The parish magazine of

Hertford St Andrew

www.hertfordstandrews.co.uk

DECEMBER 2025



Drawing by Taliyah, Hertford St Andrew CE Primary School Wishing you joy, wonder and hope this Christmas

Here with you Here for you

HERTFORD ST ANDREW

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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.

LET'S MAKE HOPE NORMAL AGAIN

It's no coincidence that as the nights grow longer, we step into a new season themed with light and hope.



Advent is a gift.

It's an antidote to the rush and pressures of pre-Christmas. It asks us to slow down and step off the treadmill, so we can reset and remind ourselves what's really important about this time of year. It asks us to wait patiently so we can savour the joy of expectation.

It's a time, in the words of Jack Polanski, leader of the Green Party, when we commit ourselves to making hope 'normal again'.

It's so much easier to despair in these times; to bury our heads and feel overwhelmed by the increasing unkindness of the world. To make hope normal again, we have to invest in the power of kindness. We have to dare to believe that every small kindness and every prayer is in fact a light in the darkness.

Prayers don't always need words, because sometimes there are no words. Every day at St Andrew's many people drop by to light a candle for a someone or a situation on their heart, and each little tea-light is a holding in the healing light of God.

whatever our understanding of God, might this Advent be an opportunity to set aside a few minutes at the beginning and end of each day to light a candle and pray?

In both churches, you'll find cards with some suggested prayers to begin and end the day. Feel free to pick one up or download one from the website. This Advent, I'm asking our congregations to commit ourselves to pray morning and night, that hope will become our

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.

new normal, that light will continue to shame the darkness, and that, when that day comes, we will each of us know the joy and peace of the Christ of Christmas.

Wishing you all a hope-full Advent.

Alan

Christmas at St Andrew's

at a glance: further details inside **MONDAY 15TH DECEMBER** at 7.30pm

A Mindful Christmas

SATURDAY 20TH DECEMBER 3.30pm -

5.30pm Beer and Carols

SUNDAY 21ST DECEMBER 10.30pm on

Zoom Lessons & Carols

MONDAY 22ND DECEMBER at 7.30pm

Candlelight Lessons & Carols

CHRISTMAS EVE

11am Crib & Christingle Service 4pm Crib & Christingle Service Midnight Service at 11.15pm

CHRISTMAS DAY

Holy Communion at 8am Christmas Communion Service at 10.30am

THE CLOSING DATE FOR THE **FEBRUARY** MAGAZINE IS **SUNDAY 18TH JANUARY.** Please send copy by email to hertfordsta@aol.co.uk

SERVICES AND OTHER EVENTS

Church Services

You will find a full list of church services towards the end of this magazine and on the church website, with some additional information about certain services on this and the following pages.

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 14TH DECEMBER at 10.30am
SUNDAY 11TH JANUARY 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 28th December and 4th January



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 NOW LATER IN THE MONTH on Saturday13th December & Saturday 17th January 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 SUNDAY

CONTEMPORARY SERVICE

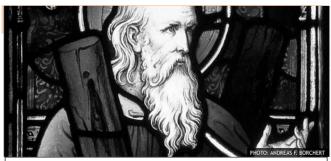
in the St Andrew's Centre

7pm

Sunday 4th January
JOIN US AT 6.45 FOR REFRESHMENTS

a service with worship songs, creative prayer, gentle discussion and time for reflection NO SERVICE IN DECEMBER

SERVICES AND OTHER EVENTS



St Andrew's Patronal Eucharist service will be held on Wednesday 3rd December at 10.30am



IN CHURCH (& on Zoom)
AT 7.30PM ON WEDNESDAYS
10TH DECEMBER & 7TH JANUARY;

ON ZOOM ONLY AT 7.30PM
ON WEDNESDAY 21ST JANUARY

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.





Christmas at St Andrew's

Mon 15 Dec

A Mindful Christmas 7.30pm

Short candlelit service to reflect, recharge and find comfort

Sat 20 Dec

Beer & Carols 3.30-5.30pm

Family-friendly drop-in with carols, beer and mulled wine

Sun 21 Dec

Lessons & Carols (on Zoom) 10.30am

Mon 22 Dec

Lessons & Carols 7.30pm

Candlelit service followed by mulled wine

Christmas Eve

Crib and Christingle 11am Crib and Christingle 4pm Midnight Mass 11.15pm

Christmas Day

Holy Communion 8am
Christmas Communion for all ages 10.30am

Plans are subject to change so please check our website for the latest information

www.hertfordstandrews.co.uk

CHURCH FAMILY

FROM THE REGISTERS

FUNERALS:

We extend our sympathy to the family and friends of:

11th November Gillian Phyllis Gifkins aged 96.

A WONDERFUL MERRY DANCE



Jasmine & Adam were married on 27th September at St Andrew's Church in the parkland surrounding Lulworth Castle in Dorset and are now Mr and Mrs Dance. Jasmine and Adam say, "We both had the perfect day surrounded by friends and family. It was everything we could have wished for



and more. We are off to New York, Miami and then cruising round the Caribbean this Christmas and then back to Hertford to make more memories with our cockapoo Bonnie! We look forward to what married life has to bring and want to thank everyone at St Andrew's for their well

wishes in both the lead up and after our special day!" Photos by emmahurleyphotography.com

AMAZING RACE AND AMAZING PACE



Amazing news for choir member Albert Henriksson-Bell who goes from strength to strength with his motorsport. After his extraordinary success in the Global Karting League where he won the first 3 races despite having never driven on the circuits before, and winning the Rookie Championship, for which he was awarded a free season in this year's FAT Karting League, he has qualified for their World Finals in California.

FAT Karting League is named after the FAT International brand founded by Ferdi Porsche, great grandson of the founder of Porsche, who has co-founded the series with Rob Smedley, ex Ferrari and Williams Formula 1 engineer. Their goal is to create pathways for young drivers based on talent, not bank balance, in what has become a sport where only the very wealthy can rise to the top.

To deliver on this goal to support young drivers, two champions and two wildcard drivers will be selected after the World Finals to take part in a Formula 4 test, with one driver being selected for fully-funded F4 drive next year, the first step on the road to F3, F2 and potentially Formula 1.

Albert will be continuing to use his platform to raise awareness and funds for Race Against Dementia, the charity founded by the three time F1 World Champion, Sir Jackie Stewart. Albert wears their logos while racing and has combined his fitness training with fundraising, recently running 10 km at Silverstone for the charity.

We wish Albert every success in his racing at the World Finals, coming off the back of pole position, a win and a second place at his most recent race weekend, and a very successful recent racing car test. Hopefully he'll bring home the win with his amazing pace!

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EVENTS

COFFEE & CHRISTMAS GIFTS

JOIN US FOR OUR EVER-POPULAR MONTHLY COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 6th December: 10.30am to 12.30pm
It's our bumper Christmas Coffee Morning run by o

It's our bumper Christmas Coffee Morning run by our Toddler Group and features Christmas cards, gifts, crafts and nearly-new toys on sale, a stunning hamper raffle and - as always - a delicious selection of homemade cakes and bakes to tempt you. You can expect a warm welcome and live music, too. All funds raised will be split equally between Great Ormond Street Hospital and St Andrew's Church.



THEN LET THE MUSIC PLAY!

JOIN US FOR TWO FUN FESTIVE CONCERTS





Tickets are £20 + £1.50 booking fee See the church website for more details

Looking for something different?



Then try Dance Scottish on Tuesday nights

Sele Farm Community Centre 7pm – 8.30pm

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Classes £15 per half term for more details visit www.rscdsherts.org/south-east-herts

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ST ANDREW'S NEWS

NEW YEAR'S DAY WALK: 2pm from the Golden Griffin

BLOW THOSE NEW YEAR CELEBRATION COBWEBS AWAY; COME AND ENJOY SOME FRESH AIR COMBINED WITH A GENTLE WALK AND CONVERSATION AMONG FRIENDS

Young and old and everyone in between are welcome to join our New Year's Day Walk. As well as our friends from St Mary's Hertingfordbury we will be joined this time by friends from All Saints' Church. We will begin the walk at **2pm** from the car park of the Golden Griffin (opposite The Sele School). We will head into Panshanger Park for a stroll along a circular route for about an hour. Walkers will then be welcome to join one another for a drink at the Golden Griffin (please bring a means to pay). The pub car park is now managed by Euro Car Parks but it is possible to register for free parking as a customer of the pub. Head into the pub before the walk to register your car. If there is anything you want to ask, please call Richard on 07703 197707.



ST ANDREW'S CHRISTMAS CARD

This drawing of the Nativity by Reuben in Year 1 of Hertford St Andrew Primary School was chosen for our Christmas card which goes out to households around the parish. An amazing 72 designs were submitted in all and 12 were shortlisted. All shortlisted drawings can be found on the front and back pages of this magazine. Well done and thank you to Reuben and all pupils who

submitted drawings, and to the school's staff for their help.

WE ARE LOOKING FOR HELP WITH EVENTS AT THE CHURCH

The Church is looking for a volunteer to take over from Harriet as the church's 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 and involves about 2-4 hours per event, of which there are generally around 6 a year. If you are interested please contact one of our Churchwardens, Julie or Lesley, for more information: churchwarden.hertfordstandrews@gmail.com

Save the date for our 2026 away day!

All are welcome

When: 10th May 2026

Where: All Nations Christian College, Easneye, Ware

You Hers They everyone Him Frem

Theme: Belonging

- Join us for workshops, activities, discussion and music for all ages
- \succ Get to know new people including from our sister Church from St Mary's, Hertingfordbury
- > Enjoy an amazing place with time to relax, walk, run, play, re-energise, think and pray

More information to follow.

RICHARD THRELFALL who died on 8th October 2025 aged 88:

Architect, who gave his time generously to St Andrew's Church, Hertford Civic Society, Herts Building Preservation Trust, Friends of Panshanger, Rotarians and other local causes and charities.



Richard grew up in Godmanchester, near Huntingdon in a house with frontage onto the Great Ouse. His father, a local dentist, started Richard sailing in his boat Winsome and a

lifelong love of the water began as they spent hours sailing the river.

Richard attended Oundle school, where rugby became his second sporting love. He played in the front row in a very successful school team and carried on playing rugby for a number of clubs including Bedford, Hemel Hempstead Camelot and Roslyn Park, before a bad back injury finally forced him to hang up his boots.

On leaving school Richard decided to train as an Architect and went to the world-renowned Architect Association in Bedford Square, London for his seven years of training. He was introduced to Rachel at a village fete in Abbots Langley by his grandmother, and they were married in March 1962. A few weeks later they moved to Australia, as Richard's training required practical work experience. He worked initially for the Bishop of Carpentaria on the Thursday Islands, which are off the tip of Queensland. After a year they moved to Sydney, and sailed on the harbour.

On returning to England in 1964 they moved to Islington and started sailing at Burnham on Crouch, Essex as members of the Royal Corinthian Yacht Club. This started a lifelong association with the town and the sailing community.

Richard and Rachel's two eldest children, Sarah and Paul, were born in Islington. In 1970 the family moved to Queens Road, Hertford and Anthony joined the family soon afterwards. In 1976 Richard and Rachel bought their house in Mangrove Road which became the family home for the rest of his life and where he also had his architectural studio.

Rachel and Richard soon settled into the local community and one place where they quickly became active in was St Andrew's Church. The 9.15am Sunday Service became an important part of their lives. When St Andrew's morning service moved to 10.30am on Rev Alan's arrival they began attending St Mary's as it continued with a 9.15am service; some habits can't be changed!

At St Andrew's it was not long before Richard and Rachel, were serving on committees helping to run church events and Richard's professional skills were being used to preserve and improve the church building as the church architect, adding a new and greatly improved heating system, and protecting the church from lightning strikes and organising repairs to the steeple. This required the steeple to be scaffolded. We can't be sure Richard wanted to climb the steeple, but his professional pride saw him make it to the top,

in order to ensure the refurbished weathervane was correctly aligned to the compass points. He also designed and oversaw internal changes including the construction of the John Summers Gill Room above the vestry and the church office and the kitchen and



toilet at the back of the church.

In the early 1970s Richard joined fellow local architect David Kirby, who had formed Hertford Civic Society, in working to protect the local built environment. The Society soon faced an early test as plans were put forward for a comprehensive redevelopment of the town centre which including demolition of many of the buildings on Bull Plain and Railway Street. The society were able to push for many of the affected buildings to be listed, so saving the heart of Hertford and many of the buildings which still give Hertford so much of its character. Richard served for many years on the committee and expressing

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the Society views to the local planning authorities.



The family VW camper took them on their weekly trips to Burnham to sail and camp in the Corinthian field. Family camping holidays took place around the British Isles and in France, particularly the Loire Valley. Of course these trips included visits to the nearby cathedral, castle or chateau and ended with a search for Richard who had become absorbed in the architecture.

On moving to Hertford, Richard soon attracted local clients. One was the Buxton family on the Easneye Estate in Wareside where he designed new milking parlours and pig sheds and also worked on the conservation and renovation of the many farm buildings.

In the late 1970s Richard was instructed by French & Jupps Maltsters in Stanstead Abbots, which was one of only a few still in business. For the next 35 years Richard and his team converted the old malt houses into small industrial units. These successful conversions in turn helped the malting business to thrive and expand with Richard designing several new buildings to hold new malting equipment. It is now the sole surviving maltster in Hertfordshire, alongside a thriving business park.

Increasingly Richard's work was in conservation, and he started attending lectures by the Herts Building Preservation Trust. He was Vice Chairman for many years alongside chairman Dorothy Abel Smith. The Trust's aim is to preserve buildings of architectural and historic importance. As such Richard was heavily

involved with the restoration of the Much Hadham Forge Museum and Place House Hall, Ware.

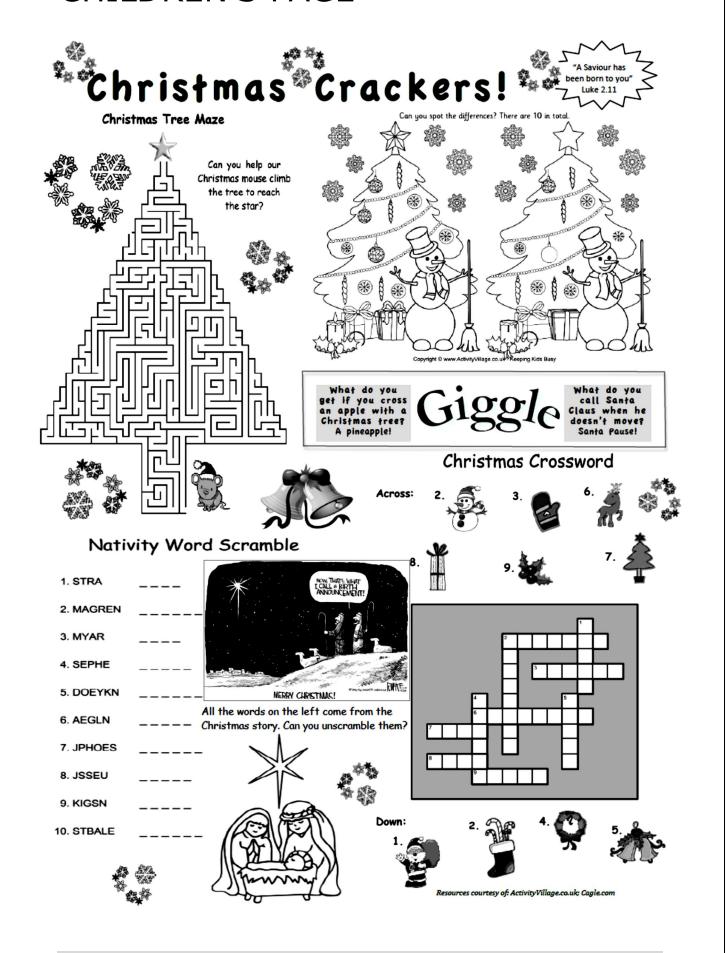
In 1980 the Great Amwell Rotary Club was established, and Richard was asked to join. So started another passion. Every Monday night Richard would head off to the meeting which gave him so much pleasure and enjoyment. He was involved in the club's many charity activities. He was elected as the Club's President for a year.

Somehow, he also found time to be a Governor at Sarah's school, Presdales, and also to be involved in the 1990s in setting up and chairing for many years Victim Support East Hertfordshire.

In 1980 a planning application was submitted to extract gravel from Panshanger Park's 2* listed landscape, designed by Humphry Repton and Richard became involved in trying to secure its protection. Permission was eventually granted but importantly many conditions were applied to limit the damage to the listed landscape and timelines were set for the park to be opened to the public. Ever since those decisions Richard and others pushed the gravel company to honour its legal obligations, leading in 2013 to the formation of the Friends of Panshanger to unite all these groups to work in partnership with the gravel company. Richard was of course on the committee, ensuring the buildings and landscape were correctly preserved. It may have taken longer than promised but the park is now open to the public and enjoyed by thousands of people walking and running within the splendour of Humphry Repton's design. In the week Richard died, the long-promised second car park and toilet facilities were opened, making the park even more accessible; a fitting tribute to 40 years of dedication.

Finally, and most importantly there is one group of people that Richard was most proud of: his children and grandchildren. Always supportive, always caring, always there. Designing extensions for their various houses, offering tips and advice on gardening and DIY, he always had a useful bit of advice. RIP Richard.

CHILDREN'S PAGE



ST ANDREW'S NEWS

FUNDS RAISED FOR CRUSE BEREAVEMENT CARE

At our Bereavement Service on Sunday 2^{nd} November, Peter & Hazel Risby and Carol Kemp offered 'Sponsor a Rose' as a way of remembering loved ones. A total of £190 was raised for the Hertford Branch of Cruse Bereavement Care. Thank you to all those who supported this fundraiser and to our local Tesco for donating some of the stems.

ROSSI'S ATTIC

A massive thank you to Rossi's Attic who have collected donations for St Andrew's for several years. A final donation has recently been received. We wish Helen and Earle every success with future ventures.

January's Coffee Morning is on

Saturday 10th January 10.30am - 12.30pm

Here is a chance quietly to dispose of any unwanted Christmas gifts in aid of a good cause: St Andrew's Choir is raising money some of which will go towards the maintenance of the organ. Donations please to Jane Eldred or another choir member.



'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.

Course dates: the next Exploring Faith course starts in the New Year.

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HERE AT ST ANDREW'S

SOME IMPORTANT INFORMATION

My last article in July's magazine showed where our funds come from to cover the costs of running the church: £2,800 per week - not an inconsiderable amount!



70% of our income comes from planned regular giving by parishioners. Thank You!

An enormous and heartfelt thank you! Thank you to everyone who contributes financially to support the life and ministry of our church, and the community it serves. It is only through the dedication and commitment of so many, through prayer, practical help, time, gifts, service and care which enable our church to be a source of blessing for so many.

So much is made possible by the sacrificial volunteering and giving of so

many people, not least financially. So, thank you. There is so much to celebrate and be thankful for.



Over the last year, the PCC is incredibly grateful to everyone who successfully helped to raise enough money to install the audio-visual system in church, which not only makes our worship more accessible and creative, but also contributes to the security of the future of our building through hosting events and concerts.

We're relieved and very grateful that over recent years we have been in the fortunate position of being able to balance the books. This year, however, we are predicting a shortfall in income.

Currently it costs about £150,000 to run the church for a year, over £400 per day. Whilst the PCC does everything it can to keep spending to a minimum, there are various cost increases which are putting pressure on the budget, particularly in

relation to the maintenance of the church building and energy costs. With these rising costs and our desire to reach out further, we can't afford to be complacent.

Can I encourage you therefore to think not only about how you might like to get involved in the life and



activities of the church, but also to review how much you can give financially to the ministry of St Andrew's. For some of us this may mean reducing what we currently give. For others it may be that we are in the fortunate position to increase our regular giving.

Many do already give regularly through a standing order. This allows the PCC to plan and budget with confidence. If you already have a standing order this can be amended via your bank. If you would like to start a regular standing order, forms can be downloaded from our website, as can Gift Aid forms: www.hertfordstandrews.co.uk/Giving

All giving is done confidentially and I would be very happy to provide any further details about how you can financially support the work of St Andrews:

treasurer.hertfordstandrews@gmail.com

Thank you again for all the support you give to God's work here at St Andrew's.

Nick Sharman - Treasurer

THOUGHTS FROM THE ECO-CHURCH

Jenny Mutch (St Andrew's Eco-church Group) looks at light pollution and opportunities to reduce it

Protecting our night: reducing light pollution matters more than you might think

Light pollution is often an overlooked way we accelerate climate change by wasting energy and impacting our ecosystem health by disrupting wildlife's (and indeed our own) natural sleep patterns. And yet, it can be one of the easiest problems to fix with immediate benefits.

Historically, humans have gazed into star-filled skies with wonder. Today, very few people can see more than a handful of stars as artificial light spills upward creating skyglow that hides our great universe.

But losing the stars is only one piece of the problem.

The human cost of too much light

Excessive or poorly designed lighting affects both our minds and bodies.

Emotionally, we miss out on the peace and the sheer WOW factor that comes from experiencing a clear night sky. Research shows that communities with visible stars and views of the Milky Way report higher happiness and lower rates of depression and anxiety.

Physically, harsh or misdirected lighting—especially lighting rich in blue wavelengths—suppresses melatonin, disrupts our daily rhythm, and interferes with sleep. This disruption is linked to

increased risks of several illnesses, including some cancers.

And the planet feels it even more

Clearly the connection to the night sky is important us but different species respond to light in different ways. Did you know that more than two-thirds of life on Earth is nocturnal. When we sleep, the night shift begins; insects pollinate plants, bats forage and navigate, birds migrate, and amphibians and aquatic species emerge. These animals rely on the faint glow of moonlight and starlight—not glaring LEDs that cause confusion—to move, to navigate and feed.

The good news



Small changes to our outdoor lighting, can restore stars observation, protect our wildlife, improve our wellbeing, and even help fight climate change.

How can I help—starting tonight?

Question: Do I really need this light?

Try to illuminate only what you need. Over use of light dulls your ability to see in the dark.

- Don't shine your light upwards It can travel hundreds of miles, contributing to skyglow and disrupting wildlife.
- > Go warmer

Warmer-coloured lights are far less disruptive but really try to reduce blue light to protect insects.

Use sensors and change timers with the seasons

Want to know more?

Then keep the **7th February 2026** free

Organisations such as **DarkSky.uk** are

leading the way and offering tools for communities to make meaningful improvements.

And best of all there is a Dark Skies Hertford group. Once a year there a community event to

THOUGHTS FROM THE ECO-CHURCH continued

learn about light pollution but also to switch lights off and appreciate the night sky without local sky glow or glare.

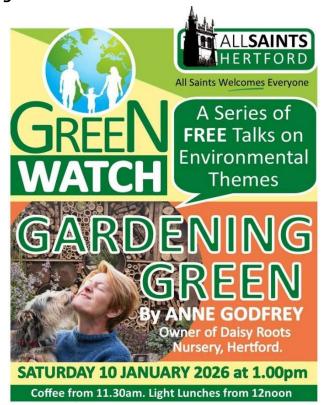
Where is the event?

The Castle grounds with the Beam hosting a film and talk. Already Bayford Observatory, Hertford Astronomy Group, Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust, Herts Amphibians and Reptile Society, CPRE Countryside Charity, the University of Hertfordshire, LAPD Lighting and local author Alice Hemming have signed up to support the event.

Hope you can join in too!

And in the words of the great Patti Smith 'the night belongs us' and with a little care, we can bring it back be that for lovers (aka Patti), for stargazing, our wildlife or to remind ourselves we are all part of a great awe-inspiring universe beyond our understand.

Note: information summarised from the Dark skies talk by Simon Thorp as part of All Saints' Green watch events on 11th October. Their next event is on gardening green: SEE BELOW



CHILDREN AT ST ANDREW'S

ALL CHILDREN ARE WELCOME

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.

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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HERTFORD ST ANDREW PRIMARY SCHOOL

Love learning, aim high and trust God

Howzat!

Cricket taster session at St Andrew's School

Recently, children from years 1 and 2 enjoyed trying out their cricket skills! In the best cricket slang, they may have had some 'slow balls', 'toe-crushers' and 'bouncers' along the way but they all had a great time ('beamers' all round).



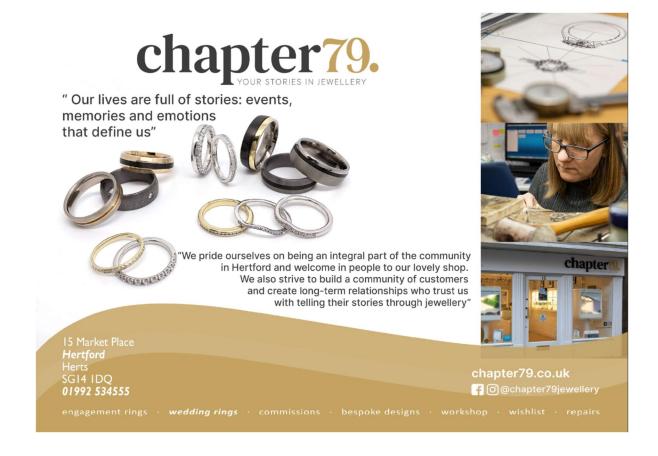


Do you have a talent?

The school is always looking for volunteers for afterschool clubs – even if it is just for a few weeks. This is the kind of thing that helps our children grow and 'Let their (unique) Light Shine'. If you are interested and would like to know more please get in touch with me:

Jenny Mant/Mutch - jennymant@icloud.com

Members of the Hertford Cricket Club will be back in the summer with an afterschool club. Who knows we may even have our next home grown 'Roooooot' in their midst.



HOW IT HAPPENED IN YEARS GONE BY ...

Peter Ruffles writes:

Browsing a past number of St Andrew's Parish Magazine, this short article gave food for thought. The writer is the then Rector and he is remarkably frank for his era, during the reign of King Edward VII. His name is The Revd Evan Killin Roberts, referred to warmly always by my grandparents' generation as 'the lovely Reverend Killin Roberts'. He was a much-loved parish priest.

"The time has come without seeming to be in the least degree guilty of a breach of confidence, I can relate and place on record the unique way in which I was appointed to S. Andrew's. On a certain Friday in January, 1897, when I was in charge of Berkeley Chapel, Mayfair, (he had been a curate at All Saints' Margaret Street) an advertisement appeared in the Church Times to the effect that a Rector was required to a church and parish in the Midlands (sic), application to be made to "Sacerdos" Wellington Street, Strand.

After many earnest entreaties and much importunity on the part of a respected relative, I answered the abovementioned advertisement on a postcard, asking for particulars, etc., of the vacant benefice.

A week or ten days elapsed before any notice was taken of the halfpenny missive.

At last, a letter came from "Sacerdos" apologising for the delay, and alleging the cause, viz., that he had been simply inundated with letters of application which numbered close on one hundred, at the same time stating that he had selected four candidates out of the throng, myself included, and suggesting an interview on a given afternoon.

This I complied with, and in due course was ushered into a room, where I saw a benevolent face which in after years became very familiar to me.

A graphic description was given at the interview, of the church and parish in question, without mentioning names. At last, I impatiently asked where the parish was situated, and after much hesitation "Sacerdos" replied, "Well, I will tell you in strict confidence, it is St Andrew's, the ancient parish Hertford." Then came the query, "Are you the Patron, Sir?" "No, I am the present Rector, but I met a short time since the Patron, who is Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, from whom I extracted a partial promise that in the event of my resigning in the near future, a priest holding High Church views like myself should be appointed in my place; hence the advertisement.

"Sacerdos" and myself then parted company as he had to interview the other applicants.

In the course of a fortnight Canon Wigram wrote to the effect that he had been corresponding in the meantime with the Prebendary Allen Whitworth, Vicar of All Saints' Margaret Street, under whom I served for over seven and also the former years, churchwardens of All Saints', Judge Whitehorne, Q.C. and Mr F. H. Rivington, the former of whom he had visited in Wolverhampton, and that the outcome of these communications was, that as far as he was concerned, he would do all he could to promote my wish to succeed him in the Rectory of S. Andrew's."

FOODBANK APPEALS

Hannah Grainger, Hertford, Ware & District Foodbank's Coordinator writes,

This year we found ourselves with the lowest stock levels since we first began. This isn't unexpected due to the continued cost of living crisis that we are experiencing. However, it does mean that despite the



Registered Charity: 1157028

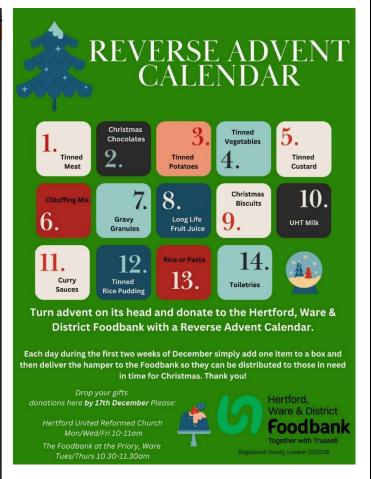
generosity of so many during Harvest, if you are able to we still need your help.

During the run up to Christmas we are running two appeals. The first is a general Christmas Appeal of items needed that help us to create Christmas Hampers for our clients. The second is a reverse advent calendar: we ask that people donate an item each day for the first 14 days of December – see below.

All donations are so appreciated and can be given at a number of locations throughout Hertford and Ware in addition to those set out in the poster. Please see the current shopping list and a list of donation points by going to: hertfordwaredistrict.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/

If you are struggling to put meals on the table, please do give the Foodbank a ring on 07851 708470 or send an email to: info@hertforddistrict.foodbank.org.uk Please include your phone number on the email.







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St Andrew's Centre

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For enquiries, please contact the Centre Administrator: 07593 055223 standrewscentre@hotmail.com







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We are grateful for the support of all businesses which advertise in this magazine. We want them to know it is worthwhile advertising here.

PLEASE MENTION ST ANDREW'S MAGAZINE IF YOU USE ANY OF OUR ADVERTISERS.

SOME THOUGHTS ABOUT THE CHRISTMAS STORY

EXTRACTS FROM A REFLECTION GIVEN BY ADRIAN WALTER

Mary had been told by the angel Gabriel she would become miraculously pregnant and give birth to a son who will be called Jesus. He would be the Son of the Most High and would reign over a kingdom which will never end. When she asked how this could be, the confirmation she was given was that her elderly cousin Elizabeth was already pregnant and God's word never fails. Mary believed what the angel told her and, as a result, we read that she hurried to the hill country of Judea, to the town where Elizabeth lived. That's almost 100 miles south and the journey would doubtless have been made on foot, but Mary is going there to spend some time with, and support, her cousin Elizabeth, who she believes will understand and believe her because Elizabeth is a very spiritual woman who Mary now realises must be in the same miraculous condition. Mary heard God's message and believed it, and this compelled her to do something.

God is not only a God of words, but a God of action. Elizabeth goes on to say to Mary, "You are blessed because you believed that the Lord would do what he said." The reason Mary is blessed is because she believed God would do what He said, and because she believed she was blessed.

In a field outside Bethlehem a bunch of shepherds had a visitation. They saw an angel who said, "I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people..." and we are told that they were compelled to act - they, "hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger."

They were blessed to be the first people in history to see the Son of God and they were an encouragement to Mary who, "treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart." And they were full of joy at what God was doing, because "When they had seen him, they... returned glorifying and praising God... and they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them."

They heard, they acted, they encouraged, they were full of joy and they were blessed. So, as we approach this Christmas time, may we take some time to listen to what God is saying to us which would bring us and those around us the joy that we all so often crave at this time. What might He be compelling us to do which would bring encouragement and blessing to us or someone else through us?

AND SOME FURTHER THOUGHTS provided by Teresa Parker

If the commercialism and glitter of Christmas bother you, you might like to use it to fight it. See the tinsel and let God show you the <u>real sparkle</u> he put in you, the precious gold and silver bits in you that exist nowhere else.

Focus on all the love which God has for you and how it overflows and feel the stress of present buying disappear. As you choose presents sense that you are chosen by God as a present for the world. You are here to make a difference as much as any in the Nativity story. Dream of the difference you want to make. And if you want the presence of God all about and in you, speed His arrival by standing in this materialistic wilderness and call for the flattening of the mountains and the levelling of the valleys in His way. Christianity began as the trust that slaves and rebels had in God. Their example is useful to us today if it shows us how to retain our sanity over the Christmas period.

Services at St Andrew's January 2026



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

	Date	Time	Service	Celebrant	Preacher	
Thursday	1	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (BCP)			
		10.30 am	Calton Court Communion Service	Rev Bill	Church	
SUNDAY	4	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Rev Alan	Stewart	
Christmas 2		10.30 am	Parish Communion	Rev Alan Stewart		
		10.30 am	Morning Service on Zoom	Nick Hoyle	Rev Alan Stewart	
		7.00 pm	Soul Sunday in the St Andrew's Centre	Rev Alan	Stewart	
Monday	5	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (Common Worship)			
Wednesday	7	10.30 am	Holy Communion (Traditional)	Rev Alan Stewart		
Thursday	8	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (BCP)			
SUNDAY	11	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Rev Scot	t Martin	
Epiphany 1		10.30 am	All Age Service	Rev Alan	Stewart	
		10.30 am	Morning Service on Zoom	Kath Oates	Rev Scott Martin	
	7.00 pm Compline on Zoom		Rev Alan	Stewart		
Monday	12	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (Common Worship)			
Wednesday	14	10.30 am	Holy Communion (Traditional)	Rev Alan Stewart		
Thursday	rsday 15 8.00 am Morning Prayer (BCP)					
		10.30 am	Calton Court Communion Service	Rev Alan Stewart		
Saturday	17	8.30 am	Breathe Prayer Gathering	Rev Alan Stewart		
SUNDAY	18	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Rev Alan	Stewart	
Epiphany 2		10.30 am	Parish Communion with Junior Church	Rev Alan Stewart	Geoff Oates	
		10.30 am	Morning Services on Zoom	Nick Hoyle	Geoff Oates	
		7.00 pm	Compline on Zoom	Rev Alan Stewart		
Monday	19	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (Common Worship)			
Wednesday	21	10.30 am	Holy Communion (Traditional)	Rev Scott Martin		
Thursday	22		Morning Prayer (BCP)			
SUNDAY	25	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Rev Alan	Stewart	
Epiphany 3			Parish Communion with Junior Church	Rev Alan Stewart	Forbes Mutch	
			Morning Service on Zoom	Kath Oates	Forbes Mutch	
		•	Evening Prayer St Mary's Hertingfordb	_		
			Compline on Zoom	Rev Alan	Stewart	
Monday	26		Morning Prayer (Common Worship)	Rev Scott Martin		
Wednesday	28		Holy Communion (Traditional)			
Thursday	Thursday 29		Morning Prayer (BCP)			
		10.30 am	Calton Court Communion Service	Rev Alan Stewart		

Services at St Andrew's





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

	Date	Time	Service	Celebrant	Preacher	
Monday	1	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (Common Worship)			
Wednesday	3	10.30 am	St Andrew's Patronal Eucharist	Rev Alan Stewart		
Thursday	4	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (BCP)			
SUNDAY	7	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Rev Alar	Rev Alan Stewart	
Advent 2		10.30 am	Parish Communion with Junior Church	Rev Alan Stewart	Maria Henriksson-Bell	
		10.30 am	Morning Service on Zoom	Nick Hoyle	Heartedge Sermon	
		7.00 pm	Compline on Zoom	Rev Alar	n Stewart	
Monday	8	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (Common Worship)	Rev Bill Church		
Wednesday	10	10.30 am	Holy Communion (Traditional)			
Thursday	11	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (BCP)			
		10.30 am	Calton Court Communion service	Rev Bill Church		
Saturday	13	8.30 am	Breathe Prayer Gathering	Rev Alan Stewart		
SUNDAY	14	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Rev Bill	Church	
Advent 3		10.30 am	All Age Service	Rev Alar	n Stewart	
		10.30 am	Morning Service on Zoom	Kath Oates	Heartedge Sermon	
		7.00 pm	Compline on Zoom	Rev Alar	n Stewart	
Monday	15	8.00 am Morning Prayer (Common Worship)				
		7.30 pm	Mindfulness Christmas	Rev Alar	Rev Alan Stewart	
Wednesday	17	10.30 am	Holy Communion (Traditional)	Rev Sco	Rev Scott Martin	
Thursday	18	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (BCP)	Rev Bill Church		
		10.30 am	Calton Court Communion service			
SUNDAY	21 8.00 ar		Holy Communion (BCP)	Rev Sco	tt Martin	
Advent 4		10.30 am	Parish Communion	Rev Alan Stewart	Forbes Mutch	
		10.30 am	Lessons and Carol Service on Zoom			
		7.00 pm	Compline on Zoom	Rev Alar	n Stewart	
Monday	22	8.00 am	Morning Prayer (Common Worship)			
		7.30 pm	Candlelit Service of Lessons & Carols			
Wednesday	24	11.00 am	Crib and Christingle Service	Rev Alar	n Stewart	
Christmas Eve		4.00 pm	Crib and Christingle Service	Rev Alar	Rev Alan Stewart	
		11.15 pm	Midnight Communion Service	Rev Alan Stewart		
Thursday	25 8.00 am		Holy Communion (BCP)	Rev Bill Church		
Christmas Day		10.30 am	All Age Service with choir and organ	Rev Alar	n Stewart	
SUNDAY Christmas 1	28 8.00 am		Holy Communion (BCP)		tt Martin	
		10.30 am	Parish Communion	Rev Scott Martin		
			No Zoom service or Compline today			
Monday	29		Morning Prayer (Common Worship)			
Wednesday	31	10.30 am	Holy Communion (Traditional)	Rev Bill Church		

CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION

























An amazing 72 Christmas card designs were received from children at Hertford St Andrew CE Primary School from across all years. Twelve were shortlisted, being those on this page. Another highly commended design by Taliyah appears on the front cover of this magazine. Besides

those of Reuben, Aylin, Raysa and Taliyah, the designs which were shortlisted were by Zachary, Eunice, Eira, Sienna, Hazel, Anne, Ella-Rae and Lorena. The winning design can be seen on the church's Christmas card which is being delivered to households around the parish. Well done and thank you to every child who submitted a design, and congratulations to all twelve who were shortlisted.