

The parish magazine of
Hertford St Andrew

www.hertfordstandrews.co.uk

MARCH 2026



coffee morning

**SATURDAY
7TH MARCH**
10.30AM - 12.30PM
ST ANDREW'S CHURCH
HERTFORD SG14 1HZ

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- ☑ Second-hand books
- ☑ Local crafts
- ☑ Live music
- ☑ Fairtrade coffee & home baked cakes

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HERTFORD ST ANDREW

Registered charity 1132540

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Deanery Synod Members: Jenny Aitken, Renee Booker & Shirley Taylor
Parochial Church Council comprises the Clergy, Readers, Churchwardens, Deanery Synod Members and Treasurer plus the following elected and co-opted members: Jenny Mutch, Louise Cobb, Laura Ramsay, Catherine Sleath, Adrian Walter, Chrissy Barclay, Julie Frazer, Malcolm Fry and Julie Hollings.

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St Andrew's Centre - Hertford St Andrew Community Trust - Trustees:

Richard Taylor (Chairman), Malcolm Fry, Carol Muhr, Philippa Probert, Laura Ramsay, Judy Sharman, David Spring and Rod Willis.

The Health and Safety Policy, and the Safeguarding Policy of Hertford St Andrew Parish Church can be found at www.hertfordstandrews.co.uk/safeguarding

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.

'LOVE IS THE ONLY THING STRONGER THAN HATE'



I have to confess that until the recent Grammys, I'd never heard of the world's most played music artist.

At the ceremony, Bad Bunny made history as the first Spanish-language singer to win three awards. His fame spread even further when recently he performed a joyous Puerto Rican set at the interval of this year's prestigious Super Bowl, alongside Lady Gaga and Ricky Martin.

After his anti-ICE comments at his Grammy acceptance speech, it's unsurprising that President Trump was not a fan, deeming the Super Bowl show; 'Absolutely terrible, one of the worst EVER! No one understands a word this guy is saying'.

The Puerto Rican Bad Bunny, real name Benito Occasio, used his Super Bowl performance as a love letter to the Americas. He ended the show holding a sign with the message 'Together we are America', as a giant billboard displayed the slogan 'Love is the only thing stronger than hate'.

For a Latin artist to perform on the world's biggest sporting stage was momentous for the many Latino people across the U.S. and the Americas. In the words of one, 'it was a decolonizing moment, a healing moment'.

Jesus, another non-English speaker, was a similar beacon of hope for those marginalized by the elite and powerful. As we enter this time of Lent in preparation for Easter, we are reminded that the message of Resurrection is the same as that half-time billboard; 'Love is the only thing stronger than hate'. On the cross, Jesus took the full force of the world's hate and transformed it through a forgiving

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.

Love. May that same Love remind us that Together We Are Humanity. And may it create within us, and through us, many healing moments this Lent, this Easter and beyond.

Alan

**IN THESE TIMES OF UNCERTAINTY
AND WORRY ABOUT EVENTS HERE
IN THE UK, IN EUROPE AND
FURTHER AFIELD YOU ARE VERY
WELCOME TO JOIN THE REV ALAN
STEWART AS HE LEADS US IN
PRAYER AT OUR MONTHLY PRAYER
MEETING CALLED:**



**on Saturday 21st March
at 8.30am**

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

THE CLOSING DATE FOR THE **APRIL** MAGAZINE IS **SUNDAY 22ND MARCH**. 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 at the end of this magazine and on the church website, with some additional information about certain services on this and the following pages.

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 15TH MARCH at 10.30am

being MOTHERING SUNDAY

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



With organ and choir. We will also be joined by the wonderful Hertford Children's Choir

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
Soul Sunday evenings



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



**OUR MONTHLY PRAYER MEETING
IN PERSON & ON ZOOM
NOW LATER IN THE MONTH
on Saturday 21st March
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.

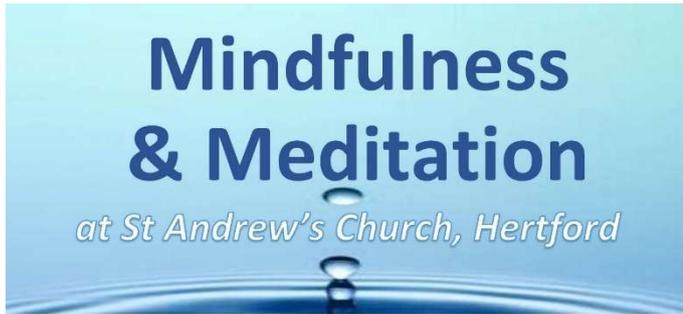
Soul Sunday

Once a month sees a different kind of service at St Andrew's called 'Soul Sunday'. Held in the St Andrew's Centre behind the church, this is an opportunity to join us for an informal hour of gentle discussion, songs and prayers, along with tea and biscuits and a heap of good fun.

Please join us in the St Andrew's Centre
6.45pm for refreshments
Service begins at 7pm
Sunday 1st March
Sunday 12th April

Know the Story; Share the Story; Live the Story

SERVICES AND OTHER EVENTS



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 (usually twice a month) 7.30pm

4th March in church & on Zoom

1st April (Holy Week in church & on Zoom

15th April on Zoom

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

www.hertfordstandrews.co.uk



FREE Mindfulness

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!

WHEN
Fortnightly on Mondays at 10.30am:

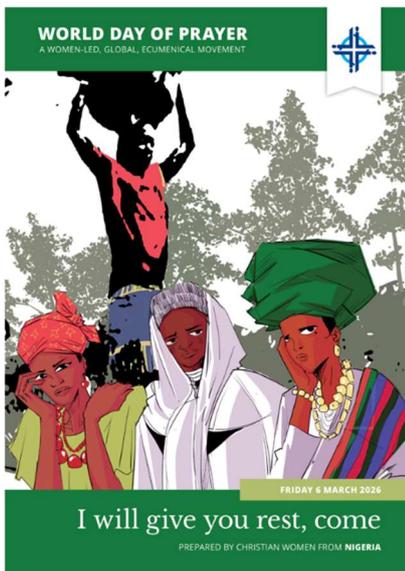
2 Mar, 16 Mar
30 Mar 13 Apr
27 Apr 10 May
25 May 8 June
22 June 6 July
20 July

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

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

World Day of Prayer Service

Friday 6th March, 2pm at Hertford St Andrew



The 2026 World Day of Prayer service has been prepared by an ecumenical group of Christian women from Nigeria.

We are invited to come together to lift our collective voices, united in prayer and action with the theme '**I will give you rest, come**', drawing inspiration from Matthew 11:28.

It serves as a heartfelt invitation from Jesus to all who are burdened and heavy-laden. And so, we are invited to come just as we are. Bring all that weighs us down so that we may find rest.

As we take part in the service, we join a great wave of prayer which encircles the globe, beginning in Samoa and ending, 146 countries later, in American Samoa, all praying with and for the country and people of Nigeria.

Know the Story; Share the Story; Live the Story

LENT



**ALLSAINTS
HERTFORD**

Queens Road, Hertford, Hertfordshire SG13 8AY

www.allsaintshertford.org



This year our Lenten observance is to become a Festival of Faith which will help us examine whether some of the things that drive neighbourhoods and nations still matter.

To help us to do that we are hosting three evening talks.

Held after our Evening Worship at 7.30pm.

Focussed on the theme of 'Faith in...' and our speakers will help us to think about why politics, science and care for our children matter for the good of all.

Talk Dates and Speakers:

Sunday 8 March 2026 - Professor, Canon Russell Cowburn

Sunday 15 March 2026 - Rt Hon Josh Dean MP

Sunday 22 March 2026 - Mark Russell OBE

'Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.' James 4.8

The Church of England's Lent theme for 2026 is **'Draw Near: Life-giving habits for Lent'**

This year's resources have at their heart the theme of a 'rhythm of life' – habits and patterns which help us grow as disciples of Christ day by day, especially as we prepare to celebrate the great mystery of God's saving love at Easter.

**DRAW
NEAR**
LIFE-GIVING
HABITS FOR LENT

"Draw Near is all about teaching us how we can cultivate the habits and practices that will draw us nearer to God. And we will find that, in doing so, God will draw nearer to us, too." Archbishops Sarah Mullally & Stephen Cottrell

Reflections are centred around a Summary of the Christian Way from *Common Worship*, which identifies six activities essential to our calling as disciples.

Each week a different contributor explores a different aspect of Christian discipleship – **worshipping** together, **praying**, **exploring the Bible**, sharing **communion**, offering **service** and **sharing the good news** with others. **To be found on the Church of England website**

Know the Story; Share the Story; Live the Story

LENT



PRAYER KNOTS

Find a piece of string about 6 or 7 inches long and then take a moment just to sit quietly. Allow God's spirit to surface in your mind's eye those people, a friend or family member perhaps, who might need you to hold their hands up in prayer. And when someone comes to mind, just tie a knot in the middle of the string. And then when someone else comes to mind, tie another knot to the right or left. Tie as many knots as you need, and feel free to add knots at any time. Let each knot represent that friend or family member.

Keep the string in your pocket and set an alert on your phone to remind you to pray for those people every day.

As you hold a particular knot, pray for that person with the words below or in your own words, or without words. And there's a promise here. God will work with those prayers for the good, the wellness, the wholeness of each one, as we align our words, our thoughts and our actions with the reality that God wishes to create.

May your eyes be open to the miracle of each moment and a warm embrace hold you this day.

May you have the courage to know and accept yourself and others, and may beauty and friendship brighten your life. May the kindness of God the Father complete you; the company of Christ the Son walk with you and the love of the Holy Spirit empower you today and always. Amen

THE KING OF KINGS: SATURDAY 28TH MARCH 2026 at 11am.

BEAM will be screening **The King of Kings (PG)**, an animated film about the life of Jesus Christ, loosely inspired by the children's book *The Life of Our Lord* by Charles Dickens.



Renowned writer Charles Dickens shares the story of Jesus Christ with his son, Walter. As his father narrates the stirring tale, Walter becomes captivated with the events of Jesus' life.

The film stars the voices of Kenneth Branagh, Uma Thurman, Mark Hamill, Pierce Brosnan, Roman Griffin Davis,

Forest Whitaker, Ben Kingsley, and Oscar Isaac.

Book online on BEAM Hertford website: <https://beamhertford.co.uk/whats-on/x8-childrens-corner-the-king-of-kings/>

Tickets are £3.50.

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Palm Sunday, Holy Week & Easter Services

at St Andrew's unless otherwise stated

Sunday 29th March

8am

Holy Communion (BCP)

Palm Sunday

10.30am

Holy Communion

The congregation is invited to begin the service outside the church, weather permitting. For those who are able to join this, we will process into church through the West Doors. At 10.30am, Rev. Alan Stewart and the Choir will lead everyone inside as the service begins.

10.30am

a special Palm Sunday service **on Zoom**

7.00pm

Compline **on Zoom**

Monday 30th March

8pm

Compline for Holy Week **on Zoom**

Tuesday 31st March

8pm

A candlelit Service for Holy Week in the style of Taizé

Wednesday 1st April

8pm

A Meditation for Holy Week
(in church and on Zoom)

**Maundy Thursday
2nd April**

8pm

Holy Communion followed by a candlelit
medieval service of the shadows (Tenebrae)
& watch 'til 10pm

Good Friday 3rd April

10am - 11.30am

Good Friday Walk of Witness

From three other churches to Hartham Common – see
Easter pages for more information

12 noon

– 2pm At St Andrew's, quiet space with
interactive prayer stations

2pm

– 3pm The Last Hour (with choir)

Easter Day 5th April



**5.30am Dawn Service at St Mary's
Hertingfordbury**

with the lighting of the first fire of Easter

8am

Holy Communion (BCP)

10.30am

All-age Holy Communion
with an Easter Egg Hunt

***Please remember to bring a fresh flower to
decorate the cross***

[Please note: there is no Zoom service or Compline on Easter Day]

Easter Monday 6th April

7am

from All Saints' Church Pilgrimage to St
Albans Cathedral – see Easter pages for more info.

3pm

St Albans Cathedral Easter Monday Service

Know the Story; Share the Story; Live the Story

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IN CHURCH

Soul Food has become..



By Forbes Mutch

On Monday 18th March 2013, I made a note in my personal diary: *Went to an evening meeting with Alan Stewart and a small group from St Andrew's to discuss ideas for a new Sunday evening service. We don't have one at St Andrew's at the moment, and Alan is thinking of putting together something informal once a month. We talked about the tone of the service, how we could blend music, songs, prayer, refreshments and a themed discussion. The service will be called Soul Food.*

Fast forward 13 years and our monthly evening service is still going strong. It's no longer called Soul Food but 'Soul Sunday' and, while it has evolved over the years, the original concept remains the same – an informal gathering, led by a rota of different people, introducing Christian topics for discussion at small tables, accompanied by prayers, readings and upbeat worship songs, led now by Sam Chaplin.

We meet in the St Andrew's Centre behind the church for about an hour starting at 6.45pm for a 7pm start on the first Sunday of each month. We usually attract around 20 people but there's plenty of room for more. Why not give it a try?

Soul Sunday – 1st March
Exploring Jesus' Temptation
in the desert

The Lord says: "I will woo you and lead

you into the wilderness and speak tenderly to your heart". Hosea 2:14.

In scripture, the desert is a place of reflection and encounter. Join us as we explore the questions Jesus faced in his 40 days alone in the desert. Who did he encounter and what might his experience say to us as we navigate our own deserts?

Tonight's Soul Sunday will be led by Rev Alan Stewart.

ST ANDREW'S SERVERS LOOK TO SHARE THEIR IMPORTANT ROLE

You will see us at every 10.30 Sunday morning service working away in our white robes around the altar before and during the service. You may not know our names, but we are Jennie and Sue, your Servers!

We thoroughly enjoy our role and count it a privilege to serve in this way.

We are both now in our mid-70s and would sometimes like to enjoy some time-off or cover for when we're unwell, although we have no intention of retiring yet!

The Server's role encompasses setting up the altar for our Eucharist services, serving our priests during the service, clearing, washing up, and putting the silverware etc. away afterwards.

If you would like to know more about the role, or think you might like to try it out, please speak to Jennie, Sue or Alan. Training will be provided and it's very flexible!

Many hands make light work!

Thank you in anticipation.

Jennie and Sue

Know the Story; Share the Story; Live the Story

CHURCH FAMILY

FROM THE REGISTERS

MEMORIAL SERVICE:

5th December **For the life of Barry Lee** aged 94

Barry grew up in Shurdington in Gloucestershire. He was a great one for stories and many were about the japes he and other boys got up to, but he cannot have been so much of a scamp because he won a scholarship to Cheltenham Grammar School and then to Pembroke College Cambridge where he read Natural Sciences and, importantly, met Joan. Next stop was a PhD at University College London. Then National Service including a spell in Egypt (more stories) after which he and Joan married in 1958. Then to teaching at Trinity College Dublin (again more stories). Then to a senior post at Loughborough University, when Ceinwen and Ronan were born. Then to Hatfield Polytechnic as Reader in Chemistry and Director of Research at Bayfordbury – Barry loved research. He was a fund of knowledge about all kinds of plants, especially orchids and he had a striking collection at their home in Morgans Road. In retirement he and Joan were out and about. He cared wonderfully for Joan in latter years.

FUNERALS:

We extend our sympathy to the family and friends of:

18th February **Connie Moules** aged 97. Connie was born in London but moved to Ware aged 4. She lived through the war years and survived a bomb in their back garden. In 1949 she married Percy whom she had met in the Army Cadets but he died that same year of Hodgkin's lymphoma, leaving her a widow at 21. Then in 1951 she married Charlie Moules and soon moved to Hertford, first to Folly Island where Carol and Christine were born and then to the newly built Burnett Square. She worked until retirement as school secretary at Mill Mead Primary, which she enjoyed. After Charlie's death, Connie moved to be among the first residents of Calton Court. Connie was active locally in the Women's Institute, Sele Farm Women and especially Sele Farm Church of which she was leading member. Connie spoke her mind, had a firm faith and believed in getting on with things and overcoming difficulties. She will be greatly missed.

20 February **Clare Gittings** aged 71. Clare was brought up in Sussex and wrote and published her first book - on brass rubbing- at the age of 16. She qualified as a primary school teacher. Before going to the Maldives with Voluntary Service Overseas, she and Malcolm Ramsay married - the Maldives government did not permit unmarried couples! Returning she again taught in primary schools before becoming the education officer at the National Portrait Gallery for 25 years. She wrote many books and papers including in 1984 what is still the standard work on death culture and customs in early modern England. She taught university courses, gave lectures (including on Hertfordshire links to slavery and the campaign to abolish the slave trade) and was a Trustee of Hertford Museum. She and Malcolm lived in a house where one timber was dated to 1526 and which was filled with intriguing artefacts. At her funeral on the coffin were simple flowers and her cycle helmet – she and Malcolm were keen cyclists and walkers. She will be missed by family, many people in Hertford and in scholarly circles nationally.

Know the Story; Share the Story; Live the Story

CHURCH MATTERS

Making sure our church is a welcoming and safe space

Here at St Andrew's our ethos is that 'No one belongs here more than you'. We want to continue to make sure that we offer everyone a safe and welcoming environment where everyone feels respected and cared for. Julie Hollings, the church's new Parish Safeguarding Officer tells us more about her role:

Safeguarding has an important role to play in this by making sure that everyone – whatever their age and background – can worship and participate here without fear of harm or abuse.

Safeguarding is a fundamental aspect of the Church of England's mission and values. It ensures that our church remains a safe and welcoming place for everyone, especially the most vulnerable members of our community. By prioritising safeguarding, we demonstrate our commitment to protecting children, young people, and adults at risk from harm and abuse. This not only aligns with our Christian principles but also fosters trust and confidence within our congregation and the wider community.

What is safeguarding?

Safeguarding is the process of protecting children, young people, and vulnerable adults from harm, abuse, or neglect. It involves creating an environment where everyone feels safe and respected, and where concerns about welfare are taken seriously and acted upon promptly. Safeguarding is not only about responding

to issues when they arise but also about putting in place policies and practices that prevent harm from happening in the first place.



Why is safeguarding important?

Safeguarding is essential because it is our shared responsibility to ensure everyone in our church community feels secure and supported. A strong safeguarding culture helps us build trust, foster inclusion, and protect the well-being of all members of our community – especially those who may be more vulnerable.

How I can help

As your Parish Safeguarding Officer, I am here to provide guidance, answer questions, and support anyone with concerns about safety or well-being. I will be working closely with parish leaders and volunteers to make sure our safeguarding policies are up to date and understood by everyone. If you ever have a concern, no matter how small, please feel free to reach out to me or Alan in confidence.

More widely, as a church community it's important that we are committed to honesty, care and accountability. We all share the duty to look out for one another and speak up if something doesn't seem right.

You can email Julie at:

safeguarding.hertfordstandrews@gmail.com

We offer huge thanks to Julie's predecessor as Safeguarding Officer, Catherine Sleath, for her many years of service in this vital role.

Know the Story; Share the Story; Live the Story

EASTER

Good Friday Walk of Witness

3rd April 10am - 11.30am



Last year's Good Friday Walk of Witness was a great success. About 130 gathered at three of our churches, took to the streets and carried three large crosses through Hertford. The three teams converged on Salisbury Square in the centre of town and from there processed to Hartham Common for a short time of worship, prayer and Bible readings.

Join us this year and let's make the event bigger and better, impacting Hertford with the good news of Easter. The groups will gather at three locations

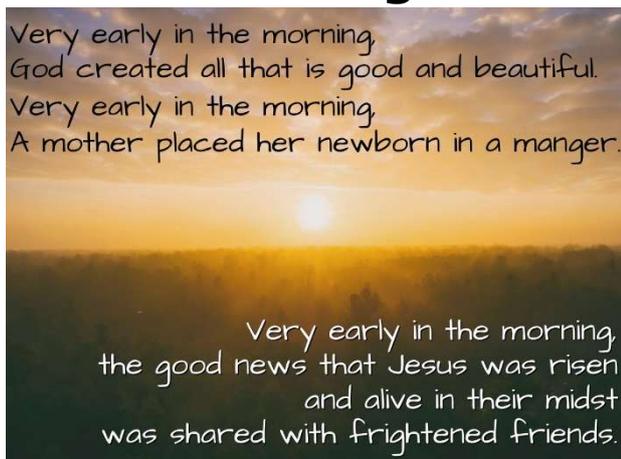
between 10.00am and 10.15am:

- Hertford Methodist Church, Ware Road
- All Saints' Church, Queens Road
- Hertford Baptist Church, in the garden at Cowbridge

As before, the groups will walk through the town carrying large crosses, giving out chocolates and a small card with a link to the Alpha Course Video – "Why Did Jesus Die?"

Join us and play your part in sharing God's great love with Hertford this Easter. Simply turn up between 10.00am – 10.15am on Friday 3rd April at one of the locations and help to increase the impact and visibility of our Churches Together Walk of Witness.

Easter Morning



5.30am Dawn Service at St Mary's Hertingfordbury with the lighting of the first fire of Easter.

In the early hours of Easter Day, just as the dawn is rising, travel with us as we re-enact the journey of the women who first went to the tomb. We begin in darkness in the church and then move outside where we light the first fire of the day. Please bring with you a torch and a noise-maker.

Join a Zoom service

For Zoom links for Holy Week and Easter go to St Andrew's website and under the Services & Occasions tab find the link "Join us on Zoom" and scroll down.

Know the Story; Share the Story; Live the Story

EASTER

Easter Monday Pilgrimage: 6th April

Every year for many years there has been a tradition of pilgrimage to St Albans Cathedral from all over the diocese on Easter Monday. This year, a group of us from Hertford churches are planning to walk from All Saints' Church to St Albans Cathedral on Easter Monday, 6th April 2026. It will be a very early start (circa 7am) to give us time to walk the fourteen miles to St Albans in time for the procession and service there in the afternoon. If you prefer a shorter walk or a later start you are welcome to join us en route. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Julia Gough (julia.gough@cantab.net) or John Duncan (john.duncan2387@hotmail.co.uk, 07545 844293) for more information.

St Albans is the oldest known place of Christian pilgrimage in this country. A pilgrimage is the special journey we make to a special place and can be a sign of the inward, spiritual journey which we undertake through the whole of our lives, and which is ultimately to God. We hope that you will feel moved to make your pilgrimage to St Albans, and that you will find it to be a truly uplifting experience.

St Albans Cathedral Easter Monday Service at 3pm

Join a thousand other pilgrims from across St Albans Diocese to celebrate the risen Christ at St Albans Cathedral.

All are welcome, including dogs. There is no need to book – just come along and join in the celebration with us.

Arrive at the Cathedral to gather on the beautiful Abbey Orchard before heading inside from 2.30pm for a joyful and informal service at 3pm. This year the Easter Monday band will be joined by **Russell Blackman**, and **Leah Bucko** will be speaking. The service will conclude with a short communion led by **Bishop Jane**, Bishop of Hertford.

Russell Blackman is a Barbadian-born, award-winning singer, songwriter, worship leader, and vocal coach who uses music and mentorship to inspire and impact lives.

Leah Bucko is a writer, speaker, and youth pastor at Soul Survivor with over ten years' experience working with young people in church and community settings. She has a heart for creating safe, honest spaces where young people can explore faith, mental health, identity, and the realities of everyday life. Drawing from her own journey and pastoral ministry, Leah speaks with warmth, vulnerability, and hope, bringing together story, Scripture, and lived experience in a way that connects with younger generations. She is the author of *Living In-Between Grief and Hope* and is currently working on her second book.

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CHURCH MATTERS

St Andrew's and St Mary's Churches Away Day

Sunday 10th May 2026 – keep the date!

All Nations College, Ware

Firstly, a huge thankyou to all of you who have registered your interest already. This has been a great help, and we can now confirm that the Away Day can go ahead.

If you haven't yet registered, don't worry, as there is still time to add your name (see below) but it helps us if you let us know ASAP to give us an idea of numbers.

What the day is looking like so far

The overall theme is "Belonging". To whet your appetite, we can confirm that the day will include workshops loosely based on the following:

- **Prayer and Belonging**, led by Rev Alan Stewart and Jane Chaplin (from St Andrew's)
- **Belonging through the expression of drama** (led by Jules and Mick Donovan (from St Andrew's) designed to get you believing in your inner thespian qualities



- **Exploring what belonging means** to everyone (more to follow from Kath Oates (from St Mary's))
- **Home** – what does this feel like to you? (a great new offering from Juliet and Alastair Curry from St Mary's)

Plus, of course music from Sam Chaplin, children's activities for all ages, a Eucharist all-age service and, hot off the press and new this year, 'drop-in sessions' organised by Kath Oates and Julie Hollings.

For more information or to register a place just email

awayday.hertfordstandrews@gmail.com

or follow the link at:

<https://forms.gle/2XXgmFPsrshmbwtMA>



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CHURCH FAMILY

RUTH LILLIAN BRINGS JOY AND SUNSHINE

We all needed something to lift our spirits during the gloom and soggiess of the last two months. Therefore, it was wonderful for Sarah and Andrew Davies to welcome the arrival of a new granddaughter into the world on 12th February. Ruth Lillian is the first child of their son Sam and daughter-in-law Hannah and a second granddaughter for Sarah and Andrew. Mum, Dad and daughter are doing very well.



MODEL RAILWAY LAYOUTS AND MORE WANTED



At St Andrew's Coffee Morning in May (Saturday 2nd May, 10.30am – 12.30pm) we are planning to have a railway theme. We are looking to have a number of operating model railway layouts together with static models, various items of railway interest and displays. If you can provide an operating layout or other railway-related items of interest or would like to help please contact Forbes Mutch (07946 265077) or Richard Taylor (07703 197707).

OWEN IS ON A MISSION

The Youth Development Worker of **FUTUREhope Hertford & Ware**, Owen Melville-Thomas is raising money for the charity by running the Brighton Marathon in April. FUTUREhope provides a free, confidential service working holistically with young people aged 11-19 in the local area. Check out the valuable work they do on their website and if you feel able to sponsor Owen, Any donation will go straight to the work of FUTUREhope.



His JustGiving page is <https://www.justgiving.com/page/fhhw-owen-thomas?newPage=true> - or use the QR code.



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EVENTS



coffee morning

SATURDAY 7TH MARCH
10.30AM - 12.30PM
ST ANDREW'S CHURCH
HERTFORD SG14 1HZ

- Easter egg tombola
- Second-hand books
- Local crafts
- Live music
- Fairtrade coffee & home baked cakes

12.30-1pm
Stay on for a joyous, informal performance by **Take Note Choir**

IN AID OF UK-AID (FOR UKRAINE) AND ST ANDREW'S CHURCH
www.hertfordstandrews.co.uk

COFFEE MORNING

JOIN US FOR OUR EVER-POPULAR MONTHLY COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 7th March: 10.30am to 12.30pm

In February we are offering wellbeing activities at our coffee morning and raising funds for UK.AID (for Ukraine) and St Andrew's Church. There will be an Easter egg tombola and local craft and second-hand book stalls and - as always - good coffee and a delicious selection of homemade cakes and bakes to tempt you. You can expect a warm welcome and live music, too.

ADDED EXTRA: Please stay on at 12.30 for a half hour informal performance by TAKE NOTE CHOIR led by Sam Chaplin.



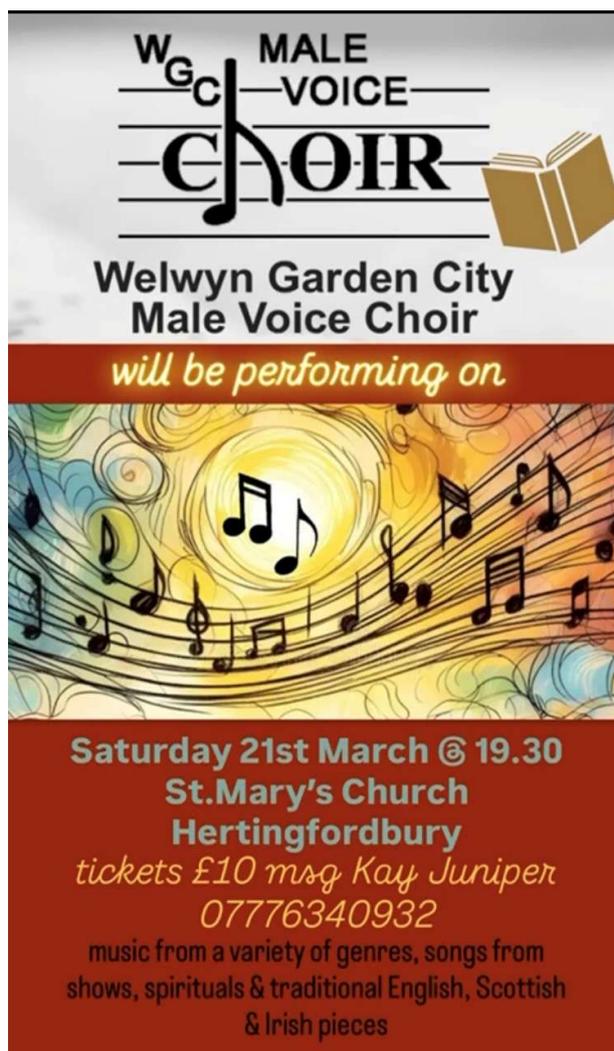
The Friends of Hertingfordbury St.Mary

CHARITY RACE NIGHT

Sat 7th March
7.00pm
at Hertford Prep

A virtual race evening with a fish & chip supper & a pay bar which opens @7.00pm

Book a table with friends to enjoy a fun evening, tickets £20 adult, £10 child. Contact David Gorton on 07544 702241 to book.



WGC MALE VOICE CHOIR

Welwyn Garden City Male Voice Choir

will be performing on

Saturday 21st March @ 19.30
St.Mary's Church
Hertingfordbury
tickets £10 msg Kay Juniper
07776340932

music from a variety of genres, songs from shows, spirituals & traditional English, Scottish & Irish pieces

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EVENTS AT ST ANDREW'S

Celebrating our Natural World through Music, Art and the Spoken Word

When: the evening of 21st May 2026 - keep the date in your diary

Come along for what will be a great multi-arts event where we can reflect on what nature can do for us.

We are planning an evening of music from a local musician (Craig Joiner (<https://craigjoinermusic.com/>) who takes inspiration from the natural world and has recently returned from a sellout tour in Germany, together with an artist from Canada who grew up watching and recording wildlife in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains and now draws the most incredible pencil sketches and is also an inspirational speaker (tbc). An event not to be missed! **More to follow**



Drawing by Clay Thompson

St Andrew's welcomes more of the country's headline folk performers in 2026 including...

Thursday 4th June: **Gryphon**



Back by popular demand after their sell-out gig at St Andrew's in 2025, Gryphon return with their progressive folk-rock mix of medieval and Renaissance sounds, creating music that feels both ancient and modern and adventurous. Have a beer, get in the groove.

Saturday 26th September: **Megson**

Four times nominated in the BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards and double winners of the Spiral Earth Awards Megson, aka Stu and Debbie Hanna, draw heavily on their Teesside heritage to create a truly unique brand of folk music.

Thursday 15 October: **Martin Simpson**

Widely regarded as one of the finest acoustic guitarists in British folk music, Martin returns to St Andrew's with his expressive fingerstyle playing that blends traditional British folk, American blues and old-time influences into something that feels both ancient and vividly personal. Tickets will sell fast when available.

Saturday 19th December: **Churchfitters**

Without seeing a Churchfitters Christmas show your festive season will be so much poorer. You have to see this band at their joyful, uplifting best. Miss this gig at your peril.

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ST ANDREW'S CHOIR

SING AT ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL



PICTURED FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Gillie Georgiou, Hazel Risby, Keith Neat, Venetia Hardy, Colin Eldred, Nick Sharman, Val Hurford, Mark Buck, John Webber (Director of Music, St John's, East Dulwich) and Jenny Aitken.

On the 31st January of this year, eight members of St Andrew's Church choir, along with one guest, an ex member of the choir, and one supporter, were welcomed at Rochester Cathedral, a place of Christian worship since AD 604. All choir members of St Andrew's are given the invitation to sing at a Choral Evensong service once every four years. Over the years many have participated in this event. This has helped to carry on the Benedictine tradition of ongoing morning and evening prayer, continuing the prayer and praises of countless generations in Rochester Cathedral and other Cathedrals around the world.

We set off on our journey from Hertford East station complete with packed lunches and choir robes just after 11am, arriving at Rochester just before 1pm. The first sight of Rochester was the castle, in all its glory as it towers over the small city, as it has done for hundreds of years. Just a short walk from the station and we arrived at the Cathedral.

The Cathedral boasts of its history and heritage in stunning architecture. Its walls hum with the prayer of thousands of years. It is England's second oldest Cathedral (founded in 604AD by Bishop Justus) and has a rich history spanning 1400 years, evolving from Saxon roots, with a Roman model, to its current Norman and Gothic forms. The present building dates back to the work of the French monk, Gundulf, in 1080. It became a medieval pilgrimage site, and endured damage from both fires and conflicts and saw its priory dissolved by Henry VIII. It declined over the years before significant 19th century restoration by Scott and Cottingham.

On arrival we quickly settled in, finding the lovely cafe of course. The cafe, located in the stunning medieval crypt beneath the cathedral is actually called the 'Cafe in the Crypt'. A unique and atmospheric place to drink our tea and coffee, and we also ate packed lunches if they hadn't already been eaten on the trains! Some couldn't resist the delicious homemade offerings!



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ST ANDREW'S CHOIR

SING AT ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL

It wasn't long though before we were told that choir practice had started and we hurriedly gathered our belongings together (not forgetting music and robes) and the moment for us being there had arrived. The choir master John Webber led us through the form of service, Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis in B minor, Psalm 72, Preces and responses as well as two hymns and the beautiful Save Us, O Lord, Bairstow anthem. We then had a practice of what is sometimes called an **introit** or more generally the procession. Choral Evensong takes place in the Choir (or Quire) at the Cathedral, the area between the nave and the sanctuary. The choir stalls are in this area of the cathedral, and the daily rhythm of worship happens here. We were allocated our places in the choir stalls, depending on our voice range. We had a few minutes to familiarise ourselves with our surroundings and place our folders of music.

After a very brief break we were back in our places to start the procession into the 'Choir'. That was a very special moment I'm sure for everyone, lots of practice on Friday evenings, (many thanks to Jane and Colin for that) the organising of the journey (with many thanks to Keith for that) (also the librarian Sue, who organises the music folders, and also to Jenny for being the link that made it happen.) all had led up to this moment.

As Choral Evensong began in the late afternoon at the beautiful Cathedral that stands in the shadow of the castle on the banks of the river Medway it was a truly inspirational moment, the sense of



beauty and the grandeur of the traditions that have gone on for countless generations was overwhelming. With the huge and glorious Mander organ (over 3,800 pipes) central to the sound and the feeling that surrounded us, the wonderful choirmaster led us expertly through the service. Organist, choristers and choirmaster as one, it was a privilege to experience and never to be forgotten.

All too soon the service was over and it was time for photographs and brief chats to members of the other choirs before starting our homeward journey. The journey home wasn't without its own mini-drama as two of our group missed the turn off to our platform in the melée of the Stratford shopping mall. As we gathered on platform 11, shock horror as we 10 were now 8! With only minutes to departure two of our flock were missing. However, in true Musketeer spirit (all for one and one for all) Nick and Jenny set off to find the lost pair. Happily, the lost were found and we were all together as the train headed off to Broxbourne and then onto Hertford.

The end of a memorable day.

Gillie Georgiou

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HERTFORD ST ANDREW PRIMARY SCHOOL

Love learning, aim high and trust God

From the lips of children



Photo courtesy of the School Facebook page

At the end of January our local MP Josh Dean visited St Andrew's School. He talked to the headteacher about school priorities and to the children about democracy and why it matters. The children had a whole series of questions that most adults probably would never ask including 'what would Josh do if he could wave a magic wand for all children in Hertford?' and 'does anyone actually live in the Houses of Parliament?' The answer to the

second question, if you didn't know, it used to be a palace, and then later the Speaker of the House lived there and still has an 'official' residence there, but it is not now regularly used.

Josh loved the warm welcome from the children and sharing breakfast with them and the children enjoyed the visit.

Make a Difference at St Andrew's C of E Primary School, Hertford Become a School Governor

Are you, or do you know anyone, who is passionate about giving children the best possible start in life? St Andrew's School is looking for enthusiastic and committed individuals to join our Governing Board. It really is a **rewarding and impactful role**.

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If you have skills in finance, community engagement, health and safety, premises management or an interest in website compliance these would be valuable additional skills.

Interested?

Visit our website to find out more: <https://www.hertfordstandrew.herts.sch.uk/>

Contact:

Jenny Mant (Chair) Jenny.mant@hertfordstandrew.herts.sch.uk

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LATIN LINK & ANGEL TREE CENTRE

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

Julie Noble is part of the Latin Link American mission. Latin Link is charity registered in England and an international community with a calling to love and serve God and our neighbour. Angel Tree Centre works with prisoners' children and families.

Julie's February letter gives the impression that she has had a more reflective and contemplative time this month. She writes, 'Since 2012 we have begun the Angel Tree training week with a day of prayer but in 2015 we began fasting on that day too. There is an extended devotional time and then prayer for the beneficiaries, donors and authorities. These include prison guards and staff, judges, prosecutors, lawyers and police. During the day there are a couple of team building exercises to help integrate new team members and feedback circles to encourage participation by all. The theme for the devotional times during the week was how we serve as Christians in the prison ministry. We were pleased that this year the Prison Fellowship Oruro President took part in the prayer day along with

members of the prison discipleship teams and the team that works with young offenders. At the end of that day we all went to eat fried chicken together which was much enjoyed.

Angel Tree training week also involves evaluating past work and planning future work. In addition we visit prisons to promote the work of the Centre and recruit new families. Then there is always much work to be done on the fabric of the Centre. This year we fixed the roof, laid new flooring, replastered water damaged walls, washed curtains and cleared up mice droppings.

Much of February is taken up with Carnaval so it will not be until the last week of the month before the Centre opens and we start work again.'



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UKRAINE

Ukraine is continuing to suffer one of its coldest winters ever, with the temperature below -20 degrees Centigrade for weeks on end. Meanwhile Russia has been persistently destroying the infrastructure which could enable them to keep warm.

It was good to be able to help them in a small way when, thanks to the generosity of so many at St Andrew's and other churches in Hertford, I took to Welwyn a car full of things that had been requested for soldiers on the frontline. Each box now contains gloves, hat and socks, tea lights, soap, deodorant, toothpaste and brush, a loo roll, paracetamol and a head torch. Added to that is chocolate and a card with the message in English and Ukrainian saying 'The Lord bless you and keep you'. They say there are no atheists in the trenches.



On a glorious sunny Saturday morning, we loaded the boxes into the UK Aid van. They will then go in March on a lorry to Ukraine, driven by the amazing Alan Hilliar who has already driven 96 lorry loads to Ukraine. A very varied group of us then sat round drinking coffee and hearing Alan's stories - a heart-warming moment.

At our coffee morning on 7th March, we will be raising funds to take solar powered generators to Ukraine. We hope to serve some Ukrainian cakes, and maybe have some Ukrainian singers too to entertain us.

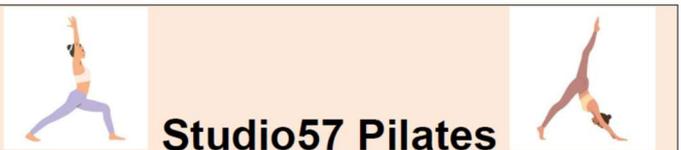
We would like to thank everyone who so generously responded to the appeal for items for Ukrainian soldiers. The amount



of items and cash contributions for torches donated was fantastic and was very gratefully received.

We would also like to thank Jane Chaplin who took the lead on this project and gave her time to drive over to the collection point in Welwyn.

There will be a further opportunity to support Ukraine at our upcoming Coffee Morning.



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Services at St Andrew's

March 2026



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

	Date	Time	Service	Celebrant	Preacher
SUNDAY <i>Lent 2</i>	1	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Rev Alan Stewart	
		10.30 am	Parish Communion with Junior Church	Rev Alan Stewart	
		10.30 am	Morning Service on Zoom	Nick Hoyle	Rev Alan Stewart
		7.00 pm	Soul Sunday in St Andrew's Centre	Rev Alan Stewart	
Monday	2	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (Common Worship)		
Wednesday	4	10.30 am	Holy Communion (Traditional)	Rev Bill Church	
Thursday	5	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (BCP)		
SUNDAY <i>Lent 3</i>	8	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Rev Bill Church	
		10.30 am	Parish Communion with Junior Church	Rev Scott Martin	
		10.30 am	Morning Service on Zoom No Compline	Kath Oates	HeartEdge Sermon
Monday	9	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (Common Worship)		
Wednesday	11	10.30 am	Holy Communion (Traditional)	Rev Scott Martin	
Thursday	12	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (BCP)		
		10.30 am	Calton Court Communion Service	Rev Bill Church	
SUNDAY <i>Mothering Sunday</i>	15	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Rev Scott Martin	
		10.30 am	All Age Service + Choir and Organ	Rev Alan Stewart	
		10.30 am	Morning Service on Zoom	Nick Hoyle	HeartEdge Sermon
		7.00 pm	Compline on Zoom	Rev Alan Stewart	
Monday	16	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (Common Worship)		
Wednesday	18	10.30 am	Holy Communion (Traditional)	Rev Bill Church	
Thursday	19	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (BCP)		
SUNDAY <i>Passion Sunday</i>	22	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Rev Alan Stewart	
		10.30 am	Parish Communion	Rev Alan Stewart	Maria Henriksson- Bell
		10.30 am	Morning Service on Zoom	Kath Oates	HeartEdge Sermon
		6.30 pm	Evening Prayer St Mary's Hertingfordbury	Rev Bill Church	
		7.00 pm	Compline on Zoom	Rev Alan Stewart	
Monday	23	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (Common Worship)		
Wednesday	25	10.30 am	Holy Communion (Traditional)	Rev Scott Martin	
Thursday	26	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (BCP)		
		10.30 am	Calton Court Communion Service	Rev Bill Church	
SUNDAY <i>Palm Sunday</i>	29	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Rev Bill Church	
		10.30 am	Parish Communion with Junior Church	Rev Alan Stewart	Forbes Mutch
		10.30 am	Passion Reading on Zoom		
		7.00 pm	Compline on Zoom	Rev Alan Stewart	
Monday	30	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (Common Worship)		
		8.00 pm	Compline on Zoom	Rev Alan Stewart	
Tuesday	31	8.00 pm	Taizé Service	Rev Alan Stewart	