

The parish magazine of

Hertford St Andrew

www.hertfordstandrews.co.uk

JUNE 2025



SEARCHING FOR PEACE
Reflecting on the Away Day

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 4TH AUGUST**

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

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

Readers: Melanie Seward & Geoff Oates

Lay Leaders of Worship: Forbes Mutch, Maria Henriksson-Bell, Kath Oates,
Adrian Walter & Nick Hoyle

Pioneer Enablers: Kath Oates & Maria Henriksson-Bell

Pastoral Assistants: Carol Crowhurst 01992 509126 caroljoancrowhurst@gmail.com

Charles Ledsam 07771 841012 charlesledsam@hotmail.com

Kim Hamilton 07762 615453 hamiltonkl40@gmail.com

Lyn Paine 07790 831608 lyn.paine@yahoo.com

Children & Families Worker Lindsey Betteridge 07974 141083

Parish Administrator: Philippa Probert standrew.hertford@btinternet.com

Office Hours: 9am to 2pm on Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Fridays 01992 504373

St Andrew's Centre: Bookings: standrewscentre@hotmail.com 07593 055223

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, Malcolm Fry and Julie Hollings.

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

Honorary Clock Winder: Keith Neat

Parish Magazine Editor: Richard Taylor 01992 302995

Acting Ringing Master: Andrew Case afcase@gmail.com

Safeguarding Officer: Catherine Sleath 01992 537867

Toddler Group: Judy Sharman 01992 423561

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

Assistant Treasurer Judy Sharman } 01992 423561

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

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

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

NO MAN IS AN ISLAND

We live in a time when we are worried about giving our details to tech companies yet many of us find it much easier to share details of our private lives in an electronic chat room. Our news is full of individuals communicating personal information on social media and then being attacked by vindictive, hurtful and often untrue anonymous messages. Even if we do not 'do' social media, rumours about what we have said or done can circulate and so be magnified, criticised and maligned. Maybe you have experienced this.



Back in the day, there was no modern idea of 'privacy'; there was no divide between the personal and the communal. We lived and moved in smaller communities. Everyone knew everyone else. We talked directly and there was no anonymity. We shared our lives because we lived more closely together.

Now, I'm not advocating that we tell everyone all the details about our lives but, as human beings we are made to live in community and we do need to share our joys and sorrows.

In our modern culture, it isn't always easy to know who we can trust. Equally we all need to be able to trust for our own well-being and safety whether it be in friends, close colleagues, family or supportive neighbours. As the saying goes: No man is an island; we all rely upon something or someone other than ourselves. We all place our trust, or to use another word 'faith', in something other than ourselves; people, institutions and something even greater than all of that.

Melanie Seward, Reader

ALAN IS ON SABBATICAL

Rev Alan Stewart is on sabbatical (or Extended Study Leave) until **Sunday 3rd August** and therefore unavailable.

In his 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 Assistant Priest Rev Bill Church, Associate Priest Rev 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.

Please see the prior page for contact details if you wish to speak with a member of the Ministry Team or a Churchwarden in Alan's absence.



At the Joint Parish Away Day, Churchwarden Julie Markey, on behalf of all at St Andrew's and St Mary's, wished Alan a refreshing and enjoyable sabbatical and presented him with a small gift. [with apologies to Julie for the camera angle making her appear to be shorter than she is!]

THE CLOSING DATE FOR THE JULY/AUGUST MAGAZINE IS **SUNDAY 22ND JUNE**. 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 8TH JUNE at 10.30am

A shorter, child-friendly, interactive 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
except Sunday 1st June**

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 7th June and 5th July
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 ZOOM**

**WEDNESDAY 18TH JUNE
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 1st June
"BE YOURSELF, EVERYONE ELSE IS TAKEN"
So said Oscar Wilde, but how do you be yourself?
Come along and listen and discuss what the Bible
says about how you could be yourself... and what
this can lead to.
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
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
Sele Community
Hub
Fleming Crescent, Sele
Farm SG14 2DJ



scan to find
out more
and register
FOR FREE TRIAL



For children aged 8-13 who love singing and
want to develop their musicianship.

Weekly rehearsals Fridays 5:30-6:45pm
@St Andrew's Church Hertford.

Regular performance opportunities in concerts,
local events and services.

www.tinyurl.com/hertfordchildrenschoir



Join Us!

Led by Sam and Rachel Chaplin

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

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

There is a termly membership contribution of £50 and a £10 joining fee which includes the choir concert t-shirt. Assisted places are available.

Please register your interest by emailing rachelchaplinmusic@gmail.com

Free taster session.

Know the Story; Share the Story; Live the Story

CHURCH FAMILY

FROM THE REGISTERS

FUNERAL:

We extend our sympathy to the family and friends of:

20th May **Anthony Waight**

HARRY RUNS FOR NATIONAL ECZEMA SOCIETY



Well done and congratulations to Harry Longman who ran the London Marathon on a very warm day in April. He ran 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. He says, "It went well considering the difficult conditions. I finished in 4 hours 5 minutes which was slightly slower than I hoped, but I'm simply happy to have finished." He raised well over his £3,000 target for the charity.



66 YEARS TOGETHER AND GOING ON 90: SOMETHING TO CELEBRATE

66 years of marriage and upcoming 90th birthdays are certainly something to celebrate and that is what Alison and Dick Warn have been able to do.

Ali and Dick met in Bristol, at a Pharmacists' Dance, where Dick was studying Chemistry, and Ali was studying Teaching. They married on 4th April 1959 before moving to America for a few years. Dick found work with Union Carbide while Ali became an Art Therapist at a children's home. After 2½ years they returned to the UK to start a family. Their sons Tim and Dug were born in Cambridge where Dick obtained a PhD at Trinity College before working as a Lecturer for Middlesex Polytechnic. Their daughter Anna came along to complete the family. Ali taught, first as a Nursery teacher and eventually becoming Head Teacher of a Junior mixed infants school in Bishop's Stortford.

Since retirement they have continued to lead busy lives which has included renovating a dilapidated house in France, involvement with environmental campaigns, singing in choirs, members of U3A and committee members of Hertford Disability Support Group for many years. Congratulations to Ali and Dick.

ST ANDREW'S HOME GROUPS

Experience has shown that being part of a home group builds up friendships, and enables time for prayer and discussion on issues which concern you within the context of bible study. A list of the current Home Groups is on the church website or speak to the Parish Administrator, Phil, in the church office.

Know the Story; Share the Story; Live the Story

EVENTS



coffee morning

**SATURDAY
7TH JUNE**
10.30AM - 12.30PM
ST ANDREW'S CHURCH
HERTFORD SG14 1HZ

Plant sale
Marmalade stall
Live music
Fairtrade coffee
& Home-baked cakes

 **RAISING FUNDS FOR
CANCER RESEARCH UK
AND ST ANDREW'S CHURCH**

www.hertfordstandrews.co.uk

JOIN US FOR OUR EVER-POPULAR MONTHLY COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 7th June from 10.30am to 12.30pm



+ marmalade and live music, as well as the usual coffee and home-baked cakes to enjoy. Run by the WOW Home Group, half of the money raised will go to Cancer Research UK in memory of Julia Spring.



HERTFORD FESTIVAL
JAZZ 2025 presents

**SPARKLING SUMMER
JAZZ**

A MEETING OF VOICES

15 June 2025, 3pm
Friends Meeting
House, Hertford



 **Parkinson's UK**
For every Parkinson's journey
Charity concert in aid of Parkinson's UK
to carry on the legacy of our dear friend
HAROLD CHAPLIN

TWO GREAT CONCERTS ON ONE DAY: 15TH JUNE

At 3pm at the Friends Meeting House, a charity concert in aid of Parkinson's UK carrying on the legacy of our dear friend Harold Chaplin featuring some brilliant musicians.



At 7.30pm at St Andrew's Church we welcome Gryphon who 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!

Original members Brian Gulland, Graeme Taylor and Dave Oberle bring the five-piece to St Andrew's for what should be a unique and memorable evening.

As usual, a licensed bar will be open from 6.30pm and there will be plenty of time to mingle and enjoy the atmosphere. For tickets Go to www.ticketsource.co.uk/st-andrews-church



Know the Story; Share the Story; Live the Story

Personal, caring and independent.

*The complete
funeral service*

24 hour service

Private Chapels of Rest

Bespoke Funeral Plans

Own Crematorium

STEVENAGE • 01438 316623

HITCHIN • 01462 438422

KNEBWORTH • 01438 812365

BUNTINGFORD • 01763 274111

WELWYN GARDEN CITY • 01707 390018

WELWYN • 01438 714686

HERTFORD • 01992 582052

WARE • 01920 468551

LETCHWORTH • 01462 684292

HODDESDON • 01992 471709

HARWOOD PARK • 01438 812515

HARPENDEN • 01582 762570

AUSTIN'S

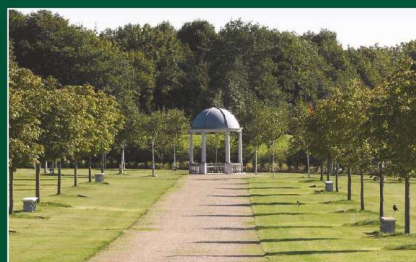
FAMILY FUNERAL DIRECTORS

www.austins.co.uk



Harwood Park

*The perfect setting to commemorate
the life of your loved one*



Crematorium and memorial
gardens created and managed by
the Austin family in the beautiful
Hertfordshire countryside.

www.crematorium.co.uk

Serving the local community for ten generations

CHURCH MATTERS

APPEAL FOR RAFFLE PRIZES

Throughout the year, we hold many concerts and fundraising events at St Andrew's - Raffles are always a popular way to boost income.

If you are able to donate any prizes for our Raffles (perhaps gift sets or gift cards, wine, chocolates, plants or unwanted presents such as new electronics), please leave them in the Church office or hand to one of the Churchwardens. This is an ongoing appeal!

*Lesley Self and Julie Markey,
Churchwardens*

LET US NET YOUR NYLONS



Chrissy Barclay and Julie Hollings are after your nets...but not just any old nets. When we buy soft fruit, onions and garlic in the supermarket it often comes in netting. This material is not usually recyclable but as you can see in the pics, Chrissy has developed an ingenious way of turning the netting into poppies. We are hoping to make many orange poppies for Harvest Festival and red ones for Remembrance Day this year and for that we need your netting.

In order to net some further donations, Chrissy and Julie took their message to Tesco in Hertford. Piggybacking on VE Day celebrations they also did some outreach activity promoting the church

as well as in informal market research which revealed that people would be very willing to buy the beautiful blooms. So, there's the potential for some fundraising activity, as well.

However, to produce all the poppies needed we need much more nylon. There is a donation box at back of the church, so please bring us the netting from your fruit punnets, onions and garlic and Baby Bel cheeses. Unfortunately, we cannot make use of lemon or orange nets as they are too soft.



If you have any questions – or would like to help in any way - please contact Chrissy (07752 479414) or Julie (07968 847539).



Many thanks to those who supported the Churches Together quiz which raised over £550 for Christian Aid.

Christian Aid operates in the 26 countries with active programmes reaching 4.5 million people directly and 19.3 million indirectly with the aim of ending poverty and injustice worldwide, working in partnership with local organisations, as well as with governments and the private sector.

Know the Story; Share the Story; Live the Story

Looking for something different?



Then try
Dance Scottish
on Tuesday nights

Sele Farm Community Centre
7pm – 8.30pm

for Fun, Fitness and Friendship

Classes £15 per half term
for more details visit

www.rscdsherts.org/south-east-herts

Come and try it - all welcome

Contact Emma or Ian

email: sehscds@hotmail.com

phone: 07842034890



RWH COMPLETE
PROPERTY
MAINTENANCE

ROOF GUTTERING

GARDEN WALLS

CARPENTRY

PAVERS & PATIOS

ELECTRICAL

FENCING

PLUMBING

HOME ALTERATIONS

GARDENING SERVICES

PAINTING & DECORATING

GAS/ELECTRIC CERTIFICATION

CONTACT DETAILS

TEL: 01992 451500 · MOBILE: 07985 104561

EMAIL: ray.harding@rocketmail.com

REFERENCES AVAILABLE · SENIOR CITIZEN DISCOUNT

WEBSITE: www.rhpropertyservices.co.uk

ALL OF OUR WORK IS CARRIED OUT BY REGISTERED
AND QUALIFIED TEAM OF PROFESSIONALS

FULLY INSURED · CIS TAX REGISTERED

plumbistry

Plumbing and Heating

From broken boilers to leaky loos!

- ✓ Bathroom installations
- ✓ Boiler installs, service and repair
- ✓ Fully qualified and insured engineers
- ✓ Free, no obligation quotes

Call Mark 07595 307739

www.plumbistry.co.uk

plumbistry@gmail.com



THE ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING

Each year there is a meeting of all parishioners who elect churchwardens, followed by the annual parochial church meeting which receives a variety of reports and presentations about the operation and work of St Andrew's. This year's meeting was on Sunday 27th April.

CHURCHWARDENS

We are grateful that Julie Markey and Lesley Self offered themselves for re-appointment, and were duly elected churchwardens by the meeting of parishioners.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

The PCC is the board of trustees of the church and is responsible for its financial affairs and the care and maintenance of the church buildings and its contents. There is a list of current members of the PCC on the inside of the front page of this magazine. At the annual meeting, Chris Seward and Adrian Walter were standing down having completed their three year term of office but both put themselves forward and were duly re-elected to the PCC for another three years. In addition Julie Hollings was proposed and elected to the PCC. We are grateful to all members of the PCC for the time and commitment they give to the church in this way.

DEANERY SYNOD

Jenny Aitken, Renee Booker and Shirley Taylor have agreed to continue as Deanery Synod representatives for another year.

ELECTORAL ROLL

The Electoral Roll was completely renewed this year and contains a total of 120

people, of whom 46 are resident in the parish and 74 non-resident.

REPORTS AND ACCOUNTS

All reports and accounts presented to the annual meeting are available on the church website.

ALAN'S REPORT TO THE MEETING



As this is my last but one Sunday with you before I disappear on Sabbatical, I thought I'd share with you a quote from Barbara Brown Taylor's aptly entitled memoir 'Leaving Church'!

"Gradually I remembered what I had known all along, which is that church is not a stopping place but a starting place for discerning God's presence in this world. By offering people a place where they may engage the steady practice of listening to divine words and celebrating divine sacraments, church can help people gain a feel for how God shows up—not only in Holy Bibles and Holy Communion but also in near neighbors, mysterious strangers, sliced bread, and grocery store wine."

Church is a 'starting place' where we listen for the many ways God shows up. As I reflect on this last year, I've been humbled by the many ways I believe God has shown up among us. And here are just a few:

Children's & Families Worker

After what felt like a very long time of repeat advertising, prayer and searching

Know the Story; Share the Story; Live the Story

THE ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING

for a new Children and Families Worker, a chance comment at St Mary's PCC prompted a new member there to invite a friend to apply. That friend was Lindsey, and although this was a new ministry for her and a steep learning curve, her energy and commitment, her passion and compassion have proved beyond doubt that this was absolutely the right appointment. And it's been a real joy seeing Lindsey grow in confidence and how our children respond to her warmth, wisdom and care. A huge thank you also is owed to Lindsey's predecessor Tracy, who over the last eight months has acted as Lindsey's mentor.

Tracy has now stepped back from schools work, and Lindsey very capably has stepped into her shoes. Our work continues across three schools (St Joseph's in the Park, Hertingfordbury Cowper and Hertford St Andrew's) with whole-school weekly Collective Worship on Tuesdays and Early Years on Wednesday morning. Members of the congregation continue to support Hertford St Andrew's School through the Walking Bus and through serving on the Governing Body, and we were delighted to see such positive feedback from both Ofsted and their Church equivalent SIAMS, both

particularly impressed with the inspirational leadership at the school.

During my sabbatical, Lindsey will continue to lead Collective Worship fortnightly.

Easter Experience

A particular highlight for me was last month when we welcomed the children into church for the Easter Experience. Across six different stations the children engaged with an interactive retelling of the Easter story, and explored their own hopes and dreams; their own sadness and their joy. There was such a powerful stillness and presence during those times. Thank you again to the amazing team who led this especially the story tellers who told their story up to 15 times that day and 30 times when we did the same for Hertingfordbury Cowper School at St Mary's.

Children's Choir

Back in July last year, Rachel Chaplin wrote to me with an idea about starting a children's choir here in church. Again, it felt like one of those God-incidences as both I and Jane Eldred had been thinking about exactly the same thing. Fast forward and Hertford Children's Choir now rehearse here on Friday evenings and



Know the Story; Share the Story; Live the Story

THE ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING

have sung at both the Mayor's 'Cherish Hertford' day as well as at our own Mothering Sunday service; and how brilliant was that! Thank you to Sam and Rachel, and to all those who help with and support such an important and inspiring ministry.

Youth and Children's Ministry

I'd also like to say a huge thank you to all those who continue to support our youth and children's ministry; those who help with Junior Church, TMM, Toastie Tuesday and Toddlers. We are incredibly lucky to have you and very grateful for all that you give.

Audio Visual System

For some years you might know we've been planning to update our audio-visual system, inspired by a desire to enhance our worship, making it more accessible, and also to safeguard our financial future as we also seek to use this space as a commercial venue for concerts and other events.

We were fortunate to raise almost enough money through grants, an auction of promises and fundraising to install the first phase back in November, but thanks to a very generous anonymous donation we've subsequently been able to install the full system. I hope you agree that this has helped to make our church a more inclusive space for anyone with hearing difficulties and, if you were here for Easter Day, you'll have seen just how the visuals can add to our worship, while at the same time reduce our use of paper.

Environment Commitment

Here I'd like to pay tribute to our Eco Committee and for all they are doing to help us more carefully steward the valuable resources of our planet and help us work towards the Church of England's target to be carbon neutral by 2030. We've decided to set aside one Sunday each year to focus on our commitment to the environment, and this year's will take place on Sunday 5th October, the weekend before Harvest.

Exploring Faith

Another joy was to host a six week Exploring Faith course at St Mary's during February and March this year, with about 16 people attending across the two churches. The feedback has been incredibly encouraging, with one person describing the course as 'friendly, interesting, informative and therapeutic'. Another person writes of 'a great sense of us all joining together on our own and each other's spiritual Journeys. Each session beautifully, gently led and discussed with thought provoking ideas and interactions.' So, when we do it again in the Autumn, if you haven't done it, do speak to someone who has and consider coming along.

A Moving of the Spirit

It's been wonderful to host two Confirmation services over the past year, here at St Andrew's on 24th June and more recently at St Mary's on 25th March. Over the past year we've also welcomed lots of new people into our congregation. It really feels like a new season; a new moving of the Spirit among us. It's particularly great to hear that lots of our

Know the Story; Share the Story; Live the Story



01992 552224

www.classicmobility.org.uk



**MOBILITY
SALES**



**MOBILITY
HIRE**



**REPAIR &
MAINTENANCE**

Classic Mobility is a family run business with over 20 years experience in sales and care of your mobility equipment

-  Short and long term hire
-  Quality equipment and service
-  Delivery usually within 24 hours
-  Home visits available
-  Delivered and installed by our own trained technicians

**15 Church Street,
Hertford,
Herts, SG14 1EJ
shop@classicmobility.org.uk**

Wheelchairs - Mobility Scooters - Power Chairs - Walking Aids - Bathing Seating - Walking Frames - Stair Lifts - Care Beds - Daily Living Aids

THE ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING

newer folks have signed up to come along to our Away Day.

Ministry Team during Sabbatical

A few weeks ago, we welcomed Rev Scott Martin as Assistant Priest to the parish. This is great timing considering that I'm disappearing for three months! We look forward to Scott practicing his gifts and ministry among us and I know that you'll all respect the fact that Scott has a demanding full-time job alongside. I'm very grateful to Bill and the wider Ministry Team for all they've given this year and will continue to in my absence. We've had to do some creative thinking around how to sustain things in my absence. To avoid overloading our assistant priests, the monthly all-age services will for the next three months be non-Eucharistic, and led by our Readers Melanie and Geoff. Online Compline will continue, as will Soul Food, and Mindfulness both online, in person and on Sele. Maria will lead our monthly prayer gathering Breathe. Zoom services will also continue under the care of Kath and Nick.

In my absence, Bill will be first point of contact for baptisms, funerals and pastoral matters, aptly supported by our Pastoral Visiting Team, Carol, Charles, Kim and Lyn.

Sustaining Ministry, Hospitality & Mission

There are so many people to thank, who week by week sustain the ministry, hospitality and mission of this church including our Choir (expertly led by Jane), our musicians, our churchwardens Lesley, Julie and Chris, our Ministry team, our

Vergers and Servers, our gardeners, the Flower team, the Sound and Vision team the Coffee teams, bell-ringers, Pastoral visitors, the Finance and Communications Committees, our Prayer Ministry Team, members of the PCC, bookings secretaries and the trustees of the St Andrew's Centre to name but a few.

In particular, I'd like to say an enormous thank you to Phil our parish administrator, whose professionalism, kindness and creativity is beyond exceptional. Thank you also to Carol Muhr, who wears many hats, not least secretary to the PCC. I'd also like to say thank you to Chris Seward who as well as being assistant church warden, also heads up our programme of concerts and the ever-popular HarvestFest and Beer and Carols.

Alan Little is standing down from being a Verger and a Sacristan. I am grateful for all that he has done. If anyone is interested in being a Sacristan or Verger they should talk to Alan or the Churchwardens.

As I prepare to take a Sabbath rest for three months, I know I leave our churches in safe and loving hands. Thank you for giving me this opportunity to rest, explore and refuel. It's hard to believe that I've been here eighteen years now, and some might say that's too long. The last thing I want is to outstay my welcome, but so far it feels absolutely right to stay and I hope that's OK. I am so incredibly proud to be called the leader of such a caring, dynamic and progressive church.

Alan

Know the Story; Share the Story; Live the Story

PEACE AND JUSTICE

JENNY & FORBES MUTCH ASK: CAN WE DO MORE?

As part of St Andrew's and St Mary's away day on 4th May, Forbes and Jenny Mutch led a thought-provoking workshop on *peacemakers*. We began by asking the audience to share names of those they considered to be peacemakers. The responses were both diverse and inspiring, ranging from well-known figures such as Bob Dylan, Monica McWilliams, Desmond Tutu, Gandhi, and Nelson Mandela, to more personal examples closer to home.

What makes a peace maker?

We explored the qualities needed to be a peacemaker—recognising that this is quite different from being a peacekeeper. It quickly became clear that peacemakers possess an extraordinary range of skills and personal attributes. The “Peacemaker Tree” we created offers a snapshot of these qualities, but one thing all peacemakers share is a deep, unwavering commitment—a *calling*—to the cause of peace. What incredible people they are!

Do we have peace maker qualities?

We reflected on whether we, as a community, possess any of these qualities ourselves. The consensus? A resounding yes! While no one among us had them all, together as a church community we do. Collaboration and unity in working towards peace is key.



Should we actively be doing more?

Another strong yes! As a community, we should be more vocal and actively engage in efforts that bridge divides and promote peace. We were reminded of the powerful words of Desmond Tutu:

"Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world."

In other words, supporting peace and justice on a **local level** is just as vital as doing so globally.

What can we do?

Great ideas emerged both during and after the workshop. Some suggestions included:

Know the Story; Share the Story; Live the Story

PEACE AND JUSTICE

JENNY & FORBES MUTCH ASK: CAN WE DO MORE?

- Engaging more with the **Churches Together in Britain and Ireland** peace and social justice network (ctbi.org.uk) and strengthening ties specifically with the local churches' refugee network.
- Supporting organisations like **Campaign Against the Arms Trade (CAAT)**.
- Hosting talks to better understand other faith traditions, break down barriers, and discover shared values in the pursuit of peace.
- Reintroduce a **Peace and Justice Group** within our church, providing a hub for ideas and action.

What are *your* thoughts?

We encourage you to reflect on this. Could this be a topic for discussion in your homegroup?

During the workshop, we were reminded of the words from Matthew 5:9

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God."

This isn't something we can—or should—ignore.

Jenny and Forbes Mutch

chapter79.

YOUR STORIES IN JEWELLERY

"Our lives are full of stories: events, memories and emotions that define us"



"We pride ourselves on being an integral part of the community in Hertford and welcome in people to our lovely shop. We also strive to build a community of customers and create long-term relationships who trust us with telling their stories through jewellery"

15 Market Place
Hertford
Herts
SG14 1DQ
01992 534555



chapter79.co.uk

[f](#) [@chapter79jewellery](#)

engagement rings · wedding rings · commissions · bespoke designs · workshop · wishlist · repairs

Know the Story; Share the Story; Live the Story

Christopher THE LOCKSMITH

ARE YOUR LOCKS BEHAVING BADLY?

We Value Old Fashioned Customer Service
A Local Trusted Family Business Since 1989

 Specialist in UPVC & Wooden Doors

 No Call Out Charge

 No Fix No Fee

 All Work Fully Guaranteed

 10% Senior Citizen Discount



For More Advice & Help Call Christopher:

07772 111 222

www.christopherthelocksmith.co.uk



EURONICS

Let's Make Life Easy...
WITH
TOP BRAND
APPLIANCES

01992 582134

EXPERT KNOWLEDGE • SUPER SERVICE • COMPETITIVE PRICES • PROFESSIONAL INSTALLATION

ALBANY RADIO 63-65 FORE STREET HERTFORD

FAMILY RUN BUSINESS SINCE 1932

Bethany Warsop



Wedding, Family and Newborn Photographer

Based in Hertford

www.bethanywarsopphotography.com

bethanywarsop@outlook.com

07847449991

 @bethanywarsopphotography

 @bethanywarsopphotography



WEST & SONS

FUNERALS

INDEPENDENT FAMILY RUN
FUNERAL DIRECTORS

Here for you at your time of need
Professional Services with
Personal Care

Bespoke
Funeral Plans

24 Hour
Service


Private Chapel
of Rest

01992 260 800

info@westsfunerals.com

www.westsfunerals.com

110 Fore Street, Hertford SG14 1AB



JANE MAPLES

FLORIST EST 2006

29 Fore Street, Hertford SG14 1DJ

sales@janemaplesflowers.co.uk

01992 554975

SINGING WITH THE SPIRIT

PALM SUNDAY TO EASTER SUNDAY

BY JANE ELDRED, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC, AND MEMBERS OF ST ANDREW'S CHOIR

Christmas is always thought of as the most important time for church choirs – but actually, although we perhaps have the highest profile at that time, Holy Week and Easter are just as important and perhaps even busier!

At St Andrew's there are five sung services between Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday and the choir plays an important part in them all. It's our privilege to take part in a variety of styles of service with different emphases from reflectiveness and solemnity to great joyfulness. A good number of us managed to attend all five this year and Keith, Hazel and Sophie have written about their feelings about singing in the choir at this time of year below. I find taking part in these a great help in thinking about the awesome significance to humankind of the events leading up to and including Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection. Directing the music and being part of the choir somehow makes me feel really involved. Plus I get to choose my favourite Passiontide and Easter music!

So it starts with the choir leading the procession into the church on Palm Sunday, and on that day we sing an anthem with lots of Hosannas included! On the Tuesday of Holy Week the Taize service is very different – candlelit and accompanied by piano and maybe other instruments, the Taize chants help us to quietly and prayerfully reflect and is very beautiful

On Maundy Thursday, at the end of the service the church is stripped bare of any decoration while we sing Psalm 22 – "My

God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" which prefigures Jesus' suffering on the Cross. Then we sing the chant "Stay with me" as our spirits move to the Garden of Gethsemane. The service ends in silence and darkness. Then on Good Friday, we lead the solemn 'last hour' of reflection on Jesus' death. It has become our tradition to have no organ at this service if possible as we feel our unaccompanied voices create an austere expressive atmosphere as we sing great Passiontide hymns such as "When I survey the wondrous Cross" and "My song is love unknown." We also sing a few choir-only items.

Finally, the celebration! We are lucky enough now to have several trumpeters in the choir and in recent years, and especially this year, I have sought fully to exploit them! I hope you enjoyed Sam's specially written fanfare to "Jesus Christ is risen today"! The organist (David Boarder) pulls out all the stops, and so, figuratively speaking, do the singers, with descants and a lively anthem probably containing alleluias galore!

So thank-you so much from me to my lovely choir for all the hard work preparing for and singing at all these services.

We love being part of a group whose purpose is to contribute to the worship in our church with our music! We welcome anyone who would like to try being in the choir – if you think you would like to come to some practices to see what we are all about, please speak to me.

CONTINUED 

Know the Story; Share the Story; Live the Story



Interested in the value of your Art & Antiques?

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

Bring your items along to our valuation day at Sworders Hertford, every Thursday from 9:30am-4:30pm
Home visits also available.

Valuations for Sale | Inheritance Tax | Insurance

42 St. Andrew Street | Hertford | SG14 1JA



hertford@sworder.co.uk

01992 583 508

sworder.co.uk

EST. 1782
sworders
FINE ART AUCTIONEERS

SINGING WITH THE SPIRIT

PALM SUNDAY TO EASTER SUNDAY

BY JANE ELDRED, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC, AND MEMBERS OF ST ANDREW'S CHOIR

....CONTINUED

Jane Eldred.

Email: jane.eldred.viola@gmail.com

Tel: 01992 503658 **Mob:** 07900 144010

Keith Neat writes,

There is so much wonderful music written for Passiontide and Easter. Most of it not sung as much or so often as Christmas music. One of my favourite services of the year is on Maundy Thursday when the choir get to sing a psalm to an Anglican chant as well as some of the great Passiontide hymns. Closely followed on my list of services is the last hour on Good Friday when all the music is sung unaccompanied. It is so moving to be there with our Saviour on the Cross.

Then we get a chance to shine on Easter morning and can really let it go at full volume. I'm sure that's why poor Hazel is having difficulty with her hearing having to sit next to me fog-horning for so many years!!

I have always loved singing with the choir although I was reluctant to join when I was press-ganged by Ian Friars all those years ago. Happy days!!

Hazel Risby adds,

It was during World War II when I was first introduced to the church choir at the age of four when my whole family – nine of us – would walk three-quarters of a mile each Friday evening to the church and back again afterwards, for practice (things haven't changed much!). Sometimes air-raid sirens would be howling or doodle-bugs overhead threatening their devastation, but

nothing deterred us. I couldn't read or write, but I could sing, so I am told, and apparently I also had the ability to pick up a tune quickly. That was very fortunate because the music version of hymn books was rare and reserved for the altos, tenors and basses. I never, therefore, had the opportunity to learn to read music as a youngster. Ashamedly, I never took up the challenge as an adult and have muddled through ever since.

I've only sung in two church choirs: St. John the Baptist, Widford from 1946 when I was officially admitted to the choir, until 1972 when I joined St. Andrew's. To say I've enjoyed the experience is an understatement, especially being a member of St. Andrew's Church choir. Going back possibly twenty-five years, I was guided towards changing from a soprano to an alto, which at the time, I didn't relish, but having persevered, I enjoy the ability to harmonise a refreshing change. I've made new friends and benefitted from the spin-off of those relationships. I continue to learn and appreciate the music of Masters from all eras, and probably the most important aspect of the whole experience is that I have grown in faith and understanding of Christianity. But please don't ask me what the difference is between A-sharp and B-flat because that remains a mystery to me!!!

CONTINUED 

Know the Story; Share the Story; Live the Story

SINGING WITH THE SPIRIT

PALM SUNDAY TO EASTER SUNDAY

BY JANE ELDRED, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC, AND MEMBERS OF ST ANDREW'S CHOIR

📖 ✨ **Easter at St Andrew's –**
by Sophie Colville



🌿 **Palm Sunday – Sunday 13th April**



This was the first of the Holy Week services. Everyone held palm crosses and it felt special.

We sang:

- ❖ Sing Hosanna
- ❖ Christ is Our Cornerstone
- ❖ Meekness and Majesty
- ❖ This is the Day the Lord Has Made
- ❖ All Glory, Laud and Honour
- ❖ Anthem: Hosanna! by David Ogden

🕯️ **Maundy Thursday – Thursday 17th April 2025**

🕯️ 😊 🕯️ 🎵 🕯️ The candlelight made it feel peaceful and calm.

We sang:

- ❖ Ave Verum Corpus (Mozart)
- ❖ Stay with Me (Taizé)

✚ **Good Friday – Friday 18th April**

😞 🗣️ ❤️ 🕯️ 🎵 This one was more serious, but the music helped me focus.

We sang:

- ❖ My Song is Love Unknown
- ❖ Comfort, O Lord
- ❖ Drop, Drop, Slow Tears
- ❖ Sacred Head
- ❖ God So Loved the World
- ❖ When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

😊 **Easter Sunday – Sunday 20th April**

🎺 🌞 ✨ 🏠 🎉 It started with trumpets and felt joyful straight away!

We sang:

- ❖ Come, Ye Faithful
- ❖ Jesus Christ is Risen Today
- ❖ I Danced in the Morning
- ❖ He is Lord
- ❖ See What a Morning
- ❖ Thine Be the Glory

I don't really have a favourite — they were all good. I was tired but happy I did it. I love being in the choir.

🖼️ **Good Friday Art Display – Friday 18th April 2025**

📷 🖼️ ✚ 🗣️ ❤️ I took pictures of the 14 paintings in church.

They showed the story of what happened to Jesus.

Titles:

1. Jesus is condemned to death
2. Jesus takes up his cross
3. Jesus falls the first time
4. Jesus meets his mother
5. Simon helps Jesus carry the cross
6. Veronica wipes Jesus' face
7. Jesus falls the second time
8. Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem
9. Jesus falls the third time
10. Jesus is stripped of his clothes
11. Jesus is nailed to the cross

Know the Story; Share the Story; Live the Story

SINGING WITH THE SPIRIT PALM SUNDAY TO EASTER SUNDAY CONTINUED

12. Jesus dies on the cross
13. Jesus is taken down from the cross
14. Jesus is laid in the tomb

💖 Favourite Pictures

😭❤️🌈👨👩👦🕒 These stood out to me and made me think:

- ❖ Tears
- ❖ Forgiveness
- ❖ Hope
- ❖ Family
- ❖ Tomorrow

🌸 Easter Sunday Fun – 20th April

📷🌸🚶🍩😄 Me and Terry went for a walk before church. The flower cross looked lovely and I took a selfie.

Painted rocks I saw:

- ❖ Buzz Lightyear
- ❖ Minecraft
- ❖ Minion
- ❖ Googly eyes
- ❖ Homer Simpson

They made me smile and laugh.

🙏 What it Meant to Me

💖🎵✝️😊👐

Singing helped me pray.
It kept me calm.
It stopped me panicking.
I felt part of it.
I was glad I did it.

🤖 Help from ChatGPT

📖💻💬👨👩👦 ChatGPT helped me write this clearly so I could share how I felt.

I hope you liked reading it!

Sophie Colville

ENGLISH AND PROUD OF IT **Forbes Mutch reviews the latest folk concert at St Andrew's**

The 80th anniversary of VE Day brings a sunny afternoon and, with bunting and flags around the town and a fete in the Castle grounds, there's a sense of celebration in Hertford. It seems appropriate in the evening to listen to some traditional English folk music. With sunshine streaming through the stained-glass windows of St Andrew's, Leveret make their way onto the altar stage to deliver exactly that – traditional English folk tunes.

I wonder why this mesmerising instrumental band are called 'Leveret' and determine to ask them at the end of the gig. In the meantime, a near capacity audience sits back for two sets of immaculate musicianship.

Leveret are a renowned folk band that have carved a distinctive niche in the traditional music scene through their deeply collaborative and intuitive approach to performance. The trio, formed in 2014, consists of three of the most highly respected instrumentalists on the UK folk circuit: Andy Cutting (melodeon), Sam Sweeney (fiddle), and Rob Harbron (concertina). Each member is a celebrated musician in his own right, but together they create something uniquely intimate and dynamic.

What sets Leveret apart from many of their contemporaries is their commitment to playing entirely instrumental music and their rejection of rigid arrangements. Andy Cutting explains that, instead of adhering to fixed structures or rehearsed solos, Leveret build their live

CONTINUED



Know the Story; Share the Story; Live the Story

Rossi's Attic

Vintage Retro Antiques & Collectables



4 MILLBRIDGE, HERTFORD SG14 1PY

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

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

www.rossisattic.co.uk

ENGLISH AND PROUD OF IT

Forbes Mutch reviews the latest folk concert at St Andrew's

CONTINUED

performances around 'spontaneous interplay'. As you can tell from titles of many of the tunes – *Nantwich Fair*, *Dundas*, *Lady Grey* – their music is grounded in English traditional melodies, some ancient, some newly composed in the traditional style, but all delivered in a fresh and often unpredictable style. Rob Harbron says that that no two performances are ever quite the same. Their concerts feel more like a musical conversation than a recitation, with each musician responding to the others in real time.

This organic method of performance is underpinned by an extraordinary level of musicianship and mutual trust. All three members bring a deep knowledge of English folk traditions, as well as considerable experience from previous collaborations. Andy Cutting is a multiple BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards winner and one of the most admired melodeon players in Europe. Sam Sweeney, formerly of *Bellowhead*, has also been awarded Folk Musician of the Year and tonight he shows both technical prowess and emotional depth in his fiddle playing. Rob Harbron is not only a master concertina player but also a respected researcher of English music history, which lends a scholarly dimension to the group's repertoire. It is often Rob who introduces each tune with an historical anecdote.

Beyond their recordings and performances, Leveret have contributed to the folk music community through workshops and teaching, helping to inspire a new generation of musicians interested in the English tradition. Their



Sam, Rob and Andy in harmony

approach is a reminder that traditional music is not static but a living, breathing form of expression that thrives on connection and innovation.

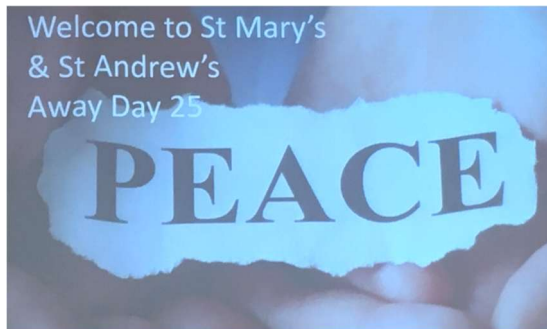
In a musical landscape where digital precision often dominates, Leveret stand out for their human touch. Their music is not about showmanship or flashy stagecraft -- it's about depth, nuance, and the timeless beauty of tune and tone. They provide a thoughtful and masterful gig.

Chatting at the end, I ask Sam Sweeney why the band is called Leveret, the name for a young hare. 'We like hares,' says Sam, 'but we couldn't call ourselves 'Hare' – people might have thought they were coming to see a West End musical with the band playing nude (fans of the 1960s musical *Hair* will understand that joke). I ask if they have enjoyed playing at St Andrew's. Andy Cutting says that they have been pleasantly surprised by the warm atmosphere in the church. 'Churches are often very cold and austere, but this was lovely,' he says. I couldn't agree more.

Know the Story; Share the Story; Live the Story

AWAY DAY

REFLECTIONS ON ST ANDREW'S & ST MARY'S JOINT PARISH AWAY DAY 2025



As the country prepared to celebrate the 80th anniversary of the end of the Second World War in Europe (VE80), it was appropriate that the theme for our Joint Parish Away Day was PEACE.

Around 70 people were welcomed by Rev Alan to All Nations' College, Easneye just a short drive from Hertford, a beautiful setting for the day. We were briefly reminded by Alan that it was Star Wars Day (May the 4th...) but we quickly moved on from Darth Vader after the briefest of appearances to focus on our theme for the day: peace in the context of world affairs and our own personal demeanour. Discussions raised questions about the causes of war and conflict. It might be fear and/or hatred of other societies, races or peoples of different religious beliefs. It can be greed over important resources or concern about being deprived of resources that either maintain life, such as water, or are wanted for commercial reasons, like rare earths. Where democracy breaks down or is destroyed by force so often there is civil war.

When it comes to personal peace and wellbeing, there can be issues such as anxiety about our health, family friction, finances and so on which impact it.

Duncan Shipton relates his experience of the welcome and preparation for the workshops.

One is always a little apprehensive when attending a gathering with new people, but we were immediately set at ease: from the munificence of fellow congregants who came to collect (and return) us from our village, to the coffee and cake that on arrival awaits.

All are issued with name tags which helps avoid awkwardness and facilitated more direct and personal communication from the outset. What a congregation of felicity and friendliness. Following coffee and a chat we all gathered for a short act of worship, with



some wonderful singing. After an overview of the day we had our first activity: a wonderful extract from Philippians 4 was used to entreat all to reflect on how we achieve peace.

We were invited to choose a key word that spoke to us- then to discuss our choices and the obstacles to peace with the person beside us (so a 'pair & share' for you educators out there!). There was chatter all around and it was both revealing and reflective. We were asked if any wanted to share their discussions and we spoke of how much conflict comes from fear and how thankfulness (one of the text words) for what we have was an important component of iterating a more irenic world. Whilst the opportunity afforded to reflect on one's own beliefs and the word of God was wonderful, of even greater gain was hearing others expound upon the different words they chose. It was the richness of other Christian's perspectives that helps one grow, enriching our experiences and deepening one's appreciation of just how much can be revealed through taking time to reflect on the scriptures.

Following our disquisition of Philippians- the wonderful Sam Chaplin performed a piece on peace he had crafted for the day.

Know the Story; Share the Story; Live the Story

AWAY DAY

After a short break, we all went off to one of four workshops which were:

What Makes an Effective Peacemaker?

Dwelling in Song

The Creative Present

A Dramatic Peace

THE CREATIVE PRESENT

In our case it was a meditation-focussed workshop. This was led by Rev Alan, as I think in part to serve as preparation for the fact that, as he entertainingly explained, he had accidentally booked himself on a weeklong silent retreat! After some breathing exercises, we had an array of biblical excerpts on A4 paper adorned with patterns. We were invited to choose one that spoke to us. And so, for the second time, we were expertly, yet in a very relaxed manner, invited to reflect on our own faith. It took a while to select the verse and that in itself felt right. All this was done in silence. Three colours could be selected to take back to our tables where we were to silently colour in our sheets. My wife remarked (later of course, as this was all in silence) how a restriction of three colours was illuminating as one had to really focus on the words and also offered a reminder of freedom to be found in simplicity and the paradox of choice we often face, that may distract from God's word - the process forced one to slow down and think of what we really need.

The different ways participants chose to colour in their sheets was also intriguing. I found myself focussing on specific words - heart and spirit - & utilising certain colours on and around these words so, without claiming this was some pericope exercise, it certainly engendered engagement in the words. The workshop concluded with some mindfulness breathing and a wonderful metaphor utilising the dandelion. This may not be a verbatim retelling of Alan's story, but I hope it reflects the spirit of the dandelion.

Alan spoke of how the dandelion has deep roots that anchor it in the ground and that bring nutrients to the surface, benefiting

those plants with shallower roots, aliking this to Christian faith, where through our beliefs we can find an anchor in the storms of life and through practicing our faith we can nourish those around us. Next came the yellow flower of the dandelion. In this we celebrate the beauty to be found in life and can see the golden yellow as light of Christ shining in moments of doubt and fear. The flower could also represent the positive moments in our lives that we can recall and take succour from at moments of anxiety, to break that cycle of negativity, our angsts assuaged recalling that image of the dandelion flower and the joy of Christ and life it embodies. Finally, Alan turned to the seed heads of the dandelion, which like us, are fragile and can be easily blown away. We were invited to consider when troubled moments arise to think of the dandelion seeds and visualise ourselves blowing them away. Indeed the session ended with being asked to go find a dandelion - pick it - hold it- study it - then blow away the seeds in a cleansing moment.



A DRAMATIC PEACE

Julie Hollings reflects on her experience which she calls, "A day of surprises"

The event on 4th May was my first time at a church away day. All my previous experience was in the corporate world where such days inevitably involved hours spent scribbling on flipcharts and earnest conversations about vision and strategy followed by a buffet of limp sandwiches. Little did I know just how different this would be.

The tone and style of the event was warm and friendly with a chance to deepen existing friendships and meet many new people - through the plenary sessions, group worship and the workshops. A particular highlight was the drama workshop where we enacted a

Know the Story; Share the Story; Live the Story

AWAY DAY

small number of stories from the Bible. I gave a spirited performance as the women taken in adultery (John 8:3-11) literally bringing the house down as I knocked a pop-up display in the reception area while scrabbling to escape the terrifying Pharisees. Jools and Mick, our facilitators, had perhaps done too good a job of getting us all into character! However, many of us reflected that this was a wonderful way to experience the sights, sounds and feelings of these well-known stories and gave us new insights and different perspectives.

The day ran very smoothly and the venue at



All Nations College was a beautiful one – brought alive by Chrissy Barclay's animated tour - and the Banksy style artwork in the air raid shelter was another surprise. And, most importantly, there was no limp buffet but instead a tasty Sunday roast. Thank you for a great day.

PEACEMAKERS

Peter Risby provides his thoughts.

Thank you to all who conceived, organised and ran such an enjoyable, satisfying day. From the choice of idyllic venue, comprehensive programme to satisfy every possible need and seemingly pressure free, convivial, friendly atmosphere, all we spoke



to afterwards agreed that it could not be bettered.

We were fortunate enough to have chosen the workshop on Peace and Peacemakers, led by Jenny and Forbes Mutch, which we found both intriguing and informative, but still left us positively questioning our own abilities in such a role, as I am sure did all our fellow participants. [SEE Jenny's article in this magazine.] From reports we have heard of the other workshops, they were all just as enjoyable and stimulating.

Coupled with time for refreshment and relaxation giving the opportunity to meet others previously unknown, the day was brought to a close with a service of Eucharist again set at just the right level.

DWELLING IN SONG

Shirley Taylor says, Sam Chaplin in his inimitable style helped us find our voices and develop our harmonies before we sang a round of Taizé chants. The sound of our voices supported by the musicians was quite magical. It was a beautiful and uplifting experience.

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

While the adults were attending workshops the children and young people enjoyed their own time together under the leadership of Lindsey Betteridge.



One of the children, Grace, tells us of her experience of the children's activities.

First, we picked out cards with words on them (eg listening) from a yellow bucket hat that Lindsey brought and tried to explain the

Know the Story; Share the Story; Live the Story

AWAY DAY

meaning (with help from psalm cards). On the back of them were puzzle pieces that we placed together to make a sign that said PEACE.

Next, we found some glass jars and painted them how ever we liked. Then we placed the psalm cards inside along with a candle and they glowed beautifully.

After that we made bridges in two teams, one out of Lego and the other out of building bricks. To test them out we put toy cars on them and hoped they wouldn't fall. (None of them did). Soon after we went outside and gathered some sticks to form a boat. We were going to role play Jesus calming the storm. We all got given parts (I was Jesus) and while Lindsey read the story we acted it all out. Overall I loved it (especially the snack breaks which were very YUMMY!!!!!!!!!!).

Lindsey explains further:

On the previous page and the front of this magazine is our peace puzzle which Grace describes. We started the day with 20 of the 40 pieces of the puzzle in a hat and each child chose at random a word connected with peace. We discussed what that word meant, about feelings and experience and how it brought peace eg. kindness.

Putting together the peace puzzle created team spirit and a sense of working together.

The purpose in painting the peace jars was for



each child to take home their decorated jar with an electronic tea light, special word, memory verse and reflection.

Making our boat involved collecting sticks for the shape and lots of blue towels, material and cotton wool for the sea. Acting out the story of Jesus calming the storm was met with great enthusiasm and all the young people really engaged and had fun.

After lunch they all spent a happy time on the football field once again interacting together and everyone was in great spirits.

And back to Duncan to round things up.

The final gathering of the day saw many sharing their experiences of the day, including some of the children, who had their own fun activities – another lovely aspect of the day. We then had a eucharist service and it really was moving to share in communion with such



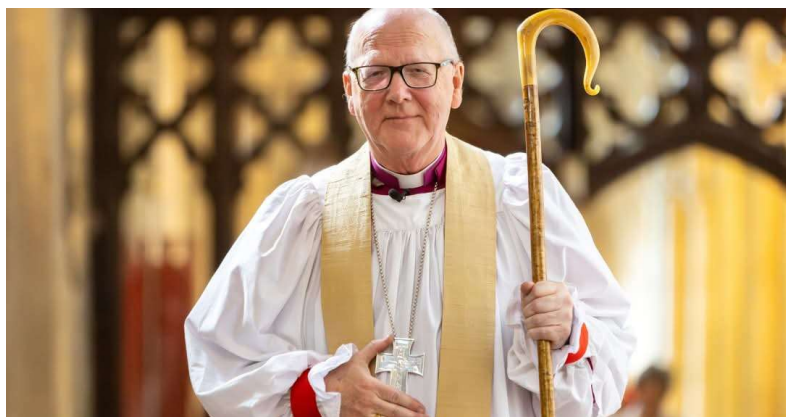
a warm, kind and considerate congregation.

We are so thankful to have been able to participate – and a special acknowledgement to Philippa for so generously ferrying us to and from the occasion. If you have any doubts on attending such an away day I hope these few words dispel them, for you will find a welcome and ease that lets you learn and feel, departing the day spiritually refreshed and satisfyingly tired as all good days out should leave one.

Thank you to Alan and all those from St. Andrew's & St. Mary's who made the day so wonderful.

Know the Story; Share the Story; Live the Story

FAREWELL BISHOP ALAN



it on the stand in the prayer corner at St Andrew's Church.

I have known quite a few Bishops over the years and met Bishop Alan on several occasions and always found him to be an approachable and warm character with a keen sense of humour, a great interest in history and a brilliant raconteur.

Chrissy Barclay writes, "On Sunday 18th May I attended St Albans Cathedral for the Farewell Service to our dear retiring Bishop of St Albans, Alan Smith. He has been our Diocesan Bishop for over 15 years (from 2009 to 2025). During this period he has made a strong impression on those he has worked with, both inside and outside the church. He visited many parish churches within the Diocese, which includes Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire as well as parts of Barnet.

During his visits he amassed a great deal of knowledge of the past members of the church, which led to him writing his book of ***Saints and Pilgrims in the Diocese of St Albans***. The book includes many inspiring stories of ordinary and extraordinary Christians who have lived and worshipped in the Diocese. Those who made a profound impression on history or been those people who have been prepared to speak out or take action to make a difference to their local communities or wider society in which they lived. A copy of *Saints and Pilgrims* was placed in all parishes throughout the Diocese and one of the speakers in the service mentioned that the person named on 17th May was Jennifer Worth, 1935-2011, Nurse, writer and musician. Her books have become familiar to us all over the past few years when they were dramatised on television in the popular series *Call the Midwife*. If you have not read Bishop Alan's book you can look at

During the service he did not disappoint us and had us rolling in the aisles once or twice. Among all the long processions of the choir and clergy (which I think included about 10 or 12 other bishops) there were some very touching tributes and moving anecdotes. The hymns, choral pieces readings and prayers were carefully chosen and there was a lot of genuine love and appreciation shown for Bishop Alan's wit, wisdom, integrity and warm-hearted gestures of true friendship.

It was evident that Bishop Alan knew many of the congregation personally and raised his hand to bless or gave a heartfelt smile of recognition during the processions in and out of the cathedral. He was presented with a gift for his new garden in Wiltshire. Many of those who spoke in the service made reference to him being a keen gardener and having made his garden in St Albans into an oasis of calm and colour. I was able to go around his garden last year when he opened it to the public for charity. It was full of abundant shrubs and perennials, with lots of colour and beautiful perfumed beds and borders with vistas and little benches to sit and reflect, as well as an apple orchard and meadow and some rare and large established trees.

Bishop Alan was also presented with some money from the parishes around

Know the Story; Share the Story; Live the Story

FAREWELL BISHOP ALAN

the Diocese to 'take him a bit further than Wiltshire' in his retirement.

The service was followed by refreshments in the cathedral and there was a long queue for those who wanted to say personal farewells to the Bishop or give him other gifts and cards to wish him well. We hope it will be a long and happy retirement."

Bishop Alan wrote following the service as follows:

My thanks to all of you who came to my farewell service in the Cathedral yesterday afternoon. It was wonderful to see so many of you and to be enfolded by your prayer. I was deeply moved by your affection and warmth, and I am grateful for your generosity and kindness. I treasure the many messages, cards and letters I have received over recent weeks and will take them with me into retirement.

As I look back on my years here, I increasingly realise the debt that I owe you. Thank you for your dedication and witness to the Gospel, much of which is unseen and often goes unacknowledged. You have taught me so much about what it is to be a Christian today.

I look back in thanksgiving for God's faithfulness, but I also want to look forward with hope to all that lies ahead. Farewells and partings are painful experiences, and as Ascension Day approaches I'm sure it was no exception for the first disciples as Jesus was received into glory. But sadness is not the dominant theme in the Biblical account. The New Testament is laden with yearning for the coming of God's Kingdom, for His rule and reign to be fully revealed, for the day when evil will be finally vindicated and love will be seen to have triumphed.

We live in a world disfigured by war and violence. Poverty and disease are all around us. Yet we worship a God who is at work in His creation and who invites us to respond to the working of the Holy Spirit. Someone once said, "Pray as if everything depends on God, and work as if everything depends on you." It is that deep prayer to which we are called and, in response, to give our lives in God's service.

As I bid you farewell, I pray God's continued blessing upon this wonderful diocese, inspired by the costly example of St Alban.

Please pray for me, as I pray for you.

+Alan

Alan Gregory Clayton Smith
Tenth Bishop of St Albans
2009 – 2025

Looking to Jesus
the pioneer and
perfecter of our faith

Hebrews 12.2



Please pray for me
as I pray for you

Know the Story; Share the Story; Live the Story

Services at St Andrew's

June 2025



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

	Date	Time	Service	Celebrant	Preacher
SUNDAY <i>Ascension 1</i>	1	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	HeartEdge
		7.00 pm	Soul Food in St Andrew's Centre	Adrian Walter	
Monday	2	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (Common Worship)		
Wednesday	4	10.30 am	Holy Communion (Traditional)	Rev Bill Church	
Thursday	5	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (BCP)		
SUNDAY <i>Pentecost</i>	8	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Rev Bill Church	
		10.30 am	All Age Service	Geoff Oates	
		10.30 am	Morning Service on Zoom	Nick Hoyle	
		7.00 pm	Compline on Zoom	Melanie Seward	
Monday	9	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (Common Worship)		
Wednesday	11	10.30 am	Holy Communion (Traditional)	Rev Scott Martin	
Thursday	12	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (BCP)		
		10.30 am	Holy Communion Calton Court	Rev Bill Church	
SUNDAY <i>Trinity</i>	15	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Rev Bill Church	
		10.30 am	Parish Communion	Archdeacon Rev Janet Mackenzie	
		10.30 am	Morning Service on Zoom	Kath Oates	(Recorded)
		7.00 pm	Compline on Zoom	Melanie Seward	
Monday	16	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (Common Worship)		
Wednesday	18	10.30 am	Holy Communion (Traditional)	Rev Bill Church	
Thursday	19	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (BCP)		
SUNDAY <i>Trinity 1</i>	22	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Rev Scott Martin	
		10.30 am	Parish Communion	Rev Scott Martin	Melanie Seward
		10.30 am	Morning Service on Zoom	Nick Hoyle	(Recorded)
		6.30 pm	Evening Prayer St Marys Hertingfordbury	Keith Neat	
		7.00 pm	Compline on Zoom	Melanie Seward	
Monday	23	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (Common Worship)		
Wednesday	25	10.30 am	Holy Communion (Traditional)	Rev Scott Martin	
Thursday	26	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (BCP)		
		10.30 am	Morning Service Calton Court	T.B.A.	
SUNDAY <i>Peter and Paul</i>	29	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	30	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (Common Worship)		