanks, as do the suppliers of greenery, clearer-uppers and the kind people who make donations.

If you need to discuss flowers for any occasion, please get in touch. If anyone would like to join our vibrant group (you don't have to be a churchgoer), please telephone me.

Liz Moynihan ☎ 742363

Ashwell Mothers' Union

The Mothers' Union (MU) meets on the second Thursday of each month and we have 29 members. MU is the largest Christian organisation in the world, with over four million members.

In Ashwell we meet for prayer and fellowship and to hear a speaker, as well as to raise awareness and funds for women and children whose lives meet with adversity, in this country and across the world. We have had a variety of speakers, including Ursula Byrne from the Letchworth Foodbank, Dr Martin Hoffman and the Revd Patrick Forbes. Our members have provided knitted 'fiddle cuffs' and blankets for people living with dementia, and we enjoyed the company of non-members at afternoon teas.

One project this year has involved the collecting of craft materials from the parish for the women awaiting the outcome of their asylum application in Yarlswood Detention Centre. They may have to wait some considerable time before their cases are heard.

Craft classes give them an opportunity to sit with one another and make and create, to ease the time passing by. We keep in touch with Garden House Hospice and make and take cakes for the patients and their families and friends to enjoy. We have done this twice and provided over 30 cakes.

Everyone is welcome to come along to our meetings.

Caroline Evens
☎ 742277

Sunday Afternoon Teas

A big thank you to everyone who helped with the Sunday afternoon teas at the Parish Room during 2018. Special thanks to Heidi and Grace, who baked and served for us as part of their Duke of Edinburgh award, and to Asheteria, who set up the tables and chairs. Whether you were a baker, server or supporter your help raised £1,580.00 for St Mary's Church. This sum did not include teas at Ashwell at Home, which raised a further magnificent £646.00. Many thanks as well to the occasional volunteers and young people who helped on this special day.

Throughout the winter Ashwell Museum took over the running of the Sunday teas. The St Mary's team will be back in action from the Sunday after Easter until the end of September. The teas are always welcoming, sociable experiences and visitors, local or otherwise, generally enrich our lives. If you would like to help with baking or serving (you don't have to be a churchgoer), please contact Antje or Denise at the Parish Church Office. Perhaps you know a young person who is looking for a placement to do their Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme volunteering; if so, then please get in touch. Thank you and we hope to see you all again in April.

Antje Brandtner, ☎ 743922
✉ office@stmarysashwell.org.uk

Ashwell Village News



Ashwell Village News is a community-fed, volunteer-led local news magazine published on the 1st of each month. Ashwell Village News aims to be the first point of reference for all activities in and around this vibrant village. Included every month are regular feature articles, one-off articles and letters, the local calendar, listings of coming events and reports on past events as well as other information.

All the content is contributed by the Ashwell and nearby communities. The Ashwell Village News welcomes blurbs, pictures, articles, reports, notices, letters, and information from the teams, groups, societies and general community on all the activities and events in Ashwell and the neighbouring villages.

All contributions can be sent to
ashwellvillagenews@gmail.com

There have been many changes to the Ashwell Village News this year, such as the introduction of the Ashwell Calendar, the 'What's On' column, sports and most importantly, full colour pages in half the magazine.

The magazine is published by St Mary's Church as a service to the community and includes details of services and activities in St Mary's and the United Reformed Church. In addition, the Ashwell Calendar is printed in the centre and the month's events are highlighted in the 'What's On around Ashwell' column. Regular contributors include a Parish Councillor, our local astronomer, a village garden designer, a village beekeeper, our Museum curator, and our village jeweller. Other features include poetry and sports.

Ashwell Village News remains popular with local advertisers and we are very grateful for their support. The large A4 format and a choice of colour printing make it an ideal place for making an impression, even with the smaller adverts.

Our thanks to all those who help to prepare and distribute the Ashwell Village News. These include Elizabeth Coldstream for production, local artists in providing excellent topical drawings on the front cover, John Paramour for distribution, Barry Field for advertisements and the local shops who kindly make it available for sale.

Our very grateful thanks to Judy Catterick who, after many years of amazing work on the Ashwell Village News, decided to step down from the team early in 2018.

Elizabeth Coldstream, Editorial ☎ 742288
Barry Field, Advertising ☎ 742793
John Paramour, Distribution ☎ 742451



The Beauty Barn

Book now for the following:

Massage • Facials • Spray Tanning
Manicures • Pedicures • Shellac
Waxing • Callus Peel

Gift Vouchers Available

To book an appointment call:

07990 311794

E: thebeautybarnbypaige@outlook.com

W: www.thebeautybarnashwell.com

The Beauty Barn, Bradley's Hairdressers,
Dixies Barns, High Street, Ashwell, Herts SG7 5NT



We cater for all makes and models and
are Volkswagen/Audi specialists

Competitive prices and free advice

- Tyres and Exhausts while you wait
- MOT
- Full Vehicle Diagnostics
- Servicing, Clutches, and Timing Belts
- Air Conditioning
- Body and Paint Work
- Attended Fuel
- Shop and Accessories

Open:

Monday – Friday 7.30am – 6.00pm

Saturday 8.00 am – 1.00pm

Tel: 01462 742310 Fax: 01462 742497

Email: ashwellgarage@outlook.com

Web: www.ashwellgarage.co.uk

Ashwell United Reformed Church



The past year has brought several joyful developments to our small fellowship, not least the arrival of a new member with special gifts. The Rev^d Jim Dagleish joined us in February as a newly retired minister living in Royston.

Jim has already led worship, notably at the special service to celebrate the completion of the repainting of the church and refurbishment of the vestries. There is more about this project elsewhere in the Yearbook. He also officiated at Ashwell's Service of Remembrance on 11th November. Jim has also introduced us to the Northern family from Bygrave. Lorraine organised a happy and exuberant Light Party for youngsters on 31st October, and she will lead Children's Church for us in alternate months during 2019.

Along with new things comes the sadness of the loss of special old friends. Peter Bryant died at the end of February, but, because the church was full of scaffolding, we were not able to celebrate his life until 16th June, with a wonderful service attended by friends and family. In October, we also lost David Grossman who will be especially remembered and appreciated for his clear and beautiful readings from scripture.

Our Sunday morning worship continues to be led by lay preachers from United Reformed, Methodist and Baptist traditions. This is an opportunity to take time out from stresses and strains, to sit and listen to a bit of history, some philosophy maybe, not infrequently some humour and always some spiritual nourishment. Our experiment with café-style worship seems to have been appreciated, and we will continue with this in 2019 on alternate second Sundays of each month.

Many local people continue to enjoy our special events: Lent and Harvest Lunches, Saturday Teas and the Autumn Fair. In the coming year, our beautiful chapel will host several other events and be a part of Ashwell at Home.

We welcome all those who would like to explore or enrich their Christian faith and look forward to seeing you one Sunday morning.

Chris James, Church Secretary ☎ 742684
San Carswell, Hall Bookings ☎ 742757

Ashwell United Reformed Church Repair and Refurbishment 2018

A Service of Celebration and Thanksgiving for the recent Repair and Refurbishment Project was conducted by Revd Jim Dagleish on Sunday 23rd September 2018 at 3:00 pm, followed by refreshments.

Mrs Jackie Embury, church treasurer and project manager, thanked everyone who had taken an active part in making the project a success. It had been a challenging journey trying to keep the integrity of the original 1906 English Art Nouveau



Professional restoration. Photo by Jackie Embury

plan by researching documents, uncovering layers of paint and seeking expert advice wherever possible.

The work became necessary when it was discovered that the church ceiling was in need of urgent repairs to prevent it from collapsing. Once we discovered it would be necessary to



Completed restoration. Photo by Jackie Embury

scaffold the interior fully to carry out this work, it was decided to go for a complete refurbishment, including a kitchenette facility in one of the vestry rooms.

The estimate for this work was in the region of £53,000, an amount of money the church did not have, so the United Reformed Church Thames North Synod and Beds and Herts Historic Churches Trust were approached. They both kindly agreed to make a grant towards this work, amounting to a generous total of £30,000, which meant £23,000 had to be found by the church.

An appeal went out to the village, which was well received and resulted in donations not only from villagers but also from village organisations and the North Hertfordshire District Council Community Fund, together with support in fundraising events especially helping with the Saturday afternoon teas.

Mr Paul Morris of Templars, Baldock, oversaw the project. Steve Cook of A J Cook Builders LLP, together with David Eley, Ashwell decorator, carried out the work, restoring original features in a very professional way. Refreshments were served in the hall after the service, allowing people time to look at the completed work, ask questions and to be thanked personally.

Jackie Embury

Zoar Baptist Church

Gardiners Lane

Services: Sunday 10:30 am and 2:30 pm
Tuesday 7:15 pm
Deacon: Brian Northern

All are most welcome at our services. Our congregation, which numbers between 15 and 20, is drawn not only from Ashwell but also from areas local to the village. Currently, visiting preachers take most of the services.



Background image by Ed Strickland

From our Registers for 2018

St Mary's Ashwell Parish Church

Baptisms

16th June	Nicholas Robert Denis Jeisman
21st July	Imogen Holmes-Rudgley
14th October	Rory Edward George Hagland

Blessing

16th June	Clair Dowsett and Dave Jeisman
-----------	--------------------------------

Weddings

28th April	Ellie Seo and Joseph Jenkinson
26th May	Amy Dean and Edward Sheldrick
1st September	Ellie Hayes and Harry Blyth
22nd December	Fiona Hayes and William Henry Notley

Funerals

7th March	Raymond Munday
24th October	Gwen Pack
15th November	David Grossman
22nd November	Lilias Milligan

Ashwell United Reformed Church

Thanksgiving Service

16th June	Peter Bryant
-----------	--------------

Ashwell Cemetery

Burials and Interments of Ashes

7th March	Raymond Geoffrey Todd Munday
24th April	Richard Vernon Watson
11th August	William Henry Floyd
20th August	Mary Jean Gentle
15th November	David Harold Grossman
22nd November	Jessie Lilias Milligan
10th December	Eileen Joan Dillely

BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY



ASHWELL SHOW

26th August 2019