



WELCOME FROM THE RECTOR

WELCOME to this first edition of the re-launched Abbey View; a monthly record of the life and ministry of the Abbey Church, reflecting the worship, fellowship, and service that shape our parish Community.

Here you will find news of forthcoming events, reports from our parish organisations, and articles intended to inform, encourage, and inspire. We give thanks for all who sustain the life and work of this sacred place and pray that, as we continue our common pilgrimage of faith, this ancient church may remain a place of welcome, peace, and hope for all who enter its doors.

HOLY CROSS DAY

EACH YEAR on September 14th, the Church celebrates the Feast of the Holy Cross. Known as "Holy Cross Day," this major feast is an important symbol for the whole Church but for us it is especially important, as our church is dedicated to The Holy Cross and St. Lawrence, we celebrate our Feast of Title on this day.

We remember how a miraculous black crucifix was brought to the town in 1035 by King Cnut's Standard bearer, Tovi the Proud, was a rich and powerful 11th-century Danish thegn who had a lodge here. This legendary event transformed our town and church into a major medieval pilgrimage site. See Rob Hannan's article on Pilgrim Routes.)

HOLY CROSS: A CALL TO ACTION

The Revd. Trevor Scott, writes

OUR CHURCH is dedicated to the Holy Cross.

So how do people know that we are people of the Holy Cross? People of the Holy Cross are called to love in the same way as God loves each one of us regardless of who we are.

That often means helping when it's not convenient, giving when it hurts, absorbing hurts from others without complaining and by loving as he loved us.

That kind of loving is hard to do and that is why people notice it when it happens. So that is how we are recognised as people of Waltham Abbey, the people of the Holy Cross!

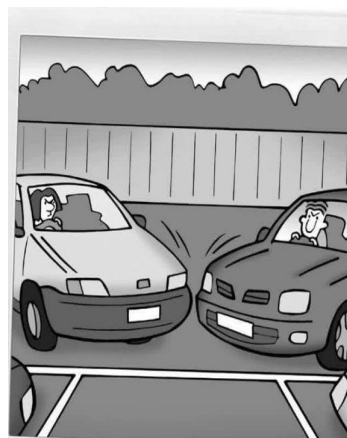
CHURCH ARCHIVES

I RECENTLY had the pleasure of welcoming the Archives and Collection Lead of the Essex Record Office to Waltham Abbey. As well as showing Richard around the church, I discussed with him the future of our archives situated in the top vestry. As a result, I subsequently delivered six boxes of papers and documents to the ERO for future storage. These included papers etc. from the 1960s restoration of the church, the 19thC. and a whole range of interesting material relating to the early/mid 20thC. All have been individually recorded, and the relative

lists will be deposited in our archives for future reference.

I was also, delighted to add my support the Museum's application to the EFDC Community Fund for the employment of two 21-month Museum Apprenticeships for young people, each leading to a Level 3 Business Administration qualification. Hopefully, the application will be accepted as the apprentices taken on will be available under an agreement with the Museum to help list and categorize our Archive collection. . . something that does need to be done!

Grenville Weltch.



Peter hadn't banked on another Christian praying for the same parking space outside the Abbey Church!

1066 AND ALL THAT

THE BAYEUX TAPESTRY is returning to England. The 70-metre-long tapestry, depicting events leading up to the Battle of Hastings and the Norman Conquest in 1066, will be exhibited in the British Museum from this month until July 2027. Our church played a significant role in the story of the Norman Conquest. In 1066 King Harold knelt in prayer in this church before going out to meet a soldier's death in battle with William the Conqueror at the Battle of Hastings. Legend has it that Harold's body was brought back to Waltham and buried in his church housing the Holy Cross. Harold was deeply devoted to the miraculous Holy Cross of Waltham. After allegedly being cured of paralysis by the relic in his youth, Harold generously endowed and rebuilt our church to house it making us people of the Holy Cross.

RIDE & STRIDE 2026, SATURDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER

THIS YEAR Ride & Stride is 75 years old. It would be good to mark this occasion with a bumper number of participants! In the last couple of years a few of us from the Abbey have taken part in Ride and Stride by walking around the four Benefice Churches. We are planning to walk around them again this year and then serve refreshments at the Abbey for Ride and Stride participants and any other visitors. So, get out your walking shoes, seek sponsorship from family and friends and join the Benefice walk. Half of any sponsorship money you raise will come back to your nominated church with the other half benefiting all churches and chapels in Essex and East London. Further information and the sponsorship form can be found at Ride & Stride — Friends of Essex Churches Trust or contact Richard Walters

VIEW FROM THE PEW from Christopher Frostick.

A JOYFUL morning, where our Church family came together in fellowship to tidy, weed and care for God's house. Lots of fun and laughter had by all before a spot of lunch!

"BLESSED ARE the weed pullers, for they shall inherit the bacon sandwiches" 1 Christopher:2-3



Jane Shipman reminds us that Waltham Abbey Church is a registered Eco-Church.

AS CHRISTIANS it is our responsibility to care for God's earth to mitigate climate change and conserve resources. As part of our response here at the Abbey we are participating in the A Rocha UK Eco Church award scheme, a framework to support practical action, structured around five areas of church life: Worship and teaching, Buildings and energy, Land and nature, Community and global engagement, and Lifestyle. We are currently working towards a Bronze award. You will be hearing more in the coming months about actions we can take individually and together to help support the environment and our progress to an Eco-Church award.

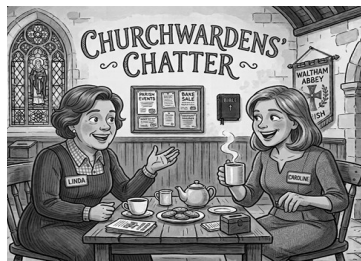
WALTHAM ABBEY TOWN GUIDED TOUR

SATURDAY 19th September 2026. 11am start at the Epping Forest District Museum in Sun Street lasting for around an hour and a half. £5 per person including tea or coffee at the end of the tour at The Sun Inn, the oldest documented pub in Waltham Abbey. Children 8 to 16 years £2, under 8 free. You can just turn up on the day but pre-booking is helpful - contact the Museum to pre-book: call 01992 716882 or email enquiries@efdmuseum.org.uk

A SHORT SERIES ON PILGRIM ROUTES No. 1 St. Cuthbert's Way

IN JULY I walked the 60 miles of St Cuthbert's Way over four and a half days from Melrose Abbey in the Scottish Borders to Lindisfarne (Holy Island) on the Northumberland Coast, where Cuthbert was later prior and then bishop. On the way it passes Dryburgh Abbey and Jedburgh Abbey before reaching the remains of the Priory of Lindisfarne. The walk takes in the hills of the northern Pennines, the banks and meadows of the River Tweed, the woods and farmland of Northumberland and finally the (barefoot) crossing of the tidal sands to Lindisfarne itself. So, is this a pilgrimage route or just a long-distance path with some historic Christian associations? The route is a modern invention, and only the last part is a historic pilgrimage route, yet it certainly has strong connections with early British and mediaeval Christianity. Eleven of the churches en route have combined to offer stopping places and a stamp for a 'pilgrimage passport' just as we do in the Abbey. The personal experience: time spent with your own thoughts and contemplations; the close contact with the natural world; the encounter with active Christian communities; and the companionship of strangers met on the way may perhaps be felt as part of a spiritual experience and for some walkers bring them closer to God. Perhaps an encounter with a 7th Century saint and his life and works draws people from all over the world. Perhaps St Cuthbert's Way has a place in the 'modern pilgrimage' movement. Next Time. The Portuguese Camino to Santiago de Compostella (God willing!)

By Rob Hannan (The one standing next to the piano in the choir)



CHURCHWARDENS' CHATTER

WONDERFUL NEWS! We now have a second churchwarden. Caroline and I attended the 'Admission of Churchwardens Service' in June. It has been a busy time these past few months with lots happening crucial in the life of our church. At the recent church meetings the condition and restoration

of what is fondly known as the "Children's Window" was discussed and they approved a proposal to make a faculty application. A faculty (permission from the Church authorities) is generally needed for most works within the church. On July 3rd we had our Quinquennial Inspection by our appointed Diocesan Architect who inspected the interior exterior of the church and reported on its condition and identified any works needed to be completed within the next five years. The list is long with some urgent major works which will need planning and possible grant funding applications, so watch this space as things progress!

Linda Anderson

Articles for next month's Abbey View should be sent to the editor by September 13th