

The parish magazine of

Hertford St Andrew

www.hertfordstandrews.co.uk

OCTOBER 2025

Exploring Faith



A short informal discussion course exploring the Christian faith.
An opportunity to think through the big questions of life.

Led by Rev Alan Stewart: Mondays at 8pm starting 6th October
More information inside

Here with you Here for you

HERTFORD ST ANDREW

Registered charity 1132540

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Parochial Church Council comprises the Clergy, Readers, Churchwardens, Deanery Synod Members and Treasurer plus the following elected and co-opted members: Jenny Mutch, Louise Cobb, Laura Ramsay, Catherine Sleath, Adrian Walter, Chrissy Barclay, 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:

Chair of Mission Giving: Andrew Goodman 01992 421769

Chair of Social: Shirley Taylor 07929 449220

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Chair of Young People: Rev Alan Stewart 01992 582726

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

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

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

FLAGS

During the 'Marching Season', back in my homeland of Northern Ireland, Protestant towns and villages hang British flags from lamp-posts and bedroom windows, and paint the curbs red, white and blue. Ask the locals what they think this is about, and I imagine you will get different answers. To some, it is an act of patriotism, a declaration of our Britishness and a commemoration of the Battle of the Boyne. Ask others and they might say that it's a marking of territory by a community that feels under siege; a defiant declaration of 'This land is ours'.



When we see the flags that have recently appeared on lampposts and graffitied on roundabouts, what message do we think is being promoted?

To some, this is a patriotic act, a declaration of national pride. To others, it is an aggressive marking of territory, fueled by a politic of hate and fear of the 'other'.

In the right context, a flag can be a unifying thing; a symbol of our togetherness and the values that our country holds dear. I have questions however as to why these flags have sprung up at this particular time, when certain groups are targeting hotels and spreading hate-speak about immigrants and refugees.

Sometimes these groups seek to champion the fact that this is a 'Christian' nation. But perhaps they are unaware that Christ himself was a Middle Eastern refugee. Perhaps they have failed to understand that this is a nation of people who arrived in small boats, from 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.

Saxons to the Celts; the Romans, the Normans; Scandinavians. Perhaps they have not realised that the St George of our flag was of Cappadocian (modern-day Turkey) descent. Certainly, they have failed to see that the cross is symbol of God's love for the whole world.

There is no question that certain parts of our community feel disenfranchised and threatened. There is no question that illegal immigration is a concern and needs tackling. There is a question however over the weaponisation of immigration and the use of our flag to intimidate.

Britain has always been a hospitable nation that has championed the refugee and been built on and bettered by subsequent waves of immigration. This is an incredible reason for national pride. So, may we take back our flag and pray

'Make us a channel of Your peace, Lord. Where there is hatred, let us bring Your love; where there's despair in life, let us bring hope'. Amen

Alan

THE CLOSING DATE FOR THE NOVEMBER MAGAZINE IS **SUNDAY 19TH OCTOBER.**
Please send copy by email to hertfordsta@aol.co.uk

SERVICES AND OTHER EVENTS

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



Exploring Faith

A short informal discussion course exploring the Christian faith.

An opportunity to think through the big questions of life.

8pm on Mondays 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th October & 3rd, 10th November
at The Brace Room, St Mary's Church Hertingfordbury

Contact Alan: h.alanstewart1@gmail.com 01992 582726

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 12TH OCTOBER 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.



On Zoom on Sundays at 7pm

except the first Sunday of the month

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

Know the Story; Share the Story; Live the Story

SERVICES AND OTHER EVENTS



**OUR MONTHLY PRAYER MEETING
IN PERSON & ON ZOOM
on Saturday 4th October
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.

soul food

**CONTEMPORARY
SERVICE**

in the St Andrew's Centre
7pm

Sunday 5th October

JOIN US AT 6.45 FOR REFRESHMENTS

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



**7.30pm IN CHURCH (& on Zoom)
ON WEDNESDAY 1ST OCTOBER;
ON ZOOM ONLY ON WEDNESDAYS
15TH & 29TH OCTOBER**

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!

FREE Mindfulness

WHEN

**10.30AM
ON
MONDAYS
13TH & 27TH
OCTOBER**

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

AT SELE COMMUNITY HUB



www.hertfordstandrews.co.uk
standrew.hertford@btinternet.com

Know the Story; Share the Story; Live the Story

HARVEST



Celebrate Harvest with us at Hertford St Andrew's

ON ZOOM: On Sunday 5th October, 10.30am, we have an **online Service of the Word** with specially-themed liturgy, music, reflection and prayers. If you do not currently have a Zoom code call the church office on 01992 504373 or email to standrew.hertford@btinternet.com

IN CHURCH: Sunday 12th October, 10.30am, is our Harvest Festival Service at St Andrew's Church which is All-Age Worship with choir and organ.

We are supporting two local charities this Harvest, namely **Hertford & District Foodbank** and **Hertford Pantry**. Both work to help stop hunger in the area.

If you would like to donate any non-perishable items, they will be split equally between the two charities. You can drop them off at church before Saturday 11th October or bring them with you to the Harvest Service. **Thank you for anything you're able to donate.**

These items are especially welcome:

www.hertfordstandrews.co.uk/harvest



Our non-perishable food donations will go to two local charities, both working to help stop hunger in our local area:

Hertford & District Foodbank
and
Hertford Pantry



- Tinned meat and fish
 - Tinned vegetables
 - Tinned potatoes
 - Rice
 - Pasta
 - Cooking sauces
 - Long-life fruit juice
 - Long-life milk (UHT)
 - Tinned custard
 - Tinned rice pudding
 - Tea / coffee (100g)
 - Soap
 - Shower gel
 - Shampoo
 - Deodorant
 - Toothpaste / toothbrushes
 - Toilet rolls
 - Nappies
 - Baby wipes
 - Sanitary products
- (Please do not include anything that's been opened or is out of date.)

Fresh produce will either be sold in aid of the Bishop's Appeal (see over) or donated to Hertford Pantry.



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BISHOPS' HARVEST APPEAL

Rewrite Their Future

working towards increasing access to education for some of the world's most under-resourced communities

This year the Bishops' Harvest Appeal is being run in partnership with Mission Direct who are working towards increasing access to education for some of the world's most under-resourced communities. In Uganda and Zambia alone, Mission Direct will help over 1,170 children this year to have access to a new classroom, and over the next 20 years these new facilities will be used by 23,400 children.

At a time when 250 million children globally are not in school, this is one small but vital way we can help change that reality.

Thanks to the generosity of supporters over the last 20 years, Mission Direct have been able to build 49 schools. Nearly all of these are still open and have grown substantially.

The children who access these schools are given the opportunity to **Rewrite Their Future** because they are receiving the opportunity of a completely different life. They gain hope and aspirations that would have been out of reach if they could not attend a school.

Mission Direct's education initiatives include building schools, helping to attract and retain teachers in rural schools, enhancing academic performance and health due to nutrition programmes and enabling girls to continue in education after puberty by providing better washing and sanitation facilities.

"Your donation helps us continue this vital work – supporting a range of activities that enable us to **Rewrite Their Future**. Whether we are laying bricks, funding feeding programmes, providing teacher training or providing advocacy, policy and resource acquisition support – these all contribute to more children being able to go to school."

A note from Bishop Richard and Bishop Jane:

"As we give thanks for all that God provides, we also celebrate the incredible impact we can make when churches, chaplaincies and schools across our diocese act together in prayer, generosity and compassion. Over the past 16 years, our Harvest Appeals have raised more than £1 million, bringing lasting hope to communities around the world. This year, we invite you to help build on that legacy. We commend this appeal to you with deep gratitude for all you already do. Let's stand together once again, so more children can go to school, unlock their potential and thrive."

With every blessing,

+Richard, Bishop of Bedford

+Jane, Bishop of Hertford

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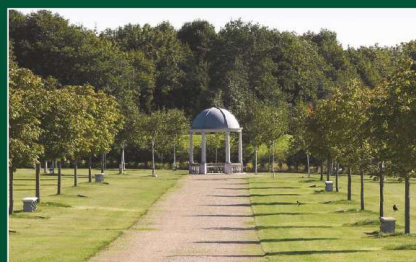
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NEWS

FROM THE REGISTERS

FUNERALS:

We extend our sympathy to the family and friends of:

15th September

Yuet Li Lam known as May

1st October

June Wighton

AMONG FRIENDS

Laura Ramsay had reason to celebrate in September and it wasn't just because Sunderland, the team she supports, are



doing well in the Premier League. Laura had a birthday with a zero at the end. It would be ungentlemanly to mention her age 😊. At the Sunday morning service on

14th September, the congregation sang

Happy Birthday to Laura and at the end of the service she was presented with not one but two cakes to share with her many friends at St Andrew's. The cakes were made by Michael Cracknell. Laura says that she feels blessed to have found St Andrew's on moving to



Hertford from Yorkshire in 2001. She felt welcomed on arrival and the church has become like family to her. Laura contributes to the life of St Andrew's in many ways including membership of the PCC and trustee of Hertford St Andrew Community Trust as well as being a Governor of Hertford St Andrew School.

TEAM ST ANDREW WAS OUT AND ABOUT

Sponsored Bike 'n Hike
BEDS AND HERTS HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST

Bike 'n Hike
Saturday 13 September 2025
9am to 5pm

For more information please make contact:

- ▶ Have fun visiting over 600 churches and chapels
- ▶ Raise funds for your local church or chapel
- ▶ Help save other churches in Beds and Herts

BEDS & HERTS
Historic Churches Trust

Bike 'n Hike in association with the national Bike 'n Hike
and with acknowledgements to THE WIZANTINE TRUST
www.bedsandherts.org.uk BHCT Registered Charity No. 1197228

IN AID OF OUR HISTORIC CHURCHES

We sent forth a number of new team member travellers from St Andrew's on foot, bike and 'bus on September 13th this year, and any one of them will gratefully receive your congratulations for venturing forth from church to church, and your cash if you can spare it.

The unique event is a heritage national event and our local form of it is organised by the Beds and Herts Historic Churches Trust.

At St Andrew's we were particularly grateful to Sylvia Kemp, David Spring, Clara Chaplin and Sarah & Andrew Davies for giving 'Team St Andrew' the diversities the event encourages

both in personnel and transport mode. In a concession to vintage, my own contribution this year was to use my 'bus pass! Having quickly visited 11 Hertford and Ware churches, I spent the rest of the day on 'buses! The target was one church in as many large towns as I could. I thought I might manage 8 towns but clocked a satisfying 9, adding Welwyn Garden City, Hatfield, St Albans, Watford, Harpenden, Luton and Stevenage to the morning's Hertford and Ware.

CONTINUED OVERLEAF

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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

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Contact Emma or Ian

email: sehscds@hotmail.com

phone: 07842034890



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NEWS

CONTINUED

Thanks also to, Colin Eldred, Churchwarden Julie, and others who were out and about for church heritage, and particular thanks to Carol Muhr and her assistants who gave a St Andrew's welcome to our 50 or so visitors.

Earnings to me soon, please, active team 2025, so that I can pay it all into Beds and Herts Historic Churches Trust funds. Half of what we send comes back to us for our own building maintenance needs. (And as St Andrew's building has its quinquennial inspection soon, our earnings may be particularly useful)

Peter Ruffles

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 07703 197707 or email me at richt1208@outlook.com

Richard Taylor

VACANCY FOR AN EVENTS ADMINISTRATOR

The Church is looking for a volunteer to become our Events Administrator. We need someone who is organised and detail-conscious to take over existing systems that are already well developed. The work can be done at any time other than the occasional meeting in church with hirers. This important role contributes greatly to the success of our fundraising events. If you are interested, please contact one of our Churchwardens, Julie or Lesley, for more information: churchwarden.hertfordstandrews@gmail.com

POETRY COMES TO HERTFORD QUAKER MEETING HOUSE

3pm on Sunday 23rd November

British Syrian poet Amir Darwish, who appeared at Ware Poets earlier in the year, will be performing his work alongside Kurdish musician Suna Alan in Hertford this November. Admission is free; interval refreshments; donations to cover costs and in aid of Herts Welcomes Refugees.

Amir Darwish is a British-Syrian poet & writer of Kurdish origin who lives in London. Born in Aleppo, he came to Britain as an asylum seeker in 2003. He has a BA in History from Teesside University, an MA in International Relations of the Middle East from Durham University, and an MA in Creative and Life Writing from Goldsmiths University. As a poet, he has published his work in the UK, USA, Pakistan, India, Finland, Turkey, Canada, Singapore & Mexico.



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EVENTS



coffee morning

SATURDAY 4TH OCTOBER
10.30am - 12.30pm
ST ANDREW'S CHURCH
HERTFORD SG14 1HZ

- Oxfam eco-products
- Local free-range eggs
- Jams, chutneys and other homemade preserves
- Woollens craft stall
- Vintage clothes bargains

Fairtrade coffee & home-baked cakes

RAISING FUNDS TOWARDS AN AIR SOURCE HEAT PUMP FOR THE ST ANDREW'S CENTRE

Find the perfect eco gift!

JOIN US FOR OUR EVER-POPULAR MONTHLY COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 4th October: 10.30am to 12.30pm

If you're looking for an eco-present, our October Coffee Morning is the place to be! Stalls will include: Oxfam eco-products, local farm free range eggs, jams, chutneys and other homemade preserves, woollens crafts and an opportunity to grab yourself a vintage clothes bargain! We're raising funds for an air source heat pump to replace the old gas boiler in the St Andrew's Centre, much used by the local community. And of course you will find a selection of tempting cakes and freshly-brewed cuppas.

Love making preserves etc?

Please 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 creations.

Jenny Mutch (jennymant@icloud.com)

On behalf of *the eco-church team*.

WELWYN GARDEN CITY MALE VOICE CHOIR

We welcome Welwyn Garden City Male Voice Choir as they celebrate their 90th year.

The Choir was founded in 1935 by a group of Welshmen who had moved to Welwyn Garden City in search of work. Their repertoire includes songs from shows, spirituals, traditional English, Scottish and Irish pieces; they sing a number of songs in Welsh, maintaining a proud tradition harking back to the Choir's early days. They also include one or two numbers which may surprise! Order your tickets here: <https://www.wgcmalevoicechoir.org.uk/ticket-order>

WELWYN GARDEN CITY MALE VOICE CHOIR

Saturday 4 October 2025

CELEBRATING 90 YEARS IN SONG



7.00pm at
St Andrew's
Church
Hertford
SG14 1HZ

Licensed bar available

Concert
featuring



Tickets: £10
(Under 16s free)
Book through
TicketSource:
Booking fee applies



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ST ANDREW'S CENTRE:

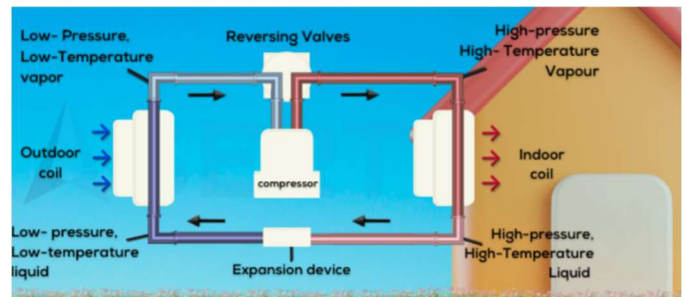
the story behind the need for an air-source heat pump

Some may be aware that the boiler in the Centre has seen better days and needs replacing. The Church of England, as part of its mission, requires us all to think about reducing our carbon footprint. So, when an opportunity to implement measures to do just that emerges, we need to act, which is exactly what the PCC Eco-Committee, the PCC, and the Centre's Trustees are aiming to do.

But it takes understanding, planning, time and a budget!

The science behind an air source heat pump (the understanding bit): In very simple terms air-source heat pumps are designed to move heat from one place to another. They capture heat from the air, which is then passed through a heat exchanger, then a compressor to increase the pressure and by doing so create a higher temperature. The air is then passed through another heat exchanger where energy (ie heat) is transferred to the water that flows into the radiators and hot water cylinders. Magic!. And at this point I wish I had paid more attention to my physics lessons at school, but I remember enough to think how clever is that!

Planning: Like all good things that happen in a church, we need consent for the Diocese – It's called a faculty and requires, in this case, the eminently efficient and organised Shirley Taylor finding out all sorts of things she never dreamed she needed to know (building heat efficiency, Energy Performance Certificates, etc etc). And of course there is need for planning permission from the council. Over to Andrew Goodman on that one, once the PCC has given the green light. Both the faculty and the planning application require detailed architectural drawings and



Air Source Heat Pump Diagram: Explained (from www.sert.work)

comparable quotes, noise and insulation calculations (also one for Andrew)!

The budget and fund raising: Alongside the air-source heat pump we need some additional insulation – we don't want our newly found air sourced heat flying straight out the windows or walls (especially in the John Summers Gill room). All of this comes at a price which we think is worth it, but it needs funding. So far we have:

- £4,000 committed from the Town Council – Thank you Town Council and thank you Laura Ramsey for a great application so that Jenny just needed to talk for three minutes at a Town council meeting to secure the funds.
- Our coffee morning on the 4th October – we have high hopes – come along.
- £7,500 from a government grant.

But we still need a few thousand pounds more before we start the work with the aim of replacing the boiler so, we are actively pursuing additional funding options – if anyone has any ideas please let us know especially for insulation.

It all takes time and a lot of input from people, but we are sure it will be worth it. It will help to reduce our carbon footprint, should be more efficient than a standard

CONTINUED OVERLEAF

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CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

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

ST ANDREW'S CENTRE: the story behind the need for an air-source heat pump *continued*

combustion heating system unless we are unlucky enough to experience temperatures outside of -20°C or less (I hope not!) plus the other good news is that it should need less maintenance than a more traditional solution. What's not to like!

So please make that extra effort to come to the October Coffee morning so we can all buy into doing our bit for our planet at St Andrews. See you there.

The eco-church team

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 (except when there is an All Age service) there are activities for children in the St Andrew's Centre. The children will begin the service with the congregation and then, after the first hymn, they leave to join Junior Church.



**TMM
YOUTH GROUP**

- In Year 6 or above?
- Like playing games?
- Having a laugh?
- Like snacks?
- Curious about God, the universe and everything in-between?

COME ALONG
Usually 1st and 3rd Sundays,
4.30-6.00pm
(dates, times and venues may vary - please check the calendar)

St Andrew's Church Centre, SG14 1HZ
Contact: Standrew.hertford@btinternet.com
Today > Monday > More - TMM Youth Group

More info here



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.

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.



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FOLK AT ST ANDREW'S

Chris While & Julie Matthews

Thursday 9th October



"They light up the room with their amazing energy" (James Taylor).

Chris While (vocals, guitar, banjo, dulcimer, bodhran and percussion) and Julie Matthews (vocals, piano, guitar, mandolin and bouzouki) are stunning singers, songwriters, musicians and performers whose energy and commitment to their craft, and their audience is boundless.

They are two of the best and most hardworking musicians on the world folk roots scene, both are highly regarded producers and they record everything that they are involved in at their own studio in a small Pennine town far from the London-centric music industry.

Richard Hawley (ex Pulp, top solo artist and producer) says of Chris and Julie: **"it's a real honour just to be an audience member but I've had the added honour of standing on a stage with them playing along in the background, things like that I'll treasure forever, truly gifted human beings".**

See for yourself in the beautiful setting of St Andrew's Church where we also offer a licensed bar from 6.30pm. It promises to be an uplifting, maybe inspirational, evening of music. Tickets are £18 + £1.35 booking fee www.ticketsource.co.uk/st-andrews-church



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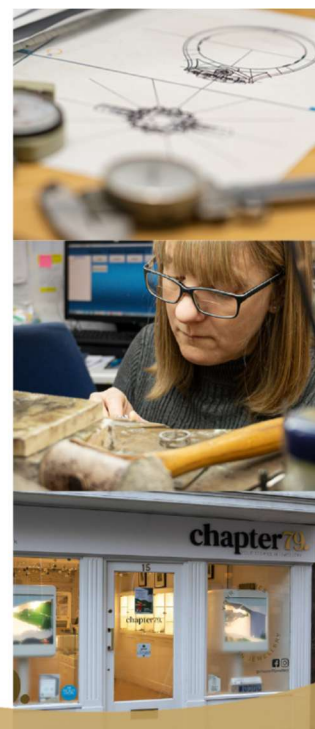
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HERTFORD ST ANDREW PRIMARY SCHOOL

Love learning, aim high and trust God

Jenny Mutch reflects on her experience as a new Governor

This week Forbes and I have been looking after our 7 and a half month old grandson for a few days. It was both a privilege watching him soak up every new experience and a massive responsibility looking after our child's child.

It made me reflect on how much we entrust our children's life skills and learning to our teachers.

As a new School Governor, I have been lucky enough to glimpse firsthand, the great work that is happening at our own local St Andrew's church primary school and their effort to link with the local community as illustrated by the neighbourhood carnival parade in July.

The children are really happy and ready to learn. And the staff, under the guidance of the very capable and forward-thinking headteacher, Rebecca Sutherland-Cooper, are ready to encourage the children to follow the school's values **to love learning, aim high and trust God**.



St Andrew's School getting ready for the Summer Carnival parade

So, please find a few moments to pray for all children, anywhere, as they start their new academic year.

We ask Lord, that the children have the curiosity and courage to learn new skills whilst teachers find the wisdom, strength, patience and insight to see the potential in each child so that they grow both as a person and spiritually, alongside academic learning.

Let your light shine (Matthew 5: v16)

Ever thought of being a School Governor? Is this your calling?

Well now is your opportunity. We are looking for another Governor at St Andrew's School.

We are looking for a range of skills so don't be shy.

You could be just what the school is looking for.

Speak to Jenny Mutch (Mant) if you are at all interested at jennymant@me.com

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HERTFORD CHILDREN'S CHOIR

In January 2025 Rachel and Sam started the Hertford Children's Choir. It is a choir for children aged 8-13. The vision behind the choir is to provide a space where children can learn to sing and grow further in their musicianship. We've had a wonderful 9 months - highlights have been performances for the Mayor of Hertford and performing on stage at Eco-Fest at Hertford Castle.



Welwyn Male Voice Choir at St Andrew's Church on 4th October and as the guest choir with Hertford Choral Society on 13th December in All Saints' with full orchestra.

The full name of the choir is 'The Hertford Children's Choir at St Andrew's' and we are so

grateful for all the support you have given as a church – especially our team of volunteers who serve drinks and biscuits each week and who skilfully chaperoned the children into London for our choir camp. We couldn't do it without you! As we were advertising the summer choir camp we had several local individuals approach us and offer to pay for local children to be on the camp which was well-received. We charge £60 per term for children to be part of the choir but also like to offer bursaries and subsidies so that the choir is open to all. Would you consider supporting a child each term? If you'd like to contribute please email Phil at the church office standrew.hertford@btinternet.com

This summer we were offered the opportunity to sing for a lunch time service at St Paul's Cathedral, so we decided to build a summer choir camp around it. We got together for three days in St Andrew's Church, Hertford and learned the music, we played games outside, developed our voices through fun warmups and delved deeper into music with a daily theory blitz.

On the last day we took the train into London. We were given a private tour of St Paul's Cathedral, the children loved seeing the 'Harry Potter staircase' and you could hear their jaws drop as they walked into the dome of the Cathedral. The children developed so much as singers over the week and really opened up in confidence, so that when it came to singing in the service, the twenty of them filled the dome of the Cathedral with their singing. It was also very special to sing Harold Chaplin's 'St Andrew's Service' Communion setting in St Paul's Cathedral. We've been invited back!

We've got an autumn term filled with exciting opportunities, performing with the

We rehearse on Fridays 5:30 – 6:45 at St Andrew's Church and new members are welcome. If you know of anyone who would enjoy being part of the Hertford Children's Choir please direct them to the church website or follow this link to find out more and book your free trial.

www.tinyurl.com/hertfordchildrenschoir

Sam and Rachel Chaplin lead the choir and are both professional musicians and music educators and are regular members of St Andrew's church.

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FOLK AT ST ANDREW'S...still a folk music hot spot

*The autumn season of folk music at St Andrew's was kicked off with two special but contrasting concerts, proving that the altar stage at the church is still a hot spot for live performances. **Forbes Mutch reports.***

Gigspanner Big Band

When Gigspanner Big Band had their concert at a local theatre in Hertford cancelled at short notice it was not surprising that the band contacted St Andrew's immediately. I say not surprising because the gig was part of a UK tour to promote the band's 2025 live album *Turnstone*, over 90 per cent of which was recorded at St Andrew's in November 2024. It seemed natural that one of the most popular live folk bands in the UK should return full circle to the scene of a previous triumph, where the intimate and resonant acoustics are suited to their blend of folk tradition and inventive arrangement beautifully on two previous occasions.

From the first few bars of the evening, it was clear that this latest outing would be more than a standard folk concert. The line-up – Peter Knight on fiddle and vocals, Hannah Martin (violin, vocals), Phillip Henry (dobro, harmonica), John Spiers (melodeon and concertina), Roger Flack (guitar) and Sacha Trochet (percussion) – delivered the intricate textures that define the Big Band. Their years of collaboration showed: all six played with an ease that allowed the music room to both breathe and swell.

Much of the material was drawn, fittingly, from the *Turnstone* album, a record praised for its balancing act between precision and spontaneity. The summer evening light in the church accentuated the dynamics: soft passages – Knight's fiddle, Spiers' melodeon – floated into silence, only to be swelled by dobro, guitar, percussion



and full harmonies. Traditional ballads like *Suffolk Miracle* and *Hind Horn* felt both timeless and renewed.

Vocals were a highlight: Hannah Martin's voice brought clarity and emotional edge, Knight's voice more reserved but expressive, and Henry's harmonies adding depth at just the right moments.

The mix was handled well for the venue: even with the natural reverb of stone walls, each voice could be heard. Instrumental solos were threaded through the performance, moments of shimmering fiddle, resonant melodeon flourishes, and guitar/percussion pairings underpinning rhythmic shifts.

The set pacing was thoughtful. Mid-concert, there were slower, more haunting pieces, but these were counterbalanced by livelier reels or tune-sets towards the end. The finish was especially strong: a medley of tunes that built up, layers of instrumentation combining, all musicians visibly feeding off the energy. The ending left the audience both satisfied and grateful for the journey.

For folk lovers, for those who appreciate innovation and for anyone drawn to the intersection of tradition and artistic

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FOLK AT ST ANDREW'S...still a folk music hot spot

boldness, Gigspanner Big Band at St Andrew's was an evening of real richness. And I finally learned what a 'gigspanner' is – it's a cast iron traditional bottle opener, which is now part of the band's merchandise. I was pleased to take one home as a reminder of another fabulous concert at St Andrew's.

Phil Beer

In June 2019, one of the first folk concerts at St Andrew's featured Steve Knightly, one half of the celebrated folk duo Show of Hands. Phil Beer is the other half of that act, so it seemed only fair to give him the opportunity to play a solo gig at the church.



Phil has long been regarded as one of the most versatile musicians on the British folk scene. His solo concert in September was markedly different from the big, orchestrated Gigspanner Big Band show; instead, it felt like an intimate evening spent in the company of a master craftsman who just happened to be telling his story through strings and song.

From the moment he walked onto the stage, guitar in hand and a wry smile under the lights, the tone was set for a night of warmth and connection. He opened with a rousing instrumental, reminding us of his technical wizardry before settling into a mix of traditional ballads, reimagined covers and his own material. The sound was full, almost improbably so, for a solo act. The musician's command of fiddle, mandolin, slide guitar, and six-string gave each number its own texture and colour.

What really stood out, though, was the balance between virtuosity and storytelling. Phil is a natural raconteur, peppering his set with anecdotes from life on the road, collaborations with other folk legends, and tales behind the songs.

The setlist was as eclectic as one might expect from a musician whose career spans decades. Traditional English folk sat comfortably alongside American

roots tunes, and Phil's interpretations of other artists' material drew as much applause as his spirited take on old sea shanties. He shifted easily between styles, all the while maintaining an unmistakable personal stamp. Each song felt lived-in, authentic and generous –

never showy, always inviting.

The audience rapport was a highlight. Phil Beer has the rare knack of making a crowd feel like friends. His self-deprecating humour, sly asides, and relaxed stage presence meant that the evening flowed effortlessly. At times, it felt less like a concert and more like being welcomed into a fireside gathering of stories and songs in someone's home.

By the time he reached his encore, which he introduced by quoting famous 1960s television performer Jake Thackery – 'that was the last one, now here's another' – a soaring fiddle-led number that had the audience clapping in unison, it was clear why Phil Beer continues to command such affection. His gigs are not grand spectacles; they are reminders of the power of live music in its purest form – unplugged, honest and rooted in tradition. He will be welcomed back at any time.

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LOVE THY NEIGHBOUR: WHO IS MY NEIGHBOUR?

REV BILL CHURCH TAKES A FRESH LOOK AT THE PARABLE OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN AND WHAT WE CAN TAKE FROM IT

There is a debate, triggered by the American Vice President J D Vance, about whether Christian ethics require or allow that the second commandment – Love thy neighbour – has a hierarchy of nearness. That is to say, are you expected to love those closest to you, your family; then your neighbours; then your local congregation or community; then your own country; and only then those in other countries? This all started in the context of slashing the United States' overseas aid budget, and as a rationale for stopping overseas aid until all the needs of the domestic United States could be met. This was not a good starting point, but there is a debate to be had. First of all, it is certainly true in a negative sense – if you don't love those near you, how can you truly love those far off? St John, in his First Epistle, writes: "If a man says, 'I love God', while hating his brother, he is a liar. If he does not love the brother whom he has seen, it cannot be that he loves God whom he has not seen." Dickens in *Bleak House*, more amusingly illustrates that point when he portrays Mrs Jellyby as a diligent collector of funds for the distantly and vaguely located people of Borriobola while completely neglecting her own children. But for the main issue, the Parable of the Good Samaritan speaks loudly. It was provoked by the question from a teacher of the law of Moses: "Who is my neighbour?". Luke assumes the question was insincere, put just to test Jesus. But, anyway, it is a reasonable question to ask. And the parable itself only answers the question back to front. At the end, Jesus asks the lawyer: Who did the right thing? Who had followed God's rule for his people,

given to Moses in Leviticus, "You shall love your neighbour as yourself"? The lawyer had to give the obvious answer that it was the Samaritan who did the right thing, not the Priest or the Levite who passed by on the other side. This must have been painful for him, because it meant agreeing that the one who best followed the Law of Moses was the one whom he and most of Jesus' hearers would have classed as outside the Law. If you want to know from the parable who is the neighbour that you are expected to love, then you have to work it out for yourself. The injured traveller was not in the Samaritan's family, nor from his street or village, nor even from his own faith or nationality. But he was someone in need whom the Samaritan was in a position to help, being there and equipped with first aid and an ambulance donkey and enough cash to pay the innkeeper. From this I deduce that your neighbour is: someone in need, whom you can help and who is willing to be helped (we have to assume this about the injured traveller), and for whom your help will be effective, not just a sop to your conscience (which was surely the case on the Jericho Road). If there is someone in need whom you cannot help, for whatever reason, then love can be shown by prayer. But the Epistle of James mocks those who could help but just pray instead. In the second great commandment, your neighbour is someone who needs help, whom you can help, who is willing to be helped and for whom your help will be effective. Faced with that, as Jesus said: "Go and do thou likewise".

Gospel reading: Luke 10. 25-37

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Services at St Andrew's

October 2025



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

	Date	Time	Service	Celebrant	Preacher
Wednesday	1	10.30 am	Holy Communion (Traditional)	Rev Alan Stewart	
Thursday	2	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (BCP)		
		10.30 am	Holy Communion Calton Court	Rev Bill Church	
SUNDAY	5	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Rev Bill Church	
<i>Environment Sunday</i>		10.30 am	Parish Communion with Junior Church	Rev Scott Martin	
		10.30 am	Harvest Service on Zoom		
		7.00 pm	Soul Food in St Andrew's Centre		
Monday	6	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (Common Worship)		
Wednesday	8	10.30 am	Holy Communion (Traditional)	Rev Bill Church	
Thursday	9	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (BCP)		
SUNDAY	12	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Rev Alan Stewart	
<i>Harvest Festival</i>		10.30 am	All Age Family Service	Rev Alan Stewart	
		10.30 am	Holy Communion Service on Zoom	Kath Oates	Heartedge Sermon
		7.00 pm	Compline on Zoom	Rev Alan Stewart	
Monday	13	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (Common Worship)		
Wednesday	15	10.30 am	Holy Communion (Traditional)	Rev Scott Martin	
Thursday	16	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (BCP)		
		10.30 am	Holy Communion Calton Court	Rev Bill Church	
SUNDAY	19	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Rev Bill Church	
<i>Trinity 18</i>		10.30 am	Parish Communion with Junior Church	Rev Alan Stewart	
		10.30 am	Morning Service on Zoom	Nick Hoyle	Rev Alan Stewart
		7.00 pm	Compline on Zoom	Rev Alan Stewart	
Monday	20	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (Common Worship)		
Wednesday	22	10.30 am	Holy Communion (Traditional)	Rev Alan Stewart	
Thursday	23	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (BCP)		
SUNDAY	26	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Rev Scott Martin	
<i>Last after Trinity</i>		10.30 am	Parish Communion with Junior Church	Rev Alan Stewart	
		10.30 am	Morning Services on Zoom	Nick Hoyle	Adrian Walter
		6.30 pm	Evening Prayer St Marys Hertingfordbury	Rev Bill Church	
		7.00 pm	Compline on Zoom	Rev Alan Stewart	
Monday	27	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (Common Worship)		
Wednesday	29	10.30 am	Holy Communion (Traditional)	Rev Bill Church	
Thursday	30	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (BCP)		
		10.30 am	Holy Communion Calton Court	Rev Bill Church	