

The parish magazine of

# Hertford St Andrew

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

DECEMBER 2023 & JANUARY 2024

CHRISTMAS AT ST ANDREW'S



**Sat 16 Dec**  
Beer & Carols 3.30-5.30pm  
*Family-friendly drop-in with carols,  
beer and mulled wine*

**Mon 18 Dec**  
A Mindful Christmas 7.30pm  
*Short candlelit service to reflect,  
recharge and find comfort*

**Wed 20 Dec**  
Seven Lessons & Carols 7.30pm

**Christmas Eve**  
Holy Communion 8am  
Christmas Eve Service 10.30am (on Zoom)  
Crib & Christingle 11am  
Crib & Christingle 4pm  
Midnight Mass 11.15pm

**Christmas Day**  
Holy Communion 8am  
Christmas Communion  
for all ages 10.30am

Here with you Here for you

# HERTFORD ST ANDREW

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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: Maria Henriksson-Bell, Chris Seward, Jenny Mutch, Louise Cobb, Laura Ramsay, Catherine Sleath, Adrian Walter, Chrissy Barclay, Anthony Collinson, Julie Frazer and Malcolm Fry.

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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.

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.

# PEACE ON EARTH

'Jesus, in the song you wrote, the words are sticking in my throat; 'Peace on Earth.'

Hear it every Christmas time, but hope and history won't rhyme, so what's it worth? Peace on Earth.

Sick of the sorrow, sick of the pain, sick of hearing again and again, that there's gonna be Peace on Earth".

Those words from a U2 song written over twenty years ago seem an appropriate lament as we witness what's happening in Gaza and elsewhere in our world. Since those angels first proclaimed 'peace on earth' on the hillsides of that first Christmas, our race has witnessed atrocity after atrocity, not only in those Holy Lands but in so many other war-torn and conflicted places throughout history.

And yet within the hopelessness, moments shine through; people shine. People like the released 85-year-old Israeli hostage Yocheved Lifshitz, who took the hand of her masked captor and wished him 'shalom', the Hebrew word for peace.

God, I know, is often blamed for starting wars or for going AWOL in the midst of them. I imagine there are many who are asking themselves today 'where is God?'

Christians dare to believe that somehow, that first Christmas, God became one of us. And he wasn't born into the still and tranquil Bethlehem of our Christmas cards. He was born into poverty under a cruel and oppressive Roman occupation. He was born into the thick of it, and that's where God is still to be found, in the mess and danger and sadness,

whispering comfort to the broken, giving courage to the exhausted, weeping with the grief-stricken, and please-God, softening the hearts of the powerful and the angry and the brutalized so that they might imagine another way; that they might find the grace and the desire to forgive.



Peace, shalom, salaam, whatever we call it, always begins with us, with the next decision to make to meet hatred with love, revenge with forgiveness, violence with non-violent resistance.

I pray you'll know that peace within, and within your families and communities, not only this Christmas time, but always.

Alan

## WELCOME!

I am pleased to welcome everyone to St Andrew's, but in particular visitors and newcomers. Details of services are given on the next two pages and 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 me or 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.

THE CLOSING DATE FOR THE FEBRUARY MAGAZINE IS **SUNDAY 14<sup>th</sup> JANUARY**  
**AND FOR THIS MONTH ONLY COPY IS TO BE SENT TO [hjnprhodes@virginmedia.com](mailto:hjnprhodes@virginmedia.com)**  
WITH THANKS TO PAULINE & NIGEL RHODES FOR EDITING THE FEBRUARY MAGAZINE

# WORSHIP

## Church Services

You will find a full list of church services on the last two pages of this magazine and on the church website, with some additional information about certain services on this and the following page.

## Junior Church

Children are welcome to attend Junior Church which runs during the 10.30am Parish Communion service on most Sundays except when there is an All-Age service when the children stay in church for the whole service.

### ALL-AGE SERVICES

10<sup>th</sup> December at 10.30am

Christmas Day at 10.30am

14<sup>th</sup> January at 10.30am

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

St Andrew's continues to hold some services on Zoom (Zoom codes are available from the church office: [standrew.hertford@btinternet.com](mailto:standrew.hertford@btinternet.com) or call 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 two pages of this magazine and the website for dates.

Fancy a chat after our Sunday worship on Zoom? **IT IS VERY EASY TO BE INCLUDED.** Just hang on after the service and instead of leaving you will be randomly put into a small group to speak with other people.



### THERE'S NO COMPLINE IN DECEMBER FROM 7<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY ONWARDS

Compline is on Zoom every Sunday at 7pm except for second Sundays when Soul Food is on.

### Meditation & Mindfulness

6<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> December

3<sup>rd</sup> January and every Wednesday  
all at 7.30pm

Explore the riches of Christian Meditation and how it fits with

the practice and insights of Mindfulness Each weekly session is free and lasts for about 45 minutes. We begin with some gentle exercises to help still the mind and then a guided meditation, followed by some silence.

Beginners especially welcome!

**In Church every first Wednesday of the month (and also available on Zoom). Other weeks on Zoom only.**

# FREE Mindfulness

AT SELE FARM COMMUNITY HUB

**10.30AM ON  
MONDAYS  
11<sup>TH</sup> & 18<sup>TH</sup>  
DECEMBER  
8<sup>TH</sup> & 22<sup>ND</sup>  
JANUARY**

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!*

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

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# WORSHIP

## soul food

### CONTEMPORARY EVENING SERVICE

7pm on Sundays  
10<sup>th</sup> December & 14<sup>th</sup> January  
in the St Andrew's Centre

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

ALL ARE WELCOME AT...



**3 - 4.30pm** on

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December** with the theme of 'A Light in the Darkness' and

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> January** with the theme of 'Water, water everywhere'.

**Where?** The Forest School area at St Joseph's in the Park School (off St Mary's Lane, Hertingfordbury). Take the driveway by the lodge next to St Mary's Church. There's lots of parking and shelter.

Whatever the weather and for all ages, Forest Church is our new monthly service



### OUR MONTHLY PRAYER MEETING IS CHANGING

ON ZOOM ON 2<sup>ND</sup> DECEMBER AT 8.30AM

THOSE OF US WHO ARE HAPPY TO DO SO  
CAN RETURN TO MEETING **IN PERSON IN  
THE CHAPEL** AT ST ANDREW'S ON &  
FROM 6<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY AT 8.30AM. IF YOU  
PREFER TO STAY ON ZOOM YOU CAN!.

**Time spent in prayer is always  
time well spent**



with a difference. There will be a variety of activities to opt into, such as Mindfulness, Making and Storytelling, ending with time around the fire to sing, pray and eat together. The service is run by St Mary's and St Andrew's churches.

**What to bring.** Remember to dress appropriately and bring a camping chair, a snack and something to drink.

**What not to bring.** No dogs please.

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# ADVENT & CHRISTMAS



## Beer & Carols

**SATURDAY 16 DECEMBER 3.30-5.30PM** | **FREE** ADMISSION ALL AGES WELCOME

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[standrew.hertford@btinternet.com](mailto:standrew.hertford@btinternet.com)



## A Mindful Christmas

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

**WHEN**  
Monday  
18 December  
7.30pm

**WHERE**  
St Andrew's Church

[www.hertfordstandrews.co.uk](http://www.hertfordstandrews.co.uk)  
[standrew.hertford@btinternet.com](mailto:standrew.hertford@btinternet.com)



### SEVEN LESSONS & CAROLS

followed by mulled wine

7.30PM

WEDNESDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER



### CHRISTMAS EVE CRIB & CHRISTINGLE SERVICES

A morning service at 11am  
An afternoon service at 4pm



### CHRISTMAS EVE

Communion service at 8am  
Crib & Christingle services – see opposite  
Midnight Mass at 11.15pm



## CHRISTMAS DAY

8am: Holy Communion  
10.30am: Christmas Communion for all ages



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# St Andrew's Christmas Appeal

In addition to our Christmas collections over the Christmas period (this year, money will be sent to **Hertfood** at the Sele Community Hub, **Herts Young Homeless**, the **Children's Society** and **Christian Aid's Middle East Crisis Appeal**), we will be collecting items to be delivered to **Haven First** in Stevenage.

The project, (formerly Stevenage Haven), provides support to those experiencing homelessness in Stevenage and North Hertfordshire. With three sites in Baldock, Hitchin and Stevenage, it is able to provide support and shelter for over 63 residents. At the centre of its work is having a full understanding of the complex issues surrounding homelessness. With a team of highly trained and experienced staff, the project supports over 200 people per year, not only with a warm bed and hot meals, but with the vital support needed to lead an independent life and move into permanent, independent accommodation.

For work with clients over the Christmas period, we are collecting the following:

Tubs of chocolates for communal areas;  
Large chocolate bars or selection packs;  
Boxed, toiletry gift packs (approximately one third of guests are female);  
£5 High Street gift vouchers.

In addition, the kitchens would welcome the following items that can be used at any time of the year:

Cuppa soups, pot noodles, crisps and individual porridge pots;  
Cornflakes and Coco Pops;  
Boxes of cakes and biscuits.

Finally, we will also be happy to deliver clean, good quality coats, gloves, hats and blankets.

**If you would like to make a difference to the experience of those in need at Christmas, please bring your gift to the church by Monday 18th December. It can be given to one of the churchwardens on a Sunday or, during office hours, handed into Phil in the Parish Office. Alternatively, items can be left outside the office at the back of the church.**

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# CHURCH NEWS

## Let's Hear It

*Improving our sound system for services & events*

There is good news to report on our progress to raise the necessary funds for a new audio-visual system in the church.

Early in 2023, the PCC agreed that the current arrangements for sound and image projection in the church need to be upgraded. These improvements would facilitate a better experience for worshippers and a technical infrastructure for concerts and cultural activities that provide essential income to support our work at St Andrew's.

We now have a fund standing at approximately £35,000 with successful grant applications made to the Benefact Trust and Hertford Town Council. This means that we have nearly reached the amount needed to replace the sound system and are halfway to reaching what is required for the total project.

Further applications are being made and, when we have received responses from the relevant organisations, the PCC will be in a good position to decide what is needed from within the church family and how to plan a strategy for completion.

Alan, the wardens and I ask you to pray for the success of this project.

Chris Seward

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

Away Day 2024 is booked for **Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April** and will take place in the buildings and grounds of St Joseph's in the Park School, Hertingfordbury.

We are very grateful to the school for welcoming us to this, now, annual event. Costs will be minimal and we hope to have a bumper attendance from our two churches. Please make a note of the date.

## FOREST CHURCH

*Laura Ramsay says, "Give it a go!"*

On 29<sup>th</sup> October I attended my first Forest Church at St Josephs in the Park, Hertingfordbury. Along with Jane Chaplin, I was responsible for the craft activity. It was a rainy day, and I felt a bit apprehensive. However, it turned out to be a most wonderful experience, being in the open air and in the woods, and feeling close to God's creation.



The rain had stopped, and we began by all meeting together around a fire to be welcomed, for prayers, a story and a discussion focusing on the monthly theme of leaves and autumn. This was followed by a choice of activities: a trail in the woods to identify trees, craft, Mindfulness, and den building. Jane and I, with the help of Rosemary had collected leaves of beautiful autumn colours and ivy to make crowns or do leaf rubbings. We wore our crowns with pride.



The afternoon ended with everyone together again around the fire to share our experiences, hear another story Alan had written and illustrated, prayers, singing and eating toasted marshmallows.



Being out in the natural world that afternoon helped me to slow down, enjoy the fellowship and reconnect with God.

I would encourage you to go.

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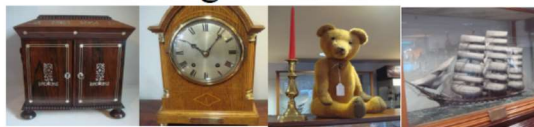


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# CHURCH MATTERS

FROM THE REGISTERS

## BAPTISMS:

*We welcome into the Lord's family:*

12<sup>th</sup> November

Elijah Dennis Searle

26<sup>th</sup> November

Rose Elizabeth Edwards and Freyja Frances Reason



## ANOTHER SPECIAL ARRIVAL

Angie and John Harris have been celebrating the arrival of their fourth grandchild Jake (Jacob) Jude, a son to their daughter Amy and husband Lawrence and a brother for Aidan. Jake was born on the 10th October at the Lister in Stevenage at 6am weighing 8lbs and was home in St Albans to be greeted by doting grandparents by lunchtime. All are doing well.

## BARBARA'S FAREWELL

Barbara Hurford invites all at St Andrew's to join her after the 10.30 service on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January when cake will be served. This will be an opportunity for Barbara to say farewell to her many friends within the congregation, having moved to Bourne in Lincolnshire to be near her son Graham. We will miss you Barbara and thank you for your many years of active membership of the church community, always a willing helper and a smiling, welcoming face. Barbara's contribution to the community of Hertford and its surroundings was appreciated by many and especially within the Guiding movement. Besides being a leader of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Hertford Brownies and Guides and temporary leader at Watton Guides, she was in her time District Commissioner, County Commissioner, local and county Trefoil Guide Chairman and chairman and president of Hertford District friends of Guiding.

## St Andrew's Christmas Tree

Many thanks to the family which has kindly sponsored the Christmas tree for us all to enjoy in the church this December. It will be erected and decorated in time for Beer & Carols.

## HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT JOINING A HOME GROUP?

Real intimacy, real spiritual depth, real church happens in small groups. At St Andrew's we have lots of different small groups which usually meet in someone's home on various days and times of the week. We meet to deepen friendships, offer support, explore questions, unpack the Bible, pray together and grow in love for one another and for God. A list of the current Home Groups is available on the church website.

## USED POSTAGE STAMPS FOR KEECH HOSPICE CARE



Please save Christmas design stamps, British special issue and foreign stamps for Keech Hospice Care. There will be a box at the back of the church from mid-December where they can be deposited. It would help if stamps were cut off leaving a small border. Thank you from Julie Frazer.

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# THE CHURCH AND THE ENVIRONMENT

## St Andrew's Eco-Church Committee takes stock of where the Church of England stands in the debate on Climate Change

Agnes, Babet, Ciaran – these are the names of the storms that have hit the UK this autumn, causing a succession of damage, flooding and loss of life from Scotland in the north to the Channel Islands in the south.

The familiar, domestic names used for storms disguise the true nature of an intense change in weather patterns that has emerged in the past few years across our planet. Record temperatures experienced in Europe this summer, incidences of forest fires, ongoing drought in East Africa and the increasing number of hurricanes and tornadoes in the America-Caribbean basin are all signs of climate change at work.

Last year the Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby said: *'Climate Change is the greatest challenge that we and future generations face. When we look at Jesus, we see one who instinctively stood alongside the most vulnerable in society. It is absolutely clear that following Jesus must include standing alongside those who are on the frontline of this unfolding catastrophe'*.

### **Can we take on the carbon challenge?**

Welby has called for all churches in England to take up the cause with the Anglican Alliance stating: 'wherever we are in the Christian Communion, may we – as intentional disciples of Jesus Christ – commit ourselves to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth'.

The General Synod has taken this call on board with a stated ambition to reduce emissions year-on-year, with a target of carbon net zero by 2030 (less than five years away!).



Andy Atkins, Chief Executive of the charity A Rocha, which supports churches in their drive to become more eco-friendly, looks at the difference a church like St Andrew's could make and his words (abridged) that:

'The Bible makes it clear that that the earth is the Lord's and everything in it' and that we are to care for what God has created. We are collectively to do what we can and by the end of September 2022, almost 5,500 churches had registered for status as an Eco Church, and more than 2,000 had achieved at least a bronze award in the A Rocha Church of England-accredited Eco Church scheme'.

But, as Atkins points out there are approximately 50,000 local church congregations in the UK – worshipping communities in almost every village, town and city neighbourhood. 'Most have buildings and many have land. With concerted action to cut carbon emissions and make land friendlier for

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# THE CHURCH AND THE ENVIRONMENT

nature, it would have a direct impact and visibly demonstrate what is possible, thereby encouraging action by others locally.'

Atkins then goes on to say: 'If even a quarter of the UK's three-to-four million regular churchgoers adopted low-carbon lifestyles and committed to speaking up for change – in their workplace or by raising issues with their MP for example – it would accelerate change in business and politics at a national level'. Now there's a thought.

## Time for more action:

In the face of the current ecological crisis, we need much deeper and faster action from all sections of society. And maybe Atkins is right when he says: 'The biggest impediment to progress is not technology or even money – it's public attitudes, values and political leadership'.

Thinking about what we can do to support climate-change action needs to be embedded in our daily actions and habitat and those of our Church if we are going to help reach the diocesan goal for net zero by 2030. It needs us all to commit.

Backed by prayer, even small changes could deliver transformation and hope beyond our earthly expectations: now that is worth considering when we are tucking into our eco-friendly, low-carbon Christmas lunch, followed by a New Year's pledge to do our bit in 2024.

Next year, look out for more on ways that you can help St Andrew's sustain its development as an eco-friendly church. In the meantime, if you would like to learn more, please contact members of the PCC Ecochurch Committee:

[jennymutch@me.com](mailto:jennymutch@me.com),  
[mariahenrikssonbell@icloud.com](mailto:mariahenrikssonbell@icloud.com),  
[andrew@goodarchitecture.co.uk](mailto:andrew@goodarchitecture.co.uk),  
[rosemarywillis77@hotmail.com](mailto:rosemarywillis77@hotmail.com)

## And remember:

When churches care for the environment, it is good for the whole work of the Church.

\*Andy Atkins' words first appeared in A Rocha's magazine *Root and Branch*, autumn/winter 2022. Reproduced with permission.



## Hertford Art Society

meet every Tuesday, 7.30-9.30 pm in the URC Hall, Cowbridge, Hertford, SG14 1PG for talks, critiques, demonstrations, workshops and painting sessions.

The events in December and January are:

Dec 5<sup>th</sup> - Critique of Members' paintings

12<sup>th</sup> - Society's Christmas Party\*

Jan 9<sup>th</sup> - Critique of Members' paintings

16<sup>th</sup> - Lecture - History of art

23<sup>rd</sup> - Workshop - Figurative art\*

30<sup>th</sup> - Critique of Members' paintings

*\*These events are for Members only*

You don't have to be an artist to join us - come along as a guest (£2) to an open evening & sample our activities. If you decide to become a Member the cost is £40 a year

For more information go to [www.hertfordartsociety.co.uk](http://www.hertfordartsociety.co.uk) or if you'd like to talk to someone about what we do ring 07914 567204 for more information.

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# We three kings



After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem . . . .

**We three kings of Orient are;  
Bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,  
Following yonder star.**



. . . . and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him."

*O star of wonder, star of night,  
Star with royal beauty bright,  
Westward leading, still proceeding,  
Guide us to thy perfect light.*

WHERE IS HE WHO HAS BEEN BORN  
KING OF THE JEWS?

Matthew 2:1-12



When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, . . . . he called together all the chief priests and teachers and asked them where the Christ was to be born. "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied. Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and make a careful search for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."

They went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold . . . .

**Born a King on Bethlehem's plain  
Gold I bring to crown Him again,  
King forever, ceasing never,  
Over us all to reign.**

. . . . and of incense . . . .



**Frankincense to offer have I;  
Incense owns a Deity nigh;  
Prayer and praising, voices raising,  
Worshipping God most high.**

. . . . and of myrrh.

**Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume  
Breathes a life of gathering gloom;  
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,  
Sealed in the stone-cold tomb.**



Know the Story; Share the Story; Live the Story



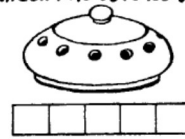
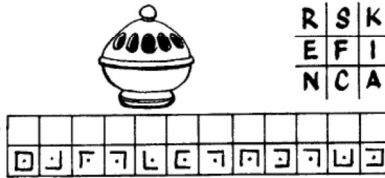


# We have come to worship him

(Matthew 1:2)

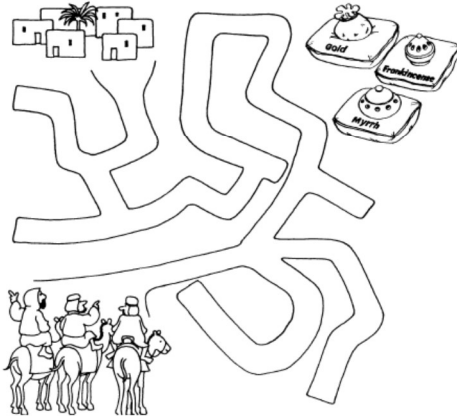


Where are you on your journey to find Jesus? Have you found him yet? Draw in yourself where you feel you are.



SAM BOY TURNS RIGHT  
Take every third letter

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



GOLD

FRANKINCENSE

MYRRH

WISE

MEN

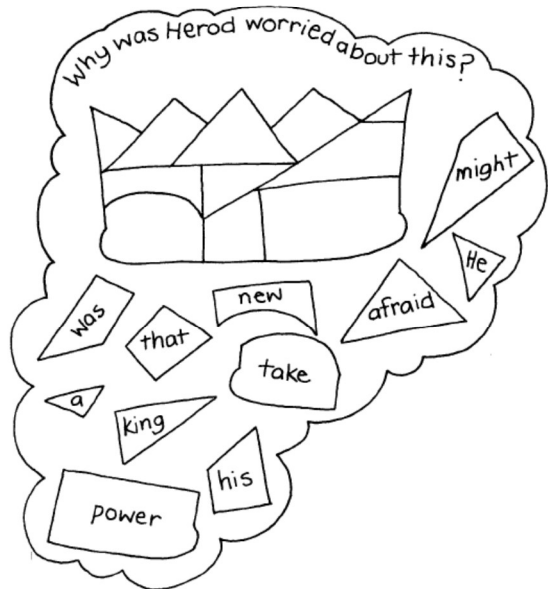
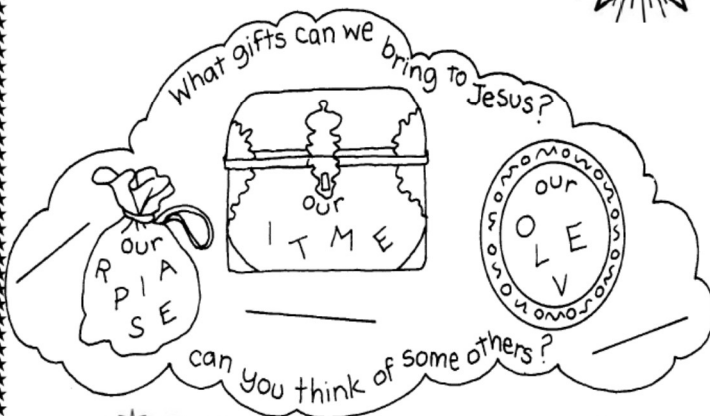
FOLLOW

STAR

HEROD

DREAM

WORSHIP



Glorious now behold Him arise;  
King and God and sacrifice;  
Heaven sings, 'Alleluia'  
'Alleluia' the earth replies.



Reverend John Henry Hopkins wrote the carol 'We Three Kings' about 150 years ago.

It was written for a Christmas pageant in New York City.

WITH THANKS TO VAL HURFORD FOR THESE PAGES

Know the Story; Share the Story; Live the Story

# EVENTS AT ST ANDREW'S



## December's Coffee Morning

**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup>, 10.30am - 12.30pm**

Run by St Andrew's Toddler Group, our December Coffee Morning is raising funds for Great Ormond Street Hospital (proceeds will be split equally between St Andrew's Church and GOSH). There will be Christmas cards, gifts and decorations on sale as well as the opportunity to enjoy some live music while having one of the scrumptious cakes and bakes we're known for, courtesy of our brilliant Bakers Galore team!



## January's Coffee Morning

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> 10.30am - 12.30pm**

Here is a chance to quietly dispose of any unwanted Christmas gifts in aid of a good cause: St Andrew's Choir is raising money some of which will go towards the maintenance of the organ. Donations please to Jane Eldred or another choir member.

## Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December, 7.30pm

## Churchfitters

**A high energy, uplifting Christmas show that can be enjoyed by all the family.**

*A mouthwatering selection of traditional, familiar and original festive songs and Christmas carols, this cracker of a show at St Andrew's Church will see Christmas in with a bang and a paper hat-full of surprises, novelties - and terrible jokes as well!*

The Churchfitters are a folk band like no other. Bass guitars made out of frying pans and hub caps, heart-wrenching vocals accompanied by a musical saw, boot-stompingly fast fiddle mixed with infectious funk-rock banjo, and traditional melodies reinvigorated with mesmerising rock rhythms.



St Andrew's will be decorated for Christmas and a warm welcome is guaranteed for everyone - festive ale, wine and soft drinks will be available from our licensed bar. Doors open at 6.30pm.

Tickets are £19 + £1.43 booking fee: [www.ticketsource.co.uk/st-andrews-church](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/st-andrews-church) A limited number of free tickets are available for Under 18s. If interested, please inform St Andrew's Box Office by email at: [standrew.hertford@btinternet.com](mailto:standrew.hertford@btinternet.com)



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# EVENTS AT ST ANDREW'S

## ST ANDREW'S EXCITING PROGRAMME OF PREMIER FOLK PERFORMERS CONTINUES IN 2024

### Eliza Carthy

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January**



Eliza Carthy has been described as the "Queen of English Folk" (The Observer).

Whether solo or fronting a big band, performing a centuries old ballad or a self-written song, Eliza's powerfully nuanced voice and fiercely beautiful fiddle playing have inspired and influenced a whole generation of musicians.

We welcome Eliza to St Andrew's as part of her solo tour of 2024. We are promised a marvellous evening of top quality live music with a true variety of genres.

The audience can look forward to a warm welcome with local, real ale and other refreshments available. Doors open 6.30pm. An unmissable evening to clear those New Year blues!

Tickets are £19 + £1.43 booking fee [www.ticketsource.co.uk/st-andrews-church](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/st-andrews-church)  
PHOTO CREDIT: Judith Burrow

### The Sharon Shannon Trio

**Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February**

Irish President, Michael D. Higgins called Sharon Shannon a "National Treasure". She has performed around the world and has collaborated with a diverse group of artists including Bono, Nigel Kennedy, Willie Nelson and Linton Kwesi Johnston. Her recordings celebrate not only Irish traditional music, but also a range of other musical genres.

Come to hear Sharon as she continues her 2024 tour in the beautiful surroundings of St Andrew's Church.

A licensed bar serving ale, Guinness, wine and soft drinks will be available  
Tickets are £21 + £1.58 booking fee [www.ticketsource.co.uk/st-andrews-church](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/st-andrews-church)

### Martin Simpson

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March**

Brilliant guitarist with a huge repertoire - a return visit to St Andrew's.

### Spiers and Boden

**Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April**

May be the finest instrumental duo on the traditional scene.

### Julie Fowlis in Concert

**Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> May**

For ticket information and full event details, please check our website for updates! [www.hertfordstandrews.co.uk](http://www.hertfordstandrews.co.uk)



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# chapter79.

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# WITH CHRISTMAS IN MIND

## CHRISTMAS TREES

Where will you get your Christmas tree from this year?

Make a difference this Christmas and visit Sacombe Green to choose an organically grown Nordman Fir Tree. A variety of popular shapes and sizes will be available.

**Come and select your tree between 9am and 4pm on 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> December at Sacombe Green SG12 0JQ.**

There is no set/fixed price, just a donation of whatever you consider a fair amount (please be as generous as possible!) to either St Catherine's Church, Sacombe or Hertfordshire Community Foundation. 100% OF YOUR DONATION GOES TO CHARITY! Payment by cash, cheque or card on the day.

Hertfordshire Community Foundation: Tel: 01707 251351

[www.hertcf.org.uk](http://www.hertcf.org.uk) Charity No: 1156082

St Catherine's Church, Sacombe SG12 0JJ Tel: 07980 520771

[www.ubsms.org.uk>churches>st-catherines-sacombe](http://www.ubsms.org.uk>churches>st-catherines-sacombe)

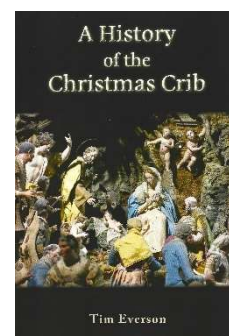


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## A History of the Christmas Crib by Tim Everson

800 Years after St Francis of Assisi conducted his nativity service at Greccio, often cited as the first crib service, here is the history of how cribs developed from the original gospel narratives through to the present day. Thoroughly researched with 130 colour illustrations.

Distributed by York Publishing Services and available from their website as well as Ebay and all good bookshops. ISBN 978-1-7390846-0-8. £14.99 softback. An ideal Christmas present.

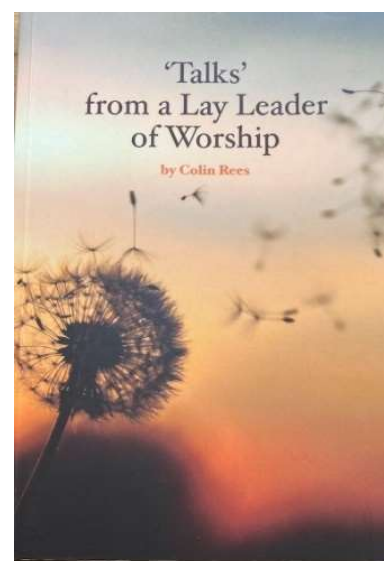


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## 'TALKS' FROM A LAY LEADER OF WORSHIP

Colin Rees, a Lay Leader of Worship with the Hartford Hundred Group of churches (serving the parishes of Essendon, Little Berkhamsted, Bayford, Brickendon and Ponsbourne) has published a book with the above title. He is aiming to sell 500 copies and needs your help. All proceeds are going to church and other charities.

To purchase a copy, go to <https://bit.ly/layleadertalks>



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## YOUNG PEOPLE AT ST ANDREW'S



### **St Andrew's Youth Group for secondary-age children.**

In secondary school? Like playing daft games? Having a laugh? Eating?

Not afraid to think deeply for a few minutes at a time?

Curious about God, the Universe and everything in-between?

### **Brilliant, because so are we!**

We meet usually on the first and third Sundays of the month from 4.30-6pm (*dates, times and venues may vary - please check the calendar on the church website or email John – see below*).

If you're not already receiving updates about TMM, please get in touch with John so he can keep you informed about what's happening week by week: [johnwache@yahoo.com](mailto:johnwache@yahoo.com)



**More info  
here**

## **Shake After-School Club**



### **Tuesdays in term-time**

**4pm- 5.30pm at St Andrew's Church**

Your time - Your space.

Hang out with friends and meet new people. Snacks, games, quizzes and crafts. Or just somewhere to hang out on your way home from a hard day at school.

For details, please contact Bryan Fries: [bfries@ylinterational.org](mailto:bfries@ylinterational.org)

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Find out more online:  
[www.hertfordstandrews.co.uk/standrewscentre](http://www.hertfordstandrews.co.uk/standrewscentre)

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# CHRISTIAN OUTREACH IN HERTFORD



**Bryan Fries leads Young Life in Hertford. He gives an insight into the work Young Life are doing in the town.**

We continue to meet on Monday evenings at Hertford Baptist Church for our weekly youth club. We continue to have fun with those who come along each week and look forward to welcoming new members.

Shake after-school club on Tuesdays at St. Andrew's Church has seen new young people begin to come around this term which has been exciting. We have been going through the basics of Christianity with them, discussing who Jesus is and what he means for our lives. They are a lively bunch who enjoy the games and socialising, but also seem engaged during the Bible study portion of the afternoon.

I have had increased opportunities to help out at Richard Hale School, including coaching basketball for year 7s, in addition to continuing to run a lunchtime games club. I am grateful for these times of getting to be in the school and the bridges being built with young people, as well as staff.

We have continued our free hot chocolate outreach on Wednesday mornings, usually handing out approximately 40-50 cups as the students are walking to school. This has been a great way for us to say hello, express care, and bless them at the start of their day.

We are still in need of a few more volunteers to work directly with the young people. I am consistently blown away at how many vulnerable young people there are in our town! Thank you all for your prayers and support as we endeavour to serve God and serve these kids. You can contact Bryan Fries at: [bfries@ylinterational.org](mailto:bfries@ylinterational.org)

## HERTFORD WELLBEING CHURCH



**is a ministry group that seeks to provide a community for young people in Hertfordshire, helping to disciple them, as well as shining a light on those who do not yet know Christ.** Activities include:

**Football:** we run teams in two age groups, U18s and 18+, playing 5-a-side at Hartham Common and are delighted to report that both teams are currently doing well in the league. Despite the challenging weather conditions that often keep players indoors at this time of year, our overall attendance remains steady.

**Sunday Lunches:** we hold lunches each month, looking at the second of our Five Ways to be a Follower of Jesus for Busy People, and Faiyaz reports: We had a number of people join in for the meal and had a discussion about the Bible as a whole. There was a lot of fruitful discussion between everyone and a lot of engagement especially from someone who isn't a Christian and struggles with focusing on topics such as faith. We end the time together with an Emmaus Meal, our brief introduction to the Eucharist or Lord's Supper.

**Video Gaming:** Gaming nights are held on Friday evenings at Hertford Town Church for over 18s. The team try and introduce new games and ideas. People come and go, but there is a steady core group.

**Bible Studies:** Our Bible studies this month have been particularly engaging. Our results have been a mixed bag so far. Of particular interest is our recent exploration of a more visual and practical approach to Bible study.

[www.hertford.wellbeing.church](http://www.hertford.wellbeing.church)

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# CHARITY APPEALS



This coming December why not turn advent on its head and donate to the Hertford & District Foodbank with a Reverse Advent Calendar.

Each day during the first two weeks of December simply add one item to a box and then deliver the hamper to

the Foodbank so they can be distributed to those in need in time for Christmas.

Depot Opening Hours: Hertford United Reformed Church – Mon/Wed/Fri 10-11am

The Foodbank at the Priory, Ware – Tues/Thurs 10.30-11.30am

## REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

1. Tinned Meat	2. Christmas Chocolates	3. Tinned Potatoes	4. Tinned Vegetables	5. Tinned Custard
6. Tinned Fish	7. Tinned Soup	8. Long Life Fruit Juice	9. Christmas Biscuits	10. Baked Beans
11. Pasta Sauces	12. Jam or Honey	13. Rice or Pasta	14. Toiletries	

Turn advent on its head and donate to the Hertford & District Foodbank with a Reverse Advent Calendar.

Each day during the first two weeks of December simply add one item to a box and then deliver the hamper to the Foodbank so they can be distributed to those in need in time for Christmas. Thank you!



Drop your gifts donations here:

Hertford United Reformed Church  
Mon/Wed/Fri 10-11am

The Foodbank at the Priory, Ware  
Tues/Thurs 10.30-11.30am



Registered charity number 1157028



## Welcoming and supporting refugees in Hertfordshire

Herts Welcomes Refugees has considerable need for support for families and individuals in hotels in the Broxbourne area. County-wide they are trying to support in excess of 1,000 people, including many children. There is a need for children's activities, English tuition, help sorting clothing and many other possibilities.

Anyone interested can contact [ruhena.akhtar@hwsf.org.uk](mailto:ruhena.akhtar@hwsf.org.uk). It need not be a big commitment, but any support would be gratefully received and would be very rewarding for volunteers.  
[www.hwsf.org.uk](http://www.hwsf.org.uk)



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# FOLK AT ST ANDREW'S

## The Boys are Back in Town

*Forbes Mutch reviews veritable folk-rock (but mostly folk) band Fairport Convention's concert at St Andrew's in November*

'Hello,' says lead vocalist and guitarist Simon Nicol after the band have played their opening number, 'It's good to be back in Hertford.' Unlike many tour-dazed lead singers who forget where they are, those who say 'hello Birmingham' when they are playing in Manchester, there is a warmth and genuine recognition in Nicol's greeting, even though it's gig number 24 of a 25-date national tour.



*Fairport's line-up has changed many times over the years but is effective as an acoustic quartet.*

And why shouldn't there be a fondness for Hertford and the people of St Andrew's?

Fairport played the altar stage at St Andrew's in May last year, and Nicol and bassist Dave Pegg were so impressed by the acoustics in the church and the warm hospitality that they promised to come back. True to their word, when their agent was fixing spots for the group's 2023 autumn tour, St Andrew's received a call with a request to return. A slot was booked in what is now easily Hertford's

Number One folk music venue. Because of the acoustics, the band turns up this evening with recording equipment to capture this live event.

So, here they are, mingling with the audience as the sell-out congregation takes its place in the pews before the show; joking and joshing with familiar fans and strangers alike. That's one of the joys that the band bring to any gig – the audience is made to feel part of an intimate party being played out in someone's sitting room. The boys (let's call them that, Nicol, Peggy, fiddle player Ric Sanders and multi-instrumentalist Chris Leslie, with drummer Gerry Conway having stepped down last year) give the impression that they enjoy playing together like a bunch of mates, here for the fun of the music and banter as much as for our entertainment.

You get the feeling that they would be happy to set up and play for half-a-dozen customers beside Darren and Steve's fish stall in Hertford's market square on a Saturday morning. Despite their folk celebrity credentials, this lot assume no self-importance; they just play with musical professionalism for the joy of anyone who's listening.

As my friend Steve, who has travelled up from South London with his wife for the gig, says: *there is a comfortable chemistry and generous trust in the way this band play together.*

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# FOLK AT ST ANDREW'S

As they often remark between songs, they have been playing live for nigh-on 60 years. Nicol co-founded Fairport in 1967, Pegg joined two years later and Leslie and Sanders have notched up 26 and 29 years respectively. Sanders is honest enough to admit that he is 'approaching 70 from the wrong direction'.

After a meal for the musicians and their partners in the vestry – with Sanders drooling over Shirley Taylor's vegan chocolate brownies – the set begins with their customary opener *Walk Awhile*, from the album *Full House*, which Nicol says they released 'only 53 years ago'.

This is followed by the well-known *Doctor of Physick*, which is made to sound better played acoustically than the electric original.

There are several references to the history of the band during the evening, with acknowledgements to previous colleagues, such as fiddler 'David Cyril Eric Swarbrick', Fairport co-founder 'Lord Richard Thompson OBE' and sadly deceased singer Sandy Denny, who Nicol says is 'too good to leave behind'. The band play Denny's *Who Knows Where the Time Goes* as a tribute to one of the finest English folk vocalists of the last century.

Despite the depth and variety of Fairport's substantial back catalogue, as those who attended the band's previous concert in St Andrew's will know, the band – even this acoustic quartet – is not afraid to play new material. Some of the standout hits of this evening are

numbers such as *Moses Waits*, a song set in Kenya, which allows Leslie to demonstrate his musical virtuosity by playing an East African kalimba or mbira, a traditional finger-plucking musical instrument in Malawi and Zimbabwe, and *Steampunkery*, both taken from Fairport's last album, *Shuffle and Go*.



Even folk superstars such as Sanders and Leslie have to queue for the facilities!

The run-in to the climax of the gig includes *John Gaudie / Shetland Tunes*, a traditional tune from the north, which allows Leslie and Sanders to pick up – you could say duel – with their fiddles and bows. The audience clap along. The final number is an extended version of Fairport favourite *Matty Groves*, before the anticipated encore, which has to be *Meet on the Ledge*, the traditional Fairport farewell song. No Fairport concert would be complete without it.

Simon, Peggy, Ric and Chris stand and take a bow before leaving the stage and mixing again with the people as the audience disperses. Thank you, boys. There's a rumour that they will be back in 2025. Let's hope so.

# BACK ON TRACK

LOOKING BACK ON A SUCCESSFUL RAILWAY DAY ON SATURDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER

After two and a half hours of the hard work of delivery and setting up, the doors of the church were flung open to welcome visitors. The initial trickle of people turned into a steady flow that went on all day, right up to closing time welcoming an estimated 800 model railway enthusiasts and interested observers of all ages. The atmosphere turned into one of great interest for the adults and delight for the children as they were mesmerised by all the trains.



So what did this year's Railway Day have to entertain people? Perhaps the stand-out operating system was the large one occupying the sanctuary, a 16mm scale circuit on which attractive narrow-gauge trains of central European appearance ran between buildings of matching character. This attractive system, powered by both battery and steam, was put on by David Cramphorn and friends from the Hoddesdon Model & Boat Club, who also had more models on display on adjacent tables. At the other end of the scale (and the church) were two N gauge layouts, with British trains running circuits through typical British country scenes, operated by Gillian and Reg Harman and by James Toyn respectively.

Close by was the Perfection and Beaver Bend, a compact layout showing an American narrow gauge line in a 1950s USA country setting superbly modelled by



Malcolm Brown. Over on the north side pews Guy Brigden and David Marshall ran a vintage 1960s/1970s Tri-ang/Hornby layout featuring brightly coloured trains made for British Commonwealth countries. There was also, laid out on the floor, a G scale narrow gauge line lent by Geoff Oates.

More vintage trains featured among the static displays along the central aisle, in terms of a group of six pre- and post-War



Hornby O gauge trains shown by Stephen Healing, all 1950s M type. These were neatly presented on a tiered display stand specially built by Stephen. Further along were two much larger items. One was a magnificent wooden fretwork model of an engine and tender built using fretwork

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# BACK ON TRACK

LOOKING BACK ON A SUCCESSFUL RAILWAY DAY ON SATURDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER around 1912-13 by Nick Cheall's grandfather, beautifully restored by Nick during lockdown. The other was a 3½" gauge working steam model locomotive built in his home workshop by Brian Dilley. Brian also lent some traditional freight train lamps for show.

Thomas from Sodor and his friends also turned up in the children's corner, where they could be driven by the children themselves. Some six-year-old drivers



demonstrated Thomas' over-enthusiasm for speed! But they loved it. The children's corner was jam packed with families making and colouring models of Thomas as well as playing with any other trains we might have.

The northeast corner of the church was occupied by stands for two voluntary member bodies. The East Herts Miniature Railway is well known in the area, running a substantial 7¼" gauge line at Van Hages Garden Centre and looking for volunteers if you fancy it. The Battle of Britain Locomotive Society have restored 1940s main line steam engine '92 Squadron' and now support its maintenance and operation on charter trains.

Under the tower local model dealers Joe and Pauline Lock ran a trade stall selling pre-loved model trains and vehicles; this did good business throughout the day. Another stand sold the lovely 'Saddletank Engines' books by local artist and author

Being Armistice Day, it was important to remember ultimate sacrifices in wars fought long ago as well as current conflicts. At 11 o'clock a request for silence was made from the pulpit, all operating models were stopped, with the traditional two minutes' silence observed throughout the church. Then the sounds of lively activity filled the building again!



The day proved to be very cheerful and lively, with a lovely atmosphere throughout. And numbers were amazing. With over 800 people coming to visit, and many taking advantage of the refreshments and light lunches provided in the St Andrew's Centre by the busy catering team, St Andrew's reputation for cakes of excellence was spread far and wide by those tweeting "Come to the Railway Day, the cakes are amazing". Congratulations are due to all those who were involved in any way and to the communications team for their excellent publicity work. Clearly there remains an appetite for railway-related events in and around Hertford and St Andrew's cakes!

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# O STILL SMALL VOICE OF CALM

A POINT OF VIEW FROM ANDREW RIXON

On the 10th Sunday after Trinity, 13th August, the reading was from the First Book of Kings, chapter 19. It was Elijah standing on the mountain and God was going to pass by, but God was not in the earthquake, nor in the wind, nor in the fire, but after the fire was *a sound of sheer silence*, as the reading said. "What is this?", I thought, "What about the still, small voice?" Where I was that Sunday we actually sang Dear Lord and Father of Mankind: *speak through the earthquake, wind and fire, O still small voice of calm.*

All those years ago I graduated in Hebrew and Arabic, although I am now extraordinarily rusty, so when I got home I thought I had better check it up. Only a few years ago I bought the latest dictionary of Classical Hebrew created by the University of Sheffield using the latest scholarship, so I got out my Hebrew Bible and looked it up. It translates as *a sound of a faint whisper*. The dictionary even includes this very passage, translating it *a sound, a thin whisper*. For the word translated as whisper the dictionary suggests *whisper, sighing, (low) rumbling*. The word I translated as faint is the very word that is used to describe the thin cattle in Pharaoh's dream, interpreted by Joseph as famine. The word for *sound* is the normal word for a voice, and as well as the human voice it is used for other things as if they are speaking, such as the twitter of birds, the lowing of cattle, the rustle of leaves and the grinding of millstones, but not of other sounds. So the King James version is more accurate.

It is things like this that make me doubt the modern translations. They may sound nice but are they accurate? I wonder if today's scholars think they are much more knowledgeable than people thousands of years ago. Incidentally, in Elijah's time the ability to read and write would have been the norm among adults in the Holy Land, unlike the heyday of Greece and Rome. Classical Hebrew is actually a very simple language and well

worth learning. You won't find complicated names in the New Testament but you will find long, complicated sentences that are difficult to understand in the letters of St. Paul. In the Old Testament the syntax is clear and simple. The grammar is simple, and the verbs have few irregularities and nothing like the complexity you find in French, Italian and Spanish, let alone Latin or Greek.

An example of mistranslations in modern versions is Genesis chapter 11, verse 2. The New Revised Standard version translates it accurately *and as they migrated from the east* but also suggests the alternative *eastward* that so many other translations use. The Hebrew is perfectly clear, *from the east*. We know that Semitic speakers came into Mesopotamia (Iraq) from the west, but John Sassoon's book *From Sumer to Jerusalem* suggests that Abraham's ancestors were much earlier than that and came in from the north-east. This explains the flood. We read that Noah landed on Mount Ararat, but the Hebrew could read *a mountain of Ararat*. We now know that Ararat is the Hebrew form of Urartu, a kingdom mentioned in the Assyrian records, and that it was located in modern Armenia. We also know that many thousands of years ago an earthquake near modern Istanbul broke open the then Bosphorus land bridge and the Mediterranean flooded into the Black Sea, which was then an inland sea like the Caspian Sea and three hundred feet lower than the Mediterranean. This fits the description of the flood in the Bible very well and to people living there it must have seemed as if the whole earth was flooded. David Rohl's book *Legend, the Genesis of Civilization* follows on from John Sassoon's ideas and comes to this conclusion.

I thought I might mention Hebrew poetry, which is quite different from

Know the Story; Share the Story; Live the Story

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classical poetry, English poetry or indeed Arabic poetry. It is not helped by the fact that the verses of the Bible are not poetic verses but Hebrew sentences. This explains why the rendering of the Psalms for worship sometimes has such a long passage chanted on one note. In general each poetic verse consists of two half lines, each half line has three elements and the second half line parallels the first. Hebrew verbs contain the pronoun, just like Latin and Greek, and indeed Italian and Russian, so what would be several words in English is one word in Hebrew. You can see this in the Magnificat:

My-soul doth-magnify the-Lord

And-my-spirit hath-rejoiced in-  
God-my-Saviour

My-spirit parallels my-soul, hath-rejoiced parallels doth-magnify and in-God-my-Saviour parallels the-Lord. This is very clear a bit later:

He-hath-put-down the-mighty  
from-their-seat

And-hath-exalted the-humble  
and-meek.

He hath-filled the-hungry with-  
good-things

And the rich He-hath-sent-  
away empty.

Note how the humble are matched with the mighty and exalting is matched with putting down. Likewise sending away with filling, the rich with the hungry, and empty with good things. The second half-line tends to restate the first in a different way or to give a contrast. In reality the structure can sometimes be more complicated, and sometimes with three half lines, but you can see this general form in the Psalms, in Job, in



Isaiah and in the other poetic books, and today's versions do lay the poetry out properly. Incidentally a couple of years ago I lent someone my commentary of the Book of Job, a dark green hardback published years ago by T.&T. Clark but in excellent condition. I doubt if my name is in it, but it is now expensive and difficult to get hold of, and I cannot remember who I lent it to and they have probably forgotten it.

In the nineteenth century archaeologists uncovered the riches of ancient Mesopotamia and the Assyrian and Babylonian languages were deciphered. They found huge quantities of poetry structured in exactly the same way, so this form of poetry was the norm throughout the ancient Middle East. In the 1920s the ancient city of Ugarit was discovered in Syria near the coast, with vast quantities of tablets in what can only be called Old Canaanite, very similar to Hebrew but hundreds of years before David or Solomon. They included a lot of poetry structured in exactly the same way in the form of their mythological stories, which included material related to obscure references in the Bible such as Leviathan. These stories are told in Middle Eastern Mythology by S.H.Hooke, a Pelican book long out of print but very cheap on-line.

Andrew Rixon

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# Services at St Andrew's

## January 2024



To attend a Zoom service please email the Parish Office at:- [standrew.hertford@btinternet.com](mailto:standrew.hertford@btinternet.com)

	Date	Time	Service	Celebrant	Preacher
Monday	1	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (Common Worship)		
Wednesday	3	10.30 am	Holy Communion (Traditional)	Rev Alan Stewart	
Thursday	4	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (BCP)		
		10.30 am	Holy Communion Calton Court	Rev Alan Stewart	
<b>SUNDAY</b>	7	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Rev Alan Stewart	
<i>Epiphany</i>		10.30 am	<b>Parish Communion *</b>	Rev Alan Stewart	Geoff Oates
		10.30 am	Morning Service <b>on Zoom</b>	Kath Oates	Geoff Oates
		7.00 pm	Compline <b>on Zoom</b>	Rev Alan Stewart	
Monday	8	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (Common Worship)		
Wednesday	10	10.30 am	Holy Communion (Traditional)	Rev Alan Stewart	
Thursday	11	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (BCP)		
<b>SUNDAY</b>	14	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Rev Alan Stewart	
<i>Epiphany 2</i>		10.30 am	<b>All Age Service</b>	Rev Alan Stewart	
		10.30 am	Eucharist Service <b>on Zoom</b>	Rev Bill Church	
		7.00 pm	Soul Food		
Monday	15	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (Common Worship)		
Wednesday	17	10.30 am	Holy Communion (Traditional)	Rev Alan Stewart	
Thursday	18	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (BCP)		
		10.30 am	Holy Communion Calton Court	Rev Alan Stewart	
<b>SUNDAY</b>	21	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Rev Alan Stewart	
<i>Epiphany 3</i>		10.30 am	<b>Parish Communion *</b>	Rev Alan Stewart	Melanie Seward
		10.30 am	Morning Service <b>on Zoom</b>	Kath Oates	Melanie Seward
		7.00 pm	Compline <b>on Zoom</b>	Rev Alan Stewart	
Monday	22	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (Common Worship)		
Wednesday	24	10.30 am	Holy Communion (Traditional)	Rev Alan Stewart	
Thursday	25	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (BCP)		
<b>SUNDAY</b>	28	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Rev Alan Stewart	
<i>Epiphany 4</i>		10.30 am	<b>Parish Communion *</b>	Rev Alan Stewart	
		10.30 am	Morning Service <b>on Zoom</b>	Melanie Seward	Rev Alan Stewart
		3.00 pm	Forest Church at St Jo in the Park		
		6.30 pm	Evensong St Marys Hertingfordbury	Keith Neat	
		7.00 pm	Compline <b>on Zoom</b>	Rev Alan Stewart	
Monday	29	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (Common Worship)		
Wednesday	31	10.30 am	Holy Communion (Traditional)	Rev Alan Stewart	

\* Junior Church runs during the services marked \*



# Services at St Andrew's

## December 2023



To attend a Zoom service please email the Parish Office at:- [standrew.hertford@btinternet.com](mailto:standrew.hertford@btinternet.com)

	Date	Time	Service	Celebrant	Preacher
<b>SUNDAY</b>	3	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Rev Alan Stewart	
<i>Advent</i>		10.30 am	<b>Parish Communion</b> with Junior Church	Rev Alan Stewart	
<i>Sunday</i>		10.30 am	Morning Service <b>on Zoom</b>	Kath Oates	Rev Alan Stewart
		6.30 am	Advent Service - Carols and Readings	Rev Alan Stewart	
Monday	4	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (Common Worship)		
Wednesday	6	10.30 am	Holy Communion (Traditional)	Rev Bill Church	
Thursday	7	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (BCP)		
<b>SUNDAY</b>	10	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Rev Bill Church	
<i>Advent 2</i>		10.30 am	<b>All Age Service</b>	Rev Alan Stewart	
		12 noon	Baptism Service		
		10.30 am	Eucharist Service <b>on Zoom</b>	Rev Bill Church	
		7.00 pm	Soul Food	Katie Seaton	
Monday	11	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (Common Worship)		
Wednesday	13	10.30 am	Holy Communion (Traditional)	Rev Alan Stewart	
Thursday	14	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (BCP)		
		10.30 am	Holy Communion Calton Court	Rev Bill Church	
<b>SUNDAY</b>	17	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Rev Bill Church	
<i>Advent 3</i>		10.30 am	<b>Parish Communion</b> with Junior Church	Rev Alan Stewart	Forbes Mutch
		10.30 am	Lessons and Carols <b>on Zoom</b>	The Zoom Team	
		3.00 pm	Forest Church at St Jo in the Park		
			<b>No Compline</b>		
Monday	18	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (Common Worship)		
Wednesday	20	10.30 am	Holy Communion (Traditional)	Rev Bill Church	
		7.30 pm	<b>Seven Lessons &amp; Carols Service</b>	Rev Alan Stewart	
Thursday	21	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (BCP)		
<b>SUNDAY</b>	24	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Rev Bill Church	
<i>Christmas Eve</i>			<b>No Service at 10.30 today</b>		
		10.30 am	Morning Service <b>on Zoom</b>	The Zoom Team	
		11.00 am	Crib & Christingle Service 1		
		4.00 pm	Crib & Christingle Service 2		
		11.15 pm	Midnight Communion	Rev Alan Stewart	
Monday	25	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Rev Bill Church	
<i>Christmas Day</i>		10.30 am	<b>All Age Service</b> (with choir and organ)	Rev Alan Stewart	
Wednesday	27	10.30 am	Holy Communion (Traditional)	Rev Bill Church	
Thursday	28	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (BCP)		
<b>SUNDAY</b>	31	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Rev Bill Church	
<i>Christmas 1</i>		10.30 am	<b>Parish Communion</b>	Rev Bill Church	
			<b>No Service on Zoom or Compline today</b>		