The parish magazine of

Hertford St Andrew

www.hertfordstandrews.co.uk

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2026

REMEMBRANCE SERVICES
CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF DOLLY
PREPARING FOR AND CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS
AND A WHOLE LOT MORE













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HERTFORD ST ANDREW

Registered charity 1132540 **Website: www.HertfordStAndrews.co.uk**

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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, Julie Hollings, Dorian Kennedy and Jo Willis.

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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.

TRAITOR OR FAITHFUL?



I'm a relative latecomer to 'The Traitors', the TV gameshow that has gripped the nation. And, I have to say, I'm loving it! I love the twists and skullduggery, and of course the opportunity to partake in a little amateur armchair detective work!

Set in an appropriately spooky Scottish Castle, it's a grand scale game of Cluedo where a secret group of Traitors tries to 'kill off' or banish the Faithful while avoiding detection and banishment themselves. It's a modern-day parable about how mistrust can corrode relationships as Traitors are expected to lie, backstab and betray their way to the prize money. It's an opportunity for the most moral of players to exercise their darker side within a game, and a fascinating psychological study of human nature as we watch the Traitors both struggle with and delight in their underhandedness. It's intriguing also to watch the Faithful desperately prove their integrity as they increasingly become suspicious of everyone.

The root of the word integrity means something like 'whole' or 'undivided'. To have integrity means that our outer actions align with, or are faithful to, our inner values; that we have what the Psalm writer calls 'an undivided heart' (Psalm 86 v11).

Integrity requires that first we honestly own the darker side which exists in all of us. It demands that we acknowledge the potential in all of us to scheme and lie. In our mistakes, it asks us to own up and apologise. In our decision-making, it asks us to ask ourselves 'Would we be proud of this?'. In our commitment, it asks that we audit ourselves; that we stop saying yes to things we can't fulfil.

While it's fun to watch the Traitors do their thing, the greater call on all of us is to be the Faithful; to faithfully live lives that build others up, rather than shoot them down.

As Advent approaches at the end of November, it offers space and time to examine our hearts; to seek that wholeness that brings a deeper mental peace; that integrity that builds stronger relationships and a better world.

Alan

WELCOME!
Welcome everyone to St Andrew's, and in particular visitors and newcomers. Details of services are given on the next couple of pages and the last two 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.

Annual Bereavement Service
Sunday 1st November at 2pm
More information inside this magazine.

Remembrance Sunday Service
Sunday 8th November at 9.15am: Please note the time of this service and be aware of road closures. There will be no 10.30 service in church or on Zoom.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE PARISH MAGAZINE IS NOW PUBLISHED EVERY SECOND MONTH. THE DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE IS SET OUT BELOW. INFORMATION ABOUT SERVICES AND EVENTS CAN ALSO BE FOUND ON THE CHURCH WEBSITE AND YOU CAN SIGN UP FOR EMAILS FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE BY CONTACTING THE PARISH ADMINISTRATOR – SEE DETAILS ON PREVIOUS PAGE.

THE CLOSING DATE FOR THE **JANUARY/FEBRUARY** MAGAZINE IS **SUNDAY 27TH DECEMBER.** 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 1ST NOVEMBER
SUNDAY 13TH DECEMBER
CHRISTMAS DAY all at 10.30am

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

St Andrew's services on Zoom

Zoom codes for online access and access via a landline are available from the church office: contact info. on inside of front cover.

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 pages of this magazine and the website for dates.

On Zoom on Sundays at 7pm
except 29th November, 27th December and 3rd January



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

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:



Saturday 14th November
Saturday 5th December
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.*

A different kind of service at St Andrew's called



Sunday 1st November

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.

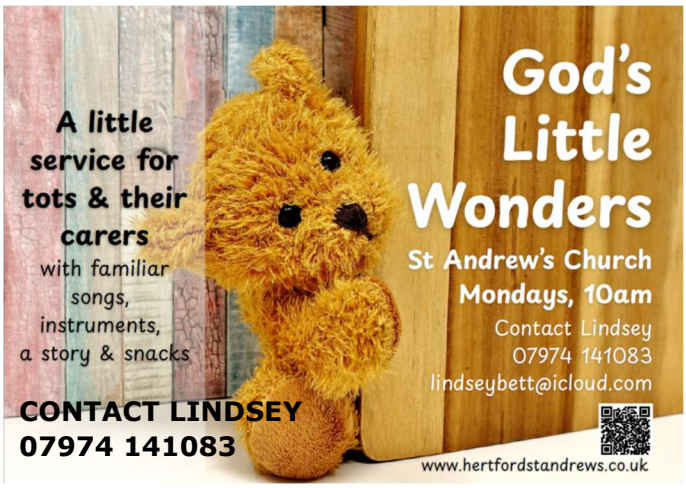
Please join us at

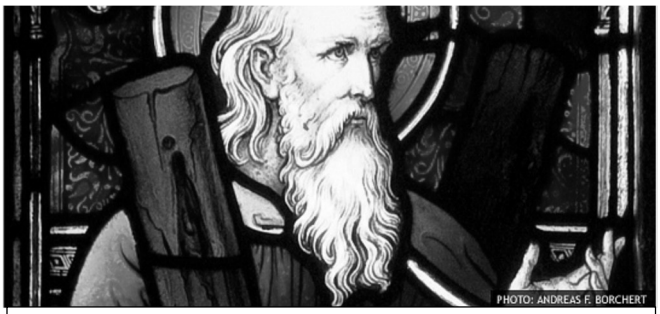
6.45pm for refreshments

Service begins at 7pm

Know the Story; Share the Story; Live the Story

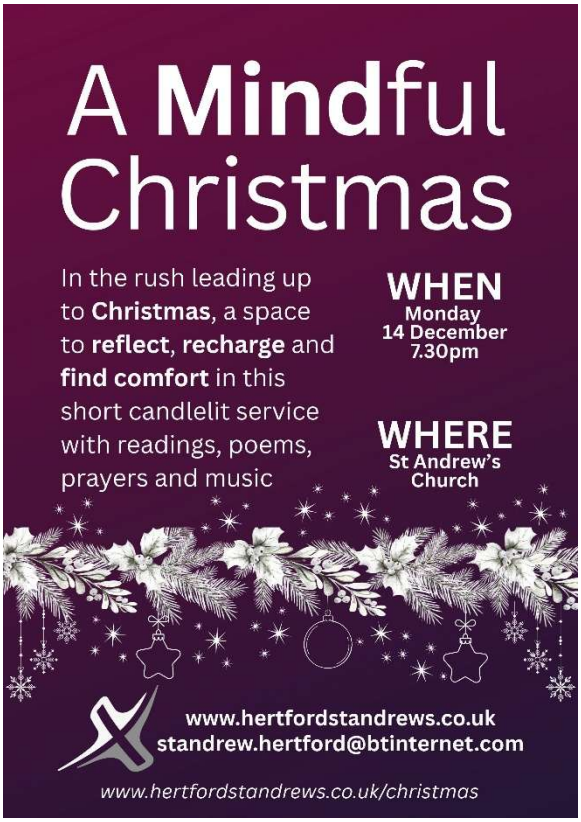
SERVICES AND OTHER EVENTS





St Andrew's Patronal Eucharist service will be held on Wednesday 2nd December at 10.30am







SEASON OF REMEMBRANCE

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

Bereavement Service: Sunday 1st November at 2pm

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

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



'Sponsor a Rose'

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

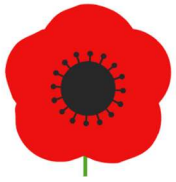
All Souls and All Saints Service:

Wednesday 4th November at 10.30am

During our morning worship on Wednesday 4th November we remember by name those in our parish who have died. If you would like a name to be included, please write the name on the list at the back of the church or contact Phil in the church office: 01992 504373 or standrew.hertford@btinternet.com

Remembrance Sunday: Sunday 8th November at 9.15am

PLEASE NOTE THE EARLIER TIME & BE AWARE OF ROAD CLOSURES



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

There is no 10.30am service on Zoom.



Know the Story; Share the Story; Live the Story

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS AT ST ANDREW'S







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AUDIO VISUALS IN OUR 10.30AM WORSHIP

A huge and heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed to the consultation questionnaire about the recent trial using audio visuals in our 10.30am worship services.

0ver 80% of those who had experienced the trial believed that the visuals either enhanced or didn't make a difference to their experience in worship.

After consultation, much prayer and a unanimous PCC decision, we have decided to phase in visuals over the next months with a view to using the screens regularly. For certain services, of course, this will not be appropriate, such as our Carol Service.

It's important to say that this initiative has come from, and been supported by, a large and wide range of the congregation including some very long-standing members.

Ultimately, the final decision lies with me as parish priest, and having prayerfully listened and reflected, I believe this is an important step forward. I believe it contributes to a more welcoming, accessible, inclusive and visitor friendly experience of church.

It's not been an easy decision because the last thing I want to do is to hinder anyone's experience of worship. I realise this is not the decision that some had hoped for. I would simply ask that you trust me, and if you're struggling, to please come and speak with me.

To reassure some of us, books will still be available for anyone who prefers it.

This is a work in progress, so we will get it wrong at times and therefore ask for your grace and patience. We will endeavour to be careful not to lose the prayerful nature of our services. We will take advice, for instance, from the RNIB about fonts and backgrounds to make worship more accessible for the visually impaired. For those who mentioned the possibility of neck ache, the advice is to raise your eyes not your heads!

Among the benefits that many of us identified are:

- It's more accessible for different ages, different styles of learners and newcomers in particular.
- It means not needing to navigate and hold several different books, and reduces paper waste.
- It creates a brighter, fuller sound of congregational singing as our faces are lifted.
- It frees up sidespeople for the essential role of welcoming.
- With time, it will mean less work for our administrator.
- It provides a flexibility to use other liturgy, special prayers and hymns throughout the Church Year.

Thank you for the 20 people who expressed an interest in helping with, or knowing more about helping with, the audio visuals. If that's you, please speak to Adrian or Phil and we will arrange a conversation and some training if you would like to become part of a regular team.

I also want to thank both Adrian and Phil for all they have given of their time, care and energy to the trial.

Alan

Looking for something different?



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7pm – 8.30pm

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CHURCH FAMILY

FROM THE REGISTERS

BAPTISM:

We welcome into the Lord's family:

20th September **Danielle, David and Millie Dyer**

11th October **Albie Jay Rolfe**

CONFIRMATION:

Confirm, O Lord, your servant with your Holy Spirit:

20th September **Danielle and David Dyer**, and **Henry Orton**

WEDDING:

We rejoice with:

17th October **Celia Wighton and Shaw Brown**

FUNERALS:

We extend our sympathy to the family and friends of:

Funerals.

23rd September **Donald McKinley** aged 80. Donald was born in Barrow-in-Furness and kept in touch throughout his life with fellow pupils of Barrow Boys Grammar School. As a chemical engineer he lived and worked in many countries and led on important industrial innovations. He was married to Tricia and they had daughters Frances and Selena and in time, grandchildren. After Tricia's death Donald moved to Brewhouse Lane, and continued working up to this year. Friends from school, work and golf, as well as family, filled the church for his funeral.

24th September **Frances Waight** aged 75. Fran grew up in Enfield where she met and married Jim. After their sons Doug and Paul were born, the family moved to Hertford. Fran worked in local government and in addition to that and looking after a family, she embarked successfully on a degree in English and History at Hertfordshire University. She supported Jim in his work and other interests (including the North Road Allotments) and was an active neighbour. From 2024 she struggled with progressive COPD but was enabled to stay at home.

28th September **Beryl Mary Wrangles** aged 84. Beryl was born and grew up in Ware and met and married Terry. They settled in Hertford and brought up their children Andrew and Julie. Beryl was elected to Hertford Town Council representing Kingsmead ward where she lived and in 2018 was very proud to be elected Mayor of Hertford. She is survived and greatly missed by husband Terry, children Andrew and Julie, grandchildren Lucy, Charlotte, Lewis and Guy and six great grandchildren.

12th October **Ronald Henry Penn** aged 88.

CHURCH FAMILY

A SPECIAL DAY AT ST ANDREW'S

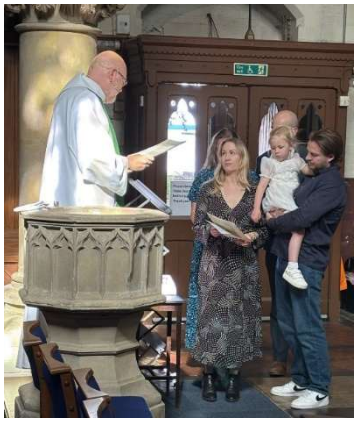


We were delighted to welcome the Right Reverend Jane Mainwaring the Bishop of Hertford to our 10.30am Parish Communion service on Sunday 20th September. During the service the Bishop preached. But she came with another special purpose. During the service, Rev Alan baptised members of the Dyer family, David, Danielle and Milly, following which David and Danielle and also Henry Orton and Wendy Kuhn were confirmed by the Bishop through prayer and the laying on of hands.



Danielle and David said afterwards, "We both grew up with religion as part of our lives. After getting married, we found ourselves reconnecting with our faith and decided together that we wanted to raise our family in the faith, giving Millie the opportunity to grow up with those beliefs and values.

Our baptism was a very special and meaningful service for us as a family. It was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate this important milestone and mark the beginning of our family's journey in faith.



We were joined by our close family, who were there to support us and share in the special occasion. Afterwards, we went to the White Horse to celebrate together over our first roast dinner of the year, making it an even more memorable day.

Millie's Godparents are her aunt and uncle, Chanel and Harry, who are very special people in her life. We were delighted to have them play such an important role in her baptism."

LEDSAMS CELEBRATE NUMBER NINE



Following the arrival of Edward, their eighth grandchild, Debbie and Charles Ledsam didn't have long to wait for number nine. On 12th October Debbie and Charles's daughter Lucy and son-in-law Mike presented them with Oliver Jacob, weighing 7lb 14oz. Born in Barrow-in-Furness in Cumbria, close to where the family live, he is a brother to Dylan (12) and Maria (9).

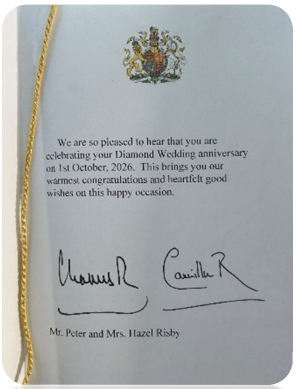
CHURCH FAMILY

JENNY AND FORBES WELCOME A GRANDDAUGHTER

Jenny and Forbes Mutch have been presented with their first granddaughter, named Amber Elizabeth. She was born on 13th October at Kingston Hospital. Pictured are mum Claire and dad Jay with big brother Archie, aged 20 months. All are doing well and Archie is loving his new sister.



HAZEL & PETER MARK 60 YEARS OF MARRIAGE



Hazel and Peter have been stalwarts of St Andrew's for as long as anyone can remember, and it was great that they were able to celebrate their Diamond Wedding Anniversary surrounded by their friends after the 10.30 service on 4th October just a few days after the anniversary. King Charles & Queen Camilla also offered warm wishes and congratulations. Peter has given Hazel a bunch of red roses upon every anniversary and, of course, he kept up the tradition this year.





FOUR THERAPISTS
KATIE DENNEY

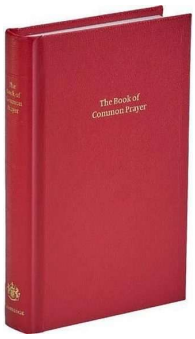
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Contact Katie Denney on 0777 7 166705
or katie@fourtherapists.com

NEW PRAYER BOOKS



We are pleased to welcome 25 new Prayer Books which have been donated by church member Keith Neat in memory of his late step-mother Margaret Neat. They will be used particularly at Morning Prayer on Monday and Thursday mornings. Thank you Keith.

CHURCH MATTERS

CLARA'S MARATHON RIDE FOR CHARITY

Bike 'n Hike on Saturday 12th September



Bike 'n Hike offers the opportunity to raise money both for our church and for the Beds & Herts Historic Churches Trust. This year Clara accompanied by her mum, Rachel, saddled up and, as always, so did Peter Ruffles.

When Gift Aid is added something approaching £2,000 will have been raised, to be split equally between this church and the Historic Churches Trust. Thank you to everyone who sponsored them.

Clara managed to visit 32 churches by bike in the 8 hours allowed. That is quite something. It would be a bit easier to achieve in a city, perhaps, but we're more rural and have valley bottoms, but valleys have hillsides!

Thank you Clara, Rachel and Peter for holding the St Andrew's banner and upholding St Andrew's reputation with the Beds and Herts Historic Churches Trust.

CREATION STORY BROUGHT TO LIFE BY CHILDREN



Lindsey Betteridge, St Andrew's Children & Families Worker writes "When I suggested that we make another collage, it was Clara who was keen to tell the Creation story. As St Andrew's is so passionate about caring for God's wonderful world, it seemed only right that we should make our collage entirely from recycled materials! The children had great fun finding all sorts of things to bring their own ideas to life.

The finished collage shows each day of Creation, with lots of little details from the Bible story hidden within it. Take a closer look and see how many you can spot! (day seven is **not** a smile)



ADAM & EVE PEEP FROM BEHIND A TREE

Every child who wanted to be part of this project has added their own special touch, so it's been quite a long time in the making! A huge thank you to Jenny Davie and Hannah Cope for all their help.

We hope you enjoy looking at it as much as we enjoyed creating it."

Ps The collage will be displayed during the All-age service on 1st November and throughout November, services permitting.

CHILDREN AT ST ANDREW'S

ALL CHILDREN ARE WELCOME

Children are never too young to come to church. You and your children are very welcome at St Andrew's. The Children's Corner at the front of church (to the right of the altar) is equipped with toys, books, craft materials and a space to call their own.

Junior Church

During the 10.30am Parish Communion on Sundays in term time (except when there is an All Age service) there are activities for children in the St Andrew's Centre. The children will begin the service with the congregation and then, after the first hymn, they leave to join Junior Church.

AND THEN THERE IS

DEEPER

Dive DEEPER into some of life's Big Questions!

FUN - GAMES - DISCUSSION – SNACKS

A twice-monthly Sunday morning group for those in Year 6 and above called Deeper

Usually on the 1st and 3rd Sundays in term time, during the 10.30am service, we'll meet upstairs in the St Andrew's Centre (behind the church) and explore questions like...

- 'What happens when we die?'
- 'Why do bad things happen to good people?'
- 'How can I feel less anxious?'
- 'How does prayer work?'

...or whatever you want to ask, because you set the questions!

There'll be time to chat, talk through some questions, play a game, enjoy some snacks and just hang out!

All-Age Services

These are monthly, shorter, child-friendly, interactive communion services with songs and prayers which are held once a month: usually but not always on the second Sunday of the month. Children stay in church for the whole of the service.

Hertford Children's Choir



A choir led by Rachel and Sam Chaplin for anyone aged 8-13 who loves singing and wants to develop their musicianship. Rehearsals are on Fridays 5.30-6.45pm at St Andrew's Church, Hertford and there are termly performances. See the church website for more information.

HERTFORD CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Summer Camp 2026

In August we ran a Summer Choir Camp for children, teaching them about music and preparing them for the performance of a lifetime at St Paul's Cathedral! We asked Emma and Erica to tell us all about their week at Summer Choir Camp here at St Andrew's.

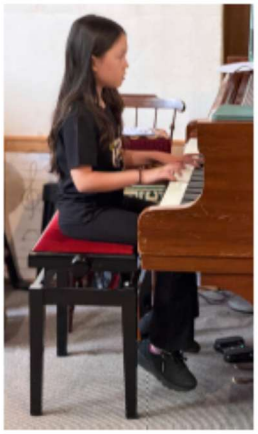


My week at Summer Choir Camp - by Emma.

I had a really amazing time at Summer choir camp with Rachel and Sam. I really enjoyed singing the "London song" and performing at St Paul's Cathedral at the service was really fun. I made some new friends and enjoyed listening to some of the other children play their instruments - my best one was the pianist who played the Wallace and Gromit theme song. I also really liked playing my flute for everyone too, and listening to Rachel and Sam playing their instruments. John Henry coming in to play was also great. Playing Elephant Football with Brian was so much fun and I just had the best week!









My week at Summer Choir Camp - by Erica

Singing at St. Paul's Cathedral was the most amazing experience ever! Before we sang, we went on a tour. Inside was so beautiful, especially the ceiling where we sang. When I looked up, there was a big beautiful painting! When we were practicing, we had to focus hard, but we also had lots of fun together. We sang some fun songs about London and did funny warm-ups with body movements. The warm-ups were my favourite because they were so fun, and they actually helped me feel confident. Some musicians came and brought their instruments to show us, too. They told us how they play them, what instrument family they are in, and how they are made. Then they played a little piece of music for us. I particularly loved the sound of the oboe because it sounded so peaceful. I made many new friends at summer camp and everyone had fun together. I even got a turn to play the piano. I played the Wallace and Gromit theme song, and everyone was so nice and encouraging to me.

HERTFORD CHILDREN'S CHOIR





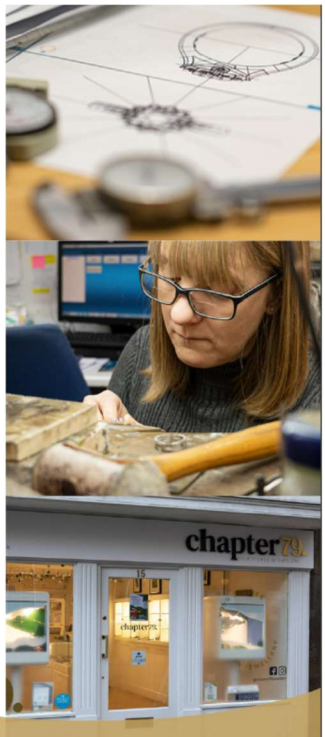


We couldn't run Choir Camp without the help of our wonderful team of volunteers, as well as those who generously supported financially to enable children to attend. Thank you to all who contributed!

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STAR OF WONDER

St Andrew's Christmas Card Competition

Once again, the children of Hertford St Andrew Church of England Primary School have been busy putting their artistic talents to work for the annual competition to design the church community's Christmas card. And, as always, the entries have been wonderful!

This year's theme was simply **'Star of Wonder'**, a particularly fitting choice for a school whose guiding Bible verse is *'Let your light shine'* (Matthew 5:16). These words are at the heart of school life, inspiring children to discover their unique talents, celebrate what makes them special and use their gifts to make a positive difference in the world.

The children certainly let their creativity shine with imaginative interpretations of the Christmas story and drawings full of colour, expression and festive wonder.

Pictured here are just a few of the fantastic entries from across the school.



But what will be the final Christmas card design? We'll all have to wait a little longer to find out!

In the meantime, a **huge thank you** to all the children and staff at St Andrew's School for their enthusiasm, creativity and the time they have given to helping us create this year's card. What a lovely way to bring our school and church communities together as we look forward to Christmas!

Jenny Mant – on behalf of the school governors

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YOUNG PEOPLE AT ST ANDREW'S

Richard Taylor asks the team which leads DEEPER what it's about

"Why do bad things happen to good people?" is just one of the big questions which has been discussed by young people who attend DEEPER. DEEPER is a twice-monthly session held during the 10.30am Sunday service at St Andrew's for 10 year olds and upwards. It's hosted by three members of the congregation, namely Julia Donovan, Matthew Ross and Jono Drew.



The group meets in the John Summers Gill Room above the vestry which is a carpeted loft space filled with bean bags and chairs where everyone can get comfortable.

Where do the questions come from? The young people come up with some themselves. These may be prompted by something that has come to mind or which has happened to them or family or friends. Topics have included,, for example, "forgiveness" and "who made God?". A question which Jono introduced recently was "can you be friends with robots?", a highly topical issue what with the growing impact of AI and TV programmes like Ann Droid.

Each session tends to start with some light-hearted conversation before getting down to the "big question", but without getting too serious. There is fun to be had as well and as an example, Jono gave the young people a white board on which they were each invited to draw part of what they imagined a robot friend would look like.

Jono also explained that these young people have grown up with social media; it has been a constant in their lives and can be overwhelming. DEEPER is a place where they can share concerns about anything happening in their lives or the world, whatever that may be, and if it relates to the topic, so well and good.

Matt told me that in preparing for a session the leader may look not just at what the bible has to say on the topic, but also what, for example, science or society might say, in order to provide a rounded view. They may or may not come to any conclusions but as Jono told me they are not there to provide answers.

The young people may leave with a prayer to look at or a task such as helping a friend or family member, but nothing is imperative as the main objective is to get the young people together, to have some friendly conversation and a bit of fun, and leave them with something to think about in the coming week.

If you are in Year 6 or above and would like to give DEEPER a try come along to a 10.30 service on one of the dates below and join the group when the children are invited to leave through the grey door soon after the service begins. The session lasts for about 25 minutes and everyone returns to the service for communion.

Remaining dates this term:
1st and 15th November
6th and 20th December

EVENTS AT ST ANDREW'S CHURCH

ST ANDREW'S CELEBRATED COFFEE MORNINGS



Saturday 7th November

10.30am to 12.30pm

Our November Coffee Morning will have both a Remembrance and Christmas theme.

We will be joined by many local charities (including British Heart Foundation, Keech Hospice and Oxfam) selling their Christmas cards and gifts, plus there will be beautiful home-made crafts and Royal British Legion poppies on sale. Theo will be playing the piano for us during the morning and do stay on for a superb performance from **Take Note Choir at 12.30pm**, directed by Sam Chaplin, with their eclectic selection of songs. Proceeds will be split equally between Royal British Legion and St Andrew's Church.





It's our bumper Christmas Coffee Morning featuring crafts, cards and gifts, and a chocolate tombola! There will be live festive music as well as a performance by Hertford Children's Choir. As always you will find good coffee and a delicious selection of homemade cakes and bakes to tempt you. All funds raised will be split between Hertford Children's Choir and St Andrew's Church.

EVENTS AT ST ANDREW'S CHURCH

Sing-along-a-Dolly

Thursday 12th November at 7.30pm

Do come and join us to celebrate the life and legacy of country star Dolly Parton by singing along to her most-loved songs in a special 'crowd karaoke evening'. Hear about her inspirations and listen to local artists performing other songs from her back catalogue.

The evening is in support of Hertford St Andrew Primary School with funds raised going towards the purchase of books for the school. Inspiring a love of reading in children was close to Dolly's heart.

Feel free to dress up! A licensed bar will be available.

Tickets are £10 (£10.75 with booking fee) from Ticketsource with under 12s free.
www.ticketsource.co.uk/st-andrews-church



CHURCHFITTERS **Saturday 19th December: 7.30pm**



Celebrate the season with the Churchfitters' Christmas Show 2026, a warm and spirited evening of traditional music, winter songs and good cheer. Blending lively folk tunes, heartfelt carols and stories that capture the magic of midwinter, the Churchfitters promise a festive gathering for all ages. Expect rich harmonies, sparkling acoustic playing and plenty of audience participation as the church fills with laughter, rhythm and Christmas spirit.

Churchfitters are returning to St Andrew's after their sell-out Christmas concert in December 2023.

Licensed bar available. Doors open 6.45pm.

NEW YEAR'S DAY WALK: 2pm from the Golden Griffin

BLOW THOSE NEW YEAR CELEBRATION COBWEBS AWAY; ENJOY SOME FRESH AIR COMBINED WITH A GENTLE WALK AND CONVERSATION

Everyone is welcome to join our New Year's Day Walk. We will begin the walk at **2pm** from the car park of the Golden Griffin (opposite The Sele School). We will head into Panshanger Park for a stroll along a circular route for about an hour. Walkers will then be welcome to join one another for a drink at the Golden Griffin.

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KATIE'S CREATION WITH THE HELP OF FRIENDS AT ST ANDREW'S

Katie provides the story of the film score she composed and how it was brought to life

Our very own Katie Seaton (who you'll often find here at St Andrew's singing in the choir or playing piano during our Sunday services) is a composer, and she's been busy writing the score for an audio drama! Katie tells us all about it.

Uncanny Valley was an independently-produced audio drama (/fiction podcast). It was a surprise global chart topper in 2025.

My role on it was doing the sound design (which is taking the studio-read lines from the actors and building an immersive world with them), writing and producing all of the music, and mixing and mastering the episodes for release. So, a lot of work! Most of my composing work is to help tell stories and the primary media I work in have always been audio drama (via Radio 4, Audible, Big Finish and independent producers) and arty animation. So I didn't have any music 'out there' by itself until now.

In this drama, the music had a particularly important role in setting the tone of the story - its locations and its mood - so it seemed a good candidate for my first standalone music release. I set about revising, re-shaping, cutting and adding to the existing music to make it work as ten standalone tracks that between them encompass most of what is in the writers' story and my score. And that tell a kind of a story as an independent listen, too.

The story is about a reclusive artist who moves to a tiny and very remote village in Alaska to escape something dangerous in her former city life. When she gets there, she finds that many people who choose to move to Alaska are similarly escaping or hiding from something or other. The show explores the co-existence of ancient, timeless things - things that somehow feel more present, larger, up in the remote north -



and the present-day flow of transient human concerns. The theme of transcendence is, therefore, very strong - from looking up at the multitude of stars in awe, to the lurking 'ghosts' of traumas long-held and passed down the generations, but never spoken of aloud.And it is creepy!

These were all things that I tried to draw out in the music, as well as a strong sense of place; I really hoped to give listeners a vivid, moody, atmospheric visual for that movie screen in their heads!

So what does it sound like?

The director's references for the style of music were all modern musicians who draw on Scandinavian musical traditions (artists like the band Tenhi, who - like me - really enjoy combining organic sound and folky instruments with electronics). And, of course - as all composers and songwriters do - there are parts of the score that are me trying to make sense of things that were happening in my own life by turning them into noise!

The performers who contributed to the album and the mix engineer were all absolutely wonderful and elevated the music to a ridiculous degree! These performers include St Andrew's community members Sam Chaplin on trumpet and John Wacher on rhythm guitar - thank you, both.

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OUTREACH

UKRAINE **helping Ukranian soldiers on the frontline**

A message from our friends at UK-Aid, via Jane Chaplin:

In September, Alan Hillier came to St Andrew's with his jumbo van to take away all the brilliant things so many people had donated, not forgetting the money that had been given which Alan spent where it was best needed. The convoy left on 3rd October to Ukraine.

Here's what we loaded into the van:

- 121 soldiers' boxes
- 63 crates, 9 of which Christmas presents for the children.
- 23 laundry bags (knitting for children and blankets etc)
- 8 other bags
- A huge lot of walking aids
- 17 boxes large and small (medicines, power banks, lights, maternity items etc)
- Animals not forgotten: cages, beds, cosy bedding, food, cat baskets etc

So many of you have spread the word and brought people to join our efforts. Thanks to those of you who came with muscles rippling to help load the van. And a massive thank you for every one of you who gave what they could.

The next convoy will very probably go in March. This means that medicines and food etc must have a long life - at least 6 months from March. Medicines must be in the same box they came in, sealed, or else they have to be destroyed. They are so valuable, so do keep giving.

We don't need any more donations for Ukraine at St Andrew's until the New Year. We'll share more details about what's needed then. Thank you

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 for the charity which St Andrew's supports.

These are some extracts from Julie's last letter from Oruro, Bolivia.

'When I wake up in the morning often the first thing I hear is the rubbish collecting lorry changing gear as it drives past. Then the noise of the workers whistling and shouting as they scrape up the remains of the rubbish bags left out on street corners or hung on the outside of buildings. Here in the town centre there are collections morning and evening. On Tuesday last week there were no collections of rubbish ostensibly for lack of diesel. Many people still put out their rubbish and the many dogs had a great time sifting through the rubbish and leaving a terrible mess.

There is little bird song as there are very few trees around where I live and we are now coming into spring. Fortunately the swallows are reappearing.

The couple who have a sweet stall at the door of my block like to set up about 6.30am. They can be heard dragging out their metal stalls and organising plastic sheeting which provides some protection from the weather and for the crates of soft drinks and selection of snacks.

Last week there was a public transport strike again about lack of diesel also the price rises. When buses block the roads and stop other vehicles circulating only motor bikes can get through. Schools and Angel Tree were closed for the day.

A national strike was proposed for this week which was taken up in Oruro. Once again public transport was suspended. Again schools were closed with pupils learning on-line and the discipleship teams were unable to get to the prisons'.

Christopher THE LOCKSMITH

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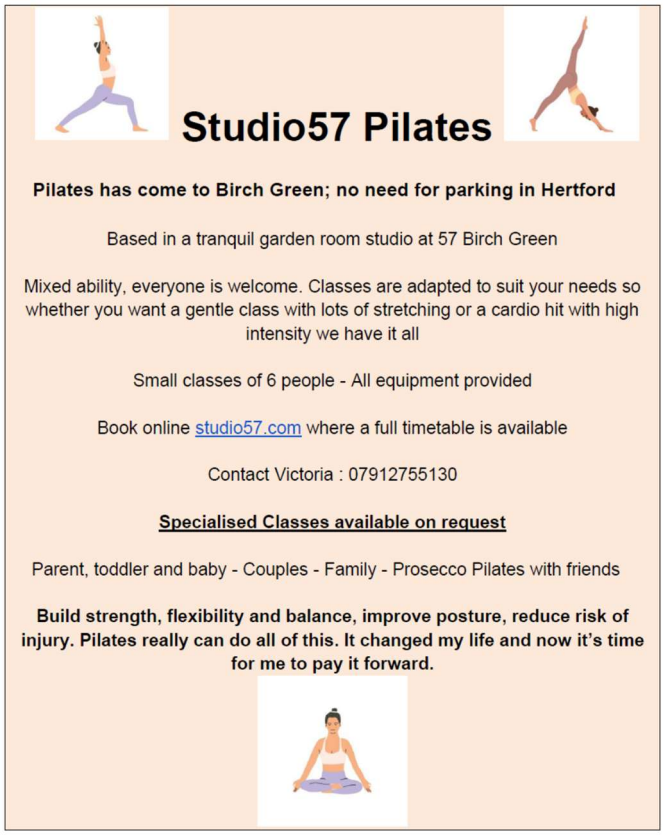
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ECO-CHURCH ROUND-UP!

JENNY MUTCH REFLECTS ON RECENT EVENTS AND LOOKS FORWARD

I've been reflecting on the three events St Andrew's hosted during Creationtide, and especially on how many people rallied round to make them a success. A huge thank you to everyone involved!



A People's Emergency – what a turnout!

We kicked off on 1st October with a screening of The People's Emergency film. I was worried no one would come, but the doors opened and more than 100 people arrived!

What inspired me most was the show of hands when we asked who had never attended an environmental event before. Around 20–25% raised their hands. That felt like a real achievement. Climate change is not just an environmental issue: it is linked to biodiversity, food security, health, national security and politics. It was encouraging to see the conversation reaching new people.

If you know someone who might like to host a screening, please ask me or visit the film's website for details (www.nebriefing.org/host-the-film)

Coffee, cakes and caring for creation

Our coffee morning brought music from Alex, delicious home baking and plenty of conversation. We raised money for the church and WaterAid, with opportunities to buy eco-friendly goods and Oxfam refill products. A lovely reminder that small choices can make a difference.

A time for reflection

Finally, on 4th October, our Taizé-style service offered a beautiful opportunity to reflect on creation through music, prayer and poetry. Three poems from the service appear below. The general feeling afterwards? We should do this more often!

What next?

We are soon holding a meeting with other churches in Hertford to explore how we can engage more people with climate change and its effects, locally and globally. More news to follow!

Thinking globally, acting locally

This autumn brings two important United Nations meetings: COP17 on biodiversity, held in Armenia in October, and COP31 on climate change, taking place in Türkiye in November. Both offer opportunities for countries to turn commitments into action. For more information: www.churchofengland.org/about/environment-and-climate-change/blog/how-engage-cop-2026. The decisions may seem far removed from Hertford, but their consequences affect us all.

We cannot all attend these conferences, but we can pray, reflect and act. The Church of England suggests connecting with nature — perhaps on a walk, in a garden or simply looking out of the window — and praying for:

- Peace and reconciliation in a world facing conflict and environmental pressures.
- Fair funding for communities most affected by climate change.

CONTINUED OVERLEAF

ECO-CHURCH ROUND-UP!

JENNY MUTCH REFLECTS ON RECENT EVENTS AND LOOKS FORWARD

- A just move away from fossil fuels towards renewable energy.
- Meaningful commitments to protect nature and tackle climate change.

And perhaps each of us could choose one small action at home, at church or in our community.

Thank you again to everyone who made our Creationtide events so special!

Jenny Mutch (on behalf of the eco-team)

Poems from the Taizé service

Seen from a hillside (Forbes Mutch)

He stands on a hillside
And surveys the view.
The summit above
The valley below.
Once lush with thick branches,
Now arid and bare;
The sun sinks slowly
In fetid brown air.

He stands on the hillside
His hands on an urn.
From the earth came his father
To the dust he'll return.
His forbears were farmers
They valued the land
But now he goes back
To crumbling dry sand

He stands on the hillside
And sees the pain
That man has inflicted
For so little gain,
Not just on this valley
But in every domain
Where seasons are turned over
With too little or too heavy a rain

He stands on the hillside;
And considers the cost.
But as the breeze takes his parent
Surely all is not lost?
In the way that man
Has created this mess
Surely he'll find the answers
To relieve the stress.

He stands on the hillside
As the past is scattered.
He considers the future
Of a world less battered,
Where man's ingenuity
And careful preserve
Replaces dominion
With a longing to serve

He stands on the hillside
And scrolls his phone.
There's so much we can do
If the answers were known.
God's intelligence is out there
Make the changes you can,
Your every step forward
Will make God your fan.

He stands on the hillside
Says goodbye to his dad;
A generation past
But the earth isn't sad.
It embraces his loyalty
His energy of love.
Hope is definitely here
Engineered from above.

ECO-CHURCH ROUND-UP!

JENNY MUTCH REFLECTS ON RECENT EVENTS AND LOOKS FORWARD

Living Waters (Jenny Mant)

Rain once fell softly,
and rivers glistened, winding their way
through the heart of the land.

Water moving through everything—
through places we can see
and places hidden from us deep below the ground
part of the mystery of this living world.

But now the land is thirsty.

Fields once emerald
fade beneath the sun.
Hedgerows hold their breath,
leaves curling at their edges.
Birdsong quietens.

The earth lies hard beneath our feet,
dry and unyielding,
as though it has forgotten
how to receive the rain.

We wait for water—
not the sudden violence of a storm,
but soft, persistent rain,
falling gently enough
for the earth to open
and drink.

And when the rain comes, we
must remember to
protect our precious rivers,
the arteries of your breathing world,
and to share their waters
with every creature and plant.

We must remember to take only what we need.

And when the rain comes,
let us stand for a moment and listen
as water drips against the leaves,
as it is sucked into the thirsty earth,
as rivers gurgle as they begin to rise.
Let us rejoice.

And shout out this water is never ours.

It passes through our hands,
through rivers, clouds and all that lives -
ancient, precious, necessary.

Always moving.
Always returning.

Always a gift.

Earth (Tim Hewitt)

Loam, friable and light. Holding moisture and letting it go.

Made up of particles from millennia ago. And last year's leaves.

Home to bodies and remains. Thrumming with bacteria, fungi and life.

Ancient roots delve deep, but seed renews each year.

Earth smells fecund and rich, but transforms what we throw at it too.

Ordinary alchemy.

The limits are showing now though. Plough and sprayer insistent.

Dust storm and flood carry away too much to sustain our bounty.

A plastic bag disintegrating into a harrowed field.

Another sack of nitro fertiliser into the hopper to chase diminishing yields.

Earth's crust is thin here and getting thinner.

LOOK BUT ALSO LISTEN

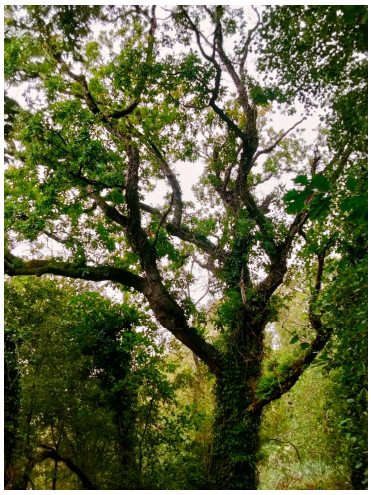
advises Rosemary Willis on her nature rambles



Sometimes I forget how much of bird watching is bird listening. The birds are so often elusive. I know they are there but can't see them due to the foliage or their camouflage. Walking in the ancient woods of Oxwich Bay, south Wales has been a restful and quiet experience. The hoards of holiday-makers have long gone.

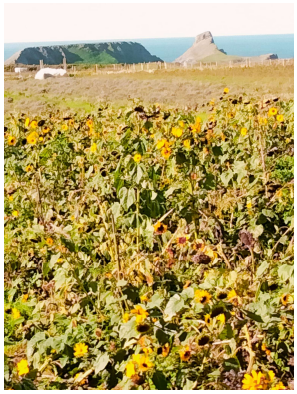
As I write, a robin comes to explore the crumbs I have put out to tempt him to the open door. I see him every time I'm here and I think he's getting to trust me a little.

It's so quiet and still. The day is bright and clear. The stars were out last night. It's hard to imagine them being there now in the glorious sun. The colours of autumn are beginning to show in their reds and golds. It's a glorious place to take a break.



There's a hide overlooking a stretch of water and I know of a kingfisher that lives there. It's not a "cert" that I will see him but it's always worth the walk through the wood. The trees are all still in leaf and covered with moss making it difficult to see anything but green. The magnificent old oak reaching up to the sky has ferns growing in crooks of the boughs. I tread softly on the damp pathway where there is a profusion of different types of fungi. I can identify wax caps which are being eaten by the animal visitors. I can hear a tit flock passing through the woods. I can identify great, blue and long-tailed tits quite easily. Then there is the tree creeper and nuthatch. The only one I saw in the whole group was the tree creeper looking sleek as it creeps up the tree. It's as if it can slide up on rails. A perfect white under and mottled brown like the tree bark above. Its call is very high pitched and sometimes above my range of hearing.





I was out in the open along the cliffs and saw a beautiful sunflower field with a flock of meadow pipits and goldfinch working their way across the bountiful harvest. As I watched them from the track a sparrow hawk whizzed passed me at thigh height. It had spotted another flock on the barbed wire fence. It kept hidden until it turned the corner and scattered the flock. This time it made no kill but what skill in hunting using the track and brambles as cover.

The colours of autumn are showing beautifully, and some sunsets are just awesome with a rich golden glow covering the landscape. No words can describe the beauty of the coast bathed in a golden sunlight.

So do get out, look up and listen up. You never know what you might find.

Services at St Andrew's

November 2026

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

	Date	Time	Service	Celebrant	Preacher
SUNDAY	1	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Rev Bill Church	
All Saints Day		10.30 am	**All Age Service**	Rev Alan Stewart	
		10.30 am	Morning Service on **Zoom**		
		2.00 pm	**Service for the Bereaved**		
		7.00 pm	Soul Sunday in St Andrew's Centre		
Monday	2	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (Common Worship)		
Wednesday	4	10.30 am	Holy Communion (All Souls and All Saints)	Rev Alan Stewart	
Thursday	5	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (BCP)		
SUNDAY	8	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Rev Alan Stewart	
Remembrance Sunday		**9.15 am**	**Parish Communion** (Act of Remembrance)	Rev Alan Stewart	
			(No Zoom service today)		
		7.00 pm	Compline **on Zoom**		
Monday	9	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (Common Worship)		
Wednesday	11	10.30 am	Holy Communion (Traditional)	Rev Alan Stewart	
Thursday	12	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (BCP)		
		10.30 am	Calton Court Communion Service	Rev Bill Church	
SUNDAY	15	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Rev Alan Stewart	Adrian Walter
2nd Before Advent		10.30 am	**Parish Communion** with Junior Church	Rev Alan Stewart	Maria Henriksson-Bell
		10.30 am	Morning Service on **Zoom**		
		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 Scott Martin	
Thursday	19	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (BCP)		
SUNDAY	22	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Rev Alan Stewart	
Christ the King		10.30 am	**Parish Communion** with Junior Church	Rev Alan Stewart	
		10.30 am	Morning Service on **Zoom**		
		6.30 pm	**Evening Prayer at St Mary's Hertingfordbury**		
		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 Bill Church	
Thursday	26	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (BCP)		
		10.30 am	Calton Court Communion Service	Rev Bill Church	
SUNDAY	29	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Rev Bill Church	
Advent Sunday		10.30 am	**Parish Communion** with Junior Church	Rev Alan Stewart	Geoff Oates
		10.30 am	Morning Service on **Zoom**		
		6.30 pm	**Advent Carol Service by Candlelight**		
Monday	30	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (Common Worship)		

Services at St Andrew's

December 2026

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

	Date	Time	Service	Celebrant	Preacher
Wednesday	2	10.30 am	St Andrew's Patronal Holy Communion	Rev Alan Stewart	
Thursday	3	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (BCP)		
SUNDAY	6	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)		
Advent 2		10.30 am	**Parish Communion** with Junior Church	Rev Alan Stewart	
		10.30 am	Morning Service on **Zoom**		
		7.00 pm	Compline **on Zoom**	Rev Alan Stewart	
Monday	7	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (Common Worship)		
Wednesday	9	10.30 am	Holy Communion (Traditional)	Rev Scott Martin	
Thursday	10	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (BCP)		
		10.30 am	Calton Court Communion Service		
SUNDAY	13	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)		
Advent 3		9.15 am	**All Age Service**	Rev Alan Stewart	
		10.30 am	Morning Service on **Zoom**		
		7.00 pm	Compline **on Zoom**	Rev Alan Stewart	
Monday	14	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (Common Worship)		
		7.30 pm	A Mindful Christmas candlelit service	Rev Alan Stewart	
Wednesday	16	10.30 am	Holy Communion (Traditional)	Rev Bill Church	
Thursday	17	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (BCP)		
SUNDAY	20	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Rev Scott Martin	
Advent 4		10.30 am	**Parish Communion**	Rev Alan Stewart	Adrian Walter
		10.30 am	Morning Service on **Zoom**		
		7.00 pm	Compline **on Zoom**	Rev Alan Stewart	
Monday	21	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (Common Worship)		
		7.30 pm	**Seven Lessons & Carols**		
Wednesday	23	10.30 am	Holy Communion (Traditional)	Rev Bill Church	
Thursday	24	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (BCP)		
Christmas Eve		11.00 am	Crib & Christingle Service	Rev Alan Stewart	
		4.00 pm	Crib & Christingle Service	Rev Alan Stewart	
		11.15 pm	Midnight Communion Service	Rev Alan Stewart	
Friday	25	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Rev Bill Church	
Christmas Day		10.30 am	**All Age Service** + Choir and Organ	Rev Alan Stewart	
SUNDAY	27	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Rev Bill Church	
Christmas 1/St John		10.30 am	**Parish Communion**	Rev Bill Church	Forbes Mutch
Monday	28	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (Common Worship)		
Wednesday	30	10.30 am	Holy Communion (Traditional)	Rev Scott Martin	
Thursday	31	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (BCP)		
		10.30 am	Calton Court Communion Service		