

The parish magazine of
Hertford St Andrew

www.hertfordstandrews.co.uk

APRIL 2024



FOR THE BEAUTY OF THE EARTH
In this edition: Why trees are tremendous
Prayer for the earth at 12noon every day in Salisbury Square

Here with you Here for you

HERTFORD ST ANDREW

Registered charity 1132540

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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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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.

NOTHING IS WASTED

'Everything happens for a reason.'



That's something I hear a lot these days, from all kinds of people.

Behind this popular philosophy seems to be a belief in a Higher Power of some kind;

the universe, Karma, God... It is, I think, an attempt to make sense of the senseless and random things that sometimes happen in life.

But sometimes life is just random and senseless.

As a Christian, I really don't subscribe to the belief that everything happens for a reason. I prefer to believe that 'nothing is wasted'.

You see, I don't believe in a God who orchestrates our lives like pieces on a cosmic chess board. I do believe in a God who works with and in every circumstance of our lives; a God who redeems and recreates with whatever cards we are dealt. I do believe in a God who can take the senseless and random things that happen to us and through them, deepen us; deepen our wisdom, our empathy, our compassion, our creativity. In God's economy, nothing is wasted, because with His help, everything we experience can become part of the bigger picture of becoming a deeper, more humane human.

Alan

PLEASE BE AWARE that there will be no 10.30am service in-church or on Zoom on **SUNDAY 14TH APRIL** because of the Parish Away Day

WELCOME!

I am pleased to welcome everyone to St Andrew's, but in particular visitors and newcomers. Details of services are given in the following pages and the back of the magazine. If you wish to know more about anything mentioned, please get in touch with the contact person named in the article 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.

OUR ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING

SUNDAY 28TH APRIL

This is for everyone who worships at St Andrew's – the one time in the year when we are all called to gather together to elect our Churchwardens and appoint new members of the PCC, to talk about the year that has passed and, most importantly, plans for the year to come.

The meeting will take place in Church after the 10.30am service.

Please take the time to attend. If you may be interested in joining the PCC or becoming a representative on the Deanery Synod, please speak to Carol Muhr, Alan Stewart or one of the churchwardens (contact details on the preceding page).

THE CLOSING DATE FOR THE MAY MAGAZINE IS **SUNDAY 21ST APRIL**. Please send copy by e-mail to hertfordsta@aol.co.uk or post to Richard Taylor at 22 Highfield Road, Hertford SG13 8BH (Tel. 01992 302995).

SERVICES AND OTHER EVENTS

Church Services

You will find a full list of church services on the final page 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.

SUNDAY 14TH APRIL

There will not be a 10.30am in-church or Zoom service on this day because of the Away Day

St Andrew's services on Zoom

(Zoom codes are available from the church office: standrew.hertford@btinternet.com or call 01992 504373)

Join us on Zoom for:

Service of the Word

every Sunday at 10.30am (except on Sunday 14th April) with praise, prayer and teaching. There is a communion service once a month. Please check the services on the last page of this magazine and the website for dates.

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.

On Zoom on Sundays at 7pm except the second Sunday of the month.



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

Meditation & Mindfulness

at 7.30pm

on Wednesdays 10th, 17th & 24th April

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 on Wednesday 10th April (and also available on Zoom).

Other weeks on Zoom only.

CONTEMPORARY EVENING SERVICE

7pm

on Sunday 21st April
in the St Andrew's Centre

soul food

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

Know the Story; Share the Story; Live the Story

SERVICES AND OTHER EVENTS



OUR MONTHLY PRAYER MEETING TAKES A BREAK IN APRIL. The next meeting will be on Saturday 4th May at 8.30am in church and on Zoom

Ascension Day service
Thursday 9th May at 8pm
at St Andrew's

Jesus said, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.' John 20:17.

FREE Mindfulness

AT SELE COMMUNITY HUB

10.30AM
ON
MONDAYS
8TH & 22ND
APRIL

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

Prayer

CHANGES THINGS

WEEKLY PRAYER MEETING

PRAYING FOR

Our Youth, Our Schools
Our Community - Hertford and Ware

WHEN

12:30-1pm
every Tuesday
(Term time only)

WHERE

Pioneer Hall,
Ware Road,
Hertford

For more information please contact Helen
h.houghton@ylinternational.org

YL younglife.



PRAYER FOR THE EARTH

Every day in Salisbury Square
at 12.00 noon

**ANOTHER
WORLD
IS
POSSIBLE**



Know the Story; Share the Story; Live the Story

CHURCH MATTERS

ST ANDREW'S ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING

SUNDAY 28th APRIL

AFTER THE 10.30AM SERVICE

WHAT'S THE ANNUAL MEETING ALL ABOUT?

First there is a preliminary meeting to elect churchwardens. At the Parish Meeting which follows, you will hear about the work of the parochial church council (PCC) and the deanery synod, the parish's finances, the fabric of the church building and very many other aspects of what is happening in and through the church. The meeting will elect people to serve on the PCC. Everyone whose name is on the parish's electoral roll is entitled to attend, speak and vote. If you want to be added to the electoral roll please contact Phil in the church office.

HAVE YOU CONSIDERED BECOMING A MEMBER OF THE PCC?

There will be vacancies for PCC membership. The PCC meets six times a year, that is every other month, usually on the second Monday of the month, in the evening. The PCC has an important role to play within St Andrew's. A wide range of matters are considered and discussed on all aspects of our church life. Nomination forms will be available at the back of the church. If you would like to discuss this opportunity, please contact Alan or one of the Churchwardens (their contact details are in the directory on the inside of the cover page where you will also find a list of the current PCC members). There is more information about qualification for membership of the PCC on the church website: www.hertfordstandrews.co.uk/pcc

SPRINGTIME TIDY & CLEAN



Saturday 11th May 10am – 2pm

It is easy to take for granted the “behind the scenes” work which goes on all year round in keeping the church and the churchyard looking clean and tidy. So here's a BIG THANK YOU to the likes of Julie, Debbie, Sue and Maria for all they do. But there are some jobs where some extra help is needed. This will also be an opportunity to do some Spring cleaning in the church, and jobs around the churchyard and we need your help!

Please come along on Saturday 11th May whether it be for an hour or whatever time you can spare between 10am and 2pm. Refreshments will be provided throughout the session.

Please let Shirley Taylor know if you can help by calling her on 01992 302995 (leave a message if there is no answer) or emailing her at shirleytaylor06@gmail.com Or just turn up on the day and you will be very welcome.

Know the Story; Share the Story; Live the Story

EVENTS

April's Coffee Morning

Saturday 6th April, 10.30am - 12.30pm

The men of St Andrew's are running things this month, so as well as the scrumptious cakes and bakes we're known for, courtesy of our brilliant Bakers Galore team, there will be sausage and bacon butties to savour and a beer tombola at which you can try your luck, with some non-alcoholic alternatives for anyone who is under 18.

Our nominated local charity this month is **FUTUREhope** Hertford and Ware a charity working with young people aged 11-19 in the local area. Their primary goal is to empower young people to have **hope** for their **future** and reach their full potential. *(Proceeds will be split equally between FUTUREhope and St Andrew's Church.)*

Owen, Youth Development Worker at FUTUREhope, tells us about some of the work of the charity. "Our outreach is progressing in a number of different areas. The 'Bus', which operates as a mobile youth centre, continues to go out and park up at either Hartham Common in Hertford or near to the Lido in Ware on Friday nights. This enables young people from the towns to have a safe, warm place where they can get hot chocolate, play games or find someone to chat to about how their week has been.

Our one-to-one mentoring is going well, with more referrals coming to us all the time, from schools and the local authority as well as self-referrals where the young person or a parent has heard of the service. We currently have 15 young people on our books, and a short waiting list for boys. To this end, we would be happy to hear from anyone in the Churches – especially men – who might be able to devote an hour a week to meeting a young person.



Since its launch last September, the Drop In Café at Pioneer Hall in Ware Road, Hertford has established itself as a great venue for young people to come after school. It runs every Wednesday from 3.30-5.30pm and attracts between 20 and 30 young people each week. We divide the hall into a number of areas where they can engage in different activities including board games, table tennis, pool and a chill-out zone. They can also get complimentary milkshakes and snacks and engage with our team of amazing volunteers, including two wonderful students from All Nations.

We are looking to increase the number of Schools Sessions we do and hopefully to get into more of the local schools. We have run very successful Drug and Alcohol Education sessions as part of the PSHE curriculum and we are expanding this material with a new presentation about Vaping.

CONTINUED OVERLEAF

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EVENTS

FUTUREhope Hertford and Ware CONTINUED

We have recently appointed a new Trustee and a new Treasurer but we are still keen to get the word out to all the local churches that we would love to hear from anyone who might be able to spare us a small amount of time as a volunteer. This can be as a Mentor or as part of the teams for the Bus on a Friday evening or the Drop In on a Wednesday afternoon.

We are also looking for someone who would be willing to get involved as a deputy for Safeguarding enquiries. This shouldn't involve too much time but it is necessary as a back-up if the main contact is not available for any reason. Full training and support will be provided for all of these roles. You can contact Owen on 01992 534915 or info@fhhw.org.uk

HERTFORD YOUNG LIFE INTERNATIONAL PRESENTS

QUIZ NIGHT



18 MAY 2024 | 6.30PM - 9.00PM
COWBRIDGE HALL SG14 1PG

Compete for cerebral supremacy as you raise money for a great cause! Teams of up to 8 people. Hog roast (or veggie option) dinner and a bottle of wine for each team will be provided, but please bring any other drinks you would like. As part of the evening, we will be celebrating the work of Young Life International in Hertford, and you'll be invited to consider supporting the ministry in various ways.

Contact Bryan Fries with any questions
✉ bfries@ylinternational.org
☎ 07846 549809
🌐 hertford.ylinternational.org

Only £16!

To register, please visit tinyurl.com/2024HertfordQuiz
OR Scan the QR Code



Hertford and Ware Street Pastors

Quiz Night

on
Friday 26th April
(7 for 7.30pm start)



Sele Farm Community Centre,
Perrett Gdns, Hertford, SG14 2LW.
Tickets - £10 pp (Tables of 8)
Bring your own food, snacks, drinks and glasses

Book your table:
Email - Alison Tyler: alisonjtyler@hotmail.co.uk
Phone - David & Margaret Elder: 01992 302541
Bank transfers preferred



Raffle on the night.

THURSFORD CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR

Thursday 5th December 2024

There are a few tickets remaining. These are Deluxe Seats...the best for seeing this spectacular show. The show starts at 2pm and ends around 5pm.

The price is £94.00 per person which includes Deluxe Show Seats, Coach Transfers and Courier Service.

Contact Barbara Burridge on 01992 581564 or 07749 709905

Type 2 Diabetes Self Help Group

We are a small group of people with type 2 diabetes who meet monthly to share experiences and help each other manage the condition. We meet at 7.15pm for two hours on the last Thursday in each month in the St Andrew's Centre in Hertford. If you are interested in joining us, please call GLYN on 07500 805605

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Contact Emma or Ian

email: sehscds@hotmail.com

phone: 07842034890

MUSICAL EVENTS AT ST ANDREW'S



**St Andrew's
welcomes some of
the country's top,
headline folk
performers**

Spiers & Boden **SORRY: SOLD OUT**

Tuesday 16th April, 7.30pm

Maybe the finest instrumental duo on the traditional scene.



Julie Fowlis in Concert

Thursday 30th May, 7.30pm

Wonderful Scottish singer who plays major concert halls internationally. Known for her work with Spell Songs, Julie will be back by some of her country's finest instrumentalists. Licensed bar available. Tickets £29 plus booking fee – see below.

Gigspanner Big Band

Sunday 3rd November, 7.30pm

We are delighted to welcome back Peter Knight's Gigspanner Big Band. Their memorable visit to St Andrew's in 2023 was a sell out success and we can look forward to again welcoming them to Hertford where they will perform old favourites as well as music from a new album.

Megson

Thursday 14th November, 7.30pm

Megson come to St Andrew's with a strong reputation and loyal following. Debs and Stu Hanna have gained a reputation not only for their arresting and intelligent songwriting, but also for their exquisite musicianship and humour.

For ticket information and full event details, please check our website for updates! www.hertfordstandrews.co.uk



AND AN ALTERNATIVE GENRE OF MUSIC

Classical Guitar Recital: Saturday 13th July at 7.30pm

Giacomo Susani will be performing a selection of his exquisite repertoire at St Andrew's. For more information contact Charles Ledsam (charlesledsam@hotmail.com)

Know the Story; Share the Story; Live the Story

OUR WORLD

Jenny Mutch, Chair of the eco-church committee, on the value of trees to life

Why trees are tremendous

Trees in numbers

There are an estimated 3.04 trillion trees in the world.

- That's around 400 per person.
- There are 73,300 species of tree in the world.
- Around 15 billion trees are cut down every year.
- In the last 10,000 years we have lost nearly one-third of the trees on our planet.



Why are trees important?

Without trees, our planet quite simply wouldn't be a place in which we could live.

We rely on trees to:

- Absorb water and help reduce flooding (they can slow the speed at which water gets to the areas we don't want flooded),
- Produce oxygen for all living creatures,
- Provide shelter, shade and food,
- Give us life-saving medicines,
- Help combat climate change by absorbing excess carbon and removing pollutants from the air,
- Stop soil erosion and landslides due to the strength of their roots,
- Give us materials to build so many things,
- And they are great for our mental health. Who doesn't enjoy the excitement of the first buds in spring and watching the array of autumn colours?

Trees are one of the world's most important ecosystem services. They give us many of the natural services we rely on for our daily living. How amazing is that!

Should we plant trees?

The answer to this is yes!! BUT...

They have to be the right trees. What do we mean by this? Well, for example, most people now regret the planting of subsidy-inspired Sitka spruce plantations in upland Britain that dominate the landscape or ornamental eucalyptus that doesn't stop growing and out-competes native trees or Japanese knotweed that destroys everything in its path. Poor choices of trees and shrubs have happened the world over, with blackberries overtaking parts of the USA and our humble willow hated in parts of Australia. We must be careful of what and where we plant and that means planting the right species and type of trees in the right environment. And they need to be the right size for the location or else we can spend a lot of time pruning or removing them, turning trees from something we love into a curse. Just like people, new trees need a bit of after-care to

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OUR WORLD

Jenny Mutch, Chair of the eco-church committee, on the value of trees to life

get them going, especially if we are trying to grow them in harsh conditions (for trees that is).

Should we cut down trees?

Generally no, *BUT...*

Trees have always been 'managed' because humans have long recognised their value for firewood and as a building material. The traditional way of managing ancient woodland in England, for example, requires the regular cutting (coppicing) of the underwood and the felling from time to time. This allows for regenerative new growth, with a mix of species. Whilst destroying trees is generally not good, managing them in areas where there is a direct interface between where people live and where trees are planted can help us live in harmony and reap their benefits.

The good news

There are many initiatives across the globe that focus on planting more trees. Just do a Google search and you will find many. Here in the UK, there is an upturn in businesses funding nature through a government Nature Markets Framework initiative, which is driving investment for natural land restoration and tree planting in the Southern Weald area, parts of Cumbria and the Peak District. Furthermore, each time a new housing development is built there is not only a requirement to compensate for lost of habitats (which nearly always includes trees) but also the need to demonstrate that there is an increase of at least 10% extra trees.



The future of trees

We can't forget trees in our daily life. They are resilient, living long and productive lives and can recover from incredible trauma. They can give us hope – just think of the Sycamore Gap tree which was cut down but is now showing new life. There is still a lot to do, but attitudes are changing as large corporate organisations are being asked to disclose what they are doing for nature.

Is this too little too late? Only time will tell, but I remain positive. Bill Church and I would say we all have a role to play in looking after and loving our God-given trees; to say thank you for their rich resource and to continue to promote how important they are for our world.

Jenny Mutch, with great insights from Rev Bill Church.

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Think about... Joshua and the battle of Jericho

Read all about it in the book of Joshua


"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."
Joshua 1.9

THE FALL OF JERICO: WORD SEARCH

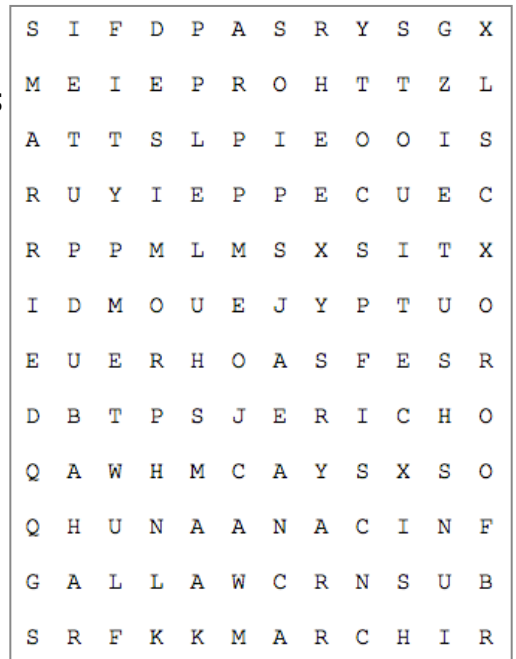
A message in code

God gave a special message to Joshua when he called him to serve Him. Using the code, try to find out what some of that message was (the opened or closed sides of the letters on the grid correspond to the boxes for the code)...

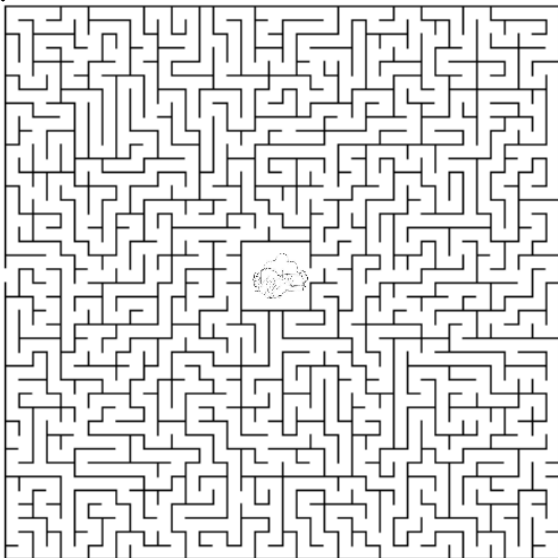
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Also ... F = 

- CAMPED
- ISRAELITES
- MARCH
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- SPIES
- CANAAN
- JERICO
- MARRIED
- RAHAB
- SHOUT
- TRUMPETS
- CITY
- JOSHUA
- PRIESTS
- ROOF
- SIX
- WALL

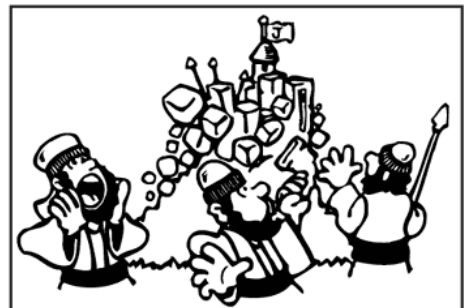


Help Joshua to reach Jericho in this maze

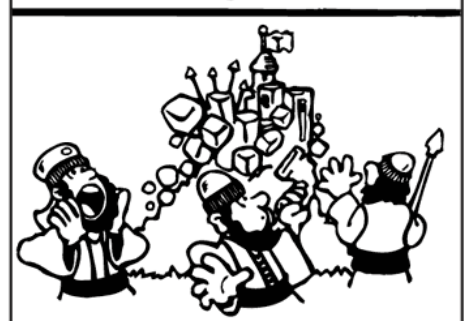


Spot the difference

MARCHING AROUND JERICO



There are 10 differences between the two pictures, can you circle the differences?



CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE



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



CHILDREN AT ST ANDREW'S

Children are equal members of any church congregation. At St Andrew's, we value greatly their contribution to worship and the life of the church community and believe we can learn much from their example.

Children are never too young to come to church. You and your children are very welcome at St Andrew's. We realise that bringing children, especially babies and toddlers, to church can be challenging to say the least, so we have set aside part of the church (the Children's Corner) to the right of the altar which 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, there are activities for children in the St Andrew's Centre. Every Sunday, apart from those in August and during the All-Age Service (usually the second Sunday of the month), the children will begin the service with the congregation and then, after the first hymn, they leave to join Junior Church.

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.

Toastie Tuesday

**After-School Club
St Andrew's Church
3.30-5pm**

Grab a toastie with your favourite fillings and enjoy time with friends, fun games and activities, plus meaningful conversations about life, faith, and more. We meet every Tuesday in term time. All young people in years 7-13 are welcome!

Contact:

Bryan Fries

bfries@YLInternational.org

07846 549809

[YLIHertford](https://www.instagram.com/YLIHertford)

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LATIN LINK & ANGEL TREE CENTRE

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

Julie Noble is part of the Latin Link American mission. Latin Link is an international community with a calling to love and serve God and our neighbour. Most members of Latin Link work in Latin American countries while some work with Latin Americans in other parts of the world. Angel Tree Centre works with prisoners' children and families.



Julie writes, 'My friend's son (who I shall refer to further as B) had just completed his national service and she invited me to the celebrations which turned out to be long and amazing. The first ceremony took place in the Camacho Barracks. The soldiers, already holding their certificates, formed three lines and one by one advanced and swore allegiance to the patria, kissing the corner of the Bolivian flag before marching towards us. The ceremony ended and chaos ensued as families rushed to find their boy. Then red, yellow and green confetti was rubbed on their heads followed by photos, handshakes, tears and gifts. The boys then went off to collect their wooden box trunks and finally marched out of the barracks singing. This was followed by huge lunch.

However, this turned out to be only the warm-up to the celebration of B's *licenciamiento* and homecoming. A few days later I received a further invitation, this time to the official event.

The venue was decorated with huge strings of red, yellow and green balloons. Inside, tables were decorated with army themed, homecoming centre pieces. There were eight cakes decorated in red, yellow and green, with

plastic soldiers, camouflage, the Camacho emblem, hand grenades, dog tags and other army related images. The party, which was a surprise for B who arrived in a black suit but quickly changed into his combat uniform. The family, even the babies and granny were wearing army green t-shirts with the Camacho Artillery Regiment logo. They formed a guard of honour as B marched towards the top table, saluted and handed over his military service record book, announcing proudly that he had returned from serving his country. More guests arrived, greeted him and pinned money to his uniform. More red, yellow and green confetti was rubbed onto heads, followed by music, games and dancing. At 10.30pm the lamb dinner was served and even when I left at midnight, the cakes had still not been cut!'

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PSALMS AND SACRED SONGS

A personal reflection by Forbes Mutch on Rachel Chaplin's 'Music from an Inner Space', performed at St Andrew's Church in March.

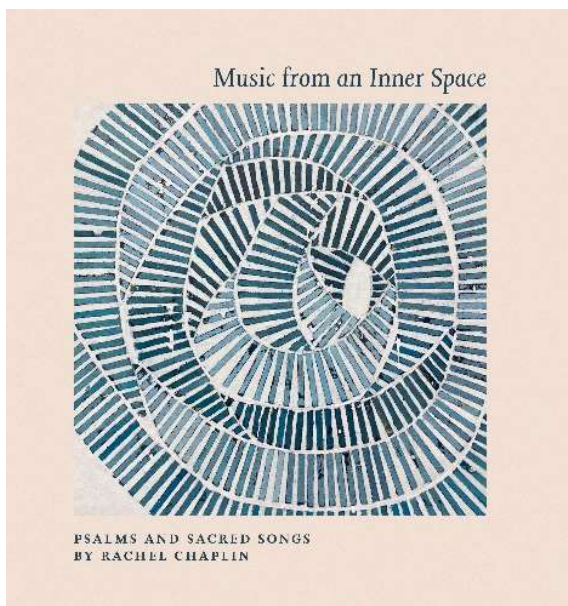
Most music lovers will recall moments in time when they first heard a memorable song or tune or genre that changed their lives. For me it was seeing rock band Pink Floyd for the first time, or my earliest visit to a concert hall to hear a 90-piece orchestra. On both occasions, *A Saucerful of Secrets* and Beethoven's Ninth symphony created a sound so huge and so different from anything I had heard before that I almost felt able to touch it and new doors in my life of musical appreciation were opened.

It's no exaggeration to say that a similar moment occurred for different reasons last month when we heard Rachel Chaplin launch her first album of spiritual songs on the altar stage at St Andrew's. There was no light show or rousing *Ode to Joy*, but it was an evening of such hauntingly lyrical brilliance that it left many of us in the audience mesmerised, spellbound even, by the vividness of a musical tapestry that has put this evening on the top shelf of my musical

memory bank. Move (or roll) over Beethoven.

Rachel is an exceptionally talented professional oboist who performs with top musicians in major venues around the world. And yet she felt that it was right to launch her CD among friends and family at St Andrew's because, she said, 'church is the perfect setting for music like this'.

Music like what? I'm not clever enough to describe it accurately in melodic terms but Rachel's songs, based on Bible stories, psalms and prayers, are like musical poetry set against a background of chamber music, which, as Google will tell you, is 'intimate music, suited to the expression of subtle and refined ideas'. That will do for me.



The scene of excellence at our concert in March was set by a virtuoso performance from award winning violinist and singer Flora Curzon, playing her own song cycle *Hold Still Liminal*, which the talented performer and friend of Rachel released as an EP last year.

Flora then joined Rachel and a small group of musicians for the first live performance of *Music from an Inner Space*. The composition comes in three parts: prayers, stories and songs. Written for piano and strings, each movement was introduced by Rachel with personal stories, which made the performance

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intimate and heartfelt. She played the church's grand piano and was joined on stage by violins, viola, cello and bass, with brief cameos from her husband Sam on trumpet and flugel horn. The vocals were provided by Rachel's friend and musical collaborator, the inspirational Evi Dobner, a singer, songwriter, dancer and sacred artist who was instrumental in the making of the *Inner Space* album.

Playing the album in full, we heard Rachel's adaptations of The Lord's Prayer, Psalm 51, the lament of Mary, Christ's anointing at Bethany and four remarkable songs based on Psalm 23, including a moving finale called *In the Valley*. Each piece was followed by an interlude for piano or strings.

Rachel will be embarrassed when I say this, but it's easy to take musical genius for granted when it belongs to a member of your own church choir. But genius this



was and is, and we were privileged to be part of the first public performance of music that takes Rachel into new artistic and creative territory. I, for one, look forward to her next CD.



With the first signs of spring we are reminded of new beginnings, growth and renewal. For many this is a time of joy. But whilst there is joy and hope in new beginnings we are still living within a community where many are struggling, where choices between food, heat or clothing are being made and parents are having to go hungry in order to feed their children.

Here at the Foodbank, we continue to strive to help all of those in crisis, through the offering of emergency food parcels and essentials to help relieve some of the pressure facing so many individuals.

Our goal is to end food poverty and we continue to work with agencies throughout the district to bring this goal to fruition.

We are humbled by the generosity of our community and so grateful that we are able not only to offer food staples in the forms of tins and packets but we have also been able to use financial donations to purchase fresh veg, fruit, cheese, bread, butter and eggs to go with every food parcel. CONTINUED OVERLEAF

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FOODBANK NEWS CONTINUED

We would like to take a moment to thank everyone who has donated to us – every donation is so appreciated and is used towards helping those in crisis.

We ask that you continue to support us throughout 2024. There are a number of ways you can do this including donating a tin or packet of food at one of our donation points (found in Tesco, Sainsburys and Aldi or ASDA in Ware), putting up our posters/ leaflets showing the items most needed or events which are occurring. Talk to your friends or family about the work we do and encourage others to help where they can. Host a food drive day and collect our most needed items. Please also let people know where to find us if they are struggling.

All support is so appreciated. Thank you.

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. Their activities include:



Bible Study: We've been growing in numbers with a few more regular attendees with one of our largest studies having 15 people.

Games Night: Along with the Bible Study, Games Night has also been growing considerably with a large majority of the newcomers not affiliated to a faith.

Open University Christian Union:

Since joining, a number of volunteers have cropped up within the group and have taken the initiative to leading studies. We now have two online studies on Mondays and Thursdays. We've started monthly volunteers meetings starting in order to get everyone to work together to see how we can keep the OUCU moving forward and thriving.

Emmaus Meal: We had approximately 13 people coming to the Emmaus Meal in March. This will be an end to the 5 part series of the "Ways to Discipleship" and we'll be looking to see what we can do next to benefit our group and help them with their walks with God.

Other activities include the football team and we are now planning a weekend away in early September.

We continue to be a meeting place for young followers of Jesus from a range of churches and denominations where the number of young adults in the age group is small.

MEETING FOOD NEED

and Saving Food Waste

 HERTFORD & DISTRICT FOODBANK Local charity (part of nationwide Trussell Trust) offering a generous supply of healthy food (packaged/fresh) & hygiene products for those in need. Applications via local referral agencies & directly ☎ 07851 708470 (9am-6pm) United Reformed Church, Cowbridge, Hertford SG14 1PG Monday, Wednesday, Friday 10-11 am Garden Rooms, The Priory, Ware, SG12 9AL Tuesday, Thursday 10:30-11:30 am	 JEDIDIAH A charity committed to helping anyone going through a difficult time; providing fresh food & cupboard staples; pet food; body/hygiene products and reducing food waste. Open to all – turn up during opening hours Food@jedidiah.org.uk 138 Fore Street, Hertford SG14 1AJ every weekday 12 noon – 1 pm	 THE HERTFORD PANTRY A local charity providing food from unsold supermarket produce with extra basics for those in need. Open to all – turn up during opening hours ☎ 07826 816974 Sele Community Hub 18, Fleming Cres, Hertford SG14 2DJ Monday 13:00 – 14:00 Wednesday 13.30 – 14.30 Saturday 11.00 – 12.00
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Know the Story; Share the Story; Live the Story

THE BOOK OF JOB

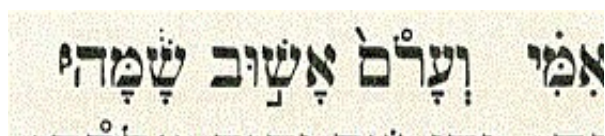
Andrew Rixon gives an insight into different versions of the Bible

In the article I wrote for the December magazine I mentioned that I had lost my commentary to the Book of Job. Someone found it with my name in it and returned it to me. I must have left it at their house by mistake. I was pleased to get it back. We had to study Job for our finals, and it has interesting concepts, particularly regarding the Satan. The word means accuser, particularly prosecuting counsel in a court of law, and his job seems to be testing people to make sure they obey God's commands. The book appears to date to a period before the name was used for the evil one.

I wanted to check up on chapter 1 verse 21, one of the most poorly translated verses in the Bible. It reads thus:

*Naked I came from my mother's womb
And naked I shall return thither;
The Lord gave and the Lord has taken
away,
Blessed be the name of the Lord.*

And in Hebrew:



The alpha and beta on the first line are merely notes confirming the unusual spelling of two words

This is basically how it is translated in both the Authorised version and the New Revised Standard version. The second line today reads better "return there", and the third line could equally read *The Lord gives and the Lord takes away*, as in the New English Bible, depending on whether it is taken as applying to Job himself or just a generic

statement about God due to the way the Hebrew verb works. However, some translators do not like talking about mothers' wombs, and most do not like returning to them. When you translate you should follow the rules of your own language, for example simplifying all the complicated subordinate clauses found in the Greek of St. Paul's letters and choosing the correct English tense for the Hebrew verb, but you should stick to what the original says, as I was taught at school. You should not change it, leave things out or add things in just because of your own preferences.

The New English Bible just says "Naked I came from the womb" with no reference to his mother, and it then says "naked I shall return whence I came" without saying where that is. Virtually all of the translators have a problem with where he will return. The Revised English Bible follows the New English Bible. The English Standard version follows the Revised Standard version in just saying "And naked shall I return". The New International Version says "and naked I shall depart", but returning and departing are quite different things. In John chapter 3 Nicodemus visits Jesus, who tells him that unless he has been born over again he cannot enter the kingdom of heaven. Nicodemus asks, "can a man enter his mother's womb a second time and be born?", and of course he would have been thoroughly familiar with the book of Job.

Classical Hebrew is not a difficult language, it is just its alphabet that makes it off-putting. Some of the dots and dashes denote vowels but many

Know the Story; Share the Story; Live the Story

THE BOOK OF JOB

Andrew Rixon gives an insight into different versions of the Bible

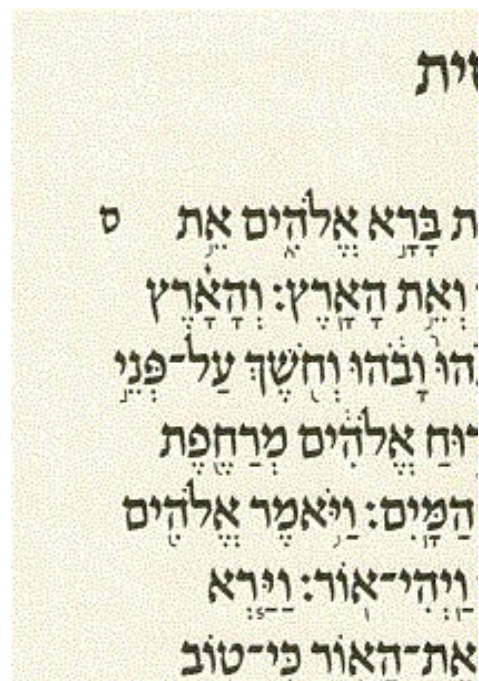
are for rhythmic chanting. The syntax is extremely simple: you only have to compare the easy way in which the text of the historical books flow compared with the long, convoluted sentences found in St. Paul's letters. The nouns are simplicity itself compared with Greek or Latin, and the verbs are far, far simpler than anything found in French, Spanish or Italian. As the words are Semitic you do not recognise familiar terms for common things. There are two h's, two k's (k and q), two s's and two t's. The Authorised version transliterates Hebrew k as c or ch and Hebrew q as k, which explains why some names have c and some k. The stronger s is transliterated z, thus Zion where a direct translation from Latin will have been Sion. The Greeks and Romans were not very good at transliterating Hebrew names, so Yeshua became Jesus, Maryam, the Aramaic form of Miriam, became Maria, and Zaccai became Zacchaeus. In the Authorised Version they transliterated the Hebrew names correctly, but using j for y and v for w, unless they were particularly common, like Moses instead of Mosheh. However, they kept the Latin forms in the New Testament; I remember as a boy thinking "Who was Elias who appeared with Moses in the transfiguration?", but modern translations say Elijah. Modern Hebrew was revived by speakers whose first language was German or a Slavonic language, so it does not use any sounds not found in German. This is why they say Shabbat instead of Sabbath, and why Benjamin Net(h)anyahu refers to Chamas - the Arabic word uses the stronger h, not the sound used in the Scottish word

loch.

A note about Palestine. There has been a recent suggestion that this Greek name for the Holy Land has nothing to do with the Philistines, who would have been completely unknown to the Greeks, but is rather a Greek translation of Israel, as both names come from roots meaning wrestle. The palaestra was the Greek wrestling school and Jacob wrestled with God, the meaning of Israel. If this is correct it is not the only ancient name that the Greeks translated rather than transliterating, the desert city of Palmyra being an example. As for versions of the Bible, personally I prefer the Revised Standard Version, but perhaps that is because my edition has the line drawings of Horace Knowles, and they really do enhance the text.

Andrew Rixon

Below, appears the first five verses of the Book of Genesis in Hebrew.



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INFORMATION

HERBERT PROTOCOL FORM FOR PEOPLE AT RISK OF GOING MISSING

People with dementia can sometimes start to wander and if they get lost and go missing it is a time of great anxiety.

Carers, family or friends of a vulnerable person, or the person themselves, can fill in a Herbert Protocol form in advance, containing information to help the police if the person goes missing.

Keeping a completed form means you don't have to try to remember the information when you are under stress if someone goes missing. And it saves time, so the Police can start the search sooner.

[www.herts.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/missing-person/missing-persons/vulnerable-people-at-risk-of-going-missing/dementia-missing-risk-herbert-protocol/When to fill in a form](http://www.herts.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/missing-person/missing-persons/vulnerable-people-at-risk-of-going-missing/dementia-missing-risk-herbert-protocol/When%20to%20fill%20in%20a%20form)

Use your professional opinion as a carer or your knowledge as a family member to decide whether a person is at risk of going missing. For example, you might decide it is time to fill in a form when someone cannot remember their address themselves.

Who fills in the form? A carer at a care home, family, friends or the person themselves can fill in the form.

Please get permission from the person at risk or their relatives before you complete a form. If that isn't possible, a care home can fill in a form if they think it is in the person's best interests.

Filling in the form with the person can trigger memories that they like to talk about, and can enrich your time with them. Be mindful though that some memories might be upsetting.

What to do with the form: You can fill in this form on your computer or print it out and fill it in by hand. Keep it somewhere safe where you can easily find it if the person goes missing. You could give a copy to friends, family and neighbours.

You only need to give it to the police if the person goes missing. The police will ask you extra questions about what happened around the time of the disappearance and what the missing person was wearing.

Care homes must store the form legally in accordance with data protection laws.

Make sure you keep the form up to date if something changes, for example their medication or their daily routine changes.

What to do when someone goes missing: if you discover someone is missing, look for them around the house or home, including any gardens and outbuildings.

If you don't find them, call [999](tel:999) immediately.

Don't worry - you won't be criticised for calling the police if you are worried about someone's safety. Tell them that you have a Herbert Protocol profile available.

If you have an electronic version of the form ask for an email address so you can e-mail the form to the Police. If you have a paper copy, have it ready for the police when they arrive.

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HISTORY NOTES

THE CONNECTION BETWEEN ST ANDREW'S AND HERTFORD COUNTY HOSPITAL

Should you find yourself at Hertford County Hospital, and have a moment, you might take a look at the framed documents adorning the wall of the waiting area on the ground floor to the right, beyond the staircase. The original hospital building (converted to residential apartments in 2004),



standing adjacent to the new County Hospital, was built as the General Infirmary in 1832-3. It was designed by local architect, Thomas Smith and built on land given by Earl Cowper. In an age before the NHS, Rev Thomas Lloyd (the Rector of Sacombe and formerly Curate at All Saints' Hertford) and Henry Cowper of Tewin Water recognised a need to provide medical services for the poor. They opened a dispensary in a room at Water Lane within the grounds of the Castle in 1822. The hospital opened on the 4th July 1833. Financial difficulties restricted its patient intake each year. These difficulties were then eased by donations from Henry Cowper. The name changed to Hertford County Hospital in 1908 and it was taken over by the NHS in 1947.

The documents on display are, first, a grant of licence (or faculty) of 1835 by the Bishop of Lincoln (St Andrew's was then in the Diocese of Lincoln) to have a

chaplaincy at the hospital and, secondly, an 1845 appointment of a chaplain. Not only did Henry Cowper help establish a dispensary and the hospital, he was also concerned about the need to care for the spiritual health and wellbeing of the patients. The 1835 grant records that Henry Cowper had presented a petition to the Bishop of Lincoln, with the concurrence of the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, Patron of the Rectory of Hertford St Andrew, and of the Rector of St Andrew's, Reverend Bernard Gilpin. The petition stated that Henry Cowper, *"with a view to the spiritual benefit of the said Patients in the General Infirmary was desirous of founding and establishing a Chaplaincy to be annexed to the General Infirmary and had provided out of his own proper monies a sufficient fund for the remuneration of the services to be performed by the Chaplain."*

The grant of licence was made to the trustees of the General Infirmary, who at the time were Earl Cowper of Panshanger Park, William Robert Baker of Bayfordbury Park and Sir Culling Eardley Smith of Bedwell Park, Essendon (see note). The grant specified that the chaplain must be a clergyman of the Established Church of England and in Priests Orders. The Chaplain was permitted to perform Divine Service within the General Infirmary for the benefit of the patients. There was a chapel within the hospital building.

From the beginning, the Chaplain of the General Infirmary was usually the Rector of St Andrew's. There will have been an appointment on every occasion a new Rector was inducted at St Andrew's. The 1845 grant by the Bishop of Lincoln was

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HISTORY NOTES

THE CONNECTION BETWEEN ST ANDREW'S AND HERTFORD COUNTY HOSPITAL

of the appointment of the Reverend Nathaniel Keymer MA. The document reads,

"We do hereby give and grant to you our Licence and authority to perform the office of Chaplain of the General Infirmary in reading the Common Prayers, preaching the word of God and performing all other Ecclesiastical Duties belonging to the said Office according to the form prescribed in the Book of Common Prayer published by the authority of Parliament and the Canons and Constitutions in that behalf lawfully established and promulged." The appointment was subject to the Reverend Keymer having first *"taken the Oaths and made and subscribed the Declaration which in this case are by law required to be subscribed made and taken"*. The Oaths and Declaration were to be made before the Reverend Henry Fenwicke Skrimshire MA, the Bishop's Commissary specially appointed for the purpose. The Bishop then authorised the Chaplain *"to receive take and enjoy all and singular Stipend profits and emoluments whatsoever belonging to the said Chaplaincy."* That will have included a stipend provided by Henry Cowper from his own monies.

Successive Rectors of St Andrew's were appointed Chaplain to the hospital right up to and including the last Rector, Reverend Graham Edwards who retired in 2005. When the Rectory was at 43 North Road there was a gate from the garden into the hospital grounds and a very well trod path by the Rector.

Much time was given by successive Rectors and news of patients shared widely. Our Rectors rarely missed a

bedside and teams of St Andrew's people were available for the Rector to contact to ask for an individual team member to 'adopt' a particular patient.

Pastoral and prayerful visits by ordained ministers were frequent. (One priest living alone in North Road, a man of private means who'd never had an incumbency, often visited, but would find a sleeping patient in every bed. Word of his arrival at the ward door had quickly passed from patient to patient.)

A practical business side of our Rector's bedside chat was to see if Communion was wanted, but also to populate the service every Sunday late afternoon in the Chapel. Wheelchairs were needed for many and arrangements had to be made with Ward Sisters.

The chapel bell outside on the bell turret would begin at 3.45 for the public service at 4pm. Brenda Dawson was a regular pianist or harmonium player, but St Andrew's provided a team of available people.

While St Andrew's was the central contributor to both ministry and social support, Toc H and the Rotary Club and others were also regulars.

Note: Sir Culling Eardley Smith was a British Christian campaigner for religious freedom and for the Protestant cause, and one of the founders of the Evangelical Alliance.

Richard Taylor with much input from Peter Ruffles

TO BE CONTINUED NEXT MONTH

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Services at St Andrew's

April 2024



To attend a Zoom service please email the Parish Office at:- 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 Bill Church	
Thursday	4	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (BCP)		
		10.30 am	Holy Communion Calton Court	Rev Bill Church	
SUNDAY	7	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Rev Bill Church	
<i>Easter 2</i>		10.30 am	Parish Communion	Rev Bill Church	Adrian Walter
		10.30 am	Morning Service on Zoom	Kath Oates	Adrian Walter
		7.00 pm	No Compline		
Monday	8	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (Common Worship)		
Wednesday	10	10.30 am	Holy Communion (Traditional)	Rev Alan Stewart	Scott Martin
Thursday	11	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (BCP)		
SUNDAY	14	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Rev Bill Church	
<i>Easter 3</i>			Parish Away Day: no other Service		
Monday	15	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (Common Worship)		
Wednesday	17	10.30 am	Holy Communion (Traditional)	Rev Bill Church	
Thursday	18	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (BCP)		
		10.30 am	Holy Communion Calton Court	Rev Bill Church	
SUNDAY	21	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Rev Alan Stewart	
<i>Easter 4</i>		10.30 am	Parish Communion	Rev Alan Stewart	Melanie Seward
		10.30 am	Morning Service on Zoom	Kath Oates	Melanie Seward
		7.00 pm	Soul Food		Geoff Oates
Monday	22	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (Common Worship)		
Wednesday	24	10.30 am	Holy Communion (Traditional)	Rev Alan Stewart	Forbes Mutch
Thursday	25	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (BCP)		
SUNDAY	28	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Rev Bill Church	
<i>Easter 5</i>		10.30 am	Parish Communion	Rev Bill Church	Geoff Oates
		10.30 am	Morning Service on Zoom	Kath Oates	Geoff Oates
		6.30 pm	Evensong St Mary's Hertingfordbury		
		7.00 pm	Compline	Rev Alan Stewart	
Monday	29	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (Common Worship)		