

The parish magazine of  
**Hertford St Andrew**

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

NOVEMBER 2024

SEASON OF REMEMBRANCE AT ST ANDREW'S

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY SERVICE 10 NOVEMBER AT 9.15AM

BEREAVEMENT SERVICE  
SUNDAY 17 NOVEMBER AT 2PM



Here with you Here for you

# HERTFORD ST ANDREW

Registered charity 1132540

Website: [www.HertfordStAndrews.co.uk](http://www.HertfordStAndrews.co.uk)

**PRIEST:** Rev Alan Stewart 01992 582726 h.alanstewart1@gmail.com  
**Assistant Priest:** Rev Bill Church 01992 410469 churchwj@hotmail.com  
**Readers:** Melanie Seward & Geoff Oates  
**Lay Leaders of Worship:** Forbes Mutch, Maria Henriksson-Bell, Kath Oates,  
Adrian Walter & Nick Hoyle  
**Pioneer Enablers:** Kath Oates & Maria Henriksson-Bell  
**Pastoral Assistants:** Carol Crowhurst 01992 509126 caroljoancrowhurst@gmail.com  
Charles Ledsam 07771 841012 charlesledsam@hotmail.com  
Kim Hamilton 07762 615453 hamiltonkl40@gmail.com  
Lyn Paine 07790 831608 lyn.paine@yahoo.com  
**Children & Families Worker** Lindsey Betteridge 07974 141083

**Parish Administrator:** Philippa Probert standrew.hertford@btinternet.com  
**Office Hours:** 9am to 2pm on Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Fridays 01992 504373  
**St Andrew's Centre:** Bookings: 07593 055223  
standrewscentre@hotmail.com

**Churchwardens:** Julie Markey 07801 236003  
JOINT EMAIL ADDRESS: churchwarden.hertfordstandrews@gmail.com

Lesley Self 07952 958963

**Deputy Warden:** Chris Seward 01992 554217

**Deanery Synod Members:** Jenny Aitken, Renee Booker & 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 Eco-church Group:** Jenny Mutch jennymant@icloud.com  
**Chair of Finance:** Chris Seward 01992 554217  
**Chair of Mission Giving:** Andrew Goodman 01992 421769  
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**Chair of Young People:** Rev Alan Stewart 01992 582726

**Bible Reading Fellowship:** Helle Penson 01992 916786  
**Director of Music:** Jane Eldred 01992 503658  
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**Hertford Churches Together:** Sue Mulligan 01992 421806  
**Honorary Clock Winder:** Keith Neat  
**Parish Magazine Editor:** Richard Taylor 01992 302995  
**Acting Ringing Master:** Andrew Case afcase@gmail.com  
**Safeguarding Officer:** Catherine Sleath 01992 537867  
**Toddler Group:** Judy Sharman 01992 423561  
**Treasurer:** Nick Sharman } treasurer.hertfordstandrews@gmail.com  
**Assistant Treasurer:** Judy Sharman } 01992 423561

## **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.

# iVisionary

In 2011, the premature death of Steve Jobs, co-founder and chairman of Apple, prompted an overwhelming international outpouring of grief. Tributes to the creative genius behind the iconic iPhone and iPad, included former US President Barack Obama who said 'He changed the way each one of us sees the world'. One of the most poignant and moving tributes came from the singer Neil Diamond who Twittered just one word; 'iSad'.

For many, Steve Jobs will be remembered for an inspirational speech he gave to students graduating from Stanford University in 2005. In that speech he spoke candidly about living with cancer.

*"When I was 17", he said, "I read a quote that went something like, 'if you live each day as if it was your last, some day you'll most certainly be right'. It made an impression on me and since then for the last 33 years, I have looked in the mirror every morning and asked myself, 'if today were the last day of my life, would I want to do what I am about to do today?'. And whenever the answer has been 'no' for too many days in a row, I know I need to change something."*

*"Remembering that I will be dead soon", he continued, "is the most important tool I've ever encountered to help me make the big choices in life. Because almost everything - all external expectations, all pride, all fear of embarrassment or failure - these things just fall away in the face of death, leaving only what is truly important. No-one wants to die; even people who want to go to heaven don't want to die to get there. And yet death is the destination we all share. No-one has ever escaped it. And that is as it should be, because death is very likely the single best invention of life. It is life's change agent."*

These extraordinary words are so counter-cultural. We avoid all talk of death. And yet death is part of life, and a healthy respect for death can invest life with meaning and significance. An embracing of death led Steve Jobs to inspire a generation and change a world.



November is a season of remembering. We will wear poppies to remember the Fallen. At services on All Souls and All Saints we will light candles in memory of those who have recently died and read the names of the departed whose lives are part of our church's story. Perhaps during this season of remembering we should each dare to stare death in the mirror and ask ourselves 'if today was my last day.... what would I do differently?'

How we respond to that simple question could change our lives, and just possibly could change the world.

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.

THE CLOSING DATE FOR THE DECEMBER/JANUARY MAGAZINE IS **SUNDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER**. Please send copy by e-mail to [hertfordsta@aol.co.uk](mailto: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 pages.

## **Junior Church**

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

### **ALL-AGE SERVICE**

SUNDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> NOVEMBER at 10.30am

NOTE THAT THIS IS THE FIRST SUNDAY

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

## **St Andrew's services on Zoom**

Zoom codes to dial in via your landline from 24<sup>th</sup> November are set out on the next page. Zoom codes for online access and access via a landline prior to 24<sup>th</sup> November are available from the church office: [standrew.hertford@btinternet.com](mailto:standrew.hertford@btinternet.com) or by calling 01992 504373.

Join us on Zoom for:

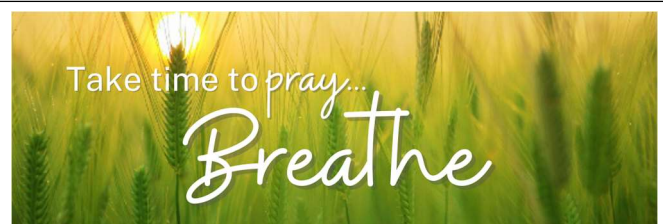
### **Service of the Word**

**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 page 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 2<sup>nd</sup> November 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 6<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> November ALSO IN CHURCH ON 6<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER IN CHURCH & ONLINE ON 4<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER**

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 10<sup>th</sup> November

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.*

**FREE**  
**Mindfulness**

When  
10.30AM  
ON  
MONDAYS  
4<sup>TH</sup> & 18<sup>TH</sup>  
NOVEMBER

Where  
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Hub  
Fleming Crescent, Sele  
Farm SG14 2DJ

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!*

## Join a Zoom service via your landline

### You just need the ID number and password for each service

1. Telephone participants will need to call either: 0208 080 6592 or 0203 481 5237 just prior to the service start time. Then follow the verbal instructions, which are:
2. Enter the meeting ID (see below) followed by the # key
3. You will be asked to enter your participant ID, simply press the # key
4. Enter the password (602435) followed by the # key
5. You should then automatically join the service.

### WEEKLY ZOOM SERVICES & MEETING ID NUMBERS

(these ID details apply for a year starting on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2024)

Service	ID Number
Sunday Worship 10.30am From Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> November onwards	<b>ID: 885 2580 6453</b>
Sunday Compline 7.00pm From Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> November onwards	<b>ID: 874 0276 0047</b>
Wednesday Mindfulness & Meditation 7.30pm (twice monthly) From Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> December onwards	<b>ID: 899 2681 1972</b>
BREATHE – first Saturdays 8.30am	<b>ID: 598 221 0120</b>

**Password for each service: 602435**

**Please note:** Your call charge for connecting to Zoom is likely to be no more than a local rate charge, or may be free, however this will depend on your call plan. If in doubt, please check with your provider.

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# CHURCH SERVICES

## SEASON OF REMEMBRANCE

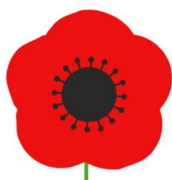
At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them.

### All Souls and All Saints Service:

Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> October at 10.30am

During our morning worship on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> October, we remember by name those in our parish who have died. If you would like a name to be included, please write the name on the list at the back of the church or contact Phil in the church office: 01992 504373 or [standrew.hertford@btinternet.com](mailto:standrew.hertford@btinternet.com)

### Remembrance Sunday: Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> November at 9.15am



The Parish Communion service in church will take place at the earlier time of 9.15am. There will be no Zoom service this Sunday. Please be aware of road closures in the town for Remembrance Day ceremonies. The **8am** Book of Common Prayer service will be marking Remembrance with a two-minute silence.

### Bereavement Service: Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> November at 2pm

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

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

#### 'Sponsor a Rose'

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



## ST ANDREW PATRONAL HOLY COMMUNION

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November at 10.30am

Please join us for our Patronal Eucharist service

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# CHURCH SERVICES

## CHURCH CLOSURE AND CHANGES TO SERVICES

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> - Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November

and Monday 11<sup>th</sup> - Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November

Work to install our new sound system will be taking place over these days and during this time the church will be closed to visitors. Morning Prayer (Monday & Thursday) and Mindfulness & Meditation (Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup>) will still happen in church, as will our Sunday services on 10<sup>th</sup>. **There will be no 10.30am Communion Service on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November. The 10.30am Communion Service on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November will take place at our sister church, St Mary's Hertingfordbury.**

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

Away Day 2025 is booked for **Sunday 4th May** at All Nations Christian College at Easneye which is located just beyond Stanstead Abbots. Set in the Hertfordshire countryside, we hope to welcome as many as possible to Easneye for a day of fun, companionship and worship for all generations. Further details will follow but for the time being, please make a note of the date.

*The perfect way to begin preparing for Christmas*

## A candle-lit service for Advent

Carols, readings and time to pause and reflect

Sunday 1st December 6.30pm St Andrew's Church

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caring and  
independent.

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funeral service*



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# EVENTS

## coffee morning

**SATURDAY  
2ND NOVEMBER  
10.30AM - 12.30PM**

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

Christmas cards and gifts  
from local charities | Music  
Royal British Legion poppies  
Freshly-brewed tea & coffee  
Homemade cakes and bakes



**IN AID OF ROYAL BRITISH LEGION  
& ST ANDREW'S CHURCH**  
[www.hertfordstandrews.co.uk](http://www.hertfordstandrews.co.uk)

## November's Coffee Morning Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> 10.30am - 12.30pm

This is the perfect time to start thinking 'Christmas' as many of our local charities bring their seasonal cards and gifts for you to buy. Please support the charities and select some fabulous festive finds all in one go!

We will be marking Remembrance and there will be Royal British Legion Poppies available.

There will be live music to enjoy and, of course, the scrumptious cakes and bakes we're known for, courtesy of our brilliant Bakers Galore team!

Proceeds from the Coffee Morning will be split equally between Royal British Legion and St Andrew's Church.

## Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> November 10am - 1pm

Here is another opportunity to stock up with some Christmas gifts and enjoy a slice of cake (or two) with a cup of tea or coffee at our sister church, St Mary's Hertingfordbury, where you will receive a warm welcome.

### Hike 'n Bike in September in aid of Beds & Herts Historic Churches Trust

Peter Ruffles reports that he and others from St Andrew's who took part raised over £500, meaning we are a certificate winner again! Half of the sponsorship money comes back to St Andrew's towards the funding of the repair and maintenance of this church.

Thank you to the participants and the sponsors.

**SATURDAY 16th NOVEMBER**  
**CHRISTMAS MARKET**  
St Mary's Church Hertingfordbury 10.00-13.00  
local honey - cakes - Italian olive oil - British Cheeses  
skin care products - jewellery - cards - raffle-crafts  
**& Local Crafts**  
**& REFRESHMENTS**  
an opportunity to enjoy  
a coffee, tea &  
delicious cakes  
with friends  
& neighbours

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### CONTACT DETAILS

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email: [sehscds@hotmail.com](mailto:sehscds@hotmail.com)

phone: 07842034890

# CHURCH MATTERS

## AUDIO-VISUAL UPGRADE

We are pleased to report that the Project 25K appeal has been successful in raising approximately £17,000. Money is still coming in.

We would like to extend a BIG thank you to everyone who has supported this appeal. Your generosity through prayer as well as in giving time and/or money has been wonderful. It has made a HUGE difference to our ability to complete the work.

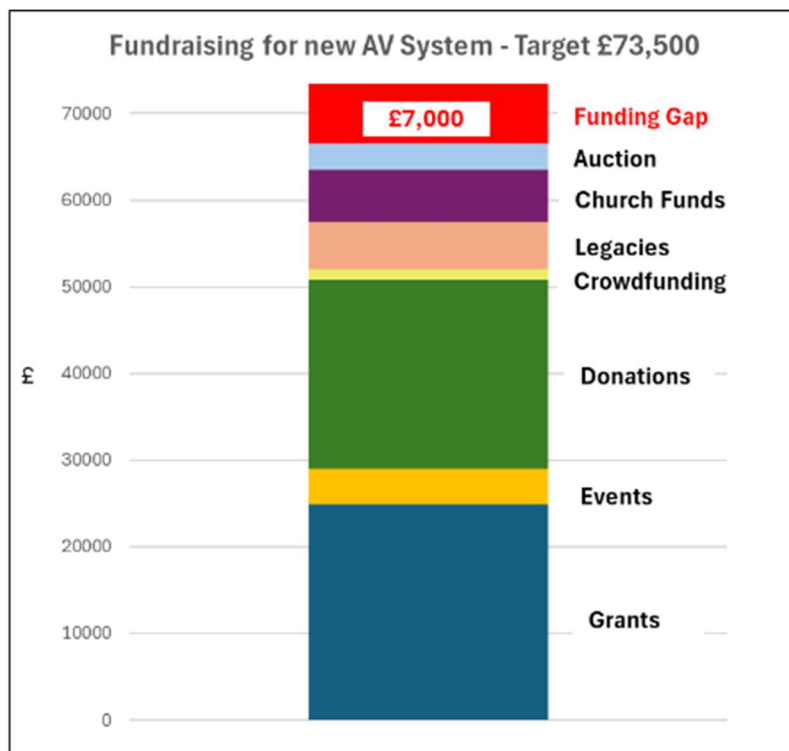
While we expect to be approximately £7,000 short of our proposed target, we have asked the contractor to install the big screen and, at least, two small screens (for the choir) at the same time as they will be installing the sound system. This will be done during the period 4th-13th November.

To fully fund the complete installation, we will need the extra £7,000 but going ahead now will mean we do not incur extra expense from the contractors coming back to the church for a second time.

We continue to invite further donations and are confident that predicted further income for the rest of this year (e.g. from events and Christmas activities) can ensure the funds are secured without any significant impact on our church budget or cash reserves. So far, the only use of church funds has been when we have generated a surplus at the end of the last two years.

The final stage of the work (i.e. installing screens in the rest of the church) can be completed in due course as funds become available. The cabling will have been installed so it should be a straightforward task. In the meantime, we believe this is a great opportunity to fulfil a project that has been part of the PCC's planning since 2021.

Further donations can be made through our



Crowdfunder page to be found at:

<https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/st-andrews-hertford-audio-visual-system>

Alternatively, 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 you can 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.

Once again, many thanks to everyone who has supported this appeal. With prayer, hope and one, final "push", we are sure we can reach our target!

Julie Markey and Lesley Self  
(Churchwardens)

Nick Sharman (Treasurer)

Chris Seward (Project Co-ordinator)

*Know the Story; Share the Story; Live the Story*

# CHURCH FAMILY

## FROM THE REGISTERS

### BAPTISMS:

*We welcome into the Lord's family:*

20<sup>th</sup> October                  **Jacob Exley**

### FUNERALS:

*We extend our sympathy to the family and friends of:*

24<sup>th</sup> October                  **Barbara Jane Hurford** aged 93. See below.

29<sup>th</sup> October                  **Barry James Parsell** aged 68.

### WEDDING BLESSING:

26<sup>th</sup> October                  **Darren and Lucy Fowles**

## BARBARA HURFORD: A LONG AND ACTIVE LIFE

Barbara was a much-loved and respected member of St Andrew's for very many years and throughout her long life, Barbara remained strong in her faith, loyal to her family and friends and an inspiration to others.



Born in 1931, Barbara had a tough childhood. An only child, her mother died when she was just 14 and her father kicked her out of the family home when she was just 16, saying she was old enough to fend for herself and maybe she could live in the church because she spent so much time there! Her teenage years were influenced by her grandmother, a strict Victorian woman, who herself died in her late 90s. Sadly,

very little is known about her childhood experiences. She formed, however, a very close relationship with her cousin, Barrie, and the pair of them remained close until the end.

Barbara met her husband at the church youth group and they married at Edgware Parish Church on the 21<sup>st</sup> February 1953. Her first-born son, Stephen, arrived in the world in January 1955. In 1956 her father turned up at their home a penniless bankrupt and Barbara took him in and he lived with the family until his death, the day their second son, Graham, was born on the 29<sup>th</sup> January 1957.

Stephen and Graham were brought up to be independent and self-sufficient and their drive stems from Barbara's encouragement, support and enthusiasm, but most importantly her love.

Barbara was an enthusiastic sports woman. She played many sports, which, in no particular order, included bowls, badminton, tennis, skiing, golf and croquet. She held a narrow boat captain's licence, earned sailing qualifications and had ballroom dancing lessons.

*Know the Story; Share the Story; Live the Story*

# CHURCH FAMILY

As a member of U3A she was often responsible for organising walking trips, all of which had been walked and checked out thoroughly.

Barbara's leadership qualities straddled several organisations including the Women's Institute, where she was an active member throughout her adult life. Her friends at Waterford remember her fondly, where she was for a period their president.

Barbara's Girlguiding career extended for over 60 years, for which she was received many awards, including her 60-year service award and most significantly the Laurel Award, the second highest honour in Guiding, which can only be awarded by Headquarters, along with the Trefoil Brooch, awarded for dedication and service to the Trefoil Guild, which is the supporting organisation for the Girl Guides. Many hundreds of women have been directly helped by her inspirational leadership. A recognition of her dedication and her service to others is the honour of having the County Standard being formally displayed at her memorial service at St Andrew's Church as a tangible public statement of gratitude by Girlguiding for her lifelong dedication to the organisation.

Finally, a word from Barbara's granddaughter, Gillian, "*She has been an incredible, positive influence on all of our lives for which we have immeasurable gratitude. We are immensely proud of all her achievements and the impact Gran has had on us as a family, as well as so many within the community.*"

## **LYN JOINS ST ANDREW'S TEAM OF PASTORAL ASSISTANTS**

Lyn Paine, pictured here with Rev Alan, was commissioned as a Pastoral Assistant at the Parish Communion service on Sunday 6th October. Lyn joins St Andrew's team of Pastoral Assistants comprising Carol Crowhurst, Kim Hamilton and Charles Ledsam who between them help Alan with pastoral work within the parish.

Lyn is a busy lady. As well as taking on this new role, she is a Governor at Hertford St Andrew School and a Run Director for Hertford Junior Parkrun, all of which she fits in around her 5 days a week job as an Energy Management Officer for Hertfordshire County Council. Married to Chris, they have three children and seven grandchildren.

Her hobbies include gardening, walking, reading and travelling, especially to see her grandchildren in Virginia, USA as well as closer to home. Lyn and Chris also have an allotment and enjoy making jam out of anything in abundance.

Lyn says, "I thoroughly enjoy volunteering and really looking forward to being part of the St Andrew's team."



*Know the Story; Share the Story; Live the Story*

# SCHOOL NEWS

*Let your light  
shine*  
-Matthew 5:16



*Love learning  
Aim high  
Trust God*

## Herford St Andrew C of E Primary School

### AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

This term has seen the start of a number of new After School Clubs.

Nature Club have made bird feeders and they hung some up around the playground for our wildlife to enjoy. Book and Biscuit Club talked about authors and favourite books... and had chocolate digestives! We had a very busy Lego club. Choir started learning new songs.

### NEW HOUSE PATRONS

Our children have recently chosen their new House Patrons. These are the people who we feel are good role models and who live out our values of **Compassion, Community, Creativity, Curiosity, Courtesy** and **Cooperation**.

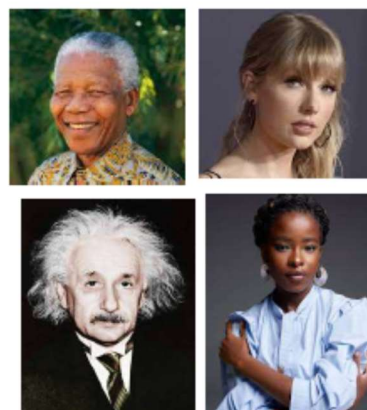
Children had an inspirational long list of names, and those chosen were **Nelson Mandela, Taylor Swift, Albert Einstein** and **Amanda Gorman**.

All four role models have made the world a better, happier, fairer place in one way or another. Each of them embodies one or more of our values. All of them have led a life that can inspire us to live in our own Christian Way of Life. Children will learn more about them through the year.

### GOVERNOR VISITS

Our Governors visited as an important part of their job in supporting the School. They took an active part in Communal Worship, visited a number of classes, spoke to children about their school life and even had school dinners!

We are currently looking for a new Co-Opted Governor, particularly with a Finance background. If you are interested please contact [Stuart.Aldridge@herfordstandrew.herts.sch.uk](mailto:Stuart.Aldridge@herfordstandrew.herts.sch.uk)



Know the Story; Share the Story; Live the Story

# The Wasteful Boy

There was once a young man who lived with his elder brother and father. They were quite well off and enjoyed a good life, but they worked quite hard too. After a while the young man became fed up with doing the same jobs every day and he wondered what life would be like outside the village where he lived. "This is all very well" he thought, "but I want to have an adventure and see some exciting places!"

So he decided to leave home. He didn't have enough money for travelling, or for the new things he wanted to do, but he had an idea. He knew that when his father died he would leave everything to him and his brother. "I know! I'll go and ask Dad if I can have my share of the wealth now. Then I can afford to do just what I please. I shall be rich!"

And that's exactly what he did. His father was very surprised to hear his son's strange request, but after he had thought about it, he decided to let him have his share of the wealth.

"Good luck son", he said. "Spend your money wisely and keep in touch."

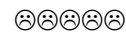


"What a great time I'm going to have!" thought the young man. He didn't have any particular plans so he set off for the nearest big city. He found a posh hotel and bought drinks for everyone he met. It made him very popular. "This is the life!" he laughed. He noticed that his new friends wore smarter clothes than him, so the next day he went out and chose some very fashionable and expensive clothes. He looked great and it made him even more popular. He moved on, even further away. He gave parties and stayed in expensive hotels. He went to shows, ate fine food and bought gifts for his friends. But you can guess what happened, can't you?



WITH THANKS TO VAL HURFORD

He ran out of money. Not only that, but the country began to suffer a food shortage. "Never mind", he thought, "I'm sure my friends will help me out. After all, I've been jolly generous to them." But his so-called friends did not want to know him any more. They only wanted to be his friends when he had money to spend on them - not because they enjoyed his company or because they cared about him. "I've been let down so badly" he moaned, "and it hurts. I've been such a fool that I dare not even go home."



By now, he didn't have anywhere to live and his clothes were becoming worn and shabby. He was starving, but no-one had a job for a homeless person like him. Eventually he was given a job looking after some pigs, "I can't believe I'm so hungry that I'm willing to eat pig food," he muttered. For the first time he thought about his brother in the comfortable home he had left months before. "That's where I should be," he concluded. So he set off for home.



He was dreading it. What would his father say to him? He thought he would be so angry. He considered turning back. Could he bear to upset his family like this? He was truly sorry.

But what a surprise was in store for him! When he got back home his father was pleased to see him. No, he was OVERJOYED to see him. He stopped what he was doing and welcomed his son like a long lost friend. He laid on a special meal for him and gave him clean clothes. In fact he made such a fuss of him that the young man was embarrassed. "What have I done to deserve this?" he wondered. "And I feel pretty bad about my brother too, leaving him to do all the work while I was off enjoying myself. He must hate me, knowing I've wasted all that money - then I turn up here penniless and dirty and get all the attention from dad. How can I explain that?"



How would you feel if your brother or sister behaved like that? Would you be rejoicing? Jesus explains it in the parable of The Prodigal Son. Read it for yourself in Luke 15 verses 11 - 32.

# CHURCH MATTERS



At Harvest Fest on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> October the church was buzzing with activity as it welcomed a large number of visitors to enjoy the selection of real ales and other drinks, an array of home-made food and an entertaining programme of live music. The audience sipped their drinks and ate their food while enjoying the performances of Why Not?, Nuala O'Halpin Trio, Sam Chaplin, Peter Sharman, Take Note Choir, Flare, Peter Crossley and Pat Crilly throughout the afternoon. At the same time the children's corner was busy creating a scarecrow using waste materials and decorating paper plates. A huge thank you goes to everyone who contributed to the event and made it a great success and to everyone who came along to support it.



WHY NOT?



PETER SHARMAN



NUALA HALPIN TRIO



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# CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE



## CALL FOR SINGERS AGED 8-13!

**Do you love singing?**

**St Andrew's Church is launching  
a brand new children's choir  
in January 2025!**

**Led by Rachel and Sam Chaplin**

Rehearsals on Fridays 5:30-6:45pm  
at St Andrew's Church Hertford,  
starting January 10th 2025

All welcome - no audition necessary.  
For more info and to sign up visit:  
[www.hertfordstandrews.co.uk/childrenschoir](http://www.hertfordstandrews.co.uk/childrenschoir)



Scan here  
for more  
information



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# chapter79.

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# 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 14<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> March**

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

**Miranda Sykes & Jim Causley: Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> March**

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

**Leveret: Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May**

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

**Phil Beer: Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> September**

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

**Chris White & Julie Matthews: Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> 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.



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## Interested in the value of your Art & Antiques?

Sworders are pleased to offer a free, no obligation auction valuation of your Art, Antiques & Collectables.

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# ST ANDREW'S HOSTS "THE MOST AMAZING WEDDING"

Very often there is a family connection with a church or a place which leads a couple to choose a particular venue for their wedding ceremony. In Natasha and Chris's case the decision to make their wedding vows in St Andrew's Church, Hertford was a little different. Chris tells us how this came about:

"Natasha and I met six years ago and having been engaged for 18 months, it took us nine visits to different venues to

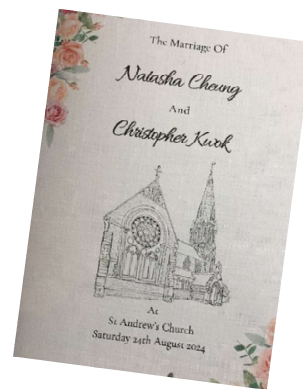


find our perfect place. Being from Newcastle, and Natasha from Surrey, we decided on Hertfordshire as it was halfway between the two places and we chose Fanhams Hall for our wedding reception. We decided to have our wedding in a church as it was important to us to get married in the house of God and be blessed. After we started attending St Andrew's on Sundays, we loved the family feel and close-knit community spirit it had to it, so our decision was made that we would make our wedding vows at St Andrew's.

We had the most amazing wedding service on 24<sup>th</sup> August 2024. Our families are still talking about it, and especially about Rev Alan and the church choir which sang four hymns.

Following the ceremony, we went to Fanhams Hall for our afternoon reception and also had a traditional Chinese tea

ceremony as we had quite a few relatives fly over from Hong Kong. It was nice for them to see the church and both sides of our English/Asian wedding cultures. Whilst it was overcast on the day, we had the best time and are now back living and working in London, although we plan to move closer to Natasha's family in Surrey next year."



It was wonderful that this delightful couple should have found their way to Hertford and to have chosen St Andrew's for their wedding. Thank you to them and to their friends and families who attended and made it such a special day.

## Digital Skills Group in Hertford

**Booking is essential!**  
Call 0300 123 1034 to join

*Would you like to know your way around a computer, tablet or phone and gain confidence in the Digital World?*

*Join our friendly, **FREE** and volunteer-led group and improve your digital skills now!*

Our Digital Champions will show you how to do simple things online such as how to use your devices, online shop, access virtual appointments, and overall, stay better connected with your friends and family!

**All you need are your charged devices!**



**Community Alliance**  
BROXBORNE & EAST HERTS

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# CHARITY

## Harvest Festival 2024

AN ENORMOUS THANK YOU to all those who donated to our Harvest Appeal - what a fantastic collection of tins, packets, jars and toiletries we were able to give to our two local charities! Hertford & District Foodbank and The Hertford Pantry have each received a superb selection of donations and they have expressed their thanks. Your generosity is amazing.



Thank you to everyone who contributed to preparing the church so beautifully with all the flowers, fresh produce and donations.

Proceeds from the sale of fresh goods went to the Bishop of St Albans Harvest Appeal 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. We've been able to send £310 to the Bishop's Appeal from St Andrew's. Fresh produce also went to The Hertford Pantry.

## Charity Christmas Trees

Sacombe Green **SG12 0JQ**: Weekends 30<sup>th</sup> November/1<sup>st</sup> December  
and 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> December

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

The trees will be there for you to select between 9am and 4pm on the above dates at **Sacombe Green**.

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

This is your chance to acquire a lovely Christmas tree and at the same time help others in the season of goodwill!

Hertfordshire Community Foundation: Tel: 01707 251351

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

St Catherine's Church, Sacombe SG12 0JJ Tel: 07905  
431525 [www.ubsms.org.uk>churches>st-catherines-sacombe](http://www.ubsms.org.uk>churches>st-catherines-sacombe)



image by freepik

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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 charity registered in England and 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 Noble writes 'Bolivia's problems continue. July and August brought blockades and strikes over the lack of fuel. In September ex-President Evo and his supporters called on President Arce to step down because of economic problems. There followed serious confrontations between the two groups of followers. However, the economic situation here is deteriorating. Besides the fuel shortages, gas exports are declining and food costs are rising. The Presidential election is next year!

The Angel Tree Centre winter holidays were extended from two to four weeks because of the cold. This gave me time to progress my online course in Supervision of Restorative Justice Cases with the Welsh Probation Service. This has helped me with looking at how to systemise the Restorative Justice work and be more intentional in case supervision. Numbers at the Centre are down owing to the children having difficulty in travelling but on the plus side we have seven final year students from the German School who work with the children on Friday afternoons. Together they make and sell cakes to raise funds for the Centre.

The second semester at Renacer Young Offender Centre where I also work, began in August. Today there were over ninety young people detained in the Centre many of them are jucos (mineral stealers). We have been assigned new individual cases for this semester. I have four drug cases as well as the rape case from last semester.

During July and August, a colleague and I worked on thirty-three restorative justice interventions. This involved organising sessions with young offenders, visiting courts in the city and the provinces to look for victim information, contacting and visiting victims, setting up family meetings and planning restorative conferences. Thankfully the number of cases reduced a bit in September and we now have just nineteen active cases.'

At the end of Julie's letter Julie makes the following request, 'I am planning to take a sabbatical during May and June 2025 in the UK. If anyone knows somewhere independent where I could stay during part or all of that time please get in touch.' Please contact Jenny Aitken if you can help Julie.

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# REFLECTIONS ON A BIBLE PASSAGE

PROVIDED BY LAY READER, GEOFF OATES

**Reflections on Mark 9 v 47: And if your eye causes you to stumble, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell.**

Over the centuries the Church has allowed some very unfortunate misconceptions about Hell to get hold of our imaginations. The art of painters like Hieronymus Bosch and Peter van Breughel have given us a vision of Hell as a flaming subterranean torture chamber where Satan torments the wicked for eternity.

Regrettably, in English we use the one word, Hell, to translate three different words in the Bible. In the Old Testament, Hebrew 'Sheol' and its Greek equivalent 'Hades' are simply the place where the dead go. Whilst it is presented as a rather cheerless place, it has no real associations with reward and punishment. It certainly isn't the spiritual dystopia of mediaeval imagination. In fact, the Old Testament really doesn't concern itself very much with what happens when we die.

When Jesus talks about hell in Mark's Gospel, the word he uses in his own language is Gehenna. You can all go to Gehenna if you like. Literally. It's on Google Maps. It's a deep valley or ravine just outside the old walls of Jerusalem, the Valley of Hinnom in modern Hebrew. It's rather pretty suburban parkland now, overlooked by the old city walls around the Gate of Joppa. But in Jesus time, and for centuries before, Gehenna was the city rubbish dump, the municipal landfill site.

Gehenna is outside the city wall. You don't want your smelly, rotting rubbish inside the city, do you? You throw it over the wall. Like most places where organic waste is piled up in large quantities, the tip would constantly catch fire and burn in a slow, smouldering, smoky way. Was that the inspiration for the everlasting flames of hell?

When we know all this, Jesus' rather gruesome image about cutting off a foot or tearing out an eye and throwing it away, can suddenly make a lot more sense. Throw your eyeball on the rubbish tip, it's better than all of you landing on the rubbish tip. I think Jesus might even have got a laugh for this line!

So this passage isn't about sending people to Hell. It's about the Kingdom of God, the place that Jesus wants to lead us to. The place that is so amazingly good that it is worth almost any sacrifice, any radical act to get onto the right side of the wall, the right side of the frontier. Would you give your right arm – or your right eye – to get there?

We hear each week the stories of countless thousands of desperate people who make their way to the frontiers and coastlines of Europe and the USA each week? People who make unimaginable sacrifices for their hopes of a life of greater security or prosperity.

How much would we sacrifice to secure our citizenship in the Kingdom of God? It's not a Kingdom with clear geographical boundaries. There are no walls or fences defining its borders – though sadly there are some Christians

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# REFLECTIONS ON A BIBLE PASSAGE

PROVIDED BY LAY READER, GEOFF OATES

who seem to think there ought to be. It's any place and any time where God is acknowledged as King, where God's rule, God's wise and loving laws, are recognised and lived out. Who wouldn't want to go there?

Let us imagine ourselves as eager, impatient immigrants heading for the Kingdom of God. We've got our Visa – Jesus himself has sorted that out for us, so we don't need to worry about passport control; but there are still a few formalities to attend to at the frontier. There is no customs union between Gehenna and the Kingdom of God, and there are a few things you can't bring with you, things that have no place in the Kingdom of God. And if you want that better life, you're going to have to leave them behind. If you want to cross over, throw them in the rubbish bin over there. Not because of some arbitrary law of the divine immigration office, but because you can't live the life of a citizen of the Kingdom of God until you've got rid of them.

There is no compromise. You cannot just offer to pay more for excess baggage, you cannot offer to pay customs duty on it. You must leave it behind, throw it in the rubbish.

Greed. Prejudice. Pride. Lust. Dishonesty. Privilege. Indifference. Bitterness and Anger. Unrepented and unresolved conflicts. Unforgiven injuries.

There's no room in the Kingdom of God for any of these. And I know that giving such things up is seriously hard. For many of us, these burdens have taken deep root in our identities. They feel like part of who we are. Maybe it is not

too great an exaggeration to speak of cutting off your hand or tearing out your eye.

What might you need to cut off and throw in the bin?

Whatever has no place in the Kingdom of God is rubbish. But it doesn't have to hold you back. It belongs on the tip - outside the walls. Let it burn away there. You don't want it. This is not an image of punishment, it is an image of liberation.

I wonder what Jesus would say about rubbish today, 2,000 years on? I think he'd take a rather different, and perhaps more cheerful approach.

We're not supposed to throw things on the rubbish tip anymore, are we? Especially not organic waste – like hands and feet and eyes. Our local authorities try very hard to reduce the amount of stuff we throw into landfill sites. They fill our gardens with multicoloured bins and tell us to sort our rubbish out. Because so much of it can be recycled – refurbished, reprocessed, and used again in new and different ways.

Organic waste is turned to compost. Nutrients for new growth, for new life. Other waste streams go to power stations and bring heat and light to our homes. New power from old rubbish.

I think Jesus would have liked those ideas. Don't let your life end up on the rubbish tip. Recycle it. Let God make it new, transform it, make it ready to use again, in different and surprising ways. New life, new power. But above all, a creation fit and ready to live as a citizen of the Kingdom of God.

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# Rossi's Attic

Vintage Retro Antiques & Collectables



**4 MILLBRIDGE, HERTFORD SG14 1PY**

Rossi's Attic is a family run vintage emporium with a selection of dealers selling everything from antique jewellery and vintage homeware to metaphysical goods.

Open Tuesday to Saturday 10am to 5pm and Sunday 10am to 4pm.

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

# CHARITIES: help needed/help offered

## Help Keep Your Local Air Ambulance Flying: Volunteer at their Stevenage Charity Shop!

Essex & Herts Air Ambulance (EHAAT) is looking for dedicated volunteers to join their team at the recently opened charity shop at 14 The Forum in Stevenage, which has been welcoming the community since July. They need enthusiastic individuals to help support this vital life-saving service.

EHAAT's charity shops are essential in raising funds to keep their helicopters flying, providing critical care across Hertfordshire, Essex, and surrounding areas. As a shop volunteer, you'll assist with tasks like sorting donations, pricing items, serving customers, and creating vibrant displays. It's a great way to develop retail skills, meet new people, and make a meaningful impact on your local community.

Whether you can volunteer a few hours a week or more regularly, they'd love to hear from you. No experience is necessary – just a positive attitude and a willingness to help!

To learn more about becoming a volunteer at the Stevenage shop, visit [ehaat.org/volunteer](http://ehaat.org/volunteer) or stop by the shop to chat with the team. Your time could help save lives!



## WINTER WELFARE PROJECT



Age UK Hertfordshire will be supporting older and/or vulnerable people to keep warm this winter by providing Winter Welfare Visits. Support will be delivered via our 'handyperson' service and they can help with the following:

- Provide and install radiator reflector strips to maximise heat dispersion
- Provide and install draught excluders for doors and windows to reduce heat loss
- Provide and install energy efficient bulbs and night lights
- Provide an electric blanket or a winter duvet (single size only)
- Provide a Warm in Winter bag
- Help to take meter readings and set heating timings and thermostats (please note that we are unable to help with any central heating related issues as this will require a gas-safe engineer and/or an appropriate tradesman)
- Hang winter curtains (already owned or purchased by client)

This is a fully funded project by HCC and the ICS and is therefore free of charge.

If you would like to make a referral please complete a Winter Welfare Referral Form obtainable from Age UK Hertfordshire: [chris.skrabski@ageukherts.org.uk](mailto:chris.skrabski@ageukherts.org.uk)

One of the team will make contact with the client to arrange a visit and discuss their individual needs. The team have all had a DBS check completed, references sought, and will have ID on arrival.

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# Services at St Andrew's

## November 2024



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

	Date	Time	Service	Celebrant	Preacher
<b>SUNDAY</b> <i>4th Before Advent</i>	3	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Rev Bill Church	
		10.30 am	<b>All Age Service</b>	Rev Alan Stewart	
		10.30 am	Eucharist <b>on Zoom</b>	Kath Oates	Rev Bill Church
		7.00 pm	Compline <b>on Zoom</b>	Rev Alan Stewart	
Monday	4	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (Common Worship)	<b>NB the church is closed</b>	
Wednesday	6	10.30 am	<b><u>No service this morning</u></b>	<b>this week &amp; Mon-Wed next week</b>	
		7.30 pm	Mindfulness & Meditation	<b>save for Morning Prayer &amp; Meditation</b>	
Thursday	7	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (BCP)		
<b>SUNDAY</b> <i>Remembrance</i>	10	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Rev Alan Stewart	
		<b>9.15 am</b>	<b>Parish Communion</b>	Rev Bill Church	
		10.30 am	<b><u>No Zoom Service today</u></b>		
		7.00 pm	Soul Food in St Andrew's Centre		
Monday	11	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (Common Worship)		
Wednesday	13	10.30 am	Holy Communion <b>AT ST MARY'S HERTINGFORDBURY</b>	Rev Bill Church	
Thursday	14	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (BCP)		
		10.30 am	Holy Communion Calton Court	Rev Alan Stewart	
<b>SUNDAY</b> <i>2nd Before Advent</i>	17	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Rev Bill Church	
		10.30 am	<b>Parish Communion</b>	Rev Alan Stewart	Forbes Mutch
		10.30 am	Morning Service <b>on Zoom</b>	Kath Oates	Forbes Mutch
		2.00 pm	Bereavement Service	Rev Alan Stewart/Rev Bill Church	
		7.00 pm	Compline <b>on Zoom</b>	Rev Alan Stewart	
Monday	18	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (Common Worship)		
Wednesday	20	10.30 am	Holy Communion (Traditional)	Rev Alan Stewart	
		7.30 pm	Mindfulness & Meditation <b>on Zoom</b>		
Thursday	21	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (BCP)		
<b>SUNDAY</b> <i>Christ the King</i>	24	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Rev Alan Stewart	
		10.30 am	<b>Parish Communion</b>	Rev Alan Stewart	Geoff Oates
		10.30 am	Morning Service <b>on Zoom</b>	Nick Hoyle	Geoff Oates
		12.30 pm	Baptism Service		
		6.30 pm	<b>Evensong St Mary's Hertingfordbury</b>	Rev Bill Church	
		7.00 pm	Compline <b>on Zoom</b>	Rev Alan Stewart	
Monday	25	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (Common Worship)		
Wednesday	27	10.30 am	Holy Communion (Traditional)	Rev Bill Church	
Thursday	28	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (BCP)		
		10.30 am	Holy Communion Calton Court	Rev Bill Church	