

The parish magazine of  
**Hertford St Andrew**

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

JULY/AUGUST 2025



*As you take your time of rest, hold the image of the rainbow in your mind says Geoff Oates*

Here with you Here for you

# HERTFORD ST ANDREW

Registered charity 1132540

Website: [www.HertfordStAndrews.co.uk](http://www.HertfordStAndrews.co.uk)

**PRIEST:** Rev Alan Stewart

**ALAN IS ON SABBATICAL UNTIL 3<sup>RD</sup> AUGUST**

01992 582726 h.alanstewart1@gmail.com

**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

**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, Jenny Mutch, Louise Cobb, Laura Ramsay, Catherine Sleath, Adrian Walter, Chrissy Barclay, Anthony Collinson, Julie Frazer, Malcolm Fry and Julie Hollings.

**PCC Sub-committees:**

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Forbes Mutch

07946 265077

Chair of Eco-church Group:

Jenny Mutch

jennymant@icloud.com

Chair of Finance:

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

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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.

# THE WORLD NEEDS RAINBOWS

*Praying for sunshine, praying for rain, praying for rainbows.*

*The summer holiday season draws near. Embrace its opportunities for rest, pleasure, recreation and variety. God likes us to get a break. After all, God himself took the first ever holiday, resting on the seventh day after six full-on days creating the universe. One of His first gifts to us was our first holiday (Holy Day), the Hebrew Sabbath. One day a week to rest and leave behind the cares and labours of the working week, a gift important enough to feature among the Ten Commandments.*

*And remember, it was a gift, not a rule.*

*We should also be grateful to Emperor Constantine, sometimes called the Great, the first Roman Emperor to embrace Christianity. He noted that Christians observed Sunday as a day of celebration, and in 321 AD made it an official day of rest for everyone. 1,704 years ago, Constantine invented the weekend!*

*It took a long time of economic progress and social struggle to get to the holiday entitlements most of us enjoy today in the West, but they too are God's gift. Be thankful and use them to the full.*

*We all long for fine weather for our weeks of leisure, but after one of the driest springs that England has ever known, possibly the driest since 1852, the wiser half of me is rather inclined to pray for rain. The climate is not the only worry on our minds as warring violence and political disorientation dominate the headlines. Where do I look for hope in these desperate times?*

*I look to the rainbow, the sign our God gave us in ancient times after the great upheaval of the*

## WELCOME!

Welcome everyone to St Andrew's, and in particular visitors and newcomers. Details of services are given on the next and last couple of pages of this magazine. If you wish to know more about anything mentioned, please see the website or get in touch with any named contact person or speak with one of the churchwardens. For contact details, see the previous page.

The church is open during daylight hours, and there is a prayer space by the main door where there is an opportunity to post prayers on the prayer board and light a candle.

*Flood as recorded in the book of Genesis. This was the sign of His promise that he would guard and preserve His creation and His human children for all time, even against their own folly and corruption. As you take your time of rest, hold the image of the rainbow in your mind. It speaks both of the creative diversity and the destructive division in our world, and reassures us that God is big enough and loving enough to hold them together and turn them to beauty.*

*So pray for sunshine as you go, and pray too for rain. You may get a rainbow. The world needs rainbows.*

*Geoff Oates, Reader*

## ALAN IS ON SABBATICAL

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

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.

THE CLOSING DATE FOR THE SEPTEMBER MAGAZINE IS **SUNDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST**. Please send copy by e-mail to [hertfordsta@aol.co.uk](mailto:hertfordsta@aol.co.uk) Richard Taylor (Tel. 01992 302995).

# SERVICES AND OTHER EVENTS

## **Church Services**

You will find a full list of church services on the final page of this magazine and on the church website, with some additional information about certain services on this and the following 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 13<sup>TH</sup> JULY at 10.30am

SUNDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 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](mailto:standrew.hertford@btinternet.com) or by calling 01992 504373.

Join us on Zoom for:

### **Service of the Word**

every Sunday at 10.30am with praise, prayer and teaching. There is a communion service once a month. Please check the services on the last page of this magazine and the website for dates.



**On Zoom on Sundays at 7pm except the first Sunday of the month. PLEASE NOTE: COMPLINE TAKES A BREAK IN AUGUST**

Compline is based on the Felgild Compline from the Northumbria Community and Night Prayer from the New Zealand Prayer Book.



**OUR MONTHLY PRAYER MEETING IN PERSON & ON ZOOM on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> 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.

**BACK ON SATURDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER**



**7.30pm ON ZOOM ONLY WEDNESDAYS 16<sup>TH</sup> JULY & 30<sup>TH</sup> JULY RETURNS IN SEPTEMBER AFTER AUGUST HOLIDAYS**

Explore the riches of Christian Meditation and how it fits with the practice and insights of Mindfulness

Each weekly session is free and lasts for about 40 minutes. We begin with some gentle exercises to help still the mind and then a guided meditation, followed by some silence.

**Beginners especially welcome!**

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# SERVICES AND OTHER EVENTS

## soul food

### **CONTEMPORARY CAFÉ-STYLE SERVICE**

in the St Andrew's Centre

7pm

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> July**

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  
14<sup>TH</sup> JULY  
28<sup>TH</sup> JULY

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

## **AUGUST HOLIDAYS**

We all need to take a rest occasionally and August being the time of the long school holiday is chosen for the following services to take a break:

**BREATHE PRAYER MEETING, SOUL FOOD CONTEMPORARY SERVICE, MEDITATION & MINDFULNESS BOTH IN CHURCH & ON ZOOM AND ALSO MINDFULNESS AT SELE COMMUNITY HUB.**

The choir also has some well-deserved time off as does Junior Church.

I wish everyone an enjoyable summer and hope you can find some time of your own to take a break and do something different.

All these services will resume as normal in September.

Alan

## **Dissolution of benefice of Hertford and Hertford Team Ministry**

A notice giving the objects of a proposed reorganisation affecting this parish has been published by the Church of England.

The draft Scheme provides for the proposed termination of a team ministry in Hertford and dissolution of the single benefice with the creation of four new benefices and ancillary matters. One of those four

proposed benefices is St Andrew's with St Mary's Hertingfordbury.

The draft scheme is displayed near the main door of the church and there is a link to it at [www.hertfordstandrews.co.uk/beneficeofhertford](http://www.hertfordstandrews.co.uk/beneficeofhertford)

Anyone may make representations (formal comments) for or against the draft Scheme. This consultation closes on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2025. Please send your representation to Matthew Crowe (email: [matthew.crowe@churchofengland.org](mailto:matthew.crowe@churchofengland.org)) or letter marked for the attention of Matthew Crowe, Pastoral Division, Church Commissioners, Church House, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3AZ.

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# CHURCH FAMILY

## FROM THE REGISTERS

### WEDDING:

*We rejoice with:*

21<sup>st</sup> June **Lauren Tims & Sam Healy**

### FUNERALS:

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

18<sup>th</sup> June

**Lesley Walne**

25<sup>th</sup> June

**Audrey Edwards**

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### CHRISTOPHER SEWARD



Many of you will have heard the sad news that our friend and faithful stalwart of St Andrew's, Chris Seward, has been taken from us. He died peacefully in University College London Hospital after a short illness. Melanie and his family were with him as he listened to the music of his favourite artist Bruce Springsteen and quietly slipped away.

Although his passing is sudden and our hearts ache, we trust that he is now held in the peace of the Lord, surrounded by the eternal music of heaven. Our thoughts are with Melanie and family. His funeral will take place on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July at 12 noon at St Andrew's Church.

**Tribute concert:** one of the legacies that Chris leaves for St Andrew's is the programme of folk concerts that he organised and which have been an important part of our outreach as a church. The concert on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> June by the folk band Gryphon was played as a tribute to Chris. See the report on the concert elsewhere in this magazine.

### WELCOME TO JASPER



Congratulations to Bryony and Peter Kay on the arrival of their son Jasper Simon Douglas, born Friday 16<sup>th</sup> May at 11:39pm weighing 6lbs 15oz.

The name Jasper is said to be one of the 3 Magi, though many will know it more in relation to the reddish quartz gemstone of the same name. Jasper's middle names are the given names of Bryony's father Simon, and Peter's father Douglas.

Bryony and Peter are enjoying parenthood and say that Jasper really has been a blessing to them and even in his infancy seems to be developing quite a little personality. He enjoys being in water and is happy in his carrier on a walk, so Bryony and Peter are looking forward to spending even more time in the great outdoors with their son in the coming summer months.

### JEAN MCQUEEN

Born in August 1935, Jean McQueen will be celebrating her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday this coming August. Jean moved to Hertford nearly 30 years ago and says that St Andrew's helped her to find her feet in the town; St Andrew's was her haven and still is. Jean was involved

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# CHURCH FAMILY

in Mothers' Union and social activities at St Andrew's in the past when she was fit enough to do so. To mark this milestone Jean will be celebrating with family and friends and on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> August there will be cake and fizz after the 10.30am service so the congregation will have the opportunity to raise a glass and wish Jean a happy 90<sup>th</sup> birthday.

## HARRY LONGMAN



Harry wishes to thank everyone at St Andrews for their incredible support in the lead-up to and during the London Marathon. "Whether you donated, wished me luck, prayed for me, or simply asked how it went. The encouragement I received was genuinely overwhelming. One thing that really struck me during the run was the sense of unity among the crowd. In a time when London can often feel divided, seeing people from all walks of life—different backgrounds, races, and languages—coming together was genuinely uplifting. And I can honestly say that towards the end when my legs felt like giving up, I was thinking of you all at St Andrew's. Knowing you were behind me made all the difference."

## CAN YOU HELP?

We are always grateful to the businesses which advertise in this magazine. For many years Pauline Rhodes managed the advertising but ill health has prevented her from continuing with the role. I am looking for someone to take on this job. Most of the work involved takes place in February and March each year, and there is little to be done until next February which gives plenty of time to get to know the job. If you would like to know more please either call me on 01992 302995 or email me at [richt1208@outlook.com](mailto:richt1208@outlook.com)

Richard Taylor

## 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.

A colorful poster for 'SUMMER FUN DAY 2025' at St. Mary's Church, Hertingfordbury. The text on the poster reads: 'ST. MARY'S CHURCH, HERTINGFORDBURY', 'SUMMER FUN DAY 2025', 'SATURDAY 12<sup>th</sup> JULY FROM 2-5PM', 'Our theme for this year is COMPUTER GAME HEROES!', 'Join us for all the usual family fun, includes the Teddy Zip wire starting at 3pm, a computer game trail, Welly Toss, Cream Teas and Rocket Making!'. The bottom of the poster features a pixelated illustration of a game level with trees, a heart, a church spire, and the address 'St Mary's Lane, Hertingfordbury SG14 2LD'.

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WELWYN • 01438 714686  
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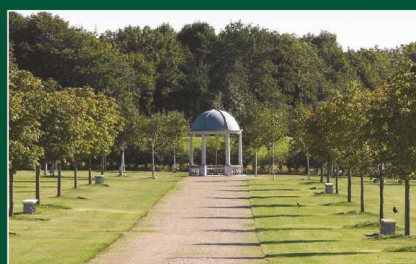
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# EVENTS



**coffee morning**  
**SATURDAY 5TH JULY**  
 10.30AM - 12.30PM  
 ST ANDREW'S CHURCH  
 HERTFORD SG14 1HZ

New & vintage clothes  
 Craft stalls  
 Live music  
 Fairtrade coffee  
 & home-baked cakes

RACE AGAINST DEMENTIA  
 RAISING FUNDS FOR RACE AGAINST DEMENTIA AND ST ANDREW'S CHURCH

## JOIN US FOR OUR EVER-POPULAR MONTHLY COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> July from 10.30am to 12.30pm  
 As well as the usual good fairtrade coffee and home-baked cakes to enjoy there will be high-quality pre-loved clothes, handbags and accessories available for sale plus craft stalls and live music. The proceeds will be divided between Race Against Dementia and St Andrew's Church.

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> August  
 from 10.30am to 12.30pm

In August we are raising money for the Royal National Lifeboat Institution. The RNLI relies on thousands of dedicated volunteers to run their lifesaving service. Separate from the coastguard and independent of government, they are a charity with one aim – to save everyone.



**coffee morning**  
**SATURDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> AUGUST**  
 10.30AM - 12.30PM  
 ST ANDREW'S CHURCH  
 HERTFORD SG14 1HZ

Pot Luck, Stalls  
 Live music

+ Fairtrade coffee & home baked cakes

RAISING FUNDS FOR RNLI AND ST ANDREW'S CHURCH

Our very own Sam Chaplin is playing in the Hertford Jazz Festival. **Charismatic trumpeter/vocalist with an all-star quartet on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> July, 7.30pm at Hertford House Hotel**

<https://hertfordjazz.org/whats-on/sam-chaplin-quartet-3-july-2025/>



**HERTFORD JAZZ FESTIVAL 2025** JUN/JUL 2025

**SAM CHAPLIN QUARTET**

CHARISMATIC TRUMPETER/VOCALIST WITH AN ALL-STAR QUARTET

THU 3RD JULY 7:30PM  
 DOWNSTAIRS AT THE HERTFORD HOUSE HOTEL

FOR TICKETS SCAN THE QR ->  
 OR GO TO [HERTFORDJAZZ.ORG](https://hertfordjazz.org)



## HISTORIC CHURCHES NEED US Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2025

Peter Ruffles urges us to put this date in our diaries and join him in raising greatly needed money to help maintain our churches in Beds and Herts. Last year St Andrew's members raised £577 but this is well short of many local churches, so Peter would like us to raise our game this year. Please do think about getting on your bike or planning a walking route to visit as many churches in the time you have available, locally or further afield. Many churches open their doors to welcome visitors on the day with refreshments, as we do at St Andrew's. Come on St Andrew's, we can do it! Speak with Peter for more info.

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for more details visit

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Contact Emma or Ian

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

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# HERE AT ST ANDREW'S

SOME IMPORTANT FACTS AND FIGURES

**An article in the April magazine covered the costs of running the church: £2,700 per week - not an inconsiderable amount!**



## **So where does the money come from to pay for this?**

Whilst St Andrew's is a parish in the Church of England, it is a separate registered charity, with the PCC being the Trustees of the charity. The Trustees must make sure there is adequate income to cover the costs of running the charity.

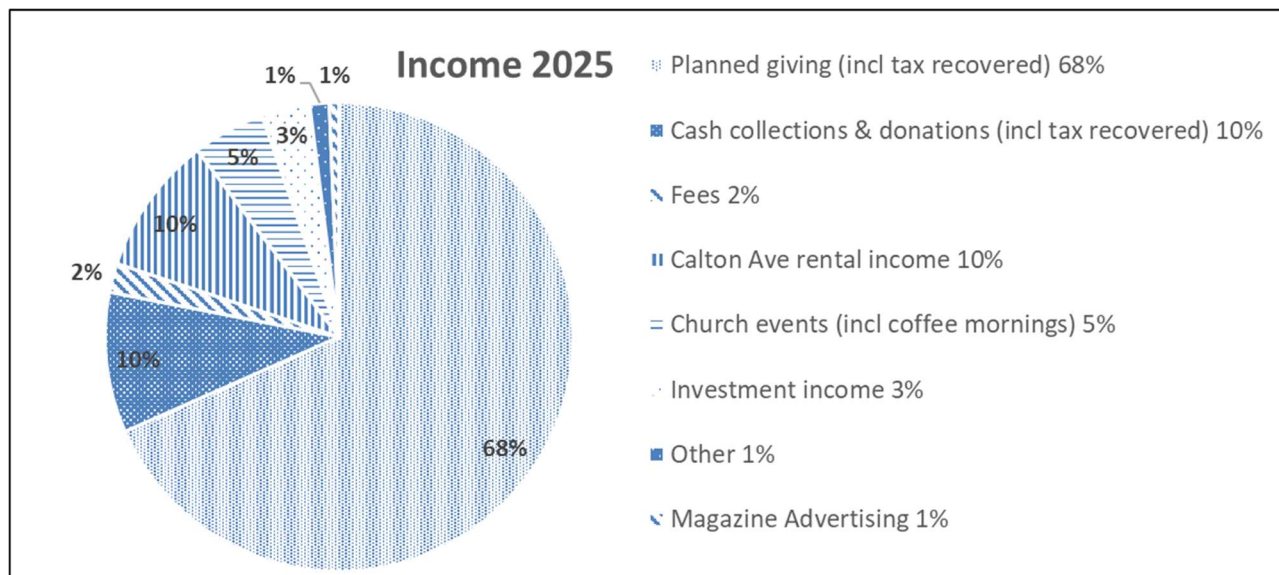
Over two thirds of the PCC's income comes from planned regular giving by parishioners. This is budgeted to be £102,500 in 2025 (including the tax recovered through the Gift Aid Scheme). The PCC is hugely grateful for all those who give financially. By giving on a planned regular basis (usually via a monthly standing order) this makes it much easier for the PCC to meet costs as they arise during the year. For all those donors who are also tax payers, by signing up for the Gift Aid Scheme this means the PCC can increase the value of donations by 25%.

make cashless donations: the contactless point at the back of the church is becoming increasingly popular and there is a donation facility on the church website.

A further 13% of income comes from the investments held by the PCC. These are represented by the property in Calton Ave on which the PCC receives rental income, and some equity investment which are managed for us by CCLA Investment Management, on which we receive the equivalent of dividends.

Finally, we hold a number of fundraising events during the year, from coffee mornings to folk concerts. The total net amount raised through these events (we are budgeting £7,500 in 2025) covers about 5% of the annual church costs.

As mentioned last time, the church faces inflationary pressures and there are new



About 10% of the PCCs income comes from collections in services and other general donations. Apart from the giving of cash, there are ways for individuals to

challenges in 2025 with urgent repairs required to the fabric of the building (guttering, glass, lightning conductors, soakaway). Therefore, the PCC is

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# HERE AT ST ANDREW'S

## SOME IMPORTANT FACTS AND FIGURES

constantly looking at ways to save money and/or increase income to ensure the parish's finance can remain robust. Every penny helps!

The PCC sets a budget each year aimed at delivering a small surplus. The budget agreed by the PCC for 2025 includes the ambition of increasing our planned giving by individuals and families by £3,000. We hope that those who currently give so generously will be able to maintain or, even, increase the amounts they donate while newcomers to St Andrew's will want to begin a regular commitment, perhaps joining our monthly giving scheme.

The PCC holds some reserves to cover any emergencies that may arise; but

these reserves are modest, the equivalent of 3 months of annual expenditure. More next time (October) on the funds held by the PCC and how these are managed to maximise the returns (short-term and long-term).

Do please let me know if there are any specific aspects of the Parish's finances that you would like covered in future articles.

Nick Sharman (Treasurer)

Information on how to join our monthly giving scheme can be obtained from Nick. Contact details are inside the front page of this magazine.



**Do you love making preserves etc?  
Then why not put your creativity to  
good use now for the October Coffee  
morning.**



The eco-church team are running the October coffee morning to coincide with the end of creation-tide. So why not find your creative side! If you love making sumptuous jams, chutneys, cider, apple juice or other preservable food and drink items and think you may have some to spare please consider donating.

### **Don't forget:**

- Add date of production.
- State ingredients
- And, if you use local, organic or fairtrade or other sustainable ingredients then feel free to shout about it on your labels: it always piques interest when deciding what to buy!

Thank you in advance and look forward to seeing, tasting and selling your summer creations in Autumn.

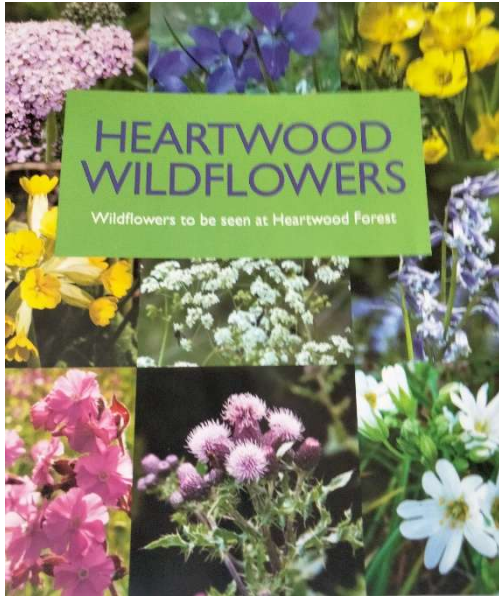
Jenny Mutch ([jennymant@icloud.com](mailto:jennymant@icloud.com))

On behalf of *the eco-church team*.

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# NATURE

## ROSEMARY WILLIS VISITS HEARTWOOD FOREST

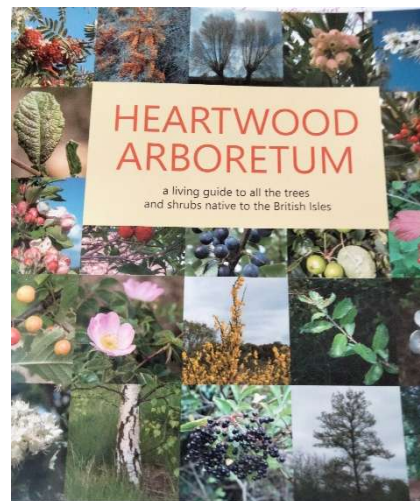


If you looked at my old OS 1997 map of St Albans area there is a smallish plot of land just north of Sandridge and south of Wheathampstead bounded by small pockets of woodland. You might think it was very uninteresting landscape: just a few paths and a farm; nothing to call you here to explore. Back in 2008 that might have been true. The Woodland Trust saw the potential of this area with its ancient woodland and set about transforming the farmland into the largest new native forest in England. Over time volunteers have set over 600,000 native trees to change the land into areas of woodland managed as a natural wild forest. The ancient pockets of woods with names such as Puddler's Wood and Pismire which have stood here since 1600 are protected.

I went to visit the area and found the open areas of land to be a magnificent riot of colours with wildflowers in abundance, such as yellow rattle, ox-eyed daisy and field scabious. Over 200 species of flowers have been recorded including pyramidal, spotted and south marsh orchids which have set themselves. Butterflies were on the wing. Sky larks rose and sang their hearts out above me. Blackcaps' rich voices call from the hedgerows. I spent my time meandering around the paths through meadows and woodlands. There is also an arboretum with all our true native trees, and information about how we previously used them. It's a fabulous place to freely visit at any time of the year. It shows so well how we can transform landscapes to a rich and fertile place of interest.

Car parking (free) near Sandridge and Nomansland – near Wheathampstead.

**Nearest postcode:** AL4 9DQ



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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 (ending on 20<sup>th</sup> July) and except when there is an All Age service, there are activities for children in the St Andrew's Centre. When Junior Church is on 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

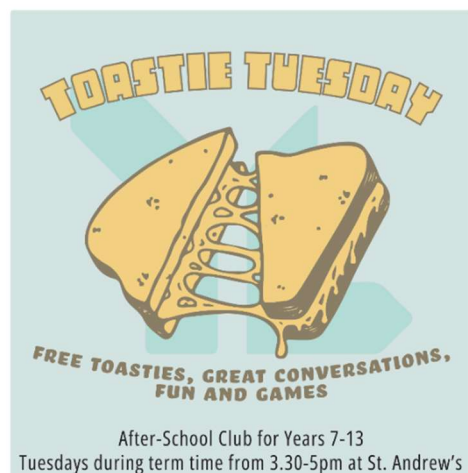
below). If you're not already receiving

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](mailto:johnwache@yahoo.com)

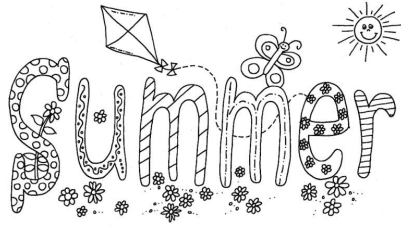


Grab a toastie with your favourite fillings and enjoy time with friends, fun games and activities, plus meaningful conversations about life, faith and more.

Toastie Tuesday is run by Bryan Fries:  
[bfries@ylinternational.org](mailto:bfries@ylinternational.org) 07846 549809

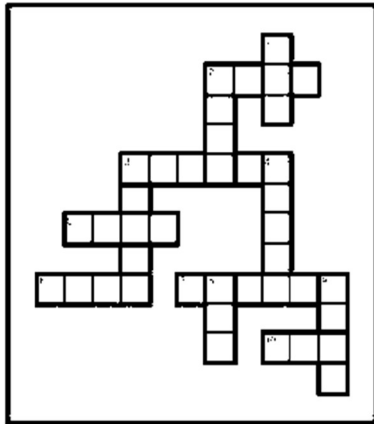
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# CHILDREN'S PAGE



# Puzzle Bonanza

## Seaside Crossword



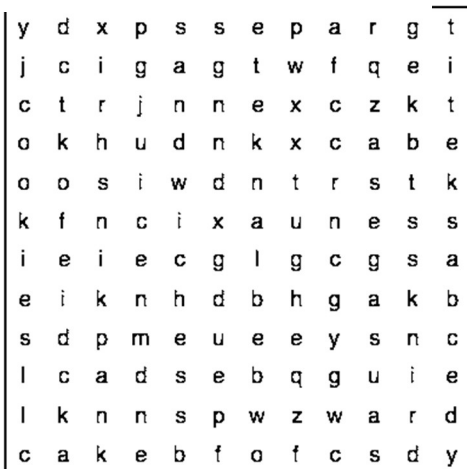
### Across

2. It may have a sail or oars
3. Perhaps you could collect water in this?
5. Watch him scurry down his hole
6. They swim in the sea and have scales and fins
7. She sells sea \_\_\_\_\_ on the sea shore
10. I hope this is out for your holiday

### Down

1. Carry your beach things in this
2. A good read!
3. The strip of sand along the sea shore
4. Dry yourself with this
8. Wear one of these to keep the sun off your head!
9. It feels funny under your toes

## Picnic word search



- |         |         |            |          |
|---------|---------|------------|----------|
| basket  | blanket | cake       | cheese   |
| cookies | drinks  | eggs       | grapes   |
| juice   | napkins | sandwiches | sausages |

You can colour in this summer picture...



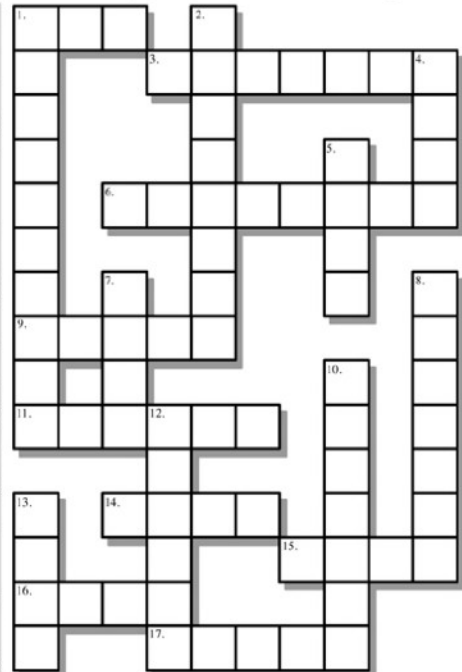
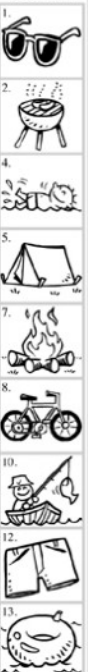
## Summer fun picture crossword

Decode the picture clues to solve the crossword puzzle

### Across



### Down



Resources courtesy of:  
[activityvillage.co.uk](http://activityvillage.co.uk);  
[kidspuzzlesandgames.co.uk](http://kidspuzzlesandgames.co.uk);  
[funschool.com](http://funschool.com); [kaboose.com](http://kaboose.com)

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# FOLK AT ST ANDREW'S

Band play tribute to Chris Seward

## Forbes Mutch reviews a standout show by folk rockers Gryphon



Andy Findon played a haunting rendition of *The Lark Ascending* as a tribute to Chris.

During the 1970s, when I was a teenager at school, I would go with a friend from our homes in Nottingham to see bands playing at the famous De Montford Hall in Leicester. One night we went saw the progressive rock band Yes. It was a memorable gig but, for me, what made it special was the first half support by an interesting folk-rock band called Gryphon, playing a unique blend of traditional English folk music, progressive rock and Renaissance instrumentation. Their music was outstanding for its use of historical and unusual instruments such as crumhorns, bassoons and recorders, which created a sound that bridged centuries and styles.

Fast forward 50 years and Gryphon come to play at St Andrew's, and nothing about their music has changed. The six-piece ensemble still display virtuosity, whimsical arrangements and a commitment to musical craftsmanship. Alright, only three original members appear at St Andrew's, but the sound



GRAEME TAYLOR

is the same. The shaggy Brian Gulland, looking like a white-haired Jerry Garcia of the Grateful Dead, still plays bassoon and crumhorn and provides vocals, Dave Oberlé plays drums and percussion, while guitarist Graeme Taylor solidifies the classic Gryphon sound of traditional English folk tunes played with period instruments, but incorporating elements of rock, jazz and symphonic music. In the early days the band's publicist, Martin Lewis described the band by saying: *Imagine Henry VIII in a rock'n'roll band and think Gryphon*. It's a neat description that applied then and remains accurate today.



CLARE TAYLOR

The lineup at St Andrew's featured Gulland, Oberlé and Taylor, with Clare Taylor on keyboards and violin, Andy Findon on woodwinds and Rob Levy on bass guitar.

As it was in the 1970s, the Gryphon live performance on the altar stage was an immersive experience that transported the near-capacity audience through centuries of sound. The concert was as much a display of musical precision as a celebration of quirky, theatrical energy. ➡

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# FOLK AT ST ANDREW'S

Band play tribute to Chris Seward

## Forbes Mutch reviews a standout show by folk rockers Gryphon

CONTINUED

The band members frequently swapped instruments between songs, and their stage presence balanced light-hearted humour with reverent musical skill.

Their setlist featured a mix of material from across their discography, including reimagined folk songs and complex progressive compositions. Highlights included their opening number *Kemp's Jig*, a lively traditional dance tune performed with gusto on crumhorns and recorders, its driving rhythm and sprightly melody getting the concert off to a lively start. Other standout songs were *Normal Wisdom from the Swamp*, written partly as an homage to Dr John, which showcased the genre-blending texture that defines the band, and the humourously-named *Sailor V* (c'est la vie, geddit?) which blended seafaring themes with rock-driven momentum and classical counterpoint.

For the audience at St Andrew's, the most poignant moment came just before the interval, when the classically-trained Andy Findon played a haunting rendition of *The Lark Ascending*, that short,

single-movement work by English composer Ralph Vaughan Williams. He played it as a tribute to our friend, the late Chris Seward, and it stunned those present with its simplicity, bringing many in the audience to tears. Earlier, the band had agreed to perform the gig in memory of Chris, who manager Michael Barnes described as a 'kind and lovely man'.



BRIAN GULLAND

Gryphon's concert will remain in the memory of many as a rare and cherished event that combined musicianship with theatrical flair and emotion. Rest assured, the successful programme of folk concerts that Chris launched will continue, partly in memory of its founder, but also as an important part of the church's outreach to the community.

Bands and artists enjoy the warm welcome that they receive at St Andrew's; they love the acoustics and enjoy the enthusiasm of the audiences. Thank you for your support. An informal team of church members has been formed to continue the work of Chris. As I was able to tell him in hospital before he died: *Chris, it's taking a committee of six to replace your organisational skills!* Thank you, Chris, for what you started. Your grace, knowledge and gentle charm will be missed, not only by the community of St Andrew's and Hertford but by a growing number of artists and musicians on the UK folk circuit.

**Forbes Mutch**

*Photos courtesy of Michael Barnes.*



DAVE OBERLE

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# FUTUREhope HERTFORD & WARE



As always we would like to record how incredibly grateful we are for the continued support for FUTUREhope from Hertford Churches Together and its member churches. Your prayers, support and financial gifts are all greatly appreciated and essential for us to continue with the work we do with young people. We also thank God for His blessings and provision and we will continue to strive to keep Him at the centre of our vision for the charity.

## **FUTUREHOPE AMBASSADORS**

We are looking to forge closer links with all of the churches in Hertford and Ware and as part of this **we are hoping to identify someone in the congregation at each church who can act as a point of contact** – passing on information about our activities to the church etc. It would not be an arduous role at all but would hopefully make both sides feel better connected. **If you are interested or would like further information please contact [dave@fhhw.org.uk](mailto:dave@fhhw.org.uk)**

## **CAN YOU HELP US? WE NEED MORE VOLUNTEERS**

As always, **we would love to hear from anyone from any of the churches who feels like they might be able to give up an hour or two to help FUTUREhope come alongside local young people.** This might be an hour a week listening to and chatting with a young person, it might be driving the minibus to Hartham on a Wednesday afternoon, being on our Bus on a Friday evenings, or helping with fund-raising. We provide full training and support for all roles and **you can get in touch with us by emailing [info@fhhw.org.uk](mailto:info@fhhw.org.uk)**

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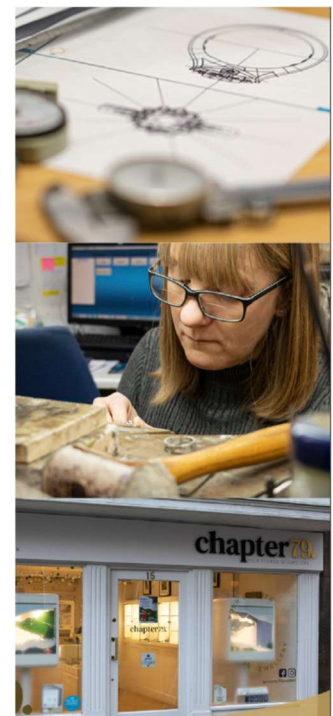
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# Services at St Andrew's

## August 2025



Junior Church & Compline take a break until 7th September



To attend a Zoom service please email the Parish Office at:- [standrew.hertford@btinternet.com](mailto:standrew.hertford@btinternet.com)

	Date	Time	Service	Celebrant	Preacher
<b>SUNDAY</b> <i>Trinity 7</i>	3	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Rev Alan Stewart	
		10.30 am	<b>Parish Communion</b>	Rev Alan Stewart	
		10.30 am	Morning Service <b>on Zoom</b>	Kath Oates	(Recorded)
Monday	4	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (Common Worship)		
Wednesday	6	10.30 am	Holy Communion (Traditional)	Rev Alan Stewart	
Thursday	7	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (BCP)		
		10.30 am	Holy Communion Calton Court	Rev Bill Church	
<b>SUNDAY</b> <i>Trinity 8</i>	10	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Rev Bill Church	
		10.30 am	<b>All Age Family Service</b>	Rev Alan Stewart	
Monday	11	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (Common Worship)		
Wednesday	13	10.30 am	Holy Communion (Traditional)	Rev Scott Martin	
Thursday	14	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (BCP)		
<b>SUNDAY</b> <i>Trinity 9</i>	17	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Rev Alan Stewart	
		10.30 am	<b>Parish Communion</b>	Rev Alan Stewart	Melanie Seward
Monday	18	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (Common Worship)		
Wednesday	20	10.30 am	Holy Communion (Traditional)	Rev Alan Stewart	
Thursday	21	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (BCP)		
		10.30 am	Holy Communion Calton Court	Rev Bill Church	
<b>SUNDAY</b> <i>St Bartholomew</i>	24	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Rev Bill Church	
		10.30 am	<b>Parish Communion</b>	Rev Alan Stewart	Rev Scott Martin
		6.30 pm	<b>Evening Prayer St Mary's Hertingfordbury</b>	Rev Bill Church	
Monday	25	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (Common Worship)		
Wednesday	27	10.30 am	Holy Communion (Traditional)	Rev Scott Martin	
Thursday	28	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (BCP)		
<b>SUNDAY</b> <i>Trinity 11</i>	31	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Rev Alan Stewart	
		10.30 am	<b>Parish Communion</b>	Rev Alan Stewart	

# Services at St Andrew's

## July 2025



August services are set out on the previous page

To attend a Zoom service please email the Parish Office at:- [standrew.hertford@btinternet.com](mailto:standrew.hertford@btinternet.com)

	Date	Time	Service	Celebrant	Preacher
Wednesday	2	10.30 am	Holy Communion (Traditional)	Rev Bill Church	
		12.00 noon	Funeral of Christopher Seward	Rev Alan Stewart	
Thursday	3	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (BCP)		
<b>SUNDAY</b>	6	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Rev Bill Church	
<i>Trinity 3</i>		10.30 am	<b>Parish Communion</b> + Junior Church	Rev Bill Church	
		10.30 am	Morning Service <b>on Zoom</b>	Nick Hoyle	(Recorded)
		7.00 pm	Soul Food in St Andrew's Centre	Maria Henriksson-Bell	
Monday	7	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (Common Worship)		
Wednesday	9	10.30 am	Holy Communion (Traditional)	Rev Bill Church	
Thursday	10	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (BCP)		
		10.30 am	Holy Communion Calton Court	Rev Bill Church	
<b>SUNDAY</b>	13	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Rev Bill Church	Adrian Walter
<i>Trinity 4</i>		10.30 am	<b>All Age Family Service</b>		Melanie Seward
		10.30 am	Morning Service <b>on Zoom</b>	Kath Oates	Adrian Walter
		6.30 pm	<b>Choral Evensong (BCP)</b>	Rev Bill Church	
		7.00 pm	Compline <b>on Zoom</b>	Forbes Mutch	
Monday	14	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (Common Worship)		
Wednesday	16	10.30 am	Holy Communion (Traditional)	Rev Scott Martin	
Thursday	17	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (BCP)		
<b>SUNDAY</b>	20	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Rev Bill Church	
<i>Trinity 5</i>		10.30 am	<b>Parish Communion</b> + Junior Church	Rev Bill Church	Forbes Mutch
		10.30 am	Morning Service <b>on Zoom</b>	Nick Hoyle	(Recorded)
		7.00 pm	Compline <b>on Zoom</b>	Melanie Seward	
Monday	21	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (Common Worship)		
Wednesday	23	10.30 am	Holy Communion (Traditional)	Rev Bill Church	
Thursday	24	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (BCP)		
		10.30 am	Holy Communion Calton Court	Rev Bill Church	
<b>SUNDAY</b>	27	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Rev Scott Martin	Maria Henriksson-Bell
<i>Trinity 6</i>		10.30 am	<b>Parish Communion</b> (no Junior Church)	Rev Scott Martin	Geoff Oates
		10.30 am	Morning Service <b>on Zoom</b>	Kath Oates	(Recorded)
		6.30 pm	<b>Evening Prayer St Mary's Hertingfordbury</b>	Rev Bill Church	
		7.00 pm	Compline <b>on Zoom</b>	Forbes Mutch	
Monday	28	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (Common Worship)		
Wednesday	30	10.30 am	Holy Communion (Traditional)	Rev Bill Church	
Thursday	31	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (BCP)		
		10.30 am	Holy Communion Calton Court	Rev Bill Church	