

# Hertingfordbury & The Five Greens Parish News



**Village Breakfast at the Fobury  
Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> May**

**April 2026**

*Here with you - Here for you*

Printed copies are available from St Mary's church

## PARISH OF ST. MARY'S, HERTINGFORDBURY

[www.hertingfordburystmary.org](http://www.hertingfordburystmary.org)

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## Awakening

The Wizard of Oz remains one of my all-time favourite films. It's the story of four friends, each in search of something they've lost or lack. For Dorothy, it's a way home. For the scarecrow; a brain. The tin man is looking for a heart and the lion desperate to find his courage. These four had hoped that the Wizard would magically grant their wishes. Instead he tasks them with doing something brave, something that would call for compassion and wisdom.



And who can forget that game-changing moment when they realise that the Great and Mighty Oz is not in fact a terrifying and powerful wizard, but an awkward yet kind man who helps each one understand that they already possess exactly what they are looking for. The courage, the compassion, the insight, the way home; it's already within. To find it, all they needed was the opportunity to express it.

This I believe is often the way God works. He doesn't wave a wand, magically granting our wishes. Instead he works with the seed of potential within each one of us, waiting for our permission to nurture and call it forth, to awaken us to become the answer to our own longing

In another film, Evan Almighty, God (masquerading as a waiter) offers this piece of advice: 'If you pray for courage, does God give you courage, or does he give you opportunities to be courageous? If someone prays for the family to be closer, do you think God zaps them with warm fuzzy feelings, or does he give them opportunities to love each other?'

Spring is a season of awakening, and it's no coincidence that Easter happens during this time, when from the cold dead earth new life awakens.

So, a question for us all is 'what are we searching for?' If we could petition the Wizard, or God for that matter, for something we believe to be lost or lacking, what would it be? If you could pray one prayer, what would you pray?

The question which follows is; 'what opportunities then today will God give for you and I to become an answer to our own longings and our own prayers?'

Rev Alan

# Registers

## Funeral

3 March – **Jane Heather Brooke** – 92 years



### **Jane Heather Brooke (7 July 1933 – 16 February 2026)**

Jane was a much loved and big part of the St Mary's and Hertingfordbury community. A celebration of her life took place at St Mary's, a place that meant so much to her, on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March. The family memories of this lovely lady, expressed at the service, are shared below (slightly edited). Many of the people mentioned below were at the service.

### **“An amazing sense of Humour with a Twinkle in Her Eye”**

Jane was born on 7th July 1933 to George and Eleanor Brooke. Her twin Ann was born first followed 20 minutes later by Jane. Seven years later baby brother Richard arrived. George and Eleanor were teachers but in his late 40's George went into the church, training at Windsor.

At the age of 12 the twins were sent to live with their paternal grand parents in Bromley Kent where they attended Kinnaird Park school. Jane's sense of humour would often get her in trouble. On one occasion she wrapped her cardigan around the inside of the school piano so it could not be played. Her punishment was that she was sent to bed early - she didn't take this too seriously and simply went to sleep!!!

Ann also recalls Jane being asked to deliver a lunch meal to an elderly geography teacher. The room she had to take it to was on the top floor of the building up 3 flights of stairs. On the final step Jane slipped spilling the meal all over the floor - she quickly scooped it up and delivered it - the teacher none the wiser !! All through her life Jane had an amazing sense of humour and she had a certain 'twinkle' in her eye which she never lost.

After school Jane became a nanny and eventually to Camilla, Za and Vanessa Horne. At her interview in 1957 Jane wore her best hat. She was taken into the nursery to meet a 2 year old Camilla who immediately stood up, grabbed Jane's hat and put it in her own head, before giving Jane a big hug! Camilla said it was love at first sight! Her role took her to many countries around the world with the family, staying with them for around 10 years. When she left, even though she was no longer the girls' nanny, she had become family to them and an important part of the girls' lives attending many family functions, celebrations and weddings and helping with the next generation, Camilla and Za's children.

## **Jane Heather Brooke**

Jane adored the girls all her life as they did her, always managing to make things that much better. The happy times happier and the sadder times more bearable.

In the late 1960s, Jane became the full-time carer for Joanna Maitland who had become a paraplegic following a car accident. Jane looked after Jo for 13 years and was such a good match that when the family visited Aunt Joanna and Jane it felt like a bonus of having 2 aunts. Jane and Joanna each had a dachshund and Jane used to ride in Jo's electric wheelchair with the dogs making the children laugh. As so many have said Jane had a fantastic way with children.

Following Joanna's tragically early death Jane moved into a flat at Epcombs and started working at Hertford County Hospital, supporting the doctors and nurses with hospital accommodation. While at Epcombs Jane met the lovely Cutillo family who worked for the family at Epcombs. Jane soon bonded with Natalia and Giovanna. Natalia, who arrived in the UK at the age of 10 and spoke no English, said that Jane embraced her the moment she set eyes on her, starting a great love which continued throughout Jane's life. Giovanna speaks of Jane as her role model who taught her so much.

In 1991, brother Richard's wife Sue died and Jane instantly wrapped the family up with her love and support. The following year Richard decided to treat his two children to a family holiday in Florida and Jane went too. One of the family's funniest memories was whilst at Universal studios they were waiting to enter the 'Earthquake' attraction. In the waiting area the host said he was looking for 3 volunteers. 'You - the lady in the Mickey Mouse hat come up!!'. Jane and niece Helen were stood side by side wearing the same hat. Helen quickly ducked behind her aunt leaving Jane to be selected. Jane was taken into another room until the rest of the crowd were allowed in. When the family entered Jane was centre stage acting like an Earthquake victim much to the family's delight.

Jane lived in Hertingfordbury for many years and had an amazing group of friends who she absolutely adored. She had a great faith and a love of St Mary's church, which is where she will be laid to rest as per her wishes. One of Jane's favourite days out was with her friend Virginia. Virginia arranged transport for her and Jane to visit St George's chapel Windsor where her father had trained for the church. By pure coincidence the castle was closed that day for refurbishments but somehow, she was allowed to visit - her friends pulling her leg and saying that the entire castle had been shut down for her own private tour. This was such a special day for Jane and one she talked about often.

In the words of her god daughter Anne Marie. Jane 'had a gift for storytelling, and an even greater gift for noticing the humanity in everyone she met'

The last difficult period of Jane's life was spent at Bentley House and the family expressed their special thanks to the staff for the love and care of Jane. To them she was affectionately known as 'Chocolate Jane' or 'Nan Janey and she in turn had nicknames for them, most notable 'Dennis the Menace.' One of Jane's last acts of kindness in fact was to give them some chocolate!

Virginia summed up Jane beautifully describing her quiet grace and genuine goodness made her a rare and precious gift. We are all so blessed to have been loved by someone so truly good.

## Jane Heather Brooke

Finally Rev Alan always remembered her special connection with his son Elijah, who she barn-danced with at the age of four and how she would ask after him every time she met Alan. Jane was so grateful for everything, always more concerned about others than herself. Even at the end, Jane was so concerned that she couldn't repay the kindness of so many. To which Rev Alan was able to respond, 'Jane, it's us who owe you; your kindness is a legacy that will go on living in each one that loves you.' God bless you Jane

## Some Dates for your Diary

Monday 13 & 27 April – **Mindfulness on Sele.** 10.30am at the Sele Hub, Fleming Crescent.

Wednesday 15 April – **Mindfulness & Meditation** 7.30pm on line / Zoom.

Sunday 26 April – **Annual Parochial Church Meeting** after the 9.15am service (10.15am aprox) at St Mary's

Saturday 2 May – **Village Breakfast at The Fobury** 8.30-11am



## Easter at St Mary's Hertingfordbury

**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April** 8pm **A Meditation for Holy Week** at **St Andrew's & on Zoom**

**Maundy Thursday** 8pm Holy Communion followed by a candle-lit medieval service of **The Shadows** (Tenebrae) & watch 'til 10pm at **St Andrew's**

**Good Friday** 10-11.30am – **Walk of Witness** in Hertford – gather at Hertford Methodist Church, All Saints or the Baptist Church  
2-3pm **The Last Hour at St Mary's**

**Easter Sunday** 5.30am **Dawn Service at St Mary's**  
9.15am at **St Mary's. All-Age Holy Communion with Easter Egg Hunt.** *(Please remember to bring a fresh flower to decorate the cross and something noisy!)*  
10.30am A Communion service for Easter **on Zoom**

***Have a joyful Easter!***



## **All-Age Services 2026**

*A shorter child-friendly service for all ages at 9.15am  
on Sundays at St Mary's church*

**11 January - 8 February - 15 March (Mothering) - Easter Day 5 April  
3 May - 14 June - 12 July - 9 August - 13 September  
11 October (Harvest) - 1 November - 13 December - Christmas Day**



### **Sunday Services at St Mary's**

**Sung Eucharist 9.15am every Sunday**

**Zoom Sunday Service (with St Andrew's) 10.30am**

**All-Age Service 9.15am on 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month (unless notified)**



### **St Mary's APCM**

### **Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

Will take place in church on Sunday 26th April at approximately 10.15am  
after the morning service. Have a cup of coffee, hear about our church year, the  
future and have your say on any church matters

**Open to all**

# ***The Friends of Hertingfordbury St Mary***

## **Forthcoming Events in 2026**

### **Village Breakfast at The Fobury – Saturday 2 May from 8.30-11am.**

A wonderful selection of breakfasts...The Full English, Smoked Salmon & Scrambled Eggs, Bacon/Sausage rolls and even enjoy a glass of Bucks Fizz.

Contact Helen Bishop 07446 694890 for more information



### **Bike 'n Hike – Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September at St Marys & local churches**

Contact Christopher Maunder Taylor 07860 228294 for more information

### **Le Café Francais – Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> September 9-11.30am at St Mary's church**

Contact Helen Bishop 07446 694890 for more information

### **The Christmas Market – Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> November 10 – 13.00 at St Mary's church.** Contact Helen Bishop 07446 694890 for more information

## **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.

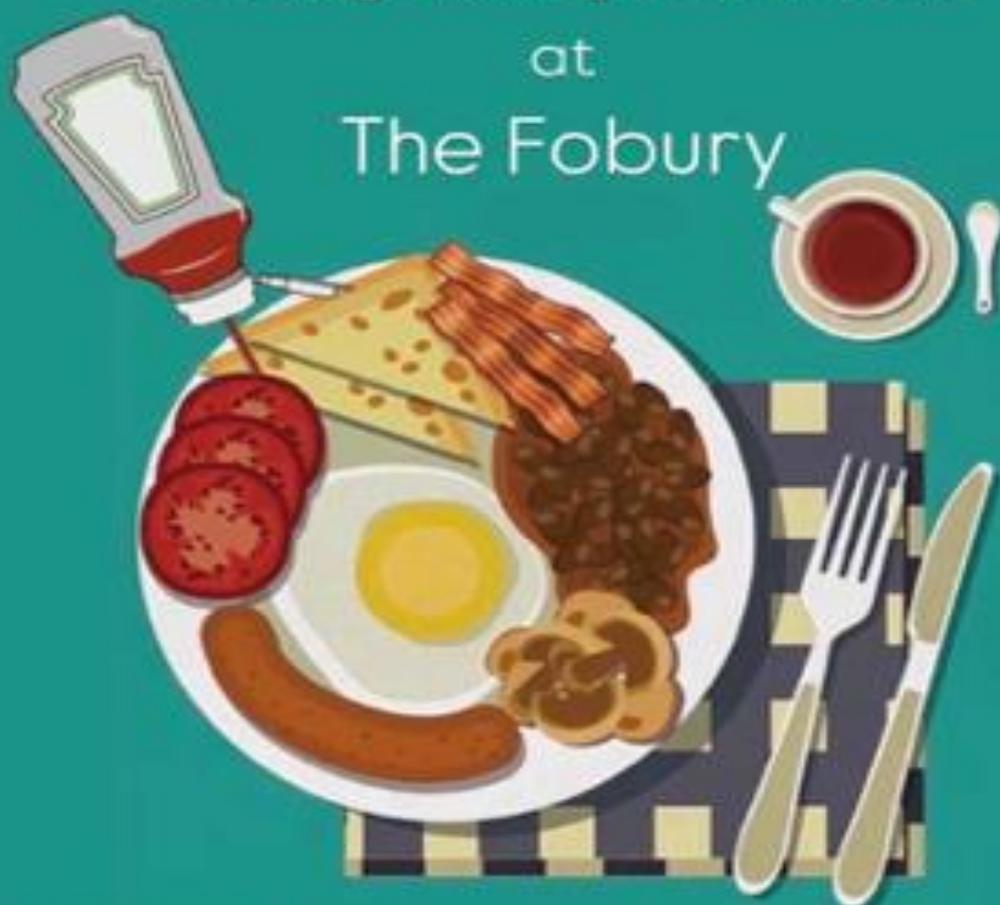
If you would like to make a donation there is a card reader at the back of the church on the wall by the South Door or please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for your support. Helen Bishop the [fobury@outlook.com](mailto:fobury@outlook.com) / 07746 694890

Come along  
to the  
**VILLAGE BREAKFAST**

Saturday 2nd May 8.30-11.00am

at  
The Fobury



a wonderful selection of breakfasts... The Full English, Smoked Salmon & Scrambled Eggs, Bacon/Sausage Rolls & even enjoy with a glass of Bucks Fizz

a sociable event to meet your neighbours and friends

**A FOHSM EVENT**

pls contact Helen Bishop 07746694890 if you require anymore information

# St Mary's News ..... What a Race Night!

What a great evening we had at our Race Night, at the Hertford Prep, on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March. Over 80 people, not just from church but our wider community, attended and we raised over £1000 for the church and our charities. Not only good racing and many laughs but excellent fish & chips from Carleys and drinks from "Robins Bar". Many thanks to all those who generously sponsored a race and the excellently named horses which add so much fun to the evening. Finally big thanks to David for his organisation with assistance from David K and the "Tote Boys"

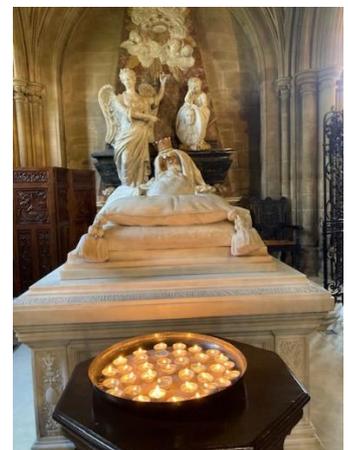
**RACE NIGHT PROGRAMME 2026**

<p><b>Race 1. The Bishops Trophy</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Hu Go Where</li> <li>2. Charlie the Goober</li> <li>3. Purdie Lark</li> <li>4. Noel Morgan</li> <li>5. Rocking Robin</li> <li>6. Trains Tom</li> <li>7. Helen's Mare</li> <li>8. Jumping Theo</li> </ol> <p><b>Race 3. The Gorton Gallop</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Princess Sara</li> <li>2. Prince Paddy</li> <li>3. Tippi Toes</li> <li>4. Top Boy William</li> <li>5. Angels Glory</li> <li>6. India Rose</li> <li>7. Chummed Out</li> <li>8. Flynny Boy</li> </ol> <p><b>Race 5. The Galloping Gooners</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Evis</li> <li>2. Haury Harry</li> <li>3. Nettle Hook</li> <li>4. Nutty Net Net</li> <li>5. Dobby Lee</li> <li>6. Mia the Cleaner</li> <li>7. Rosy Patsy</li> <li>8. Minky Christie</li> </ol> <p><b>Race 7. Vegetarians Inaugural Chase</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Antie Choke</li> <li>2. Mandy Jade</li> <li>3. Dilly Dooon</li> <li>4. Scatter Runner</li> <li>5. Oh Benjamin</li> <li>6. Cauliflower</li> <li>7. Patsy Wapper</li> <li>8. Curt Lett</li> </ol>	<p><b>Race 2. Spontaneous Sprint</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Shut It, Frank</li> <li>2. Princess Party</li> <li>3. Nic nic Noddy</li> <li>4. Celebrant Prayer</li> <li>5. Alan Vera</li> <li>6. Ringer Nought</li> <li>7. Good Morning</li> <li>8. Gully</li> </ol> <p><b>Race 4. The Rocky Road Stakes</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Liver and disorder</li> <li>2. Take it to the Max</li> <li>3. Mick efficient</li> <li>4. Claret Tail Mark</li> <li>5. Sid Marks</li> <li>6. Jenks Dodger</li> <li>7. Nicotine</li> <li>8. Leo son not learned</li> </ol> <p><b>Race 6. Mad Gallopers</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Angry Army</li> <li>2. Me myself and Tye</li> <li>3. Copy Copy</li> <li>4. Zooming Zoe</li> <li>5. Cornflake Connor</li> <li>6. Lively Lola</li> <li>7. Charming Cheryl</li> <li>8. Betting Bazza</li> </ol> <p><b>Race 8. Juniper Jump Handicap</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Amazing Grace</li> <li>2. Ma Be Olivia</li> <li>3. Lovely Lily</li> <li>4. You Are My Shadow</li> <li>5. Jumping Jude</li> <li>6. Kya Sara Sara</li> <li>7. Go Go Margo</li> <li>8. Phil the Skip</li> </ol>
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## ..... Mothering Sunday

Always a special service not only for our Mothers but the whole family. Over 70 in the congregation including 14 children. Of course flower bouquets for the ladies but also candles lit in the Cowper Chapel in memory of the dear mothers that are no longer with us. And as usual a big percussion finale hymn enjoyed by all. Then coffee, cake and a little Fizz for everyone in The Brace Room to celebrate our very special Mothers every.



## St Mary's News ..... " Not a Farewell but a Big Thank You Jean"



Jean Skinner has been a huge part not only of St Mary's but of the Hertingfordbury community for so many years. Now Jean has moved with her family but will be coming back to visit us as often as she can. So her presence at the Mothering Sunday service was the ideal time for us to express our thanks for all she had done for the church with some gifts presented by Rev Alan. Jean has been a member of the choir, rung the handbells, was on the flower rota, always played a big part in the organisation of hospitality at our many special days at St Mary's and generally devoted so much of her time to the church. You will always be very welcome back Jean whenever you can.

A message from Jean .....

*"I would just like to thank Alan and everyone at St Mary's for the lovely time I had at the Mother's Day service and afterwards in the Brace room. I have belonged to the church for many years having lived in the village. Anything I have done in the church has always been a pleasure. What a wonderful church family we have. I want to thank everyone for my lovely olive tree and beautiful picture of the church. Having moved away hasn't been easy but I will be back as often as I can. Thank you all again."* Jean

## ..... Tick Tock the Church Clock



Hertingfordbury Millwright, Thomas Newman (1782 -1870), who is buried in St Mary's churchyard, spent two years in his capacity as Church Warden researching and planning a clock for St. Mary (**left**), as well as organising its financing and installation. On 6th May 1854 a deposit of £30 was paid to Hertford clock maker James Skerman. The village raised the further £73-19

St Mary's clock, having kept time for Hertingfordbury for a century and a half, is now in need of urgent specialist attention. The Friends are raising money for its restoration. Donations to support this project would be much appreciated. If you can help please contact Robin Bishop

## St Mary's News ..... WGC Male Voice Choir in Concert



Once again we had the pleasure of the Welwyn Garden City Male Voice Choir in concert at St Mary's on Saturday evening 21<sup>st</sup> March. In their 90<sup>th</sup> year, having formed in 1933, they gave us a wonderful mixture of songs combining the historic, traditional and contemporary while always treating us to some old favourites like the American Trilogy and You'll Never Walk Alone and also including some sung in Welsh. As always there was a guest soloist and this time it was the brilliant Barry Solomon who played the Oboe and Cor Anglais (instruments many of us were not too familiar with) and took time to explain them as well as introducing us to some unfamiliar composers. Many thanks as always to this very special choir and to Kay who does so much of the organisation.



## ..... We are looking for a new PCC Secretary

St Mary's needs a new PCC Secretary to help run the bi-monthly PCC meetings, preparing agendas and minutes, and organising the Annual Parochial Church Meeting. If you are interested and want to find out more about helping St Mary's in this way, please contact Rev Alan or the churchwardens (contact details on page 2)

# St Andrew's and St Mary's Churches Away Day

Theme: Belonging

Sunday 10th May 2026 at All Nations College, Ware

We would love to see you there. It will be a great day



For more information or to register a place you can :-

Email [awayday.hertfordstandrews@gmail.com](mailto:awayday.hertfordstandrews@gmail.com)

Follow the link at: <https://forms.gle/2XXgmFPsrshmbwtMA> (preferred if you can)

Look for the registration box in the church or let David Gorton know.

**Firstly, a huge thank you to** all of you who have registered your interest already. If you haven't there is still some time left. The sooner the better helps us with the planning. It's going to be a great day.

## ***What the day is looking like so far***

The overall theme is "Belonging." To whet your appetite, we can confirm that the day will include workshops loosely based on the following:

- **Prayer and Belonging**, led by Rev Alan Stewart with Jane Chaplin (from St Andrews)
- **Belonging through the expression of drama** led by Jules and Mick Donovan (from St Andrews)) designed to get you believing in your inner thespian qualities
- **Exploring what Belonging means** to everyone led by Kath Oates (from St Mary's)
- **Home** – what does this feel like to you (a great new offering from Juliet and Alastair Curry (from St Mary's)
- **Children's activities for all ages**

Plus, music from Sam Chaplin, a Eucharist all-age service and new this year, 'drop-in sessions' organised by Kath Oates (a table of inspiring questions from you to provoke conversation and ideas) and Julie Hollings (bunting making for all).

Plus the grounds and surrounding countryside is beautiful; there is time in the programme to immerse yourself in nature whether that is sitting and enjoying bird song, going for a walk or playing games. **Where better to Belong.**



# “Thirsting for the Well of Life”

We are continuing to highlight some of the very meaningful messages from our church sermons, by not only Revs Alan & Bill but also our inspiring team of Lay Readers of Worship. This month we have a sermon from our Associate Priest, Scott Martin

I have something I need to confess! And as someone who tries to be a responsible parent when it comes to my children’s phone viewing time, it involves being a hypocrite as well. I have recently realised that I am becoming increasingly addicted to endless scrolling through social media; memes are beginning to have a somewhat disconcerting grip on my life. It seems to be happening everywhere. I sit down with my favourite book on the train and casually check my phone. Before I know it, I’m half an hour into my journey, and I’m still scrolling with my book lying next to me. Only the other night, I was in bed ready for lights out, an hour later, still scrolling, watching a video of a man who wants to show the world how many chilli peppers he can eat within one minute!

What’s happening to me? I am of course saying all of this, slightly tongue in cheek, and this is not a sermon against the “evils” of the prosthetic limb extensions we call our phones! But on a slightly more serious note, I have become rather intrigued and fascinated by the potentially addictive power this can have over me. I say addictive, because there’s certainly a need for a quick fix involved here; a boost, a dopamine shot, a response to a need that’s been fabricated within me and a NEED FOR... I have absolutely no idea. I catch myself off guard from time to time, scrolling, falling into an endless, spiralling well of promise, that’s never fulfilled, but just produces a pointless need for more! A thirst that’s never satisfied, like drinking a glass of salty water.



The themes of water, and wells and thirst, you’ll have noticed, are very much a part of the Gospel of John. He recounts the biblical narrative of Jesus and the Samaritan woman. We find Jesus travelling from Judea to Galilee and stops at Jacob’s well in the Samaritan city of Sychar around noon.

Jesus’ interaction with the woman was quite radical, because it broke several strict social norms of the time.

There was the ethnic barrier; Jews and Samaritans typically had “no dealings” with each other because of deep seated historical and religious animosity. There was the issue of “gender”, Jewish men, especially Rabbis, didn’t speak privately with a woman in public. There was also of course, the moral barrier; the woman was drawing water from a well alone at the hottest time of the day, which suggests she was something of a social outcast. Women in groups, would usually have drawn water from the well, at the cooler times of the day; morning or

## “Thirsting for the Well of Life”

evening. The Samaritan woman was tolerating the heat of noon, to avoid being seen. So, here we have the scene at the well, and Jesus continues to break through the barriers of moral and ethnic separation by saying to the woman “give me a drink”. This of course surprises the woman, because Jesus, a Jew, is asking a woman of Samaria for a drink. Jesus goes on to explain to her: “if you **knew** the **gift** of God, and who it is that is saying to you, “give me a drink”, you would have asked him, and he would have given you **living water**.”

The woman doesn't fully grasp Jesus' message. She points out that he has no bucket and the well is very deep. Is he greater than their ancestor Jacob, who gave the well? Jesus explains that anyone who drinks from Jacob's well will become thirsty again. But everyone who drinks the water that Jesus gives, will never be thirsty. The water he offers, becomes a spring from within, gushing up to eternal life. “Give me this water”, is the Samaritan woman's reply, “so that I may never be thirsty, or have to keep coming here to draw water”.

The wonderful depiction of this story, in addition to being gathered around a well, also deals with a common human experience; that of **thirst**. The notion, or the idea of thirst, within a biblical context, is of course rich with potential imagery. With the encounter between Jesus and the Samaritan woman, we are introduced to the idea of thirst at the most basic of human levels. Who knows why the Samaritan woman is having to collect water at the hottest part of the day. Is she an outcast because of the number of husbands she's had? Whatever the reason for being made an outcast, she is still a human being, with human needs, with a thirst that needs to be quenched, to be satisfied. And, it is at that most basic human level, regardless of her ethnicity or her social crime, that Jesus meets her as child of God. Not only does the Son of God meet her at the level of basic human need, but he also shares with her his humanity by asking her for a drink.

What a wonderful image, God himself in the life of Christ, breaks through the social, ethnic and gender boundaries, not with a God-like strength, but with a human need. He too like her has thirst, just as he will go on to say, “I thirst.” whilst nailed to the cross. In apparent human weakness, we see revealed, the transforming and Life-giving strength of God.

Within the encounter, between Christ and the Samaritan woman, there is also a beautiful liturgical element, a place of epiphany and worship.

At the altar of the well, unbeknown to her, the woman brings the offering of water to God. The element of water, from the everyday needs of human beings, is taken and offered to God as a response to his invitation to commune with him. His response is only ever to return the gift as Living water, a spring that wells up into eternal life. In a short while, we will meet with Christ at the altar, and the gifts we bring to it, the bread and the wine are not lost to us and kept by him but returned to us as consecrated and transformed gifts. The gifts of his body and his blood are an invitation to us, not to **snatch** Life from him, but to **receive it** by entering it; the Life that he has as the only begotten Son. The Life he will eventually offer back to his Father on the cross, is not lost, but received back **for us**, when sin and death are conquered in and through the Resurrection of his body.

I began by partly joking with you about my mindless spiralling down into the infinite wells of social media, trying to quench a visual thirst with unfulfilling memes, that never really ask me why I thirst or what I'm looking for, but just go on fabricating a need within me for an

## “Thirsting for the Well of Life”

unquestioned **more, more, more**....It’s not an entirely unfair observation, to say that we seem to live in a world at the moment, that has a real thirst.

In an age that hallows raw choice as an end in itself, a world in which we move as empowered individuals, navigating our way through a mechanistic life of data and algorithms, Christ still addresses us, at the well, present with us here and now with the question, “what are you thirsting for, what are you thirsting for?” Its worth taking a moment to think about that question.... Yes, we all have the need for things, for “stuff” to help keep life afloat, but in asking us about our thirst, Jesus isn’t addressing the surface necessities of life that leave us thirsty again, he addresses the underlying currents of our souls. In many ways he is asking us “where are you anchored ultimately? Where is your true source of life?” And of course, when we are addressed with these questions, we stand with the Samaritan woman at the well, we accompany her in an unveiling of the moment, to reveal that it is in fact the Lord of Life who is engaging with us.

“If you **knew** the gift of God and who it is that is speaking to you” says Jesus, you would come to understand that you are being offered Living Water. The Gospel story ended with the Samaritan woman revealing to Jesus that she knows that Messiah is coming (who is called Christ), and when he comes, he will proclaim all things. Jesus’ response to this is embodied in those profound words “I am He” the one who is speaking to you. And so today we are invited to consider, where our true source of Life is ultimately, where is our true source of rest, of peace, that can never be taken away from us. There are many things out there in the world, paraded before our eyes, tapping into our deepest hopes and desires, promising to quench our thirst...but for how long, and to what depths? “**I am He**, the one who is speaking to you”, says Jesus. The one who drink of the Living water, that the Lord of Life offers, will never be thirsty again. Let us all, by God’s grace, make the response, and drink deeply from that well, for it is of eternity. Amen. Rev Scott

## New Bishop of St Albans Announced



**The Diocese of St Albans is delighted to welcome the appointment of The Right Reverend Dr Andrew Paul Rumsey as the next Bishop of St Albans. The nomination, approved by His Majesty the King, was announced by 10 Downing Street. Bishop Andrew is currently the Suffragan Bishop of Ramsbury in the Diocese of Salisbury.**

Bishop Andrew returns to the diocese in which he was born and baptised, where his father served as a parish priest, and where he spent his early life. He described the announcement as “a homecoming” and said he was thrilled to be joining a “fine team” and humbled to follow “good and godly predecessors.”



## Hertingfordbury Cricket Club

**NEW PLAYERS WELCOME ..... You don't have to be good to play here!**  
 Join us for practices throughout the summer – Wednesdays from 6.30pm  
 07747 374638 [www.hertingfordbury.play-cricket.com](http://www.hertingfordbury.play-cricket.com)

**The Cricket Club.**

The return match with Welwyn was played on the village ground on 27th August, and resulted in a victory for Hertingfordbury.  
 The score was as follows :—

HERTINGFORDBURY.			
1st Innings.		2nd Innings.	
P. Twelvetrees, b Warner	... .. 15	b Gentle	... .. 9
M. Lunniss, st Beech	... .. 2	c Cocks, b Hoskyns	... .. 4
M. Slaughter, b Warner	... .. 0	l b w, b Hoskyns	... .. 0
T. Lunniss, b Warner	... .. 0	b Warner	... .. 5
C. E. Wodehouse, b Jeeves	... .. 54	b Hoskyns	... .. 8
R. Lowe, hit wkt, b Warner	... .. 5	b Warner	... .. 6
J. Waddington, c and b Warner	... .. 1	not out	... .. 9
J. Wells, b Warner	... .. 0	st Jeeves, b Hoskyns	... .. 2
F. Spratt, not out	... .. 4	c Hoskyns, b Gentle	... .. 1
J. Squier, b Jeeves	... .. 4	run out	... .. 5
J. Gifford, b Jeeves	... .. 3	c and b Hoskyns	... .. 6
Byes, etc.	... .. 12	Byes, etc.	... .. 3
Total	... .. 100	Total	... .. 58

WELWYN.			
1st Innings.		2nd Innings.	
Dr. Kite, c Wodehouse, b Waddington	... .. 3	b Wodehouse	... .. 0
H. Copus, b Waddington	... .. 5	b Wodehouse	... .. 4
S. Gentle, c Wodehouse, b Waddington	... .. 6	run out	... .. 0
Rev. E. Hoskyns, b Wodehouse	... .. 32	c and b Waddington	... .. 6
G. Warner, c Lowe, b Waddington	... .. 1	not out	... .. 2
J. Jeeves, run out	... .. 1		
G. Wigg, c M. Lunniss, b Waddington	... .. 4		
C. Cocks, run out	... .. 0		
J. Beech, b Waddington	... .. 6		
G. Deards, not out	... .. 4		
F. Freshwater, b Waddington	... .. 1		
Byes, etc.	... .. 2	Wides	... .. 2
Total	... .. 65	Total	... .. 14

Nearly 150 years ago on 27 August 1877 Hertingfordbury CC beat local rivals Welwyn CC on the village ground. So the club has been here for many years. Note that Mr CE Wodehouse was bowled out by Mr J Jeeves. Ahead of the game!

## Eco Church Spring Update

There has been a lot going on in the background with Eco Church. The group met again in February. After reviewing progress, it became clear that we could have our Eco Church Bronze Award in time for the next issue of the magazine!

David Gorton updated the meeting on possible environmentally friendly heating systems – more urgent now that the old gas boilers have come to the end of their useful life. Watch this space for more details.

The Village Art Group is working with the group on an Art Exhibition to coincide with Creationtide and Environment Sunday in October.

The Churches Together Eco Church group is planning a number of projects across Hertford to link in with the Town Council's EcoFest on 10 May, including:

- Methodist Church on 3 May – a talk on Sustainable Eating from Andrei Lussmann of Lussmann's restaurants (see below)
- St Andrew's on 21 May – a talk from Tony Juniper, Head of Natural England plus music and art (see next page)
- All Saints on 16 May – a plant sale

All Saints is also running a series of Green Watch talks throughout the year, with the next one taking place on 11 April – lunch is available. This one is on 'Take the Jump by trying six shifts to protect our earth and live with joy'. Presented by Madela Baddock.

St Mary's is planning some citizen science and nature focused activities – including building a bug hotel and installing a refugium for slow worms, as well as taking part in the Churches Count for Nature.

### We are looking to collect materials for a St Mary's bug hotel such as:-

- Untreated wooden pallets - Clay plant pots, old bricks and clay tiles - bamboo canes or other hollow plant stems - straw or hay

Please contact Rachel if you have anything you would like to donate – [raich.carter@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:raich.carter@yahoo.co.uk)



\*\*\*\*\*



Hertford Churches Together Eco Team

### ***Sustainable Eating*** A talk by **Andrei Lussmann**

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 5pm Talk & Discussion  
Tea available from 4.30pm.

**Hertford Methodist Church, Ware Rd**  
All are welcome, no booking required.

# Celebrating the Natural World

21<sup>st</sup> May 2026 at 7.30pm

St Andrews Church Hertford



*Come and join us for a special evening, exploring the beauty, wonder and importance of the natural world through music, art and conversation.*

**We are lucky enough to be joined by:**

**Tony Juniper CBE – Chair of Natural England**, the public body responsible for protecting, improving and managing wildlife, landscapes and access to nature. Come and listen to him talk about his views on nature as the foundation of a thriving and liveable future for everyone.

Then hear from a talented artist **Cray Thompson** who grew up in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains and listen to music from the award-winning songwriter **Craig Joiner**, whose songs are often inspired by the natural world.



**For more information and to book follow the link at:**

[https://www.hertfordstandrews.co.uk/Groups/460113/Hertford St Andrews/Whats On/Celebrating the Natural/Celebrating the Natural.aspx](https://www.hertfordstandrews.co.uk/Groups/460113/Hertford%20St%20Andrews/Whats%20On/Celebrating%20the%20Natural/Celebrating%20the%20Natural.aspx)

## **Reliable Babysitter Available**

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DBS checked. References available upon request.

Based in Hertford - £20 per hour.

Please message me if you are looking for someone trustworthy to care for your little ones.

Rose Ratna Tel: 07818024104 Email: [rose.ratna@yahoo.com](mailto:rose.ratna@yahoo.com)



**This publication was kindly printed by St Andrew's church**



## Church Flower Rota - April



**5<sup>th</sup> Flower Team - 12<sup>th</sup> Sue Parsell**  
**19<sup>th</sup> Alison Robinson - 26<sup>th</sup> 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*

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Toddler Service Assistance**

*We hope to start a new Toddler Service on Monday mornings at St Andrew's and volunteers are needed so that we can offer refreshments. If you could help, please contact Lindsey Betteridge: [lindseybett@icloud.com](mailto:lindseybett@icloud.com) or speak to Philippa in the St Andrew's Church office. Thank you. Lindsey*



### **Studio57 Pilates**



**Pilates has come to Birch Green; no need for parking in Hertford**

Based in a tranquil garden room studio at 57 Birch Green

Mixed ability, everyone is welcome. Classes are adapted to suit your needs so whether you want a gentle class with lots of stretching or a cardio hit with high intensity we have it all

Small classes of 6 people - All equipment provided

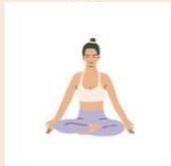
Book online [studio57.com](http://studio57.com) where a full timetable is available

Contact Victoria : 07912755130

#### **Specialised Classes available on request**

Parent, toddler and baby - Couples - Family - Prosecco Pilates with friends

**Build strength, flexibility and balance, improve posture, reduce risk of injury. Pilates really can do all of this. It changed my life and now it's time for me to pay it forward.**



# Purple Kite

PHOTOGRAPHY by SARAH WHYTE

## WEDDING & FAMILY

..... Photography .....

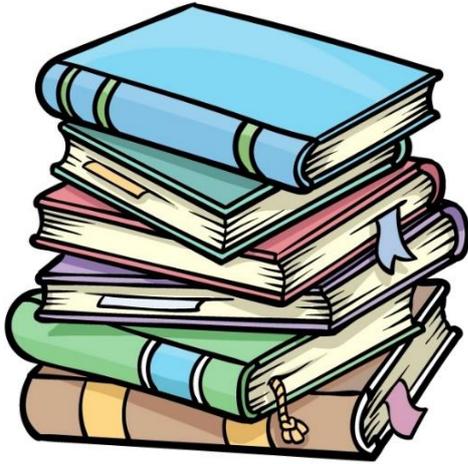
Joyful, documentary-style photography that feels effortless and natural.

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

# Hertingfordbury Cowper C of E (VA) Primary School

## News from Hertingfordbury Cowper

### School Vision Day

Last month, we celebrated our annual School Vision Day. This was a very special day as we explored our Christian vision -

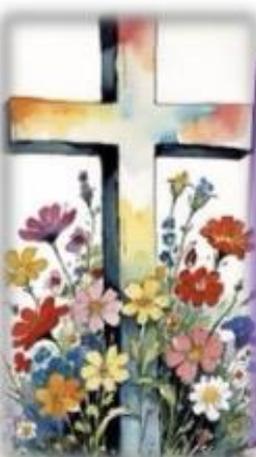
*Rooted in Jesus, Growing in Wisdom,  
Overflowing with Thankfulness*

We started with a whole school time of collective worship out on the school field with Rev. Alan. Each class then explored this further and also completed an activity to reach out to the different parts of our community to show our 'overflowing with thankfulness' - from heart biscuits for someone special at home, cards to the local residents and to a care home, bouquets of paper flowers for a local charity (Mudlarks), writing letters to staff (past and present) and 'Teabag Prayers' for members of St. Mary's Parish. It was a true celebration of who we are as a school.



## World Book Day 2026

We celebrated World Book Day in school last Thursday. The children enjoyed an assembly where they shared the 'Story Bags' they had been busy creating at home. These are all absolutely fantastic and really show the pleasure in reading our children have for their many books. The children also buddied up and joined with a different class to enjoy a time of reading books together - this is always a special time of the children being together.



From all of us here at Hertingfordbury Cowper Primary School,  
may you have an Easter time full of

*hope, peace and love.*

# Hertingfordbury Parish Council

**Chairman** – Paul Rochford

**Vice Chairman** – Haidy Blake

**Councillors** – Simon Bostock, Lesley Clark, Steve Healey

**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](mailto: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



## **Hertingfordbury Village**

### **Your local representatives at a glance**

Hertingfordbury Village falls within Hertford's Castle Ward and Hertford St Andrew's Division

Hertford Town Council website: [www.hertford.gov.uk](http://www.hertford.gov.uk)

For events and what's on: <https://gohertford.co.uk/>

#### **Hertford Town Councillors for Castle Ward:**

Rachel Carter: [rachel.carter@hertford.gov.uk](mailto:rachel.carter@hertford.gov.uk)

Sarah Hopewell: [sarah.hopewell@hertford.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.hopewell@hertford.gov.uk)

Ryan Henson: [ryan.henson@hertford.gov.uk](mailto:ryan.henson@hertford.gov.uk)

East Herts District Council website: [www.eastherts.gov.uk](http://www.eastherts.gov.uk)

#### **East Hertfordshire District Councillors for Castle Ward**

Rachel Carter: [rachel.carter@eastherts.gov.uk](mailto:rachel.carter@eastherts.gov.uk)

Sarah Hopewell: [sarah.hopewell@eastherts.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.hopewell@eastherts.gov.uk)

Hertfordshire County Council website: [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk)

#### **Hertfordshire County Councillor for Hertford St Andrew's**

Rachel Carter: [rachel.carter@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:rachel.carter@hertfordshire.gov.uk)

#### **Member of Parliament for Hertford and Stortford**

Josh Dean: [josh.dean.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:josh.dean.mp@parliament.uk)

<https://www.joshdean.co.uk/>

#### **Castle Plus Neighbourhood Plan**

Hertingfordbury Village residents are involved in drawing up a Neighbourhood Plan for Hertford Castle Plus area. To find out more and get involved, contact Mick Barratt: [michael.barratt@sky.com](mailto:michael.barratt@sky.com)

You can find out more on the website here: <https://www.castleplushertford.co.uk>



CUCUMBER FIELDS

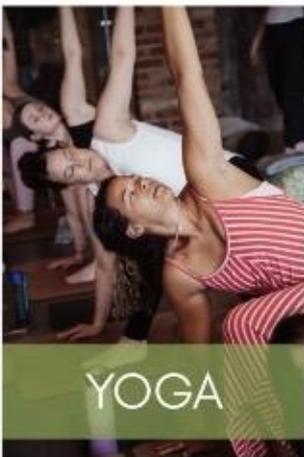
# SPRING INTO APRIL WITH OUR WELLBEING CHALLENGE

As the fresh energy of Spring arrives, let it inspire your wellbeing.

**Attend 12 classes or more during April and we'll enter you into our prize draw with 3 prizes to be awarded!**

To help keep your motivation in flow, a scoreboard will be pinned up in The Pantry - simply add your name and set your intention of keeping up your wellbeing throughout April. We will be cheering you on!

**Prize winners will be announced at the end of the month and contacted via email.**



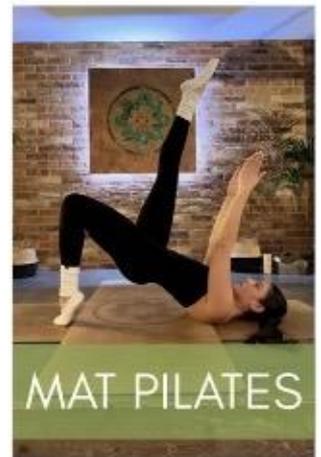
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We bring people together through a shared curiosity for the arts. We meet on the last Thursday of the month to hear arts related lectures in a comfortable, friendly atmosphere at the The Spotlight in Hoddesdon. We meet for coffee at 10am, followed by the lecture at 10.30. **Visitors are very welcome at the lectures for a small fee.** Contact Philip Juniper at [kpjuniper@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:kpjuniper@yahoo.co.uk) for more information on joining

### Upcoming lectures

30 April – **The Magic Flute** by *Peter Medhurst*

28 May – **Monopoly; evolution of the best-selling game** by *Peter Mendham*

25 June – **Botticelli's Florence** by *Paula Nuttall*

For more information please go to our website

[www.theartssocietyleastherts.org.uk](http://www.theartssocietyleastherts.org.uk)

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### SCOTTISH DANCING IN HERTFORD – 65 YEARS AND COUNTING!

Hello Hertingfordbury and The Greens!

Have you done the Dashing White Sergeant at a barn dance or the Eightsome Reel at a wedding? At South East Herts Scottish Country Dance Society (SEHSCDS) we do the same sort of dances, but with a bit more polish.

Scottish country dancing is a very social form of dance which relies on mutual co-operation. Following the patterns of the dance and dancing in time together is fun, exciting and highly satisfying. We are a friendly group of people and would be delighted to get to know you.

So if you're interested in something fun, which helps you get fitter and make new friends, then come along and try Scottish Dancing for yourself. Complete beginners always welcome. First session free.

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](mailto:sehscds@hotmail.com) for more info.

Look forward to meeting you




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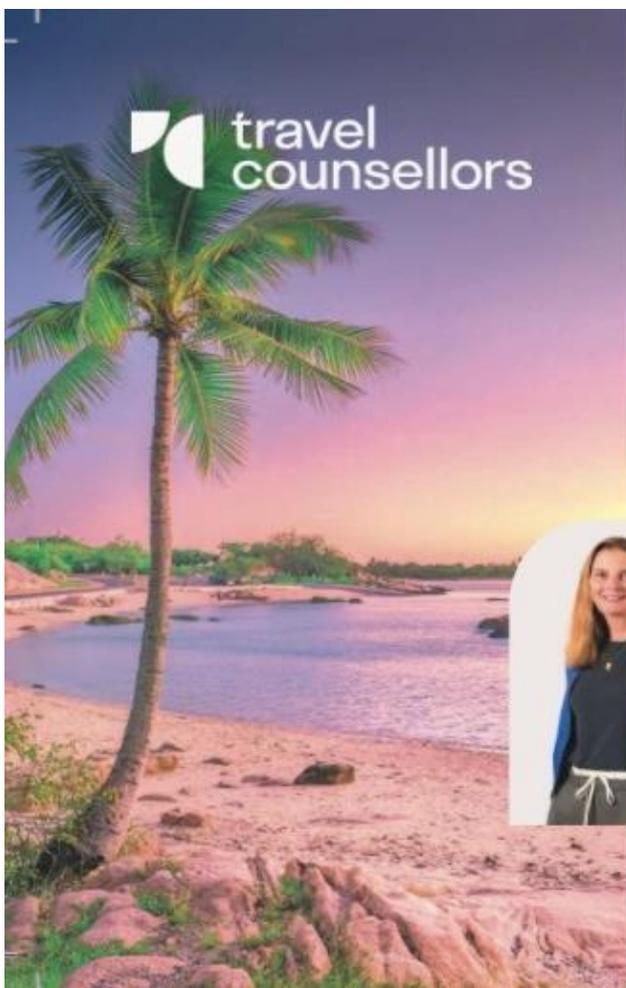
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## Church Cleaners

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

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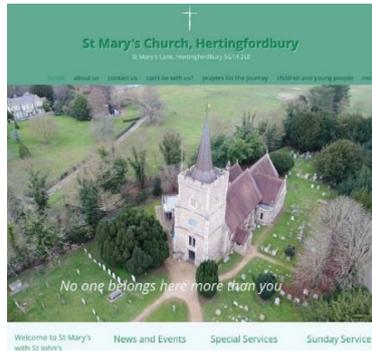


## Volunteers needed to open/close St. Mary's



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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:standrew.hertford@btinternet.com) or contact Robin Bishop to be added to the St Mary's distribution list

**Wednesday** (Usually Twice Monthly)  
Mindfulness & Meditation 7.30pm

**Sunday**  
Service of the Word 10.30am

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](http://www.hertingfordburystmary.org)



## **Mindfulness & Meditation**

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

Each 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 Wednesdays, usually twice a month at 7.30pm – dates vary so please see St Andrew's website or "Dates for you Diary" earlier in this publication**

For further details and Zoom codes please see our website

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

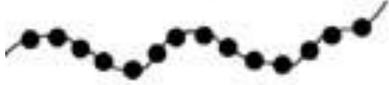
or contact the church office 01992 504373 [standrew.hertford@btinternet.com](mailto:standrew.hertford@btinternet.com)

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## WALTER WALLINGER CHARITY

Walter Wallinger died in 1709 leaving "Four hundred pounds for the placing of poor children of this Parish as Apprentices."

Times have moved on and the trustees of the charity now take the view that the income from the endowment should be used to give grants for educational purposes to people under 25 who have for at least two years lived, or been educated, within 'the ancient parish of Hertingfordbury' which today roughly means Hertingfordbury village and the five Greens and outlying houses.

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](mailto:robinhbishop@gmail.com)



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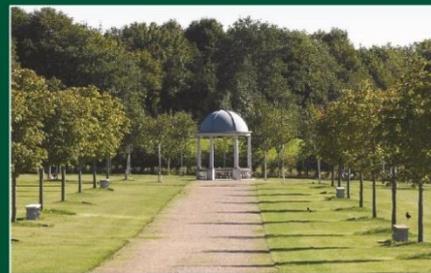
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