

Hertingfordbury & The Five Greens Parish News



(see inside for more details)

December 2025 / January 2026

Here with you - Here for you

Printed copies are available from St Mary's church

PARISH OF ST. MARY'S, HERTINGFORDBURY

www.hertingfordburystmary.org

Priest in Charge Reverend Alan Stewart - email: h.alanstewart1@gmail.com
01992 582726

Assistant Priest Reverend Bill Church - email: churchwj@hotmail.com
01992 410469

Associate Priest Reverend Scott Martin - scottmar73@hotmail.com
07766 295768

Churchwardens

Robin Bishop The Fobury, St. Mary's Lane, Hertingfordbury SG14 2LD
robinhbishop@gmail.com **01992 551946**

David Gorton 3 The Mill, Hertingfordbury Rd, Hertingfordbury SG14 2SB
dgorton1@btinternet.com **01992 551430**

PCC Secretary Ms Rachel Carter **07378 550871**
raich.carter@yahoo.co.uk

Treasurer Robin Bishop (address see above)
robinhbishop@gmail.com **01992 551946**

Cheques should be made payable to "HSM PCC"

Choirmaster & Organist Paul Attridge **01992 627210**

Pastoral Visitors Kay Juniper **01992 558321/07776 340932**
Helen Bishop **01992 551946**
Christine Gorton **01992 551430**
Helen Harris **07773 086646**

Wedding Administrator
Karen Cox **07990 578749**
greggandkaren@hotmail.co.uk

Safeguarding Officer
Robin Bishop (address see above)
robinhbishop@gmail.com **01992 551946**

Parish News Editorial & Advertising
Philip Juniper **07767 312382 / 01992 558321**
kpjuniper@yahoo.co.uk



“Let’s make Hope normal again”

It’s no coincidence that as the nights grow longer, we step into a new season themed with light and hope. Advent is a gift. It’s an antidote to the rush and pressures of pre-Christmas. It asks us to slow down and step off the treadmill, so we can reset and remind ourselves what’s really important about this time of year. It asks us to wait patiently so we can savour the joy of expectation.

It’s a time, in the words of Jack Polanski, leader of the Green Party, when we commit ourselves to making hope ‘normal again.’

It’s so much easier to despair in these times; to bury our heads and feel overwhelmed by the increasing unkindness of the world. To make hope normal again, we have to invest in the power of kindness. We have to dare to believe that every small kindness and every prayer is in fact a light in the darkness.

Prayers don’t always need words, because sometimes there are no words. Every day at St Andrew’s many people drop by to light a candle for a someone or a situation on their heart, and each little tea-light is a holding in the healing light of God.

Whatever our understanding of God, might this Advent be an opportunity to set aside a few minutes at the beginning and end of each day to light a candle and pray?

In both churches, you’ll find cards with some suggested prayers to begin and end the day. Feel free to pick one up or download one from the website. This Advent, I’m asking our congregations to commit ourselves to pray morning and night, that hope will become our new normal, that light will continue to shame the darkness, and that, when that day comes, we will each of us know the joy and peace of the Christ of Christmas.

Wishing you all a hope-full Advent.

Rev Alan

Registers

Funeral

20 November – Celebration of the life of **Richard Haughton Threlfall** (88 yrs)

26 November – **Pauline Patricia Irving** (72 yrs)



Richard Haughton Threlfall (15.02.1937 – 8.10.2025)

Richard was a well respected, popular member of our church who attended regularly with Rachel even when his mobility was not too good. Below is just a reflection of the man he was as we've picked out some of the key memories from the moving family eulogy at his Celebration service.

Richard grew up in Godmanchester, near Huntingdon in a house with frontage onto the Great Ouse. His father a local dentist, introduced him to sailing which became a life long love spending hours sailing the river and also proudly as a rowing cox on the Ouse.

He attended Oundle school, where he was a handy boxer but rugby became his second sporting love playing for various clubs including Bedford, Hemel Hempstead Camelot and Rosslyn Park, posting his kit home to be washed but when he it was suggested he needed to train more he knew his playing days were coming to an end!

On leaving school he trained as an Architect and went to the world renowned Architect Association in Bedford Square London for his seven years of training. For some of his training he lived with his Grandmother in Abbots Langley, and at a village fete he was introduced to Rachel and eventually they were married in 1962.

A few weeks later they moved to Australia, as Richard's training required practical work experience, but returned to England in 1964 and moved to Islington. They started sailing at Burnham on Crouch, Essex as members of the Royal Corinthian Yacht Club and this started a lifelong association with the town and the sailing community.

Sarah and Paul were born in Islington and in 1970 they moved to Queens Road Hertford where Tig was born soon afterwards.

Richard & Rachel soon settled into the local community and one place they quickly became active in was St Andrews Church. The 9.15am Sunday Service has been an important part of their lives ever since and when the parishes joined together and the 9.15am service was moved to St Marys, they moved too, some habits can't be changed! But in both Churches, they have been welcomed and made many friends.

Richard Haughton Threlfall

Richard's professional skills as an architect were soon a great asset not only for St Andrew's church but in the local community as well as the work he did in London. In the 1970's local communities realised their environment needed protecting and Richard quickly became a committee member of Hertford Civic Society. He was involved in the redevelopment of Hertford but also the protection of our buildings by getting them listed status. In the 80/90's Richard and his team also converted the old malt houses in Stanstead Abbots into small industrial units which in itself helped the malting business to thrive.

In 1976 Richard & Rachel jumped at the opportunity to move to a bigger house in Mangrove Road which was better for the family and enabled them to fulfil more of their love of gardening.

Richards love of rugby continued after his playing days by doing some coaching at Hertford Rugby Club which started the families long association with the club which continues today

Having helped save the Heart of Hertford, Richards next big challenge was helping preserve the 2* listed landscape, designed by Humphry Repton, of Panshanger Park. In 1980 a planning application was submitted to extract gravel from the park. Permission was eventually granted but importantly many conditions were applied to limit the damage to the listed landscape and timelines were set for the park to be opened to the public. Ever since those decisions Richard and various others had pushed Tarmac to honour their legal obligations, and eventually in 2013 this led to the formation of the Friends of Panshanger to unite all these groups to work in partnership with Tarmac. Richard was of course on the committee, ensuring the buildings and landscapes were correctly preserved. The park is now open to the public and enjoyed by thousands of people walking, running and enjoying the splendour of Humphry Repton's design.

So this illustrates how much Richard did and achieved for our local community. But he will also be remembered by his friends and family as a loving, supportive, caring person who was always there for them

We will miss you Richard. God Bless you and rest in peace

Some Dates for your Diary

Monday 8th December and 5th & 19th January – **Mindfulness on Sele.** 10.30am at the Sele Hub, Fleming Crescent.

Wednesday 10th December and 7th January – **Mindfulness & Meditation** 7.30pm in St Andrews church and on line. On line only 7.30pm, Wednesday 21st January

Monday 15th December – **A Mindful Christmas** 7.30pm at St Andrews. In the rush leading up to Christmas , a space to reflect, recharge and find comfort in this short candlelit service with readings, poems, prayers and music

Thursday 1st January – **New Year's Day Walk** starting at 2.00pm from The Golden Griffin, Sele Farm.



Christmas 2025 at St Mary's



Here are the December dates and times for your diary.

Thursday 18th at 7.30pm – **Carols & Lessons by Candlelight** followed by mulled wine & mince pies

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 Day Service - 9.15am Christmas Communion for all ages

Wishing you all a Joyous and Peaceful Christmas



St. Mary's Churchyard Regulations – Christmas

We are very conscious that this is a sensitive area – and we are most grateful for the care shown by many people tending graves and memorial plaques – but as Churchwardens we are required to ensure that the regulations, as laid down by the diocese relating to the churchyard are adhered to. The rules relating to churchyards are very stringent compared to those applying to local authority cemeteries. The full regulations are displayed on one of the noticeboards inside the South Door porch.

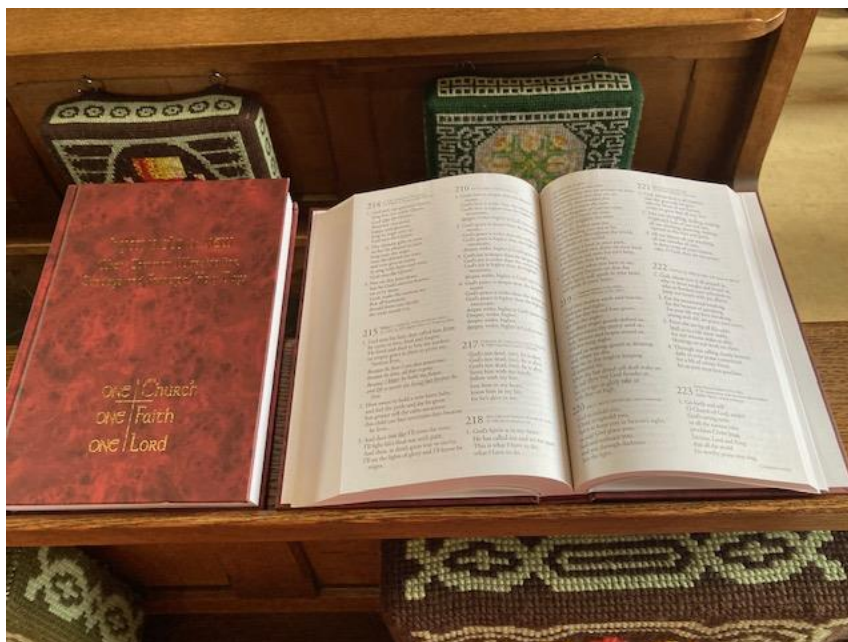
We would therefore ask that you remember that the placing of the likes of Father Christmases, Reindeers, flashing lights and so on, on graves/plaques is not permitted. Similarly floral remembrances should consist of natural flowers. Also, please do not use glass vases or jars as they might be accidentally broken leading to difficulties when maintaining the churchyard.

Whilst we should be reluctant to do so, we will, if necessary, remove items. We would always be happy to explain our reason for doing so and give advice about what is permitted.

Tributes should be removed by the end of January . Thank you. David & Robin

New Hymn Books at St Mary's

Our new hymn books have finally arrived and they were blessed by Rev Alan at our All Age service at the beginning of November . Once again many thanks to those who have supported us so generously and many have dedicated their book(s) to family or pets so they will always be present in our church. Names of the dedicated are in the front of their book



Our new hymn books in the pews at St Mary's

A Mindful Christmas

In the rush leading up to **Christmas**, a space to **reflect, recharge** and **find comfort** in this short candlelit service with readings, poems, prayers and music.

WHEN
Monday
15 December
7.30pm

WHERE
St Andrew's
Church



The Friends of Hertingfordbury St Mary

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.

Tickets are £10. Please contact Kay Juniper 07776 340932 (see poster)

Forthcoming Events in 2026

Race Night Feb/March - date and details to be confirmed

WGC Male Voice Choir Return – Saturday 21 March

Village Breakfast at The Fobury – Saturday 2 May from 8.30am

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



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

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)

St Mary's Christmas Market - Saturday 22 November



On a wet and cold morning the atmosphere in church was warm and cheerful. We were delighted to see many familiar faces and also welcome new people. Stall holders were kept busy and we all had a lot of fun. A huge thank you to the stall holders and helpers for making it such a happy occasion and to all who attended and participated so generously - Helen Bishop



A Friends of Hertingfordbury St Mary Event



*All You Need for
Christmas...*

*Welwyn Garden City Male
Voice Choir*

With Guest Artistes Orla Brady & Louis Tavana

FRIDAY, 12TH DECEMBER, 2025
7:30 PM

St Mary's Church,
Hertingfordbury, SG14 2LD

Tickets are £10. Please contact Kay Juniper 07776 340932

A Friends of Hertingfordbury St Mary Event

Remembrance Sunday at St Mary's & Birch Green Memorial



Once again it was a special time of Remembrance for those who sacrificed their lives in war and conflict. Services both in church and at the memorial in Birch Green were well attended and the bells at St Mary's were rung semi muffled to show our respect. Below is the sermon, slightly edited, given by Rev Alan.

Silence & Peacemaking

On the website of the Imperial War Museum, you'll find a sound recording of the actual moment ceasefire was declared on Armistice Day 1918. Recorded on the eleventh day of the eleventh month at the eleventh hour, a barrage of heavy gunfire gives way to a silence where all that can be heard is birdsong.

Silence. This morning, we will stand for two minutes in silence; 120 seconds of sacred pause in all this noise and busyness and distraction. Two minutes to remember; to recall countless lives given and taken. Two minutes to reflect on both the light and the darkness of this human race; the potential in every one of us both to create and to destroy.

Silence because there are no words with which to pay appropriate respect. Silence because we are left speechless at both the sacrifice and the atrocity of war. Silence because in silence there is solidarity and connection.

Silence helps us to connect both with our shared humanity, and with what lies deep within us. In silence we hear ourselves.

Silence, we know, can be good for us. It can calm the nervous system, reduce stress hormones, lower blood pressure, improve sleep. But it can also be scary.

In those sound archives you will also find the stories of those who were present at the ceasefire; "Well do you know, strangely enough' one man recalls, 'we wept, because the silence was so awful. You see we'd been used to the noise of guns, all day long, all day long, all day long...it was so strange, to have silence."

A strange and awful silence.

Cont.....

Silence & Peacemaking

Many returning home from war of course, with what we now know as PTSD, carried with them that awful silence, refusing to speak of the horrors they'd experienced. A coping mechanism; a way too perhaps of shielding those at home.

Some of us are more comfortable with silence than others. Some of us need noise; the TV, the radio, our phones. And that's not wrong. Sometimes however it's a coping mechanism; a distraction to avoid the things we can't or don't want to face.

Monks and mystics understand this. They have an expression 'Your cell will teach you everything'. The cell is silence. Last summer, as I've previously mentioned, I spent five days on silent retreat, by mistake.

Silent meals, no TV, no music, no distraction. Just me, myself and I. And at first it was wonderful, letting go of all the responsibility you don't know you're carrying until you put it down. And then boredom kicked in. And then frustration. And then... some stuff I'd carefully suppressed began to rise up in the silence; uncomfortable stuff, unresolved stuff, some painful stuff. In the silence I began to hear myself. I began to see some of what I still needed to make peace with.

Famously, Jesus once said 'blessed are the peacemakers, because they will be called children of God'. Peacemaking, as we know, begins with making peace within ourselves; with our past, with those things that we too often distract ourselves from. And when we do this, well then, that peace spreads because we then begin to see that others, *every* other, including those who have wounded us, is also a child of God.

Last Remembrance Sunday I shared with you a little of my own story, my own trauma of losing a brother to violence in my homeland in the North of Ireland.

This summer, as you probably know, I visited a road in Belfast I've never been to before. The Falls Road has always felt like a no-go place for Protestants like me. It is for many the heartland of Irish Republicanism and the scene of historic conflict and trauma for the Catholic community who live there.

Barbara, a longtime resident, was our tour guide. She was about my age, full of fun and laughter, and she spoke powerfully and vulnerably about her own experience of growing up in the Troubles. As we walked the streets lined with political murals and visited the Peace Line, that barrier that still separates this community from their Protestant neighbours in the Shankill, Barbara spoke of her own costly journey of making peace with her past and the work of reconciliation she was involved with. She mentioned that the one group of people she could not yet forgive were the RUC, the Royal Ulster Constabulary, the then police force of N Ireland. Officers had victimized and shot members of her family at close range with plastic bullets. As I listened, I felt torn and conflicted. You see my brother was in the RUC and the IRA killed him because he was in their eyes a 'legitimate target' in their struggle against what they experienced as a foreign occupation.

Barbara and I took a few moments away from the group, to walk and talk. And I shared with her that traumatic chapter of my family's story. And as we walked and talked and listened, that whole 'us versus them' thing just disappeared. This was two wounded people meeting on the common ground of human trauma. And before we parted, Barbara asked for a hug. And in that moment, near that Peace Line barricade, another little wall came down and a kind of peace broke through to us both.

Cont.....

Silence & Peacemaking

In this silence of Remembrance Sunday, may we take time to hear ourselves; to allow what's unresolved or damaged in us to surface, knowing that just as God (however you understand that word) was and is in the trenches and killing fields of war, so, he is also with each one of us in whatever battleground of the mind or heart we find ourselves in. This is a God who knows from personal experience what trauma is; a God who is in the business of breaking down barricades and building peace; a God who is, I believe, here... in this moment, in this and in every silence.

Rev Alan



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



Church Flowers



No flowers during Advent & January other than for Christmas

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



This publication was kindly printed by St Andrew's church

Eco Church

Taking care of our natural world was a big focus of our Eco Church exhibition last month. So in this issue, we'd like to share some of the ways in which our members care for nature, at home and in our amazing nature reserves.

Geoff Oates shares some thoughts:

“Some seed fell among the stony ground”

Many years ago we planted violas in a pot at our kitchen door, as part of a bright array of spring blooms. The following year, violas appeared along the edge of the lawn and in the cracks between the paving stones. Spontaneous re-wilding. A strip of lawn was left unmown, the paving unweeded, until they faded.

Each spring they have reappeared. They have even re-seeded themselves into plant pots, completing the cycle!

This year, one little clump of these bright, cheeky blooms had held out against the dry spring, the summer heat and the first autumn chills in its sheltered spot below the doorstep, safe from the tread of boots and shoes. They greet me each morning as I leave to work and each evening as I return.

We must be one of very few families that water the ‘weeds’ in the cracks between the paving stones, but they are our daily parable of the beauty, surprise and resilience of God’s creation



Geoff’s “Cheeky Blooms”



Kath’s “Volcanoes”

Kath Oates reflects on some wild neighbours

A few weeks ago I noticed a large number of bees buzzing just above the ground over our lawn. For the next few days they kept coming back, especially when the sun was shining. Each time they made their way up and down the lawn as if they were looking for something.

A few days later I noticed a number of holes in the lawn, which looked like mini volcano craters.

You can see two of them in the photo. I wondered if the bees and the holes were connected in some way.

A bit of research led to the discovery that the bees were mining bees, solitary bees who don’t form colonies but whose females build nests by excavating tunnels into the ground. The “volcanoes” I saw was the soil resulting from their excavations.

Cont.....

Eco Church

I also found out that their burrowing doesn't harm the lawn and that it actually helps with aeration and drainage and that the piles of soil soon disappear. Burrowing bees are also good pollinators and don't sting people or pets.

The bees have now gone but I look forward to meeting their offspring next year!

If you are interested in being part of the Eco Church group, contact Rachel Carter – raich.carter@yahoo.co.uk



tick tock
SAVE
OUR
CLOCK

St.Mary's clock has kept time for Hertingfordbury for over a century. However, the blue dial, hands and mechanism need urgent specialist attention. The Friends of Hertingfordbury St.Mary are raising money for this, donations to support this project would be appreciated. Ways to donate-by card reader in the church located by the entrance next to the font, there will be a stall at the christmas market or please contact Robin Bishop for bank details.

Thank you



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

Hertingfordbury Cowper C of E (VA) Primary School



Remembrance Service

On Tuesday 11th November, we had our school Remembrance Service at the War Memorial in Birch Green. The children showed great respect as we spent time sharing poems, prayers and reflections, as well as our minute of silence. After this we all sang together a song called 'Shalom', which means 'Peace' in Hebrew. This was followed by our Year 6 captains and vice-captains laying the school's poppy wreath on the memorial.



It was lovely to be joined by our school and local community.

Children in Need

On Friday 14th November, our children and staff came to school dressed in spots and stripes to help our fundraising for Children in Need.

Our Year 6 captains and vice-captains led a special time of collective worship to celebrate 'Children in Need'. They shared with the children how this charity helps many children in lots of different and important ways. This was linked to our current Christian values of Justice and Compassion.



Year 3 Bridge Builders at Tower Bridge

Our Year 3 class went on a visit to Tower Bridge, London. They had a tour of the bridge walkways and engine rooms, whilst learning about the history and the Victorian competition which led to the bridge being built. All of the children were brave to stand on the glass platform situated 42m above the River Thames. The children then took part in a workshop to design their own bridge for the River Thames.



Reception Class September 2026

The online system to apply for a Reception place for September 2026 is now open and the closing date is Thursday 15th January 2026.

We are booking tours of our school for those wishing to visit prior to applying. Please contact the school office for dates and availability.



The Owls at 1st Birch Green Brownies

We have had a very busy term that started off with us winning District Sports Day, followed by coming 4th in District Night Hike! (picture right) We also hosted a 'Bring A Friend' spooky party, and even had a visit from a local bee keeper!

We have space within our unit for new Brownies to join, so if you know someone who may like to join us, or go onto our waiting list, please do get in touch! The Owls would be happy to answer any questions that you may have, please do email us on: birchgreenbrownies@aol.co.uk"

Jess – Brown Owl



Recreation Ground Library

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.

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.



December at Celtic Harmony Camp

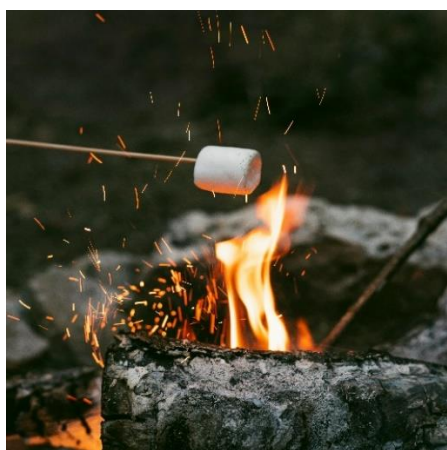
Celtic Harmony Camp is thrilled to have received the prestigious VisitEngland 'Hidden Gem' accolade, a recognition of the exceptional standards achieved during this summer's quality assessment. Your local 'Hidden Gem' has launched its first-ever Christmas Events Programme, packed with festive fun for families, friends, and businesses alike!

Festive Elf Quest (Every Weekend)

Embark on a magical woodland adventure as children search for hidden Elf houses and complete festive challenges to earn a special prize. Just £5 per child—and accompanying adults go free!

Festive Feast Experience (From 8 December)

Celebrate the season with a three-course feast in your own decorated and heated thatched roundhouse. Perfect for groups of 4 to 60, this unique experience includes additional experiences such as drumming workshops and marshmallow roasting by the fire. Available for lunch or dinner - ideal for family gatherings or office parties.



Luxury Wreath-Making Workshop (6 December)

Get creative with our guest florist and craft your own stunning wreath. All materials, expert tuition, and a festive tippie are included—a wonderful activity to spend time with friends and family in the lead up to Christmas,

Festive Family Days (20-22 December)

Unplug and reconnect with nature during our special mid-Winter, jam-packed filled with hands-on activities and seasonal fun.

Visit celticharmony.org/christmas for full details and to reserve your place

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 looks at the paintings and visuals of the Panshanger estate as we moved into the era where photography would inevitably take over

Painting Panshanger

The first pictures we have of the Panshanger estate show the grand house at Cole Green built by the 1st Earl at the beginning of the 18th century. However, these are only mason's elevations. The landscape doesn't appear until the end of the century when we have a charming view of the landscape as remodelled by Capability Brown in the mid-18th century. This view has now gone with the demolition of the Cole Green House but the pool still remains, along with some of the old oaks from the avenue. Other work by John Charnock is held in the National Maritime Museum and by Henry George Oldfield at HALS, both of the Cole Green House and Panshanger house before the new one was built in the early 19th century.

In 1799 Humphry Repton was commissioned to re-landscape the larger Panshanger landscape which now included the old Cole Green one. His Red Book of that year consists of nine illustrations of ideas for house and landscape, including 'before' and 'after' versions showing how much better the landscape would be if his advice was followed. As often in his Red Books he depicts himself in his customary blue coat showing the improved landscape to a diligent sketcher of the scene. The Chisel Shelf Ride has 'stations' where splendid views of the landscape across the valley to the tree line on the north are visible. These often have two signal trees at the Chisel Ride stop to frame the opening in the woods and a tree in the centre of the view to divide it into two. These 'stations' were designed, and used at other sites, to provide somewhere to stop your carriage and take out your sketch book to produce a 'Picturesque' composition which could, if wished, be worked up with paint later on.



Picture 1



Picture 2

In 1841 Caleb Stanley Robert Stanley, as part of Queen Victoria's entourage, stayed at Panshanger and drew three views, from the house across the Broadwater, of the front garden

Painting Panshanger

and from Chisel Shelf towards the house. This last was copied by W.H. Taylor, printed by C. Hullmandel, and sold as a lithograph **[Pic 1]**. Sadly the great Edward Adveno Brooke did not include a full-colour painting (**Pic 2**) of the Panshanger gardens in his volume *The Gardens of England* (1856) but did include a sketch of the Panshanger Terrace with text explaining that the plants indicated in the long beds under the windows were scarlet geraniums.

Some Victorian families had enthusiastic amateur artists amongst their children who painted and sketched their gardens and park. If the Panshanger families did paint the park, then we have not come across their work. The one documented artist at Panshanger was Katrine, Countess to the 7th Earl who had a studio there and was an accomplished woodcarver, credited with the carvings on the panelling at Mayflower Place. We know that the Cowper family were great collectors of art with their legacy from the Earl of Grantham and the collection amassed by the 3rd Earl in Italy, and that they regularly loaned out pieces for temporary exhibitions, including a ground-breaking one at Manchester which was not for the elite but the ordinary man.

By the 1840s, photography was just starting to become popular and we have a wealth of photographs from the later 19th century until today. These include those in *Country Life*, *Illustrated London News*, Sales Catalogues and Historic England's 'Red Boxes', as well as postcards and many individual snaps

Fewer paintings or sketches survive after the advent of photography, although the charming painting by Elsie Graham, aged 11, in 1897 of the creepers on the garden front of the house does **[Pic 3]**.



Picture 3



Picture 4

A notable artist at Panshanger was Spencer Gore whose mother and sister lived in Hertingfordbury. A founder of the Camden Town Group of artists (many of whom actually lived in Letchworth) he painted a number of views of the Panshanger landscape which are held in galleries from Hitchin (where much of the group's Letchworth work is held) to New South Wales. The Group had a distinctive range of colours in the palette they used – a different way of seeing Panshanger perhaps. **[Pic 4]**

Amateur artists still paint at Panshanger, with members of the Hertford Art Society highlighting the natural beauty of the landscape (<https://stoweblog.wordpress.com/rural/>)

Hertingfordbury Parish Council

Chairman – Paul Rochford

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



Hertingfordbury Village

Your local representatives at a glance

Hertingfordbury Village falls within Hertford's Castle Ward and Hertford St Andrew's Division

Hertford Town Council website: www.hertford.gov.uk

For events and what's on: <https://gohertford.co.uk/>

Hertford Town Councillors for Castle Ward:

Rachel Carter: rachel.carter@hertford.gov.uk

Sarah Hopewell: sarah.hopewell@hertford.gov.uk

Ryan Henson: ryan.henson@hertford.gov.uk

East Herts District Council website: www.eastherts.gov.uk

East Hertfordshire District Councillors for Castle Ward

Rachel Carter: rachel.carter@eastherts.gov.uk

Sarah Hopewell: sarah.hopewell@eastherts.gov.uk

Hertfordshire County Council website: www.hertfordshire.gov.uk

Hertfordshire County Councillor for Hertford St Andrew's

Rachel Carter: rachel.carter@hertfordshire.gov.uk

Member of Parliament for Hertford and Stortford

Josh Dean: josh.dean.mp@parliament.uk

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

Castle Plus Neighbourhood Plan

Hertingfordbury Village residents are involved in drawing up a Neighbourhood Plan for Hertford Castle Plus area. To find out more and get involved, contact Mick Barratt: michael.barratt@sky.com

You can find out more on the website here: <https://www.castleplushertford.co.uk>

A New Chapter for Our Parish School: St Joseph's In The Park becomes Hertford Prep

Dear Friends,

We are delighted to share some exciting news with our parish community. From Monday, 3 November 2025, St Joseph's In The Park will officially become **Hertford Prep**. Along with this new name, the school will introduce a refreshed logo and a modernised uniform, which will be phased in gradually to ensure a smooth and comfortable transition for our students and families.

This change is about more than a new name or appearance. It is a celebration of the school's journey and a hopeful step into the future, while remaining deeply rooted in the values and traditions that have long shaped our community.

"The heart of our school remains the same," says Mr Brown, Head of Hertford Prep. "We are as committed as ever to kindness, respect, and nurturing each child in our care. This rebrand honours our history and heritage while embracing the opportunities that lie ahead."

The new name reflects our location and identity more clearly, while the refreshed logo represents balance celebrating tradition, growth, and aspiration. Through this evolution, Hertford Prep will continue to provide a warm, supportive, and inspiring environment where every child can flourish.

We are truly grateful to be part of this parish and thankful for the ongoing support from families, staff, and the wider community. Your encouragement allows our school to nurture confident, thoughtful, and compassionate children, equipping them for the future while remaining grounded in values that matter.

We warmly invite our parish families to explore the school's new website at hertfordprep.org.uk to learn more about our school, our students, and the opportunities ahead

The Hertford Prep Community




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We bring people together through a shared curiosity for the arts. We meet on the last Thursday of the month to hear arts related lectures in a comfortable, friendly atmosphere at the The Spotlight in Hoddesdon. We meet for coffee at 10am, followed by the lecture at 10.30. **Visitors are very welcome at the lectures for a small fee.** Contact Philip Juniper at kpjuniper@yahoo.co.uk for more information on joining

Upcoming lectures

29 January – **Notre Dame de Paris** by *Carole Petipher*

26 February – **Picasso & Cubism** by *Douglas Skeggs*

26 March – **Down Fen Lane; the art of John Constable** by *John-Paul Stonard*

For more information please go to our website

www.theartssocietyeastherts.org.uk

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SCOTTISH DANCING IN HERTFORD – 65 YEARS AND COUNTING!

Hello Hertingfordbury and The Greens!

Have you done the Dashing White Sergeant at a barn dance or the Eightsome Reel at a wedding? At South East Herts Scottish Country Dance Society (SEHSCDS) we do the same sort of dances, but with a bit more polish.

Scottish country dancing is a very social form of dance which relies on mutual co-operation. Following the patterns of the dance and dancing in time together is fun, exciting and highly satisfying. We are a friendly group of people and would be delighted to get to know you. So if you're interested in something fun, which helps you get fitter and make new friends, then come along and try Scottish Dancing for yourself. Complete beginners always welcome. First session free.

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 for more info.

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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

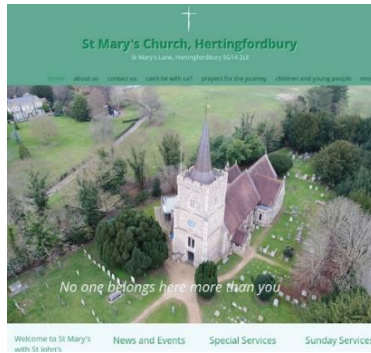


Volunteers needed to open/close St. Mary's



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

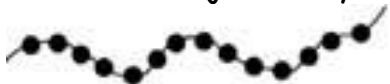
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WALTER WALLINGER CHARITY

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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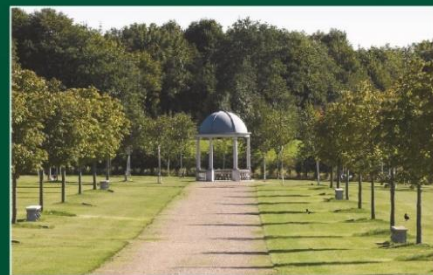
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