

The parish magazine of

Hertford St Andrew

www.hertfordstandrews.co.uk

MAY 2025

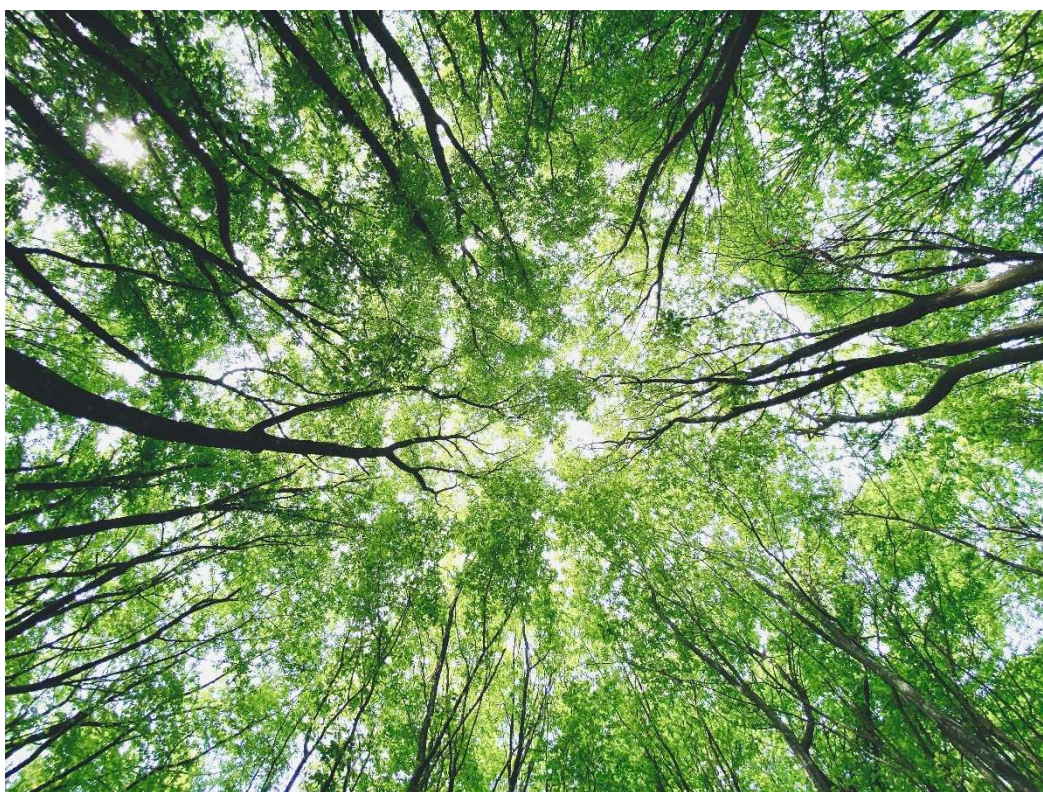


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GET LOST IN NATURE RECOMMENDS REVEREND ALAN
LET IT TEACH AND BEFRIEND YOU AND THE FORESTS ENFOLD YOU

Here with you Here for you

HERTFORD ST ANDREW

Registered charity 1132540

Website: www.HertfordStAndrews.co.uk

PRIEST: Rev Alan Stewart **ALAN IS ON SABBATICAL UNTIL 5TH AUGUST**

Assistant Priest: Rev Bill Church 01992 410469 churchwj@hotmail.com

Associate Priest: Rev Scott Martin 07766 295768 scottmar73@hotmail.com

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THE FOLLOWING MAY CHANGE AS A RESULT OF ELECTIONS ON 27TH APRIL: SEE THE WEBSITE FOR UP TO DATE INFORMATION AFTER THAT DATE

Churchwardens: Julie Markey 07801 236003

JOINT EMAIL ADDRESS: churchwarden.hertfordstandrews@gmail.com

Lesley Self 07952 958963

Deputy Warden: Chris Seward 01992 554217

Deanery Synod Members: Jenny Aitken, Renee Booker & Shirley Taylor

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

PCC Sub-committees:

Chair of Communications: Forbes Mutch 07946 265077

Chair of Eco-church Group: Jenny Mutch jennymant@icloud.com

Chair of Finance: Chris Seward 01992 554217

Chair of Mission Giving: Andrew Goodman 01992 421769

Chair of Social: Shirley Taylor 01992 302995

Chair of Reaching New People: Kath Oates 01992 535805

Chair of Young People: Rev Alan Stewart

Bible Reading Fellowship: Helle Penson 01992 916786

Director of Music: Jane Eldred 01992 503658

Health & Safety Officer: Rod Willis 07507 419191

Hertford Churches Together: Sue Mulligan 01992 421806

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Parish Magazine Editor: Richard Taylor 01992 302995

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Safeguarding Officer: Catherine Sleath 01992 537867

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Treasurer: Nick Sharman } treasurer.hertfordstandrews@gmail.com

Assistant Treasurer Judy Sharman 01992 423561

St Andrew's Centre - Hertford St Andrew Community Trust - Trustees:

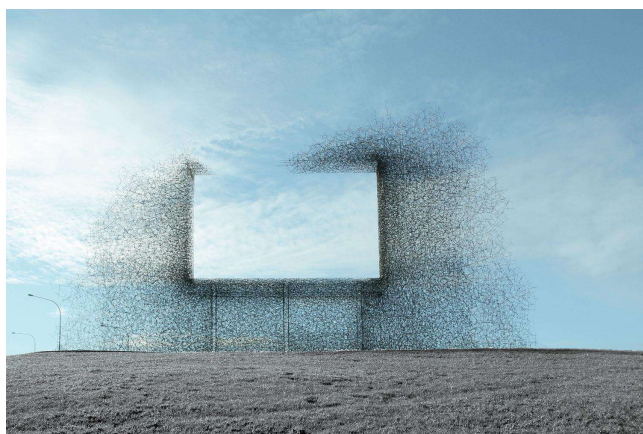
Richard Taylor (Chairman), Malcolm Fry, Carol Muhr, Philippa Probert, Laura Ramsay, Judy Sharman, David Spring and Rod Willis.

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

BILLBOARDS OF THE SKY

Billboards are a common sight alongside many roads.

Their function is of course to grab our attention in order to sell us things. By a highway on the Canadian/US border however, there is a billboard with a difference. It consists of thousands of steel rods which create an illusion of a ghostly billboard which frames, not a poster advertising fast food or the latest brand of deodorant, but the sky itself. Created by a group of artists called Lead Pencil Studio, this billboard isn't trying to sell us anything. Instead, it's an invitation to look again at the beauty of the sky and the landscape we so often rush through.



It reminds me of that famous poem by William Henry Davies which ends with the lines *'A poor life this is, full of care, we have no time to stand and stare'*.

Modern life is so full of distraction. Often, we are so preoccupied that we miss the miracles around us. The antidote, as this billboard reminds us, is to immerse ourselves, where possible, in the natural world.

The best way I know to recalibrate and reconnect is to get lost in nature. It's here I'm

replenished. It's here I gain perspective and reassurance. It's here I'm reminded that I am part of something much, much bigger.



Nature is a kind teacher and friend. It's here we connect with our Source; with the Ground of our Being; with our soul and with whatever it is we call God.

So, where possible, go outside and let nature teach and befriend you. Contemplate. Let the seasons remind you that all things pass. Let the canopy of the sky cause your eyes and heart to lift. Let the forests enfold you and the oceans still you.

Alan

PLEASE TAKE NOTE

The only service on Sunday 4th May will be at 8am

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.

ALAN'S SABBATICAL

From 5th May, Alan is on a three-month sabbatical (or Extended Study Leave).

In Alan's absence from the parish we are thankful that both parishes (St Andrew's and St Mary's) will be in the very safe hands of Rev Bill Church, our Associate Priest Scott Martin, together with the rest of the Ministry Team comprising Readers, Melanie and Geoff and Lay Leaders of Worship, Forbes, Maria, Kath, Adrian and Nick.

THE CLOSING DATE FOR THE JUNE MAGAZINE IS **SUNDAY 25TH MAY**. 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

SUNDAY 11TH MAY 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.



**SUNDAY 18TH MAY ONLY THIS MONTH
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 Saturdays 3rd May
& 7th June 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.



**7.30pm on
WEDNESDAY 14TH MAY
and**

WEDNESDAY 28TH MAY

CHECK WEBSITE FOR MORE INFO

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

soul food

**CONTEMPORARY
CAFÉ-STYLE SERVICE**
in the St Andrew's Centre
7pm
Sunday 11th May
Sunday 1st June
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
12TH MAY
2ND JUNE
16TH JUNE,
30TH JUNE

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
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Fleming Crescent, Sele
Farm SG14 2DJ

Ascension Day Service

Thursday 29th May
8pm at St Andrew's

Jesus said, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.' John 20:17.

The Feast of the Ascension, or Ascension Day, is one of the highest feast days in the Christian year when we remember Jesus' bodily ascent into heaven. The Ascension is a celebration of the triumph of the risen Lord. It signifies the completion of Christ's work on earth and his glorious entry into heaven, and signifies also the birth of the Church.

The Ascension appears in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke and the Book of Acts. It sets the stage for the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Jesus had instructed his disciples to stay in Jerusalem and wait for the gift his Father had promised, saying they would be baptised by fire and the Holy Spirit, that they would receive power, and be his witnesses throughout the world. Thus, with Jesus' departure, the responsibility to continue his work on earth shifted to his disciples and, by extension, to us (the Church).

The Ascension not only recalls Jesus' ascent into heaven but also anticipates his promised return. Our service will commence at 8pm on Thursday 29th May.

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CHURCH FAMILY

FROM THE REGISTERS

BAPTISM:

We welcome into the Lord's family:

30th March **Lennox Eloise Harman**: see below

FUNERALS:

We extend our sympathy to the family and friends of:

17th April **Robert Anthony Eric Smith** aged 92. Bob was born, raised and lived the whole of his life in Hertford. Married to Audrey, Bob was a steam engine driver working out of Hertford East before moving onto diesel and electric trains. Model railways were a passion of his. Bob was above all a family man and greatly missed by his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

LENI'S BAPTISM



On Sunday 30th March St Andrew's welcomed for the morning parish service the family and friends of Charlotte and Tom Harman for the baptism of their daughter Lennox Eloise, known within her family as Leni. Lennox is a Scottish name that reflects the north of the border lineage in Tom's family.

Leni's Godparents are Tom's sister Ellie and friend Laura. Among others who attended were Leni's grandparents, Chris and Melanie Seward and Richard and Madeleine Harman, Tom's brothers, Matthew, Alex and Dan and Charlotte's brother, James.



Thank you to everyone who was able to donate to our bucket collection at church in April. We're contributing to **Tearfund's DEC Myanmar Earthquake Appeal** and have raised a **total of £440**. This will go towards helping to provide urgently needed aid to people recovering from the devastating earthquake.



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EVENTS



JOIN US FOR OUR EVER-POPULAR MONTHLY COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 3rd May from 10.30am to 12.30pm
Our May Coffee Morning is being run by members of our Flower Team and 50% of the proceeds will go to the National Eczema Society, in support of our friend Harry Longman himself raising funds for the charity by running the London Marathon on 27th April. There will, as always be a delicious selection of homemade cakes and bakes served with freshly-brewed Fairtrade coffee and tea. You can also browse a variety of stalls while listening to beautiful music by our resident pianist, Theo.

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.



QUIZ IN AID OF CHRISTIAN AID

Everyone is welcome

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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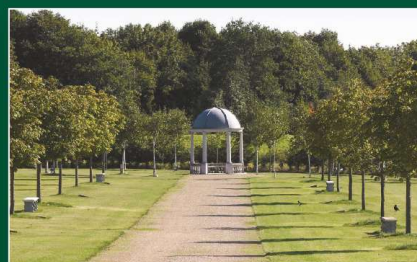
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CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

[There's more information on our website](#)



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. See the church website for more information.

CHILDREN AT ST ANDREW'S

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.

Junior Church

During the 10.30am Parish Communion on Sundays in term time, there are activities for children in the St Andrew's Centre. Every Sunday except during the All-Age Service (usually the second Sunday of the month), the children will begin the service with the congregation and then, after the first hymn, they leave to join Junior Church.

All-Age Services

These are monthly, shorter, child-friendly, interactive communion services with songs and prayers which are held once a month: usually but not always on

the second Sunday of the month. Children stay in church for the whole of the service.

ST ANDREW'S YOUTH GROUP



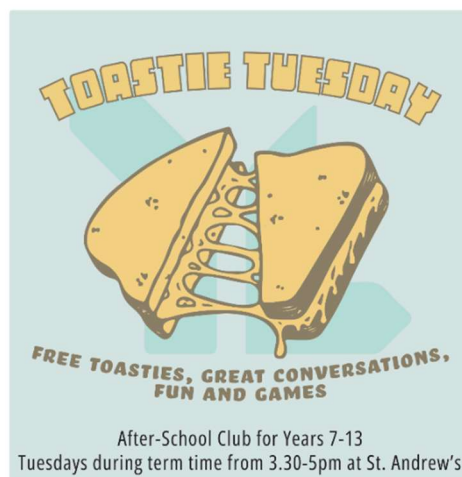
is for secondary-age children.

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



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

Toastie Tuesday is run by Bryan Fries: bfries@ylinternational.org 07846 549809

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Looking for something different?



Then try
Dance Scottish
on Tuesday nights

Sele Farm Community Centre
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for Fun, Fitness and Friendship

Classes £15 per half term
for more details visit

www.rscdsherts.org/south-east-herts

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email: sehscds@hotmail.com

phone: 07842034890



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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...

A poster for the band Leveret. It features a photograph of three musicians sitting on large rocks in a field. The text 'LEVERET' is at the top in large white letters. Below it, it says 'Cutting, Sweeney and Harbron - three of the UK's top musicians. Don't miss them!'. There is a QR code. At the bottom, it says 'Licensed bar available THURSDAY 8 MAY 2025 7.30pm at St Andrew's Church, Hertford SG14 1HZ'. At the very bottom, it says 'Tickets from www.ticketsource.co.uk/st-andrews-church'.

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.

Gryphon: Sunday 15th June at 7.30pm

Gryphon could be described as "Henry VIII meets 1970's Prog Rock"! But the band is also lauded for its inclusion of English folk music, jazz and much else. They claim to be the only band to have been played on Radios 1, 2, 3 and 4 in the same month!



LATER IN THE YEAR

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).

While, this Christmas, we will be presenting Richard Durrant's unique Songs of the Solstice (18th December). Tickets are on sale for the September and October gigs, while the Christmas gig will be available before too long!

Go to **www.ticketsource.co.uk/st-andrews-church**

Know the Story; Share the Story; Live the Story

MAPPING CHURCH SERVICES LOCALLY

Shirley Taylor reports on the most recent Hertford and Ware Deanery Synod meeting

Your three Deanery Synod reps – Jenny Aitken, Renee Booker and Shirley Taylor went over to Christ Church, Ware for the latest meeting to enjoy the plush surroundings, tea, cakes and underfloor heating in the church, and also to take part in the business on the agenda.

The main business of the meeting was for the Deanery to find out what services each church holds throughout the year, be it regular Sunday morning and midweek services, online transmission of those services or specially run online services, worship in the churchyard or outside elsewhere, one-off services during the year such as our Bereavement Service, and Fresh Expressions like our Beer and Carols.

We were each given an outline of our Parishes and filled in the details and then put our parishes together to make a jigsaw of the whole Deanery which was photographed. We also sat with other Parishes to chat and see what they were doing which we could replicate in our own setting.

Renee learnt of a church holding a short formal prayer service which was accessed by landlines or mobiles for people who did not or could not use computer technology.

We also received a report from the recent Diocesan Synod which explained the General Synod's position on safeguarding that had been misreported in the Press. The INEQE Safeguarding Group has been appointed by the Archbishops' Council to conduct independent external audits of the

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.

Hertford and Ware Deanery is a collection of parishes which stretches from Hunsdon and Widford in the east to Essendon in the west, from Ponsbourne in the South to Aston and High Cross in the North.

Church of England dioceses and cathedrals, focusing on safeguarding arrangements. Their findings "highlight a positive trajectory, reflecting improved safeguarding practices led by Diocesan Safeguarding Teams. These teams comprise individuals with significant experience of working in statutory agencies and other relevant organisations, ensuring a robust and informed approach to safeguarding within church settings. and found them to be good". The Church of England is moving towards independent external scrutiny of safeguarding.

Other News – The Bishop of St Albans – Alan Smith retires on 31st May and his successor when recruited, is unlikely to be in post before September 2026. In the meantime Bishop Richard of Bedford will be in charge with Bishop Jane of Hertford assisting him.

The Rev Jenny Gray (St Mary the Virgin Aston, St Andrew's Bramfield, St Mary the Virgin Stapleford, St Michael and All Angels Waterford, St Andrew and St Mary Watton at Stone) is retiring on 2nd June.

The Rev Jake Pass – Curate of St Mary's, Ware to be Team Vicar of Christ Church, Waltham Cross.

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CELEBRATING WITH FLOWERS

ROSEMARY WILLIS ON THE WHYS, WHEREFORES AND HOWS OF FLORAL DECORATION IN CHURCH

Traditionally during Advent and Lent we tend not to have flowers in church. These are solemn periods of reflection and penance, not celebration times, and perhaps flowers would be a distraction. When we do have flowers for celebration, we like to make a good show. At the same time we are trying to be more sustainable and eco-friendly.

On Easter Sunday the church was bedecked with wonderful displays of flowers and the Lenten bare cross (made from the church Christmas tree) was covered with flowers by members of the congregation on Easter morning.

When decorating the church we use flowers from locally grown sources and some which are fairly traded. Flowers are also donated from parishioners' gardens to be used at big celebration times and sometimes for funerals. Occasionally we use artificial flowers to augment the displays. These have not been bought especially for church but have come from our own resources found over the years. Our churchyard, so beautifully kept, supplies foliage throughout the year. We try to use methods of displaying flowers other



than using oasis and reuse items when we can. All these different approaches help us to be more cost-effective, reduce our carbon footprint and improve our eco-friendly status. We recycle all the waste if we can't reuse it. At present we are reviewing the churchyard

concerning composting some garden waste. We hope you enjoyed the celebration flowers for Easter most of which were locally sourced and when they are over they will likely be planted in the churchyard. If you are interested in joining the Flower team or would like to donate flowers or foliage from your garden, then please get in touch.

Rosemary on behalf of the Flower Team and Eco Church. 07713 139650 rosemarywillis77@hotmail.com

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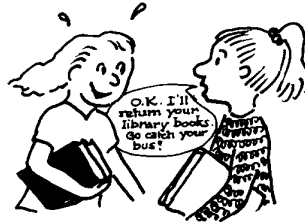
Friends and Family

Friends and family are very important to us.
Have you ever thought what your life would be like without them?
"Very peaceful!" you might say, but it would also be very lonely.

A Friend is someone . . .



... who shares.



... who helps you out.



... who makes you feel good.



... who comforts



... who says *nice* things about you when you're not around.

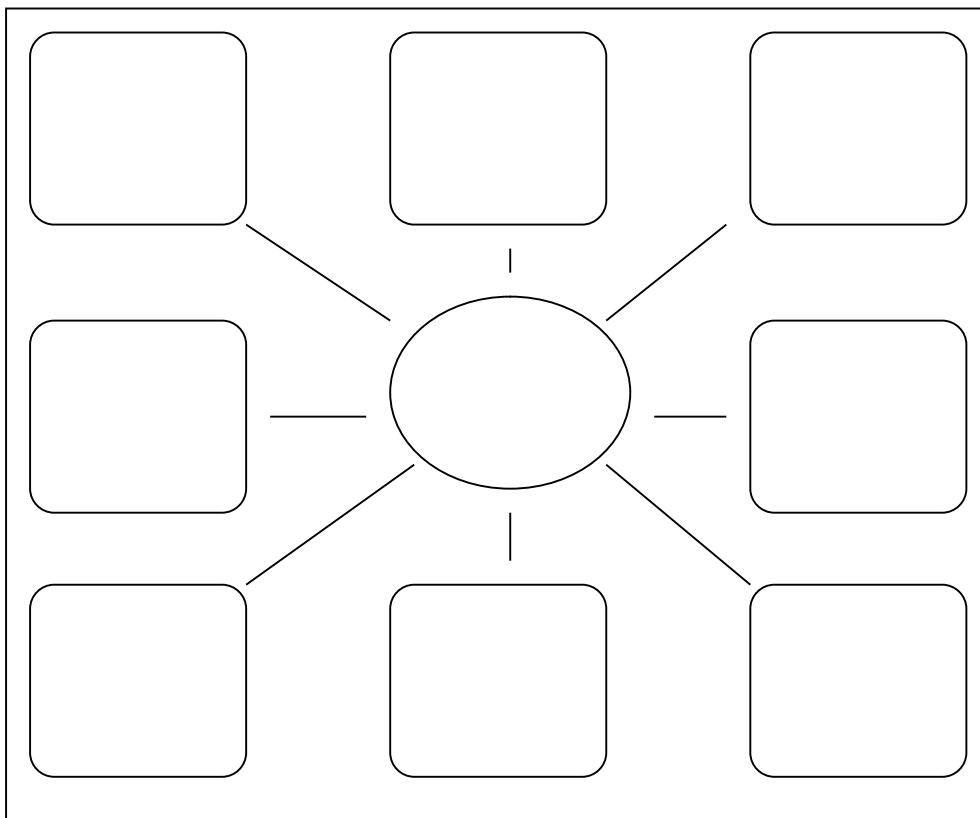


... who forgives.

Draw pictures or write the names of your friends in the shapes.

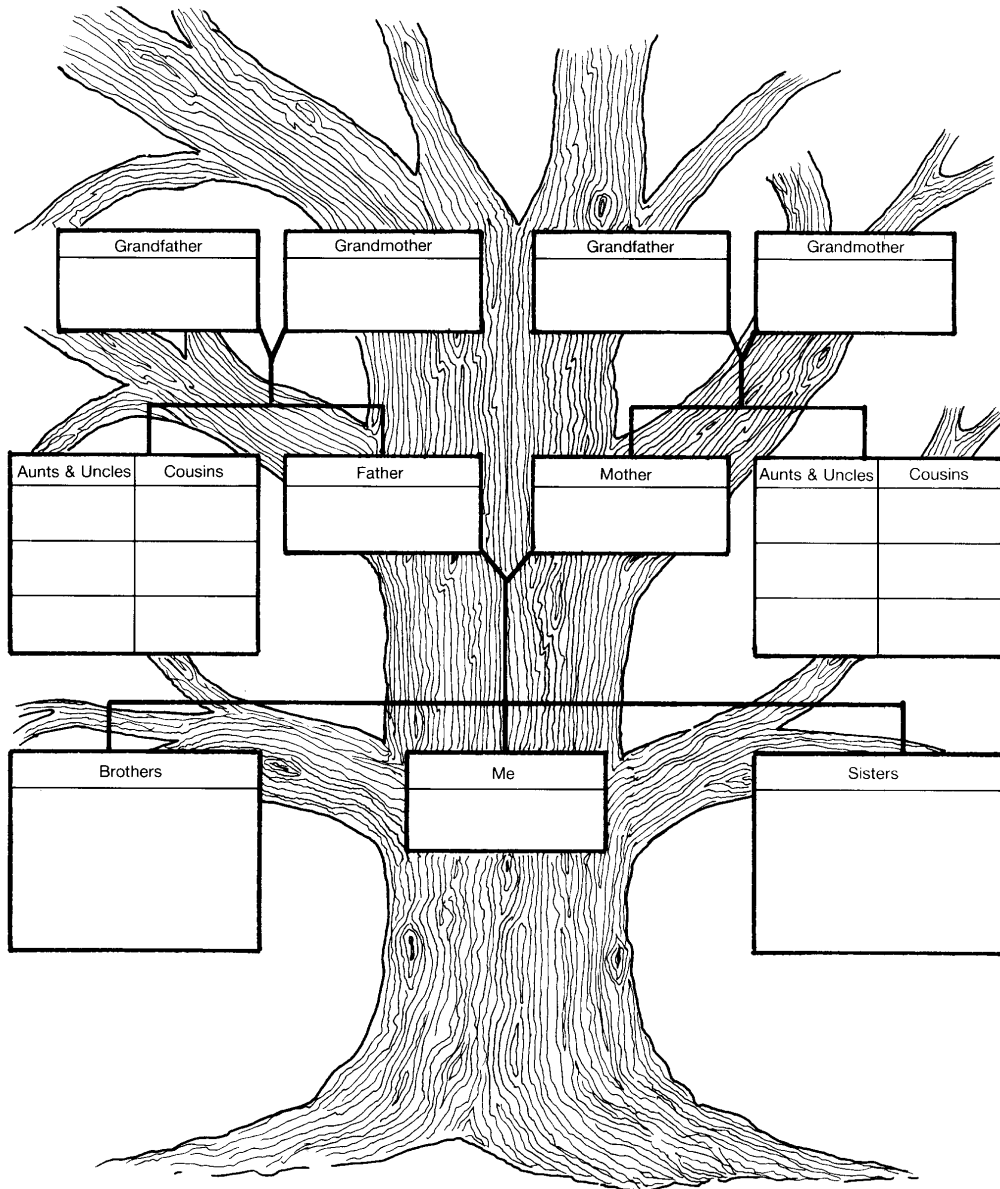
Put yourself in the middle.

Can you say why you like each friend?



My Family Tree

Do you know all the names of your family? Ask someone to help you fill in your family tree.



~ Name the Twelve Apostles ~



1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____



5. _____ 6. _____ 7. _____ 8. _____



9. _____ 10. _____ 11. _____ 12. _____

Unjumble the name of each Apostle:

1. PREET
2. MAJES
3. HONJ
4. WREAND
5. HIPPI
6. WEBROTHAMLO
7. AWTHMET
8. MOTASH
9. SMEAJ
10. DUTHSEAD
11. NOIMS
12. SUDJA

You can check your answers by reading Mark 3:13-19

Jesus had twelve special friends.
Can you write their names in here?

1	7
2	8
3	9
4	10
5	11
6	12

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SAVING OUR HISTORIC CHURCHES

HOW YOU CAN DO YOUR BIT: PETER ASKS US TO UP OUR GAME

Peter Ruffles reports another successful year for the Sponsored Bike 'n Hike in 2024.

This is the annual fund raiser for Beds and Herts Historic Churches Trust. Churches of all denominations open each September to welcome good people who travel by any means they choose between Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire churches, and beyond. At St Andrew's Carol Muhr's team welcomed, fed, and watered, 50 such visitors and some of us took ourselves on bike or foot to clock in at other churches. We raised £577, and of that sum half went into the Trust's coffers enabling trustees to award building repair grants to churches often



in desperate need. Half is returned to us, here at St Andrew's to help us with the on-going fabric repair.

The most startling statistic isn't our own contribution, though, and I hope we can manage better on 13th September 2025 (save the date, young and all!)... the startling news is that on that single day in September 2024, the event raised £103,647! It means that significant help can be provided (often to small congregations with national heritage listed buildings to maintain without national government help). In recent times we've been assisted by the fund ourselves, as has St Mary's Ware; Christ Church, Ware; Ware's Leaside Church,

**BIKE 'N HIKE 2025 IS ON
13TH SEPTEMBER
SAVE THE DATE!**

as well as many other local churches in smaller populations.

We really should 'up' our support for others in 2025 and as individuals enjoy a happy day or half day of church checking either very locally or perhaps further afield.

Please resolve now, and save the date!



Editor's note: it is easy to forget that Peter is not a young man. I found when I reached one of the Broxbourne churches early on the day of Bike 'n Hike last September that Peter had already signed in having cycled from Hertford (I had gone by train intending to walk back to Hertford), and his name appeared on the registration sheets at all churches I visited, until I met Peter cycling down New Road, Ware in his blazer looking as fresh as a daisy. Remarkable!

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MY DREAM – A YEAR OF SILENCE

In industry, in the public services, in commerce, in churches, in synods, the cry is always the same: 'More communication is needed'. When I hear this my heart sinks – because in common with industry, the public services, commerce, churches and synods I drown under "communication". Letters, emails, messages, phone calls come at us from all directions and do so with relentless and mind-numbing frequency. I suspect that most of us don't need more communication at all, we need less. And that is especially true of our own church: have there ever been so many messages marked "urgent" in our entire history?

If I could dream a year for our Church it would be a communications-free year. I don't mean 'no sermons', I don't mean 'no teaching', though if less equalled better I'd plump for that. I mean a year of silence, a year when the whole Church could wait in stillness upon God: a 'close-down-the-system' year in which we spent time in quietness and adoration of God's most holy and most beautiful presence.

Perhaps I may put it another way: Jesus spent thirty years saying, as far as we know, nothing. The Church has spent the last two thousand years saying things endlessly. A year of self-imposed silence and stillness would be balm to our minds, bodies and souls.

It's probably an impossible dream but if there were an organisation for those who feel compelled to speak called 'Talkers Anonymous' many of us might want to seek their help. In the deluge of noise, the silence of God's love is kept at bay.

My future year would not only be marked by silence, however. It would also be marked by a desire, within the Church, to pay proper gratitude and respect to those who work at whatever is called the 'centre' be that in Church House, Westminster, the Diocesan Office, the Deanery Synod or the Vicarage. We are brilliantly served as a Church by some very self-effacing and dedicated Christians who use their gifts of administration for the good of all. They deserve a year in which appreciation is expressed. And what about beyond the confines of the Church?

Like everyone I long for peace and justice and have the utmost admiration for those within government and charities who work tirelessly for those causes.

My dream then is for a Church which discovers the profound stillness of waiting on God, and for a Church which looks outward to the nation, to Europe and to the world; a Church characterised by Christ's ability to listen and be still and yet having the utmost confidence in God's over-arching, redeeming resurrection purpose; a Church in which God is at the centre and the world is our home; a church filled to overflowing with the startling hope that, surrounded by the saints, we shall only find and be given our ultimate purpose in the glory of Christ's eternity.

An adapted version of an article for the Church Times by The Rt Revd Christopher Herbert, then Bishop of St Albans in 2002.

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HERTFORD WELLBEING CHURCH

Hertford Wellbeing Church is a ministry based in Hertford run by young adults, for young adults. They are a group of people from various backgrounds who come together to help build God's kingdom, while having fun with one another, by holding activities throughout the week.



It is not a church in a traditional sense holding Sunday services. Rather, its focus is on reaching out to young adults and creating Christ-committed disciples.

It engages with young adults through a variety of activities.

Football: The football group has remained strong with consistently high attendance. We continue to maintain a solid number of 8-12 players regularly attending training sessions. While there have been some changes in individual participation, we have successfully retained the same overall number of players. Overall, the team remains in good shape, both in numbers and enthusiasm.

Bible Study: We've completed both Hebrews and James, despite them being very difficult books of the Bible. Many of the attendees found it good to discuss a lot of difficult topics that emphasise heavily on Old Testament knowledge. We regularly get between 10-15 people joining us, all in various parts of their walks.

Social Media: Rebekah reports: *"Around 70% of our viewers on TikTok for our bible study videos were women. This has now changed, and we are now getting about 50-60% views from men on our bible study videos, including the previous ones that originally were more female-dominated in views. Although we have 15 followers at the moment, our views are from around 30% of returning viewers, meaning people are coming back to the page to check for new posts,*

and our views are increasing, with one of our latest ones reaching over 2000. This is usual for social media nowadays, where people don't often subscribe but visit the page to check back on posts. Depending on the day of posting, views can range between 40-1500 so it depends on the algorithm and day. I have now begun scheduling posts for YouTube as well. We have 8 long-formed videos scheduled at the moment and 26 shorts."

Gaming: Whether young people enjoy shooters, Fifa, or chess, the Gaming Night has something for everyone! Every Friday from 6pm to 11pm, Hertford Town Church at Hartham Lane hosts their Gaming Night. If you're 18 or older and this sounds like something for you, please stop by and say hello as they would love to meet you!

If you're not into games at all, but would rather relax with a cup of tea and talk about anything and everything, there is space for that too, with comfy sofas for you to unwind after a long week.

For more information search Hertford Wellbeing Church.

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SON OF MAN

Andrew Rixon delves into the meaning of expressions found in the Bible

A recent gospel reading prompted me to write this. It may well have been the beginning of St. Mark's Gospel, chapter 2. Jesus refers to himself as Son of Man, and this expression appears throughout the gospels. When I was young this puzzled me, and I remember in discussion groups wondering about Son of Man and Son of God. In recent years I have been able to look into it properly.

In the Middle East in Jesus's time Aramaic was the language spoken between the Mediterranean and the Tigris, and was understood in a far wider area because it was the official language of the Persian Empire, which preceded the coming of the Greeks under Alexander the Great. Hebrew was declining and probably only spoken as a living language in Judaea. It finally died about three hundred years later, although it was widely used as a literary language, and continued to be used so until it was revived as a spoken language early last century. There is a story of two rabbis around 300 AD discussing the precise meaning of a word in one of the post-Biblical writings. They decided to visit a particular rabbi whose household was one of the last still to speak it as a living language. While they were waiting in his house for him to come, they heard the maids chatting in the kitchen. One of them used the word they had been discussing, and how she used it immediately clarified its precise meaning to them.

The first language of Jesus and his disciples was Aramaic, and indeed his name Jeshua is the Aramaic form of the Hebrew Joshua. Aramaic shines through

the Gospels and the Acts, indeed Greek grammars state that New Testament Greek is full of Semiticisms. It was the normal everyday Greek of that time, but even if the gospels were not first composed in Aramaic, that was the first language of their writers in Greek and it shines through. Obviously everything that Jesus said was in Aramaic. Two examples are recorded: *talyëtha qumi*, meaning get up, little girl, and *ethpathah*, or *eppathah*, meaning be opened. Incidentally, *Abba*, which Jesus uses when addressing God, is not "Daddy", as is sometimes claimed, but "O Father"; you only have to go back a couple of hundred years here to find children speaking very respectfully to their fathers, often calling him sir. I should add that in his book *Jesus of Nazareth* Pope Benedict writes that St. John was not an ignorant fisherman but an educated young man whose father Zebedee was a successful businessman with a fishing business with employees (Mark 1 v.20), and that Zebedee was also a temple priest in Jerusalem, like other priests doing two one-week stints a year.

Over the last couple of hundred years scholars have been looking into colloquial Aramaic of the time of Jesus, gradually emerging from various sources and not found in the exalted style of religious works. Son of Man is a direct translation of a common Aramaic expression *bar nash*; it is just a generic expression a man might use to refer to himself in a fairly deprecating way, and can sometimes just be translated as "one". Oddly, there is a parallel expression in English, probably rather old-fashioned today. For example, someone might say to me "I don't think

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Andrew Rixon delves into the meaning of expressions found in the Bible

I shall be very good at that job" and I might reply "This man thinks you will do it very well." When I say "this man" I really mean "I". I should add that I have not just thought this up myself, but rather read it from authoritative scholars, and I found it in a book called *An Aramaic Approach to the Gospels and Acts* by Matthew Black, not suitable for anyone who cannot read the Hebrew alphabet.

At a similar time to the reading I have been talking about, we had a reading from Exodus chapter 3 about Moses and the burning bush. Moses asks God for his name and God replies "I am that I am". I have examined that for years, and have come to the conclusion that the best translation is "I am that am",

meaning "I am the One that truly exists". The verb *to be* in Hebrew is stronger than in any European language and often means to exist. This expression is today often translated as "I am who I am", but that is very unsatisfactory because anyone could say that, indeed Moses could have replied "and I am who I am". The word "who" must be avoided because it is a pronoun but the Hebrew equivalent is a particle. I used Hebrew grammar to work out my translation, and if anyone wants to know how I could explain it to them.

chapter79.

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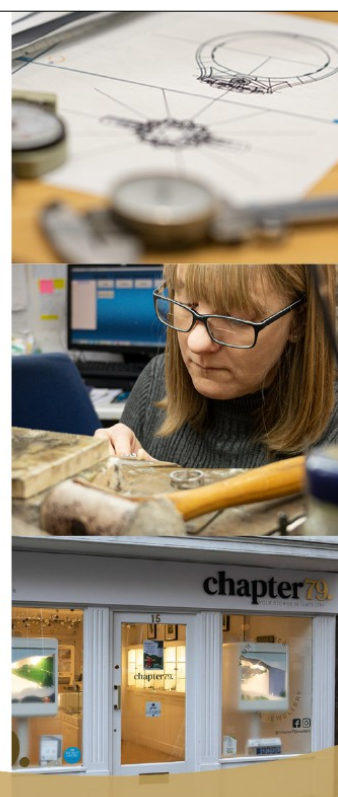


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BENEATH OUR FEET

RICHARD TAYLOR SEEKS CLUES THAT BRING HISTORY TO LIFE

What links the Boston Massacre, Hillsborough Castle, Christ's Hospital and St Andrew's Church?

Let me start with Hillsborough Castle. Located 20 miles south-west of Belfast it is now the official residence of the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland and members of the Royal Family stay at Hillsborough when visiting Northern Ireland.

Hillsborough is a late-18th century Irish "Big House" rather than a castle. It was built by Wills Hill in the 1770s. An ancestor of his had been awarded large tracts of land in the early part of the 1600s for services to the King and gave his name to the village: Hill's Borough. Wills Hill was born in 1718 and was made the 1st Earl of Hillsborough, an Irish peerage, which meant that he could sit in the House of Commons on being elected as an MP. He was appointed Secretary of State for the Colonies in 1768 at a critical period leading towards the American War of Independence.

The Townshend Acts were a series of Acts of Parliament passed during 1766 and 1767 introducing taxes and regulations to enable administration of the British colonies in America. They are named after Charles Townshend, the Chancellor of the Exchequer who proposed the programme. The Acts placed an indirect tax on glass, lead, paints, paper, and tea, all of which had to be imported from Britain. There was widespread protest in America, American port cities refused to import British goods, and the Massachusetts legislature approved what was known as the Massachusetts Circular Letter in which Samuel Adams argued that the Acts were unconstitutional because the

colony of Massachusetts was not represented in Parliament.

The Earl of Hillsborough ordered the Massachusetts legislature to revoke the letter and authorised the Governor of Massachusetts to dissolve the assembly, which occurred when the assembly voted against revocation. This led to an outbreak of mob violence from colonists who no longer had any legal way to deal with their grievances. In response to the deteriorating situation, Lord Hillsborough sent four regiments of British soldiers to Boston. Arriving in October 1768, the soldiers only increased the tensions leading two years later to what became known as the Boston Massacres when British soldiers fired on and killed civilians. Parliament proposed measures to appease the angered colonists, repealing most of the taxes imposed under the Townshend Acts in 1770. Hillsborough opposed all concessions to the colonists and the import duty on tea was retained in order to demonstrate to the colonists that Parliament held the sovereign authority to tax its colonies. This was badly managed and Horace Walpole called Hillsborough "a pompous composition of ignorance and want of judgement." Hillsborough resigned his office in 1772 and continued to oppose American independence.

The Earl of Hillsborough employed a Steward by the name of B. Burton Esq. His duties will have included complete management issues for the estate itself: hiring and firing of workers, settling tenant disputes, overseeing the harvest and livestock, collecting rents, keeping the financial records, etc. This position was by far the highest ranking

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BENEATH OUR FEET

RICHARD TAYLOR SEEKS CLUES THAT BRING HISTORY TO LIFE

and most important for the running of estates during this period. The steward was a professional employee, educated, respected, well paid, trusted, and ranked immediately below the Master he served.

It can reasonably be assumed that at some later stage of his life Mr Burton came to live in or around the town of Hertford for reasons I will come to shortly. In his Will, Mr Burton left a substantial bequest to Christ's Hospital of £10,000 3% Bank Stock for the relief of the blind "after the manner and form of the Will of the late Mr Hetherington".

Christ's Hospital school was founded in 1552 by Edward VI who gave land and buildings in Newgate Street and certain funds for orphan children of poor Londoners. In 1682 a site in Hertford was purchased for a boarding school initially for younger boys but joined by girls in 1778 (later to become girls only when the boys moved to Horsham).

Christ's Hospital was financed entirely through gifts from benefactors, including City and Livery Companies. One such gift was made by Mr Hetherington whose gift, enhanced by the generous donation of Mr Burton (£10,000, if that was the value of the stock, would be worth about £1,850,000 today) is now known as the Hetherington Fund for the Blind. Mr Burton will have been familiar with the school as a Hertford resident and, to have known of Mr Hetherington's legacy, must have had some knowledge either of the affairs of the late Mr Hetherington or of the finances of the school.

Mr Burton was buried at St Andrew's upon his death on 14th September 1793

aged 88, the same year co-incidentally as the Earl of Hillsborough died.

So there we have it: the Earl of Hillsborough's questionable decision-making which played a part in the events leading to the Boston Massacre and the subsequent American War of Independence, his considerable estate at Hillsborough, his employment of Mr Burton as his steward from which the latter made a good living, Mr Burton's later life and death in Hertford and knowledge of the good work of Christ's Hospital and the bequest of Mr Hetherington and his burial at St Andrew's.



If you were to walk down the side aisle leading to the chapel of today's church (the old church having been demolished and the current building erected in 1869-70) you will come across a large black tomb stone which bears the words, "Here lieth the Body of B. BURTON ESQR. late Steward to the Rt. Honbl. Ye Earl of Hillsborough who died Sept. 14th 1793 Aged 88 Years. Bequeathed to the Governors of Christ's Hospital £10,000 3 Pr. Ct. Bank Stock for the relief of Blind Persons after the manner and form of the Will of the late Mr. HETHERINGTON."

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IN OTHER NEWS

Football vs Hunger Campaign

Trussell have just launched the new Football v Hunger Campaign

Are you part of a football club and wanting to show your support? One in seven people in the UK are experiencing hunger and hardship, but it doesn't have to be this way. With the support of the football community, we believe that together we can make hunger history.

For more details go to: <https://www.trussell.org.uk/support-us/football/chapter>



Do you know anyone in need of help?

If you know of anyone facing crisis or if you are struggling - please do contact us or encourage them to get in touch either with us or one of the agencies we work with.

A few helpful numbers are listed below:

Citizen's Advice for East Herts: Message Line (anytime) 01920 459 944
Victim Support Free 24/7 helpline: 0808 1689111
Herts Domestic Abuse Helpline (9am - 9 pm) 08 088 088 088
Social Services, Adult/Children (HCC) 0300 123 4042
AGE UK (Information and advice) 0300 3453446
Housing or Benefits (EHDC) 01279 655261
Herts Young Homeless 0333 320 2384
Samaritans (free from any phone) 116 123

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Services at St Andrew's

May 2025



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

	Date	Time	Service	Celebrant	Preacher
Thursday	1	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (BCP)		
		10.30 am	Holy Communion Calton Court	Rev Bill Church	
SUNDAY <i>Easter 3</i>	4	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Rev Bill Church	
			Parish Away Day - NO other services today		
Monday	5	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (Common Worship)		
Wednesday	7	10.30 am	Holy Communion (Traditional)	Rev Scott Martin	
Thursday	8	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (BCP)		
SUNDAY <i>Easter 4</i>	11	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Rev Bill Church	
		10.30 am	All Age Service	Melanie Seward	
		10.30 am	Eucharist on Zoom	Rev Bill Church	
		7.00 pm	Soul Food in the St Andrew's Centre	Geoff Oates	
Monday	12	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (Common Worship)		
Wednesday	14	10.30 am	Holy Communion (Traditional)	Rev Bill Church	
Thursday	15	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (BCP)		
		10.30 am	Holy Communion Calton Court	Rev Bill Church	
SUNDAY <i>Easter 5</i>	18	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Rev Bill Church	
		10.30 am	Parish Communion	Rev Scott Martin	
		10.30 am	Morning Service on Zoom	Kath Oates	(Recorded)
		7.00 pm	Compline on Zoom	Melanie Seward	
Monday	19	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (Common Worship)		
Wednesday	21	10.30 am	Holy Communion (Traditional)	Rev Scott Martin	Adrian Walter
Thursday	22	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (BCP)		
SUNDAY <i>Easter 6</i>	25	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Rev Scott Martin	
		10.30 am	Parish Communion	Rev Bill Church	Forbes Mutch
		10.30 am	Morning Service on Zoom	Nick Hoyle	Forbes Mutch
		6.30 pm	Evening Prayer St Marys Hertingfordbury (No Compline today)	Rev Bill Church	
Monday	26	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (Common Worship)		
Wednesday	28	10.30 am	Holy Communion (Traditional)	Rev Bill Church	
Thursday	29	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (BCP)		
<i>Ascension Day</i>		10.30 am	Holy Communion Calton Court	Rev Bill Church	
		8.00 pm	Holy Communion	Rev Bill Church	Geoff Oates