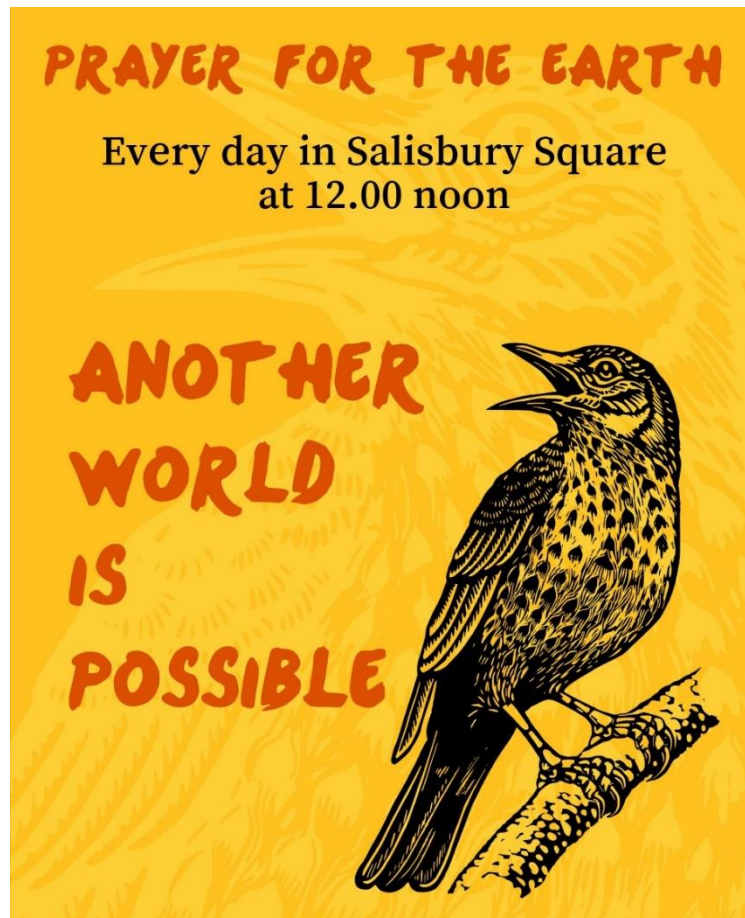


The parish magazine of

Hertford St Andrew

www.hertfordstandrews.co.uk

FEBRUARY 2024



SEE INSIDE FOR MORE INFORMATION

Here with you Here for you

HERTFORD ST ANDREW

Registered charity 1132540

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Whilst every reasonable care has been taken in presenting the information in this magazine, no responsibility can be taken for any inaccuracies. The opinions expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of the Priests, Churchwardens or editor.

WALKING EACH OTHER HOME

It was wonderful to see former Leeds Rhinos team-mates Rob Burrow and Kevin Sinfield awarded OBEs in the New Year's Honours list. This was in recognition of their fundraising to combat motor neurone disease which Rob was diagnosed with in December 2019, just two years after retiring from professional rugby.

Kevin recently completed a '7 in 7 in 7' challenge where he ran 7 marathons in 7 cities in 7 days. For the Leeds Marathon, Sinfield pushed Burrow in a wheelchair, stopping just before the finish line, to carry his friend across in his arms. It was a beautiful and tender moment.

Many of you will know the poem 'Footprints' which speaks of those moments in life when, at our weakest, Christ carries us. I actually believe that's something we're all called to do. To quote Ram Dass, 'we're all just walking each other home'.

Few of us will run marathons or fundraise millions for charity. All of us, however, can walk or carry each other home through not-so-small acts of kindness, through our full and loving attention, through shared laughter and tears, through our prayers.

As you look back over the scenes of your life, give thanks for those who walked alongside you and those who carried you when you couldn't walk.

Alan

WELCOME!

I am pleased to welcome everyone to St Andrew's, but in particular visitors and newcomers. Details of services are given at the back of the magazine. If you wish to know more



about anything mentioned, please get in touch with the contact person named in the article or speak with me or one of the churchwardens. For contact details, see the page opposite.

The church is open during daylight hours, and there is a prayer space by the main door where there is an opportunity to post prayers on the prayer board and light a candle.

ST ANDREW'S & ST MARY'S JOINT PARISH AWAY DAY

Sunday 14th April

is the date of our Away Day 2024 and will take place in the buildings and grounds of St Joseph's in the Park School, Hertingfordbury.

We are very grateful to the school for welcoming us to this, now, annual event. Cost will be minimal and we hope to have a bumper attendance from our two churches. More information will be available soon.

Please make a note of the date.

One night I dreamed a dream.
As I was walking along the beach with my Lord.
Across the dark sky flashed scenes from my life.
For each scene, I noticed two sets of footprints in the sand,
One belonging to me and one to my Lord. (From Footprints in the Sand)

THE CLOSING DATE FOR THE MARCH MAGAZINE IS **SUNDAY 18TH FEBRUARY.**

Please send copy by e-mail to hertfordsta@aol.co.uk or post to Richard Taylor at 22 Highfield Road, Hertford SG13 8BH (Tel. 01992 302995).

SERVICES AND OTHER EVENTS

Church Services

You will find a full list of church services on the final page of this magazine and on the church website, with some additional information about certain services on this and the following page.

Junior Church

Children are welcome to attend Junior Church which runs during the 10.30am Parish Communion service on most Sundays except when there is an All-Age service when the children stay in church for the whole service.

ALL-AGE SERVICE

11th February at 10.30am

A shorter, child-friendly, interactive communion service with songs, prayers and surprises.

St Andrew's services on Zoom

(Zoom codes are available from the church office: standrew.hertford@btinternet.com or call 01992 504373)

Join us on Zoom for:

Service of the Word

every Sunday at 10.30am with praise, prayer and teaching. There is a communion service once a month. Please check the services on the last two pages of this magazine and the website for dates.

Fancy a chat after our Sunday worship on Zoom? **IT IS VERY EASY TO BE INCLUDED.** Just hang on after the service and instead of leaving you will be randomly put into a small group to speak with other people.



On Zoom on Sundays at 7pm except for second Sundays when Soul Food is on. Compline is based on the Felgild Compline from the Northumbria Community and Night Prayer from the New Zealand Prayer Book.

Meditation & Mindfulness

at 7.30pm on Tuesday 6th February and Wednesday every other week

Explore the riches of Christian Meditation and how it fits with

the practice and insights of Mindfulness. Each weekly session is free and lasts for about 45 minutes. We begin with some gentle exercises to help still the mind and then a guided meditation, followed by some silence.

Beginners especially welcome!

In Church on Tuesday 6th February (and also available on Zoom).

Other weeks on Zoom only.

FREE Mindfulness

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ON
MONDAYS
5TH & 19TH
FEBRUARY**

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Mindfulness can help with **wellbeing, stress** and **anxiety**. Come along and join the **FREE 30-min sessions**, followed by refreshments.

Everyone is welcome

just turn up!

Know the Story; Share the Story; Live the Story

SERVICES AND OTHER EVENTS



**OUR MONTHLY PRAYER MEETING IS
NOW IN PERSON AND ON ZOOM**

**IN PERSON IN THE LADY CHAPEL
AT ST ANDREW'S**

SATURDAY 3RD FEBRUARY AT 8.30AM

SATURDAY 9TH MARCH AT 8.30AM

AND ON ZOOM

**Time spent in prayer is always
time well spent**

CONTEMPORARY EVENING SERVICE

7pm on Sunday

11th February

in the St Andrew's Centre

soul food

*a service with worship songs, creative
prayer, gentle discussion and time for
reflection,
with refreshments beforehand.*

PRAYER MINISTRY

An opportunity to pray with a member of the prayer ministry team about any concerns you have; for wholeness and fullness of life for ourselves and others, and/or to give thanks to God for answered prayer. This takes place during and after the 10.30am Sunday service, usually in or by the chapel or at the back of the church.

RESUMING IN MARCH...



4th February

We are delighted to be joined by the Mayor of Hertford and Members of Hertford Town Council at our 10.30am Parish Eucharist service on this date.



HERTFORD TOWN COUNCIL

Ash Wednesday:

14th February at 10.30am & 8pm

Join us for a traditional service marking the beginning of Lent. Ash Wednesday focuses the Christian's heart on repentance and prayer as we enter the period known as Lent.

HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT JOINING A HOME GROUP?

Real intimacy, real spiritual depth, real church happens in small groups. At St Andrew's we have lots of different small groups which usually meet in someone's home on various days and times of the week. We meet to deepen friendships, offer support, explore questions, unpack the Bible, pray together and grow in love for one another and for God. A list of the current Home Groups is available on the church website.

Know the Story; Share the Story; Live the Story

A new tale for Epiphany

St Matthew's brief narrative of the visit of the Magi swoops down into the Gospel story out of nowhere, delivers its gifts and then vanishes into the desert night, leaving far more questions than answers. No other Gospel includes the story, no other New Testament passage makes reference to it. Perhaps that is why so many colourful traditions and so much creative art – music, poetry and painting – have tried to give names and flesh and blood and breath – and crowns - to these nameless strangers.

Here is my contribution, the imagined reflections of a university academic in what we now know as Iraq, writing around what we would now call the year 30, Common Era.

“The memoir of Orodes, son of Melchior, Professor of Astrology, University of Susa in Parthia.

My late father was a respected scholar and I am proud to have followed in his footsteps. But one troubling incident always cast a question mark over his reputation. As a child I remember the time my father went away. It was 30 years ago now. He had been working on a treatise on moving stars out in the western sky, when suddenly he requested a Sabbatical, permission to leave his regular duties for 6 months and travel west to Jerusalem.

I remember well how I missed my father in those months, and I remember my mother's anxiety, especially when he did not return at the expected time. There was some scandal too, some controversy at the Faculty of Astrology. I realised how much it upset my father, but he never talked much about it. All he told us children was a strange tale about a rare bright star in the western sky, an ancient prophecy in a strange language about a new King in a foreign land, an implausible encounter with an astounded carpenter and his wife and child in a town called Bethlehem, and a supernatural warning to take a different route home. It sounded like a fairy tale. What dreams and wonders were these? We were children then, we were used to fairy tales.

Thirty years have passed. Now I can access the records at the University, and I can see why there was controversy. Why had three senior members of the Faculty all taken a long Sabbatical at the same time? Why was nothing ever written? No scholarly papers were published to tell what they had learned on their travels, there was no correspondence with their fellow academics at the Astrology College in Jerusalem.

There was some trouble with expenses. Expensive last minute re-bookings of tickets, lodgings taken for a return journey that took a

strange detour instead of the usual planned route. There were three particularly big payments for 'gifts' and nobody could quite explain who they were for, and what happened to them.

There was a diplomatic issue too. This was back in the days of Herod the Great, when the Kingdom of Judea still had a degree of independence. Dad and his friends had followed the protocols when they arrived, and presented their credentials at the Palace, but at the end of the trip they had just sneaked off into the desert without a word of farewell. There had been protests at government level. Our own government had removed certain records from the University archives, and declared the whole thing 'sensitive'.

What has my father been doing?
How did any of this tie in with that magical, starlit tale of my childhood memories?

This year, something new happened in the sky. It should not have happened, our studies of the paths of the stars did not forecast it. A sudden, unexpected and total eclipse of the Sun tracked across the western desert and passed over the city of Jerusalem on a springtime Friday afternoon. Jerusalem! What wonders were these? Could this be a new chapter of my father's story?

But surely there was no new King there. Herod was long dead, and Judea was firmly under Pontius Pilate's Roman direct rule. Yes, Herod's son, another Herod, called himself King of Galilee, but he was a vacuous Roman puppet, the stars in the heavens would never align for a man like him. Where was the King whose birth my father had travelled to acclaim all those years ago?

So I too took my leave from my studies and travelled west. It was risky, with no visa and no plausible reason to travel. A friend advised me to time my arrival for Pentecost, a festival of pilgrimage for the Jews. Nobody would notice one more foreign tourist turning up. 40 days would be ample time for the journey.

And so I arrived in a busy and excitable Jerusalem, a strange and alien place for a Parthian like me, though I could get by with a bit of Greek and Aramaic. On a Sunday morning a group of prophets or preachers had gathered a crowd around them, and an unexpected and welcome sound caught my ear. A Judean was speaking fluent Parthian, and proclaiming a new King. Not the birth of a King, but a rebirth, a resurrection. A King who fulfilled the ancient prophecies, if only the people would see them in a new light. A King whose power came not on the edge of a sword, but in tongues of fire and winds of change.

Many of their listeners scoffed, but many believed. When that long day was over I sought out that preacher. His name was Matthew, a customs official. Perhaps he has learned his Parthian down on the eastern frontier, where our merchants came up through the Jordan valley. He told me his story, all he knew of an amazing Galilean, a carpenter's lad called Jesus who had turned his life on its head, and who now had turned death itself on its head.

And in turn I told him my father's tale, and he listened, astonished, and nodded his head. 'Born a King in Bethlehem....as our prophet foretold.'

So perhaps this was the beginning of the reign of the new King. This was the fulfilment of my father's journey. But now it was my journey, and this time there would be no going back home by another road. There was no going back at all. I was called to go onward, no longer following stars, but following a Saviour into a new Kingdom, a Kingdom that welcomed the whole world.

I sometimes wonder if Matthew remembered me, if he ever passed on the story I told him of my father's journey, of the star, the gold and frankincense and myrrh. Or did it just remain an old family tale to tell my own children one day – a tale of long ago and far away?"

The memoir of Orodas ends here.

And what of us, as our Christmas season, with its cheering lights and wondrous stories, slips into a New Year? Will you be going back, like the Wise Men of old, to where you were before, cheered but unchanged? Or will you now travel forwards, no longer to seek a child, but to follow a man, one who will lead us along a road sometimes hard and sometimes dark, until we too know the brightness of Easter morning's renewal and Pentecost's re-energising. If we make that journey we shall be changed, and there will be no thought of going back – not by any road.

Geoff Oates Lay Reader

A blessing for the new year

May your eyes be opened to the wonder of the daily miracles around you and your sense of mystery be deepened
May you be aware of the light that shines in the darkness and that the darkness can never put out
May you be blessed with companions on the journey; friends who will listen to you and encourage you with their presence
May you learn to live with what is unsolved in your heart; daring to face the questions and holding them until, one day, they find their answers
May you find a still small, quiet space inside yourself where you can know and experience the peace that passes understanding
May you continue to dream dreams and to reach out into the future with a deeper understanding of God's way for you

OUR WORLD

DAILY PRAYER FOR THE EARTH



Who, when & where?

For a year throughout 2024, a group of Hertford residents will meet daily in Salisbury Square at 12 noon.

What?

We will read a prayer or a poem from a number of different parts of the world and spiritual traditions, followed by a short period of silent reflection.

Why?

"It is now impossible to deny the harm humankind has inflicted upon our Earth. Prayer inoculates us against the despair that leads to inaction, connects us back into the Earth's beauty, and gives us the courage to take small compassionate actions and to face whatever is coming".

Satya Robyn, whose idea it was to say a daily Prayer for the Earth.

How can I get involved?

Join us as little or as often as you would like and let your friends know about Prayer for the Earth.

What else can I do?

Small actions add up. Join a local or national group working to protect our planet. See the list overleaf.

Friends of the Earth North Herts

peterfoord@gmail.com

Greenpeace Welwyn Garden City:

Helen Beckett:

wgcplusgreenpeace@gmail.com

<https://www.facebook.com/group>

[ps](#)

Climate Café Hertford

kateyearle@ntlworld.com

Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust

www.hertswildlifetrust.org.uk

RSPB Southeast Hertfordshire

<https://group.rspb.org.uk/southeasthertfordshire>

Lovely Grub Community Garden

lovelygrub.hertford@gmail.com

Wyld Edges CIC

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wylldedges@posteo.net

Above all, engage with politicians of all parties at all levels, talk to people, share your concerns and what you are doing about them, join with others to make change happen

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LATIN LINK & ANGEL TREE CENTRE

Jenny Aitken brings us an update from Julie Noble in Oruro, Bolivia on life in the country and her work at the Angel Tree Centre.

Julie Noble is part of the Latin Link American mission. Latin Link is an international community with a calling to love and serve God and our neighbour. Most members of Latin Link work in Latin American countries while some work with Latin Americans in other parts of the world. Angel Tree Centre works with prisoners' children and families.

Julie Noble has sent news of her work with Prison Fellowship in Oruro, Bolivia. She writes. 'There are now over eighty young offenders in the Renacer Centre (the majority for sexual abuse or rape) which present many challenges for the staff.

We finished the victim empathy course with fourteen boys in one class and four boys with learning difficulties in another. We held two end of year events. On 2nd December we organised games for the boys also ice cream sundaes and Christmas photos for everyone. On 6th December we held an afternoon tea and games party for the girls which they loved and said it made them feel like princesses.

On 15th December thirteen boys and one girl graduated high school at Renacer and there was a lovely celebration with about two hundred

visitors. The cook provided a delicious lunch which we eat outside in the courtyard.



We finished all but one of our restorative justice cases and presented reports to the judges. We were able to meet four boys we worked with at the end of 2022 (none of whom have been granted parole yet). It was good to see them continuing to make progress in accepting responsibility and awareness of the damage caused.

Meanwhile back at the Angel Tree Centre, thirty two children enjoyed a day out at the Discovery Park with a picnic, games and other entertainment provided by students from a local University. 2023 has been a difficult year for many reasons so please remember us in your prayers this new year'.

FOHM (the Friends of Hertford Museum) will be holding the first of their 2024 Lectures on Tuesday 20 February at 1945 for 2000. The venue is the St Andrew's Centre. The topic is "The MEADS" by Bern Edwards. There is a £3 charge for non-members. Annual membership is £15. Contact Charles Ledsam or just turn up!

Know the Story; Share the Story; Live the Story

GETTING OUT

New Year's Day Walk

Over 60 people of all ages, and a few dogs, turned out for St Andrew's & St Mary's New Year's Day Walk. Miraculously blue skies appeared for the first time for weeks as everyone collected at the Golden Griffin pub before setting off along Welwyn Road and into Panshanger Park. Enjoying a gentle stroll around the woods and fields of the park, the



walkers stopped briefly for a photo by the Queen's

Green Canopy sculpture which marks a new wood planted with the help of local people in honour of our late Queen. Much conversation was had and introductions made during the walk and they continued when many of the walkers, on arriving back, repaired to the Golden Griffin for a well-earned drink in the warm.



If the thought of a winter walk is appealing why not consider:

Hertfordshire Health Walks!

A programme of East Herts Health Walks for January to April 2024 is on the Hertfordshire Health Walks website.

Health Walks are for everyone. There are many walks in and around Hertford to choose from for all abilities and fitness levels and are led by friendly volunteers to keep everyone together.

All walks are free and are graded between 20-30 minutes (First Steps) and longer.

There is no need to book. You can register online (search Hertfordshire Health Walks) or, if you prefer, turn up 10-15 minutes before your first walk to complete a New Walker Form. You can call on 01992 555888 for more information.

.....
World Day of Prayer Friday March 1st

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standrewscentre@hotmail.com

A photograph of the exterior of St Andrew's Centre. The building is a modern, single-story structure with large windows and a flat roof. It is surrounded by greenery and a paved area.

Find out more online:
www.hertfordstandrews.co.uk
[/standrewscentre](mailto:standrewscentre)

Know the Story; Share the Story; Live the Story

A mouse on the stair closes a fine year of folk music at St Andrew's

What makes a venue good for folk music? The acoustics need to be clear and highly regarded. A full-house capacity of 160 people is perfect – small enough to make the artists accessible to the audience, but big enough to attract top names in the business. A welcoming atmosphere with beer and wine and generous hospitality for the musicians will help create a sought-after destination. And a reputation for having a good time is essential. If you haven't guessed it yet, we're talking about St Andrew's church,

Over the past couple of years, St Andrew's has enjoyed concerts from national and internationally acclaimed folk artists and bands, including Ralph McTell, Martin Simpson, Cara Dillon and favourites Fairport Convention (twice). Take it from me, these are musicians who play to several thousand people at festivals and in venues such as the Royal Albert Hall. But they also like coming to St Andrew's... and, given all of the above, who can blame them?

At the end of last year, we enjoyed two special concerts.

The first was from Scottish singer-songwriter **Kris Drever**. Originally from Orkney but now settled in Glasgow, Kris brought a Scottish atmosphere to the church in November. He has made his name not only as a solo artist but also as a session musician on recordings by well-known artists, such as Kate Rusby, Eddi Reader and Julie Fowlis.



Kris Drever – delivered Scottish fiddle tunes on his guitar

He is an exceptional guitarist, playing an amplified acoustic guitar in both a strumming and picking style. He was once described as playing with 'a highly individual blend of rhythm and harmony, folk, jazz, rock and country' although for us, he leaned heavily on the fiddle influence of his homeland. We heard a diverse range of songs about love, the seasons,

emigration and even the scuppering of the First World War German battle fleet at Scarpa Flow in 1919. It was a brilliant, virtuoso concert from the winner of several BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards. He was thrilled to play St Andrew's; St Andrew's was thrilled to have him.

Just before Christmas, we were entertained by the lively, energetic multi-instrumentalists known as **Churchfitters**



Churchfitters provided plenty of Christmas Cheer

I know you're going to ask why they are called 'Churchfitters'. When asked, they say: *Nobody knows! We're not fitters and have absolutely nothing to do with churches. The name's origin is lost in the mists of time but there is one aspect that suits us perfectly – quirkiness.* Well, they had everything to do with our church in December and were definitely quirky. They played a fabulous two-hour set of original

and cover songs on a variety of instruments, including a banjo made from an old saucepan, a musical saw and their famous 'glass organ', a tray of wine glasses filled with different levels of water, played by rubbing the rim of the glasses to produce an ethereal sound.

They entertained us with a range of seasonal songs, including references to pantomimes, *The Holly and the Ivy*, *Good King Wenceslas* and, best of all (but not seasonal), *A Windmill in Old Amsterdam*, better known as *A Mouse on the Stairs*. Everyone in the audience joined in with the chorus.

Churchfitters closed a memorable season of folk concerts on the altar stage at St Andrew's in 2023. This year, Eliza Carthy has already made an appearance (review in the March magazine) and upcoming concerts include Martin Simpson, (John) Spiers and (Jon) Boden and Julie Fowles. Tickets are on sale now through the church website. **Forbes Mutch**

Ware Musical Theatre will be presenting the musical **FUNNY GIRL** in March. If you are interested in coming on March 22, please contact Charles Ledsam on 07771 841012 no later than Friday 16 February.

FOLK AT ST ANDREW'S

ST ANDREW'S EXCITING PROGRAMME OF PREMIER FOLK PERFORMERS CONTINUES

The Sharon Shannon Trio

Wednesday 7th February

Irish President, Michael D. Higgins called Sharon Shannon a "National Treasure". She has performed around the world and has collaborated with a diverse group of artists including Bono, Nigel Kennedy, Willie Nelson and Linton Kwesi Johnston. Her recordings celebrate not only Irish traditional music, but also a range of other musical genres.

Come to hear Sharon as she continues her 2024 tour in the beautiful surroundings of St Andrew's Church.

A licensed bar serving ale, Guinness, wine and soft drinks will be available

Tickets are £21 + £1.58 booking fee www.ticketsource.co.uk/st-andrews-church



Martin Simpson

Thursday 14th March



We welcome the return to St Andrew's of one of the UK's great guitarists and performers. Martin Simpson has developed a repertoire that, as well as being rooted in the English folk tradition, also reflects his love of blues and American music. Martin is held in high esteem by his peers and we can look forward to a wonderful evening of playing, singing and story telling.

Martin's music will fill the church and will be complemented by the fine acoustic of the building. Audience members will be able to enjoy refreshments from the licenced bar serving real ale, wine and soft drinks. It should be a memorable occasion!

Tickets are £19 + £1.43 booking fee www.ticketsource.co.uk/st-andrews-church

Spiers and Boden

Tuesday 16th April

Maybe the finest instrumental duo on the traditional scene. Spiers and Boden come to St Andrew's on their only tour of 2024. Each is well known in their own right and, together, they most famously were part of Bellowhead.

Julie Fowlis in Concert

Thursday 30th May

A wonderful Scottish singer who plays major concert halls internationally. Julie comes to St Andrew's backed by some her country's finest instrumentalists.

For ticket information and full event details, please check our website for updates! www.hertfordstandrews.co.uk



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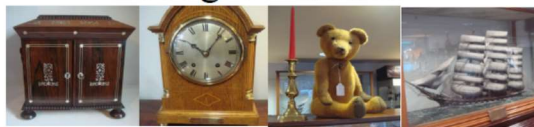


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A LOOK BACK AT THE FESTIVE SEASON

BUMPER CHRISTMAS ATTENDANCES GENEROUS CONGREGATIONS



Christmas saw many more people entering the doors of St Andrew's to attend the various events and services held over the festive season.

Chrissy Barclay, with Rosemary Willis's help, had decorated the church gloriously. A beautiful Christmas tree lit the church too, thanks to a generous donor and Chris Seward's team who installed and decorated it.

For 'Beer & Carols' about 370 adults and children were welcomed through the doors over the course of the afternoon. They enjoyed the music of our wonderful house band 'Flare' which lead the carol singing. Rachel Chaplin and



Sam Chaplin added their voices to the occasion, whilst a huge group of children enjoyed covering their crafts (and most of the floor) with glitter. Mulled wine, beer and soft drinks were in high demand. A retiring collection for **The Hertford Pantry** raised £365.

St Andrew's School held their Christmas Carol Service in St Andrew's Church with 160 pupils and tremendous support from

their families, more than doubling up last year's adult attendance to 166.

A beautiful candlelit service of Lessons and Carols was held on the Wednesday before



Christmas with about 125 attending, refreshed afterwards by mulled wine and mince pies – thanks to the Social Committee. A collection for **Herts Young Homeless** raised £400.

Christmas Eve saw two Crib and Christingle Services at which 465 adults and children received all of the Christingles that had been prepared – must remember to make extra next year. The collections at these services always go to **The Children's Society** and they will receive £600 towards their wonderful work.

Finally, the Christmas Day Services – Midnight Mass, 8am Christmas Day and the All Age on Christmas Day. We felt it appropriate that we should remember the Holy Land on this day and so our collection went to **Christian Aid's Middle East Appeal**, which will receive £545.

It was a joy to see so many people worshipping the Christ Child in so many ways and to witness people's generosity towards those in need.

Shirley Taylor

Know the Story; Share the Story; Live the Story

DEANERY SYNOD

Growing Younger and More Diverse, Prayers of Love and Faith, Clergy Pay and New Housing

Shirley, who with Julie Markey, represents St Andrew's on Hertford & Ware Deanery Synod tells us what was discussed.

The Deanery

Hertford and Ware Deanery is a collection of parishes which stretches from Hunsdon and Widford in the east to Essendon in the west, from Ponsbourne in the South to Aston and High Cross in the North. Clergy and laity in the Deanery together have the responsibility for the mission of the church in the area.

The Deanery Synod

The Deanery Synod is the church governance equivalent of a district council. It comprises elected lay members from the parishes and serving clergy. Synod meetings act as a formal bridge between the Diocesan Synod and Parochial Church Councils.

We began with a presentation by Rev Dan Drew from the Diocese on 'Growing Younger and More Diverse'. He asked us to remember the people who had led us into faith in our childhoods and people who were always there at church or youth club week after week and who we could talk to about whatever we wanted.

He also talked about creating a space for children in our services so that they are a part of them.

There is a pilot scheme involving three primary schools, two CofE schools and one secular where another member of the 'Growing Younger and More Diverse' team is spending up to an hour a week with Year 6s getting them to think about the 'Rule of Life' and events in the Christian calendar eventually getting them to visit a church building with their parents.

Another strategy is for a group of about a dozen 18-35 year olds from various churches to meet regularly for a year sharing a meal, and ending up with an expedition – this year walking the Camino Way. We were asked if there were people in that age group who might benefit from being in a larger group like this as they are starting another cohort shortly.

We then received a report from Rev Rachel Wakefield on the General Synod of the previous week which spent most of its time discussing Prayers of Love and Faith – prayers for those in same sex relationships.

Concern was expressed by one clergy member of the Deanery Synod that there had not been discussion on the state of clergy pay. Their pensions have been cut from 75% to 50% of stipend and pay in real terms has declined by 10% in recent years. Curates are no longer eligible for Working Tax Credit under the new Universal Credit rules. He said that it was no wonder there is shortage of applicants for clergy posts if it had become a real struggle to survive.

There then followed elections for a new Lay Chair of the Deanery Synod (no one put themselves forward, so we will try again in March 2023), Treasurer (Janet Bird) and the Standing Committee (two of three laity elected).

The Deanery Synod is collecting information about new housing developments in the area, of which there are many, and what churches are doing to contact people newly moved in.

Shirley Taylor

Know the Story; Share the Story; Live the Story

Think about... **LENT**

Lent is the time to prepare your heart and mind for Easter. It lasts for 40 days (not including Sundays) and begins on **Ash Wednesday**, which is on 14th February this year. At the Ash Wednesday service Christians are marked on the forehead with a cross of ashes as a sign of saying sorry to God for anything they have done that's wrong. The day before Ash Wednesday is called **Shrove Tuesday**, when it used to be the last chance to use up the food that would not be eaten during Lent (also known as pancake day!)

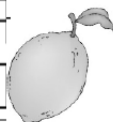
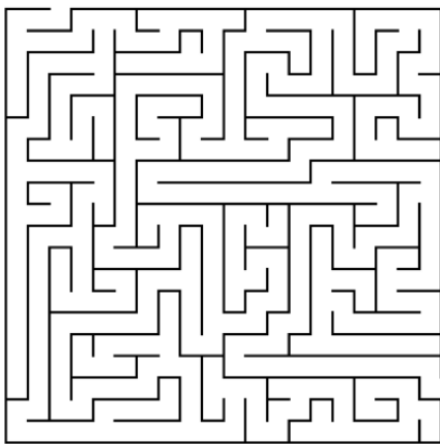
**LOVE LIFE
LIVE LENT
TRANSFORM YOUR WORLD**

During Lent, Christians remember when Jesus went into the desert to fast and pray before beginning his work for God. Traditionally, Lent is a time of giving things up, as a way of remembering how Jesus fasted in the desert. People may give up meat, chocolate, cakes, their favourite drink in Lent... OR people can decide to make an effort to DO something during Lent – perhaps read the Bible more, or do a different, meaningful, thing each day...maybe visit someone who may be lonely or fundraise for a local charity.



Pancake Day Maze

The girl would like some lemon to put on her pancake. Can you help her find her way through the maze?



Resources courtesy of:
apples4theteacher.com,
saifordliturgy.org.uk,
Americanmagazine.org, alivinggarden.com

Word Searches

How many words can you find in this puzzle using the word bank below? Words go left to right, top to bottom or diagonally ...

L	Y	F	C	A	L	P	V	H	S	Q
H	F	O	R	K	P	E	A	J	C	A
E	A	R	O	F	E	H	N	L	R	M
A	S	E	S	B	N	K	C	T	M	C
S	T	H	S	L	A	S	H	E	S	S
T	R	E	P	E	N	T	A	N	C	E
E	X	A	J	S	C	R	M	E	A	T
R	J	D	N	S	E	F	I	R	S	T

ASHES EASTER FOREHEAD PALMS BLESS
FAST LENT PENANCE CROSS FIRST MEAT
REPENTANCE

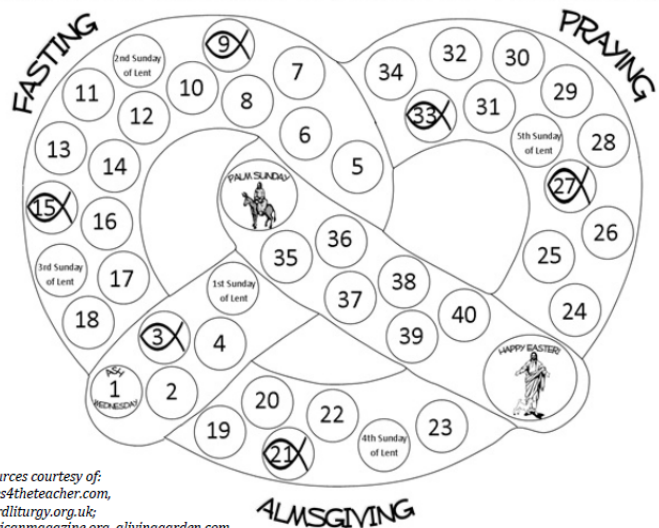
S	L	E	G	N	A	L	O	N	E
T	S	D	E	T	P	M	E	T	W
E	Y	E	A	X	F	A	O	L	I
P	T	T	N	E	H	L	I	D	P
A	H	S	R	R	R	V	Y	E	I
R	R	U	E	O	E	B	R	V	H
A	O	A	N	D	F	D	O	L	S
P	W	H	O	G	H	O	L	Y	R
O	Y	X	T	O	R	L	G	I	O
W	T	E	S	T	S	Y	A	D	W



WILDERNESS
TEMPTED
DEVIL
FORTY
STONE
BREAD
ALONE
GLORY
WORSHIP
PARAPET
ANGELS
EXHAUSTED

THE PRETZEL IS A REALLY GOOD SYMBOL FOR THE SEASON OF LENT. IT LOOKS LIKE THE SHAPE OF ARMS CROSSED IN PRAYER AND IT IS MADE OF SIMPLE INGREDIENTS TO REMIND US THAT LENT IS A TIME OF FASTING. YOU CAN USE THIS CALENDAR TO HELP COUNT THE DAYS OF LENT UP TO EASTER SUNDAY...

LENTEN CALENDAR: THE SALT OF THE EARTH



WITH THANKS TO VAL HURFORD

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YOUNG PEOPLE



St Andrew's Youth Group for secondary-age children.

In secondary school? Like playing daft games? Having a laugh? Eating? Not afraid to think deeply for a few minutes at a time? Curious about God, the Universe and everything in-between?

Brilliant, because so are we!

We meet usually on the first and third Sundays of the month from 4.30-6pm (*dates, times and venues may vary - please check the calendar on the church website or email John – see below*).

If you're not already receiving updates about TMM, please get in touch with John so he can keep you informed about what's happening week by week: johnwache@yahoo.com



Toasty Tuesday After-School Club

**Tuesdays in term-time
4pm- 5.30pm at St Andrew's Church**

Your time - Your space.

Hang out with friends and meet new people. Toasties, games, quizzes and crafts. Or just somewhere to hang out on your way home from a hard day at school.

For details, please contact Bryan Fries: bfries@ylinterational.org

LOCAL INTEREST GROUPS



Hertford Art Society

meet every Tuesday, 7.30-9.30 pm in the URC Hall, Cowbridge, Hertford SG14 1PG for talks, critiques, demonstrations, workshops and painting sessions.

The events in February are:

6th - Talk: Emotions in clay portraiture

13th - AGM*

20th - Painting demonstration

27th - Workshop: Balance & composition in art*

*These events are for Members only.

You don't have to be an artist to join us - come along as a guest (£2) to an open evening & sample our activities. If you decide to become a Member the cost is £40 a year.

For more information go to www.hertfordartsociety.co.uk or if you'd like to talk to someone about what we do ring 07914 567204 for more information.

Looking for something different?



**Then try
Dance Scottish
on Tuesday nights**

**Sele Farm Community Centre
7pm – 8.30pm**

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**Classes £15 per half term
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Come and try it - all welcome

**Contact Emma or Ian
email: sehscds@hotmail.com
phone: 07842034890**

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MUSIC FROM AN INNER SPACE

RACHEL CHAPLIN'S ALBUM LAUNCH CONCERT

Saturday 2nd March 7:30pm at St Andrew's

Many of you will have read about Rachel's project to record an album of Psalms & sacred songs which she has written. *Music from an Inner Space* is now complete and will be performed and celebrated at a special launch concert on Saturday March 2nd at St Andrew's.

Rachel writes:

"I'm hugely grateful for the support so many at St Andrew's gave me towards this creative project. It is exciting to have finished it and I'm looking forward to a year of performing and promoting the music, which I hope will bring these words and stories deeper into people's minds and hearts. I'm delighted to bring the launch concert to St Andrew's – I attended one of the folk gigs at the end of last year and loved the atmosphere; it made me appreciate all the more the wonderful building St Andrew's is. I'll be performing on piano with a group of string players who are professional orchestral colleagues of mine and we'll be joined on vocals by my longstanding friend and collaborator Evi Dobner. My husband Sam will also make a guest appearance on trumpet for a couple of the songs."

Rachel's album will be on sale before and after the concert (available on CD or vinyl). She will also be selling her 'contemplation packs', which include a limited edition booklet and candle, made especially to go with the music.

For more information on the concert and a booking link scan the QR code.



RACHEL CHAPLIN
MUSIC FROM AN INNER SPACE
ALBUM LAUNCH CONCERT

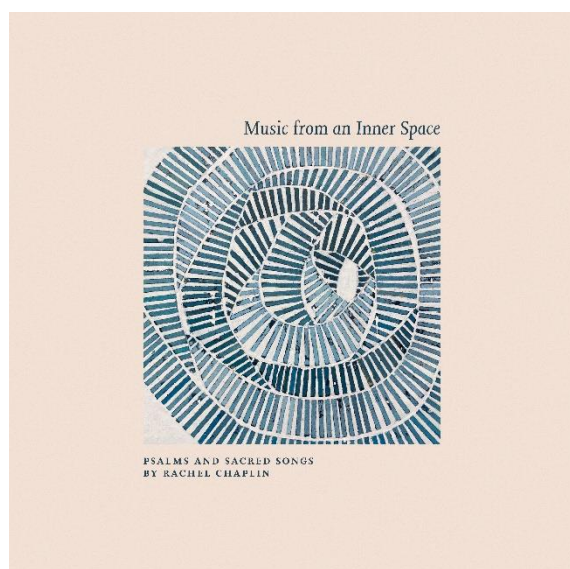
'Beautiful and powerful songs, better than any medicine'
Hannah French, BBC Radio 3 Presenter

Rachel Chaplin (piano)
Evi Dobner (vocals) & string ensemble
With support set from Flora Curzon (violin/ vocals/ electronics)

SATURDAY 2 MARCH 2024
7.30pm at St Andrew's Church,
Hertford SG14 1HZ

Tickets from
www.ticketsource.co.uk/st-andrews-church

www.rachelchaplinmusic.com



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BEWARE PHONE SCAMS

Police warn that phone scams are widespread in Hertfordshire

Hertfordshire Constabulary are warning residents to stay vigilant following reports of scam calls –**please share this widely with friends and family.**

Residents are contacted via 'phone by someone claiming to be a police officer investigating fraudulent activity on the victim's bank account. They claim there is an issue with their bank account and convince victims they are helping with a covert Police investigation.

The fraudsters typically provide victims with elaborate stories to justify the urgent need for cash withdrawal and convince their victims they are genuine, even telling the victims to call 999 OR 101 to check their identity but this is part of the scam as the telephone line can be left open by the scammer. Victims are manipulated into withdrawing cash and, posting it, or passing money to a courier arranged by the scammer.

Police recommend waiting at least five minutes before attempting to make a new call to ensure you're not reconnected to the offender, or use a mobile phone or test your landline by 'phoning a friend or relative first.

Senior Beacon Fraud Hub Manager, Elaine Crate, said: "Bogus Police telephone scams are increasingly common and elderly residents are being exploited. The effects of being scammed can be devastating, impacting not only your finances but also damaging your emotional well-being."

REMEMBER:

- **The Police or your bank would NEVER ask you to withdraw cash or to move money to another account.**
- **Never share pin numbers or personal information.**
- **Speak with family or a friend before carrying out any actions.**
- **Use a different phone line to call your bank/Police.**
- **Stay vigilant and don't be afraid to end the call and hang up.**

Please report to ACTION FRAUD (see below) if you or someone you know is a victim or contact the Police using methods shown at the end of this email. Action Fraud is the national reporting centre for fraud and cybercrime. They can be called on 0300 123 2040 (Monday to Friday 8am to 8pm) or via their website.

Police Contact Advice

- Telephone 999 in an emergency where there is a danger to life or a crime is in progress.
- Telephone 101 for **non-emergencies** where police attendance is required, to report a crime or to report any other incidents.
- Alternatively, visit www.herts.police.uk/contact to report a non-emergency crime online or chat to a police operator live via their web chat service.

Coffee crafts and produce!
St Andrew's Coffee Morning on Saturday 3 February will have a sale of I crafts and produce. Anyone who wishes to sell their goods please contact Maria: mariahenrikssonbell@icloud.com / 07929 021264

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

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01992 583 508

sworder.co.uk



AMAZING GRACE: AMAZING PLAY

Forbes Mutch reports on a unique theatrical production at St Andrew's.

In January 1773, in a church in the English market town of Olney, the congregation sang a new hymn by their minister, written to illustrate his latest sermon. Two hundred and fifty years later, *Amazing Grace* has become the world's best-loved hymn and one of the most-recorded songs of all time.

Let's start at the beginning. In 1754, a 29-year-old John Newton was captain of a slave ship, ploughing the infamous triangular route between Liverpool and the Caribbean via the West Coast of Africa, where he picked up native slaves in chains. A decade later, he is an established curate in Olney.

Newton's journey from slave trader to evangelical Christian and slave abolitionist is remarkable and was brought to life vividly by the Living Breath theatre company in a play called *Forever Mine*, which was presented on the St Andrew's altar stage at the end of October 2023.

The story is told largely through Newton's lifelong correspondence with his wife Polly. In his letters, he chronicles his hardships as a slave trader at sea; his growing distaste for the plight of his human cargo and his burning desire to become ordained in the church, following his conversion to Christianity.

The play is staged in front of a simple set with minimal props. This concentrates attention on the dynamic cast of four, led by Ellis J Wells as Newton and Susie Garvey-Williams as Polly. The audience is carried along on waves of sympathetic emotion, love and righteous justice, as Newton's faith develops, his status as a writer of hymns grows in collaboration with poet William Cowper, and his links with



famous slave abolitionist, William Wilberforce fix his place in history.

The production was touring to mark the 250th anniversary of Newton's most-loved hymn, *Faith's Review and Expectation*, which has come to be known by its opening phrase, *Amazing Grace*. The play ends with the audience joining in a chorus of the hymn's first verse:

*Amazing grace, how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost, but now I'm found,
Was blind but now I see.*

Brilliant theatre – a moving, engaging and compelling drama.



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www.rossisattic.co.uk

CHURCH FAMILY

FROM THE REGISTERS

FUNERALS:

We extend our sympathy to the family and friends of:

- 4th December **Joanne Catherine Grint** aged 56
8th December **Alfie John Head** aged 18
24th January **Frederick George Cording** aged 94
25th January **Doreen Martin** aged 92

MORE SPECIAL ARRIVALS

David Spring is celebrating the birth of his third grandchild. Mila Rae Warren was born to his younger daughter, Naomi, and her husband Jake on 29th December, weighing 8lbs.

Also making an appearance on 29th December was Ezra weighing 6lb 6oz, a first child to Becca and Rosco. Becca (nee Willis) and Rosco were married last year at St Andrew's. Ezra is Jo and Rod Willis's first grandchild.

ACHIEVEMENT RECOGNISED



Congratulations to Claire Goodman who was awarded an MBE in the New Year Honours List for services to older people. Claire is Professor of Health Care Research at the University of Hertfordshire.

CATHEDRAL MONEYMAN



Nick Sharman, our Honorary Treasurer and longstanding choir member, has been appointed Chief Financial Officer at St Paul's Cathedral. The role has primary responsibility for looking after the finances of the cathedral, which is a registered charity. Nick will work with the Dean and the Chief Executive to lead and manage the operations of the cathedral, balancing the primary function of the cathedral as a place of worship with the demands arising from the iconic building being a top London tourist attraction. Nick, who took up the post at the end of January, will be inducted to his role by the Bishop of London at a service later in the year. We wish Nick all the best in his new job.



USED POSTAGE STAMPS FOR KEECH HOSPICE CARE



Please continue to save Christmas design stamps, British special issue and foreign stamps for Keech Hospice Care. There is a box at the back of the church where they can be deposited. It would help if stamps were cut off leaving a small border. Thank you from Julie Frazer.

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Services at St Andrew's

February 2024



To attend a Zoom service please email the Parish Office at:- standrew.hertford@btinternet.com

	Date	Time	Service	Celebrant	Preacher
Thursday	1	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (BCP)		
SUNDAY	4	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Rev Alan Stewart	
<i>Sexageima</i>		10.30 am	Parish Communion	Rev Alan Stewart	Geoff Oates
		10.30 am	Morning Service on Zoom	Kath Oates	(Recorded)
		7.00 pm	Compline	Rev Alan Stewart	
Monday	5	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (Common Worship)		
Wednesday	7	10.30 am	Holy Communion (Traditional)	Rev Alan Stewart	
Thursday	8	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (BCP)		
		10.30 am	Holy Communion Calton Court	Rev Alan Stewart	
SUNDAY	11	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Rev Alan Stewart	
<i>Quinquagesima</i>		10.30 am	All Age Service	Rev Alan Stewart	
		10.30 am	Morning Service on Zoom	Kath Oates	
		7.00 pm	Soul Food		
Monday	12	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (Common Worship)		
Wednesday	14	10.30 am	Holy Communion (Traditional)	Rev Alan Stewart	
<i>Ash Wednesday</i>		8.00 pm	Holy Communion	Rev Alan Stewart	Melaine Seward
Thursday	15	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (BCP)		
SUNDAY	18	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Rev Alan Stewart	Forbes Mutch
<i>Lent 1</i>		10.30 am	Parish Communion	Rev Alan Stewart	Forbes Mutch
		10.30 am	Morning Service on Zoom	Melaine Seward	Recorded
		7.00 pm	Compline	Rev Alan Stewart	
Monday	19	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (Common Worship)		
Wednesday	21	10.30 am	Holy Communion (Traditional)	Rev Bill Church	
Thursday	22	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (BCP)		
		10.30 am	Holy Communion Calton Court	Rev Bill Church	
SUNDAY	25	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Rev Bill Church	
<i>Lent 2</i>		10.30 am	Parish Communion	Rev Alan Stewart	
		10.30 am	Morning Service on Zoom	Kath Oates	Recorded
		6.30 pm	Evensong St Marys Hertingfordbury		
		7.00 pm	Compline	Rev Alan Stewart	
Monday	26	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (Common Worship)		
Wednesday	28	10.30 am	Holy Communion (Traditional)	Rev Alan Stewart	Forbes Mutch
Thursday	29	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (BCP)		