The parish magazine of

Hertford St Andrew

www.hertfordstandrews.co.uk

SEPTEMBER 2025

The Irish Wake

How the Irish teach us to live, love and die



A talk by Rev. Alan Stewart

An exploration of Irish customs around death and dying, and a reflection on a good death. St Andrew's Church, St Andrew St, Hertford Wednesday 24th September 7.30pm FREE ENTRY

Here with you Here for you

HERTFORD ST ANDREW

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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.

SABBATICAL MOMENTS

it's good to be back!

It's been such a privilege to be gifted three months to refuel and renew, and I'm so grateful to everyone who stepped up and stepped in while I was on sabbatical.



It's been an incredibly full yet spacious time which has inspired and challenged and deepened me in so many ways. Here's a little whistle-stop tour to give you a flavour!

The three months were bookended with two trips back home to Ireland. The first involved a road trip which began with a couple of days in Dublin's fair city sampling the Guinness and visiting galleries and museums. We then moved south to Ireland's oldest city, Waterford, where we visited the fascinating Museum of the Irish Wake, my chosen theme to study during the sabbatical. If that's of interest, come along to a talk I'm doing on the 24th subtitled 'How the Irish teach us to live, love and die'.

From Waterford, we travelled to the multicoloured port of Kinsale, followed by a few days in beautiful Westport before heading up through Donegal to the North to spend time with family.

On return, I did a five-day silent retreat with the Northumbria Community (by mistake!). Turns out it was exactly the mistake I needed! Silence does indeed speak. It was a time of personal stocktaking, revisiting past relationships and listening to God's still small voice.

A week in Sorrento and the Amalfi coast was a real highlight, visiting the ancient ruins of Herculaneum, taking a boat trip to the stunning cliffside village of Positano, sampling cocktails and lemon sorbet by the

WELCOME!

Welcome everyone to St Andrew's, and in particular visitors and newcomers. Details of services are given on the next and last couple of pages of this magazine. If you wish to know more about anything mentioned, please see the website or get in touch with any named contact person or speak with one of the churchwardens. For contact details, see the previous page.

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.

ocean, and eating pizza in Piazzo Tasso (named after the poet who I've unknowingly been quoting for years in my wedding sermon!).

It was lovely visiting my two grown-up children Rosie and Elijah in their adopted cities of Bristol and Liverpool, and then to end my time with a final trip back to Ireland with them both. We made lots of great new memories, and it was particularly wonderful to watch my 20 and 24 yr olds lost in the rock pools and rock climbing of our favourite harbour at Balintoy. We also went to two places I'd never been to before because they had always felt like no-go areas for a Protestant; the Bogside of Derry and the Falls Rd of Belfast. We visited the murals and the Free Derry Museum and went on a walking tour of the Falls Rd. It was deeply challenging and eye opening and moving, and offered another side to a story 1 thought 1 knew.

Not everyone can take three months out of the demands and responsibilities of life. We each can however choose to make sabbatical moments within our days, moments to pause, reflect and recharge. I'm planning on continuing to practice that sabbatical spirit as life hits the ground running.

THE CLOSING DATE FOR THE OCTOBER MAGAZINE IS **SUNDAY 21ST SEPTEMBER.** Please send copy by email to hertfordsta@aol.co.uk

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 during school term time, except during an All-Age service (see below), when the children stay in church for the whole service.

ALL-AGE SERVICE

SUNDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER at 10.30am A shorter, child-friendly, interactive service with songs, prayers and surprises.

St Andrew's services on Zoom

Zoom codes for online access and access via a landline are available from the church office: standrew.hertford@btinternet.com or by calling 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 page of this magazine and the website for dates.



On Zoom on Sundays at 7pm except the first Sunday of the month.

Compline is based on the Felgild Compline from the Northumbria Community and Night Prayer from the New Zealand Prayer Book.



OUR MONTHLY PRAYER MEETING IN PERSON & ON ZOOM on Saturday 6th September at 8.30am

Join us on Zoom or pop down to St Andrew's and join us in the Lady Chapel as we pray for ourselves, our churches and our world during these worrying times.



7.30pm IN CHURCH (& on Zoom) ON WEDNESDAY 3RD SEPTEMBER; ON ZOOM ONLY ON WEDNESDAY 17TH SEPTEMBER

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 40 minutes. We begin with some gentle exercises to help still the mind and then a guided meditation, followed by some silence.

Beginners especially welcome!

SERVICES AND OTHER EVENTS

soul food

CONTEMPORARY SERVICE

in the St Andrew's Centre 7pm

Sunday 7th September
JOIN US AT 6.45 FOR REFRESHMENTS

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



Pet Service

Calling all Creatures
Great & Small!



A short service of thanksgiving for the pets & animals that have become part of the family

Sunday 21st September at 3pm St Mary's Church, Hertingfordbury

Street Pastors Commissioning Service



Sunday 28th September Hertford Baptist Church at 10:15am

Hertford & Ware Street Pastors are part of a national team of trained volunteers from local churches. We care about our community, and particularly about people in the nighttime economy. We are usually on patrol from 10.30pm up to approximately 2am on a Friday or Saturday night to care for, listen to and help people who are out on the streets.

If you are interested in finding out more about our work, or are interested in becoming a Street Pastor, please contact **David Elder – Coordinator** hertfordandware@streetpastors.org.uk

EVENTS

JOIN US FOR OUR EVER-POPULAR MONTHLY COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 6th September: 10.30am to 12.30pm It's National Read a Book Day on 6th September so we'll have a second-hand book stall with plenty of reading material to choose from. There will also be a jewellery stall, hand-made cards and knitted goods, Pot Luck, a raffle, live music from pianist Theo and - of course - a selection of tempting cakes and freshly-brewed cuppas. If you have any good quality books or costume jewellery you'd like to donate, please hand them in to the church office or leave at the back of the church labelled for the 'September Coffee Morning'. Thank you!



OUR HISTORIC CHURCHES NEED YOU!

BIKE 'N HIKE: Saturday 13th September 2025



Get ready for Bike 'n Hike on Saturday 13th September. Bike Hike again offers the opportunity to raise money both for our church and for the Beds & Herts Historic Churches Trust which provides grants for the conservation of churches.

Therefore, for every £1 that we raise in sponsorship, 50p is returned to St Andrew's. All the organising is done for us; all we have to do is to take part!

Taking part involves raising a few pounds through

Bike 'n Hike is the Trust's main fundraiser.

It's а vital challenge, because while churches continue to need repairs, building costs have soared. The Trust can do it if more people are sponsored to take part in this fun day out, visiting beautiful historic churches. Half the sponsor money goes to the church nominated by the person taking part.

sponsorship and/or providing your own donation and cycling, walking, driving or using public transport (it doesn't matter how you get about) to visit other churches.

There are lots of ways to join in:

- Get sponsored to take part and visit beautiful churches on foot, by bike or other means.
- Help keep your church open to welcome Bike 'n Hike visitors
- Sponsor someone to take part.

For more information please speak with Peter Ruffles (01992 582722). If you can help by being a welcoming face to visitors to St Andrew's on the day and/or baking refreshments please contact Carol Muhr. For more information and to download a sponsorship form go to www. bedshertshct.org.uk/bike-n-hike/

EVENTS

Calling all young families

Teddy Bears' Picnic

Saturday 20th Sept 3.30 - 5pm Please bring your Teddy, and your own picnic! Food, fun, games and a story!

St Mary's Church Hertingfordbury

Contact Alan 07986 979769 h.alanstewart1@gmail.com



WELWYN GARDEN CITY MALE VOICE CHOIR

Saturday 4 October at 7.30pm

St Andrew's Church

We welcome Welwyn Garden City Male Voice Choir for a concert at St Andrew's as they celebrate their 90th year.

The Choir was founded in 1935 by a group of Welshmen who had moved to Welwyn Garden City in search of work. Their repertoire includes songs from shows, spirituals, traditional English, Scottish and Irish pieces; they sing a number of songs in Welsh, maintaining a proud tradition harking back to the Choir's early days. They also include one or two numbers which may surprise!

Tickets: £10 (Under 16s free). Order your

tickets here:

https://www.wgcmalevoicechoir.org.uk/tick et-order

The Irish Wake

How the Irish teach us to live, love and die



A talk by Rev. Alan Stewart

An exploration of Irish customs around death and dying, and a reflection on a good death.

St Andrew's Church, St Andrew St, Hertford

Wednesday 24th September 7.30pm

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FROM THE REGISTERS

WEDDING:

We rejoice with:

21st June Lauren Tims & Samuel Healey

FUNERALS:

We extend our sympathy to the family and friends of:

18th June **Lesley Walne** aged 91. Lesley was a longstanding member of the Sunday 8am congregation, then home communicant and Wednesdays. School librarian at Broxbourne, widely read and widely travelled. Wife of Peter Walne who was the County Archivist, mother of Catherine and Nicholas and grandmother. Lesley was known as a very definite person - you knew where you stood with her!

2nd July **Christopher Seward** aged 70. See the eulogy for Chris later in this magazine,

3rd July **Mary Archdale** aged 92. Mary was born in Ireland but came young to Enfield where she went to school and where she taught for her whole career, having trained at Homerton. She lived in Sadlers Way then Bentley House. A great lover and connoisseur of poetry.

Reece Hill aged 28. The church was full of family and friends to mark the life of Reece, tragically cut short. He went to St Andrew's School and then Sele School and worked as a landscaper until disability prevented him. Greatly missed by parents Andrew and Lisa, siblings and cousins. 22nd July (at St Mary's Hertingfordbury). Alan Carter aged 87. A native of Norfolk, Alan moved to Hertford for work and was well known in planning and conservation circles. Married to Eunice for

64 years, father of Tracey and Ian and grandfather to Emily, Luke and Sam.

REASON TO CELEBRATE

On Sunday 3rd August not only was the 10.30am congregation able to welcome back Rev Alan after his three-



months sabbatical it was also an occasion to sing Happy Birthday to Jean McQueen whose 90th birthday it was that day. Jean has worshipped at St Andrew's for nearly 30 years and to mark this milestone was joined by family and friends for the service and a celebration afterwards with a beautiful cake made by Laura Ramsay and glasses of fizz for all to enjoy. Jean gives thanks for all the

lovely birthday celebrations she had and all the cards and messages received. She was truly touched and feels very



blessed. Pictured is Jean with her daughter, Sue, and behind them Jean's granddaughter Alice flanked by her friend James and her dad, Jean's son-in-law, Andrew.

Looking for something different?



Then try Dance Scottish on Tuesday nights

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Classes £15 per half term for more details visit www.rscdsherts.org/south-east-herts

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BABIES TAKE CENTRE STAGE



It has been a busy few weeks for new grandparents Jenny and Forbes Mutch. Forbes' mother died peacefully in her sleep (she was 96) at 2 o'clock in the morning on 10th

July. Later the same day, at 4 o'clock in the afternoon, his daughter gave birth to a baby girl called Summer Grace (Ferguson). She is seen here with Summer's mother Ellie, father Matt and Forbes and



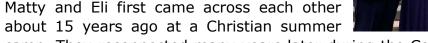
Jenny. Meanwhile, the Mutch's other grandchild, six-monthold Archie Forster-Mant, son of Claire and Jay, was recently christened at St James' church, Emsworth, Sussex.

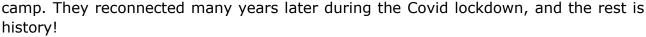
FROM CHRISTIAN SUMMER CAMP TO CLERKENWELL WEDDING

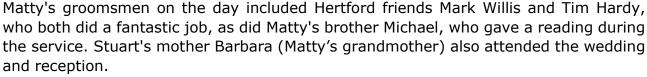
Helle and Stuart Penson's elder son Matty married Eli Downie on 2nd August at St James' Church, Clerkenwell.

Eli, the daughter of Paul and Rachel Downie, grew up in Enfield, and is now a geography teacher at a secondary school in north London. Matty works as an account director for a marketing agency in London.

Matty and Eli first came across each other







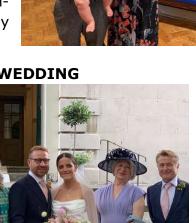
Matty and Eli enjoyed a fabulous honeymoon in Rhodes, before settling in to married life in Crouch End, north London.



Matty, Mark and Tim go back a long way. They grew up together in Hertford and within the family of St Andrew's Church. Matty and Mark are pictured left at a parish weekend away at Hengrave Hall in Suffolk in or about 2000. Matty and Eli's wedding was a great occasion not just for the lads to get together

but also for their mums seen here, from left to right, Jo Willis, Helle Penson and Venetia Hardy with their sons.





FINDING A CORNISH PENNY

Katie Melville while on holiday with a friend in Cornwall this summer was visiting a most beautiful church at St. Just-in-Roseland where she found that the vicar was Rev Penny Leach who was much involved in the life of St Andrew's as churchwarden and much more until her relocation to the west country a few years ago. Katie and her friend then went on to the church at St. Mawes, where Penny is also vicar, and there they found Penny among a group from the church serving tea and scones to passers-by. Katie is pictured here with Penny.



DEFIBRILLATOR FOR ST ANDREW'S AND THE LOCAL COMMUNITY



You may have noticed the newly installed defibrillator positioned inside the porch as you come into church.

It has been recognised for some years that it would be desirable to have a defibrillator in or about the church; the cost and positioning of the device caused much discussion within the PCC.

At the start of this year, we began fund-raising with a view to bringing this project to a successful conclusion.

In February Justin Honey-Jones from the charity Hearts for Herts contacted us having

seen our fundraising efforts advertised on social media. He expressed an interest in helping with our project as they were looking for suitable venues at the church end of town to expand the network. Justin visited, offered useful advice, and suggested the porch as a suitable place to install a defibrillator as it offered 24-hour access.

The charity passed on discount from their supplier; they provided a public access bleed kit and cardiac response kit as well.

The defibrillator is registered with the ambulance service and any emergency response calls will be directed to the church porch if appropriate.

The defibrillator will be maintained by the charity. Thank you to all contributors to this worthy project and to Justin and Hearts for Herts for all their help in achieving the installation of the defibrillator.

CAN YOU HELP?

We are always grateful to the businesses which advertise in this magazine. For many years Pauline Rhodes managed the advertising but ill health has prevented her from continuing with the role. I am looking for someone to take on this job. Most of the work involved takes place in February and March each year, and there is little to be done until next February which gives plenty of time to get to know the job. If you would like to know more please either call me on 07703 197707 or email me at richt1208@outlook.com

Richard Taylor

VACANCY FOR AN EVENTS ADMINISTRATOR

The Church is looking for a volunteer to become our Events Administrator. We need someone who is organised and detail-conscious to take over existing systems that are already well developed. The work can be done at any time other than the occasional meeting in church with hirers. This important role contributes greatly to the success of our fundraising events. If you are interested, please contact one of our Churchwardens, Julie or Lesley, for more information: churchwarden.hertfordstandrews@gmail.com

Do you love making preserves etc? Then why not put your creativity to good use

now for the October Coffee morning.



The eco-church team are running the October coffee morning to coincide with the end of creation-tide. So why not find your creative side! If you love making sumptuous jams, chutneys, cider, apple juice or other preservable food and drink items and think you may have some to spare please consider donating.

Don't forget:

- > Add date of production.
- > State ingredients
- And, if you use local, organic or fairtrade or other sustainable ingredients then feel free to shout about it on your labels: it always piques interest when deciding what to buy!

Thank you in advance and look forward to seeing, tasting and selling your summer creations in Autumn.

Jenny Mutch (jennymant@icloud.com)

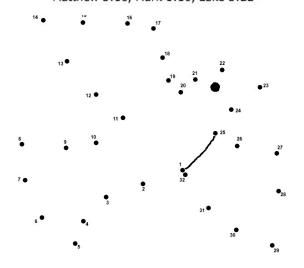
On behalf of the eco-church team.

Think about ... the Bible

join the dots...

The Spirit of God descending like a dove.

Matthew 3:16, Mark 1:10, Luke 3:22





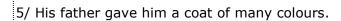
"Mr. Myers is going to help me tell the story of Jonah."

BibleWise

Back to school BIBLE QUIZ

(Answers are bottom left of the page)

- 1/ What was the boat Noah built called?
- 2/ What is the symbol of God's promise to Noah?
- 3/ Who received the 10 commandments from God?
- 4/What was the name of Moses' brother?



6/ Who was thrown into a lions' den by King Darius? This person prayed to God three times a day.

- 7/ This young boy defeated a giant.
- 8/ This prophet was swallowed by a fish.
- 9/ What did Jesus' father do for a job?
- 10/ How many disciples or apostles did Jesus have?
 - 11/ Which of the apostles betrayed Jesus?

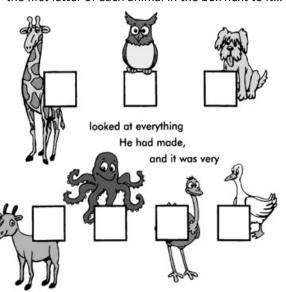
12/ What was the name of the Sea where Jesus calmed a storm?

So Many Animals

God Makes the Animals —Genesis 1

God made the animals of the sea and sky and earth.

To find out what God thought of all He had done, write the first letter of each animal in the box next to it...



on: Bible Puzzles for Kids Ages 6-8. Cincinnati: Standard Publishing Group, © 2006

Word Search

Find the biblical names hidden in this grid (and you need to look in all directions!)

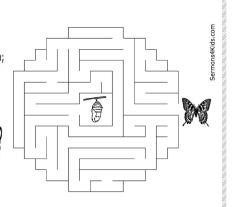
Abel	John	Moses
Adam	Jonah	Noah
Cain	Joseph	Paul
David	Luke	Peter
Eve	Mark	Ruth
James	Mary	Samson
Jesus	Matthew	Soloma

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Υ	V	\vee		E	S	U	S	E	J
R	Α	V	Α	Т	Τ	Н	Е	W	0
Α	D	Н	Ν	D	1	V	Α	D	Н
M	Α	Ρ	0	Ν	S	W	В	K	Ν
Т	0	Ε	J	Ε	0	Ε	Ε	R	С
S	R	S	S	V	L	S	L	Α	Α
Н	Ε	0	Ε	Ε	0	L	M	M	1
Т	T	J	T	S	V	U	Α	Α	Ν
U	Ε	Κ	U	L	0	Α	M	Ε	S
R	Ρ	Η	Α	0	Ν	Ρ	J	Ν	Т

Butterfly Maze

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! 2 Corinthians 5:17

Can you find the way from the cocoon to the butterfly?



Quiz answers: 1/An Ark 2/Rainbow 3/Moses 4/Aaron 5/Joseph 6/Daniel 7/David 8/ Jonah 9/ Carpenter 10/Twelve 11/Judas 12/The Sea of Galilee

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

There's more information on our website

Hertford Children's Choir



is a choir led by Rachel and Sam Chaplin for anyone aged 8-13 who loves singing and

wants to develop their musicianship. Rehearsals are on Fridays 5.30-6.45pm at St Andrew's Church Hertford and there are termly performances. See the church website for more information.

CHILDREN AT ST ANDREW'S

Children are never too young to come to church. You and your children are very welcome at St Andrew's. We realise that bringing children, especially babies and toddlers, to church can be challenging to say the least, so we have set aside part of the church (the Children's Corner) at the front of church (to the right of the altar) which is equipped with toys, books, craft materials and a space to call their own. Here, even if they are occupied with a toy or book, children absorb the atmosphere of worship.

Junior Church

During the 10.30am Parish Communion on Sundays in term time and except when there is an All Age service there are activities for children in the St Andrew's Centre. When Junior Church is on the children will begin the service with the congregation and then, after the first hymn, they leave to join Junior Church.

All-Age Services

These are monthly, shorter, child-friendly, interactive communion services with songs and prayers which are held once a month: usually but not always on the second Sunday of the month. Children stay in church for the whole of the service.

ST ANDREW'S YOUTH GROUP



is for secondary-age children.

Like playing daft games? Having a laugh? Eating?

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, starting this term on Sunday 21st September (dates, times and venues may vary - please check the calendar on the church website or email the church office - see below).

If you're not already receiving updates about TMM, please get in touch with Phil in the church office so we can keep you informed about what's happening: standrew.hertford@btinternet.com
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DEANERY NEWS

JENNY AITKEN FILLS US IN ON THE GOINGS ON OF THE DEANERY SYNOD

The summer meeting of the Hertford and Ware Deanery Synod was held on the evening of 17th July at St Andrew's Church, Stanstead Abbotts and attended by Shirley Taylor and Jenny Aitken on behalf of St Andrew's Hertford.

After a welcome, bible reading and prayer by the Rural Dean Rev Mark Dunstan we were straight into a presentation by Tim Coulson, Chair of the Diocesan Board of Finance. This body oversees all income and expenditure in the Diocese and is responsible for all budgeting, which then must be approved by the Diocesan Synod.

Income: Parish giving (known as parish share) amounts to approximately £1,000,000 a month. Monies accrued from income from glebe lands owned by the Diocese and other investments and grants from the Common Fund total £14/15,000,000

Totalling circa £22,856,000

Expenditure: Clergy salaries and pensions (2024: 190 priests and 48 curates) plus:

Housing,
Training,
Education,
Mission
& Charities

Totalling circa £21,666,000

Tim told us that the Parish Share had been relatively unchanged for the last three years. How it is calculated is extremely complicated and based on such things as size of church, size of congregation, relative wealth of the parish, interregna, curacies involving rented properties and probably many more arcane issues.

However, for the next nine years (more generously in the first three years) there is to be an increase of support for the

What is 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.

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.

parishes from the Church Commissioners. Some of this will go to increase clergy welfare, stipend, clergy pensions, property diocesan (clergy housing) improvements and apparently very importantly in investment in more property.

There were several questions from the floor regarding anomalies in the system but it was all summed up by Rev Dunstan, 'We must think less parochially, but more that we are all in it together, all paying for everyone all the time'.

The meeting moved on to discussing outcomes of the previous Synod meeting regarding the correlation of parish activities. The project is ongoing, and a Social Action Page has been set up on the Deanery Website for parishes to fill in.

A report from the Diocesan Synod can be viewed online.

People were asked to report any good news from the parishes. Among many offerings Jenny mentioned that St Andrew's Hertford had appointed an associate priest whose services had been most appreciated particularly during Rev Stewart's sabbatical.

The meeting closed with a prayer at 9.30pm.



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FOLK AT ST ANDREW'S

ST ANDREW'S EXCITING PROGRAMME OF PREMIER FOLK PERFORMERS CONTINUES

Phil Beer

Thursday 18th September

For many years, Phil Beer has worked as the multiinstrumental half of the West Country's awardwinning acoustic duo, Show of Hands. As a solo artist, apart from playing his own songs, he draws upon an eclectic mix of traditional tunes, covers (including Springsteen and The Hollies), and songs from his contemporaries. Phil has developed a strong following for his varied work and has become one of the most popular musicians on the



acoustic circuit. His shows are always a fine combination of outstanding musicianship, beautifully delivered vocals and highly amusing anecdotes.

A licensed bar serving ale, cider, wine and soft drinks will be available. Tickets are £17 + £1.28 booking fee $\underline{\text{www.ticketsource.co.uk/st-andrews-church}}$

Chris While & Julie Matthews

Thursday 9th October



"They light up the room with their amazing energy" (James Taylor).

Chris While (vocals, guitar, banjo, dulcimer, bodhran and percussion) and Julie Matthews (vocals, piano, guitar, mandolin and bouzouki) are stunning singers, songwriters, musicians and performers whose energy and commitment to their craft, and their audience is boundless.

They are two of the best and most hardworking musicians on the world folk roots scene, both are highly regarded producers and they record everything that they are involved in at their own studio in a small Pennine town far from the London-centric music industry.

Richard Hawley (ex Pulp, top solo artist and producer) says of Chris and Julie: "it's a real honour just to be an audience member but I've had the added honour of standing on a stage with them playing along in the background, things like that I'll treasure forever, truly gifted human beings".

See for yourself in the beautiful setting of St Andrew's Church where we also offer a licensed bar from 6.30pm. It promises to be an uplifting, maybe inspirational, evening of music. Tickets are £18 + £1.35 booking fee www.ticketsource.co.uk/st-andrews-church

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



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THE EULOGY GIVEN AT CHRIS'S FUNERAL BY REV ALAN STEWART: Chris was born in East Finchley on 4th August 1954, the only child of Rachel and Douglas Seward.

Tragically, Chris's father died when he was 12 years old, from

which point his mother Rachel became a lone parent raising Chris singlehandedly with his cousins Katie and Guy living close by.

Chris learnt to be independent from a young age, travelling to school in Highgate by tube at a far younger age than would be condoned today.

It was at school that Chris met his lifelong friend John Wainwright. They shared a love of cricket and football. The two boys would regularly play long drawn-out cricket matches in the garden after which Chris's mum would provide a lavish post-cricket tea. Chris's dedication to cricket caused him in later life to religiously digest the yearly Wisden Almanac from cover to cover as bedtime reading! And he insisted on creating stripes when he mowed the lawn. Chris was a lifelong Chelsea fan, and in fact it was John who took him to his first game at Stamford Bridge aged 13.

Rachel's kindness and hospitality, as well as her independent thought and attention to detail definitely rubbed off on Chris. Everything had to be just right, so much so that Chris took elocution lessons because according to his mum he was 'lazy in his speech and lazy in his writing'! Ironic really considering what career Chris would go on to pursue!

On leaving school, Chris studied History at Leicester University, going on to do teaching practice at Rawlins School



where a certain Melanie Allen was a student. Their paths didn't cross however until he began teaching at St Bede's Ecumenical School in Surrey. Here, Chris was Head of Sixth Form and seemed very happy with his bachelor lifestyle. According to Melanie, he kept

his cards close to his chest in matters of romance, and took his time to ask Melanie out, and after a year of going out, again took his time to propose! Chris proved just how romantic he could be by proposing after an evening of watching late night golf on the TV!

The couple married and in 1989, Charlotte was born, and then James in 1992.

While at St Bede's Chris taught American History and Politics (a life-long interest), and instigated a school exchange with an American school. It was also here that he met good friend John Bunter. Chris was involved in taking students on two consecutive annual walks for the homeless charity Crisis.

Career-wise, Chris and Melanie basically moved around the M25, Chris taking his next job in a Roman Catholic and Anglican Sixth Form Centre in London and living in Brentwood where he was chair of the Amnesty group. Here, Chris took on the plights of two political prisoners, one in the former Soviet Union and one in China, both suffering chronic health problems. Chris and the group would write letters and campaign on their behalf and thanks to his efforts and those of others, both eventually set free. Meanwhile the family settled into the community attending the village church of South Weald. Melanie began training as a

Reader while Chris took on the role of churchwarden

Next, Chris moved to be a Deputy Head at a school in Barking and Dagenham, where Chris was mentored by David, a Head full of energy and drive who had a mischievous streak and an alternative guide to headship.

Chris became Head at Turnford School so the family's next move was to Hertford and its home in Ware Road, just two days before Christmas. A kind neighbour suggested they try St Andrew's Christmas Day service and that was it, from then on this became their spiritual home.

Chris's last appointment was to Davenant Foundation School in Loughton where he was Head Teacher. Here he worked with the British Council fostering relationships with countries and travelled with a Sports Leadership Programme to South Africa and India, and with a leadership development programme working with fellow head teachers in Australia and He loved travelling with the students and staff on the music tours and could be seen turning up to football and rugby matches.

After 15 years of faithful service to the school community, he retired in 2016. But of course, being Chris he couldn't not get involved voluntarily with a whole of community activities. host continued for a year chairing ASHE, the Association of Secondary Head-teachers in Essex, became chair of trustees at Hertford Museum, deputy chair of governors at Hertford St Andrew School, and of course for many years was assistant church warden here at St Andrew's. He had just started to

contribute to the town plan, and joined the U3A.

I want here to pay tribute to everything Chris gave and was and achieved in service of this congregation. Among other things, he oversaw our annual Away Days, our yearly Harvest Beer Festival and Beer and Carols, organised an incredible programme of folk music concerts, helped lead the men's Bible study group Men In The Morning, and was integral in getting the Audio Visual system installed and paid for. During Covid, Chris took up guitar and became a member of the church house band Flare. He had mature а and compassionate faith which came through particularly when he led prayers in the services. Throughout, he has worked tirelessly and faithfully and we as a community want to publicly honour and thank him not only for all he did but especially for how he did it, with such grace, faithfulness and kindness.

Upon retirement the Seward family became five with the arrival of Golden Retriever Nelson. Although a family dog, Nelson had a strong bond with Chris, who offered both breakfast and walks.

Chris had many interests. We've heard about his love of sport. He was a Saracens season ticket holder. He loved to travel; the West Indies to watch the test match, India, USA, Europe. He had, I'm told, a famously good internal compass, instinctively knowing exactly where he was even in a strange city. He liked to walk everywhere, and the family quickly began to realise that when Chris said a journey would take 10 minutes, it was sure to be half an hour; half an hour would be an hour and a half, and so on. Once, on a sightseeing trip to Rome, in the soaring heat of mid-August, he dragged his poor family for miles on foot

to see the Catacombs. As much as they begged to take a taxi, Chris strode valiantly onwards; 'we can do this!'. After what felt like hours, they finally arrived exhausted and dehydrated from the soaring heat. Henceforth, it became a standing joke; when Chris would suggest an excursion, the family would first ask 'Is it as far as the Catacombs?'! Chris himself had a quick line in 'dad jokes' for the family and also a dry sense of humour. He was capable of very serious discussion and fits uncontrollable laughter.

Everywhere Chris went he was fascinated by the history and politics of a place. He read avidly historical and political biographies and autobiographies.

Chris loved the outdoors, and over the years the family's favourite destinations were Norfolk and Northumbria.

In retirement, Chris developed a love of gardening, creating a vegetable patch and in fact in hospital in those final days he spoke proudly of his horticultural prowess. He loved to cook, especially Christmas dinner and the Sunday roast.

Chris was exceptionally organised. He made to-do lists every day. Paperwork and e-mails were completed listening to Bob Dylan, Fairport Convention, Joni beloved Mitchell and his Bruce Chris was on hand to Springsteen. encourage and support his family with what was going on in their lives, as long as he wasn't watching or listening to a Chelsea match! He was always patient, calm in a crisis, professional, diligent, considerate and courteous. He always had time for people. He was both a gentle man and a gentleman. Above all he was a loving husband and father and wonderful grandfather to little Leni.

A life of love; a life well lived. Thank you, Chris.

The Selectors

In the order of service for Chris Seward's funeral, there was an item titled *The Cricket Selectors*. This referred to a WhatsApp group that Chris had created, simply called *The Selectors*. The name was not a nod to the 1970s two-tone band from Coventry (The Selector), but rather to the panel typically responsible for selecting national cricket teams—whether for England, Australia, India, or elsewhere in the cricketing world.

The members of this WhatsApp group — *The Selectors* — were Forbes Mutch, David Spring, Richard Taylor and their dear friend, Chris Seward.

Among the many facets of their friendship with Chris, none was more significant than their shared love of sport and, in particular, cricket.

In May 2020, during the first major COVID lockdown, when people were confined to their homes and the cricket season was struggling to begin, Chris brought the four friends together through WhatsApp and Zoom to talk all things cricket. This virtual gathering became a lifeline — a welcome escape to a reality that felt distant at the time. The group immersed themselves in the game's history and shared stories and memories, many dating back to their childhoods.

Each week, they met online to select various all-time great cricket teams. It was reminiscent of schoolboys chatting at the back of the classroom, each convinced that his choices of players were superior. Debates over who was the greatest batsman or bowler from one country or another became a regular

joy. It was self-indulgent, yes — but also a much-needed coping mechanism during difficult times. Chris, with his instinct for bringing people together, fostered a sense of camaraderie that was both fun and deeply bonding.

Even as the pandemic receded, the group remained active — a shared space to exchange anything cricket-related: newspaper articles, books, television and radio programmes, personal experiences, and photos. Chris was the beating heart of this circle, always keeping the group connected.

His friends came to appreciate the depth of Chris's knowledge and passion for the sport. He was a learned reader of all things cricket, with shelves lined with editions of *Wisden Cricketers' Almanack*, the sport's revered annual publication, which he read from cover to cover. Biographies of past players and other cricket literature were devoured regularly and enthusiastically.

Those familiar with the game understand the concept of the *Spirit of Cricket*—a set of values that go beyond the written rules. Chris personified these ideals, which include:

- Respect for others opponents, teammates, and umpires alike;
- Leadership leading by example and uniting people for a shared purpose;
- Friendship and teamwork fostering camaraderie and strong relationships, irrespective of differences;
- Fair play adhering to the rules with integrity, without dissent or complaint.

In so many ways, Chris lived by these principles—not just on the cricket field, but throughout his life. They reflect the man his friends remember, the man they knew and loved. Cricket has lost—and his fellow Selectors have lost—a true friend.

He will be deeply missed.

The collection taken at Chris's funeral raised £934.40 which was divided equally between two local charities supporting and working with young people: Future Hope Hertford & Ware and Herts Young Homeless. Thank you to everyone who contributed.



FutureHope, one of the charities which benefited from the collection, is looking for more volunteers to support their work with young people in Hertford and Ware. Typical commitment for a volunteer is a few hours a month and joining in their socials! The training is on three evenings for general volunteering and an additional two if you want to be a mentor. Dates run from 26th August to 23rd September.

dave@fhhw.org.uk

FOODBANK

Over Half way through 2025

At the end of June we had already handed out food parcels supporting over 1510 individuals (data taken 30th June 2025) including 540 children.

We want to see a world where Foodbanks are no longer needed, however until then our incredible volunteers continue to work tirelessly to ensure that anyone who needs support is given it. We are thrilled to be able to say we are still able to offer some fresh food (fruit, veg, bread, spread, eggs & cheese with every parcel) at both of our centers. This is only possible through the donations of our incredible community. Thank you.

Donations are still needed to enable us to keep supporting all those facing crisis. So please when you next think of the Foodbank, if you are able, do donate an item to your local donation point (found in Tesco, Sainsburys, ASDA, The Goat at Hertford Heath and many churches throughout Hertford & Ware).

All we ask is that items are undamaged and in date. Please do not donate fresh items, we purchase these separately. Thank you.

Received a foodbank parcel but no idea what to cook?

There is a fantastic FREE online website designed to help with ideas for how to use the food given by the Foodbank. Complete with recipes and how to cook them using a hob or microwave with little other equipment.

There are also sections on how to stay healthy with food facts and a 6 week empty cupboard plan with costed shopping lists.

Check out the below link and try something new:

https://ourneighbourhood.org.uk/beyond-the-box/box-recipes/

IF YOU'RE GOING THROUGH A
TOUGH TIME AND YOU NEED SOME
SUPPORT, WE'RE HERE FOR YOU

CALL US ON
07851 708470
IF YOU NEED EMERGENCY FOOD
SUPPORT



USEFUL INFO

OPENING HOURS

Hertford @ The URC

Mon 10-11am
Tues CLOSED
Wed 10-11am
Thurs CLOSED
Fri 10-11am

Ware @ The Priory

Mon CLOSED
Tues 10.30-11.30am
Wed CLOSED
Thurs 10.30-11.30am
Fri CLOSED

DONATION LOCATIONS
ASDA, Sainsburys & Tesco

Bank the Food App

A free app which will let you know the items most needed at the Foodbank when you are at the supermarket.

hertforddistrict.foodbank.org.uk

Simply follow the food bank; the app can then send you a helpful 'ping' with the food banks' needs when you are shopping.

Download the App today.



KEEP UP TO DATE

For regular updates in addition to this newsletter please follow us on one of our social media outlets



HertfordFoodBank



Hertforddistrictfoodbank1

"It isn't right that anyone should experience hunger or poverty"

CELTIC HARMONY CAMP

Autumn Events & Weekend Opening

Celtic Harmony Camp at Brickendon Lane, Brickendon SG13 8NY is opening its gates every weekend to celebrate its 25th anniversary. Drop by and enjoy a relaxing walk around the celtic village set in acres of native woodland before sampling freshly made food inspired by celtic-mediterranean cuisine prepared by our chefs in The Woodland Bistro. You can discover more at the Stone to Iron Age exhibition in the Prehistory Centre. Get active, challenge friends and family to the 9-hole disc golf course around the woods. Or simply sit back and enjoy the tranquil pace of Celtic Harmony Camp.

For an extra special evening master storyteller Hugh Lupton will be performing in the Chieftain Roundhouse on Saturday 20th September from 7pm to 9.30pm to celebrate the autumn equinox, when day and night are of equal length.

Drop by on the weekends, book your special events or if you are interested in volunteering as part of our friendly conservation team go to celticharmony.org. We look forward to seeing you! - Clare and Luca, Celtic Harmony Camp



BISHOPS' HARVEST APPEAL

Rewrite Their Future

working towards increasing access to education for some of the world's most under-resourced communities

This year the Bishops' Harvest Appeal is being run in partnership with Mission Direct who are working towards increasing access to education for some of the world's most under-resourced communities. In Uganda and Zambia alone, Mission Direct will help over 1,170 children this year to have access to a new classroom, and over the next 20 years these new facilities will be used by 23,400 children.

At a time when 250 million children globally are not in school, this is one small but vital way we can help change that reality.

Thanks to the generosity of supporters over the last 20 years, Mission Direct have been able to build 49 schools. Nearly all of these are still open and have grown substantially.

The children who access these schools are given the opportunity to **Rewrite Their Future** because they are receiving the opportunity of a completely different life. They gain hope and aspirations that would have been out of reach if they could not attend a school.

Mission Direct's education initiatives include building schools, helping to attract and retain teachers in rural schools, enhancing academic performance and health due to nutrition programmes and enabling girls to continue in education after puberty by providing better washing and sanitation facilities.

"Your donation helps us continue this vital work – supporting a range of activities that enable us to **Rewrite Their Future**. Whether we are laying bricks, funding feeding programmes, providing teacher training or providing advocacy, policy and resource acquisition support – these all contribute to more children being able to go to school."

A note from Bishop Richard and Bishop Jane:

"As we give thanks for all that God provides, we also celebrate the incredible impact we can make when churches, chaplaincies and schools across our diocese act together in prayer, generosity and compassion. Over the past 16 years, our Harvest Appeals have raised more than £1 million, bringing lasting hope to communities around the world. This year, we invite you to help build on that legacy. We commend this appeal to you with deep gratitude for all you already do. Let's stand together once again, so more children can go to school, unlock their potential and thrive."

With every blessing,

- +Richard, Bishop of Bedford
- +Jane, Bishop of Hertford

Services at St Andrew's



September 2025

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

	Date	Time	Service	Celebrant	Preacher	
Monday	1	8.00 am M	Morning Prayer (Common Worship)			
Wednesday	3	10.30 am H	Church			
Thursday	4	8.00 am M	Morning Prayer (BCP)			
		10.30 am H	Holy Communion Calton Court	Rev Bill Church		
SUNDAY	7	8.00 am H	Holy Communion (BCP)	Rev Alan Stewart		
Trinity 12		10.30 am P	Parish Communion with Junior Church	Rev Alan Stewart	Maria Henriksson-Bell	
		10.30 am M	Morning Service on Zoom	Nick Hoyle	Maria Henriksson-Bell	
		7.00 pm S	Soul Food in St Andrew's Centre	Claire G	oodman	
Monday	8	8.00 am M	Morning Prayer (Common Worship)			
Wednesday	10	10.30 am H	Holy Communion (Traditional)	Rev Alan Stewart		
Thursday	11	8.00 am M	Morning Prayer (BCP)			
SUNDAY	14	8.00 am H	Holy Communion (BCP)	Rev Bill Church		
Holy Cross Day	Holy Cross Day 10.30 a		All Age Family Service	Rev Alan Stewart		
		10.30 am H	Holy Communion Service on Zoom	Rev Bill Church		
		7.00 pm C	Compline			
Monday	15	8.00 am M	Morning Prayer (Common Worship)			
Wednesday	17	10.30 am H	Holy Communion (Traditional)	Rev Scott Martin		
Thursday	18	8.00 am M	Morning Prayer (BCP)			
		10.30 am H	Holy Communion Calton Court	Rev Bill Church		
SUNDAY	21	8.00 am H	Holy Communion (BCP)	Rev Alan	Stewart	
St Matthew		10.30 am P	Parish Communion with Junior Church	Rev Alan Stewart	Forbes Mutch	
		10.30 am M	Morning Service on Zoom	Keith Oates	Forbes Mutch	
		7.00 pm C	Compline	Rev Alan Stewart		
Monday	22	8.00 am M	Morning Prayer (Common Worship)			
Wednesday	24	10.30 am H	Holy Communion (Traditional)	Rev Bill Church		
Thursday	25		Morning Prayer (BCP)			
SUNDAY	28		Holy Communion (BCP)	Rev Sco		
Trinity 15			Parish Communion with Junior Church	Rev Alan Stewart	Geoff Oates	
			Morning Services on Zoom	Nick Hoyle	Geoff Oates	
		•	Evening Prayer St Mary's Hertingfordbury	Rev Bill		
		7.00 pm C	•	Rev Alan	Stewart	
Monday	29	8.00 am M	Morning Prayer (Common Worship)			