

ALL SAINTS'



This week's Newsbulletin

All Saints' Welcomes Everyone

Services/events for this week

First Sunday after Trinity 6th June

10.00 Family Service followed by Eco Walk in All Saints, with choral and organ music.

Jo, Soraia, Isabel and Fiona will lead the Family Service reflecting on God's creation as we join in the nationwide project, *Caring for God's Acre* a project where we recognise and celebrate the green space, nature and heritage that we can find in our churchyard.

Fiona Earle will lead a walk around the churchyard after the service, accompanying those who would like to join her in identifying wild life. There are some guide cards supplied by the Caring for God's Acre team which will also be available, as well as recording forms.

13.00 HFoM Concert by Fontanella

15.30 HFoM Concert by Fontanella

Tuesday 8th

11.00 Morning Prayer on Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87458760537>

Meeting ID: 874 5876 0537

Please note the revised number – our apologies to those who didn't receive this (unexpected) revision until too late last week.

Wednesday 9th

12.00 HFoM Concert Florian Mitrea - *Piano*

'Zoom'-ing by 'phone

Call 0203 051 2874, 0203 481 5237, 0203 481 5240 or 0131460 1196 and use meeting id followed by #

Caring for God's Acre

Dear Friends,

William Blake said,

"Where others see but the dawn coming over the hill, I see the soul of God shouting for joy".

As spiritual people of faith, we need to see a world of gifts, not just objects to be consumed. This week's family service and this week's challenge to examine nature in our churchyard, in *Caring for God's Acre*, helps to remind us of this. Consumerism can lead to exploitation, so our liturgy reminds us of joy and celebration and wise stewardship of resources. The danger of allowing ourselves to be carried away by consumerism is that it can blind us to the transcendent, it suppresses our imagination and stifles our freedom and true enjoyment of life.

Concentrating on nature as well as worship can keep our imagination fresh when quite a bit of the media assails us with banality. How can we really respond to God's summons to share his life when we are battered by unremitting barrage of emails, adverts, entertaining social media inviting us to see a world in terms of what you really need to have and what you are missing: stuff, small desires to be satisfied. The challenge this week may be to think about our ratio of watching TV to praying, worshipping, paying attention to God's creation? One spiritual writer warns us that the "globalisation of superficiality acts like an asbestos blanket snuffing out imagination". So this is our opportunity to reflect on and celebrate God's magnificent creation.

The lines from Gerald Manley Hopkins' poem *God's Grandeur* remind us:

"The world is charged with the grandeur of God. It will flame out, like shining from shook foil"

I hope that you can join us this week as we worship together and take some time to walk in God's Acre.

Love, Jo

Sunday Services on Zoom

Following extensive discussions, we have been able to finalise our plan for on-line Sunday worship. This will take place at 16.00 every

fortnight. The first service will be on Sunday 13th – and full details will be in next week's newsletter

If you have enjoyed the National Service (from 9.00) and/or the Cathedral Service (usually from 11.15) these continue to be available. More information on these can be found at

<https://www.allsaintshertford.org/worship.php>

<https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/church-online/weekly-online-services>

<https://www.stalbanscathedral.org/live-streaming-at-st-albans-cathedral>

Thursday Holy Communions

We are hoping to go back to holding Holy Communions on Thursdays from June 24th. We will need two volunteers each week to assist with recording names and hand sanitising. How about bringing a picnic to eat afterwards if it's sunny?

A House for a Refugee Family in Hertford?

Catherine Henderson writes:

I am writing because a family related to one of our Ware families is due to be resettled and we have currently been unable to find housing. We've been told that it would be ok if we could find a 3-bed property with a philanthropic landlord/landlady who would rent at the LHA rate. I'm wondering if there might be someone in your congregation who could help with this, or if you have any other suggestions for who we could ask and where we might look. We may well not find somewhere local and are looking in Welwyn, Hatfield and Stevenage too, although Ware/Hertford would be much better as the two families could be near each other.

Please contact Jo if you can help.

Opening the Church

When we had the church open during Thy Kingdom Come, the people who ventured in were all from the general public, not our own congregation. It showed us that there is a need for people to be able to come in, and

we would like to open the church every Saturday morning from 10 – 12.

If anyone is willing to volunteer to be in church on a Saturday morning once a month or once every two months, depending on how many volunteers we have, please contact Janet (07798 692797 or 01992 587544) or Nerine (07535 803529 or 01992 504893)

Tenants of the King - July

Our next time of joining together to think, discuss, learn and pray will take the form of the *Tenants of the King* programme offered by the charity *Operation Noah*.

For 4 weeks in July, starting on July 6, we will meet via zoom each Tuesday at 7:30 pm. The introduction to the course states:

"As Christians today, it is easy to feel confused about our proper relationship with creation. While scripture reassures us that 'the earth is the Lord's, and everything in it,' news headlines often paint a chaotic picture, characterised by climate breakdown, disappearing wildlife, water shortage and overpopulation.

How can we reconcile these contrasting pictures of creation? Can they be reconciled at all? How can we live today as responsible stewards of God's world?"

Each of the four sessions consists of a video followed by discussion. The sessions are *What's Creation for?*, *What's the Problem?*, *What can I do?* and *Speak up?*

Details of how to join will be circulated later. We look forward to fruitful companionship during this time.

Contact information

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