

In Peace



12th November Cllr Russell Radford

Holy Baptism



13th October Ava Rose Clare,
Olivia Louise Wicks,
Daisy-May Elsdon,
Sophie Louise Painter

Mothers Union

Sun 1st December: Advent Sunday. Our MU travelling cribs will be blessed & sent on their journeys from home to home until Christmas Eve. If you would like a crib to come to your home please speak to Ann Stephens-Jones or Rosemary Bolton.

Mon 2nd December: Wreath Making

As part of our preparation for Advent and Christmas we will be making our Christmas wreaths in the Church Meeting Room from 7.30pm. Bring greenery, secateurs and garden twine.

Tues 14th January 2014 AGM and Planning Meeting

AGM and planning meeting followed by pot luck supper with refreshments and finger buffet food in the Church Meeting Room at 7.30pm. Please come with good ideas for 2014.

For more details see either Rosemary Bolton or Ann Stephens-Jones.

Pause for Advent

Saturday 14th December
10am-3pm: The Grove, Port Hill

In the busyness of Christmas an opportunity to pause, relax and reflect in beautiful surroundings.

Short, led reflections around a log fire with times of silence and space to pray, walk, read or rest



Numbers are limited.
Please Call Alan 01992 582726
h.alanstewart@tiscali.co.uk
Please bring a packed lunch

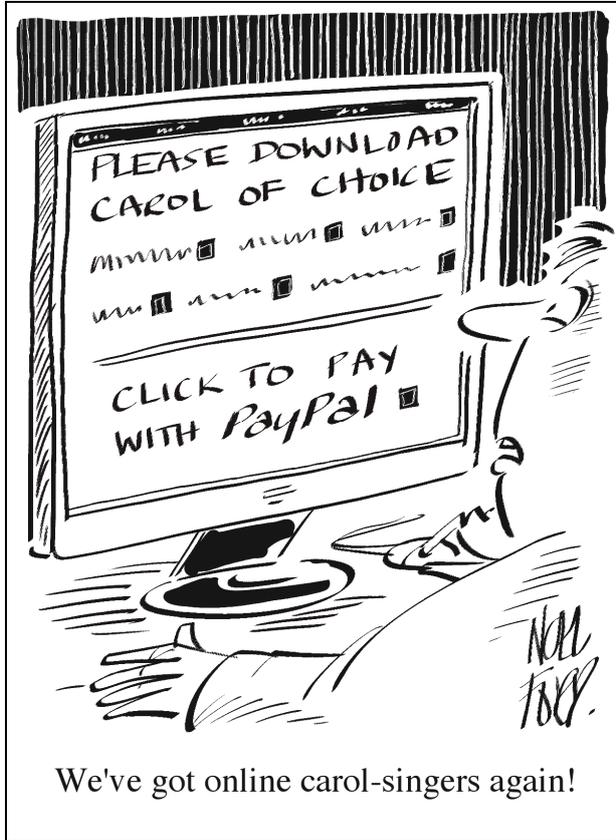
News from the Foodbank.

After six months of operation (8th April to 7th October), what have we learned?

- ✓ That the churches, people and schools of Hertford are very generous;
- ✓ That the demand for the use of the Foodbank is twice that which we originally expected;
- ✓ That we have fed about 100 people per month to help them through a time of crisis;
- ✓ That the advice of having a food stock of about 2 tons is what we need;
- ✓ We received about 4.5 tons of food;
- ✓ We have given out about 3 tons of food;
- ✓ That we signpost clients to organisations that can give long-term guidance;
- ✓ Lives can be changed;
- ✓ Church and community groups can work together to give help in time of

crisis;70 volunteers from churches and the community unite to make the Foodbank work.

- ✓ 16 churches and 15 community groups are agencies able to give out Vouchers



There has been a huge learning curve in the organisation of the FoodBank too.

In addition to the food donation mentioned above, during the schools' and churches' Harvest Festival season we have received 1.7 tons of food with a little more promised! So special thanks go to all who have supported the Foodbank; I have noted Duncombe, Bengeo, Simon Balle, Millmead, Wheatcroft, Abel Smith, and St. Andrews Schools and Holy Trinity, Waterford/Watton at Stone, St. Andrews, All Saints, St. Josephs, Hertford Methodist, Watton-at-Stone Methodist and the United Reformed churches.

All in all we have got off to a good start. It is a national scandal that there is a need for Foodbanks across the country. This is an issue that the Trussell Trust has national status to argue. From questions and comments in The House it is clear that

Trussell Trust's comments are awkward and not the spin that Ministers of State wish to give. On the local basis it is good that we can help so many people. Through the Foodbank we are able at least to live out James 2.16-17: "If one of you says to him, "Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead"!

So thank you to all who have been involved, from bringing a can of food now and again through to the management team and especially the volunteers who put in a lot of time and effort to give people some help in a time of crisis.

DKB, Chair Hertford FoodBank

As Prophets in a Holy Race

As prophets in a holy race
 We fled destruction at a pace
 Of five nautical knots or so,
 Our flight purposively slow.
 Amid infinities of blue
 We sailed for inspirations new.
 Deserts demanding total war
 Humbled beneath the ocean floor
 (We scraped the bottoms of our ships
 Across Egyptian pyramids).
 But the one thing we could not flee –
 That pre-existing sympathy
 Connecting every beating heart –
 Enjoined us to revise our chart.
 We saw the floating shards of Zeus
 Reflecting colours of God's Truce,
 And departed isolation
 For a human destination.

In port we cleared our feet of sand
 From what remained of unjust land.
 With righteous steps we took the way
 Upwards into the woods; a day
 Passed, then another; finally
 We entered a cemetery,
 Solitarily tendered by
 A voice, or was it more a cry?

"Tree branches in their movements
 freeze,
 I'll witness no more orphaned leaves.
 And if old age demand their fall,

Render me a leafy wall.
Enclosed I'll sink into the earth,
Annihilating my cruel birth.

"Drown my grave inside wild oceans
Then cosmological motions
Cease. Bolt Creation in a place
Unknown to Laws of Loss and Waste.
And as Creation you renew,
Return to me myself more true.

"Raise up from dust my fallen love,
Ascending as a turtle dove.
Restored now as an evergreen,
I'll listen to her song unseen.
With simple threads of verse I'll start
The insulation of my heart."

Our fathers from an exile long
Had also had their protest songs,
And over time they'd come to see
That singing them had made them free.
So as their sons we'd greet each day
Performing psalms against decay:
Justice was also our desire.
Yet our God was the God of fire,
Descending in the wilderness
To make a new truth manifest,
Who chose to speak to us in time.
To fail to move would be our crime.
We slipped our boats into the seas
And joined the other refugees.

Stephen Bardle

Unique Advent calendar

The UK's only Fairtrade charity Advent calendar with a free copy of the Christmas story in the box is set to raise £25,000 for the Children's Society.

The Real Advent Calendar has a window for each day of December, behind which is a Belgian chocolate star and a line from the Christmas story.

The Advent calendar is the latest in a line of products from the Meaningful Chocolate Company, following the success of the Real Easter Egg, launched in 2011. More than £100,000 has now been raised for charitable projects.

Tesco is the only supermarket stocking the calendar this year. The Archbishop of York, Dr John Sentamu said: "The Real Advent Calendar offers a unique way to share the Christmas story while supporting The Children's Society and Fairtrade. I believe it will be widely welcomed by all." He is urging people to buy a Real Advent calendar this year.

New Hall Treasurer needed

After many years of loyal and valuable service, Tony James wishes to retire in early 2014. A full appreciation will follow in due course.

In the meantime, if anyone feels able to take up this role please speak to Jo.



HELP IN THE HOME SERVICE – AGE UK HERTFORDSHIRE

Are you an older person living in Hertfordshire?
Do you need help with domestic tasks? Our Home Helpers can clean the house; do the laundry; collect shopping etc. Charges will apply please call **01992 747959** for more information.

ih Isabel Hospice
Local Care for Local People since 1982

Carols in the Chapel

THURSDAY 19TH DECEMBER
7.30PM

Come and Sing with us!

The Chapel, Haileybury College, Hertford Heath, SG13 7NU
TICKETS £15 TO INCLUDE FESTIVE REFRESHMENTS

All enquiries to Katie Robertson:
E-mail: katie.robertson@isabelhospice.org.uk
01707 382500

You can purchase your tickets online by following the link on your smartphone

www.isabelhospice.org.uk
Registered Charity No. 1046025

