

Press release to the Mercury

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The First St Andrew's Church Beer Festival Saturday 17 September 2016 from 12noon to 8pm

On Saturday 17 September 2016 St Andrew's Church, Hertford, is holding its first Beer Festival in the churchyard around the church. There will be 16 interesting beers from around the country, supplied through Red Squirrel Brewery, who are providing the cooling equipment and stillage racking.

There will also be Welsh Ciders, English Wines, Cornish Pasties and Posh Ploughmans with a range of English cheeses. Tickets are on sale from shops in St Andrew Street, and also the Tourist Office, and cost £5 when bought in advance. Included in the price is entry to the Festival, a souvenir glass, a pint (or two halves or three thirds) and Tasting Notes. It starts at 12 Noon and runs through the afternoon until 8pm. There is a non-alcoholic cocktail bar for teenagers, and entry for children (under 16) is free.

The idea of a church running a beer festival is not unusual, there are a number around the country, and the largest is the one in the Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral crypt. The beer tent at St Andrew's will be in the churchyard, but people can take their pints into the church where there will be some displays and music. The theme inside is Artists, Activists and Pilgrims and there is an opportunity to reflect on what churches have contributed to our history and culture.

The BBC *Songs of Praise* programme recently featured a Christian brewer in Sheffield, Emmanuel, whose strapline is '*What would Jesus Brew?*'. Visitors to the Festival will be able to try some of their beers, sold under names like *Oh Hoppy Day* and *Jonah and the Pale*.

More information from Jim Thornton