

Hertingfordbury & The Five Greens Parish News



Christmas Market at St Mary's – Saturday 22nd November
(see inside for more details)

November 2025

Here with you - Here for you

Printed copies are available from St Mary's church

PARISH OF ST. MARY'S, HERTINGFORDBURY

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It's Autumn Again

It's autumn again.

Leaves whisper the sound of our past.

In loss they pay a descent.

To the ground we fall

- Andrea Rieck.



It's no coincidence that autumn is the season of remembrance. As the leaves make their descent from the trees and as they 'whisper the sound of our past', they remind us of the losses in our own lives and perhaps even of our own mortality.

And yet in autumn, just before the leaves fall, their colours change and they become more beautiful than they have ever been. As someone has said 'The trees are about to show us how beautiful it is to let things go'.

We live in a culture which fails to celebrate those of us in the autumn of our lives.

We are instead obsessed with health, youth and vitality. We spend millions of pounds each year trying to cheat gravity and look younger. And when we think to compliment an older person, it is usually to comment on their ability to keep active or stay 'young' at heart. We equate worth with the contribution a person can or cannot make. And when that person is no longer able to work or look after themselves, subconsciously we write them off.

We fail to see their beauty.

And yet it is often the dying and the old who have so much to teach us.

More than anyone perhaps, they understand the deep and liberating truth that all of life is a gift, to be received thankfully, moment by moment.

More than anyone perhaps, often they understand what real hope is.

Often, they possess a special wisdom gained through time, experience and pain.....

Often, they are the ones who hold us up.

Often, it is the dying and the aged who teach us how to live.

Rev Alan

Registers

Baptism – Welcome into the family of the Church

25 October – Arabella Millicent Hawkins

Some Dates for your Diary

Sunday 2nd November – **All Age Service** 9.15am at St Mary's

Sunday 2nd November – **Annual Service for the Bereaved** 2pm at St Andrew's

Every year we gather to remember by name those who have died in the previous two years. It's a short service with some hymns and readings and an opportunity to light a candle in memory of a loved one. If St Mary's/St Andrew's clergy did not conduct the service of someone you would like to be remembered please add their names to the sheet at the back of both churches

Sunday 9th November – **Remembrance Sunday** 9.15am at St Mary's & 10.50am at Birch Green Memorial

Monday 10th & 24th November – **Mindfulness on Sele**. 10.30am at the Sele Hub, Fleming Crescent.

Wednesday 12th November – **Mindfulness & Meditation** 7.30pm in St Andrews church and on line. On line only 7.30pm, Wednesday 26th

Sunday 30 November – **Candle-Lit Service for Advent** 6.30pm at St Andrew's

*** All Age Service will be on Sunday 2nd as Remembrance Sunday is the 9th***

Sunday Services at St Mary's

Sung Eucharist 9.15am every Sunday

Zoom Sunday Service at 10.30am (joining details from Robin Bishop)

All Age Service 9.15am on 2nd Sunday of the month (unless notified)



This publication was kindly printed by St Andrew's church



Remembrance Sunday 9th November

9.15am service at St Mary's

**10.50am Act of Remembrance and laying of wreaths at the
Birch Green War Memorial.**

A drinks reception will be immediately afterwards in the Cowper Hall.
Please park considerately. No road closures will be in place but please pass
quietly at the time of the service – thank you



New Hymn Book at St Mary's



**There has been a slight hold up with our new hymn books but hopefully they will be
with us soon. Many thanks to those who have already responded so generously.**

If anybody is still interested, including a dedication, you can still contact us

Donation will be £10 per book. Please contact Robin Bishop 07984 019797

robinhbishop@gmail.com



Postage Stamps



Alma would like to thank everyone who has contributed used postage stamps to our
charitable cause. They have all been passed on to Keech to raise money for their
Hospice Care programme. Please continue to leave your stamps at the back of the
church especially as we have the busy stamp time at Christmas coming up

Harvest Festival

We had a great All Age Harvest service attended by around 70 people including over 15 children and a few vegetables!

Rev Alan was the superhero giving a talk about the “Superpower of Gratitude” and used the “Underground – Overground” theme when asking the children to identify certain vegetables hidden in a sock! It was great fun but with a real meaning.



The church autumnal flower displays were beautiful. Everyone was very generous with their food and toiletries donations for the Hertford Foodbank and the Haven First Homeless charity. Thank you to all who attended big and small.

Blessing of the River Lea

Recently in the centre of Hertford Rev Alan Stewart and Rev Simon Cutmore (All Saints) lead a short blessing of the River Lea in which prayers of thanks were said and a cross and flowers dropped into the river to express our gratitude.



We are so blessed to have four rivers which play such an important part in our lives and the history of our beautiful County Town.



Christmas 2025 at St Mary's



Here are the December dates and times in advance for your diary. Full details will be in the December magazine

Thursday 18th at 7.30pm - Candle-lit Service of 7 lessons and Carols followed by mulled wine.

Saturday 20th at 4pm – Mulled wine, Beer and Carols sing-a-long in our beautiful churchyard (weather permitting!)

Christmas Eve – A Quieter Crib and Christingle Service at 12.30 followed by the second Crib & Christingle Service at 2pm

Christmas Eve Midnight Service - 11.15pm at St Andrews only

Christmas Day Service - 9.15am Christmas Communion for all ages



ST MARY'S BIG

CHRISTMAS CHURCH CLEAN

Christmas church clean this year will be on Saturday 20th December between 10am - 12noon. Everything provided - Dusters, Mops, along with Coffee, Tea, Cake, Mince Pies, Music and the necessary ingredient - Laughter! Your help will be very much appreciated even if only for half an hour
Everyone very welcome - Virginia 01992 583560



Church Flower Rota - November



2nd Jean Skinner - 9th Alison Robinson

16th Sue Payne - 23rd Sue Parsell - 30th Advent (no flowers)

We are extremely grateful for the time, generosity and skill that the flower team give each week to make the church look so beautiful

The Friends of Hertingfordbury St Mary

Christmas Market - Saturday 22 November 10-13.00 (see advert)

The Market provides an ideal opportunity to do your Christmas shopping or simply to enjoy a cuppa with neighbours and friends. As well as lots of old favourites, there are new stalls this year including Bit of a Pickle (chutneys homemade in Hertfordshire) and Pal's Chocolates (Hertford's very own chocolatier!). Friends and family are all welcome.

WGC Male Voice Choir in Concert - Friday 12 December 19.30

Our friends at the WGC Male Voice choir will be entertaining us once again with a seasonal concert in what is their 90th anniversary year (see advert)

Helping the Friends

The Friends of Hertingfordbury St Mary was granted charitable status in 2023 (Charity number 1206041).

The purpose of The Friends is to raise money for the restoration and preservation of the church building and churchyard. The funds are not for the day to day running of the church. That's the responsibility of the congregation. We should like to make sure that this beautiful church is here for future generations.

If you would like to make a donation there is a card reader at the back of the church on the wall by the South Door or please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for your support. Helen Bishop the fobury@outlook.com / 07746 694890



I'm delighted to inform you that St Mary's and friends contribution to the Bike 'n Hike this year £1,654.80 (excluding Gift Aid). All donations and pledges have been collected and banked and I shall make the return to BHHCT as soon as possible.

It was certainly a team effort involving four cyclists, one walker plus two dogs, and myself (this year by car in view of the distance). More importantly a host of parishioners welcomed visiting participants to St Mary's and more than one such visitor mentioned that the welcome here was extra special. The involvement of so many of our congregation is heart warming as has also been the very generous with pledges and donations. I am very grateful for all the support. It is an enjoyable event with a valuable purpose – Christopher Maunder Taylor



Christmas **market**

SATURDAY
22ND
NOVEMBER
10-1pm

St.Mary's Church
Hertingfordbury

enjoy the festivities.....

Come along for refreshments whilst you shop for your Christmas gifts, cards, local honey, pickles, British cheeses, jewellery, Hertingfordbury gin & much more.

A FRIENDS OF HERTINGFORDBURY ST.MARY EVENT

WELWYN GARDEN CITY MALE VOICE CHOIR



Will be performing on
Friday 12th December
@7.30pm

St.Mary's Church Hertingfordbury
contact Kay Juniper 07776 340932
tickets £10 & available on the door

music from a variety of genres
so come along and enjoy their
90th anniversary

A Friends of Hertingfordbury St.Mary event

@wgcmalevoicechoir

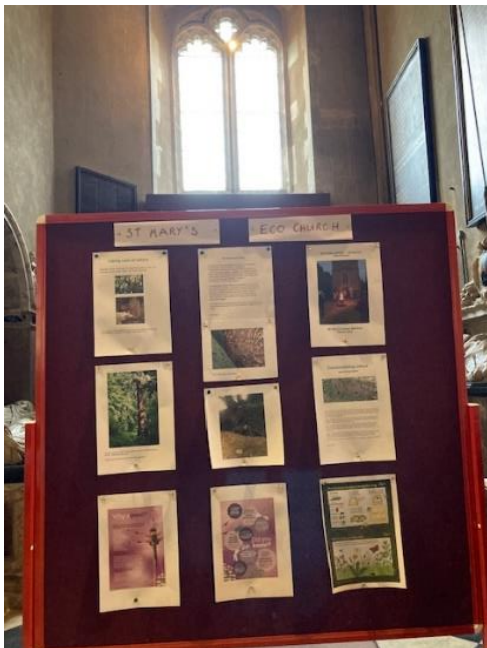
Environment Sunday

Environment Sunday was on 19th October this year, and we decided that this would be a great opportunity to put together an exhibition about Eco Church.

It would concentrate on the five key themes:

- Worship and Teaching
- Our Buildings
- Nature and our Churchyard
- Lifestyle
- Community and Engagement

and show what St Mary's has been doing up to now.



We love nature at St Mary's and so there was a special focus on how to care for creation by making space for wildlife. Kath Oates and Nick Hoyle shared examples of habitats in their gardens – burrowing bees and slow worms! Juliet and Alastair Curry provided some amazing camera trap photos from the Clinton-Baker Pinetum at Bayfordbury. We'll be sharing these stories in later issues of the magazine.

We also shared project sheets for all ages on how to create mini ponds and bird feeders from recycled objects as well as tips for simple shifts to a more environmentally friendly lifestyle, buying FairTrade tea and coffee, for example, and eco friendly washing up liquid.

We hoped that as many people as possible would take some inspiration from what's been happening, and would make their own pledge to care for our planet.

Rev Alan gave a sermon on 'Rewilding', which you can find on the next page, (All the other latest talks can be found on home page of the Hertford St Andrew's website – just scroll down to 'Latest Talks': <https://www.hertfordstandrews.co.uk/>)

“Rewilding” by Rev Alan

This is a slightly edited version of Rev Alan’s sermon on Environment Sunday

If you think back over your life, what have been some of your major cultural influences? An early one for me was that epic space opera from a galaxy far, far away; *Star Wars*! To say it was an obsession is probably an understatement. I spent all my pocket money on action figures and spacecraft, read books and got thoroughly lost in this science fiction multiverse. So, it was important, of course, to indoctrinate - sorry, introduce - my children to this tale of Jedis and Sith from a very young age.

Rosie, my daughter, sadly resisted, favouring *High School Musical* and *Lord of the Rings*. Thankfully, Elijah, my son, took up the mantle, and when the appropriate time came, I ceremonially handed over the custodianship of my precious collection. Now, that was both brave and risky. He was eight years old; he could potentially break them, lose them, trade them, forget about them. I had to trust that he would care for them, as I had so carefully over the years.

In the epic poem in Genesis, God does a far riskier thing. He entrusts the care of a whole planet to a race called humanity.

Now, I hope it goes without saying that these early chapters of Genesis were not composed to answer big questions like, ‘How and when did this all begin?’. Clearly, it took a lot, lot longer than seven periods of 24 hours! Instead, the writers are much more interested in a much, much more important question; ‘Why are we here?’.

Well, the rest of scripture and the history of humankind have been wrestling with that very question. I want to focus on a clue in Genesis that we are here to be custodians, caretakers of the earth.

More than that, this poem tells us that we are, in fact, part of the earth. There’s that beautiful idea that we are created from the dirt and dust of the earth. And it is to this dirt and dust we finally return in that great cycle of carbon and atoms.

It’s a reminder that we humans are interconnected with all of life. And, of course, we are the newbies. We have been around for 0.004% of the world’s 4.5 billion-year history.

And in that relative blink of an eye, we have not always lived up to that caretaking call. Our one species has polluted and destroyed countless habitats and ecosystems. In the last 500 years, our species has contributed to the extinction of nearly 1500 species.

Now, this isn’t a sermon about what we need to do to save this planet; others are much better placed to speak into that. This, instead, is a sermon about how we might save ourselves by reconnecting, by restoring a spiritual intimacy with our sacred world.

Notice I say ‘sacred’. Richard Rohr, a Franciscan, calls the earth the ‘Body of God’, and argues that we need a shift away from this idea of human domination, of us being separate and superior to other life, to an understanding of relationship with the earth; to see ourselves as one with it. This is not just ecological but spiritual.

Now, that idea might make some of us twitchy. It’s important, however, to distinguish between that which believes that God *is* the universe, and that which sees God as being *in* the universe and also beyond it. ‘All is God’ or ‘all is *in* God’.

We need to rediscover the truth that we are divinely interconnected to this earth and to

“Rewilding”

the other species who also call this ‘home’. I heard recently that New Zealand now defines its population as 695 billion, to include the country’s wildlife population. That’s a beautiful recognition of what I’m talking about.

You might have heard talk of a ‘sickness of separation’, an eco-anxiety, a sense of disconnect in our lives because we live so separately from nature. We need to rediscover our wild selves and our relationship with the wild. We need to rewild; get outdoors more, walk barefoot on occasion, get the earth under our fingernails, feel the wind on our faces; give our full and loving attention to this extraordinary natural world. Jesus, we know, would often withdraw to wild places like gardens and shorelines, mountains and deserts. I think we can all relate to that.

When I need perspective; when I need solace; when I need to feel rooted and reorientated, I walk in the woods and by the lakes near where I live. And I find that all that unhealthy introspection, and that overthinking begins to surrender to new rhythms as I look up and out. I begin to hear my true nature.

And this is not only about me and my wholeness. It is also about the wholeness of humanity. We are an increasingly disconnected and polarized species; us versus whoever; Left vs Right, religious vs humanist, Palestinian vs Israeli. And it’s becoming crueller. Think for a moment of whose ideology or politics or faith you personally oppose. And now, say to yourself, ‘They are part of me, and I of them’.

That is the shift we need if we are to build a more humane and sustainable and kind world. Violence to another, violence to the earth, is violence to me.

So, for the sake of ourselves, the sake of others, the sake of creation and the sake of God; spend more time reverently in this wild ‘church not made with hands’. Look up with the soaring trees, be still with the quiet earth, wonder at the wonder and beauty of it all. Marvel at our place within it. Reconnect with the life-force that flows through all living things, take seriously our call to be stewards, caretakers and co-creators with God who is over all and through all and in all.

Rev Alan

Prayer for Environment Sunday

Creator God, open our hearts to the wonder and preciousness of your world.

Help us to see its true value and to be good stewards of creation.

Redeeming Christ, change our attitudes and priorities; be with us as we strive to follow your example.

Sustaining Spirit, support and strengthen us as we campaign for grassroots issues that are the basis of a gentler, more sustainable lifestyle.

Transform us, Triune God, and lead us into action.

Bless to us, O God the earth beneath our feet. Bless to us, O God the path whereon we go.

Bless to us, O God the people whom we meet, Amen



'ROOTED IN JESUS, GROWING IN WISDOM,
OVERFLOWING WITH THANKFULNESS'
(COLOSSIANS 2:7)

Hertingfordbury Cowper C of E (VA) Primary School

It has been a very busy first half term here at Hertingfordbury Cowper.

Our Year 5 and Year 6 children enjoyed an activity packed week away on their residential trip to Manor Adventure in Shropshire. They took part in a whole array of activities including archery, kayaking, grass sledging, hill walking and rafting to name but a few. The week away gave the children a wonderful experience that cannot be replicated within a classroom. The children faced challenges in a positive and encouraging environment, all the while giving them greater self-understanding.



I liked the responsibility of being in a lodge, to make sure we were prepared for the activity and went to the right places - we all helped one another with this.

I liked how we had to use teamwork for canoeing, we had to work together to make it work, otherwise we just went around in circles!

The instructors were good fun. They encouraged us to face the challenge. It made me feel really proud of myself.



"The week taught me to be more independent and to trust yourself - trust that you can do it."



"I enjoyed being outdoors all week and getting very muddy!"

This week, we held our Harvest Celebration in school with Rev Alan. We reflected on how important it is to pause and be thankful and have gratitude for all that we have. We were overwhelmed by the generosity of donations given by our families. These will be shared between the food bank in Welwyn Garden City and the Hertford Pantry.



In our Collective Worship time, we have been exploring our Christian value of Koinonia. The children in Year 3 shared with us what they had been exploring in class and what Koinonia means to them as a class community, as a school community and as a global community. During this time together, they shared a prayer that they had written as a class -



Dear God,

Thank you for your lovely creation. Help us to look after the animals and all the other beautiful things in our world.

As we remember you, show us how to look after one another, and help us to care for people who are sick, especially people in hospital.

Teach us to say sorry and to respect others.

Let us be together with your love at the centre.

Amen

**Friends of Hertingfordbury Cowper Primary School
with "Firework Crazy" invite you to a**

Firework Bonanza

On Thursday

6th November 2025

Gates open at 5.45pm

Display to start at approx. 7pm

**HOT FOOD, REFRESHMENTS,
LICENSED BAR, MULLED WINE
AND GLOW STICKS FOR SALE**

ADMISSION ***EARLY BIRD OFFER*******

Registration before 1st November 2025:

£10 each

Registration after 1st November 2025

£12 each

*** Children 3 years and under FREE of charge.**

GO TO

<https://www.friendsofhcps.co.uk/>

REGISTRATION FROM 1st OCTOBER 2025

There will be no UNREGISTERED admission on the night.

**For health and safety reasons, please do not bring your own fireworks
or sparklers as they will not be permitted on site.**

Mindfulness & Meditation

at St Andrew's Church, Hertford

***Mindfulness can help with wellbeing & stress.
Explore alongside the riches of Christian
meditation in a free 40-minute session.
Beginners especially welcome!***

Wednesdays every two weeks, 7.30pm

Sept: 3rd (in church and on Zoom), **17th** (on Zoom)

Oct: 1st (in church and on Zoom), **15th** (on Zoom)

Oct: 29th (on Zoom)

Nov: 12th (in church and on Zoom), **26th** (on Zoom)

Dec: 10th (in church and on Zoom)

***For details, including
the Zoom link, please
see our website:***

www.hertfordstandrews.co.uk





Christmas at Celtic Harmony Camp



Running from 15 November to 22 December, Christmas at Celtic Harmony Camp offers a unique blend of festive fun, immersive experiences, and nature-based celebration for families, friends, and corporate groups alike. Highlights include:

Festive Family Days (20–22 December)

Three days of outdoor seasonal cheer featuring festive crafts, storytelling by the fire, marshmallow toasting, torchlit woodland processions, and an Elf Quest and much more £15 per person.

Festive Elf Quest (Weekends from 15 November–14 December)

Children can explore the enchanted woodland solving riddles and spotting elf houses, earning a magical gift as a reward. £5 per child. Before or after the Quest, why not book the Woodland Bistro for delicious, freshly prepared meals, warming hot drinks and sweet treats.

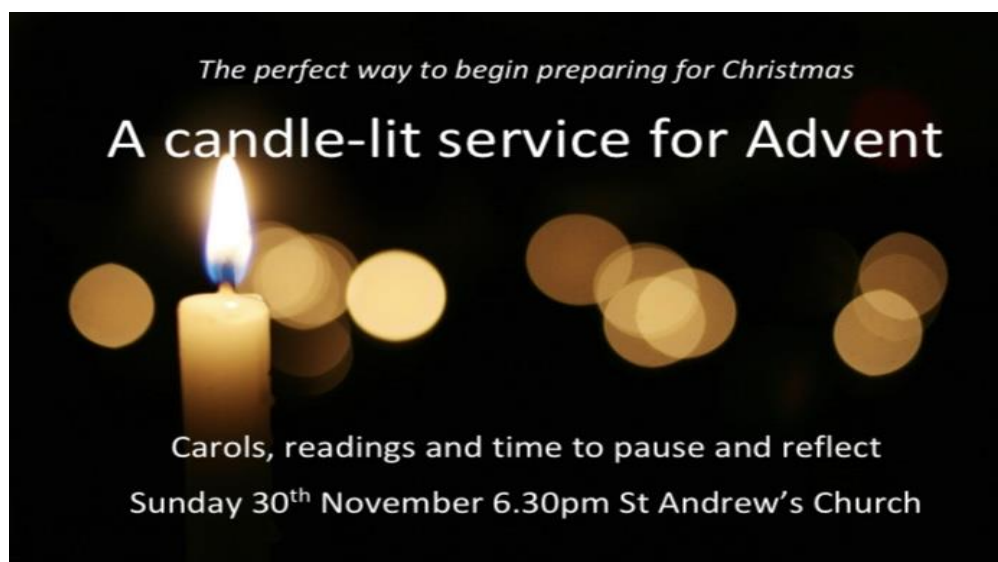


Wreath-Making Weekend Workshops (22 November)

Guests enjoy a festive drink and expert guidance to craft a beautiful natural wreath using seasonal natural materials. Everything you need to make a beautiful, hand crafted wreath to decorate your home. £60 per person.

Festive Feast Experience (8–21 December)

Something truly unique. Guests are invited to celebrate the season with a three-course festive feast served inside a heated, reconstructed Iron Age roundhouse adorned with twinkling lights and festive decorations—a setting like no other. £35pp Minimum group size 8 Maximum 60. Our Majestic Chieftain Roundhouse is available for large groups - perfect for business and office celebrations. Find out more at www.Celticharmony.org/christmas





Autumn Litter Pick

The Autumn Litter Pick was held on Saturday 11th October and we had a fine team of 33 volunteers. Despite the tremendous community spirit, the amount of refuse collected was, unfortunately, the largest on record, highlighting a concerning level of illegal dumping. Among the many items of fly-tipped waste were a large printer, a cot, a Wendy house, cladding, a beach umbrella, and a slide.

The sheer volume of dumped material, much of which is readily recyclable, is very frustrating.

The litter pickers would like to thank Taylor for all the years of providing warm welcome at the White Horse and wish her all the best on her travels. Thank you also to Paul Rochford for use of his car park and a huge thank you to our conscientious team of volunteers whose commitment and hard work are essential to keeping our beautiful villages clean.

If you would like to join us at another litter pick, please contact Sarah at sullivanpipers@icloud.com.



Recreation Ground Library

A library, containing books, both fiction and non-fiction, including a good children's section, DVD's and games has been set up in the tennis pavilion on the Hertingfordbury recreation ground.

This is a free resource for all Hertingfordbury residents. Access can be gained at any time by the use of keys that are kept in a key-safe at the pavilion. Should anyone have any books, DVD's, or games to donate to the library new stock is always welcome.

If you are interested in using this facility please contact Penny or Mick Barratt on 07715 378212 and they can provide you with the key safe access code.

Friends of Panshanger Park

Panshanger Park is a wonderful natural area within our wider community and so the Friends of Panshanger Park are sharing some of it's history - some of which will include the village and greens and some not.

This month Kate Harwood recalls the estate and contents sale in 1953 following the death of Lady Desborough the year before and the end of nearly 300 years of the Cowper family residence on the estate

The Panshanger Clearance Sale

The death of Ettie, Lady Desborough on 28 May 1952 at Panshanger, marked the end of nearly 300 years of the Cowper family residence on the estate. Her three sons had predeceased her and neither of her two married daughters had any use for the old-fashioned property.

As happened with so many grand houses in the 1950s, the contents and the estate were put up for sale. The Sales Particulars of the 1953 land sale were hopeful: *the property is eminently suitable for scholastic, institutional or other similar purposes*. This was not to be; no-one wanted it at a time when so many other large properties were on the market.

Panshanger suffered the fate of so many houses and was demolished. The Second World War had wreaked havoc on these estates, with many heirs being killed, many staff dead or unable to return. The army and other requisitioners had left property in an appalling state, combined with lack of money (not least due to punitive inheritance tax levies) and materials and a change in society rendering many unwilling to return to service in big houses, left many estates unviable. At Panshanger the inheritance tax bill was £12,426 (the estate was valued at £406,685) due to it comprising significant amounts of agricultural land.

By 1955, one stately home was being demolished every 5 days and, it has been calculated, about 1000 disappeared between 1945 and 1965.

1458 acres of land had previously been sold to Ebenezer Howard for £51,000 to become part of Welwyn Garden City. Now another 3244 acres, in 51 lots, was put up for sale by Humbert & Flint at the Corn Exchange, Hertford in July 1953. These included 10 sets of allotments at Hertingfordbury, Letty Green, Cole Green, Staines Green and Birch Green, as well as the recreation ground in Hertingfordbury. The mansion house and parkland were split up into several lots and a number of cottages in Tewin and various farms were also sold off. The grand total realised for 2817 acres was £106,735 (over £4 million today). The house was sold for the value of its materials to a demolition contractor from Stoke Newington for £17,750 (c. £670,000).

In 1954 Lady Desborough's son-in-law, Julian Salmond, sold the Hertingfordbury Cowper Memorial Hall, on the road to Cole Green, to the East Hertfordshire Lodge of Freemasons, who re-named it Mayflower Place.

A number of Sales of the Contents were held over the course of 1953 and 1954; those of the particularly valuable items were entrusted to Christie, Manson and Woods Ltd (now

The Panshanger Clearance Sale

Christie's) of London. These included the Italian sculptures, gold boxes, coins and objets de vertu. Some of the furniture and paintings were retained by the family but sales of objects from the house continued with a pair of ormolu wall lights of 1770, purchased by 5th Earl Cowper for Panshanger, being sold at Christie's in 1995. Other paintings made their way to the National Gallery such as the portrait of 1st Earl Cowper by Thomas Murray, sold in the Christie's 1953 sale. An earlier painting from Panshanger, the Small Cowper Madonna by Raphael, was sold by Lady Desborough in 1913 (to Duveen Bros of London, New York & Paris) to fund the installation of central heating at Panshanger and now hangs in the National Gallery in Washington.



Small Cowper Madonna – Iron gates from Panshanger North Lodge – Fireplace now in Essex

The panelling, garden ornaments and other fixtures and fittings were sold from Panshanger itself having been removed before demolition. For example, 1000ft of 4 foot-high brick garden balustrading went for £52, and a stone garden lily pond and fountain for £60. A room full of rococo panelling including cornicing and a hidden door went for £24 with the matching fireplace with willow-pattern tiles for £28. Much of the panelling from the house was bought by Welwyn Garden City Development Corporation and incorporated in the new Panshanger development. Some items ended up further from home. We know of items at Fabdens in Thundridge, fire places in Hertford and Essex, etc.

Most intriguing of all is the fate of the wrought iron gates from Panshanger's North Lodge. These elaborate gates were described in Lot 744 as *pair excellent ornamental wrot (sic) iron scrolled gates, dated 1893, 11'0" x 8' 0" together with 2 ditto wing gates, 6'6" x 4' 0"*. An attendee at the sale has noted that 'Each Carriage Entrance and Gate have the Cowper monogram with a Crown above the interlaced Cs'. And they went for the princely sum of £140. Fairly recently these have been discovered at Peterhouse College Cambridge, having been altered to fit their gateway.

The site itself was left uncared for. Part of the 87 acres sold with the house was subject to gravel extraction, and part retained as parkland. Later, in 1982, more extensive extraction was granted on appeal. Subsequent neglect has reduced the Conservatory and Orangery to mere shells, although the stables, converted to offices, have fared rather better. The industrial archaeology of the three linked water wheels with hydraulic rams and associated weirs has now all but disappeared. Efforts to encourage the restoration of these buildings and the significant (Grade II*) landscape of Humphry Repton and Lancelot Brown have come

The Panshanger Clearance Sale

to nothing with 'restoration' being merely the infilling of some of the gravel pits, other being left as water-filled wildlife areas.

The 18th century ditty lauding the Cowpers and comparing them to the *Venerable Oak*:

"In rural state superior may I stand / While COWPER'S offspring grace their native land"

has sadly proved wrong with the Panshanger Oak, which was there before the Cowpers and their grand estate, outlasting both.

Panshanger House, it's Rise, Fall and Reincarnation

Want To Know the Answers to these Questions?

Last month we advertised the talk given by Geoffrey Hollis about the Rise, Fall and Reincarnation of Panshanger House and posed some interesting questions. The answers are below.

Which Earl Cowper funded a laboratory for the Italian scientist Alessandro Volta (after whom the Volt was named)?

Answer: George, 3rd Earl. He started a Grand Tour of Europe in 1756 aged 18 and was expected to be away for two or three years but settled in Florence. There he lived for the rest of his life, despite being elected as an MP for Hertford in 1759.

Which occupier of Panshanger rowed in the Boat Race and across the English Channel, swam the Niagara rapids twice, and climbed the Matterhorn by three different routes?

Answer: Lord Desborough whose wife Ettie inherited Panshanger following the death of her uncle, the 7th Earl Cowper.

What painting once hung in Panshanger but was sold in 1928 for the equivalent of £25m today and now hangs in the National Gallery of Art in Washington DC?

Answer: A painting by Raphael known as the small Cowper Madonna, bought by the 3rd Earl in Florence (see previous article)

Which owner spent the last five years of her life in two rooms of the House with the rest walled off?

Answer: Lady Desborough, before her death in 1952.

What important relic of Panshanger did Hertfordshire County Council buy with £500,000 raised by a public appeal in 1992?

Answer: The Panshanger Archive, containing estate and personal papers of the Cowpers and Desboroughs. At the time this was the largest sum ever paid by a County Record Office for a collection of documents.

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Upcoming lectures

27 November – A Right Royal Christmas followed by our Winter Lunch
2026 programme of lectures re-starts in January

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We meet on Tuesday evenings in term time at Sele Farm Community Centre, Hertford, SG14 2LW. Visit <https://www.rscdsherts.org/south-east-herts> or email us on [**sehscds@hotmail.com**](mailto:sehscds@hotmail.com) for more info.

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Vice Chairman – Haidy Blake

Councillors – Roger Morris, Simon Bostock, Lesley Clark

Member of Parliament – Chris Hinchliff

County Councillor – Ken Crofton

District Councillor – Bob Deering

If you wish to contact the Parish Council please contact the Clerk

Clerk: Katie Eyre at clerk@hertingfordbury-pc.gov.uk

Council Meetings

Meetings are at Hertingfordbury Cowper School between 7pm – 9pm. Members of the public are welcome. Please see website for latest dates

To report an issue with fly tipping, highway fault, overflowing rubbish, street lighting etc, please call East Herts District Council directly on 01279 655261 or go to <https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/faultreporting/>



Defibrillators

Please note that Defibrillators are housed on the outside walls of the.....

- Parish Room (The Brace Room) at St Mary's Church, Hertingfordbury
- Cowper School, Birch Green – outside the school gate



Church Cleaners

We really need people (men or women!) to join our church cleaning rota

It takes a couple of hours every few weeks. We want our beautiful church to always look its best

If you can help please contact Virginia on 01992 583560



Churchyard Volunteers Needed



Volunteers required for grass cutting

Between 9 - 12 noon on a Saturday, we are now trying to coordinate dates to coincide with our weddings at St Mary's

Reward is a picnic lunch and good company..... and a laugh!

Please contact David Gorton for more information and timings if you think you can help

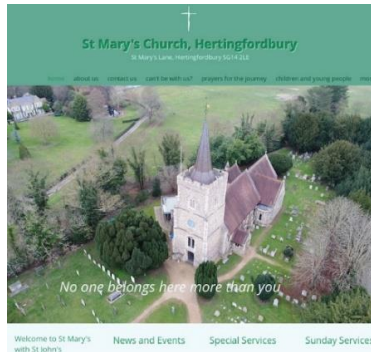


Volunteers needed to open/close St. Mary's



As part of St. Mary's commitment to be 'Here with you, Here for you' we are pleased that we have been able to keep the church open during the day. However, to do so requires volunteers to open and close the building every day. As a village if we want the church to be open – and I think we do - we need some new volunteers. It is not an onerous task.

Please give serious thought to joining the rota and speak to one of the Churchwardens. Thank you for considering this



www.hertingfordburystmary.org

The St Mary's website features all the church news including the latest digital Parish News in full colour

This website is a vital communication tool to be able to follow updates on the church.
If you wish to contribute in any way please contact Rachel via e mail
raich.carter@yahoo.co.uk



WhatsApp Groups

If you would like to be part of the **St Mary's Church WhatsApp Group** please contact David Gorton on 07544 702241

Hertingfordbury Village WhatsApp Group is a sociable community group. For more information please contact Mick Barratt

Brace Room

The Brace Room at St Mary's Church is available for hire for anybody in our community. This could be for meetings, exercise sessions or any other purpose. Includes excellent toilet and kitchen facilities. For more information contact David Gorton 01992 551430 or dgorton1@btinternet.com



Zoom Services

While we welcome you to services at St Mary's, Zoom services available for your worship

Please contact the church office if you'd like to be added to our mailing list and receive the service or meeting invitation details: standrew.hertford@btinternet.com or contact Robin Bishop to be added to the St Mary's distribution list

Twice monthly on Wednesday

Mindfulness & Meditation 7.30pm

Every Sunday

Service of the Word 10.30am

(Every 3rd Sunday will offer Communion)

Compline 7.00pm

Please note that a recording of the Reading, Sermon and Prayers from the Sunday morning service is now available on the St Mary's website

www.hertingfordburystmary.org



Mindfulness & Meditation

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!

Online by Zoom on the first and third Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm except for the first Wednesday which will also be in person at St Andrew's church

For further details and Zoom codes please see our website

www.hertfordstandrews.co.uk

or contact the church office 01992 504373 standrew.hertford@btinternet.com

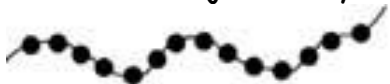
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Walter Wallinger died in 1709 leaving "Four hundred pounds for the placing of poor children of this Parish as Apprentices."

Times have moved on and the trustees of the charity now take the view that the income from the endowment should be used to give grants for educational purposes to people under 25 who have for at least two years lived, or been educated, within 'the ancient parish of Hertingfordbury' which today roughly means Hertingfordbury village and the five Greens and outlying houses.

Something of the order of £1500 is available annually. Typically grants are one-off payments not exceeding £450 for something that will help with the applicant's education in a broad sense, such as a musical instrument, specialist equipment, a field or other course. Grants are available to anyone in school, FE or Higher Education.

An application form is obtainable from Robin Bishop, the Chairman of Walter Wallinger's charity at robinhbishop@gmail.com



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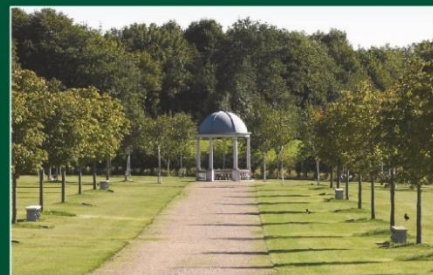
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