

The parish magazine of
Hertford St Andrew

www.hertfordstandrews.co.uk

OCTOBER 2024



**Harvest
FEST**

2024

**ST ANDREW'S
CHURCH
HERTFORD
SG14 1HZ**

**REAL ALES,
WINES,
CIDERS
& SOFT
DRINKS**

**LIVE MUSIC,
FOOD,
CHILDREN'S
ACTIVITIES
& HARVEST
RAFFLE**

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ADMISSION
ALL AGES
WELCOME**

1 PM
↓
**6.30
PM**

SATURDAY 12TH OCTOBER

Here with You. Here For You.
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standrew.hertford@btinternet.com

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.

THE BOY WHO SHOUTED WOW!

It happened during a 2019 classical music concert at Symphony Hall in Boston. A few seconds after the conclusion of Mozart's Masonic Funeral Music, a nine-year-old boy shouted 'Wow!'. The awe in his voice made the whole audience erupt into laughter and applause, with the orchestra's CEO David Snead describing it as "one of the most wonderful moments I've experienced in the concert hall".

There's nothing quite like a child's unbridled reaction to beautiful music.

After the footage became a viral sensation on Twitter, a search began to find the boy.

Finally, Ronan was tracked down and his grandfather revealed that he is "obsessed with musical instruments". He added that it's a rare occurrence for Ronan, who is autistic, to vocalise his feelings. "I can count on one hand the number of times that he's spontaneously ever come out with some expression of how he's feeling," he said.

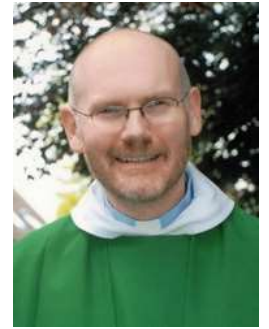
Ronan is in fact now the star of a children's book; 'The Boy Who Shouted Wow!'.

Can you remember the last time you said or thought, 'Wow!'?

'Wow' is a kind of prayer. It's a way of speaking about what can't be put into words; an instinctive reaction within us to those moments in life that take our breath away.

We're entering the season of Harvest; a time traditionally when many cultures pause to give thanks for the daily miracles of what this good earth provides. Life itself of course is miracle. I'm guessing that if we all took

more time to pause and listen and look, we would find ourselves instinctively uttering that same and wonder-full word; 'Wow!'.
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.

Harvest Festival

for all ages

with choir and organ

Sunday 13th October

10.30am

Feel free to bring non-perishable food and toiletries to donate to Hertford & District Foodbank and Hertford Pantry

See the Harvest page for more details

THE CLOSING DATE FOR THE NOVEMBER MAGAZINE IS **SUNDAY 20TH OCTOBER**. Please send copy by e-mail to hertfordsta@aol.co.uk Richard Taylor (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 during school term time, except during an All-Age service, when the children stay in church for the whole service.

ALL-AGE SERVICE

13th October at 10.30am

HARVEST FESTIVAL

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

St Andrew's services on Zoom

Zoom codes are set out immediately prior to the list of services at the end of this magazine and are also available from the church office: standrew.hertford@btinternet.com or by calling 01992 504373.

Join us on Zoom for:

Service of the Word

every Sunday at 10.30am with praise, prayer and teaching. There is a communion service once a month. Please check the services on the last two pages of this magazine and the website for dates.

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.



OUR MONTHLY PRAYER MEETING IN PERSON & ON ZOOM

on Saturday 5th October at 8.30am

Join us on Zoom or pop down to St Andrew's and join us in the Lady Chapel as we pray for ourselves, our churches and our world during these worrying times.



ON ZOOM at 7.30pm on Wednesdays 9th & 23rd October ALSO IN CHURCH ON 9TH OCTOBER

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!

Know the Story; Share the Story; Live the Story

SERVICES AND OTHER EVENTS

CONTEMPORARY CAFÉ-STYLE SERVICE

7pm

on Sunday 13th October

in the St Andrew's Centre

JOIN US AT 6.45 FOR REFRESHMENTS

soul food

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

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 contact Helen
h.houghton@ylininternational.org

 **younglife.**



FREE Mindfulness

WHEN

10.30AM
ON
MONDAYS
7TH & 21ST
OCTOBER

Mindfulness can help with **wellbeing, stress** and **anxiety**. Come along and join the **FREE 30-min sessions**, followed by refreshments.

Everyone is welcome

WHERE

Sele Community
Hub
Fleming Crescent, Sele
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just turn up!

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

HARVEST



Harvest Festival 2024

Celebrate Harvest with us at Hertford St Andrew's

On Sunday 6th October, 10.30am, we have an online Service of the Word with specially-themed liturgy, music, reflection and prayers. If you do not currently have a Zoom code call the church office on 01992 504373 or email to standrew.hertford@btinternet.com

Sunday 13th October, 10.30am, is our Harvest Festival Service at St Andrew's Church which is All-Age Worship with choir and organ.

We are supporting two local charities this Harvest, namely Hertford & District Foodbank and Hertford Pantry. Both work to help stop hunger in the area. If you are able to pick up a few extra items while shopping, that would be fantastic. You can drop them off at church before Friday 11th October or bring them with you to the Harvest Service. **Thank you for anything you're able to donate.**

These items are especially welcome:

- Tinned meat
- Tinned soup
- Tinned fish
- Baked beans
- Pasta
- Tinned tomatoes
- Instant mashed potato
- Curry sauce
- Long-life milk (UHT)
- Tinned fruit
- Tinned custard

- Tinned rice pudding
 - Tea / coffee
 - Soap
 - Shower gel
 - Shampoo
 - Deodorant
 - Toothpaste / toothbrush
 - Toilet rolls
 - Nappies
 - Baby wipes
 - Sanitary products
- (Please do not include anything that's been opened or is out of date.)

Fresh produce will either be sold in aid of the Bishop's Appeal (see below) or donated to Hertford Pantry.

The Bishop of St Albans' Harvest Appeal

Thrive: Nutrition and Sustainable Agriculture in Sri Lanka

The Bishop's Harvest Appeal this year is being run in partnership with The Leprosy Mission to support a project in Sri Lanka, which provides those affected by leprosy with the means to grow their own food and raise their standard of living.

For more details visit www.stalbansdiocese.org and search for Harvest Appeal.

Donating to the Bishop's Appeal

You can contribute directly to www.leprosymission.org.uk or make a donation during the Harvest Service at St Andrew's on 13th October.

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WORSHIP



TO HOPE AND ACT WITH CREATION

SEASON OF CREATION 2024

The firstfruits of hope
(Rom 8:19-25)

ENVIRONMENT SUNDAY 6TH OCTOBER
AT ST ANDREW'S

Creationtide or the Season of Creation is the period in the annual church calendar, from 1st September to 4th October, dedicated to God as Creator and Sustainer of all life.

Many churches choose to use this time of year to hold special services and events to give thanks for God's gift of creation, and to renew their commitment to caring for our one planet home.

At St Andrew's we will celebrate Environment Sunday as part of our Parish Communion service at 10.30am on Sunday 6th October followed in the evening with "Creation Compline" at 7pm on Zoom.

The symbol for the Season of Creation 2024 is the firstfruits of hope. When we

work together with Creation, the firstfruits of hope can emerge.

In the letter of Paul the apostle to the Romans, the biblical image pictures the Earth as a Mother, groaning as in childbirth (Rom 8:22). Francis of Assisi understood this when he referred to the Earth as our sister and our mother in his Canticle of Creatures. The times we live in show that we are not relating to the Earth as a gift from our Creator, but rather as a resource to be used.

And yet, there is hope and the expectation for a better future. To hope in a biblical context does not mean to stand still and quiet, but rather groaning, crying, and actively striving for new life amidst the struggles. Just as in childbirth, we go through a period of intense pain, but new life springs forth.

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 except 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.

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EVENTS



SATURDAY 12TH OCTOBER

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH

★ **REAL ALES** ★ **WINES** ★ **CIDERS** ★ **SOFT DRINKS**
★ **LIVE MUSIC** ★ **FOOD** ★ **CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES**
FREE ADMISSION

Live music will be played throughout the afternoon (see below) while special children's activities will keep younger visitors enthralled and occupied.

Come and enjoy St Andrew's hospitality!

Programme of Music:

1.15-1.55pm: Why Not?

4.30-5.05pm: Flare

2.05-2.45pm: Nuala O'Halpin Trio

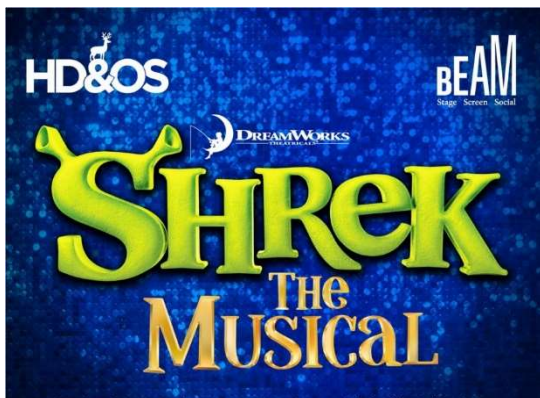
5.15-5.50pm: Peter Crossley

2.55-3.25pm: Sam Chaplin and Special Guests

5.50-6.30pm: Pat Crilly and

3.35-4.10pm: Take Note Choir

Peter Crossley



HD&OS return to Hertford's theatre, now called BEAM, on Wednesday 16th to Saturday 19th October. The cast includes St Andrew's Churchwarden Julie Markey and also Phil Cable.

Tickets: £25 and £20 (children up to age 12) from

<https://beamhertford.co.uk/events/shrek-the-musical>

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phone: 07842034890

CHURCH MATTERS



As we reported last month, after nearly two years working towards the upgrading of our audio-visual system, enough money has been raised for new sound equipment to be installed in the church during November. Nearly £50,000 so far has been raised and now the PCC has agreed to a direct appeal for the remaining £25,000.

This will pay for new screens and a projector that will be fully integrated with the audio system. The screens will include a single large screen at the front of the church which retracts nearly out of view when not in use and some small, TV-like screens to enable everyone to see clearly wherever they are sitting.

GIVING MONTH

The period until **13th October** (the date of our Harvest Festival) has been designated as **"Giving Month"** when all members of our congregation and others who support or attend St Andrew's in other ways are asked to consider what they can do to help us reach our target.

We ask for your help to achieve our aims.

In addition to a Virtual Auction of Promises which has just closed, we have launched a **crowd funding appeal** that we hope will be seen by many people locally as well as further afield. Use the QR code here to find the appeal page.

Our aim is to improve church facilities so that we can further God's work among the

local community. A better experience of worship and create more opportunities for local people to use our building for cultural and arts events - these outcomes will aid the development of a bigger, broader and stronger society around the church. It will also help sustain St Andrew's as a much-loved place of Christian worship as well as a centre for other activities for years to come.

As an alternative to the Crowdfunding, if you wish to donate a sum, you can either write a cheque payable to Hertford St Andrew PCC (sending or giving this to one of our Joint Treasurers, Judy & Nick Sharman) or transfer the money electronically to Hertford St Andrew PCC, Sort Code 20-20-37, Account Number 50715050. Please reference your payment with the words AV Appeal. If you are a taxpayer, all donations can be gift aided, adding 25% to the value of your gift.

For more information, you can talk to Lesley or Julie (Churchwardens) or to me.

Chris Seward, Deputy Warden



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CHURCH FAMILY

FROM THE REGISTERS

BAPTISMS:

We welcome into the Lord's family:

8th September

Wren Lilly Rhodes



Family and friends gathered at St Andrew's for Wren's Christening. In the centre of the photo is Wren with her Mum, Jennie, next to her Dad, Will surrounded by Wren's Godparents, from left to right, Paul, Sian, Lizzie and Kelly.

Sian wrote and read the following poem during the service:

Our Wren

Ancient Greeks called wrens messengers
Always busy chatting away
As well as being loving and beautiful
Brightening up everyone's day

The Celts saw wrens as resourceful
Clever, cunning and wise
Often achieving the unachievable
Despite their miniature size

In China, wrens are prosperous
Likely to bring us luck
With a fun, energetic nature
They stop us getting stuck

Some tribes think wrens offer comfort
Even with powers of healing
By sharing joy and positivity
They give us a warm fuzzy feeling

Coffee Morning

SATURDAY 5th OCTOBER
10.30am - 12.30pm
ST ANDREW'S CHURCH
HERTFORD SG14 1HZ



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eco-friendly products
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& home baked cakes



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AND ST ANDREW'S CHURCH

www.hertfordstandrews.co.uk

Around the world, people are grateful
To have a wren nearby
Warding off any evil
As they fly past in the sky

And what about our Wren,
Who might she become?
Charismatic like her father?
Compassionate like her mum?

I wish for her to be courageous,
Honest, kind and true
To be the best that she can be
In whatever she chooses to do

I wish her love and laughter
To find joy in little things
Seek adventure in normality
Be brave and spread those wings

Our Wren is just at the beginning
Of a world exciting and new
Together, dear Wren, we're all here
To love and support you.

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CHURCH FAMILY

A MESSAGE FROM LINDSEY, ST ANDREW'S CHILDREN & FAMILIES WORKER

First, I should like to thank the whole church community for the very warm, kind and generous welcome I have received. Everyone I have met has gone out of their way to help me and ensure my first couple of weeks have been delightful. I look forward to getting to know many more of you and more about you all as the weeks pass and move from this beautiful autumn into the winter. Let's all pray it's a kind one.



As we need a minimum of two adults in the hall on a Sunday morning, I am blessed with a team of volunteers who have come forward to ensure that Junior Church continues to run.

Judy, Hannah, Shirley, Sue and Rosemary, thank you all for everything you did before my appointment and thank you for your continued support.

A huge thank you to Shirley, Angela and Jacky who, without hesitation, have offered to help out with creche facilities for the youngest of our congregation.

And - here we go! - it goes without saying that it's a case of the more the merrier when it comes to running a volunteer rota, so please, anyone who is able, come and join the team and let's bring more families into our church. It will be fun!
Lindsey

COMMISSIONING OF NEW PASTORAL VISITORS

Rev Alan is delighted to be commissioning two new Pastoral Visitors at Parish Communion services on Sunday 6th October. They are Helen Harris to be commissioned at St Mary's Hertingfordbury and Lyn Paine to be commissioned at St Andrew's. Lyn will join Carol Crowhurst, Kim Hamilton and Charles Ledsam who make up St Andrew's team of Pastoral Visitors. We are grateful to them for the visiting and other supportive roles they play within the parish.

Digital Skills Group in Hertford

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Mondays 28th October and 25th November
at the Skills & Learning Centre, Fore Street, Hertford
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Vax Rapide Plus 5130. 1300 Watts Cylinder Vacuum Cleaner on 5 castors with additional dusting, crevice & upholstery, tools and some additional parts for carpet cleaning. In good condition & working order. Surplus to requirements. Please contact Chrissy Barclay on 07752 479414 if you are interested. Donation please (minimum £25) to St Andrew's Church for the Target 25k appeal for the Audio-visual equipment.

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Think about...

The wisest man who ever lived

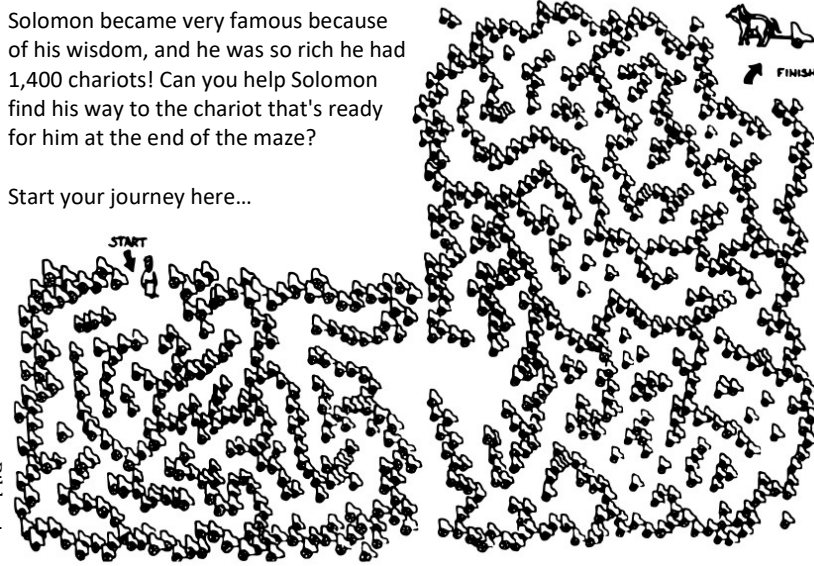
(You can read more about this story in the Bible – in 2 Chronicles, Chapter 1)

After King David died, Solomon became the next king of Israel. One night, God spoke to Solomon and said, "Ask for whatever you want Me to give you." Solomon answered, "Please give me wisdom and knowledge so that I will know how to lead Your people."

God was pleased that Solomon asked for wisdom, and not riches or fame. He told Solomon, "Because you asked for wisdom, I will also give you great wealth and honour. You will be Israel's greatest king."

Solomon became very famous because of his wisdom, and he was so rich he had 1,400 chariots! Can you help Solomon find his way to the chariot that's ready for him at the end of the maze?

Start your journey here...



Biblewise

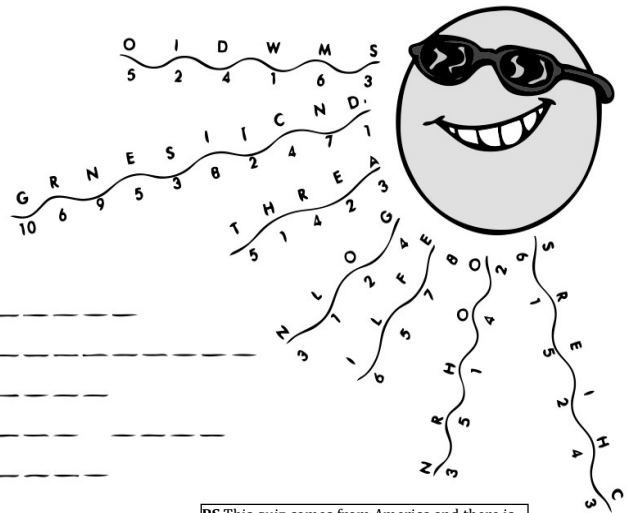


King Solomon built a beautiful temple for God.

"Wisdom is more precious than jewels, nothing you desire can compare with it"
Proverbs 3.15

Solomon prays for wisdom

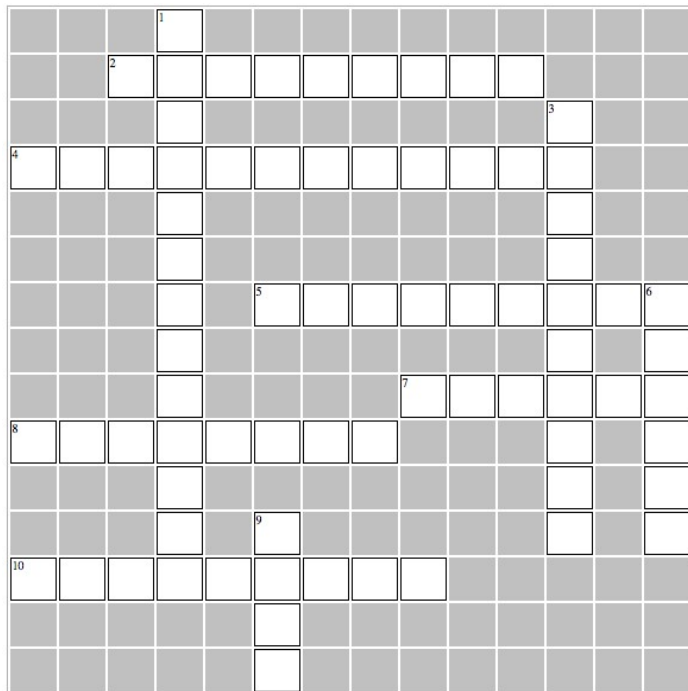
God was pleased with Solomon because he asked for only one thing (and not riches or fame), so he gave Solomon other gifts as well. To find out what Solomon asked for, write the letters on the first sunray in the correct order on the first line. Continue writing the letters on the other sunrays in the correct order to find out what else God gave to King Solomon...



PS This quiz comes from America and there is an answer here that isn't spelt the same way as we spell it here. When you have filled in all the answers, see if you can spot the missing letter!

Used by permission: Bible Puzzles for Kids Ages 6-8. Cincinnati: Standard Publishing Group, © 2006

Solomon Crossword



www.calvary-kids-pages.com

Across

2. Solomon had great _____ about many things
4. She travelled a great distance to hear Solomon
5. The reaction of the Queen to Solomon
7. God gave Solomon _____
8. How God appeared to Solomon one night
10. Father of Solomon

Down

1. Solomon asked God for an _____ heart
3. Solomon began to worship _____
6. Solomon was allowed to build the _____
9. A case involving a _____ tested Solomon's

CROSSWORD WORD BANK

King David, in a dream, understanding, wisdom, knowledge, Queen of Sheba, amazement, baby, temple, false idols

SCHOOL NEWS

*Let your light
shine*
-Matthew 5:16



*Love learning
Aim high
Trust God*

Hertford St Andrew C of E Primary School



WELCOME BACK!

We were so happy to welcome all of our children back to school. It is lovely to see so many fresh and shining faces in the morning, full of energy!

There is productive learning happening all around the school and Ms Cooper has already had lots of children visit her office to show her learning they are proud of.

We have been incredibly busy in school over the Summer Holidays and are very excited about what we've achieved, the changes we've made and our plans for this year.

POETRY SLAM!

Last week we held our very first HSA Poetry Slam!

It was great to see children's creativity in action as we came together as a community to hear poems. Children have been learning about performance poetry. Each class studied a famous performance poet: Julia Donaldson, Michael Rosen, Benjamin Zephaniah, Joseph Coelho and Amanda Gorman.

Children performed their poems for the whole school. We had some very brave solo performances and some powerful group performances. We are so proud of all the children.

Ash class gave me goose bumps with their emotional performance of sections from "The Hill We Climb". I'd like to share the last lines with you:

*"For there is always light, If only we're brave enough to see it
If only we're brave enough to be it."*

Our children are brave enough to be that light in the world. Let's keep letting our light shine!



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

We have two great gigs in November with the **Gigspanner Big Band** on Sunday 3rd November and the ever-popular **Megson** on Thursday 14th November. Tickets are selling well for both gigs and, some of you will remember, the previous visit of Gigspanner resulted in "House Full" notices being required. You can reserve your places at the normal address i.e.

<http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/st-andrews-church>

And in 2025...

Churchfitters: Saturday 1st March

Returning to St Andrew's for another high-energy show. Licensed bar available..

Miranda Sykes & Jim Causley: Wednesday 19th March

One of the country's very best folk duos. Licensed bar available.

Leveret: Thursday 8th May

"You won't find English folk music played better than this" (BBC Radio 2). Licensed bar available.

Phil Beer: Thursday 18th September

Formerly with Show of Hands, forever popular. Licensed bar available.

Chris White & Julie Matthews: Thursday 9th October

"They light up the room with their amazing energy" (James Taylor). Licensed bar available.

Also, you will want to reserve the dates between 30th October and 2nd November 2025 when **Fairport Convention** will be returning (for the third time!) on one of these evenings.



Know the Story; Share the Story; Live the Story

HERTFORD & DISTRICT FOODBANK



Looking towards to Autumn & Harvest

Harvest is traditionally the time for reflection and gratitude. It is also often a time when people come together to give food to charities.

Maybe you work with a scout group, are part of a church, small business owner or just a group of people with a similar desire to help those in need. We'd love you to help support local people in crisis by collecting tinned and dried food for the Hertford & District Foodbank. We really appreciate your support so we can ensure we make the greatest possible difference to people experiencing hardship in Hertford, Ware & District Area.

NB: Please make sure all food is unopened, non-perishable, in date, and undamaged. Thank you!

If you would like further information or to discuss delivery / collection of your donations please do contact us on:

info@hertforddistrict.foodbank.org.uk

Thank you!



Do you know someone in need of support?

There are so many people today who are finding themselves in crisis but may not know who to speak to or where to get help. We don't want anyone to suffer in silence.

Please encourage them to seek advice, we work with a huge number of agencies including; Citizens Advice, housing support, children's centers, health visitors, social services & local charities. If you are not sure who to speak to, please start with the citizen's advice or alternatively contact the Foodbank and we will talk through the situation and signpost to the relevant agency.

Citizen's Advice for East Herts: Message Line (anytime) 01920 459 944

IN OTHER NEWS

Volunteer with us

We are looking for more volunteers to work at our Ware Centre, specifically those who are able to drive our foodbank van to help with collections and deliveries. Ware depot is open on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. If you are interested, please do contact us at:

Volunteering@hertforddistrict.foodbank.org.uk

We look forward to hearing from you.

We give thanks

To those of you who have been able to donate to us recently or in the past we wanted give our thanks.

We are humbled by the generosity of our community, without you, we wouldn't be able to help those facing crisis. We really appreciate every single tin and packet that is donated. Thank you.

Bank the food

Unsure what to donate? Want to know what items we really need each week?



Download the app, follow the Hertford & District Foodbank and immediately see an up-to-date list of the items we need whenever you go shopping!

Hertford & District Foodbank

United Reform Church

Cowbridge

Hertford SG14 1PG

Registered Charity No. 1157028
Registered in England & Wales

07851 708470

Info@hertforddistrict.foodbank.org.uk

hertforddistrict.foodbank.org.uk

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DON'T WORRY, BE HAPPY

ADRIAN WALTER, LAY LEADER OF WORSHIP, REFLECTS ON OUR WORRIES

Worry - we don't have to look too hard to find things to worry about around us; come to think of it, we don't have to look too hard to find things to worry about inside us either!

At an international level, earlier this year, the broadcaster John Humphreys published a chilling piece on the YouGov website, entitled, "Another world war – how scared should we be?" In it, he wrote about the Doomsday Clock, which is widely regarded as the most reliable indicator of what stage the world is at on the most perilous journey imaginable - the road to the extinction of the human race.

The clock was created in 1947, in the aftermath of the dropping of the atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, by the International Bulletin of Atomic Scientists in an attempt to show how little time we have left to get atomic/nuclear weapons under control; in other words, how close mankind is to destroying itself. The closer to midnight, the closer we are to a global nuclear catastrophe. The furthest from midnight it has ever been was in 1991 when it sat at 23:43. However, since then it has slowly moved forward and it currently sits at 23:58:30, meaning we are just 90 seconds away from annihilation.

Then, at a national level, last month YouGov published a list of the 20 things that most worried the UK population. Surprisingly, the state of this world failed to get a mention. The economy came top, with 52% of people surveyed listing it as a concern (down from 80% a few years ago). Healthcare came a close second on 50%, closely followed by Immigration on 40%, and then a step down to 24% for housing and 20% for the environment. At the bottom was a basket of issues including education, crime, pensions, tax, childcare, welfare, all well below 20%.

And at the personal level, we can all come up with our own lists of things we worry about... the things we are worried about now and the things we've been worried about during the past week, month, year...

Our children, our grandchildren, our parents, our grandparents, our spouses or partners, our health, our weight, our blood pressure, our vision, the results of that test. How much we spend on food and energy. How much sleep we get. Will I get promoted or will I lose my job? How long could we survive on unemployment benefit? Will my pension be there when I need it?

Matthew chapter 6, verses 24-34 begins with Jesus issuing a stark warning: As a modern translation puts it, "No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money".

So, having set the context, Jesus moves on to the point of this discourse: worry – and, in particular, worrying about basic human needs: food, clothing, health – well, that's three of YouGov's top five, so not much has changed!

However, we need to remember who Jesus is talking to here. Primarily, He's talking to His disciples who have just left their nets, boats, work and families to follow Him. However, Jesus is fully aware that the crowd is also listening, so He is talking to them, too, and the crowd was made up of, for the most part, the poor.

You see, the ancient world was very much like our world today in that the disparity between the rich and poor was huge, and an ever-widening chasm. So, this means that Jesus' audience had almost the same makeup as any church congregation today; a small group of committed followers and a large number of people that haven't

CONTINUED 

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DON'T WORRY, BE HAPPY

ADRIAN WALTER, LAY LEADER OF WORSHIP, REFLECTS ON OUR WORRIES

committed but are interested enough to hang around to hear more.

This is Jesus' audience. These are the people to whom Jesus is saying, "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?"

At first sight, this is an incredibly hard saying. It almost feels as if Jesus is using the language that Bobby McFerrin used in his 1988 song, "Don't worry, be happy", to society's most vulnerable and marginalised. It almost sounds as if He is being dismissive about the real and perilous position that the majority of His audience are in.

But, for those who could hear it, in the middle of this message, and very easy to miss, is the love God has for each person. Listen again, "Are you not much more valuable than they?"; a rhetorical question to which the answer must be a resounding "Yes".

You see, Jesus' audience lived in a perpetual state of worry. The occupying Roman Empire taxed them on what little they had. It also had the power to make them slaves or to execute them for minor offences. So, Jesus' message was one of hope for them; God is not heedless to your situation, "...your heavenly Father knows that you need them", and, by implication, and even more radically, in the eyes of God, you have value. No wonder that Jesus amassed a huge following during His ministry.

Jesus ends by encouraging them to, "...seek first His kingdom and His righteousness...all

these things will be given to you as well." Does this mean that God will supply endless amounts of food, clothing or cash? Does it mean that all our problems are over? No, it certainly does not! But it does mean that we can meet our worries and anxieties head on with the quiet confidence that we won't have to face them alone.

So we come full circle as we return to the first words of Jesus in this passage: "No one can serve two masters... You cannot serve both God and money." Given that Jesus defined serving money as anxiety about earthly things, we could, quite legitimately in my view, rephrase the latter part of verse 24 as, "You cannot serve both God and worry." We need to understand that God's love stands with us, even when we believe we are alone in the dark. We need to understand that God's love has been there before, has been through the darkness of suffering and fear. We need to understand that He perfectly understands what we are going through and, finally, we need to understand that His love doesn't necessarily mean rescue, but also the strength to face what lies before us.

You see, God never promised to keep us out of times of trouble, He only promised to keep us in times of trouble – and, if you remember nothing else of what I've said, remember that!

I'd like to finish with an excerpt from a prayer by the Trappist monk Thomas Merton, which has meant a lot to me over the past 14 years.

"My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end... However I will trust You always, though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death, I will not fear, for You are ever with me, and will never leave me to face my perils alone. Amen."

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www.rossisattic.co.uk

OUTREACH: THE MALAWI PROJECT

St Lawrence Church Abbots Langley has been supporting St Luke's Hospital, Malosa since 2010. Malawi remains one of the poorest countries in the world according to its GDP with an economy heavily dependent on agriculture where 80% of the population are working at subsistence level. The unpredictability of rainfall causes crops to fail leading to famine and malnutrition. With a population of 21 million, 1.5 million have Aids/HIV. Malaria and TB are rife and there is still a high rate of infant mortality.



St Andrew's congregation has stepped up to the challenge of helping to support this worthy cause by donating things to be sent to Malawi in a container.

Rosemary Willis writes, "A heartfelt thank you for the huge efforts of people to find, buy and give so many items for the Malawi Project.

Three trips were necessary with a full car each time to deliver the items. They included two wheelchairs – so desperately needed at St Luke's Hospital – and walking aids comprising about six pairs of crutches and five Zimmer frames. Thanks also for all the medical items such a blood pressure monitor, huge numbers of gloves, masks and aprons as well various other PPE items. I have learnt what scientific calculators look like: I think we had eight in all to send as well as maths equipment. We collected two sacks full of children's clothes and a few pairs of trainers which will help the nursery children and

Maternity unit. The amount of paper and pencils collected of all kinds was tremendous. I am sure that the dictionaries and textbooks, both English and French, will be heavily used as well as the flash cards for younger children.

Someone generously donated a food mixer which will be used for making food for the hospital patients. We will be helping the students who are training at the centre to be tailors when they receive the bucket of reels of cotton we collected. We also sent curtains and tablecloths as well as sets of draughts, chess and scrabble.

Filling the container was a huge task. All the gifts were moved to a scout hut in Abbots Langley so they could be sorted for packing in the container. I was told on my last trip that it was nearly full. Thank you again for your help to assist these poorest of people. A job well done."



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Services at St Andrew's

October 2024



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

	Date	Time	Service	Celebrant	Preacher
Wednesday	2	10.30 am	Holy Communion (Traditional)	Rev Alan Stewart	
Thursday	3	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (BCP)		
		10.30 am	Holy Communion Calton Court	Rev Bill Church	
SUNDAY	6	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Rev Alan Stewart	
<i>Trinity 19 Environment Sunday</i>		10.30 am	Parish Communion + Junior Church	Rev Alan Stewart	
		10.30 am	Harvest Service on Zoom	Kath Oates	Nick Hoyle
		7.00 pm	Creation Compline on Zoom	Rev Alan Stewart	
Monday	7	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (Common Worship)		
Wednesday	9	10.30 am	Holy Communion (Traditional)	Rev Bill Church	
Thursday	10	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (BCP)		
SUNDAY	13	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Rev Alan Stewart	Scott Martin
<i>Trinity 20 Harvest</i>		10.30 am	Harvest Festival All Age Service	Rev Alan Stewart	
		10.30 am	Communion Service on Zoom	Rev Bill Church	
		7.00 pm	Soul Food		
Monday	14	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (Common Worship)		
Wednesday	16	10.30 am	Holy Communion (Traditional)	Rev Bill Church	
Thursday	17	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (BCP)		
		10.30 am	Holy Communion Calton Court	Rev Bill Church	
SUNDAY	20	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Rev Bill Church	
<i>Trinity 21</i>		10.30 am	Parish Communion + Junior Church	Rev Alan Stewart	Forbes Mutch
		10.30 am	Morning Service on Zoom	Kath Oates	Forbes Mutch
		7.00 pm	Compline on Zoom	Rev Alan Stewart	
Monday	21	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (Common Worship)		
Wednesday	23	10.30 am	Holy Communion (Traditional)	Rev Alan Stewart	Scott Martin
Thursday	24	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (BCP)		
SUNDAY	27	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Rev Alan Stewart	Adrian Walter
<i>Last after Trinity</i>		10.30 am	Parish Communion + Junior Church	Rev Alan Stewart	Melanie Seward
		10.30 am	Morning Service on Zoom	Nick Hoyle	Adrian Walter
		6.30 pm	Evensong St Marys Hertingfordbury	Rev Bill Church	
		7.00 pm	Compline on Zoom	Rev Alan Stewart	
Monday	28	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (Common Worship)		
Wednesday ^{All Souls/All Saints}	30	10.30 am	Holy Communion (Traditional)	Rev Bill Church	
Thursday	31	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (BCP)		
		10.30 am	Holy Communion Calton Court	Rev Bill Church	