

# Hertingfordbury & The Five Greens Parish News



**Lily of the Valley**



**Hawthorn**

**Spring brings Renewal, Joy, Purity & Hope**

**May 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](http://www.hertingfordburystmary.org)

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## ***Dear God...***

*Dear God, if you are listening, please can you switch earth off and then on again? It's not working any more.*

*Yours sincerely*

*All the people*

I came across these poignant words a few weeks ago in a handwritten letter taped to a lamppost in Brick Lane, London.

Wouldn't it be good for humanity to have a complete reboot?

Wouldn't it be great if it was that easy?

The truth is that we humans have this impulse for breaking things... hearts, peace, promises... whole ecosystems.

It's easy to lose hope when we see what humanity is doing to itself and to the earth.

And yet, without hope, what do we have?



I believe in hope because I believe in a Messiah who proved that hate and lies and evil do not have the last word. In the end, resurrection teaches us that truth and love and good will out. I see hope in fearless and sacrificial resistance, like Pope Leo speaking out against unjust wars and the actions of a President with a Messiah complex.

I see hope when Christianity is wrestled back from those who would use it as a force for division.

I see hope every time any one of us honestly faces our own propensity to break things, and the fear, insecurity and prejudice that often lie behind those breakages.

We can't switch the world off, but we can choose to consciously switch off that power that perpetuates fear and prejudice when it surfaces in us and others, and switch on grace and kindness and forgiveness.

This month, many of us will have an opportunity to vote in local elections. Use that vote wisely. Listen carefully to the manifestos and personalities involved, and ask yourself 'in whom can I put my hope?'

Rev Alan



**This publication was kindly printed by St Andrew's church**

# Registers

## Wedding

18 April – **Katie Latham & Russell Theobold**

## Some Dates for your Diary

Saturday 2 May – **Village Breakfast at The Fobury** 8.30-11am (see advert)

Sunday 3 May – **All Age Service 9.15am** at St Mary's

Sunday 10 May – **Parish Away Day**. There will be no 9.15 service at St Mary's

Mondays 11 & 25 May – **Mindfulness on Sele** 10.30am at the Sele Hub, Fleming Crescent.

Wednesday 13 May – **Mindfulness & Meditation** 7.30pm in person (and online) at St Andrew's. Online only Wednesday 27 May at 7.30pm

Thursday 14 May – **Ascension Day** service 8pm at St Andrew's

Thursday 21 May – **Celebrating the Natural World** 7.30pm at St Andrew's (see advert)

Mondays 1,8,15 June – **Prayer Course** 8pm at St Andrew's (see advert)



## All-Age Services 2026

*A shorter child-friendly service for all ages at 9.15am  
on Sundays at St Mary's church*

**3 May - 14 June - 12 July - 9 August - 13 September  
11 October (Harvest) - 1 November - 13 December - Christmas Day**

**Please note that the All-Age Service in May is on the first Sunday (3<sup>rd</sup>)  
due to the Parish Away Day on the 10<sup>th</sup> – there will be no service that Sunday**



## Sunday Services at St Mary's

**Sung Eucharist 9.15am every Sunday**

**Zoom Sunday Service (with St Andrew's) 10.30am**

**All-Age Service 9.15am on 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month (unless notified)**



## St Mary's News ..... Our Churchyard Looks a Picture



On a beautiful sunny Sunday morning in mid April we could walk up the path to church with Phil ringing the bell to welcome us and the churchyard looked absolutely stunning. The previous day, David and seven of his usual volunteers had cut and trimmed to make it look very special. Cyclists rode past and everyone looked to their right to admire such a beautiful setting. We are so grateful for all our local volunteers who help keep our churchyard looking so special. Thank you



## ..... **We are looking for a new PCC Secretary**

St Mary's needs a new PCC Secretary to help run the bi-monthly PCC meetings, preparing agendas and minutes, and organising the Annual Parochial Church Meeting. If you are interested and want to find out more about helping St Mary's in this way, please contact Rev Alan or the churchwardens (contact details on page 2)

# “The Glorious Brightness of the Resurrection”

We are continuing to highlight some of the very meaningful messages from our church sermons, by not only Revs Alan & Bill but also our inspiring team of Lay Readers of Worship. This month we have a sermon that Rev Bill delivered, slightly edited, at the 5.30am Dawn Service on Easter Sunday. This special service is to give thanks for The Resurrection and new life.

**Light has dawned in place of darkness, joy in place of grief, hope in place of despair**

This service started in the dark. Just like the original Easter story, Mary Magdalene and maybe other women, arrived at the tomb while it was still dark. They had started from home during the night, when it was also dark – and dark meant dark – no streetlights, no car headlights, no handy electric torches. Just maybe the feeble light from a lamp burning olive oil, and whatever light there was from the stars.

In the dark, you can't see what is there and sometimes you see what is not there. Even though they had watched on Friday evening as Jesus' body was laid in the tomb, they were on unfamiliar ground and in a state of grief and dejection. Groping their way through the dark to this new tomb outside the city, yet determined to do what they could for their dead teacher and friend.



When they got there, a terrible sight greeted them – the tomb had been opened. Their immediate assumption was that somebody had stolen the body of Jesus, a last humiliation for one who already suffered an agonising and public death.

Mary ran back and fetched Peter and John, who came but left none the wiser. Mary stayed by the tomb in the half light of dawn, when you can see but only hazily. It might seem incredible that Mary did not recognise Jesus when she saw him. After all she had been with him and the disciples for most of their ministry. But the light was poor and she was distraught and she was not expecting to see him alive.

A frivolous comparison would be an Easter Egg Hunt. Unless you are pretty sure there are chocolate eggs hidden round the churchyard, you are not going to go looking for them. So, she assumed he was the gardener and asked him desperately if he had taken the body of Jesus or knew where it had been taken.

## **“The Glorious Brightness of the Resurrection”**

Then Jesus addressed her by name and the scales fell from her eyes. The unexpected and glorious truth dawned on her. And in the growing light of morning, she ran back and told the other disciples:

**“I have seen the Lord!”**

She was the first witness of the empty tomb and of the risen Lord and has not always been given the honour she deserves for that. She stayed loyal when others had given up or hidden themselves away.

On her, first the light of resurrection dawned, as it dawns on us today. It took Mary and the other disciples some time to work out what all this meant and it still takes us time to work it out – how light has dawned in place of darkness, joy in place of grief, hope in place of despair.

Nowadays we do not always look out on a sunny horizon, storm clouds brew over the world and our own country. Hope and optimism are in short supply.

More than ever, we need to live within the glorious brightness of the resurrection.

Rev Bill

\*\*\*\*\*

# **How to talk to God**

*What is prayer?  
How and why should I pray?  
Does prayer change things?*

Three evenings  
exploring these  
& other questions.  
Everyone welcome!

**Mondays 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>  
& 15<sup>th</sup> June 8pm  
Hertford St Andrew's Church**

# ***The Friends of Hertingfordbury St Mary***

## **Forthcoming Events in 2026**

### **Village Breakfast at The Fobury – Saturday 2 May from 8.30-11am.**

A wonderful selection of breakfasts...The Full English, Smoked Salmon & Scrambled Eggs, Bacon/Sausage rolls and even enjoy a glass of Bucks Fizz.

Contact Helen Bishop 07446 694890 for more information



### **Bike 'n Hike – Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September at St Marys & local churches**

Contact Christopher Maunder Taylor 07860 228294 for more information

### **Le Café Francais – Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> September 9-11.30am at St Mary's church**

Contact Helen Bishop 07446 694890 for more information

### **The Christmas Market – Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> November 10 – 13.00 at St Mary's church.** Contact Helen Bishop 07446 694890 for more information

## **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](mailto:fobury@outlook.com) / 07746 694890

Come along  
to the  
**VILLAGE BREAKFAST**

Saturday 2nd May 8.30-11.00am

at  
The Fobury



a wonderful selection of breakfasts... The Full English, Smoked Salmon & Scrambled Eggs, Bacon/Sausage Rolls & even enjoy with a glass of Bucks Fizz

a sociable event to meet your neighbours and friends

**A FOHSM EVENT**

pls contact Helen Bishop 07746694890 if you require anymore information

# Hertingfordbury Cricket Club



**NEW PLAYERS WELCOME ..... You don't have to be good to play here!**  
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07747 374638 [www.hertingfordbury.play-cricket.com](http://www.hertingfordbury.play-cricket.com)

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## Hertingfordbury & Greens Tennis & Pickle Ball Club

We are highly delighted to let you know that the long established tennis club in Hertingfordbury has now been revamped to also include a pickle ball court!

**We can run an introduction to pickle ball or tennis for anyone interested.**

If you would like to have a go at either pickle ball or tennis please contact Sarah Price on 07999 880419 or the email : [theprices.saffrons@btopenworld.com](mailto:theprices.saffrons@btopenworld.com)



# JOIN US AT THE HERTINGFORDBURY AND GREENS TENNIS & PICKLE BALL CLUB



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PER YEAR

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throughout the whole year!

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[theprices.saffronsbtopenworld.com](http://theprices.saffronsbtopenworld.com)

Contact Sarah at [theprices.saffrons@btopenworld.com](mailto:theprices.saffrons@btopenworld.com)

## Eco Church



We are very happy to announce that after two years of preparation, St Mary's has achieved its Bronze EcoChurch award! Thank you to everyone who has helped to achieve this milestone!

Together, we have worked hard to support A Rocha's Eco Church mission - to equip churches to express care for God's world in our worship and teaching; in how we look after our buildings and land; in how we engage with our community both locally and globally; and in the personal lifestyles of our congregation.

There are more plans on the horizon:

We'll be looking at the possibility of removable swift boxes on the tower as well as greening our electricity usage. Fairtrade is on the agenda too! We're also linking up with the Deanery Synod's Environmental group to exchange ideas and see what we can learn.

Environment Sunday will be on 4 October and the Painting for Pleasure Art Group are beginning to plan for a nature themed exhibition at the same time.

Linking in with Hertford Town Council's EcoFest on 10 May: We are refreshing the Churchyard Nature Trails as well as planning some citizen science and nature focused activities – including building a bug hotel and installing a refugium for slow worms. We also hope to take part in the Churches Count for Nature in the second week of June. You can find out more about it here:<https://arocha.org.uk/what-we-do/churches-count-on-nature/>.

We are looking to collect materials for the bug hotel, such as

- untreated wooden pallets
- clay plant pots, old bricks and clay tiles
- bamboo canes or other hollow plant stems
- straw or hay

Contact Rachel if you have anything you would like to donate or if you would like to get involved – [raich.carter@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:raich.carter@yahoo.co.uk)

# CELEBRATING

# The Natural World

An evening exploring the beauty, wonder and importance of the countryside through music, art and conversation



## Speaker: Tony Juniper

Chair of Natural England and one of the UK's leading voices on nature and the environment

## Artist: Clay Thompson

An illustrated talk about capturing nature's patterns and beauty through drawing



## Singer: Craig Joiner

Award-winning singer-songwriter and passionate advocate for the natural world

**THURSDAY 21 MAY**

**7.30pm**

**St Andrew's Church  
Hertford SG14 1HZ**

**TICKETS £15**

*Licensed bar*

**MORE  
INFO** >>



Use the QR code to **book** or visit:  
[www.hertfordstandrews.co.uk/celebratingthenaturalworld](http://www.hertfordstandrews.co.uk/celebratingthenaturalworld)

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## ..... Tick Tock the Church Clock



St Mary's clock, having kept time for Hertingfordbury for a century and a half, is now in need of urgent specialist attention. The Friends are raising money for its restoration. Donations to support this project would be much appreciated. If you can help please contact Robin Bishop

  
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St Mary's Lane, Hertingfordbury, Hertfordshire SG14 2LX

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[hertfordprep.org.uk](http://hertfordprep.org.uk)  Part of Mill Hill Education Group

# 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**

**Apr 15<sup>th</sup> (on Zoom)**

**May: 13<sup>th</sup> (in church and on Zoom), 27<sup>th</sup> (on Zoom)**

**June: 10<sup>th</sup> (in church and on Zoom), 24<sup>th</sup> (on Zoom)**

**July: 15<sup>th</sup> (in church and on Zoom), 22<sup>nd</sup> (on Zoom)**

Then, after a summer break, back on **September 9<sup>th</sup>**

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

**[www.hertfordstandrews.co.uk](http://www.hertfordstandrews.co.uk)**





## Church Flower Rota - May



**3rd Sue Payne - 10<sup>th</sup> Sue Parsell**  
**17<sup>th</sup> Alison Robinson - 24<sup>th</sup> Sue Parsell**  
**31<sup>st</sup> Sharron Maxwell & Penny Duce**

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

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### **Toddler Service Assistance**

*We hope to start a new Toddler Service on Monday mornings at St Andrew's and volunteers are needed so that we can offer refreshments. If you could help, please contact Lindsey Betteridge: [lindseybett@icloud.com](mailto:lindseybett@icloud.com) or speak to Philippa in the St Andrew's Church office. Thank you. Lindsey*



### **Studio57 Pilates**



**Pilates has come to Birch Green; no need for parking in Hertford**

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Contact Victoria : 07912755130

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**Build strength, flexibility and balance, improve posture, reduce risk of injury. Pilates really can do all of this. It changed my life and now it's time for me to pay it forward.**



# Purple Kite

PHOTOGRAPHY by SARAH WHYTE

## WEDDING & FAMILY

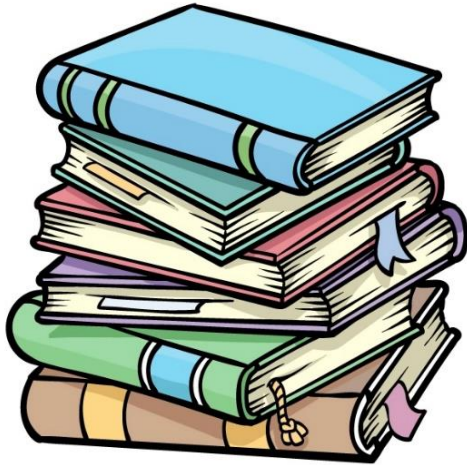
..... Photography .....

Joyful, documentary-style photography that feels effortless and natural.  
Weddings, families, and all the moments that matter.



PURPLEKITEPHOTOGRAPHY.CO.UK

# Recreation Ground Library



A library, containing books, both fiction and non-fiction, including a good children's section, DVD's and games has been set up in the tennis pavilion on the Hertingfordbury recreation ground. This is a free resource for all Hertingfordbury residents. Access can be gained at any time by the use of keys that are kept in a key-safe at the pavilion. Should anyone have any books, DVD's, or games to donate to the library new stock is always welcome.

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

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

# Hertingfordbury Cowper C of E (VA) Primary School

## News from Hertingfordbury Cowper

We hope you all your Easter. We have had a sunny start to our new Summer Term and the children are enjoying being able to play back on our school field.

### **TCS Mini London Marathon**

On Saturday 25th April, a team of our children will be participating in the TCS Mini London Marathon, the day before the main London Marathon. A group of Year 6 children will be running the 2.6km route, and a group of Year 4 and Year 5 children will be running the 1-mile course. These both start at Horse Guards Parade, down along St James's Park, past Buckingham Palace and ending at the iconic London Marathon finishing line on The Mall.

With this, we have set up a JustGiving page for sponsorship. The money raised will be used towards the cost of our school swimming pool refurbishment (our school swimming pool is currently closed and out of action). If you are able and would like to sponsor the children taking part in this exciting event, please follow this link - <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/minimarathon2026>

Thank you in advance 😊

### **Year 4 Trip to The Globe Theatre, London**

Just before the Easter holidays, the children in Year 4 travelled by train to visit The Globe Theatre in London. This was linked to their English unit of learning on Shakespeare's 'A Midsummer's Night Dream'. We had a tour of the theatre which included seeing a rehearsal of the theatre's production of 'Romeo and Juliet'. We were lucky to have the play's director as our tour leader. This was followed by a drama workshop where the children enjoyed taking on the roles of Titania and Oberon.





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

## Ancient Greece comes to Hertingfordbury



The children in Year 5 were transported back to Ancient Greece for a day of activities based on their current unit of History learning, including decorating Greek vases and putting their sporting skills into practise for some Olympic events.

### Nursery Admissions for 2026-2027

We have places available for our Nursery class in September 2026. Please contact the school office for details for further details 01992 583239.

## Spring Adventures at Celtic Harmony

Discover a 'Hidden Gem' right on your doorstep as the woodland bursts into life this spring. Our mystical Faery Trail, Brickendon Disc Golf course, and the Woodland Bistro are all open every weekend for a relaxing escape into nature.

We also have two exciting upcoming events: our Celtic Warrior Experience for families on 10th April and 29th May, and a kids-only Children's Adventure Camp during the half-term on 26th–27th May.

Pre-booking is essential for all visits. Please visit [www.celticharmony.org](http://www.celticharmony.org) to secure your tickets and view our full May schedule. We look forward to seeing you in the woods!

Pre-booking is essential for all events. Please visit our website to secure your tickets and view our full event schedule. [www.celticharmony.org](http://www.celticharmony.org)



## ***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.*

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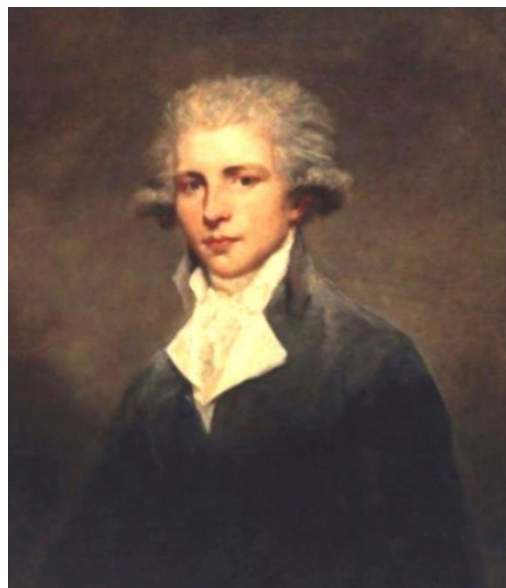
***This month Kate Harwood looks at nearby Woolmers Park, it's renowned flower gardens and how estates (including Panshanger) were being consolidated in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century .....***

### **Woolmers Park and the Empress's Garden**

In 1801 the owner of Woolmers was Samuel Whitbread, the London brewer, who was also involved in shipping malt down the river Lea from Ware to his brewery. At this time many estates were being consolidated with Enclosure Acts and road diversions. Earl Cowper at Panshanger was busy swapping small parcels of land with his neighbours to give a more consolidated Panshanger estate. Both Robert Mackay of Marden Hill, Tewin and Whitbread of Woolmers Park were involved with this and Whitbread managed to enlarge his estate by swapping some land in Letty Green for 13 acres to the west of Woolmers. The Whitbread family is mainly remembered locally as the donor of the Wedgewood Black basalt-ware font to Essendon church in 1778. Whitbread was also busy amassing other land; he spent £100,000 between 1760 and 1785 buying up 4500 acres, including Bedwell Park in Essendon.

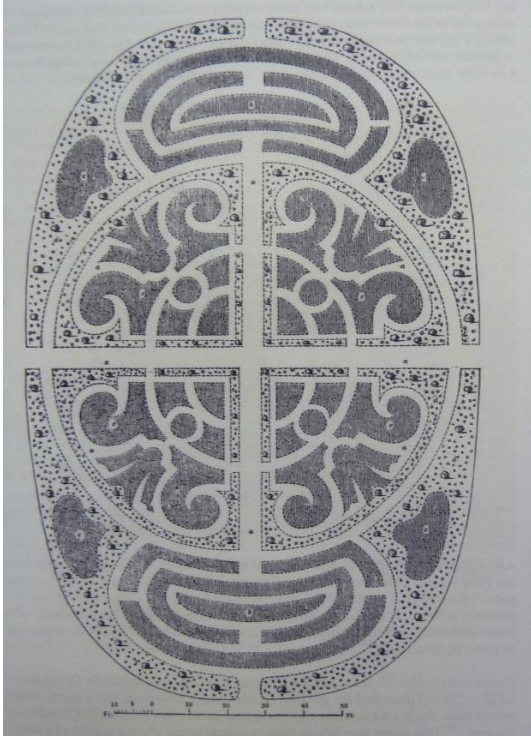
Woolmers was rebuilt about 1802 by the 'Canal' Duke of Bridgewater, possibly on the site of any earlier house by Isaac Ware. Bridgewater's architect for Woolmers was James Lewis, who, to quote Howard Colvin, designed the house in a 'neo-classical version of the Palladian villa with interiors treated in a restrained style of Adamsian character.' He didn't live long enough to enjoy the property as he died in 1803, and Woolmers passed to his nephew the Duke of Sutherland, who was the wealthiest man in Britain at the time, and controversially involved in the Highland Clearances.

He soon sold it to Sir John St Aubyn who did so much to beautify the grounds. Sir John St Aubyn had his main estate in Cornwall but also had land in Essex and now Woolmers Park, perhaps to be more convenient for London as he was an MP. He spent the vast sum of £35,000 (now £299,000) on alterations to the house and gardens. In the gardens he widened the river Lea to make a Broadwater and put an island in the middle which you crossed on the drive and bridges from the southern lodge to the house. **Sir John St Aubyn right**



Also dating from this time is the flint summer house overlooking the cascade and pool at Arkley Hole where a natural spring arose and fell into the river Lea.

## Woolmers Park and the Empress's Garden



As a fellow of the Linnean Society with large mineral and herbarium collections, St Aubyn was very interested in plants and called in Lewis Kennedy to design a flower garden for him. Kennedy was a member of the great nursery dynasty of Lee and Kennedy at the Vineyard in Hammersmith, considered at the time to be 'the best in the world.' Empress Josephine of France ran up a bill of £26,000 with them for roses and other plants at her gardens at Malmaison and elsewhere. As a young man Lewis had worked at Malmaison (helping to develop the famous Malmaison carnation which became so popular that whole glasshouses were dedicated to their cultivation

### Woolmers Kennedy Plan (left)

By 1821 the estate was owned by Sir Gore Ouseley, with whom Prince Pückler Muskau stayed when on his tour of Hertfordshire gardens, including Panshanger. Sir Gore was a much travelled (India, Persia, Russia) diplomat who was an important patron of the arts and he commissioned CR Cockerell, also an archaeologist, to remodel the house.

By this time Pückler could describe *noble trees, a little river and a grove, under whose thick shade a remarkably copious spring gushes out*. This was also described by Rutger in his article which mentions that a path led there from the pleasure grounds and it had a sort of *romantic wildness, which renders it pleasing*.

It seems, from the estate map of 1842, that only half the garden was laid out, to the south of a substantial glasshouse or conservatory (17m long).

By the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century the flower garden is no longer shown on the Ordnance Survey map, though the Arkley Hole summer house still exists as does the walled kitchen garden to the north of the mansion. Of the famed horticultural beauties of the flower garden, nothing remains but in its time it was justly famous.



# Hertingfordbury Parish Council

**Chairman** – Paul Rochford

**Vice Chairman** – Haidy Blake

**Councillors** – Simon Bostock, Lesley Clark, Steve Healey

**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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:rachel.carter@hertford.gov.uk)

Sarah Hopewell: [sarah.hopewell@hertford.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.hopewell@hertford.gov.uk)

Ryan Henson: [ryan.henson@hertford.gov.uk](mailto:ryan.henson@hertford.gov.uk)

East Herts District Council website: [www.eastherts.gov.uk](http://www.eastherts.gov.uk)

#### **East Hertfordshire District Councillors for Castle Ward**

Rachel Carter: [rachel.carter@eastherts.gov.uk](mailto:rachel.carter@eastherts.gov.uk)

Sarah Hopewell: [sarah.hopewell@eastherts.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.hopewell@eastherts.gov.uk)

Hertfordshire County Council website: [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk)

#### **Hertfordshire County Councillor for Hertford St Andrew's**

Rachel Carter: [rachel.carter@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:rachel.carter@hertfordshire.gov.uk)

#### **Member of Parliament for Hertford and Stortford**

Josh Dean: [josh.dean.mp@parliament.uk](mailto: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](mailto:michael.barratt@sky.com)

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

# Spring Litter Pick

Our Spring Litter Pick was held on Saturday 28th March and, thanks to a record-breaking 40 volunteers, we were able to extend our patch to cover more footpaths this year. While litter was lighter on some routes, fly-tipping remains a significant issue, particularly along St Mary's Lane. It is also disappointing to note a high volume of discarded dog waste bags (why do people do this?) along with the usual collection of cans, bottles, and takeaway packaging.



We would like to express our sincere thanks to Paul Rochford for sponsoring additional equipment and providing the use of his car park. We are also very grateful to The White Horse for hosting our volunteers with delicious pastries, tea, and coffee, making a wonderful social gathering to cap off a morning of hard work.

If you would like to join us at a future litter pick, please email Sarah Sullivan on [sullivanpipers@icloud.com](mailto:sullivanpipers@icloud.com).

Sarah & Ray



# Hertford Town Council



HERTFORD TOWN COUNCIL

## Events Programme 2026



**Fri 9th January** Mayor of Hertford's Charity Quiz Night

**Sat 7th February** Hertford Dark Skies

**Fri 13th March** Mayor of Hertford's Charity Spring Ceilidh



**Sat 11th April** 🎨 Hertford Art and Literature Festival

**Sat 4th April - Sun 26th April** Hertford Town Easter Trail

**Sun 10th May** Hertford Eco Fest and Family Fun Day



**Sun 7th June** 🚗 Hertford Cars at the Castle

**Sat 20th June** 🏳️🌈 Hertford Family Pride Day

**Sat 4th July** 🍺 Hertford Castle Beer & World Food Festival



**Sun 19th July** 🧸 Hertford Castle Teddy Bears' Picnic

**Sat 25th July - Sun 30th August** Hertford Town Summer Trail

**Sun 2nd August** 🎸 Rock at the Castle

**Wed 5th August** Hertford Play Day



**Sun 20th Sept.** 🏰 Hertford Castle Heritage Day

**Sun 25th Oct.** 🏰 Hertford Castle Tours



**Sun 8th November** Remembrance Sunday Parade

**Fri 27th November** Hertford Town Christmas Gala

**Fri 27th November - Sun 29th November** Hertford Castle Christmas Market

**Sat 18th December - Sun 3rd January** Hertford Town Christmas Trail



[www.hertford.gov.uk/events-listings](http://www.hertford.gov.uk/events-listings) 🌐

@hertfordtowncouncil 📱

Events Programme subject to change



CUCUMBER FIELDS

## LET US SUPPORT YOUR MENTAL HEALTH THIS MONTH

**11<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> May is recognised as  
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Through Yoga, Cycle, Reformer and Mat Pilates Classes come and release stress, have your mood lifted and restore a sense of inner balance. You can also enjoy our Pantry café and grounds around classes.

Why not pay us a visit this May to support your mental wellbeing? Book your first class via our website below.



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### Upcoming lectures

28 May – **Monopoly; evolution of the best-selling game** by *Peter Mendham*

25 June – **Botticelli's Florence** by *Paula Nuttall*

24 September – **Science of Art at The National Gallery** by *Aaron Hunter*

For more information please go to our website

[www.theartssocietyleastherts.org.uk](http://www.theartssocietyleastherts.org.uk)

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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](mailto:sehscds@hotmail.com) for more info.

Look forward to meeting you




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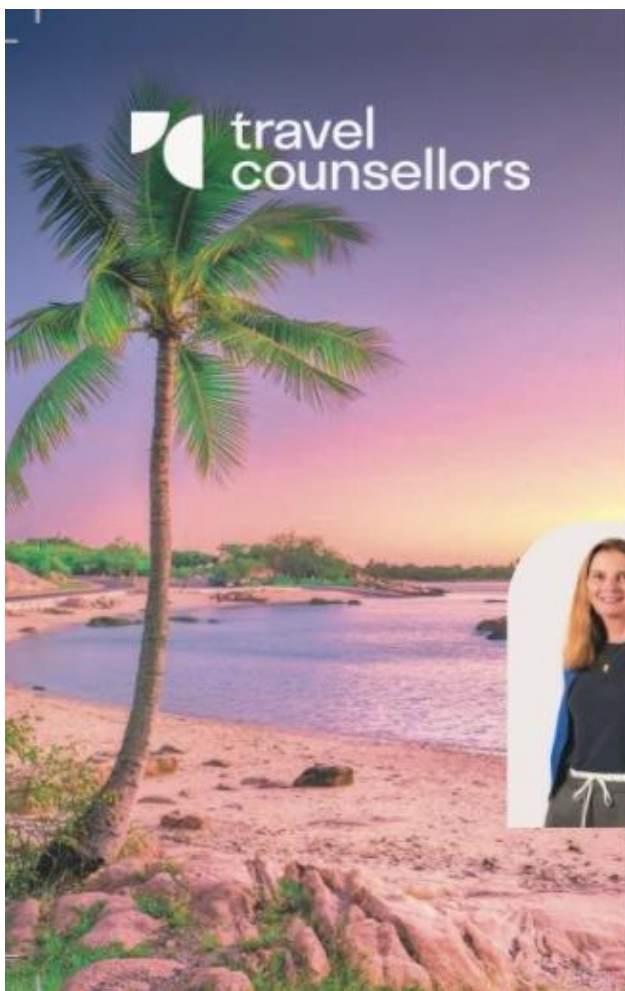
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## Church Cleaners

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

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## 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

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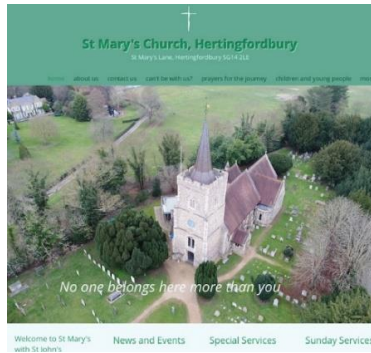


## Volunteers needed to open/close St. Mary's



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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:standrew.hertford@btinternet.com) or contact Robin Bishop to be added to the St Mary's distribution list

**Wednesday** (Usually Twice Monthly)  
Mindfulness & Meditation 7.30pm

**Sunday**  
Service of the Word 10.30am

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](http://www.hertingfordburystmary.org)



## **Mindfulness & Meditation**

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Each 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 Wednesdays, usually twice a month at 7.30pm – dates vary so please see St Andrew's website or "Dates for you Diary" earlier in this publication**

For further details and Zoom codes please see our website

[www.hertfordstandrews.co.uk](http://www.hertfordstandrews.co.uk)

or contact the church office 01992 504373 [standrew.hertford@btinternet.com](mailto:standrew.hertford@btinternet.com)

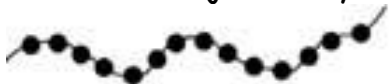
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## WALTER WALLINGER CHARITY

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](mailto:robinhbishop@gmail.com)



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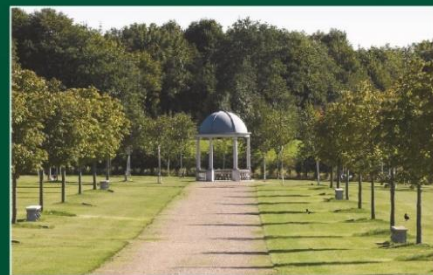
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