

The parish magazine of
Hertford St Andrew

www.hertfordstandrews.co.uk

DECEMBER 2024/JANUARY 2025

WISHING YOU JOY, WONDER & HOPE THIS CHRISTMAS



AND GOOD HEALTH & HAPPINESS IN THE NEW YEAR

Here with you Here for you

HERTFORD ST ANDREW

Registered charity 1132540

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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.

I BELIEVE

When somebody says they don't believe in God, I sometimes ask them to describe the God they don't believe in. Nine times out of ten, I don't believe in that God either.

Everyone believes in something. Historically the Church has put its beliefs into words by composing creeds or statements of faith.

If you were to write your own creed beginning with the words 'I believe...', what would you write?

During this time of Advent as we prepare to celebrate perhaps the most un-believable of stories, I've found a creed that speak for me...

'I believe in God; the God of all creeds, with all their truths; but above all, in the God who rises from the dead words to become part of life.

I believe in a God who accompanies me along every step of my path on this earth; many times walking behind me, watching me and suffering with my mistakes; other times walking beside me, talking to me and teaching me; and other times walking ahead of me, guiding and marking my pace.

I believe in the God of flesh and blood, Jesus Christ; the God who lived in my skin, and tried on my shoes; the God who ate and starved, who had a home and suffered loneliness, who was praised and condemned, kissed and spat on, loved and hated; the God who went to parties and funerals; the God who laughed and cried.

I believe in the God who looks at the world and sees the hatred that segregates, hurts and kills; who sees the dirty rivers and the dead fish, the destruction of the earth and the

piercing of the sky; who sees the future mortgaged and man's debt growing.

I believe in the God who sees all this... and cries.



But I also believe in the God who sees a mother giving birth – a life born from pain; who sees two children playing – a seed growing; who sees a flower blooming out of the debris – a new beginning; who sees the sun rising every morning – a time of opportunity.



I believe in a God who sees all this ... and smiles, because in spite of it all, there is hope.'

This Christmas, may we all know something of that hope.

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 FEBRUARY MAGAZINE IS **SUNDAY 26TH JANUARY**. 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 two pages 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 (see below), when the children stay in church for the whole service.

ALL-AGE SERVICES

SUNDAY 8TH DECEMBER at 10.30am

SUNDAY 12TH JANUARY at 10.30am

CHRISTMAS DAY at 10.30am

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

St Andrew's services on Zoom

Zoom codes for online access and access via a landline are 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.



SUNDAY 22ND DECEMBER ONLY, THEN SUNDAYS FROM 12TH JANUARY on Zoom at 7pm

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 7th December & 4th January 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.



*** IN CHURCH (& on Zoom) 7.30pm ON WEDNESDAYS**

4TH DECEMBER & 15TH JANUARY

*** ON ZOOM ONLY at 7.30pm on WEDNESDAY 22ND JANUARY**

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

soul food

**CONTEMPORARY
CAFÉ-STYLE SERVICE**
in the St Andrew's Centre
7pm
on Sunday 8th December
THEME: 'A Light in the Darkness'
& Sunday 5th January
A special service for the New Year
JOIN US AT 6.45 FOR REFRESHMENTS
*a service with worship songs,
creative prayer, gentle discussion and
time for reflection.*

FREE Mindfulness

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

WHEN
10.30AM
ON
MONDAYS
2nd DEC.
6th JAN.
& 20th JAN.

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

Everyone is welcome
just turn up!

ALSO IN ADVENT

Beer & Carols

SATURDAY 14 DECEMBER
3.30-5.30PM

FREE
ADMISSION
ALL AGES
WELCOME

**CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES AND
FESTIVE FUN FOR ALL AGES!**

LESSONS & CAROLS by candlelight

followed by mulled wine

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH

7.30pm on WEDNESDAY 18th DECEMBER

A Mindful Christmas

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

WHEN
Monday
16 December
7.30pm

WHERE
St Andrew's
Church

www.hertfordstandrews.co.uk
standrew.hertford@btinternet.com

Know the Story; Share the Story; Live the Story

Christmas at St Andrew's

Sat 14 Dec

Beer & Carols 3.30-5.30pm

*Family-friendly drop-in with carols,
beer and mulled wine*

Mon 16 Dec

A Mindful Christmas 7.30pm

*Short candlelit service to reflect,
recharge and find comfort*

Wed 18 Dec

Lessons & Carols 7.30pm

Candlelit service followed by mulled wine

Sun 22 Dec

Lessons & Carols on Zoom 10.30am

Christmas Eve

Crib and Christingle 11am

Crib and Christingle 4pm

Midnight Mass 11.15pm

Christmas Day

Holy Communion 8am

Christmas Communion for all ages 10.30am

Plans are subject to change so please check our website for the latest information

www.hertfordstandrews.co.uk

Know the Story; Share the Story; Live the Story

CHURCH MATTERS

On St Andrew's Secret Service

Most of you will have noticed in the monthly calendar (back page) that there is a service of Morning Prayer every Monday and Thursday at 8am. Way back in the 1970s in the days when the Rector was the Rev. Duncan Dormer the services of Morning and Evening Prayer were said in church every day. Quite how it became just Morning Prayer on Monday and Thursday I cannot now remember but I would like to recommend these services to you as an excellent way to start the week and the day.

On Monday the Common Worship Daily Prayer book is used. There is a different service set for every day of the week and so that the same order of service is not used every Monday a different day is used each week. This always leads to Bill asking when he arrives on Monday morning 'what day is it today?'

On Thursday the 1662 Book of Common Prayer is used. A lovely order written in God's own language.

Each service includes a psalm, canticles, a reading from the Old and New Testaments as well as a collect and prayers. Lasting no longer than 20 minutes it is a very peaceful service and much to be recommended as a special way to begin a difficult day, to remember a loved one or to pray for someone who needs our love and attention.

Usual there are only 2 or 3 gathered together but the chapel has seating for 12 and we could always move into the church if numbers grow!! Look forward to seeing you there.

Keith Neat

From Packaging to Poppies



Thank you to everyone who is saving their plastic netting used to cover punnets of peaches, nectarines & plums. Stewed fruit at this time of year makes a lovely dessert and the

netting is helping us to show our children how to recycle & create some beautiful poppies out of what would be a waste product.

Please keep collecting the netting & place it in the box at the back of church.



Note that we cannot use the floppy netting on easy-peel satsumas,

lemons & kiwis. We need the stiffer grade of netting that can be shaped. I will also collect white or black if you shop anywhere other than



Tesco. These sometimes get used for other items such as garlic.

Chrissy Barclay

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HERTFORD • 01992 582052
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EVENTS



December's Coffee Morning

Saturday 7th from 10.30am to 12.30pm

It's our bumper Christmas Coffee Morning run by our Toddler Group! Christmas cards, gifts and crafts will be on sale, we'll have a raffle and - as always - a delicious selection of homemade cakes and bakes to tempt you. You can expect a warm welcome and live music, too. All funds raised will be split equally between Great Ormond Street Hospital and St Andrew's Church.

Take Note Choir

A Christmas celebration at St Andrew's Church

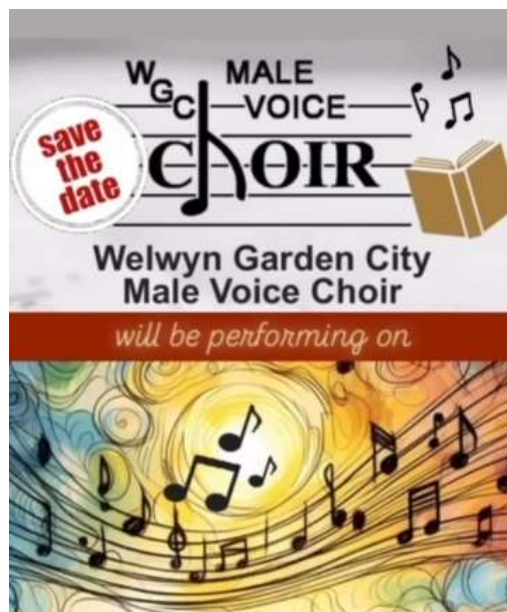
7.30pm on Saturday 7th December

We are delighted to welcome Simon Balle's Adult Choir, Take Note, to St Andrew's Church with their Conductor, Sam Chaplin. The Christmas Celebration programme is full of festive favourites and we can expect musical performances from Simon Balle All-Through School students, too. Tickets available on the door.

January's Coffee Morning

Saturday 4th 10.30am - 12.30pm

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



Friday 13th December
7.30pm at St. Mary's Church, Hertingfordbury

tickets £10 from Kay Juniper 07776 340932
Music from a variety of genres, songs from shows, spirituals & traditional English, Scottish & Irish pieces
FOHSM event

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CONTACT DETAILS

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HERTFORD CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Rachel Chaplin reports on the launch of a children's community choir at St Andrew's



Some of my earliest memories of experiencing sheer joy and fun are associated with singing. At school we used to sing in assembly every morning, sing in class music lessons and sing in the school choir. I wonder whether children today have fewer chances to sing. There certainly seems to be a lot less singing in schools and that's one reason why I am excited to start a children's community choir here at St Andrew's, to give children the chance to enjoy music and start a journey of singing which could stay with them for life. **The choir will be open to anyone aged 8 to 13 who loves music. There's no audition and anyone can come along and try it out.**

Singing in a choir is a fantastic way to learn music. Children joining the choir will learn the basics of reading music, develop confidence in their own voice and learn to sing in harmony with others. Each session will start with fun warm-up games, before we move onto learning music including folk songs, rounds, gospel songs and classical pieces.

The children's choir will rehearse here at St Andrew's Church, a wonderful venue with a long tradition of hosting live concerts, and the home church of St Andrew's Church choir which sings

weekly Sunday services. There are plans afoot for the children's choir to perform termly in an all-age service and also at community events such as a Saturday coffee morning. Further down the line we intend to collaborate with other choirs and musical ensembles to give the children the chance to perform in larger concerts alongside experienced musicians.

All in all, we hope the children's choir will be part of the church's welcome to the local community, opening its doors to people in and around Hertford with a love of music at the heart. The choir will be led by myself and my husband, Sam Chaplin. We are both professional musicians – I am an orchestral oboist, composer and teacher and Sam is a jazz trumpeter, singer and choir leader.

The children's choir will kick-off in January with two taster sessions on Friday January 10th and 17th at 5:30-6:45pm in St Andrew's Church. To register your interest and to find out more please go to the community pages of www.hertfordstandrews.co.uk or scan the QR code below.

If you would like to join a team of people helping with the running of the weekly choir (welcome and refreshments) please contact Rachel on rachelchaplinmusic@gmail.com



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CHURCH FAMILY

NEW YEAR'S DAY WALK

Everyone is welcome to join our St Andrew's & St Mary's New Year's Day Walk. We will begin the walk at 11am from the car park of the Golden Griffin (opposite The Sele School), but do not park in the car park (see below) but find a space on-street or in the car park in Calton Avenue. We will head into Panshanger Park for a stroll along a circular route for about an hour. Walkers will then be welcome to head into the Golden Griffin for drinks (please bring a means to pay). The pub car park is now managed by Euro Car Parks. Please read and comply with the notices to avoid a penalty notice. If there is anything you want to ask, please call Richard on 07703 197707.

FROM THE REGISTERS

BAPTISMS:

We welcome into the Lord's family:

24th November **Remy Rollo Sharman**

FUNERALS:

We extend our sympathy to the family and friends of:

11th November at St Mary's **David Alan Kemp** aged 84. David was born in London, qualified as a Chartered Accountant and set up his own business now based in Ware. He was well-regarded within his profession and active in local organisations. In 1964 he married Sylvia and 8 years ago they made their home in Brewhouse Lane. David will be missed especially by Sylvia, their children David, Jennifer and Ian and four grandchildren.

12th November **Harold Townshend Chaplin** aged 78

14th November Thanksgiving service for **Harold Townshend Chaplin** who you can read about in this magazine.



ST ANDREW'S CHRISTMAS CARD

This drawing of the three Wise Men by Owen of Hertford St Andrew Primary School was chosen for our Christmas card which goes out to households around the parish. Well done and thank you to Owen, other pupils who submitted drawings and to the school's staff for their help.

FUNDS RAISED FOR CRUSE BEREAVEMENT CARE

At our Bereavement Service on Sunday 17 November, Peter & Hazel Risby and Carol Kemp offered 'Sponsor a Rose' as a way of remembering loved ones. An amazing £370 was raised for the Hertford Branch of Cruse Bereavement Care. Thank you to all those who supported this fundraiser and to our local Tesco for donating some of the stems.

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 save the date.

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EVENTS

Nordman Fir Christmas Trees for charity

Weekends 30th November/1st December and 7th/8th December only



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 SG12 0JQ**.

There is no set/fixed price; just make a donation of whatever you consider to be 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!

 Please support this fundraiser for St Andrew's Primary School 

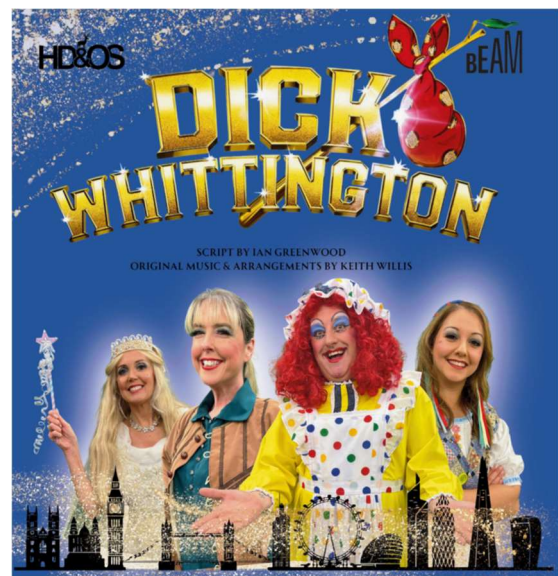
Cakes baked by the PTA and decorated by the children of St Andrew Primary School

Sunday 8 December
at St Andrew's Church
11.30am onwards
(Service begins at 10.30am)

All proceeds to the PTA to help the children of St Andrew Primary School

PTA Bake Sale

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH
HERTFORD SG14 1HZ



DICK WHITTINGTON

THURSDAY 16TH & FRIDAY 17TH JANUARY at 7pm, SATURDAY 18TH JAN. 2pm & 6pm, SUNDAY 19TH JAN. at 3pm

Directed by St Andrew's Churchwarden, Julie Markey, with her husband Jim playing King Rat, Hertford Dramatic and Operatic Society is delighted to bring Pantomime fun to the BEAM theatre in Hertford. This show is suitable for all the family and will include all the elements you expect from a traditional Panto, including the hero of the title, Dick Whittington, and his feline friend called Tom the Cat.....or is he? We also have a fabulous Dame, Sarah the Cook, and her son Jack. There will be lots of audience participation and a five-piece band to accompany the lively singing and dancing from our large cast. The script has been written by our own Ian Greenwood, who will ensure that there are plenty of laughs and lots of fun to be had. And, of course, the Baddie, King Rat, and his dastardly henchmen will do their best to foil Dick's plans.....oh yes they will! Come along to find out whether Dick wins both the day and the hand of his love Alice.

Tickets £19 - Under 18s £17 available from the BEAM box office

<https://beamhertford.co.uk/events/hdos-presents-dick-whittington/>

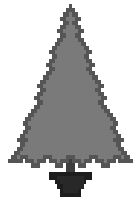
Group discount of 10 tickets for the price of 9 applied at the checkout

Know the Story; Share the Story; Live the Story

The Big Christmas Word Search



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



Most of these words can be found in Luke Chapter 2: v 1 - 20 & Matthew 2: v 1 - 12.
Which ones do **not** appear in the bible passages?

SHEEP DONKEY CHRISTMAS CAROL NATIVITY
MARY JOSEPH JESUS ANGEL GABRIEL MANGER HOLLY
STAR IVY TREE KINGS SHEPHERDS HEROD TIDINGS GOD
GOLD JOY DAVID FIELDS STABLE MYRRH EAST CITY

Christmas Carols



Christmas Carols

Can you solve these anagrams?
They are all titles of Christmas carols.

RELAX SHOUTS SEC

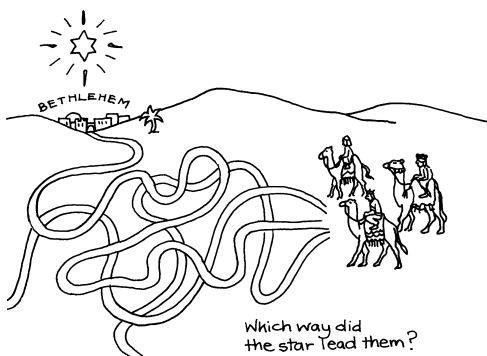
TED SHELL HACK

YA A GERMAN WAIN

SWISH TIRE SHAPE

THE WINGS REEK

IF A HOT CELLO MAY FUEL



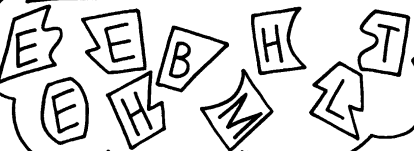
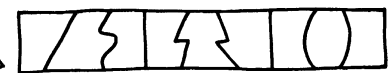
Which way did the star lead them?

WITH THANKS TO VAL HURFORD

To which carol do these words belong?

"And by the light of that same star,
Three wise men came from country far."

What town was Jesus born in?



CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE AT ST ANDREW'S

CHILDREN ARE WELCOME AND PLAY AN IMPORTANT PART IN THE LIFE OF ST ANDREW'S

At St Andrew's, we value greatly their contribution to worship and the life of the church community and believe we can learn much from their example. Here is a snapshot of activities for children.

Junior Church

During the 10.30am Parish Communion on Sundays in term time, there are activities for children in the St Andrew's Centre run by our Children & Families Worker, Lindsey Betteridge and members of the church. Every Sunday, except during the All-Age Service, 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. Children stay in church for the whole of the service.

Church Choir

Jane Eldred, our Director of Music, is always happy to welcome more children to the choir at St Andrew's. If interested, please call Jane on 01992 503658.

Babies & Toddlers

Children are never too young to come to church. You and your children are very welcome at St Andrew's. We realise that bringing children, especially babies and toddlers, to church can be challenging to say the least, so we have set aside part

of the church (the Children's Corner) at the front of church (to the right of the altar) which is equipped with toys, books, craft materials and a space to call their own. Here, even if they are occupied with a toy or book, children absorb the atmosphere of worship.

ST ANDREW'S YOUTH GROUP



is for secondary-age children.

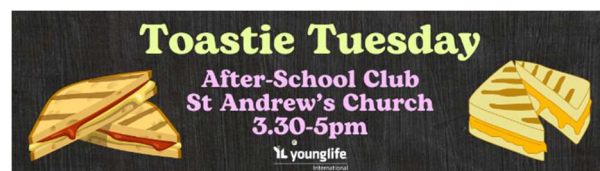
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If you're not already receiving updates about TMM, please get in touch with John so he can keep you informed about what's happening week by week: johnwache@yahoo.com



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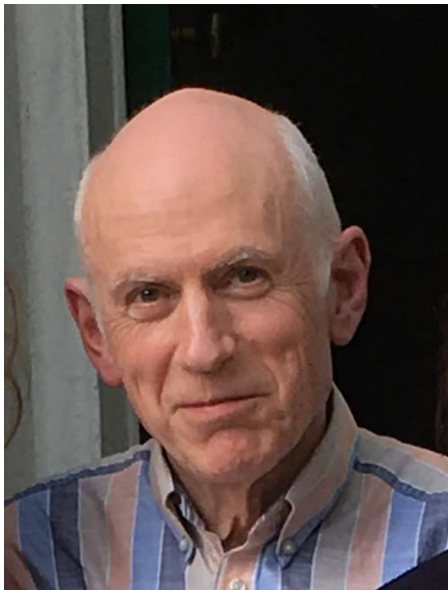
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HAROLD CHAPLIN

Looking back at a life filled with music, languages, faith and family

St Andrew's Church was filled to overflowing on 14th November to remember and give thanks for the life of Harold Chaplin, husband to Jane, father to Fiona and Sam, and grandfather to Becca, Hannah, and Zac, Emily, Clara and Grace. Harold died suddenly, aged 78, on 17th October. This was a memorial service filled with music including two anthems written by Harold



and sung superbly by Sam Evans and a choir of professional singers, while Barbara Hopkin and her jazz band brought back memories of jazz sessions in Harold and Jane's garden by performing "Time after Time". St Andrew's Choir with which Harold sung for three decades led the hymns which reflected Harold's strong Christian faith with "All my hope on God is founded" and "I will sing the wondrous story". The service also included a story called "Le Chanson des Escargots" about two snails which Harold had translated. It was read in French by Harold's friend Patrick Boucher who had travelled from his home in France to be there. You will read more about this and other elements of the service below.

Harold's cousin, Rob Newsom, gave the first of two eulogies from which the following has been taken: "Harold was born on the 16th October 1946 in Derby. He was christened here at St Andrew's, Hertford, where his parents had been married the previous year. Two years later his sister Rosie was born in

Bradford. Harold's father Christopher had worked as a civil engineer for the London and North Eastern Railway, but he developed serious health problems when his children were still young, and was unable to carry on working. The family then moved to Watford where the family lived with Harold's grandfather, Harold Newsom.

When Harold was 7 years old, the Chaplin family moved to Heswall on the Wirral where my parents ran Moorland House, a preparatory school for boys, and Harold's mother Ruth took over the catering.

At 13 Harold went to Haileybury College. Haileybury offered plenty of opportunities for music. Harold carried on through piano grades, he played the leading role of Pooh Bah in the Mikado, and played in his first band, a pop group called the Soustelles. He also took forward his interest in flight by choosing to join the Air Force section of the school cadet force. Harold did well academically particularly in modern languages. He rose to be a school prefect, head of Trevelyan House and finally head boy.

Harold went on to Glasgow University where he spent a year, but he didn't feel at home there and made a transfer to Edinburgh where he read French and History. This proved to be a fortuitous move, as there he meet Jane Melville.



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HAROLD CHAPLIN

Looking back at a life filled with music, languages, faith and family

Jane was selling tickets for a choral concert during the university Rag week. She approached Harold and offered him a ticket, to which he replied, "Well actually I'm singing in it". They went to a party after the concert, when Harold impressed her by sitting down at a piano and playing The Girl from Ipanema.

After they had each graduated, Jane and Harold were married at All Saints' Church here in Hertford."

Harold's son, Sam, gave the following eulogy to his father:

"Thank you for coming today to give thanks for his life and thank you for the amazing outpouring of love for him and support for us that you've shown in the last few weeks. I'm going to take you through the order of service as a springboard into his life.

The choir opened the service with the anthem, 'The Lord is my Strength and my Song'. It was written in 1980. I was 5, he was 34. It was the first choir piece he wrote – and what a piece! – a triumphant march of strength. Harold was always a musician, but I think he always wanted to be a professional musician. But back then the options were very narrow – you were either an orchestral performer, a rock star or a school music teacher and not much in between. None of which really suited his particular gift mix. So he studied languages, initially travelled the world with a job in sales, then in the early years of my life he taught French in a pretty tough greater London secondary school. But all the time the music kept flowing out – he wrote a musical for that

school about taking year 7s (1st years) on a day trip to France it was called... Le Day Trip! It featured one of the greatest baddies ever created: Gaston Le Malguet Contrabandier stealing golden watches night and day! Bah bah! He sings a great tango! Harold's amazing ability was his musical ear. I remember for my primary school fête he had a stall which was called something like 'beat Harold' where you could request a song or a theme tune and if he couldn't play it immediately you got your money back – the PTA made some good money that year. So we come to this anthem – his first choral piece, written for his local church choir – St Andrew's Ham, near Kingston, it flowed out of him with very little musical training, relying on feeling his way with a great musical ear, he wrote a piece in the English choral tradition that sounds like William Walton or Stanford. The Lord is my strength and my song – great words that act like a banner over his life – that was full of



daily struggles that needed a lot of strength but was always full of song.

Next we heard our French poem: Le Chanson des Escargots read so beautifully by Patrick. Harold always loved the poetry of Jacques Prévert and set this poem to music maybe in the

Know the Story; Share the Story; Live the Story

HAROLD CHAPLIN

Looking back at a life filled with music, languages, faith and family

1990s. You can watch it on Youtube with a video he created with his granddaughters Hannah and Becca making snails out of sellotape dispensers. There are two points I want to take from this poem - firstly his love, utter love of all languages and especially all things European - he loved visiting Germany, Spain, Italy and above all La France - he was never happier than when he was at Lolivarie in the Dordogne leading us and his cousins on the guitar in a mighty singalong of Beatles songs after dinner under the starry, starry night. His musical ear gave him the ability to speak these languages without an English accent. I always remember being told, "Mais ton papa n'a pas d'un accent!" - but your Dad doesn't have an accent. After teaching boys French he spent several years as a language coach to foreign business men and women teaching them English. He loved language and the fun and laughter that comes from seeking to communicate across different cultures. I would say some of his most meaningful and long-lasting friendships were with Conrad and Ursula his choir friends in Wilderhausen, Zsolt and Petra and in these last years, with Patrick. In September this year he and Jane welcomed a Ukrainian family into their home; they also had a dear Hungarian friend staying with them. I remember the buzz in the house just a few weeks ago when I brought my dad back from choir practice and found such laughter as the Hungarian was helping the Ukrainians with their English over dinner. This was just heavenly for Harold and he dived into the hubbub and when I saw him the next morning he said

hadn't been able to sleep because he'd got too excited by it all.

The other point I wanted to take from les escargots - the snails - is his love of the ridiculous, of nonsense and eccentricity dialed up to the max. If there was a warm tea cosy in the room he could not resist putting it on his head. In fact this was his morning tradition, pouring the tea, putting the tea cosy on his head and eating porridge from the pan with a wooden spoon - sitting there happily, looking like some crazed porridge-eating bishop of breakfast. He'd love making up nonsense stories for us when we were children which included the characters Schmozzle and Balyhoo who would go to sea in a bath full of cold custard. My girls asked if Grandpa would get his bath of custard in heaven. I think the answer is definitely 'yes'.

Next we have our jazz group. And Barbara you have been one of his most faithful friends over the years. Jazz was the obvious next step for someone who had such a natural ear for melody and harmony and it flowed from hearing his dear mum - my Granny Ma - singing the songs of Cole Porter and Jerome Kern in her kitchen as a boy. In lockdown he started a tradition of opening his garden and gathering musicians and locals for jazz and coffee using it as an opportunity to raise money for Parkinsons UK. It featured all these faithful jazzers down here. These sessions continued right through to this summer. He always chose a song to sing that he could use sneakily to serenade the love of his life, his wife Jane - even while she was getting coffee for people - she got serenaded on a regular basis! Time after



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HAROLD CHAPLIN

Looking back at a life filled with music, languages, faith and family

Time was his favourite song to sing – he felt so lucky to be loving you.

And so we move on through the service to the reading from Paul's letter to the Ephesians, which his dear cousin Barbie will read. One of the effects of Parkinson's disease, that Harold found hardest, was his inability to sleep well. One evening a couple of weeks before he died, I was with him helping him to bed. He said he wanted to read this prayer and we read it together and before we'd finished he'd dozed off into peaceful sleep. He was a man of faith in Jesus and this prayer is about being filled with the love of Jesus in every dimension so that you are absolutely filled up as human to overflowing. And Harold overflowed with love. To his wife, to his family, to me, to his grandchildren, to pretty much everyone he met. Rachel, my wife, was telling me about her first ever visit to Grove Cottage when we were dating. She said she enjoyed meeting my mum who was polite and kind, but the experience of meeting my dad was like being greeted by a Labrador. Who was this man running up the drive to meet his son's girlfriend on her first visit? He loved Labradors, his dog Barney and Barbara's Phoebe – and he had Labrador love – bounding, exuberant, affectionate.

And so we move to the last pieces: his anthem 'Peace, Silence and Wonder' and the final 'Amen Chorus' from Handel's Messiah. He had the most beautiful baritone voice and I got to sing next to him a lot. Whenever we sang the Amen at the end of Handel's Messiah he would lean over to me and say – this is what I imagine heaven to be like and on

another occasion – this is how I want leave this world – led off by the bass/baritones in full voice. And on 17th October 2024 when the consultants agreed with the family that his injuries were too great, they prepared him and we put this music by his ear and let him slip away. We played it twice and then we played his Christmas choir piece 'Peace, Silence and Wonder' during which he left us. When Alan says the final blessing he won't say the word 'Amen', instead we are inviting all the basses and baritones in the church and in the congregation to boldly lead us off, and then the tenors, altos, sopranos anyone who wants to sing to join in to send him off into the great Amen, the great word of agreement, the great word of affirmation, 'yes', 'So be it', 'Well done', the great welcome of heaven for Harold Townshend Chaplin."

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Knight's maestros return

Forbes Mutch reviews folk singer Peter Knight's Gigspanner Big Band, back at St Andrew's in November at their own request.

Six musicians walk onto the St Andrew's Altar Stage, pick up their instruments and start playing a soft, lilting melody that grows like a musical tapestry until all the players are engaged and interweaving with such assurance and self-confidence and creativity that the sum of the parts seems greater than six; they sound more like a small folk orchestra.

At the end of the opening number, the audience applaud and the bearded fiddle player on the left of the lineup steps forward to the microphone and says: 'Thank you, it's good to be back'.

This is band leader Peter Knight; his group is the legendary Gigspanner Big Band and returning they are indeed, having played a sensational gig here in February 2023. They are here again at their own request. 'Can we come back?' they asked.

It makes you wonder why they want to return to play to an audience of 170 in a small church in Hertford when they regularly top the bill at folk festivals, such as Shrewsbury last year, in front of 7,000 people. They are so renowned on the folk circuit that they could arguably fill the Royal Festival Hall in London or even the Royal Albert Hall. So why St Andrew's? The answer comes at the end of the gig.

When you start talking about music and you mention 'folk' to the uninformed, many people imagine a lone singer in a single spotlight, perched on an empty stage or in the corner of the pub, strumming an acoustic guitar. This image will most likely be based on the folk genre of the 1960s; the acoustic heyday of Bob Dylan, Leonard Cohen, Joan Baez and many more.



But folk music is nothing like that today. In fact, it started changing in the late '60s, with the introduction of amplified instruments, drum kits and a growing interest in songs sourced beyond the traditional songbook of England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland. At the vanguard of what became known as the folk-rock movement were Fairport Convention and Steeleye Span. Fairport, as you know, are still around, as they have played two massively successful concerts at St Andrew's in the last couple of years. The Steeleye personnel changed many times over the years but, at their peak in the 1970s and '80s, Peter Knight was an integral part of the band.

In his own folk ensemble today he is joined by Bellowhead founder-member John Spiers on melodeon; vocalist and fiddle player Hannah Martin, guitarist and harmonica player Phillip Henry, percussionist Sacha Trochet and guitarist Roger Flack. Together, they are able to deliver one of the most inventive sets of folk songs heard in recent times, a powerful and energetic mix of traditional English and Irish music, plus, as the Big Band name suggests, a strong influence from the world of jazz. Throw in a hint of blues harmonica, country slide guitar and

Knight's maestros return

Forbes Mutch reviews folk singer Peter Knight's Gigspanner Big Band, back at St Andrew's in November at their own request.

Asian tom-tom percussion and you question whether this is really 'folk' at all.

Their set list on this November night in St Andrew's includes one or two new songs but mostly old favourites, such as the opening *Suffolk Miracle* and a tune that Hannah Martin calls a song of worship (appropriate for tonight's church setting) called *What Wonderous Love is This*. The seven-song first half ends with an extended version of *Rolling the Stones*, which sees Sacha Trochet surprisingly abandon his tom-toms to pick up a bass. Versatile musicians, or what?

The tempo picks up in the second half, with jigs and reels, such as *Bonny Black Hare* and *Betsy Williams*, but also includes the 18-verse *Hind Horn* which allows Hannah Martin to showcase her pure voice, backed by the vocals of all the other band members. They seem so



PETER KNIGHT

relaxed playing together that it makes the audience equally relaxed, as if everyone has been wrapped in a comfortable blanket of sound.

At the end of the concert, I ambush Hannah Martin as she makes her way down to the back of the nave to meet the audience and sign CDs. I ask her the question that has been perplexing me throughout the gig: 'The band is so good, why do you want to play St Andrew's in Hertford?' Without a moment's hesitation, she

smiles and says: 'It's a really good place to play. The acoustics are great, the people are friendly, there's a good atmosphere and, well... we enjoy it here'. She smiles again and nods her head. I watch her shimmer down the church aisle and think, *see you next year, then*.

Your local life-saving charity

Did you know that your local air ambulance service is a charity, relying on residents' donations? You might think that the helicopters of Essex & Herts Air Ambulance (EHAAT) often seen flying overhead, are part of the NHS. But this free life-saving service provided 24/7 by helicopters and rapid response vehicles (RRVs) receives limited government funding and no National Lottery grants.

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MUSIC EVENTS AT ST ANDREW'S



St Andrew's welcomes more of the country's headline folk performers in 2025 including...

Churchfitters: Saturday 1st March



After their hugely successful Christmas gig at St Andrew's in December 2023, it's back to the more normal, "rest of the year" show as they visit on their Spring Tour. However, there is nothing "normal" about a Churchfitters show! When your array of instruments includes a motorcycle petrol tank, a musical saw and a Mercedes Benzouki made from hubcaps, the evening promises to be very different! Saucepan dulcimer, glass harp, Bing-Bong machine and magic boots all join some more

conventional instruments (fiddle, banjo, sax and whistle, to name a few) to back Rosie Short's sublime voice. We look forward to another great, fun evening of music. Doors open at 6.30pm. Tickets are £18 + £1.35 booking fee www.ticketsource.co.uk/st-andrews-church

Miranda Sykes & Jim Causley: Wednesday 19th March

Miranda Sykes (best known for her work with Show of Hands) and Jim Causley (described by Mojo Magazine as "the finest singer of his generation") come to St Andrew's for the first time and will be performing songs from their new album, Last of the Singers. One of the country's very best folk duos. Tickets are £18 + £1.35 booking fee www.ticketsource.co.uk/st-andrews-church

Leveret: Thursday 8th May

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

Gryphon: Sunday 15th June

The only band to have been played on BBC Radio 1, 2, 3 and 4 in the same month!

Phil Beer: Thursday 18th September

Formerly with Show of Hands, forever popular.

Chris White & Julie Matthews: Thursday 9th October

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

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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Services at St Andrew's

January 2025



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

	Date	Time	Service	Celebrant	Preacher
Wednesday	1	10.30 am	No services today		
Thursday	2	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (BCP)		
SUNDAY	5	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Rev Alan Stewart	
<i>Epiphany</i>		10.30 am	Parish Communion	Rev Alan Stewart	
		10.30 am	Eucharist Service on Zoom	Kath Oates	Rev Alan Stewart
		7.00 pm	Soul Food Service in St Andrew's Centre	Rev Alan Stewart	
Monday	6	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (Common Worship)		
Wednesday	8	10.30 am	Holy Communion (Traditional)	Rev Bill Church	
Thursday	9	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (BCP)		
		10.30 am	Holy Communion Calton Court	Rev Bill Church	
SUNDAY	12	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Rev Bill Church	
<i>Epiphany 2</i>		10.30 am	All Age Service	Rev Alan Stewart	
		10.30 am	Eucharist Service on Zoom	Nick Hoyle	Rev Bill Church
		7.00 pm	Compline on Zoom	Rev Alan Stewart	
Monday	13	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (Common Worship)		
Wednesday	15	10.30 am	Holy Communion (Traditional)	Rev Alan Stewart	Scott Martin
Thursday	16	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (BCP)		
SUNDAY	19	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Rev Alan Stewart	Maria Henriksson-Bell
<i>Epiphany 3</i>		10.30 am	Parish Communion with Junior Church	Rev Alan Stewart	Geoff Oates
		10.30 am	Morning Service on Zoom	Kath Oates	Geoff Oates
		7.00 pm	Compline on Zoom	Rev Alan Stewart	
Monday	20	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (Common Worship)		
Wednesday	22	10.30 am	Holy Communion (Traditional)	Rev Bill Church	
Thursday	23	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (BCP)		
		10.30 am	Holy Communion Calton Court	Rev Bill Church	
SUNDAY	26	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Rev Bill Church	
<i>Epiphany 4</i>		10.30 am	Parish Communion with Junior Church	Rev Alan Stewart	Melanie Seward
		10.30 am	Morning Service on Zoom	Nick Hoyle	Melanie Seward
		6.30 pm	Evensong St Mary's Hertingfordbury	Rev Bill Church	
		7.00 pm	Compline on Zoom	Rev Alan Stewart	
Monday	27	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (Common Worship)		
Wednesday	29	10.30 am	Holy Communion (Traditional)	Rev Alan Stewart	
Thursday	30	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (BCP)		

Services at St Andrew's

December 2024



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

	Date	Time	Service	Celebrant	Preacher
SUNDAY	1	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)		Rev Bill Church
<i>Advent Sunday</i>		10.30 am	Parish Communion with Junior Church	Rev Alan Stewart	Geoff Oates
		10.30 am	Eucharist Service on Zoom	Kath Oates	Geoff Oates
		6.30 am	Advent Carol Service		Rev Alan Stewart
Monday	2	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (Common Worship)		
Wednesday	4	10.30 am	Holy Communion (Traditional)		Rev Alan Stewart
Thursday	5	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (BCP)		
SUNDAY	8	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)		Rev Alan Stewart
<i>Advent 2</i>		10.30 am	All Age Service		Rev Alan Stewart
		10.30 am	Morning Service on Zoom		Nick Hoyle
		7.00 pm	Soul Food Service in St Andrew's Centre		Rev Alan Stewart
Monday	9	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (Common Worship)		
Wednesday	11	10.30 am	Holy Communion (Traditional)		Rev Bill Church
Thursday	12	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (BCP)		
		10.30 am	Holy Communion Calton Court		Rev Bill Church
Saturday	14	3.30 pm	Beer & Carols		
SUNDAY	15	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)		Rev Bill Church
<i>Advent 3</i>		10.30 am	Parish Communion with Junior Church	Rev Alan Stewart	Melanie Seward
		10.30 am	Morning Service on Zoom	Kath Oates	Melanie Seward
Monday	16	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (Common Worship)		
		7.30 pm	Mindful Christmas		Rev Alan Stewart and Rosemary Willis
Wednesday	18	10.30 am	Holy Communion (Traditional)		Rev Bill Church
		7.30 pm	Lesson & Carols Service		Rev Bill Church
Thursday	19	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (BCP)		
		10.30 am	Holy Communion Calton Court		Rev Bill Church
SUNDAY	22	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)		Rev Alan Stewart
<i>Advent 4</i>		10.30 am	Parish Communion	Rev Alan Stewart	Adrian Walter
		10.30 am	Carol Service on Zoom		Nick Hoyle and Kath Oates
		7.00 pm	Compline on Zoom		Rev Alan Stewart
Monday	23	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (Common Worship)		Rev Bill Church
Tuesday	24	11.00 am	Crib Service 1		
<i>Christmas Eve</i>		4.00 pm	Crib Service 2		
		11.15 pm	Midnight Communion		Rev Alan Stewart
Wednesday	25	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)		Rev Bill Church
<i>Christmas Day</i>		10.30 am	All Age Service (with choir and organ)		Rev Alan Stewart
Thursday	26	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (BCP)		
SUNDAY	29	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)		Rev Bill Church
<i>Christmas 1</i>		10.30 am	Parish Communion		Rev Bill Church
			No Service on Zoom today		
Monday	30	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (Common Worship)		