

The parish magazine of
Hertford St Andrew

www.hertfordstandrews.co.uk

APRIL 2025



An art exhibition at St Andrew's Church
The story of Holy Week in watercolours by Jenny Hawke
Daytime Monday 14th April until Good Friday 18th April

Here with you Here for you

HERTFORD ST ANDREW

Registered charity 1132540

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

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Whilst every reasonable care has been taken in presenting the information in this magazine, no responsibility can be taken for any inaccuracies. The opinions expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of the Priests, Churchwardens or editor.

A FLOWER AND A MISSILE

In 2022 a Ukrainian composer transformed an unexploded Russian bomb, which had fallen on his homeland, into a musical instrument of hope. Roman Hryhoriv replaced the explosive interior of the missile with cello strings, and its sound has been described as haunting or funereal. 'This isn't just an instrument to me' he explained, 'it transcends music. It symbolises the horror experienced by the Ukrainian people. No other instrument can come close to its power and outpouring of pain.'

At Easter, churches all over the world display their own instruments of pain in the shape of a cross. It took the early church centuries to depict a cross; such was their trauma. The cross has with time become for many not only a symbol of pain and death, but a symbol of God's empathy and love and triumph over death.

At church during Lent, we create a cross made from last year's Christmas tree, which reminds us of both the birth and the death of Christ. On Easter Day we then transform this into a symbol of rebirth or resurrection as people are invited to bring fresh flowers and insert them into the cross. What was dead, comes to life; what was ugly becomes beautiful; a defiant reminder that love always wins.

Each person is invited to make their flower a prayer of hope. This Easter, what might your prayer be for yourself and for the world? Do come and join us on Easter Day and bring that prayer with you in the form of a beautiful flower.

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.

OUR ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING

SUNDAY 27TH APRIL

This is for everyone who worships at St Andrew's – the one time in the year when we are all called to gather together to elect our Churchwardens and appoint new members of the PCC, to talk about the year that has passed and, most importantly, plans for the year to come. **The meeting will take place in Church after the 10.30am service.** Please take the time to attend. If you may be interested in joining the PCC or becoming a representative on the Deanery Synod, please speak to Carol Muhr, Alan Stewart or one of the churchwardens (contact details on the preceding page).

THE CLOSING DATE FOR THE MAY MAGAZINE IS **EASTER SUNDAY 20TH APRIL.** Please send copy by e-mail to hertfordsta@aol.co.uk Richard Taylor (Tel. 01992 302995).

SERVICES AND OTHER EVENTS

Church Services

You will find a full list of church services on the final page of this magazine and on the church website, with some additional information about certain services on this and the following page.

Junior Church

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

ALL-AGE SERVICE

EASTER SUNDAY

SUNDAY 20TH APRIL 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 page of this magazine and the website for dates.



**SUNDAYS on Zoom at 7pm
on 13th and 27th April**

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 5th April
& 3rd May 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)
ON WEDNESDAY 9TH APRIL at 7.30pm
& WEDNESDAY 16TH APRIL at 8pm
ON ZOOM ONLY: WEDNESDAY
30TH APRIL at 7.30pm**

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!

Know the Story; Share the Story; Live the Story

SERVICES AND OTHER EVENTS

PALM SUNDAY at St Andrew's

SUNDAY 13TH APRIL

For the 10.30am service, the congregation is invited to begin the service outside the church, weather permitting. Please collect a palm cross, service book and hymn book and head outside if you are able, where we will process into church through the West Doors, led by the clergy and the choir, as the service begins. Following the service...



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

Palm Sunday, 13 April
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

PLEASE TAKE NOTE

There will be an 8am service only on Sunday 4th May

With the Parish Away Day being held at All Nations College, there will not be a 9.15am service at St Mary's or a 10.30am service at St Andrew's on this day. Nor will there be a Zoom service. However, there will be a short 8am service at St Andrew's.

With Alan beginning a three-month sabbatical straight after the Away Day the last Sunday at which he will conduct services will be 27th April before he returns in August. He will also lead the morning service on Wednesday 30th April.

CONTEMPORARY

soul food

CONTEMPORARY

CAFÉ-STYLE SERVICE

in the St Andrew's Centre

7pm

Sunday 6th April

Sunday 4th May

JOIN US AT 6.45 FOR REFRESHMENTS

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

FREE Mindfulness

WHEN

THIS MONTH
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MONDAYS
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Everyone is welcome

WHERE

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just turn up!

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HOLY WEEK & EASTER



ONE FRIDAY

an exhibition at St Andrew's Church

The story of Holy Week in watercolours by Jenny Hawke

Monday 14th April until Good Friday 18th April

Artist and writer Jenny Hawke (1954-2023) created a moving and thought-provoking series of watercolour paintings entitled One Friday. Her pictures depict the events of Holy Week, from Jesus' betrayal up to his death and resurrection. We will be displaying large-format prints of these motifs at St Andrew's Church during Holy Week. There will be an optional written reflection on each picture, or you can simply take in Jenny Hawke's visual interpretations of the themes.

There are fourteen paintings in the One Friday series – the same number as the traditional Stations of the Cross. But One Friday goes beyond simply narrating the story of Christ's Passion. Each motif carries a one-word title, such as Fear, Mercy or Tomorrow, and the representations range from the literal (a hammer and nails) to the near-abstract; the motif Tears, for example, is a

poignant cascade of pale blues inspired by the idea of the whole of creation weeping.

The traditional Stations of the Cross came about as a way of enabling those who could not make it to Jerusalem on pilgrimage to take their own small walk of faith in their locality. The One Friday exhibition, in a modern-day twist, now invites you to step into the unfolding drama of the Passion story and immerse yourself visually in the events of Holy Week.

The pictures will be on show at St Andrew's from Monday 14 April until Friday 18 April (Good Friday), during the church's normal opening hours.

We would like to thank St Helen's Church, Wheathampstead, for the loan of the prints.

Good Friday Walk of Witness

18th April 10am - 11.30am

This year we are looking to increase the impact and visibility of our Churches Together Walk of Witness. Christians from across the town are encouraged to leave their churches in significant numbers and bring the message of Easter to Hertford.

This year there will be three groups walking through the town, carrying large crosses and giving out chocolates, hot-cross buns and a small card with a link to a gospel presentation, explaining the meaning of Easter and why Jesus had to die.

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HOLY WEEK & EASTER

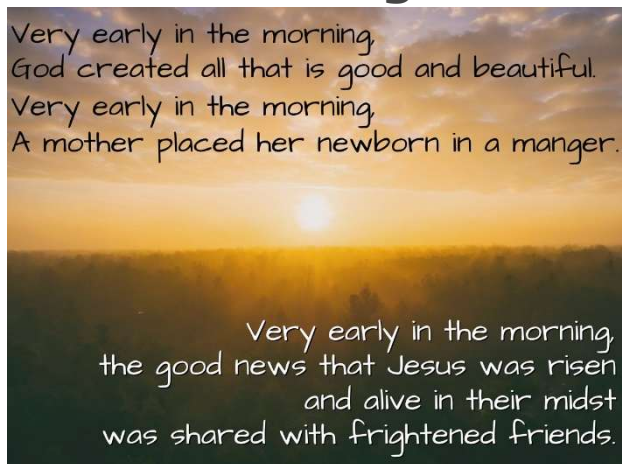
The three groups will gather at the following locations between 10am and 10.15am:

- Hertford Methodist Church, Ware Road
- All Saints Church, Queens Road
- United Reformed Church, Cowbridge

The groups will converge on Hartham Common, near to the children's playground, by 11am for a short time of worship, Bible readings and prayer.

Join us and play a part in sharing God's great love with Hertford this Easter. Simply turn up between 10am and 10.15am on Friday 18th April at one of the above locations.

Easter Morning



5.30am Dawn Service at St Mary's Hertingfordbury with the lighting of the first fire of Easter.

In the early hours of Easter Day, just as the dawn is rising, travel with us as we re-enact the journey of the women who first went to the tomb. We begin in darkness in the church and then move outside where we light the first fire of the day. Please bring with you a torch and a noise-maker.

Join a Zoom service

For Zoom links for Holy Week and Easter go to St Andrew's website and under the Services & Occasions tab find the link "Join us on Zoom" and scroll down. **To join via your landline, see the penultimate page of the magazine.**

Easter Monday Pilgrimage 21st April, from 2.30pm
St Albans Cathedral, Sumpter Yard, St Albans, Hertfordshire AL1 1BY

Join a thousand other pilgrims from across St Albans Diocese to celebrate the risen Christ at St Albans Cathedral. This year's theme is JOY.

You're Invited!

On Easter Monday, 21st April, join hundreds of other pilgrims at St Albans Cathedral for a joyful pilgrimage and service that brings people together from across the Diocese. It's a day for everyone— grandparents, parents, young people, kids, and even dogs (muddy boots welcome).

The Service

Arrive at the Cathedral to gather on the beautiful Abbey Orchard before heading inside from 2.30pm for an informal service at 3pm, filled with worship, a couple of thought provoking reflections and a short communion led by Bishop Richard, Bishop of Bedford.

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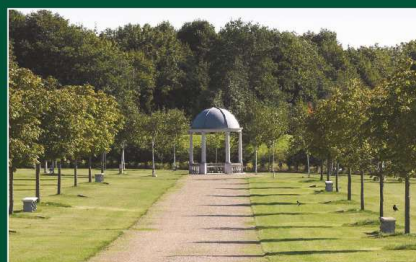
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Holy Week & Easter

at St Andrew's &
St Mary's Hertingfordbury

ONE FRIDAY

DAYTIME THROUGH HOLY WEEK art exhibition at St Andrew's Church

Mon 14th April	8pm Compline for Holy Week (Zoom)
Tues 15th April	8pm A candlelit service for Holy Week in the style of Taizé (St Andrew's)
Weds 16th April	8pm A Meditation for Holy Week (St Andrew's & Zoom)
Maundy Thurs	8pm Holy Communion followed by a candlelit medieval service of the shadows (Tenebrae) & watch 'til 10pm (St Andrew's)
Good Friday	'One Friday' Art Exhibition - final day 12noon-2pm A quiet space (St Andrew's) 2-3pm The Last Hour (with choir) (St Andrew's) 2-3pm The Last Hour (St Mary's)
Easter Sunday	5.30am Dawn Service (St Mary's) 8am Holy Communion (BCP) (St Andrew's) 9.15am (St Mary's) 10.30am (St Andrew's) All-Age Holy Communion with Easter Egg Hunt (Please remember to bring a fresh flower to decorate the cross and something noisy!) 10.30am (Zoom) A Communion service for Easter



Scan here for more information

Have a joyful Easter

www.hertfordstandrews.co.uk
www.hertingfordburystmary.org

For Zoom links go to St Andrew's website and under the Services & Occasions tab find the "Join us on Zoom" link and scroll down.

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CHURCH FAMILY



Confirmation Service at St Mary's Hertingfordbury Monday 17th March

Two or three months ago, a young man came into church and sat in one of the side aisles. I was aware that I had not seen him before and it became apparent that he needed a bit of help finding out where he was in the Service.

It turned out that his name was Harry and he had felt drawn to come to church for the first time that Sunday, so several of us did our bit to welcome him.

Harry then decided to bring his Mum, Elisa, a week or two later and, in between training for the London Marathon and attending church, he has been part of the recent SEARCHING FOR FAITH course, as indeed has Elisa.

This led to Harry and Elisa joining Brenda Maling and two candidates from St Mary's, Harry Boyle and Rose Ratna for a most memorable Service of Confirmation conducted by the Bishop of



Hertford, Rt Revd Dr Jane Mainwaring, at St Mary's Hertingfordbury on Monday 17th March.

It was a privilege to be there along with a good number of St Andrew's folk. Afterwards, St Mary's provided a wonderful selection of refreshments, for which many thanks.

A special evening for us all and hopefully some big steps in the faith journeys of those who were confirmed. You never know where a smile and a word or two of welcome will lead!

Elisa is now bringing her grandson, Arthur, (nephew to Harry) to Toddlers at St Andrew's on Thursdays.

Harry (from Hertingfordbury) completed the Barcelona Marathon on 16th March. "Our" Harry will shortly tackle the London Marathon – see below.

Charles Ledsam

LONDON MARATHON: 27th April *GOOD LUCK HARRY!*

Please give your support to Harry Longman who 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.



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

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CHURCH MATTERS

The face of Scott Martin will be familiar to many within St Andrew's congregation. He has worshipped at St Andrew's for a while and has led intercessions at Sunday morning services. Now, he will be playing a greater role in the life and work of St Andrew's having accepted the appointment of Associate Priest to serve with the parishes of St Andrew's and our sister church, St Mary's Hertingfordbury. This could not have come at a better time with Rev Alan soon to be enjoying a well-earned three-month sabbatical.

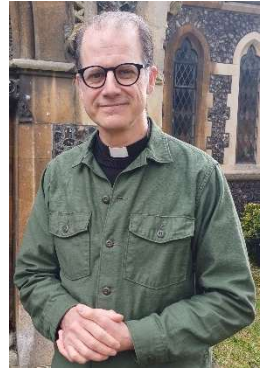
We asked Scott to tell us a few things about himself and this is what he had to say.

Please tell us where you grew up and a little about your upbringing, education and career paths.

I was born in Enfield in 1973 and grew up in Cheshunt in Hertfordshire. I grew up in a happy family where there was always lots of fun and laughter. My father Dennis was a tradesman and mother Jean a part-time Bank Clerk. I have one brother called Neil who is two years younger than me, and lives in Arkesden. I attended Goffs School in Cheshunt. I had a happy childhood and fond memories of my early years. I was a keen amateur bird watcher and still love visiting RSPB nature reserves to this day. After finishing my GCSEs and leaving school in 1989, I worked in banking for a short while. After deciding this wasn't for me, I became involved in the horticultural industry where I spent most of my early working life. I really enjoyed working alongside Mother Nature and the seasons of the year in Crews Hill. It was during these years that I began to discern a possible vocation to either the religious life or the priesthood. As my sense of calling to the

AN INTRODUCTION TO REV SCOTT MARTIN

priesthood began to develop, so did my interest in the more academic side of things. In 1996 I went to the University of Hertfordshire to study for a degree in philosophy and later in 2002 as part of my ordination training, I attended Leeds University and gained a master's degree in theology and Pastoral Studies.



Please share with us your Christian journey.

I can't quite recall when I first became aware of the Christian faith. As I was not brought up in a church-going family, I assume it would have been through school visits to church services and religious studies at secondary school. I remember requesting a children's Bible one Christmas and became fascinated with the stories and pictures of Jesus. I also remember watching Franco Zeffirelli's "Jesus of Nazareth" on the television at Easter, which made a very strong impact upon me. Family holidays to Spain and Cyprus in my teenage years involved opportunities to visit Catholic and Orthodox Monasteries which absolutely fascinated me! I always came home with lots of devotional memorabilia and developed an interest in the religious icons of the Orthodox Church. I started to attend my local church in my late teenage years where I began to serve at the Eucharist and began to explore and learn about Christian discipleship which eventually led to Confirmation. I was very lucky to have had an encouraging parish priest who journeyed with me throughout the whole discernment process of considering Ordination. I

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CHURCH MATTERS

remember having lots of interesting discussions with him about theology and life! He had a well-stocked bookshelf which I enjoyed making good use of! When I was eventually recommended for Ordination training, I went to the College of the Resurrection in Mirfield, Yorkshire for three years. From there I served my curacy at St Luke's Church in Leagrave, Luton and eventually went on to become a Priest in Charge at Holy Trinity Church, Bishop's Stortford.

What brought you to St Andrew's?

In 2013 when I was going through a period of illness, which resulted in putting life in ministry on hold, my family and I moved to Hertford from Bishop's Stortford. We were very fortunate to have been visited by Rev Alan Stewart who kept a pastoral eye on us all. Over the years, I have got to know the people of St Andrew's and have enjoyed becoming part of a friendly and welcoming church community.

What do you do between Sundays?

Since moving to Hertford, my week involves a daily commute into London where I work in tailoring/menswear at a company called Turnbull & Asser. It is a long twelve-hour+ day - on the train at 7.30am and returning home at 8pm - but it is also a very fascinating place to work. You never know who is going to walk through the shop door, from politicians to movie stars! When I'm not working, I enjoy spending quality time with my children Charlotte (15) and Andrew (13). I also enjoy country walks, the cinema and always have a book or two on the go!

How would you describe yourself in three words?

"Journeying in faith"

AN INTRODUCTION TO REV SCOTT MARTIN

What is your favourite passage in the Bible and why?

Admittedly, it's a bit longer than a passage...It's always been the story of the Prodigal Son. To my mind, it's one of the best depictions of the love and nature of God. Here we see a young person caught up in the frailties and vulnerabilities of being human, not being perfect in other words! When he comes to the realisation of his true needs... his True North who is God, he doesn't find a stern judge waiting to condemn, but a loving Father running over the horizon with arms open, eager to welcome him home. That's the God I believe in!

What is your favourite hymn and why?

"I heard the voice of Jesus say" by Horatius Bonar. This hymn has helped me through some difficult times in my life. It is very much a light in the darkness hymn. I just love the imagery used throughout. There's a real sense of Christ and therefore God being our true place of anchorage and rest. It's a hymn that's really there for you as a reminder of where discipleship begins and finds its fulfilment: I heard the voice of Jesus say "Behold I freely give the living water; thirsty one, stoop down and drink, and live."

How are you preparing for Alan's sabbatical?

Mostly by getting to know the people I'll be working with, the Ministry Team and the Churchwardens and getting to know the members of the PCC. Everyone has been so welcoming and encouraging as I prepare to become an associate priest at St Andrew's.

Thank you Scott and a warm welcome to the Ministry Team.

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CHURCH MATTERS

ST ANDREW'S ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING

SUNDAY 27th APRIL AT 12 NOON

COME AND HEAR ABOUT WHAT'S GOING ON AT ST ANDREW'S AND PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

WHAT'S THE ANNUAL MEETING ALL ABOUT?

First there is a preliminary meeting to elect Churchwardens. At the Parish Meeting which follows, you will hear about the work of the parochial church council (PCC) and the deanery synod, the parish's finances, the fabric of the church building and very many other aspects of what is happening in and through the church. Everyone whose name is on the parish's new electoral roll is entitled to attend, speak and vote.

HAVE YOU CONSIDERED BECOMING A MEMBER OF THE PCC?

The meeting will elect people to serve on the PCC. The PCC meets six times a year, that is every other month, usually on the second Monday of the month, in the evening. The PCC has an important role to play within St Andrew's. A wide range of matters are considered and discussed on all aspects of our church life. Nomination forms will be available at the back of the church. If you would like to discuss this opportunity, please contact Alan or one of the Churchwardens (their contact details are in the directory on the inside of the cover page where you will also find a list of the current PCC members). There is more information about qualification for membership of the PCC on the church website: www.hertfordstandrews.co.uk/pcc

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?



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CHURCH MATTERS

FROM THE REGISTERS

FUNERALS:

We extend our sympathy to the family and friends of:

6th March **Jeremy William Bartlett** aged 67

18th March **Anita Tyler** aged 77. Anita was born in Kent, married Roy in 1969 and moved to Hertfordshire in 1979, where she worked in Hertfordshire Libraries. They raised Karen, Sara and Malcolm and in turn Anita was an active grandmother. With her family she faced up bravely to aggressive Motor Neurone Disease.

ALAN'S SABBATICAL

Alan writes, "Every ten years, vicars are offered the opportunity to take a three-month sabbatical (or Extended Study Leave). The object of the sabbatical is to recharge spiritually, make time for creativity and to engage in an area of study which is relevant to ministry. Between May and July this year, I will be taking a sabbatical from parish life. My plan is to study the Irish Wake and Irish traditions and rituals around death and dying, which will take me on a road trip around Ireland, culminating in the Keening Festival in the west of the country. I also plan to retreat to Northumbria, deepen my Mindfulness practice, take up pottery and fit in a holiday to Sorrento! I'm really looking forward to it and I'm hugely grateful for the opportunity. I know that I'm leaving both parishes in the very safe hands of Rev Bill, the wardens and the Ministry Team.

My last day will be Sunday 4th May which is our joint Away Day."

ALL SYSTEMS GO!

ST ANDREW'S NEW SOUND SYSTEM

At their concert in March, Miranda Sykes and Jim Causley (see review in this magazine) were the first external artists to use St Andrew's new sound system to amplify their music. It worked a treat. Mixing desk maestros – Mick Donovan (right) and a visiting friend, also called Michael – showed us what two Mikes can do with mics. The sound was excellent throughout the concert. Well done team. Our sound system is proving what it can do and how useful it will be, not only for concerts, but services and events such as Harvest Fest and Beer & Carols.



How do you fancy having a go at operating our new state of the art sound desk at St Andrew's? We are looking to build a bigger team of operators for services and other events we hold. It doesn't matter if you have not had previous experience of operating a sound desk as tuition will be given. Please speak with Chris Seward (01992 554217) or Richard Taylor (01992 302995) if you are interested.

Know the Story; Share the Story; Live the Story

EVENTS



JOIN US FOR OUR EVER-POPULAR MONTHLY COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 5th April from 10.30am to 12.30pm

With Easter fast approaching, there will be an Easter Egg Tombola, pop-up stalls selling a variety of wares and a children's crafts corner as well as the usual coffee and home-baked cakes to enjoy. Half of the money raised will go to CHIPS, a local charity offering playschemes and social fun for children aged 3-19 with additional needs and their siblings in East Herts, Broxbourne and Waltham Cross.

GREEN FINGERS? A call out by Debbie Ledsam to any green-fingered members of St. Andrew's who are sowing seeds or dividing perennials. The **June** coffee morning will hope to include the sale of plants as we have done in the past, so any contributions would be wonderful.



LIVE MUSIC AT ST ANDREW'S Thursday 8th May at 7.30pm

St Andrew's is delighted to welcome Leveret, a unique collaboration between three of England's finest folk musicians. "You won't find English folk music played better than this" (BBC Radio 2). Andy Cutting (button accordion), Sam Sweeney (fiddle) and Rob Harbron (concertina) are each regarded as exceptional performers and masters of their instruments. Together, their performances combine consummate musicianship, compelling delivery and captivating spontaneity. Their playing is relaxed and natural, drawing audiences in and inviting them to share in music-making that is truly spontaneous.

Tickets are £18 + £1.35 booking fee www.ticketsource.co.uk/st-andrews-church



CHRISTIAN AID INTER-CHURCH QUIZ

Saturday 10th May

St Andrews Centre, St Andrew's Church

Doors open at 6.30 for a prompt 7pm start

Tickets £12.50 per person to include ploughman's supper. Bring your own drinks and glasses.

Tables of 6 to 8 people. Numbers limited so first come, first served.

Tickets from Sue Mulligan 07913 666296 or suemulligan@ntlworld.com

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HERE AT ST ANDREW'S

SOME IMPORTANT MONEY FACTS AND FIGURES

We are sometimes asked how much it costs to run the church.

The answer is £140,000 in 2024 - £2,700 per week - not an inconsiderable amount!



It is easy to underestimate what has to be paid for but we need to include heating, lighting and utilities, insurance, repairs and maintenance, employment costs, administrative expenses and everything that is required for services, including music.

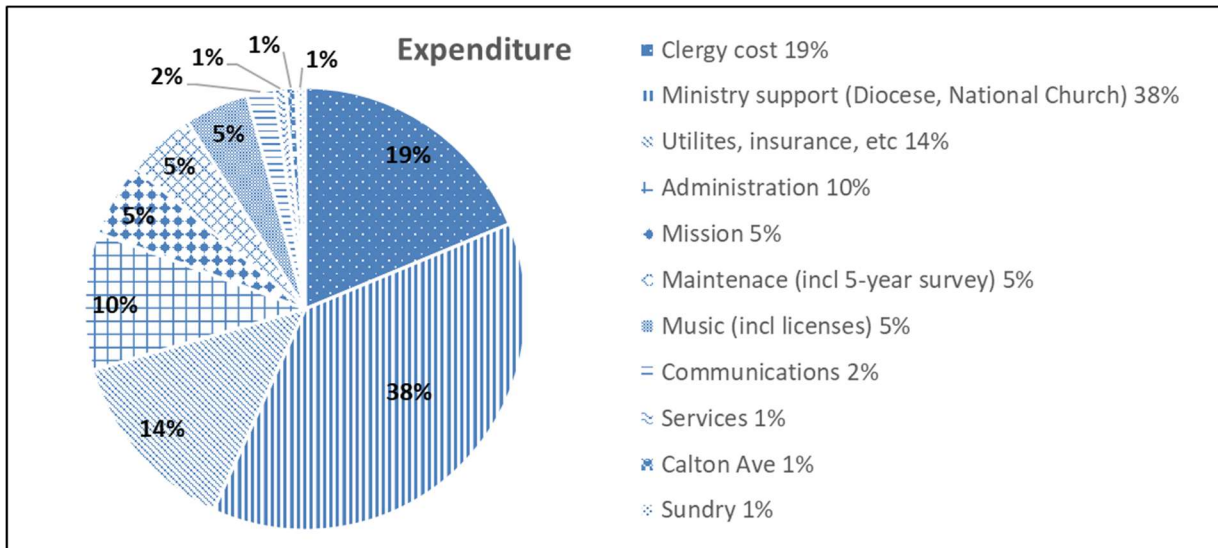
Like all Anglican churches, we are asked to make a contribution, called the Parish Share, to support ministry and mission across the Diocese. This includes the cost of clergy stipends and their housing. The amount of Parish Share is based on a formula that reflects the size of the parish, congregation numbers, social economic factors (ie ability to pay) etc. In 2024, this totalled £80,299.

We also supported Christian charities through our mission giving to the tune of £8,378 in 2024.

We are completely reliant on these efforts to ensure we can continue and develop our activities as a flourishing, well-maintained church.

We are now three months into the new financial year. The budget for 2025 has been agreed by the PCC and is being closely monitored. Our costs face inflationary increases and our total expenditure is expected to increase to £148,000. We can see that new challenges are presenting themselves e.g. urgent repairs to guttering, stonework, glass and electrical items. We also await the church 'quinquennial inspection' which is a report from our architect on the fabric of the church.

The budget agreed by the PCC for 2025 includes the ambition of increasing our planned giving by individuals and



Despite these very significant costs and commitments, the 2024 accounts showed a small but welcome surplus thanks to the generosity and efforts of many who made their own valuable financial donations and/or devoted considerable time to fundraising events.

families by £3,000 (about 3.5%). We hope that those who currently give so generously will be able to maintain, or even increase the amounts they donate while newcomers to St Andrew's will want to begin a regular commitment,

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FINE ART AUCTIONEERS

HERE AT ST ANDREW'S

How many plants are in our churchyard?

Debbie reckons we have at least 150 different plants and trees (and she is still counting)! What an amazing array. We will shortly be displaying the list in the church.

How did our plants get there?

Some have been planted having been gifted, while others have turned up, blown in by the wind or helped on their way by birds, bees and other insects and animals. What Debbie has learned over the nearly twenty years she has been looking after this lovely space, is that plants tend to choose their favourite places.

Does the churchyard need managing and why?

The simple answer is yes! Debbie does a fantastic job, not least, because she

knows her plants and where they reside. That is no mean feat. Working with our God-created world is the best way to encourage diversity of plants and species, so she takes the approach of letting plants find their place. But she also knows that our churchyard is an oasis in an urban area. Whilst nature can work its magic there are some thugs out there that outcompete everything. Some plants (Laurel hedging for example) need pruning from time to time to allow other plants to naturally colonise, whilst in the right place additional planting of native plants can help boost what is already there. If we nurture and care for our plants, we can have many habitats and flowers throughout most of the year.



DEBBIE

What can you spot in April and beyond?

The churchyard provides an incredible array of habitats. See what you can find in April. Bluebells, grape hyacinths, early violets, and tulips are just a few you will see. Get spotting and let Debbie know what you find.

Help us record what we have

Caring for God's Acre is a conservation charity for Burial Grounds across the UK. From the 7th - 15th June there will be a national count although you can send data any time. You can find the app (or print off a paper recording sheet) at:

<https://www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk/churches-count-on-nature-faqs/>

The 7th June happens to be our annual coffee morning and plant sale so what better time to join this initiative. More info to follow nearer the time.

Can you help with our churchyard nurturing occasionally?

There are two churchyard tidy up days per year, but following my guided tour round the churchyard, Debbie and I agreed that sometimes there is a need for bespoke tasks throughout the year, especially those where we need to remove a few branches from hedges or preparing ground for native planting.

If you would be interested in helping occasionally, please let Debbie know and also watch out for requests in the Messenger.

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CHERISH HERTFORD

HERTFORD'S MAGICAL RIVERS

On 23rd February, the Mayor of Hertford hosted an event at Hertford Castle called 'Cherish Hertford', bringing together representatives from across Hertford's communities, including faith groups, charitable organisations, community groups and others who are recognised for their contributions to the town.

Guests enjoyed an afternoon of reflection and appreciation for Hertford's people and its environment, while being treated to performances from the newly-formed Hertford Children's Choir, led by Rachel and Sam Chaplin, and the Take Note Choir plus a reading from local writer Martina Swift.

The event was also the culmination of the Mayor's Writing Competition, on the theme 'Hertford's Magical Rivers', which saw nearly 80 entries from children, aged from 7 years to adults. The entries were



judged jointly by the Mayor, the Mayor's Consort, Jon Banks, and local author Nick Hughes, with the winners and runners up from each of the four age categories being invited to read their poem

or short story for guests at 'Cherish Hertford'.

Congratulations to Amy (aged 8), Joe (aged 13), Ashton (aged 16) and Jenny Mutch (over 21), known to many at St Andrew's, who achieved first place in their age categories. Winning and runner-up entries are on display at the Tourism Information Centre in the Wash.*

As part of the event, our own Rev Alan, who is the Mayor's Chaplain, wrote and gave a Cherish Hertford Blessing. While he read the blessing four volunteers (one being Nick Hoyle) poured water into a bowl from a bottle containing water harvested from each of the four rivers running through Hertford symbolising the coming together of community.

THE BLESSING

The nature writer Robert MacFarlane writes 'Rivers run through us as surely as they run through places'.

So, to begin, a moment just to be still, to reflect personally on all that we cherish about this community of Hertford.

Four rivers meet in this County Town; a rare chalk-stream confluence of Rib and Beane, Mimram and Lea.

Four rivers; habitat to houseboats and kayaks, mallards and moorhens, otters and water voles; four rivers meet in this town we too call home.

And each river brings with it life and blessing.

Water from the Rib

As water always takes the shape of the thing that holds it, may we learn to walk humbly in the shoes of one another. May we cherish our unity and our diversity and may we continue to be a place of welcome and belonging for all.

Water from the Beane

As water is rich in minerals, a biodiversity of flora and fauna; may we delight in and cherish all that enriches this community; its arts and music, its charities and volunteers, its businesses and faith

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CHERISH HERTFORD

HERTFORD'S MAGICAL RIVERS

communities, its schools and emergency services; all ages, all cultures, all abilities.

Water from the Lea

As water is buoyant, stronger than gravity, may we carry one another through still waters and through storms. May all that unites us be stronger than anything that divides. May we cherish the riches of human kindness and cooperation, open and wholeheartedness, respect and compassion.

Water from the Mimram

As water is life, without which no living thing exists, may we live fully and thankfully. May we devote ourselves to the wellbeing of one another, of our landscape of these precious rivers. May we live generously as we cherish this one precious life.



And as river water flows into the unknown, without knowledge of what lies ahead, so we step bravely into the future, side by side, in the commitment that we will continue to do all we can to leave this place even better than the Hertford we celebrate and cherish today.

*The foregoing is based in large part on the Cherish Hertford event press release from Hertford Town Council appearing on its website and reproduced with the kind permission of the Mayor. Photographs by Anna Tootell, Mayor's Secretary.

FOLK AT ST ANDREW'S

Powerful church players return

Two impressive concerts in March kick-started this year's folk calendar at St Andrew's. Forbes Mutch tells us more.

CHURCHFITTERS: they came, they played, they conquered. That was in December 2023 when they put on a brilliant Christmas cracker of a show. So pleased were they with St Andrew's, they returned to the church in March this year for a more traditional but equally diverse and entertaining show of virtuosic folk music.

Although the band has changed many times since it was first formed in 1978, the current line-up of Rosie Short, her brother Chris and Boris Leuret has been playing together for over 20 years and their comfortable camaraderie is evident on stage and adds to the enjoyment of a relaxed and memorable evening.

They start with no preamble, going straight into a Rosie Short song called *Amazing*, which begins with the appropriate lyric: *I loosen my tongue as you turn to stare*. The tempo picks up immediately after that with a reel called *Tongue Twister*, where the musicians begin to demonstrate their mastery of different instruments. Throughout the show, Rosie keeps picking up her whistle and often swaps her guitar for a banjo. During the evening, we see Chris play fiddle, mandolin, whistle and musical saw; a flute, dulcimer and ukulele make their appearance, while Boris amazes us with a

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FOLK AT ST ANDREW'S

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six-string bass banjo, bing-bong-box and a homemade electric hub-cap bass-bouzouki. It is no wonder that these three friends fill the church with so much sound.

Their choice of music is equally diverse, with a mixture of traditional and original folk songs, each introduced by a quirky and amusing anecdote. These are often about where they have lived over the years, including Suffolk and Brighton (unusual people live in Brighton) and Boris Lebret's homeland in Brittany (better than Croydon). Sneaky cover tunes slip unexpectedly into the repertoire. An old dark folk tale called *The Lady of York* (a cruel mother) morphs, for example, into a melody by American R&B band Booker T & the MGs called *Soul Limbo*, which is better known as the theme tune for TV's Test Match Special. This gets a special cheer of recognition. Towards the end of the second half – the finale, in fact – they play a tongue-in-cheek version of Australian rock band AC/DC's *Thunderstruck*. The audience clap their hands and stamp their feet.

During the interval, I comment to Rosie that it's appropriate for each of the band to wear a yellow daffodil motif, as it is St David's Day. The singer corrects me, saying that they always wear Marie Curie daffodil badges in memory of Churchfitter's founding member Anthony McCartan, who died from cancer in 2004. The encore at tonight's gig, played in memory of McCartan, is called *Grain of Sand*. In slang, a grain of sand is often used to symbolise a small contribution to a bigger collective goal. When we all pitch in something to a common cause, we can


make great things happen. Churchfitters prove that, on stage, they are always a band greater than the sum of their individual parts. A great gig. Will they return next year as well? We hope so.

The second folk concert in March, saw a couple of exceptional musicians play a rich variety of interesting songs, relevant for the modern age.

DUO OF DIVERSITY



I grew up in Nottingham and so, when **Miranda Sykes** says that she studied for a BTEC in pop music at Ilkeston College, located between Nottingham and Derby, I know exactly the country she's talking about. It's a semi-urban, semi-rural town caught between the factories and coalmines of the industrial midlands and the rugged beauty of the Peak District. This contrast seems appropriate for a musician who grew up learning classical double bass but ended up in a punk band. Maybe later finding her niche in the world of folk, between her original extremes of music, was inevitable. In her gig at St Andrew's, she forsakes her double bass for an amplified six-string guitar. She's versatile.

Her partner on stage is **Jim Causley** who, after attending Newcastle University where he studied Folk and Traditional Music, became, in his own words, a 'folk singer and accordionist, who also plays piano when there's one available!' He performs a mixture of traditional, original and self-penned material, as well as musical settings for the poems of his relative; the poet Charles Causley. CONTINUED 

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FOLK AT ST ANDREW'S

When Jim and Miranda arrive in Hertford, they are coming to the end of an intense 24-gig tour of England, travelling in Miranda's van. 'Last night we were in Totnes' Jim says, 'tomorrow we'll be in Manchester'.

The show starts without an introduction, with Jim playing accordion, before Miranda picks up the tune on her guitar. They settle into a comfortable partnership, playing 18 songs either side of an interval. This must be a record for the number of songs at a folk gig at St Andrew's. Most of the tunes are cover versions of songs by more famous songwriters but the variety of choice is remarkable, ranging from Ralph McTell to Prince, Cyndi Lauper to John Denver.

Despite the disparity and history of the songs, they all have a relevance for today's audience. Highlights in the first half include a version of the Jim Croce song *Time in a Bottle*, which includes the lyric: *There's never time to do the things you want to do*. How true is that in the modern world?

In the second half, apart from a Woody Guthrie song called *Way Over Yonder*, that Jim credits Billy Bragg with discovering, the highlight is a John Denver anti-war number called *Let Us Begin*, which some of us think would be a suitable song for this year's church awayday, where the theme is 'peace'.

During the interval (and after the show), Jim chats to the audience and Miranda sells jewellery that she makes from sea glass found on the beach near her home in Devon. A versatile lady, indeed. May they both return soon.

Join a Zoom service via your landline

You just need the ID number and password for each service

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:

1. Enter the meeting ID (see below) followed by the # key
2. You will be asked to enter your participant ID, simply press the # key
3. Enter the password (602435) followed by the # key
4. You should then automatically join the service.

HOLY WEEK & EASTER 2025

Special Service for Palm Sunday

Sunday 13th April, 10.30am
ID number ID: 885 2580 6453

Compline For Holy Week

Monday 14th April, 8.00pm
ID: 598 221 0120

Meditation for Holy Week

Wednesday 15th April, 8.00pm
ID: 598 221 0120

Easter Day Eucharist

Sunday 20th April, 10.30am
ID: 885 2580 6453

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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Services at St Andrew's

April 2025



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

	Date	Time	Service	Celebrant	Preacher
Wednesday	2	10.30 am	Holy Communion (Traditional)		Rev Bill Church
Thursday	3	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (BCP)		
		10.30 am	Holy Communion Calton Court		Rev Bill Church
SUNDAY	6	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)		Rev Bill Church
<i>Lent 5</i>		10.30 am	Parish Communion with Junior Church		Rev Alan Stewart
		10.30 am	Morning Service on Zoom	Kath Oates	Rev Alan Stewart
		7.00 pm	Soul Food in St Andrew's Centre		Melanie Seward
Monday	7	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (Common Worship)		
Wednesday	9	10.30 am	Holy Communion (Traditional)		Rev Alan Stewart
Thursday	10	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (BCP)		
SUNDAY	13	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)		Rev Alan Stewart
<i>Palm Sunday</i>		10.30 am	Parish Communion with Junior Church	Rev Alan Stewart	Geoff Oates
		10.30 am	Morning Service on Zoom	Kath Oates	Nick Hoyle
		7.00 pm	Compline on Zoom		Rev Alan Stewart
Monday	14	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (Common Worship)		
<i>Holy Week</i>		8.00 pm	Compline		Rev Alan Stewart
Tuesday	15	8.00 pm	Taizé Service for Holy Week		Rev Alan Stewart
Wednesday	16	10.30 am	Holy Communion (Traditional)		Rev Bill Church
		8.00 pm	Meditation for Holy Week		Rev Alan Stewart
Thursday	17	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (BCP)		
<i>Maundy Thursday</i>		10.30 am	Holy Communion Calton Court		Rev Bill Church
		8.00 pm	Holy Communion (Foot washing)	Rev Alan Stewart	Melanie Seward
Good Friday		12 to 3pm	Good Friday Devotions (2-3pm Choir)		Rev Bill Church
SUNDAY	20	5.30 am	Easter Dawn Service at St Mary's	Rev Bill Church	Rev Alan Stewart
<i>Easter Day</i>		8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)		Rev Bill Church
		10.30 am	All Age Service (Choir and Organ)		Rev Alan Stewart
		10.30 am	Eucharist on Zoom		Rev Bill Church
Monday	21	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (Common Worship)		
Wednesday	23	10.30 am	Holy Communion (Traditional)		Rev Bill Church
Thursday	24	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (BCP)		
SUNDAY	27	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)		Rev Alan Stewart
<i>Easter 2</i>		10.30 am	Parish Communion NO JUN CHURCH	Rev Alan Stewart	Adrian Walter
		10.30 am	Morning Service on Zoom	Nick Hoyle	Adrian Walter
		6.30 pm	Evensong St Marys Hertingfordbury		Rev Bill Church
		7.00 pm	Compline on Zoom		Rev Alan Stewart
Monday	28	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (Common Worship)		
Wednesday	30	10.30 am	Holy Communion (Traditional)		Rev Alan Stewart