

# The parish magazine of Hertford St Andrew

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

## FEBRUARY 2025

SERVICES AND WAYS OF EXPLORING THE CHRISTIAN FAITH COME IN MANY FORMS AT ST ANDREW'S. SEE INSIDE FOR MORE INFORMATION.

MORNING PRAYER

HOLY COMMUNION

### Exploring Faith

"Is there more to life than this?"  
"Who was Jesus and why did he die?"  
"Why pray?" "Why read the Bible?"



*Compline*

The peace of all peace  
be yours this night

Join us on Zoom for:  
**Service of the Word**

## soul food

CONTEMPORARY  
CAFÉ-STYLE SERVICE

*Mindfulness  
& Meditation*

Take time to pray...

*Breathe*

*Here with you Here for you*

# HERTFORD ST ANDREW

Registered charity 1132540

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**Parochial Church Council** comprises the Clergy, Readers, Churchwardens, Deanery Synod Members and Treasurer plus the following elected and co-opted members: Maria Henriksson-Bell, Chris Seward, Jenny Mutch, Louise Cobb, Laura Ramsay, Catherine Sleath, Adrian Walter, Chrissy Barclay, Anthony Collinson, Julie Frazer and Malcolm Fry.

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## **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.

# FIRST FOOT

I'm never quite sure when the cut-off point for wishing someone a Happy New Year is. I suspect it's mid to late January, but this being the first magazine of 2025, I'd like to wish you all a very Happy and Healthy New Year!

Some of us will be familiar with the Scottish and Northern English tradition of First-Footing, where the first person (the First Foot) who steps over the threshold of a home after midnight on New Year's Day brings good luck and blessing. Traditionally, they come bearing gifts which are symbolic of that blessing. These can include a silver coin for prosperity, some shortbread for hospitality, a lump of coal for warmth and a dram of whisky for good cheer!

First Footing is a hopeful thing. As we gaze out into the uncharted territory of 2025, do we look with hope or with a measure of trepidation? It's easy to look at the state of the world, and perhaps at our own private world, and feel daunted or hopeless.

The musician Nick Cave writes that 'Hope is an emotional temper that emboldens the heart to be active... it's a feat of the imagination, both courageous and ingenious, a vitality that inspires us to take innovative action to defend the world. Hope is essential to our surviving and our flourishing and we achieve this by rejecting the relentless promotion of despair and opening our eyes to the beauty of things, however imperilled, degraded or difficult to love the world may appear to be'.

For me, the secret of hope is to invite Christ to be the First Foot of each day, remembering

that He also goes ahead into the unknown and is already there waiting.

In 1939 as the country was preparing for war, George VI in his Christmas broadcast quoted an obscure poet called Minnie Louise Haskins... perhaps 86 years later these words might be just as helpful as we step into the next unseen chapters of our lives:

And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year: "Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown."

And he replied: "Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way."



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 MARCH MAGAZINE IS **SUNDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> FEBRUARY.** 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 (see below), when the children stay in church for the whole service.

### ALL-AGE SERVICE

SUNDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 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](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.



**SUNDAYS on Zoom at 7pm except Sundays when Soul Food is on (usually first 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 Saturdays 1<sup>st</sup> February & 1<sup>st</sup> March 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 WEDNESDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY**  
**\* ON ZOOM ONLY at 7.30pm on WEDNESDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY**

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 40 minutes. We begin with some gentle exercises to help still the mind and then a guided meditation, followed by some silence. Beginners especially welcome!

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# SERVICES AND OTHER EVENTS

## soul food

**CONTEMPORARY  
CAFÉ-STYLE SERVICE**  
in the St Andrew's Centre  
7pm  
**Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> February  
& Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> March**

**JOIN US AT 6.45 FOR REFRESHMENTS**  
*a service with worship songs,  
creative prayer, gentle discussion and  
time for reflection.*

## FREE Mindfulness

**WHEN**  
10.30AM  
ON  
MONDAYS  
3<sup>RD</sup> FEB.  
& 17<sup>TH</sup> FEB.

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

**Everyone is welcome**

*just turn up!*

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

### Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> February

We are delighted to be joined by the Mayor of Hertford and Members of Hertford Town Council at our 10.30am All Age service on this date.



HERTFORD TOWN COUNCIL

### Ash Wednesday:

**Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March at 10.30am & 8pm**

Join us for a traditional service marking the beginning of Lent. Ash Wednesday focuses the Christian's heart on repentance and prayer as we enter the period known as Lent.

## Exploring Faith

"Is there more to life than this?"  
"Who was Jesus and why did he die?"  
"Why pray?" "Why read the Bible?"

**JOIN A SHORT INFORMAL COURSE EXPLORING  
THESE QUESTIONS AND THE CHRISTIAN FAITH**

Interested? Contact Revd Alan:  
h.alanstewart1@gmail.com 01992 582726

Tuesdays 28th Jan, 4th, 11th, 25th Feb and 4th March 2025  
7.30pm @ The Brace Room, St Mary's Church, Hertingfordbury

### PRAYER MINISTRY

An opportunity to pray with a member of the prayer ministry team about any concerns you have; for wholeness and fullness of life for ourselves and others, and/or to give thanks to God for answered prayer. This takes place during and after the 10.30am Sunday service, usually in or by the chapel or at the back of the church.

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# CHURCH FAMILY

## FROM THE REGISTERS

### BAPTISMS:

*We welcome into the Lord's family:*

8<sup>th</sup> December

**Florence Mae Curtis**



Pictured are Natalie and Olly Sharman with their son Remy who was baptised at St Andrew's Church on 24<sup>th</sup> November at a service conducted by Rev. Alan Stewart and attended by family and friends, amongst whom were Remy's grandparents Mick and Lorna Carr and William and Sarah Sharman. Remy's Godparents are Baiba Zivtins, Christopher Trout and Susie de Lacy. Remy's baptism was followed by a party in the St Andrew's Centre with about 50 family and friends, including Remy's 94 year old great grandfather, and his great Aunt Jill who had travelled from Spain to be there.

### FUNERALS:

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

12<sup>th</sup> December

**Dorothy Smith**

14<sup>th</sup> December

**Marcia Ives** aged 52. Marcia was rooted in Hertford but loved travelling and visited far and wide. She was independent, hardworking and kind and will be much missed by son Reece, daughter Brooke, sister Shelley and a wide circle of family and friends.

6<sup>th</sup> January

**Muriel Joyce Mills** aged 96. Muriel was Hertford born and bred and raised her own family in Sele Farm, moving into Calton Court towards the end of her life. She will be sadly missed by son Richard, her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

16<sup>th</sup> January

**Peter Fischer** aged 81. Peter was born in Dresden in 1943, came to England as a young boy, qualified as an electronic engineer and had a successful career in that industry. He enjoyed life, helped others to enjoy life, and was renowned for his hospitality. He was married to Lynne for 56 years and was a loving and beloved father and grandfather.

23<sup>rd</sup> January

**Eileen Phyllis Burns** aged 90.

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## HARRY RUNS FOR NATIONAL ECZEMA SOCIETY

This coming April, Harry Longman will be running the London Marathon. He is fundraising for the National Eczema Society (NES), a charity which means a lot to him having suffered from a severe form of eczema throughout his life.

Harry says, "In January 2024, I suffered from an intense three month flare-up covering 75% of my body which had a drastic effect on my physical and mental wellbeing. For this entire period, I was



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# CHURCH FAMILY

unable to sleep for more than one hour in the night. Wearing clothes, showering, and moving in general was extremely painful. Thankfully, after many hospital visits and dermatology appointments I was able to get the condition under control. Thousands of people are suffering from eczema daily, some as severely as my case. I am going through the pain of running the London Marathon on behalf of those people, as a sign of gratitude that I was able to get my life back, and on behalf of the great work that NES do."

NES provides vital support services such as helplines, support groups and online resources that help suffering individuals and families cope. The funds contribute to research initiatives aimed at understanding the causes of eczema and develop better treatments with the hope of one day finding a cure for all.

You might get the opportunity to speak to Harry after a 10.30 Sunday service and ask him how his training is going. Please help Harry reach his target of £2,000. Any donation large or small will be greatly appreciated.

[www.2025tcslondonmarathon.enthuse.com/pf/harry-longman?](http://www.2025tcslondonmarathon.enthuse.com/pf/harry-longman?)



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

We are looking forward to Away Day 2025 which, this year, takes place on **Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> May**. Our venue is All Nations College in Ware-just twelve minutes' drive from Hertford-and members of St Andrew's and St Mary's will be able to enjoy facilities which include generous indoor space, beautiful grounds, excellent areas for our young people and the provision of refreshments throughout the day, including a hot lunch.

Our theme will be Peace. We aim to explore ideas around what peace means to us, why it is absent in many parts of the world and how we can achieve it, not least in a personal sense. There will be the usual mix of worship and plenary time, breakout groups and free time when we can meet friends and make new ones.

The cost of the day, including lunch, will be £42 per adult with Under 18s attending free of charge.

In past years, people have found our Away Days to be enjoyable, enriching and memorable. For some, especially those new to St Andrew's or St Mary's, it has been a great opportunity to meet others and become more part of our worshipping community.

The Away Day also will be Alan's last engagement before starting his three-month sabbatical so do try to come along and be with him as he prepares for this important period in his ministry.

More details, including a letter with details of how to apply for places, will be issued soon. In the meantime, if you have not done so already, please put date in your diary. It should be a wonderful day!

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# CHURCH MATTERS

## FOR THOSE WISHING TO GET DATES IN THE DIARY FOR 2025:

(PLEASE NOTE: details are subject to change)

**Civic Service** 9<sup>th</sup> February 10.30am

**Ash Wednesday** 5<sup>th</sup> March 10.30am and 8pm services

**Mothering Sunday** 30<sup>th</sup> March 10.30am All-Age service with choir and organ

### Holy Week and Easter

**Monday 14<sup>th</sup> April** Compline, 8pm in church and online

**Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> April** Taizé, 8pm

**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> April** Meditation, 8pm

**Maundy Thursday** Eucharist, 8pm with watch 'til 10pm

**Good Friday** The Three Hours, 12-3pm

**Easter Day** 8am, 10.30am All-Age service with choir and organ

**Church Away Day** Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> May

**Alan is on sabbatical from 5<sup>th</sup> May to 4<sup>th</sup> August**

**Ascension Day** 29<sup>th</sup> May 8pm service

**Harvest Fest** Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> October

**Harvest Festival** Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> October All-Age service with choir and organ

**Bereavement Service** 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 2pm

**Remembrance Sunday** 9<sup>th</sup> November 9.15am service (NOT All Age)

### Advent & Christmas

**Advent Evening Service** Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> November, 6.30pm

**A Mindful Christmas** Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December, 7.30pm

**Beer and Carols** Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> December (provisional)

**Lessons & Carols Service** Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> December, 7.30pm

**Christmas Eve** Crib services 11am and 4pm; Midnight Mass, 11.15pm

**Christmas Day** 8am, 10.30am



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

phone: 07842034890

# EVENTS



**coffee morning**

**SATURDAY  
1ST FEBRUARY  
10.30AM - 12.30PM  
ST ANDREW'S CHURCH  
HERTFORD SG14 1HZ**

- Sausage and bacon butties
- Beer tombola
- Fairtrade coffee & home baked cakes

**RAISING FUNDS TO INSTALL  
A DEFIBRILLATOR AT  
ST ANDREW'S CHURCH**

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

## February's Coffee Morning

**Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> from 10.30am to 12.30pm**

The men of St Andrew's are running our February Coffee Morning, with beer tombola, raffle, the ever-popular sausage and bacon butties - and homemade cakes and bakes, of course! **We're fundraising to install a defibrillator at St Andrew's Church.**

A defibrillator is a device that gives a high energy electric shock to the heart of someone who is in cardiac arrest. This high energy shock is called defibrillation, and it's an essential part in trying to save the life of someone who's in cardiac arrest.

# MEN'S CURRY EVENING

**EVENING OF MONDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY**

From time to time we have organised an evening meal for men at a local curry house. The first event of 2025 is to be held in the St Andrew's Centre on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February. The likely cost is about £30, with the first drink free. This invitation is extended to all men who are connected with St Andrew's. If you are interested in attending and have not heard from Charles Ledsam with an invitation please contact him: [charlesledsam@hotmail.com](mailto:charlesledsam@hotmail.com). It is a great opportunity to meet informally.



**The Friends of Hertingfordbury St Mary**

**CHARITY RACE NIGHT**

**Sat 22nd  
February  
7.00pm  
at St Joseph's  
In The Park**

**A virtual race evening with a fish & chip supper & a pay bar which opens @ 7.00pm.**

**Book a table with friends to enjoy a fun evening, tickets £18 adult £9 child, contact David Gorton on 07544 702241 to book.**

This is a FOHSM event which raises money for the restoration & preservation of the church & churchyard.



**FUTUREhope  
Hertford & Ware**

**charity  
Quiz  
Night**

**SATURDAY  
MARCH 22**

**PIONEER HALL  
11 WARE ROAD  
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SG13 7DZ**

**£15PP  
DINNER INCLUDED** **OR TEAMS MADE UP ON THE NIGHT  
Teams of 4-8**

**DOORS AT : 6:30PM  
QUIZ STARTS AT : 7PM**

**TO PURCHASE TICKETS, PLEASE EMAIL:  
[dave@fhhw.org.uk](mailto:dave@fhhw.org.uk)**

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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 1<sup>st</sup> 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](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/st-andrews-church)

## **Miranda Sykes & Jim Causley: Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/st-andrews-church)

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

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

## **Gryphon: Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> June**

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

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

*Formerly with Show of Hands, forever popular.*

## **Chris White & Julie Matthews: Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> 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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# CHURCH MATTERS

## BUMPER CHRISTMAS ATTENDANCES GENEROUS CONGREGATIONS

Advent and Christmas saw many more people entering the doors of St Andrew's to attend the various events and services held over the festive season.

For Beer & Carols over 300 adults and children were welcomed through the doors over the course of the afternoon with money raised for the **Hertford Pantry**. A beautiful candlelit service of Lessons and Carols was attended by about 125 people. The collection went to **Herts Young Homeless**.

The two Crib and Christingle Services on Christmas Eve attracted 530 adults and children. The collections at these services always go to **The Children's Society**.

The Christmas Day Services – Midnight Mass, 8am Christmas Day and the All Age on Christmas Day. We felt it appropriate that we should remember the Holy Land on this day and so our collection went to **Christian Aid's Middle East Appeal**.

Finally a boot full of generously donated gifts was delivered to **Haven First** which provides support to those experiencing homelessness in Stevenage and North Hertfordshire and was gratefully received.

It was a joy to see so many people worshipping the Christ Child in so many ways and to witness people's generosity towards those in need. Thank you to everyone who gave of their time, their money and gifts over this period.

## A DEFIBRILLATOR AT ST ANDREW'S

The PCC has agreed to the purchase of a defibrillator for the church. In recent years, the need for access to these machines has been well publicised and we have decided to have an installation inside the church building.

We hope to access some money from grants and we will also be raising funds at the coffee mornings in February and March. All being well, we can have a machine in situ by the summer.

The defibrillator also will be accessible to the general public during the hours when our building is open. The PCC considered whether to have the installation outside and at the front of the church but agreed that, while this was the most desirable situation, it would be considerably more expensive and would take time while we overcome challenges regarding the supply of electrical power and finding an exact location that was both appropriate and acceptable to the diocese, from whom permission would be required.

The PCC agreed we should go ahead as quickly as possible while, in the longer term, continuing to look for alternative solutions for an external installation.

If you have a particular reason for wishing to donate to a defibrillator fund, please speak to one of the wardens or our Treasurer, Nick Sharman.

Lesley and Julie (Churchwardens) and Chris (Deputy Churchwarden).

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

# CHILDREN'S PAGE

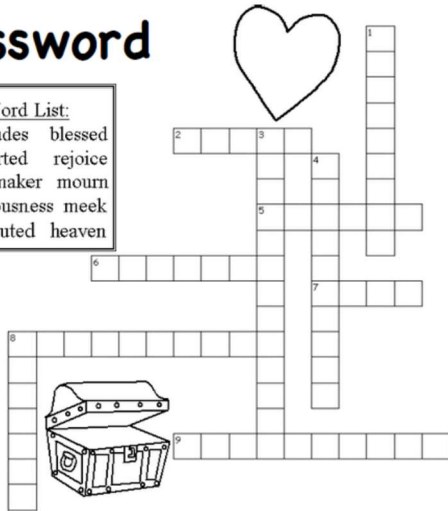
This month, let's think about...

## The Sermon on the Mount

You can read about this in the Bible – turn to the Book of Matthew, Chapter 5

### Crossword

**Word List:**  
 beatitudes blessed  
 comforted rejoice  
 peacemaker mourn  
 righteousness meek  
 persecuted heaven



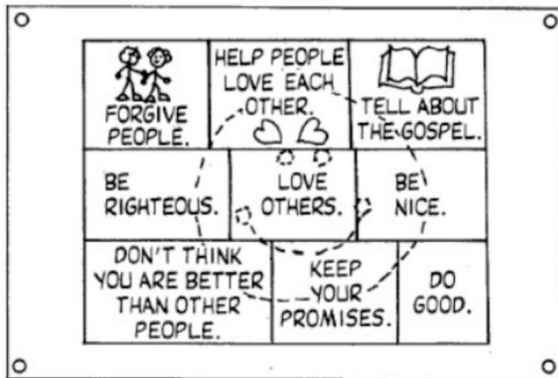
#### ACROSS

- By doing this we have great sorrow for our sin and others.
- By following Jesus' teachings our biggest rewards will happen there.
- We should \_\_\_\_\_ and be glad because by following these we'll receive treasures in heaven.
- Being this is when we're patient, not easily angered and not thinking of yourself too highly.
- This is the name of the first twelve verses of The Sermon on the Mount.
- What may happen if you follow God because it's opposite to the world's ways.

#### DOWN

- Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be \_\_\_\_\_.
- We're supposed to hunger and thirst for this.
- This is a person that stops fights and will be called a child of God.
- The first word of each Beatitude.

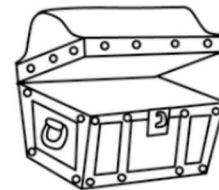
The Beatitudes are part of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount - here's what they teach us...



### Word search



BEATITUDES  
 BLESSED  
 COMFORTED  
 FILLED  
 HEAVEN  
 INHERIT  
 INSULT  
 KINGDOM

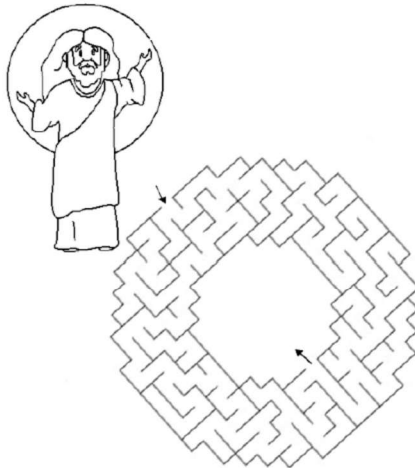


MERCIFUL  
 PEACEMAKERS  
 PERSECUTED  
 PROPHETS  
 REJOICE  
 REWARD  
 RIGHTEOUSNESS  
 TEACHER

Resources courtesy of: dtik-bible.com; sugardoodle.net

### MAZE

Help Jesus find you so he can tell you the Beatitudes...



WITH THANKS TO VAL HURFORD FOR THIS PAGE

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# CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES



**Hertford Children's Choir** is a choir led by Rachel and Sam Chaplin for anyone aged 8-13\* who loves singing and wants to develop their musicianship. Rehearsals are on Fridays 5.30-6.45pm at St Andrew's Church Hertford and there are termly performances.

The choir sing a range of folk songs, rounds, gospel songs and classical pieces, as well as songs written especially for them by Sam and Rachel. Warm-ups and simple songs are taught by ear and other pieces are taught with sheet music. Choir members learn the basics of reading music and singing in harmony. The choir will suit children with natural musical aptitude but no prior musical experience is needed and there's no audition requirement to join.

The choir perform in concerts and at community events and also perform every term within a service at St Andrew's. There is a termly membership contribution of £50 and a £10 joining fee which includes the choir concert t-shirt. Assisted places are available.

To register your interest and arrange a free taster session please go to the community pages of [www.hertfordstandrews.co.uk](http://www.hertfordstandrews.co.uk) or scan the QR code:

*\*It may be possible to accept younger members if they are*



*keen and confident singers. Do get in touch to enquire.*

## ST ANDREW'S YOUTH GROUP



is for secondary-age children.

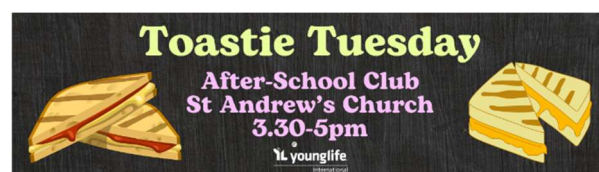
**Like playing daft games? Having a laugh? Eating?**

**Curious about God, the Universe and everything in-between?**

**Brilliant, because so are we!**

**We meet usually on the first and third Sundays of the month from 4.30-6pm.** (dates, times and venues may vary - please check the [calendar](#) on the church website or email John - see below).

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



**For all young people in years 7 - 13, Tuesdays in term-time only.**

Grab a toastie with your favourite fillings and enjoy time with friends, fun games and activities, plus meaningful conversations about life, faith

Toastie Tuesday is run by Bryan Fries: [bfries@ylinternational.org](mailto:bfries@ylinternational.org)  
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# chapter79.

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# "DEANERY CHAT" AND MUTUAL SUPPORT GROUPS

Shirley Taylor brings news of the latest Hertford and Ware Deanery Synod meeting

Your Deanery Synod reps, Jenny Aitken, Renee Booker and Shirley Taylor ventured out on a cold night to travel to Ware for the meeting at St Mary's. After a complete circuit of the church in the dark across path, grass and flower bed we found the door into the warm hall and were welcomed with a cup of tea and a mince pie.

The meeting started with a presentation by the Diocesan Giving Officer, Kate Ford, whose post is funded by the Church of England, not the Diocese. She outlined principles of fundraising and regular giving, addressing newer methods of collecting money such as card readers and online giving pages. They are able to come and advise Parishes if they wish.

We then accepted the reports from the Diocesan Board of Finance and Diocesan Synod. Clergy stipends will rise by 3% in 2025 and the Parish Share, the amount the parishes contribute to the Diocese, will be £14,567,000 to be apportioned in accordance with the approved Parish Shares Scheme (ie numbers attending churches, percentage of full-time ministers etc.) The majority of this money is used to pay salaries in the parishes and at Diocese.

The Diocese also discussed 'Living in Love and Faith' and 'Growing Younger and More Diverse' and the 'Net Zero Carbon Action Plan'.

Deanery Synod was then asked to sign up for and recruit people from Parishes to contribute and share matters to which they feel committed. The deanery-wide (Hertford, Ware and villages) online

## **What is the Deanery Synod?**

The Deanery Synod is the church governance equivalent of a district council. It comprises elected lay members from the parishes and serving clergy.

groups are set up to assist our partnership in the gospel.

- The Environment
- Fresh Expressions
- Growing Younger and More Diverse
- New Development
- Parish Share and Finances (a good one for treasurers to join)
- Social Action.
- Churchwardens' Group

The simplest one everyone can join is the "Deanery Chat" group which is an open forum, largely for communicating about events that are taking place in our churches. If you share something there, all the group's members will be notified - this is easy advertising amongst the churches of the deanery. It's also a place where members can share encouragements about what God is doing in and through their churches.

These groups are designed to be mutual support groups for those who have a particular interest or position in the church involving these matters.

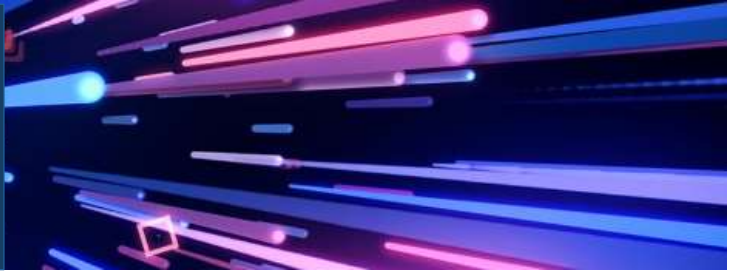
Just log into the website ([hertfordandwaredeanery.org.uk](http://hertfordandwaredeanery.org.uk)) select the "Members" menu, the "Social Community" sub-menu and then "Groups" to find the list. Scroll the page to the group you want and click "Request membership."

Finally, Shirley was elected to fill the Casual Lay Vacancy for Diocesan Synod.

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# CHURCH MATTERS

## AUDIO-VISUAL UPGRADE



### **ST ANDREW'S NEW AUDIO-VISUAL SYSTEM – A THANK YOU!**

We were delighted to have installed our new sound and vision system early in November and we trust that everyone has been able to appreciate both the greater clarity and reliability of sound and to realise the potential for using high quality images on screen.

Both parts of the system have been used regularly at services, notably at All Age and at Harold Chaplin's funeral, while the facility was greatly appreciated by the large numbers attending Beer and Carols before Christmas.

We are looking forward to everyone becoming more confident when using the system - there is a lot to learn! However, we already have received an enquiry from a potential user who would like to present a public event in the church which uses both the sound and screen systems. Hirings of this nature will increase community engagement and bring newcomers to our church.

So, a **HUGE THANK YOU** is owed to everyone who encouraged and enabled the project to reach this point. We appreciated every donation, large or small, as well as the efforts of various people to offer

their time, for example to the Virtual Auction of Promises.

We can also report that we have met the cost of the installation without creating extra pressure on our budgets. The balance has been found from the surplus in church funds at the end of 2024 which, in large part, is due to income received from special events.

Nevertheless, we certainly would welcome any further donations. These would be very helpful as we seek to complete the project with screens in the side aisles as well as to provide a fund for on-going maintenance. If you would like to donate, you may do so directly to St Andrew's Church (Hertford St Andrew PCC, account number 50715050, sort code 20-20-37) or you can speak to me, one of the Churchwardens or to our Treasurer, Nick Sharman.

Finally, once again, thank you for your support and your commitment to this project!

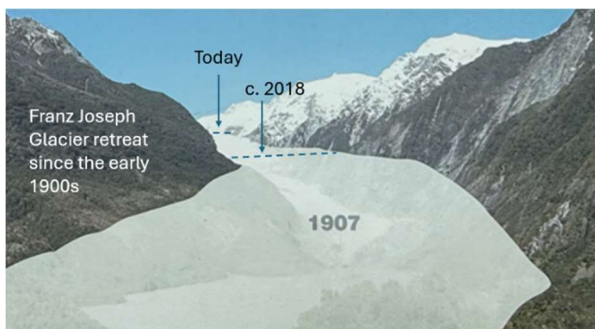
Chris Seward

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# OUR WORLD

JENNY MUTCH SHARES HER THOUGHTS ON CLIMATE CHANGE IN ACTION

Recently, Forbes and I were in New Zealand. We realise that our travel was not ideal for our individual carbon footprints so we will be doing our best to offset this in the coming months (cycling, walking, minimal heating etc)! However, our travels gave us an opportunity to see first-hand the impact of industrialisation and associated global temperature change on our natural world. The Franz Josef glacier in South Island, New Zealand, once a mighty force of nature has retreated some 3km since the late 1800s with 500m of this in 2023 alone (just one year)!



The sea in Milford Sound was warm enough for us to swim in and dolphins were spotted in areas where they don't normally venture, drawn by the same warmer water and food. All this got me asking the question; what exactly are we doing to combat climate change?

## The Paris Agreement

On the 12<sup>th</sup> December 2015, a commitment (now known as the Paris Agreement) was made between 193 countries, plus the European Union, aimed at preventing global temperatures from rising by more than 1.5°C. The target was based on scientific evidence suggesting that increases above this level would lead to severe climate impact, resulting in weather extremes such as more flooding, heatwaves and severe drought.

Each year the meteorological scientific community provides up-dated climate-change predictions. Sadly, current climate models suggest alarming global warming rates of 3.1°C by 2100; for many of us that is during the lifetimes of our children or, if not our children, then our grandchildren.

## The statistics

We are already seeing changes in our weather patterns often attributed to climate change. We may discuss what we can do at home groups and/or around our dinner tables, but the international statistics are scary suggesting that all governments also need to act fast and be prepared to invest heavily (together with private companies) in technologies that focus on rapid carbon dioxide emission reductions.

Depending on which newspaper or research journal you read, figures differ slightly, but the overall message is clear:

- China and United States contribute around 40% of total carbon dioxide emissions.
- India and Russia are responsible for another 12 - 15%.

CONTINUED OVERLEAF

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# OUR WORLD

## CONTINUED

- The European Union contributes 25 - 30%.

Perhaps it is not surprising these countries/areas are top of the league due to their size, but when you look at the figures per person capita/year in tonnes, the picture becomes more worrying, with the United States contributing 15 tonnes per capita/year, followed by Russia at 13 and China at 8. As a comparison, the UK's figure is 5 tonnes: still, too much to make a significant difference in the fight for temperature reduction.

*The good news?* Many European Union countries have significantly reduced their carbon emissions in the last year. Bulgaria tops the bill at 23% with Estonia, Finland, Germany, Slovenia and Hungary all with reductions of around 10%. The UK managed 4%.

*The bad news?* You've guessed it! Many countries are showing an increase, including large population countries such as China, Russia and India.

*The result?* An overall world increase in carbon dioxide emissions.

### **Prayer and Campaigning**

So, let us spread the word where we can that this is an issue that needs immediate attention and collectively pray that the climate agenda moves from words to actions now!

*'We pray that the decisions made during COP29 [and elsewhere] won't be empty words. We ask that those in positions of power be held accountable to the targets set, working with conviction to go above and beyond them. For the sake of future generations' (from [www.compassionuk.org](http://www.compassionuk.org))*

## Health Walks in EAST HERTS

### GREAT FOR FITNESS AND WELLBEING



A new Winter East Herts Health Walks timetable for the period to April is available on the Hertfordshire Health Walks website. This provides popular FREE daytime walks.

### **Join a Health Walk today**

Walking is the simplest way to get more active, connect with nature and manage certain long-term health conditions. Health Walks are suitable for people of all fitness levels, backgrounds and abilities. All timetables are marked with a walk grade from First Steps, the shortest walk (20 to 30 minutes) which is ideal for people who are returning to activity after injury or illness to Grade 1, 30 to 40 minutes - suitable for people who can comfortably walk and talk with few breaks - to walks graded 3 and above which are faster pace and longer walks.

There is no need to book, but everyone is encouraged to register online. Just Google "Hertfordshire Health Walks".

We look forward to seeing you on a Health Walk in 2025! Come with a friend or by yourself - a walk leader in a bright yellow jacket will give you a warm welcome and support you all the way.

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# Services at St Andrew's

## February 2025



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>	2	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Rev Alan Stewart	
<i>Candlemas</i>		10.30 am	<b>Parish Communion with Junior Church</b>	Rev Alan Stewart	Geoff Oates
		10.30 am	<b>Eucharist Service on Zoom</b>	Nick Hoyle	Geoff Oates
		7.00 pm	Soul Food in St Andrew's Centre	Rev Alan Stewart	
Monday	3	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (Common Worship)		
Wednesday	5	10.30 am	Holy Communion (Traditional)	Rev Bill Church	
Thursday	6	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (BCP)		
		10.30 am	Holy Communion Calton Court	Rev Bill Church	
<b>SUNDAY</b>	9	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Rev Bill Church	
<i>Fourth before Lent</i>		10.30 am	<b>All Age Service</b>	Rev Alan Stewart	
		10.30 am	<b>Eucharist Service on Zoom</b>	Rev Bill Church	
		7.00 pm	<b>Compline on Zoom</b>	Rev Alan Stewart	
Monday	10	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (Common Worship)		
Wednesday	12	10.30 am	Holy Communion (Traditional)	Rev Alan Stewart	Scott Martin
Thursday	13	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (BCP)		
<b>SUNDAY</b>	16	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Rev Alan Stewart	
<i>Third before Lent</i>		10.30 am	<b>Parish Communion with Junior Church</b>	Rev Alan Stewart	
		10.30 am	<b>Morning Service on Zoom</b>	Kath Oates	Rev Alan Stewart
		7.00 pm	<b>Compline on Zoom</b>	Rev Alan Stewart	
Monday	17	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (Common Worship)		
Wednesday	19	10.30 am	Holy Communion (Traditional)	Rev Bill Church	
Thursday	20	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (BCP)		
		10.30 am	Holy Communion Calton Court	Rev Bill Church	
<b>SUNDAY</b>	23	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Rev Bill Church	
<i>Second before Lent</i>		10.30 am	<b>Parish Communion with Junior Church</b>	Rev Alan Stewart	Forbes Mutch
		10.30 am	<b>Morning Service on Zoom</b>	Nick Hoyle	Forbes Mutch
		6.30 pm	Evensong St Mary's Hertingfordbury	Rev Bill Church	
		7.00 pm	<b>Compline on Zoom</b>	Rev Alan Stewart	
Monday	24	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (Common Worship)		
Wednesday	26	10.30 am	Holy Communion (Traditional)	Rev Alan Stewart	
Thursday	27	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (BCP)		