

The parish magazine of

Hertford St Andrew

www.hertfordstandrews.co.uk

NOVEMBER 2025



IT'S AUTUMN AGAIN

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.

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.

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.

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.

Alan

SEASON OF REMEMBRANCE

Annual Bereavement Service

Sunday 2nd November at 2pm

An opportunity to remember a loved one by name and light a candle in their memory.

All Souls and All Saints Service

Wednesday 5th November at 10.30am
when we remember by name those in our parish who have died.

Remembrance Sunday Service

Sunday 9th November at 9.15am:
Please note the time of this service which replaces the usual 10.30am Parish Communion service in church.

You will find more information about these services inside this magazine.

THE CLOSING DATE FOR THE **DECEMBER/JANUARY** MAGAZINE IS **SUNDAY 23RD NOVEMBER**. 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 2ND NOVEMBER at 10.30am

NOTE THAT THIS IS THE FIRST SUNDAY

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.



**7.30pm IN CHURCH (& on Zoom)
ON WEDNESDAY 12TH NOVEMBER;**

**ON ZOOM ONLY ON WEDNESDAY
26TH NOVEMBER**

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!

Know the Story; Share the Story; Live the Story

SERVICES AND OTHER EVENTS

soul food

CONTEMPORARY

SERVICE

in the St Andrew's Centre

7pm

Sunday 2nd November

JOIN US AT 6.45 FOR REFRESHMENTS

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



**OUR MONTHLY PRAYER MEETING
IN PERSON & ON ZOOM
on Saturday 8th November**

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.

FREE Mindfulness

WHEN
Fortnightly on
Mondays at 10.30am

10th Nov.
24th Nov.
8th Dec.

WHERE
Sele Community
Hub
Fleming Crescent, Sele
Farm SG14 2DJ

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!

AT SELE COMMUNITY HUB

 www.hertfordstandrews.co.uk
standrew.hertford@btinternet.com

The perfect way to begin preparing for Christmas

A candle-lit service for Advent



Carols, readings and time to pause and reflect

Sunday 30th Nov 6.30pm St Andrew's Church

Know the Story; Share the Story; Live the Story

SEASON OF REMEMBRANCE

At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them

All Souls and All Saints Service:

Wednesday 5th November at 10.30am

During our morning worship on Wednesday 5th November we remember by name those in our parish who have died. If you would like a name to be included, please write the name on the list at the back of the church or contact Phil in the church office: 01992 504373 or standrew.hertford@btinternet.com

Bereavement Service: Sunday 2nd November at 2pm

Each year we gather for a special service when we remember by name those who have died in the previous two years. It's a short service with some music and readings and an opportunity to light a candle in memory of loved ones. This has been, for many people, a very helpful and moving part of their grieving process.

How to include the name of a loved one: those who have received an invitation from us can be assured that the name of their loved one is recorded for remembrance at the service. If St Andrew's/St Mary's clergy did not conduct the service of someone you would like to be remembered, there is an online form on the church website. You will find it on the Bereavement Service page under the Services and Occasions tab.

'Sponsor a Rose'

At the service, there will be an opportunity to 'Sponsor a Rose', where, for a small donation, you can choose a rose in memory of your loved one and write a dedication with it. Proceeds will go to Cruse Bereavement Care.



*"They shall
grow not old
..."*

CHOIR18

Conductor
David Boarder

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH

Saturday 8th November at 11am

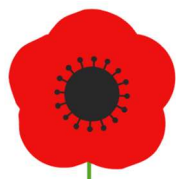
A concert exploring the themes of Remembrance

Great occasions whether happy or sad draw their best from authors and composers. This programme brings together texts and music from over 500 years which explore the themes of Remembrance from the 1500s to the present day.

FREE ENTRY – RETIRING COLLECTION

Remembrance Sunday: Sunday 9th November at 9.15am

PLEASE NOTE THE EARLIER TIME & BE AWARE OF ROAD CLOSURES



The Parish Communion service in church will take place at the earlier time of 9.15am. Please be aware of road closures in the town for Remembrance Day ceremonies. The **8am** Book of Common Prayer service will be marking Remembrance with a two-minute silence.

There is no 10.30am service on Zoom.

Know the Story; Share the Story; Live the Story

CHURCH FAMILY

FROM THE REGISTERS

BAPTISMS:

We welcome into the Lord's family:

26th October

Jasper Simon Douglas Kay

FUNERALS:

We extend our sympathy to the family and friends of:

1st October

June Wighton aged 94. June was a longstanding member of St Andrew's Church community. See below.

6th October

Yvonne Norris aged 85. Yvonne lived her whole life in Hertford and was married in St Andrew's to Ken. Ken died in 2006 and Yvonne moved to Calton House and then became a founder member of Calton Court. She was an active member of Sele Farm Church, the Calton Court congregation and also the Zoom congregation. She worked for many years as a dinner lady at St Andrew's School so was well known in the community. She had four children and her son, grandson and great-grandson all spoke at her funeral.

8th October

Gwendoline Stewart

June Wighton 1931-2025

June was born in High Holborn, London on the 2nd June 1931. She was the second youngest of 13 children born to her loving parents Eleanor and Phillip. Nine survived to adulthood.

When June was very young, work for her father resulted in the family moving to Briscoe Road in Hoddesdon, where she spent her younger years growing up in a happy household, even though this included the war years.

Due to the range of ages in the family, it was a very busy household with the comings and goings, sisters/brothers meeting partners and moving out of the family home. During her early working career, June was working at a wallpaper factory where she met a very handsome supervisor called Sid Wighton. Sid had just been demobbed from the Royal Navy on a Destroyer and was now back in civilian service.



They hit it off immediately and began courting. Even after her family moved again to Newtown Road in Bishops Stortford, some miles away, Sid used to visit June on his new BSA Gold Flash motorcycle and their relationship blossomed. They took trips to Cornwall on the Gold Flash most weekends with their friends Anne and John.

They were married in March 1952 and moved into Sid's mother's house, a small



CONTINUED OVERLEAF

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HARWOOD PARK • 01438 812515

HARPENDEN • 01582 762570

AUSTIN'S

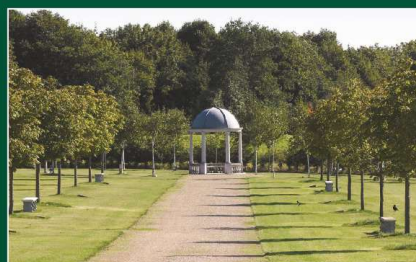
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the life of your loved one*



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Serving the local community for ten generations

CHURCH FAMILY

June Wighton continued



Victorian cottage in Forest Road Cheshunt. They had their first baby, Gary, in 1956. They lived upstairs in the house and, at the

time, had no running water upstairs and no toilet inside the house - a difficult time for them both, especially when Sid's brother George and his wife Violet were also living there in another part of the house. They lived like this for 6 years.

The Local Council were building a new estate in north Cheshunt and they received word of an opportunity for a new house in Montgomery Drive, which June was so thankful for. They had their next son Mark in 1958 and their last son Nigel in 1962. Many happy years were spent in Montgomery Drive, getting to know the neighbours and their children and they all became very close. June then found some part-time work nearby at Rochford's Nursery whilst the boys went through school, which was ideal when balancing the family demands.

After the boys left home, June and Sid followed Gary and Nigel to Hertford, acquiring a flat in Nightingale Court, North Road.

June found some work at the local doctors' surgery. She attended church each Sunday, helping with coffee mornings and soon had made many more friends.

June always embraced every activity attending regular weekly lunches with friends, joined a walking group, keep fit and even Thai Chi classes until she was

TMM YOUTH GROUP

- In Year 6 or above?
- Like playing games?
- Having a laugh?
- Like snacks?
- Curious about God, the universe and everything in-between?



COME ALONG
Usually 1st and 3rd Sundays,
4.30-6.00pm
(dates, times and venues may vary - please check the calendar)

St Andrew's Church Centre, SG14 1HZ
Contact: Standrew.hertford@btinternet.com
Today > Monday > More - TMM Youth Group

More info here

Forthcoming sessions of TMM:
Sundays 2nd November, 16th November
& 7th December

in her 90s, as well as her latest favourite activity, a weekly game of "Boggle" with her neighbour Maureen on a Sunday afternoon.

June was a grandmother to six children and a great grandmother to five, whom she all loved dearly.

June's faith was very important to her and always looked on the positives in life, with only ever a good thing to say about anybody. She had a very dry sense of humour that will be greatly missed.

She remained in Hertford living close to her son Nigel and his family, where she lived an independent life. Every evening, she would pour herself a "good half" glass of red wine to have after her dinner - this was clearly her secret to a long life!

Know the Story; Share the Story; Live the Story

Looking for something different?



Then try
Dance Scottish
on Tuesday nights

Sele Farm Community Centre
7pm – 8.30pm

for Fun, Fitness and Friendship

Classes £15 per half term
for more details visit

www.rscdsherts.org/south-east-herts

Come and try it - all welcome

Contact Emma or Ian

email: sehscds@hotmail.com

phone: 07842034890



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CHURCH NEWS

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

Away Day 2026 is booked for **Sunday 10th May** at All Nations Christian College at Easneye, near Ware, where this year's successful away day was held. Set in the Hertfordshire countryside, we hope to welcome as many as possible to Easneye for a day of fun, companionship and worship for all generations. Further details will follow but for the time being, please make a note of the date.

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

ECO-CHURCH UPDATE AND HERTFORD CHURCHES TOGETHER

Jenny Mutch reports: This month some of us have had a meeting with some of the other churches in Hertford regarding all things eco.

The aim? To see if we could work more closely together as part of Hertford's Churches Together, having all recognised that beginning an eco-church on your own is not easy and covers so many different aspects from Ministry (such as our Environment Sunday on the 19th October), working towards carbon-neutral sustainable buildings, and resources, considering what we make, how we manage our outside green spaces for wildlife, flowers and people, community engagement and achieving net zero. It's a big, big topic!



*Flowers in the church on
Environment Sunday*

We feel that by working together we could start to have more traction by learning from each other and sharing knowledge and communications. It was a positive meeting and an opportunity for springboarding ideas.

One thing we are hoping to do next year is to advertise collectively our outdoor spaces and encourage our wider local communities to see how all the little 'beads' of green space connect together and demonstrate how important they all are for our wildlife. We are planning to advertise this next year to coincide with the weeks either side of Hertford Town Council's eco-day on the 10th May 2026. So, watch this space!

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

Know the Story; Share the Story; Live the Story

EVENTS

COFFEE, CHRISTMAS CARDS AND LIVE MUSIC

JOIN US FOR OUR EVER-POPULAR MONTHLY COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 1st November: 10.30am to 12.30pm

This is the perfect time to start thinking 'Christmas' as many of our local charities bring their seasonal cards and gifts for you to buy in addition to stalls offering a variety of goods to help you find the perfect present. Please support the stallholders and select some fabulous festive finds all in one go!

We are pleased to welcome Theo, our regular pianist, followed by a performance by the Take Note Choir, providing live entertainment throughout the morning. And, of course, you can enjoy freshly brewed tea and coffee and the scrumptious cakes and bakes we're known for, courtesy of our brilliant Bakers Galore team!

We will be marking Remembrance and there will be Royal British Legion Poppies available.

Proceeds from the Coffee Morning will be split equally between Royal British Legion and St Andrew's Church.



coffee morning

SATURDAY 1ST NOVEMBER
10.30AM - 12.30PM

With a guest performance from Take Note Choir at 11.45am

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH
HERTFORD
SG14 1HZ

Christmas cards and gifts from local charities | Music
Royal British Legion poppies
Freshly-brewed tea & coffee
Homemade cakes and bakes

IN AID OF ROYAL BRITISH LEGION & ST ANDREW'S CHURCH
www.hertfordstandrews.co.uk



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

ST MARY'S HERTINGFORDBURY'S CHRISTMAS MARKET

Saturday 22nd November 10am – 1pm

Here is another opportunity to stock up with some Christmas gifts and enjoy a slice of cake (or two) with a cup of tea or coffee at our sister church, St Mary's Hertingfordbury, where you will receive a warm welcome.



Please support this fundraiser for St Andrew's Primary School

Sunday 14 Dec
at St Andrew's Church
11.30am onwards
(Service begins at 10.30am)

Cakes baked by the PTA and decorated by the children of St Andrew Primary School

All proceeds to the PTA to help the children of St Andrew Primary School

PTA Bake Sale

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH
HERTFORD SG14 1HZ

Know the Story; Share the Story; Live the Story

EVENTS



Imaginary Landscapes
Poetry and Harp
with **Chris Tutton**
and **Lucy Nolan**
*An exquisite fusion
of words and music*

**THURSDAY
20 NOVEMBER**
7.30pm at
**St Andrew's Church
Hertford SG14 1HZ**

Doors open 6.45pm - licensed bar available

Tickets from  

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

An exquisite fusion of words and music, Imaginary Landscapes brings together the spellbinding poetry of Chris Tutton, acclaimed author, performer and raconteur with the semi-improvised harp brilliance of international award-winning harpist, Lucy Nolan.

Described by Ned Sherrin as "the master of the short poem" Chris brings his award-winning words to life with wit and lyrical depth in this captivating performance while Lucy's boundary pushing performance enchants and surprises. Together they have graced stages from

Imaginary Landscapes

Poetry and Harp
with Chris Tutton and Lucy Nolan

at St Andrew's Church on
20th November at 7.30pm

Tickets: £15 with £2.50 online booking fee



the Hay Festival to the Royal Albert Hall, delighting audiences at sold-out shows across the UK.

Lucy Nolan is an award-winning international harpist, passionate about challenging and evolving new styles of harp playing through collaboration, composition and performance. She plays for the UK's leading orchestras, including the BBC Concert Orchestra, The Hallé and the Royal Northern Sinfonia and has enjoyed performing worldwide.



Flowered Up
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Know the Story; Share the Story; Live the Story

PUZZLE PAGE

? ? ?
Can you spot
the word in the
Word Search
and Crossword
that is spelled
incorrectly?
These puzzles
are from
America and
they often leave
out the 'u' in
words!
? ? ?

Think about... Esther

Esther is a courageous young girl who becomes queen. When the Jews are about to be killed, she bravely admits to the king that she, too, is Jewish and asks him to spare the lives of her people. Her honesty and integrity are rewarded! *You can read all about her in the Book of Esther in the Old Testament of the Bible.*

CROSSWORD

Word List:
beautiful bow
chosen courage
fasted honored
invited Jewish
killed Mordecai

Across

2. Mordecai refused to do this to Haman, so Haman decided to get rid of all the Jews.
7. Esther could not approach the king unless he ____ her first.
8. Haman and the king didn't know that Esther was this.
9. Esther prayed and ____ for three days before she went to the king.
10. Esther was full of this as a young Queen who wanted to do the right thing.

Down

1. The name of Esther's cousin.
3. Mordecai was ____ by the king because he saved his life.
4. Esther could've been ____ for going to the king without permission.
5. Young Esther won the king's heart because she was so ____.
6. God made Esther queen because she was ____ to save the Jews.

Resources courtesy of: Biblewise.com, dltk-bible.com

WITH THANKS TO VAL HURFORD

Know the Story; Share the Story; Live the Story

Esther the Queen Word Search

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

BEAUTIFUL
BOW
BRAVE
CHOSEN
COURAGE
CROWN
FASTED
HAMAN
HONORED
INVITED



JEALOUSY
JEWISH
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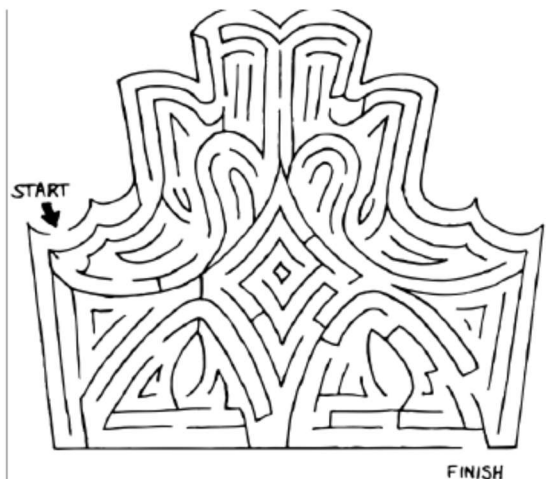
ESTHER



Esther is being crowned queen: how many differences
can you spot between the two pictures?

ESTHER: THE QUEEN WHO SAVED ISRAEL

MAZE



FINISH

HARVEST

Harvest Festival 2025



AN ENORMOUS THANK YOU to all those who donated to our Harvest Appeal - what a fantastic collection of tins, packets, jars and toiletries we were able to give to our two local charities! Hertford & District Foodbank and The Hertford Pantry have each received a superb selection of donations and they have expressed their thanks. Your generosity is amazing.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to preparing the church so beautifully with all the flowers, fresh produce and donations with a particular thank you to Chrissy Barclay and Rosemary Willis.



Proceeds from the sale of fresh goods went to the Bishop of St Albans Harvest Appeal run in partnership with Mission Direct who are working towards increasing access to education for some of the world's most under-resourced communities. We've been able to send a donation to the Bishop's Appeal from St Andrew's. Fresh produce also went to The Hertford Pantry.

CHILDREN

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 (except when there is an All Age service) there are activities for children in the St Andrew's Centre. 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.

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.



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EVENTS

KURDISH MUSIC & POETRY COME TO THE QUAKER MEETING HOUSE

Sunday 23rd November at 3pm

FREE ADMISSION | REFRESHMENTS

KURDISH MUSIC AND POETRY



AMIR DARWISH
Poet & Writer

SUNA ALAN
Singer

Discover more 



Sunday 23 November 2025
3.00pm at Quaker Meeting House,
50 Railway Street, Hertford SG14 1BA

Donations towards costs and in aid of
Herts Welcomes Refugees
www.hertswelcomes.org.uk

British-Syrian poet Amir Darwish will be performing his work alongside Kurdish musician Suna Alan in Hertford this November. Admission is free; interval refreshments; donations to cover costs and in aid of Herts Welcomes Refugees.

TAKE NOTE CHOIR

A CONCERT AT ST ANDREW'S CHURCH

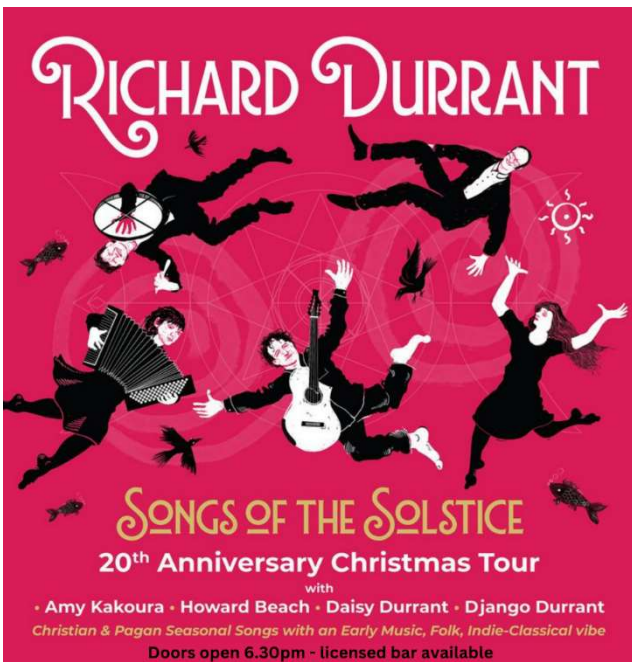
SATURDAY 6TH DECEMBER AT 7.30PM

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RICHARD DURRANT

SONGS OF THE SOLSTICE
20th Anniversary Christmas Tour

with
• Amy Kakoura • Howard Beach • Daisy Durrant • Django Durrant
Christian & Pagan Seasonal Songs with an Early Music, Folk, Indie-Classical vibe
Doors open 6.30pm - licensed bar available

Richard's love of music is tangled up in the seasons. Once Halloween passes, things turn wintry. The annual Christmas tour is an expression of a British Isles Midwinter. Each season arrives with the urge to explore specific instrumental combinations and styles.

At midwinter Richard is joined by fellow musicians to weave together the Pagan and Christian celebrations. From the oldest songs in The Oxford Book of Carols to Folk Tunes, Christina Rossetti and an abundance of new material.

THURSDAY 18 DECEMBER 2025

7.30pm at St Andrew's Church,
Hertford SG14 1HZ

Tickets from

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



***Songs of the Solstice* with Richard, Amy Kakoura, Howard Beach, Daisy Durrant & Django Durrant.**

Tickets £20 plus a £2.50 booking fee.

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Gazing out to God's wider universe



On the 8th October 2025, our very own St Andrew's Church of England School had the opportunity to think about our wider universe that makes up our Solar Systems: another one of God's great mysteries.

The following is adapted from the Head Teacher's (known to the children as Ms Cooper) newsletter.

It was a pleasure to welcome 49 children back to school in the dark on Wednesday to go Star Gazing. We were blessed with clear skies and saw some constellations, Saturn and a meteor! The children were fascinated to watch satellites move across the sky and watch a stunning moonrise. I was impressed with the children's literacy skills on Tuesday when they asked questions to an astrophysicist! The children have since been getting crafty making space rockets and writing inspirational stories motivated by their experiences.



The next day the hall was filled with a huge inflatable planetarium and the children were able to feel what it is like to float in space.



On Monday 13th October the school Governors visited the school and the children were still excitedly talking about the event and what it must have been like to be 'so old' to have been able to watch the footage of Neil Armstrong landing on the moon in 1969 and to hear that Yuri Gagarin was the first person in space in 1961 as part of the race to space!!

It was a great example of children's ability to learn and acquire knowledge in the right environment.

So, let's always remember "Children are a gift from God; they are a reward from him." (Psalm 127:3)

Jenny Mutch, Governor

Christopher THE LOCKSMITH

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FOLK AT ST ANDREW'S

Them Northern lasses can certainly sing a song

*The trees are changing colour, the nights are closing in and it's time to seek some autumnal cheer. Where better to find it than a comfy concert at St Andrew's. **Forbes Mutch** reports on celebrated folk duo Chris While and Julie Matthews.*



When folk enthusiasts take their beer and lean by the pub fire and start talking about great bands and singers, it isn't long before the names Chris While and Julie Matthews are mentioned. These two singers have played with some of the greats; have won numerous awards and have been playing together as a duo for over 30 years. Their combined strength lies in the intimacy of their voices, the clarity of their songwriting and the emotional, Northern honesty they bring to every song. Chris was born in Barrow-in-Furness and Julie is from Sheffield.

They don't pull their punches up north, you know, so it's not surprising that their first song at St Andrew's, called *Seventh Wave*, contains the lyrics *Let's throw a little light in here, even if it shows the dust that's gathered*.

Chris and Julie are known for their unpretentious, direct approach — no grand theatricals, simply two voices and instruments conversing with an audience — and the ambient calm of St Andrew's doesn't prevent their performance becoming vibrant, vivacious and alive.

Throughout the evening, the balance between the duo feels effortless. Chris (vocals, guitar, banjo, dulcimer, percussion) and Julie (vocals, piano, guitar, mandolin, bouzouki) alternate lead lines, harmonies and instrumental

interludes with a trust that comes only after many years of collaboration. Every pause is meaningful, every overlapping harmony a conversation and every lyrical turn an invitation to be emotionally involved.

The song *Gone Girl Gone*, for example, unfolds with a bittersweet undertow about absence, departure and the ache of loss that reaches out to everyone who has ever lost love. In their hands this is not a melodrama, however, but something quieter, more observant: the hush between words, the soft slide of a chord change, the little hesitation in a vocal line adding poignancy. The audience leans forward in sympathy, caught by the emotional weight that lies beneath simplicity.



Midway through the concert, they turn to *The Waiting Room*, a song that has become a kind of emblem of hope and patience in their repertoire. When they had first revealed it, on Radio 2 and sang it to the person who inspired it, it was already clear that it carried more than melody. In St Andrew's, in that hushed space, it feels like a prayer: a reach out towards meaning in uncertainty, underscored by delicate piano, gentle guitar, and their voices holding steady, as

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FOLK AT ST ANDREW'S

though to insist that waiting can itself be a form of strength.

From there, *Women of the World* takes on a communal urgency. The song's message of solidarity, voice, strength in tribulation resonates richly. Chris sings with warmth and clarity, Julie harmonises with quiet power. At times, the audience seems to join in mid-verse, as if drawn into the circle of composition. The lines: *And you will rise up, rise and hold the sky up, and we'll all hear your voices*, lingers long after the final notes have faded.

As though saving a quiet triumph for the close, they offer *Kalamazoo* near the end of the set. This song, inspired by the story of the women who built instruments in the Gibson guitar factory during the Second World War, carries historical weight and celebrating a tough spirit, with its narrative: *70 proud women from Kalamazoo, why would you hide what women can do* felt especially poignant, as the Gibson company always denied making guitars during

the war. The chorus rises sure and proud and, for a few moments, the church seems to pulse with recognition and tribute.

There are moments of hushed silence between songs, appreciative sighs, and, finally at the end, sustained applause. In a post-concert goodbye, Chris and Julie thank everyone for a *lovely gig in a beautiful church... a great atmosphere*. How could we disagree? It's just the place to be on a chilly autumn evening.

The next concert *Imaginary Landscapes* will be something different – a fusion of words and music bringing together the poetry of Chris Tutton, acclaimed author, performer and raconteur, with the semi improvised harp brilliance of international award-winning harpist, Lucy Nolan.

Don't miss it on 20th November at St Andrew's

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ZOOM SERVICES from 5th November 2025



Join a Zoom service via your landline

You just need the ID number and password for each service

Telephone participants will need to call either: 0208 080 6592 or 0203 481 5237 just prior to the service start time. Then follow the verbal instructions, which are:

1. Enter the meeting ID (see below) followed by the # key
2. You will be asked to enter your participant ID, simply press the # key
3. Enter the password (602435) followed by the # key
4. You should then automatically join the service.

WEEKLY ZOOM SERVICES & MEETING ID NUMBERS

(these ID details apply from 5th November 2025)

Service	ID Number
Sunday Worship 10.30am	ID: 833 5020 5497
Sunday Compline 7.00pm (check website for dates)	ID: 839 5380 8874
Wednesday Mindfulness & Meditation 7.30pm (check poster/flyer/website for dates)	ID: 821 5948 7853
BREATHE – Once a month on a Saturday 8.30am (check website for dates)	ID: 598 221 0120
Password for each service: 602435	

Please note: Your call charge for connecting to Zoom is likely to be no more than a local rate charge, or may be free. However this will depend on your call plan. If in doubt, please check with your provider.

www.hertfordstandrews.co.uk/zoom

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Services at St Andrew's

November 2025



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

	Date	Time	Service	Celebrant	Preacher
SUNDAY	2	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Rev Bill Church	
<i>Fourth Before Advent</i>		10.30 am	All Age Family Service	Rev Alan Stewart	Geoff Oates
		10.30 am	Morning Service on Zoom	Kath Oates	HeartEdge
		2.00 pm	Bereavement Service	Rev Alan Stewart/Rev Bill Church	
		7.00 pm	Soul Food in the St Andrew's Centre	Jenny Mutch	
Monday	3	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (Common Worship)		
Wednesday	5	10.30 am	Holy Communion (Traditional)	Rev Scott Martin	
Thursday	6	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (BCP)		
SUNDAY	9	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Rev Alan Stewart	
<i>Remembrance Day</i>		9.15 am	Remembrance Day Communion	Rev Alan Stewart	
			No Zoom service today (no Junior Church)		
		7.00 pm	Compline on Zoom		
Monday	10	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (Common Worship)		
Wednesday	12	10.30 am	Holy Communion (Traditional)	Rev Alan Stewart	
Thursday	13	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (BCP)		
			No Calton Court service today		
SUNDAY	16	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Rev Scott Martin	
<i>Second Before Advent</i>		10.30 am	Parish Communion with Junior Church		
		10.30 am	Morning Service on Zoom	Nick Hoyle	Rev Alan Stewart
		7.00 pm	Compline on Zoom	Rev Alan Stewart	
Monday	17	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (Common Worship)		
Wednesday	19	10.30 am	Holy Communion (Traditional)	Rev Bill Church	
Thursday	20	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (BCP)		
		10.30 am	Holy Communion Calton Court	Rev Bill Church	
SUNDAY	23	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Rev Bill Church	
<i>Christ the King</i>		10.30 am	Parish Communion with Junior Church	Rev Alan Stewart	Adrian Walter
		10.30 am	Morning Services on Zoom	Nick Hoyle	Adrian Walter
		6.30 pm	Evening Prayer St Mary's Hertingfordbury	Rev Bill Church	
		7.00 pm	Compline on Zoom	Rev Alan Stewart	
Monday	24	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (Common Worship)		
Wednesday	26	10.30 am	Holy Communion (Traditional)	Rev Scott Martin	
Thursday	27	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (BCP)		
SUNDAY	30	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Rev Scott Martin	
<i>Advent Sunday</i>		10.30 am	Parish Communion with Junior Church	Rev Alan Stewart	Rev Scott Martin
		10.30 am	Morning Services on Zoom	Kath Oates	HeartEdge
		6.30 pm	Advent Candlelit Service		