

Hertingfordbury & The Five Greens Parish News



**Autumn Litter Pick – Saturday 11th October – Can You Help?
(see inside for more details)**

October 2025

Here with you - Here for you

Printed copies are available from St Mary's church

PARISH OF ST. MARY'S, HERTINGFORDBURY

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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 lamp-posts 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 hatespeak 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 Saxons to the Celts; the Romans, the Normans; Scandinavians. Perhaps they have not realised that the St George of our flag was from an ancient region in modern day Turkey. 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

Rev Alan

Registers

Wedding

30 August – **Ben Francis & Katherine Ladd**
4 September – **Gregg Rogers & Annika Neale**
13 September – **Lee Murcutt & Hollie Taylor**
27 September – **Matthew Bellemy & Suzannah Taylor**

Baptism – Welcome into the family of the Church

24 August – **Annabelle Rose Campbell**
14 September – **Penelope Rose Smith**



Christening of baby Annabelle Campbell with Rev Alan & her family

Some Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 1st October – **Mindfulness & Meditation** 7.30pm in St Andrews church and on line. On line only on Wednesdays 15th and 29th
Monday 13th October – **Mindfulness on Sele.** 10.30am at the Sele Hub, Fleming Crescent. Also on Wednesday 27th.
Sunday 5th October – **Harvest Zoom Service** 10.30am
Monday 6th October – **Exploring Faith Course** begins at St Mary's at 8pm (see poster for more details).
Sunday 12th October – **All Age Harvest Festival Service** with organ & choir. 9.15am at St Mary's (see poster)
Sunday 26th October – **Prayer Ministry at St Mary's** during communion Mary's.

Sunday Services at St Mary's

Sung Eucharist 9.15am every Sunday

Zoom Sunday Service at 10.30am (joining details from Robin Bishop)

All Age Service 9.15am on 2nd Sunday of the month (unless notified)



Sponsor a Hymn Book at St Mary's ?



Would you like to sponsor a hymn book? Include a dedication in it to the memory of someone special or a beloved pet. They would forever be in our church.

St Mary's needs to renew its hymn books, hopefully by Harvest Sunday.

Donation will be £10 per book. Please contact Robin Bishop 07984 019797

robinhbishop@gmail.com

All-Age Harvest Festival



Sunday 12th October 9.15am at St Mary's

Feel free to bring non-perishable food and toiletries to donate to the Hertford Foodbank and Haven First, a local charity supporting homeless people

The Friends of Hertingfordbury St Mary

Events 2025

Saturday 22 November - Christmas Market 10-13.00. Stall holders all booked (see poster)

Friday 12 December – WGC Male Voice Choir 19.30

Our friends at the WGC Male Voice choir will be entertaining us once again with a seasonal concert in what is their 90th anniversary year (more details to follow)



Helping the Friends

The Friends of Hertingfordbury St Mary was granted charitable status in 2023 (Charity number 1206041).

The purpose of The Friends is to raise money for the restoration and preservation of the church building and churchyard. The funds are not for the day to day running of the church. That's the responsibility of the congregation. We should like to make sure that this beautiful church is here for future generations.

If you would like to make a donation there is a card reader at the back of the church on the wall by the South Door or please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for your support. Helen Bishop the fobury@outlook.com / 07746 694890



This publication was kindly printed by St Andrew's church



Christmas **market**

SATURDAY
22ND
NOVEMBER
10-1pm

St. Mary's Church
Hertingfordbury

enjoy the festivities.....

Come along for refreshments whilst you shop for your Christmas gifts, cards, local honey, pickles, British cheeses, jewellery, Hertingfordbury gin & much more.

A FRIENDS OF HERTINGFORDBURY ST.MARY EVENT



Pet Service at St Mary's - Sunday 21st September

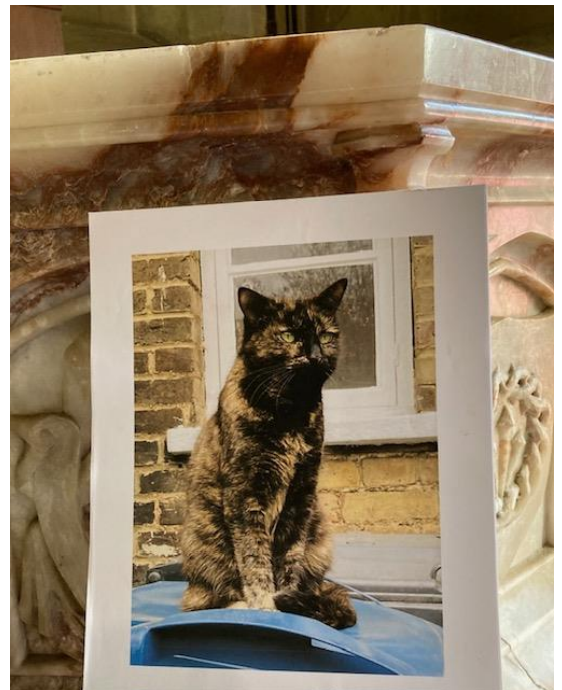


We had a wonderful Pet Service at St Mary's on a very sunny Sunday afternoon in late September. Around 70 people and 20 dogs attended along with photos of cats. But the 'big', lovely surprise was a local friend of ours, Charlie, bringing along her horse Hugo. Charlie and Hugo were at the west doors to greet everyone and their dogs along with Rev Alan and he has such a lovely calm temperament (Hugo that is not Rev Alan!). All the humans behaved themselves and the dogs sang beautifully especially to "All Things Bright and Beautiful."



Pet Service at St Mary's

It was a special service of around 30 minutes during which we could celebrate the love and faithfulness we get from our pets as well as blessing them and giving thanks. After the service, tea and cakes were served in the Brace Room and outside where we and all the dogs could have a good chat and get to know each other better.



It is a very special service to include those who are so dear to us and we'd like to thank Alan and everyone involved for their hard work and a big thanks to all who attended. We look forward to next year



“Can I Help You Sir?” – The One Who Serves

We are continuing to highlight some of the very meaningful messages from our church sermons, not only by Revs Alan & Bill, but also by our inspiring team of Lay Readers of Worship. This month, in a slightly edited version, Associate Priest Scott focuses on “The One Who Serves”

It was just another ordinary Monday morning at work. I was writing out an order in the shirt and tailoring dept, when I noticed a customer coming down the stairs. As he walked towards me, I greeted him: “Good Morning Sir”. He looked me up and down and without uttering a word, continued to browse around the store. “Oh well”, I thought and carried on writing out my order. After a few minutes, I decided to try again. I approached the man who was looking at the shirts with his back to me. “If you need any help sir, please do let me know”. “MMMM” came the reply, as the customer continued to look at the shirts. And so, I went back to writing my order. Soon after, I became aware of someone standing in front of me, I put my pen down and looked up. It was him. “shirts” he said. “I’m sorry sir?” I replied. “I need a shirt,” said the customer. “Yes of course sir” I said, as pleasantly as I could... “Have you had our shirts before?” “Of course I have” barked the gentleman. “I’ve been a customer for 25 years, I’m one of your best customers, you can look me up on your system”. “Oh, I’m sorry sir” I said, ... “I don’t think I’ve met you before, what size collar are you?” “I don’t know” he said. “CHECK on the system!”



Well, it continued like that. I eventually convinced the customer to try a test shirt in his size to clarify the fit, with which he seemed to be pleased whilst moaning about the price. By that time my nerves were frayed, but I refused to respond in kind, I didn’t want to give him the satisfaction of “getting to me”. One thing I did notice, the calmer I remained, the calmer he became. He reminded me of someone defensively shooting a gun into the darkness, only to realise, there was no enemy out there.

When we got to the till, we weren’t exactly best pals, but he was a lot more civil. After paying for his shirt, he said to me “I’m sorry I was a bit gruff earlier, I’ve had a terrible morning”. “That’s okay sir” I said, whilst bagging up his shirt, “we all have off days”. “yes”, said the customer, picked up his bag and left the store.

Trying to be of service isn’t always easy, especially when it’s your job and you’re being paid to do so. This story doesn’t, I’m pleased to say, represent the norm in my day-to-day job. But even when I do encounter times like that, I must remain as courteous as possible and be there as the one who serves, regardless of how I’m feeling or what I would really like to say!

“Can I Help You Sir?” – The One Who Serves

In Luke’s Gospel, Jesus seems to be having another one of those raising his eyes to Heaven moments, whilst his followers are having a dispute, about which one of them was to be regarded as the greatest. Jesus, as ever, overturns their notions of what it means to be the “greatest”. Jesus asks; “For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it NOT the one at the table? But I am among you as one who serves”.

Why is the example of service, the example of one who serves, regarded as the authentic way of greatness in Jesus’ eyes? Surely, true greatness, is to have reached a position in life where others are serving you? Well, yes...in the world’s eyes greatness is represented by the ability to lord it over others. Those in a position of brute strength and dominance, do appear to be the greatest. But that, of course, is to define what it means to be human.

Christ calls us beyond that. In saying that he confers upon us just as the Father has conferred upon him “A Kingdom”, Jesus reveals that the qualities that confirm greatness in his eyes are of a completely different order to the values of this world. And that is why with the coming of Christ, we see an inbreaking of a Kingdom, of God’s kingdom. Christianity is NOT a moral or ethical system; you do not need to be Christian to be a good person. When Christ speaks of the servant as the greatest, he is not the teacher of a servile or deferential morality defined by a “this worldly horizon”, he is God in the flesh, revealing the very being and nature of God himself. And of course, the greatest gift which any of us called to be servants can give is love, the very life of God.

One of the biggest stumbling blocks in the world’s eyes, is that the outpouring of God’s life and love is for no reason. There’s no competing agenda on his part towards us. It is simply God’s way of being who he is, he is love, all the way down. And it is within this wellspring of life that Christ calls us as Christians to anchor our understanding of servanthood. We know, as fragile and mortal creatures, that this isn’t plain sailing. Yet, when we say no to God, he continues to pour out his yes to us as one who serves, even through a broken body on the cross.



Have any of you seen Mel Gibson’s film, “The Passion of the Christ?” By way of a serious warning, It’s very graphic and not for the faint hearted! But it is a phenomenal film, made even more so by Mel Gibson’s own Christian faith and his eye for symbolic detail through the camera lens. One of the most striking scenes for me, is when Christ is flogged, whilst tied to a wooden pole before he is led away to be judged and crucified. In the scene, the real

focus of interest, is the way the film portrays the roman soldiers whose job it is to execute the flogging. The implements they use become increasingly gruesome and each time the soldiers believe Jesus cannot take anymore when he falls to the ground, he astounds them, by getting to his feet again. But what is most striking of all about this scene, is the condition of the roman soldiers, when they are told to stop the flogging because they’ve gone too far. They appear completely exhausted and out of breath...defeated! This scene depicts God in

“Can I Help You Sir?” – The One Who Serves

Christ as allowing sin to exhaust itself to death upon his body. In the world's eyes, the broken, bleeding and battered body of the one who serves, appears to be the defeated victim, when in fact he is the victor! When the blows reigned down, love revealed that the violence had nothing to gain, and that it was simply trying to crush and extinguish the source of all life, which is only in the end self-defeating.

Well.... that's a long way from my annoying customer isn't it! I have a confession to make. When I do encounter people like that where I work, I'm not always that patient. But on that particular day, as uncomfortable as it was, I did manage to absorb the frustration that the customer brought into the store with him. I don't know why he behaved the way he did, but what I have learned is the calmer I remained, the more I was able to reflect to him his own behaviour, even to the point of receiving an apology. I wouldn't exactly say that I was the greatest by continuing to serve him, but there was a moment of inbreaking, of a gradual realisation on his part, that his anger and frustration were not being returned. In the end, the encounter became an opportunity to glimpse the values of different kingdom

Rev Scott

'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

St Mary's Therapy - For Believer and Unbeliever Alike!

One of our long standing and much respected members of our congregation felt compelled to express what going to "his" church means to him. The result? The lovely thoughts expressed below.

'St Mary's Therapy' starts with the feeling of well-being experienced each time we enter the church gate and walk up the path between the wild flower patch and the dear departed. If you're lucky, to the sound of the bells but always conscious of the work done by the churchyard team, the well-mown grass and tidy plaques. All this before even receiving the welcome from Rev Alan who is often found at the door on a Sunday morning. There is nothing soppy or sentimental about St. Mary's Therapy, it results from very hard work by the whole church team.

'St Mary's Therapy' is a phenomenon continued strongly within the walls and perhaps especially when the larger family gathers for the 'rites of passage' – the 'hatched, matched, and despatched' of Baptism, Marriage, and Funerals, and healing therapy valued so much in times of special need, in recovery from illness perhaps, or a bereavement.



So who are the Therapists? Well – where to start with the team who seem to work tirelessly to achieve that well-being? Our Clergy, our Readers, our Lay Readers and for those stuck at home the comfort of contact or a visit by our Pastoral team. Zoom services have continued for those at home and communication continues through our Parish News especially reaching to our wider community. And always 'Behind the Scenes' the Churchwardens, the Secretary, PCC members, Treasurer, Wedding Organiser and of course not forgetting our congregation.

And what are the Therapies? Listening Therapy with super meaningful sermons, talking with friends, wonderful Music Therapy from our choir and organist at services and special events. Coffee and Medicinal Therapy, for as the Psalmist says; 'Wine (or coffee!) maketh glad the heart of man' (Psalm 104. 15), and continues with 'Bread that strengthens man's heart' prepared by the Brace Room Team. Flower Therapy with a 'Festival' of flowers weekly, other Visual Therapy with the clear windows and the stained Glass (St Cecilia). Prayer Therapy when we think of the needs of others guided by our intercession team.

The huge therapeutic value of St. Mary's friendships, (and 'Friends of St Mary's!') so widely spread in disciplines and knowledge thanks to the welcome received. So to each and every one of us in this Temple of Therapy where 'All shall be well, and All shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well' (14th century Julian of Norwich), a huge Vote of Thanks.

More Notes from Eco Church



Environment Sunday is coming up in October. This will be an opportunity to reflect on God's Creation, and to consider what steps we can take to protect our beautiful earth. Eco Church is planning to have an exhibition to highlight some of the actions we can all take, at church and at home. *If you have any suggestions you would like to share, please let us know!*

What is Eco Church? It's just over a year since we set up St Mary's Eco Church group. We have made a lot of progress since then towards gaining the Bronze Award. The Eco Church project is there to support churches in caring for God's earth. If you'd like to find out more about the thinking behind the Eco Church movement, there are more details here: <https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/>

Who are we? We are members of the congregation who want to do more to care for our earth. If you would like to get involved, contact: Rachel Carter, email: raich.carter@yahoo.co.uk

What are our plans? We have been discussing:

- the possibility of solar panels in the church's valley roof.
- zoned heating in the church and the use of renewable energy.
- having an exhibition on Environment Sunday, with tips on how to be more environmentally friendly including how to Take the Jump, by committing to a few simple actions <https://takethejump.org/>
- creating wildlife habitats in the churchyard
- sharing information about how to Pledge Your Pond for wildlife – Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust is creating a map of local ponds here: <https://www.hertswildlifetrust.org.uk/pledge-pond-for-wildlife>
- finding out more about the rare lichens in our churchyard
- hosting a nature themed art/photography exhibition

More Extracts from St Mary's Churchyard Nature Trail

Here are some more places to explore and reflect on, from the Churchyard Nature Trail. Thanks to Nick Hoyle for the meditations.

The Yew Circle

Just beyond the church, on the South side, is a circle of Yew trees. Under your feet is a carpet of aromatic leaves and overhead the vaulting branches join to create an enclosed space.

Yew trees are among the most ancient trees in Europe, but individual specimens are often hard to date with accuracy because the original trunk tends to die out and be replaced with new shoots. For Christians, the yew's deep evergreen colour and its ability to renew itself make it a fitting symbol of the resurrection of Christ and the promise of eternal life.

The Stone Steps

These grand stone steps lead down into the wilder area of the Lower Churchyard. Nearby are gravestones decorated with splashes of yellow lichen. Lichen depends completely on its immediate environment for its colour and nature. This reminds us that we too are totally dependent on God's Nature for our existence.

The Tree Hedgerow

Along the Eastern boundary is a line of mixed trees, Sycamore, Elm, Holly. John writes about the Tree of Life in Revelations:

"On each side of the river stood the tree of life bearing twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations".

We humans tend to think of hedges as dividers. They mark out who owns what land, keep livestock in and shut unwelcome visitors out. It's a case of "this side or that." But wildlife's perspective tends to run along a hedgerow, not across it: a hedge is a useful corridor along which to move undisturbed in the dense undergrowth. This overgrown churchyard hedge separates the farmland beyond from what is sometimes called "God's Acre" on this side. The "Caring for God's Acre" project values churchyards and burial grounds for their importance to people and our history and wildlife. Its mission is to champion the conservation of churchyards and burial sites across the British Isles.



'ROOTED IN JESUS, GROWING IN WISDOM,
'OVERFLOWING WITH THANKFULNESS'
(COLOSSIANS 2:7)

Hertingfordbury Cowper C of E (VA) Primary School

Welcome back to the new school year, we hope you all enjoyed the sunshine during the summer break. We look forward to sharing lots of news about the children's learning, experiences and our school events each month in the Parish News. We have had a very busy first couple of weeks back at Hertingfordbury. It is always great to walk around the school and feel the buzz of the new school year and see the children engaged so enthusiastically in their learning.

We have had a great start to our Autumn Term. Our Christian Value focus is on 'koinonia'. We will be exploring how we all come together as one community with God's love at its centre. This shows the special relationship we have with each other, where as a community we look after each other, we are welcomed and valued, no matter who we are. We will look at how we can grow together in our relationship with one another and with God.



Archbishops' Young Leaders Award

Just before we finished up for the summer break, we celebrated a group of our children who had worked extremely hard all year as part of our 'Advocates' team. They represented the school in many ways by organising and leading on school and community projects, including food bank collections, visiting a care home for an arts and craft session, a bake sale and litter picking in Birch Green.

On the last day of term, they were awarded with their Archbishops' Young Leaders Award Certificate.



Mindfulness & Meditation

at St Andrew's Church, Hertford

***Mindfulness can help with wellbeing & stress.
Explore alongside the riches of Christian
meditation in a free 40-minute session.
Beginners especially welcome!***

Wednesdays every two weeks, 7.30pm

Sept: 3rd (in church and on Zoom), **17th** (on Zoom)

Oct: 1st (in church and on Zoom), **15th** (on Zoom)

Oct: 29th (on Zoom)

Nov: 12th (in church and on Zoom), **26th** (on Zoom)

Dec: 10th (in church and on Zoom)

***For details, including
the Zoom link, please
see our website:***

www.hertfordstandrews.co.uk





Celtic Harmony Camp, Brickendon - Autumn Events



Samhain Celebrations - Monday 27 - Friday 31 Oct 2025

This October half term, join in the celebrations of Samhain, the Celtic New Year. There is a packed programme of hands-on activities for all the family in our magical Iron Age village. Daily activities for all ages include crafting a pumpkin clay lantern, building woodland shelters, drumming workshops and taking part in a Spooky Woodland Quest. Enjoy a full day of history, heritage, and Halloween fun for only £15 per person! Book now at celticharmony.org



Storytelling for Grown-Ups - 'The Grateful and the Dead' - 1 November 2025, 7pm

Step into the flickering firelight of the Chieftain Roundhouse for a spellbinding evening of myth and magic, as world-renowned storyteller Ben Haggarty lures you into the richly metaphorical world of a full-blooded fairytale for grown-ups (over 14s). £15 per person. Tickets go on sale on Monday 22 September at Celticharmony.org - Spaces will be limited so early booking is recommended.

Celtic Harmony Walk-in Weekends - For free!

The Celtic Harmony Camp is open every weekend free of charge! Enjoy the tranquility and beauty of the unique site, enjoy delicious meals, treats and snacks in the Woodland Bistro and for £8pp you have the opportunity to try your hand at the Woodland Disc Golf course. Dogs are welcome too!



Church Flower Rota - October



5th Sue Payne - 12th Harvest

19th Sue Parsell - 26th Sharron Maxwell & Penny Duce

We are extremely grateful for the time, generosity and skill that the flower team give each week to make the church look so beautiful



Autumn Litter Pick

The next litter pick around Hertingfordbury and the Five Greens will be on **Saturday 11th October, at 9.30am**. Anyone who would like to join us at this, or any future litter picks, please email Sarah Sullivan sullivanpipers@icloud.com

It is important to let us know you are coming so that we can add you to our list, allocate teams to areas and provide all the equipment. Many thanks. Sarah Sullivan & Ray Green



Once again the People of St Mary's have surpassed themselves in their support for the "Bike 'n Hike" event which took place on 13th September. The Welcoming Team of Church Helpers produced a huge array of refreshments for visiting participants and the consensus opinion is that this was the "Go-To" place to re-energise! A huge thank you to all who saw to it that the tradition of hospitality at St Mary's was maintained.

Thank you also to the people who took part by cycling, walking or visiting other Churches by any other means. The 2025 Team was the largest seen in our Parish in recent years and everyone expressed their enjoyment of the event, in spite of the meteorological and other obstacles which came our way. There are 35 participating Churches in the Hertford Area and someone from St Mary's visited each of them during the event. Several Churches were visited by more than one of our group.

The most impressive part of our participation is the involvement of so many members of the St Mary's community in actively supporting what was going on. Not only the cyclists and walkers, the Church Helpers and others on the day but also the sponsors and well-wishers drawn largely from our own congregation.

A final figure is still pending but as at the moment of writing, the total pledged or donated will exceed £1,200.00 and the final outcome will be published in the next edition.

Thank you to everyone concerned.

ps. it is still possible to donate after the event if you wish to. The link which takes you to the St Mary's Hertingfordbury page for Beds and Herts Historic Churches Trust, is:- www.justgiving.com/page/christopher-maunders-taylor-7

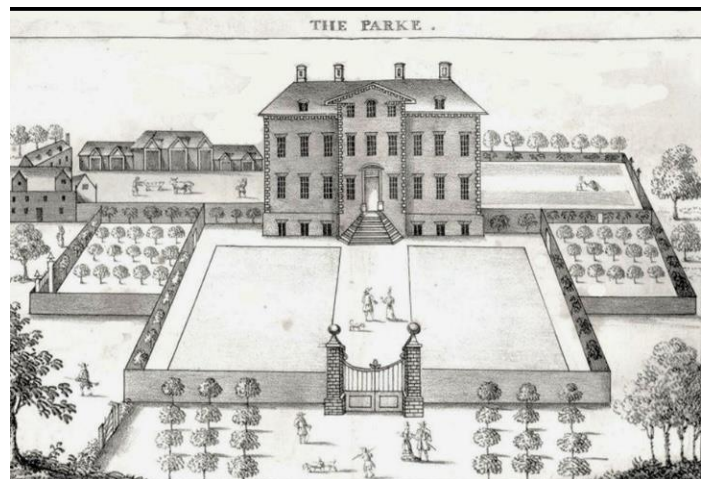
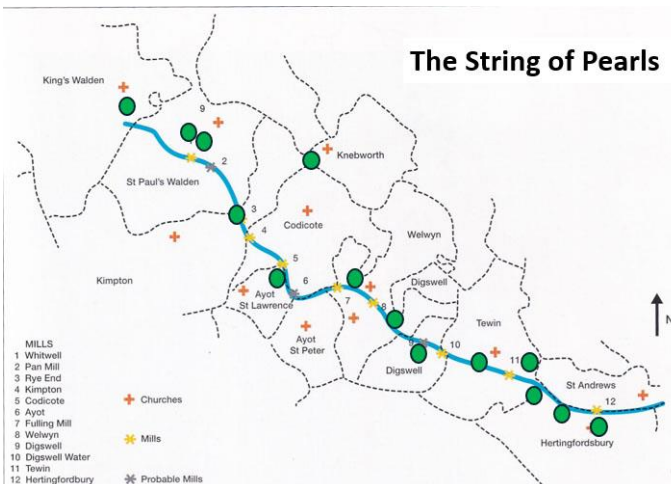
Friends of Panshanger Park

Panshanger Park is a wonderful natural area within our wider community and so the Friends of Panshanger Park are sharing some of it's history - some of which will include the village and greens and some not.

The Mimram Valley Parklands Project

This month Kate Harwood gives us the history of the Mimram Valley. We are so fortunate to have this chalk river flowing through our community, one of only 210 classified as such worldwide

Humphry Repton called his ideas for the landscaping of Panshanger, Tewin Water and Digswell Park a 'string of pearls' with the parks as pearls and the river as the thread holding them together. A project to assess the Mimram valley from Kings Walden at the source to Hertingfordbury at its confluence with the Lea, shows that the whole valley is a String of Pearls.



The String of Pearls & and the “very fair house” built by John Cullen in the late 1600’s

The parklands of Kings Walden and Hertingfordbury bookend the river and both are medieval deer parks and both owned by the king, Kings Walden being owned by the Saxon King before Domesday and Epcombs by Earl Harold.

Hertingfordbury Park was first recorded in the mid-13th century. From 1396 John of Gaunt made Hertford Castle his chief residence and the park was enlarged. By 1604 a survey showed the park contained 210 acres and could support 150 deer. The park was well-wooded with oaks and hornbeams. At around this time William Harrington converted the park lodge into a ‘good house for his own habitation’.

A little park at Hertingfordbury contained Oakleys Warren for the lucrative practice of raising rabbits for their meat and fur (the Luton hat industry used rabbit fur by felting it and making it into berets and other styles) This was sited to the south of the river, west of the village on

The Mimram Valley Parklands Project

land later to become Panshanger Park. Further Warren areas were named Merry Boys, (opposite Staines Green), Goose Acre and Further, both straddling the Chisel Shelf, land which was stony and not suitable for arable farming.

Domesday Survey of 1086 separated Epcombs with 2 households, a mill, meadow and ploughland and was tenanted by the local priest, from Hertingfordbury. This had two mills – obviously not the one mentioned under Epcombs - and the village was well wooded with woodland for 200 pigs [300 acres].

During the 17th century wealthy residents started to build grander houses. These estates were expanded during the 18th and 19th century before going into decline in the 20th. This lowest section of the Mimram valley contains two very significant estates, Hertingfordbury Park and Panshanger, two gentry estates, and a village situated on the river Mimram, the only other one historically being Welwyn.

Panshanger Park The southern part round the Chisel Shelf was part of the medieval Hertingfordbury Park but the rest of the Panshanger valley was farmland until landscaped by Repton from 1799. Owned by the Cowpers, the beginnings of the landscape at Cole Green designed by Capability Brown are reflected in the park at Hertingfordbury which they also owned at the same time.

Hertingfordbury Park In 1624 it was disparked and the deer sold. Bought in 1681 by John Cullen, a London merchant, he built a 'very fair house' accompanied by a park about a mile in compass. Cullen's daughter, Elizabeth, was mistress to William Cowper. Her daughter sold the park to Spencer Cowper, her uncle, in 1720 who passed it on to his brother William. In the 1750s, Lancelot 'Capability' Brown was transforming the gardens and parkland at Cole Green, putting in a ha-ha (a sunken fence) around the pleasure grounds and an octagonal walled garden as well as naturalising the formal avenue landscape of the earlier 18th century. At Hertingfordbury a ha-ha separated the park from the pleasure grounds and an octagonal walled garden, very similar to that at Cole Green lies to the east of the house.

The Park was sold again in 1773 to Richard Baker of Bayfordbury Park who set about landscaping the grounds. Cullen's house was demolished in 1814 and the Baker family moved to Bayfordbury which had been extensively refurbished whilst they were at Hertingfordbury. In 1855 Baker sold land at Hertingfordbury Park to the Great Northern Railway for the Hertford Branch. This was carried through the parkland just south of the old house and the walled kitchen garden, cutting the park in two and running through the ha-ha. It continued over the Mimram on a viaduct and a station was provided for Hertingfordbury within the park. When the line was closed in 1962 (having been opened in 1858) the station was converted into a private house and the line became the Cole Green Way.

By 1906 Robert Partridge, who had bought the lease in 1902, had built an imposing Dutch-gabled brick house to the east of John Cullen's old house, extending an old Elizabethan house, and the Church Lodge. In 1920 the lease fell in and Mr Partridge moved to Biarritz where he built a replica of Hertingfordbury Park. In 1949 St Joseph's School moved from Hertford to the Park. The grounds became simplified and houses and school buildings added.

The Mimram Valley Parklands Project

Epcombs The original house was built in the 17th century and altered and extended over the years. In the 18th century Epcombs was the property of the Hughes family which included MPs, High Sheriffs and Admiral Sir Edward Hughes; at the time the parkland to the east contained an ornamental canal. There may be a connection between Epcombs and the Lady Hughes who gave her name to the wood near Thieves Lane in Panshanger park.

The Rectory This lies in the former grounds of Hertingfordbury Park to the south of the river, reputedly built by Edward Baynes, rector of St Mary's in 1638. Here a canal is drawn south from the river running alongside an extensive walled kitchen garden and slips to end in a loop just east of the Rectory's main entrance. It was the Rectory for St Andrews until 1860.

This cluster of landscapes round the river at Hertingfordbury presents the history of the area from Saxon times to today, reflecting changes such as the rise of small gentry estates, the coming of the railways and the changes to great estates in the 20th century.

Panshanger House, it's Rise, Fall and Reincarnation A Talk by Geoffrey Hollis 7.30pm, Tuesday 21 October - £8 a ticket at The View, Panshanger Golf Club, Old Hens Way, WGC

Want To Know the Answers to these Questions?

Which Earl Cowper funded a laboratory for the Italian scientist Alessandro Volta (after whom the Volt was named)?

Which occupier of Panshanger rowed in the Boat Race and across the English Channel, swam the Niagara rapids twice, and climbed the Matterhorn by three different routes?

What painting once hung in Panshanger but was sold in 1928 for the equivalent of £25 m today and now hangs in the National Gallery of Art in Washington DC?

Which owner spent the last five years of her life in two rooms of the House with the rest walled off?

What important relic of Panshanger did Hertfordshire County Council buy with £500,000 raised by a public appeal in 1992?

Panshanger House was constructed on the site of an old manor house at the beginning of the nineteenth Century. By the end of that century it had expanded to become a huge building housing one of the finest art collections in private hands, with beautiful formal gardens standing in a splendidly landscaped Park. It was visited by Queen Victoria and many important politicians of the time. Yet it was razed to the ground in 1954. Much of the Park has been dug up for gravel, and the dual carriage way A414 slices through it on the way to Hertford.

Geoffrey Hollis is a local historian who has researched, written and lectured on Welwyn Garden City and Hatfield. This talk describes the reasons for its rise and fall, and the extraordinary people who lived there.

Panshanger House



Its Rise, Fall and Reincarnation



Talk by Geoffrey Hollis

- 7pm arrival, for a 7.30pm start
- Tuesday 21st October 2025
- The View



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Recreation Ground Library

A library, containing books, both fiction and non-fiction, including a good children's section, DVD's and games has been set up in the tennis pavilion on the Hertingfordbury recreation ground.

This is a free resource for all Hertingfordbury residents. Access can be gained at any time by the use of keys that are kept in a key-safe at the pavilion. Should anyone have any books, DVD's, or games to donate to the library new stock is always welcome.

If you are interested in using this facility please contact Penny or Mick Barratt on 07715 378212 and they can provide you with the key safe access code



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Upcoming lectures

30 October – **Oscar Wilde: 125th Anniversary of The Importance of Being Earnest**

27 November – **A Right Royal Christmas** followed by our Winter Lunch

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We meet on Tuesday evenings in term time at Sele Farm Community Centre, Hertford, SG14 2LW. Visit <https://www.rscdsherts.org/south-east-herts> or email us on sehscds@hotmail.com for more info.

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Vice Chairman – Haidy Blake

Councillors – Roger Morris, Simon Bostock, Lesley Clark

Member of Parliament – Chris Hinchliff

County Councillor – Ken Crofton

District Councillor – Bob Deering

If you wish to contact the Parish Council please contact the Clerk

Clerk: Katie Eyre at clerk@hertingfordbury-pc.gov.uk

Council Meetings

Meetings are at Hertingfordbury Cowper School between 7pm – 9pm. Members of the public are welcome. Please see website for latest dates

To report an issue with fly tipping, highway fault, overflowing rubbish, street lighting etc, please call East Herts District Council directly on 01279 655261 or go to <https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/faultreporting/>



Defibrillators

Please note that Defibrillators are housed on the outside walls of the.....

- Parish Room (The Brace Room) at St Mary's Church, Hertingfordbury
- Cowper School, Birch Green – outside the school gate



Church Cleaners

We really need people (men or women!) to join our church cleaning rota

It takes a couple of hours every few weeks. We want our beautiful church to always look its best

If you can help please contact Virginia on 01992 583560



Churchyard Volunteers Needed



Volunteers required for grass cutting

Between 9 - 12 noon on a Saturday, we are now trying to coordinate dates to coincide with our weddings at St Mary's

Reward is a picnic lunch and good company..... and a laugh!

Please contact David Gorton for more information and timings if you think you can help

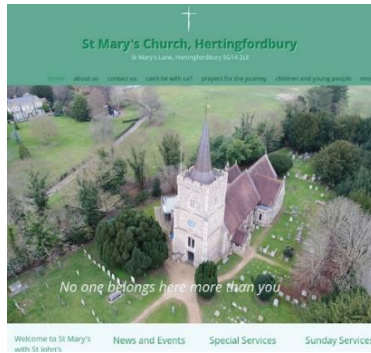


Volunteers needed to open/close St. Mary's



As part of St. Mary's commitment to be 'Here with you, Here for you' we are pleased that we have been able to keep the church open during the day. However, to do so requires volunteers to open and close the building every day. As a village if we want the church to be open – and I think we do - we need some new volunteers. It is not an onerous task.

Please give serious thought to joining the rota and speak to one of the Churchwardens. Thank you for considering this



www.hertingfordburystmary.org

The St Mary's website features all the church news including the latest digital Parish News in full colour

This website is a vital communication tool to be able to follow updates on the church.
If you wish to contribute in any way please contact Rachel via e mail
raich.carter@yahoo.co.uk



WhatsApp Groups

If you would like to be part of the **St Mary's Church WhatsApp Group** please contact David Gorton on 07544 702241

Hertingfordbury Village WhatsApp Group is a sociable community group. For more information please contact Mick Barratt

Brace Room

The Brace Room at St Mary's Church is available for hire for anybody in our community. This could be for meetings, exercise sessions or any other purpose. Includes excellent toilet and kitchen facilities. For more information contact David Gorton 01992 551430 or dgorton1@btinternet.com



Zoom Services

While we welcome you to services at St Mary's, Zoom services available for your worship

Please contact the church office if you'd like to be added to our mailing list and receive the service or meeting invitation details: standrew.hertford@btinternet.com or contact Robin Bishop to be added to the St Mary's distribution list

Twice monthly on Wednesday

Mindfulness & Meditation 7.30pm

Every Sunday

Service of the Word 10.30am

(Every 3rd Sunday will offer Communion)

Compline 7.00pm

Please note that a recording of the Reading, Sermon and Prayers from the Sunday morning service is now available on the St Mary's website

www.hertingfordburystmary.org



Mindfulness & Meditation

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 45 minutes. We begin with some gentle exercises to help still the mind and then a guided meditation, followed by some silence. Beginners especially welcome!

Online by Zoom on the first and third Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm except for the first Wednesday which will also be in person at St Andrew's church

For further details and Zoom codes please see our website

www.hertfordstandrews.co.uk

or contact the church office 01992 504373 standrew.hertford@btinternet.com

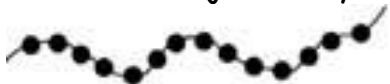
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Something of the order of £1500 is available annually. Typically grants are one-off payments not exceeding £450 for something that will help with the applicant's education in a broad sense, such as a musical instrument, specialist equipment, a field or other course. Grants are available to anyone in school, FE or Higher Education.

An application form is obtainable from Robin Bishop, the Chairman of Walter Wallinger's charity at robinhbishop@gmail.com



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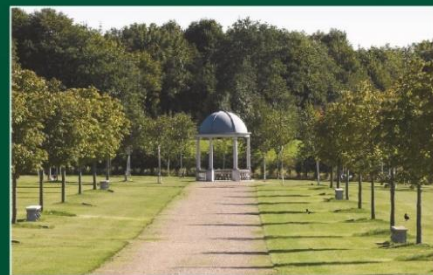
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