

ALL SAINTS' ALIVE

All Saints' Welcomes Everyone



VICAR'S VIEWPOINT "But God...."

'They put him to death on a tree.
But God raised him' Acts 10.39-40

Happy Easter

The words 'but God' are our Christian understanding of God's response to our suffering in the world. He contradicts our worldly ways.

Trying to reason our way thought this terrible Covid 19 virus pandemic, our experiences of grief and loss, trying to make sense of all of this, our world's desires for more of everything, is almost impossible. The only answer is the resurrection phrase 'but God'. From the very beginning the Bible reminds us of God's redeeming and forgiving love, summed up in 'but God'. At Easter we celebrate the ultimate 'but God' moment, the raising of Jesus from the tomb. It is the promise of new life, life in all its fullness, of love of forgiveness.

The events of the crucifixion on Good Friday appeared to be a complete victory for those forces of destruction which assail us all. But, when Mary went into the tomb she went in without hope, and when she arrived, everything had changed, the greatest possible 'but God' moment of all. Our lives are currently made difficult with the virus and its consequences, but Easter reminds us of the answer of faith: 'but God';

But - God's love
But - God's forgiveness
But - God's salvation
But - God's calling

Easter is about hope and our eternal destiny as the people of God, moving from the shadows of death to the rays of newness. And it is even more, it is a promise that God is with us, for eternal life begins here and now. Easter shows us that whatever may happen



to us in this world, there is an answer summed up in the words 'but God'.

God challenges sin, despair and mortality in the cross, and now he offers us fullness of life for **Christ is Risen. He is risen indeed, Alleluia.**

With every blessing for you and your loved ones this Easter time,
Love, Jo

Easter Prayer

When everything was dark
and it seemed that the sun would never shine
again,
your love broke through.
Your love was too strong,
 too wide,
 too deep
 for death to hold.
The sparks cast by your love
 dance and spread
 and burst forth
 with resurrection light.
Gracious God,
We praise you for the light of new life
 made possible through Jesus.
We praise you for the light of new life
 that shone on the first witnesses of
 resurrection.
We praise you for the light of new life
 that continues to shine in our hearts today.
We pray that the Easter light of life, hope and
 joy,
 will live in us each day;
and that we will be bearers of that light
 into the lives of others.
Amen.

Contact Information

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The Bishop's Coronavirus Golden Rules

Food-for-thought about our attitudes.

Golden Rule One. Each one of us can think about how we can protect and support our neighbours. So much of the public rhetoric is sowing fear about the danger of other people. So, taking all the official precautions, offer help and reassurance to others – and don't demonise anyone or any group.

Golden Rule Two: Think about who may be suffering more than me. For those of us who are healthy there is much less to worry about, but the elderly, the housebound and those with chronic health conditions may be very anxious. How about each church undertaking an audit of all the vulnerable people they know and sharing out the responsibility to phone them each day. There's nothing like a friendly voice to offer solace when someone is worried. A smile can bring cheer, even on the phone. If you visit, follow all the official precautions or don't go.

Golden Rule Three. Don't give in to panic and start hoarding food. There is plenty to go around, so practise the Christian discipline of sharing. Ask your neighbours what they need and do you best to help them get it. If you are self-isolating you will of course need some supplies.

Golden Rule Four. Live today to the full. None of us ever know what the future holds. In the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 6. 25 – 34), Jesus challenged his followers to live each day fully and not be afraid. Every time we are tempted to give in to fear we need to make a conscious choice to respond in trust and openness.

And, along with just over half the adults in the UK, don't forget to pray. Here's a suggestion from the Revd Louise Collins, a Team Vicar in Borehamwood, Herts:

Dear God our Shield and our Defender, guide and protect my neighbours in this time of health emergency; deliver them from all harm and may your love and care ever grow in this place. Through Jesus Christ, Our Lord, Amen.

+Alan St Albans

Need help?

The All Saints family would like to reach out to those who are isolated and could do with someone to talk to. We have a group of friends who would like to support all those who need it. If it would be helpful for you to have someone call you, please email us on support@allsaintshertford.org or call Rev Jo on 01992 584899 and she will arrange for someone to get in touch.

Worshipping together – apart

Until it is safe to do so we are having to worship apart. But there are ways of being together, both for those with the Internet and those without.

Without the Internet

Each week we are producing a set of prayers, a short reflection and more that we can print out, along with the collects and readings and either deliver or post to you. If you would like us to do this, please contact Jo (contact details on front page) and she will put you in touch with the team.



With the Internet

We are posting a variety of local, diocesan and national resources on our website. As we gain experience, we are becoming more ambitious – our Palm Sunday offering included two specially made videos and we have more planned over the next few weeks, including a live service via Zoom on Easter Day. Invitations were emailed out on Wednesday 8th April.

You will find these, and links to much more at <https://www.all saints hertford.org/worship.php> and <https://www.all saints hertford.org/prayer.php>.

There are links to many videos, ideas for prayer, hymns to sing-along with, sermons to

consider, activities for children and more for them on our Messy Church FaceBook page facebook.com/MessyChurchHertfordAllSaints
Jo has started a daily blog with thoughts for reflection as 'Canon Jo Blogs' at <https://vicarallsaintshertford.blogspot.com/>

We are also regularly updating our Social Media posts on FaceBook, Twitter and Instagram using the handle AllSaintsHertf .

Meetings

Our PCC met on 31st March using an on-line conferencing tool.

There were two important decisions taken:

- 1.We approved the Statutory Annual Report (including Accounts) which is now being submitted to the Charity Commission.
- 2.In line with a recommendation from the Bishop and Archdeacon, we agreed to defer our Annual Meetings to later in the year (No later than 31st October 2020).

A consequence of this is that Colin Bird, who was planning to step down as Churchwarden, has agreed to continue to fulfil this role for several months more. The PCC expressed their gratitude to him for agreeing to do this.

Lynford Neville

Our Vestry has gained a much-needed piano stool, kindly donated by Pat Parker in memory of Lynford. We believe the seat was embroidered by Lynford's mother.



Thank you Pat (and Christine Petch for facilitating this) – much better than a wobbly chair!

Thy Kingdom Come

This period of Prayer and Reflection will run from 21st (Ascension) to 31st (Pentecost).

The organisers say:

We'll be sharing a range of resources soon to help churches to do Thy Kingdom Come virtually. We want to do our best to resource the church to pray wherever they may be, which currently for many is staying in our homes!

Alastair Stracey



With great sadness the Hertford Bellringers (who ring the bells at St Andrew's and All Saints) report the death, in late 2019, of their Ringing Master Alastair after a short battle with leukaemia.

Alastair was from a campanological family. His late father, Arthur, was tower captain at Holy Trinity, Bengeo and his brother Fergus is a well-known ringer in London and the West Country. Alastair's four daughters all learnt to handle a bell at various times.

Alastair strove constantly to maintain and improve ringing standards in Hertford and beyond by means of practice nights, Sunday service ringing, and regular quarter peal attempts. He was also a staunch supporter of two itinerant weekday ringing groups, the 'WAGS', and the 'Golden Oldies'.

Early in 2019 Alastair instigated a campaign to raise £25,000 to refurbish the bells at All Saints which are becoming increasingly difficult to ring. A few weeks before his death Alastair was delighted to learn that his application to Hertford Town Council for a grant of £10,000 had been successful, bringing the target within reach. We hope that the refurbished bells of All Saints will be a fitting memorial to Alastair.

Our heartfelt sympathy goes to Hilary and Alastair's family. We shall miss him greatly. May he rest in peace

Charles George Murkin

Based on the eulogy given at his funeral by Brian Murkin



Charles was born in 1923. He attended Cowper School, then Abel Smith before gaining a Scholarship to then newly built Hertford Grammar School which he left at 16 with his School Certificate. He was a keen cub and scout and a treble in All Saints' Choir. He started

work as an assistant cashier for Herts County Council at the newly built County Hall in 1940. Called up in May 1942, he served in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (REME). He was involved in installing radios in tanks ahead of the D Day landings and subsequently saw service in Burma and Japan.

On returning to Hertford after the war, Charles resumed his career, qualifying as a Chartered Public Finance accountant and holding increasingly responsible roles controlling education expenditure until his retirement in 1982.

He met Connie Ditton at the church Twenties Club. They were married at All Saints in 1950 and initially lived over Connie's father's shop until they bought a house in Ware Road, later moving to Brookside. Andrew was born in 1952 and Brian came along two years later. Their memories are of loving parents, and later grandparents, who went out of their way to support their hobbies and took great interest in their subsequent careers.

Charles became an assistant scoutmaster when he was just 18. He served in various positions until he was appointed County Secretary in 1969. This satisfying role continued for 17 years. Highlights were organising two scout expeditions to the Lofoten Islands in arctic Norway. Connie pursued a parallel career with the cubs. Both of them helped run activity courses at Lochearnhead and they particularly enjoyed assisting on an expedition of special needs scouts to Gibraltar. Charles's services were regularly recognised by the Movement culminating with their highest award, the Silver Wolf, in 1986.

Charles was a committed member of All Saints and served in the choir, followed by many years' service as a sidesman, stewardship officer, churchwarden and honorary auditor. For a number of years he led the Armistice Commemoration at the church for those unable to get to the War Memorial.

Connie sadly passed away in 2011. Charles provided her care lovingly for most of her final housebound years. He then managed remarkably well on his own for a further five years until a fall and subsequent minor stroke left him needing full time nursing care. His three years at Nightingale Nursing Home in Ware were spent comfortably as part of an extended family, although it was frustrating for everyone that his ability to speak and move were so compromised.

Parish Diary

We will provide worship resources on-line at <https://www.allSaintshertford.org/worship.php> for at least the following occasions in our Church Life:

9th Maundy Thursday
Choral Communion

10th Good Friday
Family Service
An Hour at the Foot of the Cross

12th Easter Day
All the Family Service
Live Service via Zoom
Choral Communion

19th 2nd Sunday of Easter
Family Eucharist

26th 3rd Sunday of Easter
Parish Communion

MAY

3rd 4th Sunday of Easter
All the Family Service
Choral Communion

10th 5th Sunday of Easter
Parish Communion

17th 6th Sunday of Easter
Family Eucharist

21st Ascension Day
Choral Communion

24th Sunday after Ascension
Parish Communion

31st Pentecost
Parish Communion

All information correct at time of printing. Please check at www.allSaintshertford.org/diary