

The parish magazine of
Hertford St Andrew

www.hertfordstandrews.co.uk

MAY 2024



PRAYING FOR PEACE

BISHOP JAMES JONES SHARES HIS THOUGHTS IN THESE TROUBLED TIMES

Here with you Here for you

HERTFORD ST ANDREW

Registered charity 1132540

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THE FOLLOWING WILL BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE FROM THE APCM ON 28TH APRIL

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Deanery Synod Members: Julie Markey & Shirley Taylor

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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Chair of Finance: Chris Seward 01992 554217
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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.

STAR QUALITY

Scrolling through Instagram, I recently came across a guy who walks around with a rolled-up red carpet. When he sees someone approaching, he unrolls the carpet in front of them. And without exception, the initial surprise of these unsuspecting pedestrians, quickly turns to delight as they proceed to sashay and strut their stuff on this makeshift cat-walk. And for those few seconds, they feel and act like a star.

Watching their reaction is both joyful and beautiful.

When was the last time you felt seen and celebrated? Can you remember the last time someone told you what they appreciate about you, or how wonderful you are?

When it happens, it's a joyful and beautiful thing. It's transformative.

It costs absolutely nothing to roll out the red carpet; to lift someone with our words. But sadly, I think we're often too distracted or embarrassed to tell someone just how much we value them, or to list those small things in them that make a big difference to us. It's so much easier to stay silent or to take one another for granted.

Throughout his life, Jesus lifted the faces of the downcast, and celebrated the forgotten. In his presence people felt seen and celebrated. It's an example worth following.

Today, may we each commit to packing our invisible red carpet, and with our words and attention highlight the star quality in the next person we meet.

Alan

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.

Junior Church

Fun, friendship and following Jesus

Help needed!

We're looking for volunteers to join our wonderful team who help lead Junior Church during the 10.30am service. It's an incredible opportunity to inspire and learn from our young people. Commitment would be no more than once a month. Please talk to Claire Wachter or Rev Alan to find out more.

THE CLOSING DATE FOR THE JUNE MAGAZINE IS **SUNDAY 19TH MAY**. 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.

ALL-AGE SERVICE

12th May at 10.30am

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

THERE WILL BE NO JUNIOR CHURCH ON SUNDAY 19TH MAY

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 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

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 1st May (and also available on Zoom).

Other weeks on Zoom only.

CONTEMPORARY EVENING SERVICE

7pm

on Sunday 12th May

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



Take time to pray...
Breathe

OUR MONTHLY PRAYER MEETING on Saturday 4th May at 8.30am in church and on Zoom

Ascension Day service
in the style of Taizé with Eucharist
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
6TH & 20TH
MAY

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

Exploring Confirmation

Confirmation is for anyone who may have been baptised/christened as a child and would like to affirm that faith for themselves or would like to take the next step in committing to following Christ.

We're holding **two Exploring Confirmation sessions** for those who would like to think about this. Each session will be tailor-made for those who come, with an opportunity to choose the questions you want to explore.

The dates are Tuesdays 14th and 21st May, 7.30-8.30pm at The Brace Room, St Mary's Church, Hertingfordbury

A Service of Confirmation with Bishop Stephen Venner will take place at St Andrew's on Tuesday 4th June at 7.30pm.

Contact Alan 01992 582726 h.alanstewart1@gmail.com if you would like to attend or seek more information.



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.



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CHURCH FAMILY

FROM THE REGISTERS

BAPTISMS:

We welcome into the Lord's family:

21st April **Louis Arthur Jones**

FUNERALS:

We extend our sympathy to the family and friends of:

15th April **Ivy Buck** aged 105.

Ivy's son, Mark, gave the following eulogy at her funeral:

Ivy's remarkable longevity was in no small part due to the will power and determination which she steadfastly exercised. For one of the qualities she had in large measure, but which was concealed beneath a gentle and modest demeanour, was bravery. On three occasions over her long life she endured the most sudden heart-rending losses of those closest to her, and at these most testing times she never broke down.

I am aided in speaking about her early life by the 15,000-word autobiography she dictated to me shortly before her 100th birthday. We got up to 1951. I wanted to publish it but her characteristic modesty led her to veto that plan.

Ivy came from Derby. Her parents were schoolchild sweethearts. Her father volunteered in 1914 and was badly wounded at Ypres in 1916. Hospitalized for nine months, he returned to Derby and married in 1917. Ivy was named from the ivy in her mother's wedding bonnet.



Ivy was born on 7th June 1918. She was a brilliant student. At 10 she narrowly missed gaining her primary school's single scholarship to grammar school. Time and again in her autobiography she reverts to the opportunities offered by education which she missed and which she was so absolutely determined her own children should enjoy.

By 1932, the year she left school, she was head girl and achieved the school medal for the best of several hundred pupils. By then her mother had invested in her having lessons for shorthand, at which she proved truly exceptional. By the age of 14 she was taking 120 words per minute, which later rose to 180 words per minute.

She began work at 2¼d. per hour at British Celanese in Derby. Then at 21 in 1939, anxious to develop her career further, she transferred to work at the local education department, winning the position ahead of four other girls with grammar school education. The work was classified as a reserved occupation so she was not allowed to move on during the war. However, self-taught, she obtained advanced teaching qualifications in shorthand.

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CHURCH FAMILY

Which brings us to 1945 when, as she said, "I wanted to serve my King and Country". After obtaining top ranking in a civil service shorthand and typing exam, she was chosen to join the so-called Control Commission of the military government of Germany. But first she was required to be an examiner in a testing school for the recruitment of personnel - she tested 3,000 girls in three and a half months, a task she completed so successfully that she was summoned to the Foreign Office where a



formidable lady offered her a different job in any of five embassies - Moscow, Tehran, Cairo, Baghdad, and Warsaw.

Accommodation to be provided for a week while the candidate was expected to find a suitable place for herself.

This was asking too much; she held to the post in Dusseldorf with the Control Commission. The formidable lady made her irritation clear.

Before taking up the post in Dusseldorf, she trained at Bletchley Park. "While at Bletchley, I took the oath" she said, and never said anything further about it. In December 1945 she actually began work in Dusseldorf in the Intelligence Department [as PA to a legal officer] before transferring to the Civilian Internment Camps department, and then to a peripatetic teaching and examining post.

Then on New Year's Eve 1948 she met Jack. "At the time", she writes "I had no intention to get married. ... However, he was gentle and attentive, kind both to me and to others, especially his mother". He proposed at Eastertide and they married in June; the following November they returned to England. While Jack was temporarily posted to Cirencester, Ivy stayed with his family in Bolton, where she got a job as a senior shorthand typist. But only twelve weeks later, on March 22nd Jack was killed in a horrific air accident. His remains were identified by means of a letter in his pocket she had written to him. The funeral was a family affair in south-west Manchester crematorium. She recalls "Abide with Me" as the closing hymn.

Soon afterwards, she returned to Derby and to living with her parents. She was shortlisted for a job with the World Health Organisation in Geneva, offered a teaching degree course in Huddersfield which she lacked the resources to accept, and ended up taking a secretarial post way below her qualifications in Derby. It was back to the starting block.

Then she met my father. They were married in March 1951. It was a very low-key event because, as she says, you felt then a second marriage was frowned upon. Ray's aunt took the wedding photograph but failed to put film in the camera. They settled in Derby, but not for long, because my father, working in the administration of the NHS from its inception, was promoted to Bedford in 1954. Four children followed between 1953 and 1959 and childcare was her main concern for the next two decades.

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CHURCH FAMILY

With my father for over 50 years, a marriage built on mutual trust and support and love flourished. In the mid-70s my father moved to Hertford and she, in her late 50s, began setting up a new home all over again. She worked for the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries until her retirement in 1983. Then, just a few weeks after retirement, our sister Kay died in a terrible climbing accident. This awful tragedy occurred less than a fortnight before the weddings of both Jill and Ruth. Once again with Stoic determination she showed an iron resolve none of the rest of us could match, taking up three part time secretarial jobs simultaneously to help her pull through.

Twice weekly she was a communicant in this church. And there was hardly a Hertford women's organization to which she did not contribute – the Disability and Support Group, Young Wives, Mother's Union, the Civil Service Retirement Fellowship, Delta Dames, Country Markets ... in all of which she was no passenger – when requested, she happily represented some of them in conferences all over the country. And she was always ready to open up and learn more – she travelled, on her own, to China to visit me twice, on the latter occasion just a few days short of her 90th birthday. And she warmed to China, as I have, and cherished the respect for the elderly so generously bestowed in the orient.

For the last two decades she lived mostly alone but with the support and friendship of so many of you at St Andrew's. On my own and my sisters' behalf, thank you for that, thank you deeply.

Her combination of fortitude and gentleness, strength and kindness, was demonstrated during the long and slow decline of her health. Once again she was brave and determined, and she always took pleasure in visitors. Thank you all again. I love her always and pray that she is at peace and in a better place. Words are inadequate. Please pray for her.

DELIGHTFUL DELILAH

Hazel and Peter Risby are celebrating the birth of their first great grandchild. Welcome to Delilah who came into this world on 5th March, weighing 8lbs 14oz. Her mum is Lilly and dad is Harry Risby the son of Hazel and Peter's late son Matthew. The beautiful dress was crocheted by doting Aunt Tilly, Harry's sister.



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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EVENTS



**Saturday 4th May,
10.30am - 12.30pm**

This month, come and enjoy some of the scrumptious cakes and bakes we're known for, courtesy of our brilliant Bakers Galore team, and pick up some plants to enhance your gardens. The coffee morning is being run by the women of the WOW home group, and half of the money raised

will go to Cancer Research UK in memory of the late Julia Spring who was one of their number. She had a love of plants and contributed many of her own for this annual event in past years. There will also be organ music to enjoy during the morning. Do come and join us.

Meditation & Art in Nature

Monday 6th May (Bank Holiday)

10.30-4.30pm

A one-day workshop with led meditation, mindfulness and creative printing outside in a local mature garden/woodland.

No prior experience necessary.
All materials provided. Bring your own lunch.
Suggested donation £20.

Led by Rosemary Willis and Fiona Fouhy.

For further information and to book a place, contact Rosemary Willis:
rosemarywillis77@hotmail.com



THURSFORD CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR Thursday 5th December 2024

There are a few tickets remaining. The price of £94.00 per person includes Deluxe Show Seats, Coach Transfers and Courier Service. Contact Barbara Burrige on 01992 581564 or 07749 709905

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www.rscdsherts.org/south-east-herts

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Contact Emma or Ian

email: sehscds@hotmail.com

phone: 07842034890

EVENTS

**Welwyn Garden City
Male Voice Choir**
will be performing on 



SAT 11th MAY @ 7.30pm
at St. Mary's Church Hertingfordbury
tickets £10 msg Kay Juniper 07776 340932

**HERTFORD YOUNG LIFE
INTERNATIONAL PRESENTS**

QUIZ NIGHT



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

Tickets £16 includes a superb hog roast or veggie option dinner. Bottle of wine provided per table; bring any other drinks. Teams of up to 8 people. Celebrating the work of Young Life in Hertford with an invitation to consider supporting the ministry in various ways

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



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

Wholehearted enjoyment at the Parish Awayday

After a spring of persistent wind and rain, the second weekend of April 2024 blossomed with unexpected sunshine. This was just as well, as over 80 people from the congregations of St Andrew's and St Mary's joined together at St Joseph's in The Park School in Hertingfordbury for the parishes' annual get-together or 'awayday'. In keeping with the 'wholeheartedness' theme of the event, it was a day of wholehearted joy.

With the help of some careful planning by the two churches and members of staff at St Joseph's, the classrooms and halls were turned into temporary worship areas, musical studios, creative workshops and places to dine and socialise.

It was relaxed. It was inspirational. It was creative. But more than anything, it was fun.

Look out for a full report in next month's magazine. In the meantime, take a sneak preview of the happy participants gathered in the morning, enjoying the sunshine and looking forward to their school lunch (which was yummy).



Know the Story; Share the Story; Live the Story

MUSIC EVENTS AT ST ANDREW'S



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

Julie Fowlis in Concert **Thursday 30th May, 7.30pm**

We are privileged to welcome to St Andrew's Julie Fowlis, one of our finest singers. She comes to Hertford for a rare appearance in a small English venue and it will be wonderful to hear her voice in the church setting with music deeply influenced by the traditions of her native Scotland.

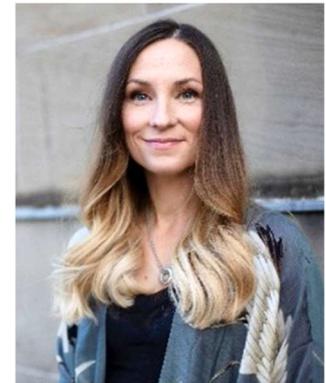


PHOTO CREDIT: Wild
Soul Photography

Julie will forever be recognised for singing the theme songs to *Brave*, Disney Pixar's Oscar, Golden Globe and BAFTA winning animated film, set in the ancient highlands of Scotland. One of the songs was long listed for an Oscar in 2013.

A winner of 'Folk Singer of the Year' at the BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards, Julie has graced stages around the world, from village halls in the Highlands to Carnegie Hall in New York, the Mozart Concert Hall in Vienna, The Philharmonie de Paris, Shakespeare's Globe in London and the World Festival of Sacred Music in Fez, Morocco. She has collaborated at The Proms with the BBC Concert Orchestra. In 2021, she appeared at Hatfield's Folk At The Oak Festival as part of the Spell Songs project. Her voice has been streamed on Spotify alone over 120 million times, and has been heard in space on an official NASA astronaut playlist. She even has a lily flower named after her.

We look forward to extending the warmest of welcomes to Julie, her band and to our audience who can enjoy real ale and other refreshments at our licensed bar from 6.30pm.

Tickets £29 plus £2.18 booking fee – see below.

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



AND AN ALTERNATIVE GENRE OF MUSIC FOR YOUR ENJOYMENT

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)

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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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MISSION GIVING

Andrew Goodman provides a round-up of where St Andrew's Mission Giving Committee allocated funds in 2023

“Mission’ describes.....everything the church is sent into the world to do”¹

St Andrew's budget allocated 12% of planned giving income for distribution as 'mission giving'. In 2023, a total of £9,588 was donated to eleven different organisations and people. 65% (£6,232) went to projects overseas; 35% (£3,356) went to local projects.

The work and ethos of organisations supported by our mission giving seek to see people freed from poverty, living transformed lives and fulfilling their God-given potential. This inevitably, but not exclusively, leads to giving to organisations with a Christian basis.

We continued to support **International Health Partners (IHP)**, **Julie Noble** (working with **Latin Link**), **Living Hope** and **Tearfund**, organisations which work with a clear Christian basis.

We made a donation towards **IHP's** Big Christmas Challenge who support their partner World Child Cancer by sending chemotherapy and related cancer medication to Malawi and Cameroon, increasing access to treatment.

Julie Noble's work in Oruro, Bolivia includes a prison ministry through the Angel Tree programme which supports prisoners' children and families, and the Restoring Hope programme working in discipleship and restorative justice.

Living Hope was established in Cape Town, South Africa in the year 2000. Its primary mission is to build God's kingdom by "Bringing Hope and Breaking Despair". In 2024 they are

looking to extend their work beyond physical structures and infrastructure in order to make a tangible impact on individuals' lives and communities.

Tearfund has maintained a presence in Ethiopia since the 1970s, working in partnership with institutional donors, religious institutions and local partner organisations to tackle extreme poverty and injustice. Drought in Ethiopia has led to a desperate hunger for millions of families, and we made a donation to their Ethiopia Hunger Crisis Appeal.

With attention focused on issues with global implications such as the wars in Ukraine and Israel/Palestine, conflict and climate change are pushing people elsewhere around the world towards disaster. Therefore, we made a donation to **Tearfund's** Forgotten Crises Appeal. The funds raised are targeted towards, for example, communities in Pakistan devastated by extreme flooding and families in Yemen fleeing violence.

We wanted to respond to the unprecedented humanitarian crisis in Gaza, following the events in Israel on 7th October 2023 when Hamas attacked and killed over 1,100 people and took around 250 hostages, and the subsequent retaliation by Israel which to date has killed over 30,000 people in Gaza and displaced 85% of the population. **Embrace the Middle East** is a well-established Christian development charity which partners with Christians in the Middle East to tackle poverty and injustice in the region. They

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MISSION GIVING

Andrew Goodman provides a round-up of where St Andrew's Mission Giving Committee allocated funds in 2023

currently work in Egypt, Iraq, Israel/Palestine, Lebanon and Syria supporting health, education and community projects. We made a donation to their Gaza Crisis Appeal.

The impact of the climate emergency is being felt around the world. Islands in the Pacific Ocean are particularly vulnerable to rising sea levels and increasingly ferocious tropical cyclones. We made a donation to **The Tanbok Project**, a charitable organisation based in London, working to support community-led sustainable development in Vanuatu. They are focusing on furthering education, health, climate resilience and sustainable development in the most remote parts of the country. They were founded in 2015 in the aftermath of Cyclone Pam which caused widespread devastation, and are supporting the recovery from the April 2020 Cyclone Harold.

Locally, we have supported **FUTUREHope, Herts Welcomes Refugees (HWR)** and **Young Life** for many years.

FUTUREHope's Christian basis inspires their service. They work with teenagers who may be struggling with various aspects of their lives through:

- a mobile youth centre and purposeful detached work to connect with young people;

- work in schools at assemblies and deliver a range of small group work activities;
- providing one-to-one mentoring and counselling, and support to parents; and
- a weekly after-school youth cafe.

HWR was set up originally to work with Syrian refugee families, and continues to provide opportunities for refugees to meet in lunch clubs, women's groups and other gatherings, in addition to providing befriender and language support. They work closely with caseworkers at the Refugee Council and Dacorum Borough Council to support Afghan evacuees, and have also supported Ukrainian refugees. Their support for asylum seekers living in Hertfordshire increased dramatically during 2023.

Young Life makes connections with young people who might not otherwise have come across the Christian faith. Bryan Fries from YL Hertford runs the 'Toastie Tuesday' After-School Club for secondary school students in the Church.

If anyone would like to become involved in the Mission Giving Committee, please let me know.

Andrew Goodman

I John Stott 'Christian Mission in the Modern World' (1975; updated by Chris Wright in 2015)

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chapter79.

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PRAYING FOR PEACE

The 1662 Book of Common Prayer has relevance for us today

Andrew Goodman writes, "For anyone concerned about the state of the world today, Bishop James Jones offered help and encouragement about how we can pray in his Thought for the Day



on the Radio 4 Today programme on 15th April 2024. His inspiration: a special prayer in the 1662 Book of Common Prayer 'In the time of War and Tumults'."

Bishop James has kindly given permission for a transcript to be included in this month's magazine:

Good morning.

It's not only the Middle East that's in a state of high alert following the drone and missile attack by Iran on Israel. The whole world is fearing an escalation of the conflict with Prime Minister Netanyahu promising that the confrontation is "not over yet".

Yesterday morning on the steps of our village church, as people were leaving, there was an outpouring of nervousness about the state of the world.

In the Book of Common Prayer there's a special prayer for 'in time of war and tumults'. Written hundreds of years ago, it's as timely as ever, giving us words to deliver us from the hands of our enemies. Specifically, it encourages us to pray "abate their pride, assuage their malice and confound their devices". Pride, malice and devices are the vices of warmongers.

And if anyone is wondering how we should pray without taking sides, then here's the word: abate. Or, as the Oxford English Dictionary defines it, diminish, or do away with, or blunt, or weaken whatever pride and malice are motivating them.

Here, I must confess I'm not a pacifist. My father was in the army, and I went to a military boarding school founded for the orphans of soldiers. I support the principles of a just war, yet respect pacifists. But, at a basic level, I believe it's not only acceptable but right to protect the innocent with force if necessary.

What appeals to my spirit is this prayer to abate pride and assuage malice because it applies to both sides of a conflict. It's pride and malice that ramp up rage and aggravate the situation.

I'm mindful that a version of this prayer was in existence during the English Civil Wars where there was a great need for malice to be assuaged. The origin of that word 'assuage' means 'to sweeten'. It's almost an oxymoron, but in the present conflicts around the world, there's an urgent need to sweeten the malice so that the slaughter of innocents might be abated. You could even add it to the Sermon on the Mount - not just "blessed are the peacemakers", but "blessed are those who have the courage to sweeten their malice".

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WONDER AND JOY THE FOLK WAY

FOLK AT ST ANDREW'S

Chris Seward reviews Spiers and Boden's concert at St Andrew's in April



PHOTO CREDIT: Elly Lucas

Traditional folk music is a turn off for some people - that's fine. However, Messrs Spiers and Boden presented us with traditional folk in the most wondrous and joyful way, thus making the evening at St Andrew's memorable for everyone who attended.

The full house (including a woodpigeon which arrived four days in advance securing the best perch in the church) included visitors from neighbouring counties as well as some who were hearing the duo for the first time. Hospitality was provided and the team of loyal helpers ensured that everyone was looked after and could enjoy the evening without distraction.

John Spiers (melodion player extraordinaire) and Jon Boden (fiddle and guitar) are vastly experienced musicians. While rooted in folk music, their personal stories include work in the classical genre, the setting of music to Shakespeare and a thorough understanding of historical context and the stories behind the songs. John Spiers brought six melodians (squeeze boxes) while Jon Boden brought his stomp box (a small box which is tapped

or stamped and produces a sound similar to a bass drum).

This was the last night of the duo's tour of England and Wales - they were in great form. Songs and tunes included an unusual version of the Cuckoo's Nest (a Morris Dance tune), Fallow Ground (an unusual traditional song that neither boasts a conquest nor laments a betrayal) and New York Girls (a much performed song from the 19th century not to be confused with anything written by Billy Joel).



With darkness gradually falling and the stage lighting taking effect, the duo played two sets of 45 and 60 minutes. They did good business with their CDs and vinyls and left us in good heart - homeward bound (Spiers to the Thames Valley and Boden to Sheffield). They will meet again this year, notably when they join the folk super group Bellowhead for their nationwide tour (including a date at the London Palladium) in November.

As for the audience, they left humming the tunes, smiling happily and expressing thanks for bringing the duo to Hertford. As for the pigeon, it took a little time to get over the excitement - and finally left the building 48 hours later!

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DEANERY OF THE FUTURE

JULIE MARKEY DESCRIBES THE EVENTS OF MARCH'S DEANERY SYNOD MEETING
Julie Markey and Shirley Taylor have represented St Andrew's on Hertford & Ware Deanery Synod for the past two years.

What is the Deanery?

Hertford and Ware Deanery is a collection of parishes which stretches from Hunsdon and Widford in the east to Essendon in the west, from Ponsbourne in the South to Aston and High Cross in the North.

What is the Deanery Synod?

The Deanery Synod is the church governance equivalent of a district council. It comprises elected lay members from the parishes and serving clergy. The Synod has responsibility for the mission of the church in the area. Synod meetings act as a formal bridge between the Diocesan Synod and Parochial Church Councils.

On a clear, crisp March evening Shirley and I walked to All Saints' Hertford together to attend the latest Deanery Synod meeting. While we waited for our tea and coffee I heard that this huge and impressive church has recently benefitted from a substantial legacy. It was not expected and will assist with the maintenance challenge that they currently face. The subject of the financial issues many of our local churches face was returned to as the evening progressed.

The 20 attendees were brought to order by the Reverend Mark Dunstan, our Rural Dean, and following an opening prayer we swiftly moved through the administrative parts of the agenda which included electing a new Lay Chair. Mary Salter from Christ Church in Ware has agreed to take on this role and we all offered our thanks and best wishes as she takes on this task.

We then moved on to the main agenda item of the meeting – to consider the Deanery of the Future. Mark introduced the topic by explaining how our Deanery is made up – currently there are 26

churches with 10 full-time paid clergy between them. Each priest costs about £75,000 per year in salary, pension and housing. There is also one "house for duty" post. This is where the incumbent carries out Sunday duties and works two other days per week for the parishes involved in return for the use of a church-owned house.

Mark also explained how amalgamations of Parishes often occur when a Priest resigns or retires. We were split into groups and asked to discuss a series of questions about the Parishes adjacent to ours and how we might react if we were to be united with them and to consider what would be lost and what could be gained.

Our conclusion was that amalgamations are not always successful and Mark quoted a report from 5 years ago that found that they are more likely than churches with a dedicated priest to see a decline in regular worshippers. Team ministeries are also less likely to grow than churches with one incumbent priest. The feeling amongst the group was that this is probably inevitable but we could see some advantages for those able and willing to travel to different churches as they may get to experience different styles of service and also they have the opportunity to meet more people.

Mark also explained that Deanery boundaries can change though this doesn't happen very often. One of our conclusions from the following discussion was that the enormous amount of new house building in East Hertfordshire at present may well result in situations where it could be sensible to move both Deanery and Parish

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DEANERY OF THE FUTURE

JULIE MARKEY DESCRIBES THE EVENTS OF MARCH'S DEANERY SYNOD MEETING boundaries, but it was acknowledged that this could be a controversial topic.

We broke into groups for a second time to discuss how we can fill the volunteer roles required to run a Parish such as Secretary, Treasurer, Lay Reader and Safeguarding Officer. This was a lively discussion with some representatives, including Shirley and me, able to share that their church has found it beneficial to employ people to carry out a role like Secretary or Parish Administrator. Other representatives explained that they have reached out to local residents who don't actually attend church but nevertheless are willing to assist with its running and maintenance. The conclusion was that we need more people to come to our churches to worship Jesus and then we will have a wider pool of potential volunteers.

Our closing prayer was focussed on the issue of sourcing more volunteers and we asked for God's help with this difficult task.

During my time as a Deanery Synod rep I have learnt a lot about the governance of our church and the many issues it faces. This can be both fascinating and frustrating, but I have always come away with things to think about from every meeting I have attended. I have also had the pleasure of visiting other churches in our Deanery and, of course, meeting the other reps. The commitment is small – just a little prep time reading the papers before the three meetings each year and then sharing what has been discussed with the PCC and you, the congregation afterwards. If you are ever asked to consider this role do give it some thought.

HISTORY NOTES

THE CONNECTION BETWEEN ST ANDREW'S AND HERTFORD COUNTY HOSPITAL part II

In last month's magazine we learnt about the promotion of a chaplaincy for the hospital by Henry Cowper in 1835 and that successive Rectors of St Andrew's were appointed Chaplain right up to and including the last Rector, Reverend Graham Edwards who retired in 2005. There was a regular Sunday afternoon service in the chapel within the original hospital building (now converted to apartments).

Peter Ruffles continues the story of the involvement of members of the congregation and others in providing various services to the patients.

"Two frequent teams of public volunteers were heavily St Andrew's staffed. There was the mobile telephone taken from bed to bed and the volunteer had to hang around, a bit distant, while patients chatted to nearest and dearest before moving the 'phone to the next patient who wanted to make a call. Tok H and St Andrew's were main providers of the telephone service. (Thora Blake was one who volunteered the 'phone duty for both St Andrew's and Tok H and coordinated both teams who between them visited most days except Sundays)

The Hospital Library Service was also a St Andrew's responsibility shared, with, I think, Rotary. Immediately inside the main front entrance was a quite big room lined with book cases. Every Tuesday and Friday volunteers loaded their chosen books from shelves to a trolley.

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HISTORY NOTES

PART II OF THE CONNECTION BETWEEN ST ANDREW'S AND HERTFORD COUNTY HOSPITAL

They then pushed the trolley from bed to bed having gained Sister's permission to enter her Ward. Because the volunteer had done the loading, they had a good idea of the range they were offering. This was important because many patients sought advice about which volumes to select. Every other Friday, for many years, I brought two sixth form pupils from Broxbourne to push the trolley round. They often found themselves 'educationally exposed' to all sorts of conditions and behaviours. The hospital was well heated and, in the men's wards in particular, out of visiting hours, some patients would wear scant attire, but there would also be very ill patients and also various forms of distress for the maturing teenagers to react well to.

St Andrew's provided counsel, and shopping undertakings, and assistance with feeding, etc.

One community contribution came annually, though, and Holy Trinity, Bengoe and St Andrew's were prominent. It was a beautifully memorable Christmas Eve tour of the Wards singing carols. A large choir including nursing and hospital admin. staff, having rehearsed a few times in previous weeks, would gather at about 8 o'clock on Christmas Eve in the library. Nurses turned their outdoor capes inside out to show the red lining and candlelit lanterns on long canes were carried. Before the singers arrived at each Ward the lights were turned off, and the singers did their stuff in each bay of every Ward. Mince pies and sausage rolls followed, filling the interval for many choristers before midnight mass in church.

At one point our organist, Ian Friars, was the conductor of this ad hoc choir. One year he had put his back out, just before Christmas. The Rector (and Ian's wife Jennie) knew that he thoroughly enjoyed leading this parish ministry event. Duncan Dormor, the Rector, recorded the sympathy we all had with Ian by putting a note in the news sheet how he knew, 'Ian will be sorry not to be playing the organ for the Christmas services as well as sinning with the nurses on Christmas Eve'!

We commemorated the 180th anniversary of the foundation of the hospital in quite a big way in 2013 and I chaired the NHS committee which arranged a re-union for staff, an exhibition and reception for dignitaries. A big event. I think it was Sophie, Duchess of Edinburgh (then Duchess of Wessex) who attended."

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FINGER PICKIN' POLEMIC

FOLK AT ST ANDREW'S

A personal reflection by Forbes Mutch of folk musician Martin Simpson's concert at St Andrew's in March

I may have said this before, but there is something about musicians and live performers that seems to preserve them in a time capsule, never ageing and, as Bob Dylan sang, remaining forever young. Perhaps it's the rhythm of music that acts as a preserving elixir or the interaction with audiences that fuels longevity. I don't know the answer but, when I see Martin Simpson on stage at St Andrew's five years after his previous visit, I can't help thinking that he looks younger. In 2018, Simpson quipped that he had reached retirement age. Now, he stands before us again in his black T-shirt, blue jeans and working men's boots, visibly defying his 70-year watershed.

It is hard to believe that it is five years since his last appearance here. His was one of the first concerts to kick-start the folk programme at St Andrew's and his virtuoso gig that evening set the bar for the many high-quality performances that have followed. Right from the beginning he helped put the church on the map for other well-known folk artists to visit and applaud the church's acoustics.

Simpson is one of the hardest workers on the folk circuit, having toured continuously since he left college in Scunthorpe, Lincolnshire at the age of 17. He has appeared live in venues around the world – although mainly in Europe and America, where he lived for several years in the 1980s. He has recorded over 20 solo albums, appeared



as a guest musician on countless collaborations with other famous folk singers, such as, among others, June Tabor, Kate Rusby and Ashley Hutchings. And he has won countless music awards, including Artist of the Year in the prestigious BCC Radio Two Folk Awards, twice.

While he plays banjo and electric guitar, he has made his name primarily as an acoustic and slide guitarist. Tonight, at St Andrew's, he keeps it simple by playing one guitar, although his intricate finger-picking style and occasional bottle-neck slide highlights often confuse the listener into thinking there are two musicians on stage. It's as if a ghost version of the main man is playing an accompaniment in the shadows of the pulpit.

He begins tonight's set with a prolonged tuning up, but even this is riveting, packed with anticipation. It merges seamlessly into his opening song *Leaves of Life*, which he says is a gypsy Easter carol – appropriate for a church – which he learned from folk singer Norma Waterson and has been inside him since he first heard it as a teenager. This is followed shortly by a couple of bird songs, the first is *Dark Swift and Bright Swallow*, joined by what is probably the highlight of the first half, *Skydiver*, the title track from his most recent solo album. He wraps these songs in eloquent storytelling and scene setting and explains that this song was commissioned by TV naturalist Chris Packham.

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FINGER PICKIN' POLEMIC

FOLK AT ST ANDREW'S

The second half begins with an American



feel, with the Appalachian fiddle tune and ballad *Yew Piney Mountain*, which Simpson sings almost in an American accent. It's not long before he returns to his English roots, however, singing

about the struggles of the northern working class, of miners and a broadside ballad about a highwayman saying goodbye. By now we are beginning to realise how biting some of Simpson's lyrics can be, how condemning he is of politicians and 'the system'. This is particularly noticeable when, towards the end, he gives us a version of *No Country's Law*, with the lyric most talked about by the audience after the gig:

*There's always the money for missiles
and tanks,
There's always the money for generals
and banks,
There's always the money for new ways
to kill,
But a limited budget for you if you're ill.
Yes, there's always enough for a war,
But there's never enough for the poor.*

Welcome back Martin Stewart Simpson. As Wikipedia tells us, even at 70, you are still a supreme *English folk singer, guitarist and songwriter*. Your music reflects a wide variety of influences and styles, rooted in Britain, Ireland, America and beyond. You build a purposeful, often upbeat voice on a spare picking style. Thank you for a great gig. Don't leave it five years before you return.

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Services at St Andrew's

May 2024



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	Date	Time	Service	Celebrant	Preacher
Wednesday	1	10.30 am	Holy Communion (Traditional)		Rev Bill Church
Thursday	2	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (BCP)		
		10.30 am	Holy Communion Calton Court		Rev Bill Church
Saturday	4	8.30 am	Breathe Prayer Meeting in church and on Zoom led by Rev Alan Stewart		
SUNDAY	5	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)		Rev Alan Stewart
<i>Easter 6</i>		10.30 am	Parish Communion with Junior Church		Rev Alan Stewart
		10.30 am	Morning Service on Zoom	Nick Hoyle	Rev Alan Stewart
		7.00 pm	Compline on Zoom		Rev Alan Stewart
Monday	6	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (Common Worship)		
Wednesday	8	10.30 am	Holy Communion (Traditional)		Rev Alan Stewart
Thursday	9	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (BCP)		
<i>Ascension Day</i>		8.00 pm	Ascension Day Taizé Service		Rev Alan Stewart
SUNDAY	12	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)		Rev Bill Church
<i>Easter 7</i>		10.30 am	All Age Service		Rev Alan Stewart
		10.30 am	Communion Service on Zoom		Rev Bill Church
		7.00 pm	Soul Food in St Andrew's Centre		Forbes Mutch
Monday	13	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (Common Worship)		
Wednesday	15	10.30 am	Holy Communion (Traditional)		Rev Bill Church
Thursday	16	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (BCP)		
		10.30 am	Holy Communion Calton Court		Rev Alan Stewart
SUNDAY	19	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)		Rev Alan Stewart
<i>Pentecost/Whit Sunday</i>		10.30 am	Parish Communion (no Junior Church)		Rev Alan Stewart
		10.30 am	Morning Service on Zoom	Nick Hoyle	Rev Alan Stewart
		7.00 pm	Compline on Zoom		Rev Alan Stewart
Monday	20	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (Common Worship)		
Wednesday	22	10.30 am	Holy Communion (Traditional)	Rev Alan Stewart	Adrian Walter
Thursday	23	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (BCP)		
SUNDAY	26	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)		Rev Bill Church
<i>Trinity Sunday</i>		10.30 am	Parish Communion with Junior Church	Rev Alan Stewart	Forbes Mutch
		10.30 am	Morning Service on Zoom	Nick Hoyle	Forbes Mutch
		6.30 pm	Evensong St Mary's Hertingfordbury		Rev Bill Church
		7.00 pm	Compline on Zoom		Rev Alan Stewart
Monday	27	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (Common Worship)		
Wednesday	29	10.30 am	Holy Communion (Traditional)		Rev Bill Church
Thursday	30	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (BCP)		
		10.30 am	Holy Communion Calton Court		Rev Bill Church