

Holy Matrimony

4th May *Darren Vincent Hopkins and Lianda
Melissa Wythe*

5th May *Dominic Thomas Nash and Rong Wu*

Holy Baptism

29th April *Harry Edward Collins*

In Peace

19th April *Pat Fradley*

20th April *Brenda Jones*

10th May *Vera Long*

Mothers' Union

On Tuesday 26th June at 7.30pm in the Church meeting room, we are delighted to welcome members from the Deanery Mothers' Union to listen to Diocesan President Susan Roberts speak on the 2012 MU Theme "Going for Gold". Susan has visited us several times & is an excellent & entertaining speaker. Everyone is very welcome to join us and if anyone requires a lift, please let Rosemary Bolton or myself know.

Ann Stephens Jones

Vera Long

Vera was born in Darlington in 1916, but the family moved 6 months later to Glasshouses, near Paleley Bridge, York. She started school here, and it was a village she loved and would return to. In 1922 the family moved to Langley Moor, County Durham, which was a huge contrast being a pit village and life there was very basic. The whole family had to live in one room, there was no kitchen

and terrible drainage. Her mother had rheumatic fever twice.

Vera attended the Wesleyan Church there. Thankfully they moved on to Durham where the new house felt like a palace and improvements were regularly made.

Vera attended the Girl's Demonstration School and gained a scholarship to Durham Girls' County School, where she was very happy. By 1934 she was ready for Avery Hill Training College in Eltham, and began her teaching career at Ushaw Infants School, leading her to Thundridge School in the middle of the Second World War, before teaching at Longmore Girls School.

She married Leslie in 1941 just as they moved to Hertford, and as the 1940s ended they adopted Peter and Elizabeth. By 1959 Vera had begun teaching at Hertford Secondary School, now named Simon Balle. Vera loved teaching.



Leslie died in 1975 and Vera retired the next year, when she took up WEA classes and then later the University of the Third Age and the Townswomen's Guild, also belonging to the Young Wives group when it was formed

and taking a leadership role many times. Vera moved on to Reading for Pleasure and reading Latin, which she continued to do until her mid-nineties; she continued to derive a vast amount of pleasure from these groups. At the end of 2010 she joined Hertford Disability Association.

In her final year she encountered a loss of energy and strength, and lost some of her confidence due to falls. Pam, a great family friend, recalls that she invited Vera to a Poker evening! Vera accepted, she was keen to see what went on. As she was holding a drink a younger member of the party commented: "aren't your nails beautiful!" Vera replied "I was 90 and I was walking past a new place in Hertford, it was a nail bar, I had never come across this before and told myself it's never too late to

experience what life offers and so I went in and had my nails done!"

It was this attitude of delight and interest in life that we all admired. She would always ask her visitors about books they were reading, and she would comment on the small marvels of nature – the lovely flowers or plants that "someone who barely knows me gave me. Why should they do that?" she wondered "Because," we would reply, "you are such a great person"

Choir Appointments



On 13th May Thomas Oates retired as Head Chorister, becoming Head Chorister Emeritus and moving to the back rows later in the year.

As a 'Thank you' Thomas received a gift voucher to spend on music.

Our new Head Chorister is Michael Stephens-Jones and his Deputy is Eleanor Mackay.

The photograph, taken at the Civic Service a week later shows all three with the new mayor (Cllr Jane Sartin) and Martin & Jo.

Activity in the Belfry

Readers may have noticed that the bells have been rung at some rather different times over the last few weeks.

First we rang a quarter peal of Yorkshire Surprise Royal on 31 March. This was specially arranged to celebrate the 80th birthday of one of the Hertford ringers, David Harris who, as well as ringing has

spent many hours maintaining the bells and their fittings. David invited a representative band comprising Hertford ringers and others with whom he rings regularly.

In keeping with tradition, we do not hold a practice during Holy Week; instead the ringers invite those who have helped us during the year to have a meal together in Hertford. At this meal, a suitable presentation was made to David to mark the occasion and to thank him for all his time and efforts.

On Easter Monday a full peal of 5,000 Bristol Surprise Royal was rung. This was arranged because the annual attempt at All Saints Tide last year failed when a rope broke, so the participants were invited back after new ropes had been fitted.

Finally, on Sunday 22 April, a quarter peal of Cambridge Surprise Royal was rung before Evensong. The band agreed that this should be recorded as a celebration of the 86th birthday of Her Majesty The Queen.

There are several notable events this year and we will attempt to ring for some of them; however the first special ringing was for a local event – Hertford's Mayor-making ceremony on the evening of 17 May.

We are rather short of ringers so that much of the special ringing is only possible because we are able to ask our ringing friends from around Hertfordshire to help us. We are duly grateful to them

Visitors, especially any who might like to learn to ring, are always welcome at our practices, held at All Saints on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 8.00pm.

Alastair Stracey

Tribute to our well-loved Queen

Our Queen has served us well for 60 glorious years

Though not born into this role, she may have had early fears

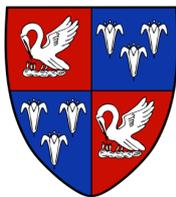
Of rising to the commitment she so readily gave
Within herself she must be strong and very brave
Not only did she take on the task with Pride,
Devotion and Love

But also leads the Nation with her devout belief
bestowed on her from above

No wonder she shows strength to represent our
 nation throughout the Commonwealth
 and the World
 Her Nature has been one of constant giving as
 her long reign has unfurled
 We, in turn, should be proud of having such a
 pleasing Sovereign as our head
 Rarely distancing herself, instead we have been
 firmly led
 In believing this Realm still has many parts to play
 As we desire our Queen Elizabeth to remain in
 our midst for a very long stay

Not easy either to be Queen, Daughter, Sister,
 Wife & Grandmother too
 It must have been very difficult to never feel blue
 But because she exercises wisdom in all her
 quests
 She is still able to embrace her many roles and
 yet remain giving her best
 May she be given hope and good health to
 carry on her role
 With protection and support so her duties are
 not a toll
 But rather a pleasure knowing her people love
 her sincerely
 And in years to come will treasure her Reign
 even more dearly

Mollie Day



**Corpus Christi
 College
 Chapel Choir
 Concert**

The Chapel Choir of Corpus Christi College,
 Cambridge presents a Concert of Sacred
 Music in All Saints on Saturday 16th June at
 7:30 pm.

Tickets: £6 full price / £4 students. To book in
 advance: email ke259@cam.ac.uk

Piano for sale

Cramer upright piano, teak, fully restored,
 beautiful tone

Cost £1300 in 2003, open to offers

Contact Rosie Dean 01920 462873 to come
 and have a look

Team Eucharist 27th May

There will be a full report, with pictures, in
 next month's edition.

As a 'taster' here is a picture of the clergy
 with Dr Jeffrey John, Dean of St Albans
 taken just after the service.



Welwyn Garden City Orchestra

Saturday 30 June, 7.30pm
 St. John's Church, Monks Rise, WGC AL8 7NF

KHACHATURIAN

Masquerade Suite

MOZART

Piano Concerto No.20 in D minor K466

Soloists:

Elizabeth Ng Zoe Lykourgou,
 Queenswood School Solo Competition
 Prize winners

SIBELIUS

Symphony No.3

James Ross Conductor

Tickets: £11; £7 students/under 18s;
 accompanied under 12s free .
 Available online www.wgcms.org.uk - call 01438
 821510

email tickets@wgcms.org.uk
 Also available from Hill & Co, Welwyn;
 or at the door – if any unsold

Registered Charity 29019

