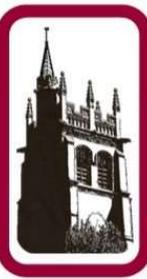


ALL SAINTS'



ALIVE

All Saints' Welcomes Everyone

Watchfulness and Hopefulness

Dear Friends,

We live in an age of warnings, where we are encouraged - and sometimes commanded - to live in a particular way.

As we come to Advent we become aware that our plans for Christmas could again be ruined by the new Omicron variant, so masks are being partially mandated and we are told to have our booster jabs. We need to be watchful for situations where the virus could easily spread, and wear masks to protect others. At the same time we are more aware than ever, or we should be, of the need to be less wasteful of the earth's limited resources and to find ways of reducing our carbon impact.

John the Baptist's announcement that the Lord is coming urges us to change our lives to the way of righteousness. "Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand". Our human failures, individually and collectively, need us to turn from a destructive lifestyle to one which will align us with God's will. Those who heard John took the message on board and were baptized into new life. Yet as today there will have been others who rejected the message. It is a personal choice indeed to ignore or reject the need for change, but it is very unwise to dismiss warnings and positive advice.

Advent is a time for watchfulness, of hearing afresh the message of repentance. Our spiritual lives can become bogged down with the cares and concerns of the world, clogged up with our failure to live lovingly and faithfully as God calls us. Being watchful over our spiritual lives is vital as we can never take it for granted that we are taking the right way as new situations develop. Watchfulness is about our own personal spirituality and how far we

continue to embrace and welcome the presence of Jesus in our lives.

Watchfulness on its own could sound tiresome and inconvenient, but for Christians it is infused with hopefulness. We hear quite a lot of newspaper headlines saying, in the face of possible restrictions, "Save our Christmas". I agree, but with the qualification that the true meaning of Christmas is the birth of Jesus, living hope for all people.

I can cope well without most of the trimmings of the commercial Christmas but I can't find hope for my soul and our world without Jesus. The hope he brings is for this world and for eternity. He reveals the fulness of God's presence among people and bids us repent of all that is wrong in our lives in order to follow God's way of love.

So, in the face of all the warnings about our world's future and whatever restrictions on our daily lives we can continue in faith to affirm that there is true hope and joy to be found in Jesus and I look forward to celebrating with all believers at All Saints'.

With every blessing for Christmas, love, Jo

At the heart of Christmas



The Church of England will launch its 2021 Christmas Campaign on Thursday 2nd at 18.00.

As in previous years there will be daily reflections, available on smart phone, by email or in booklet form, plus A Family Advent Calendar and much more.

Links and more information can be found at <https://www.churchofengland.org/our-faith/what-we-believe/advent-and-christmas/heart-christmas-our-2021-advent-and-christmas>

Let the Trumpets Sound!

7.45pm December 2nd
All Saints Church Hertford

It was a fascinating idea to hold a Big Band concert at All Saints, on 2nd December and you might say there is a lot of Advent expectation going on.

The Phoenix Jazz orchestra rehearse regularly in St John's Hall, comprising piano, bass and drums with a line-up of brass – saxophones, trombones and trumpets. The musicians sometimes double up with clarinets, flutes etc. Hearing them in the hall was quite an experience as they are very professional. When they offered a concert in church to boost our funds I didn't hesitate.

Robert Habermann has performed at a number of prestigious venues in London and the U.S., not least at the Queen Elizabeth Hall to celebrate Frank Sinatra's 80th birthday. As I had not heard of him before, he kindly invited me to a club in Soho (as you do, to a Vicar) to hear him sing. So Doug and I made the journey to hear Songs from the Musicals, which Robert sang accompanied by a pianist. It was fascinating, as he added accounts of meeting big stars to glorious renditions of classic songs. We both agreed that his singing was ultra-smooth.

All Saints Welcomes Everyone

ALLSAINTS HERTFORD

BIG BAND SOUND

MEETS FRANK SINATRA

Award winning singer **Robert Habermann** has teamed up with the **Phoenix Jazz Orchestra** to sing original big band arrangements written for Frank Sinatra...

THURSDAY 2 DECEMBER 2021
at 7.45pm

Admission £10 (Students under 25 - £5)
In aid of the All Saints' Church

ALL SAINTS CHURCH - Queens Road, Hertford, Hertfordshire SG13 8AY
www.allsaintshertford.org

...Including:
I've Got You Under my Skin
You Make Me Feel So Young
Come Fly With Me
Fly Me To The Moon
New York New York
and many other great hits

Last Thursday the Phoenix and Robert rehearsed in All Saints. We stayed throughout, helping to check the sound balance. The blend of voice and instruments was superb

once we adjusted the right-hand vocal speaker.

It was interesting to hear the attention to detail, with one song's transition from slow introduction to upbeat magnificence proving a challenge for several minutes. In the end it was sorted, and now we await the full performance.

It's all a bit uncertain as we can't tell how many people will want to come to a Big Band concert with Sinatra songs on what is likely to be a very cold evening. But we are hopeful – and expectant – and we do hope that many people will join us / Come Fly With us and find, as we did, that if you close your eyes a little you will believe that Old Blue Eyes is back.

Do join us, tickets on the door only £10!
Love, Jo

Christmas Cracker - Saturday 4 December

ALLSAINTS HERTFORD ALL SAINTS' WELCOMES EVERYONE

Christmas CRACKER
NOTICE BOARD

SATURDAY 4 DECEMBER 2021
10.30am to 2.00pm

LOTS OF FANTASTIC STALLS

- Christmas Wreaths • Candles • Crafts • Decorations • Cards
- Vintage Gifts (Including Crystal Glass) • Chocolate Tombola
- Soft Toy Tombola • Home Made Cakes • Produce
- Aschiana Charity Stall • Raffle • Games • Children's Craft Activities
- Books • Christmas Cards • Oil Raffle Paintings • Massage Demos
- All Saints' Art Group

REFRESHMENTS SERVED ALL DAY
LUNCH BETWEEN 12noon and 2.00pm

For questions or offers of help please contact
Janet Bird: 01992 587544 or Nerine Chalmers: 07535803529

We need people to help on the day:

- We need savoury and sweet Treats for refreshment stall.
- We need donations of cakes and raffle prizes.
- We need your help to spread the word and invite your friends.

What's on the Stalls?

Aschiana Charity Stall

- Jewellery made by Trish and Frances in Nepal
- Scarves, mostly from Nepal
- Christmas cards and notices made from some of the street children's paintings
- Photographed by Tom Gilby

Produce Stall

- Jams, Marmalade, Bird Food (Peanuts and Black Sunflower Seeds), Bee Hives, stained glass of St John the Baptist, Iris, Strelitzia Harmony, and Crystals
- Range of varieties of eating Apples, and of cooking Apples
- Apple tasting
- Apple juice for sale - the new season's juice in 3 litre pouches each with a tap so you draw off just as you need and no air bubbles inside and bottles

Christmas Goods

- Christmas Ornaments
- Homemade Luxury Christmas Cakes
- Cards, Decorations and Candles

Don't Forget, Vintage Gifts Stall has Beautiful Crystal Glass!

ALL SAINTS CHURCH - Queens Road, Hertford, Hertfordshire SG13 8AY
www.allsaintshertford.org

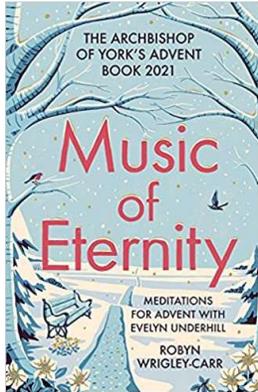
This will be an opportunity to open our doors to the people of Hertford, and offer them welcome and hospitality.

In addition to delicious lunches and refreshments, there will be many stalls - cakes, crafts, decorations, wreaths, Christmas cakes, cards, bric a brac, chocolate and soft toy tombolas, produce, books, art work, massage, a raffle as well as children's activities.

Please come along and tell your friends and neighbours!

Advent at All Saints

Reading and Discussion



Stephen Cottrell, Archbishop of York's Advent book is *Music of Eternity: Meditations for Advent with Evelyn Underhill* by Dr Robyn Wrigley-Carr

In his foreword to this book, Stephen Cottrell writes:

"Almost before I had begun, I was hooked. In the very first reflection, these words of Evelyn are quoted: 'You know there are better melodies.' There can be few better summings-up of the hunger our hearts have for beauty, for adventure, for resolution, for consolation, joy, unity, and for the heart-breaking and heart-mending power of heaven's music. This book hashelped me to re-examine the hardships of this past year, and to find Christ at work in unseen corners."

The book is available in hard copy and Kindle, and Jo is encouraging us to read it during Advent, and then to meet over a cup of coffee in the New Year to discuss it. There are questions at the end of each chapter which will lead to useful and interesting discussion.

The Churchyard

The Advent Calendar instituted by Gillian Harman last year is once again in place, and one window will be opened each day, telling the Advent story.



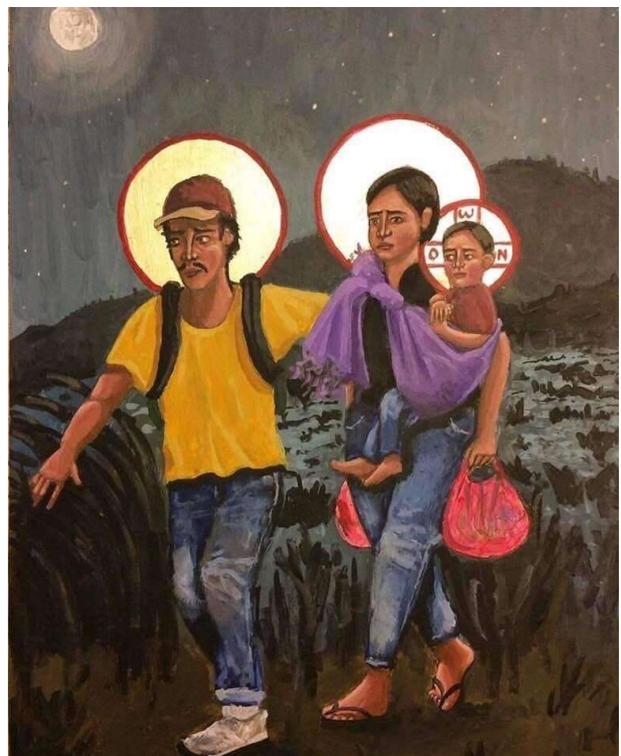
Everyone is welcome to join us in decorating trees in the churchyard. We were amazed at how last year's decorations withstood the weather, so there really is no limit in what can be used. There will be an All Saints Tree that anyone can contribute to, a Messy Church Tree, a tree from the All saints Art Group, and some decorated by different families. Please contribute in any way you would like to - either with your own tree, or by adding to another. Decorations can be left in the vestry, or put straight onto the trees. There is no designated date by which to be done - we look forward to a gradual build-up of decorated trees.

There will also be the trail of posters depicting favourite carols, each with a QR code that will lead to a recording of the carol, via your phone's camera.

Art work

In the church the boards have a display of Advent themed art work:

- prints of Mary and Child reminding us that Jesus did not come for one niche group - He came for everyone, of every nationality and social status;
- advent art work from Lindisfarne,
- and the carols that we have on the trees in the churchyard.



Christmas Alone

Most regrettably we have had to abandon plans for our usual Christmas Day party for the second year due to Covid. However, as we did last year we plan to distribute hampers of groceries to local people who might otherwise have joined us on Christmas Day or had a meal taken to them. These will be delivered during the week before Christmas and if you, or somebody you know would like us to bring you a hamper please get in touch with me and I will arrange a delivery.

We would like to make the hampers as special as possible and so would welcome small gifts which are suitable for either a man or a woman and also financial donations to help towards the cost.

If you would like to know more please feel free to phone me on 01992 587544.

With best wishes for a Happy and Healthy Christmas,

Janet Bird

Hertford and District Foodbank

The committed band of volunteers at the Foodbank continue to work tirelessly to help local people who have need of food and support. As usual we have been overwhelmed by the kindness of local people and over the harvest period were thrilled to receive a total of 3380 kg in donations (the average weight of food that one person receives to last them for 3 days is about 10kg, meaning that the donations fed almost 350 people). This came from local schools and churches and we are very grateful to everyone who supports the work of the Foodbank. In addition to these donations we would like to thank local supermarkets for their support and for allowing us to have collection points in their shops.

The number of individual people fed between 1st April and 12 November was 1851 of whom 782 were children. This compared with 2220 last year when more people were being supported due to the periods of Lockdown. However, notably this year is 60% up on 2019,

the last normal year before the pandemic, a huge level of increase which we will need to manage in our future planning.

As well as serving Hertford and the surrounding villages we are now supporting foodbanks in Ware and Stanstead Abbots.



Latest Shopping List December 2021

- Coffee (small jar) 100g
- Long life fruit juice (1lt)
- UHT milk (1lt)
- Instant mashed potato
- Tinned vegetables
- Custard – tinned
- Tinned Fruit
- Tinned ham
- Tinned salmon
- Tinned rice pudding

Please NO PASTA as we have a very large supply at the moment and it is very bulky to store.

Thank you for your support!

Soundbites

Thank you to everyone who supported our nine-week season this Autumn. As well as providing some much-needed live entertainment and equally needed work for performers it raised a very much needed £4000+ for All Saints too.



We are planning another nine-week season for the Spring running from February 2nd to March 30th inclusive, beginning with a recital by George Smith Cello

George, a former pupil at Richard Hale School is currently reading Music at Queens' College, Cambridge and studying cello with Hannah Roberts at the Royal Academy of Music.

Mugs

For some time we have been using compostable cups when serving hot drinks after services. Unfortunately, they have proved to only decompose when rotted down in small quantities. As a result, our very 'green' intentions have not come to pass!



From January 2022 we ask that, where possible, you bring a cup/mug with you so that we can reduce our 'footprint' – and save on unnecessary cost too.

We will, of course, have some cups/mugs available for those who are unable to bring one.

Parish Diary December/January

Thursday 2nd

11.00 am Holy Communion in Church
7.30 pm All Saints Art in Hall
7.45 pm Big Band Sound meets Frank Sinatra
Robert Habermann & Phoenix Jazz Orchestra

Friday 3rd

5.30 pm Choir Practices in Church

Saturday 4th

10.30 am – 2.00 pm Christmas Cracker!

Sunday 5th Second Sunday of Advent

10.00 am All the Family Service - *Generosity*
6.30 pm Choral Communion

Tuesday 7th

9.00 am Organ Tuning
11.00 am Morning Prayer on Zoom
(Login details on next page)
11.00 am HertsWise group in Hall
7.00 pm Concert by Richard Hale School

Wednesday 8th

7.30 am Head Teacher's Prayers in Church
1.30 pm EOD group in Hall

Thursday 9th

11.00 am Holy Communion in Church
7.30 pm All Saints Art in Church
7.30 pm HCS Rehearsal

Friday 10th

5.30 pm Choir Practices in Church

Saturday 11th

7.30 pm HCS Concert *Christmas Magic*

Sunday 12th Third Sunday of Advent

10.00 am Parish Communion
6.30 pm Choral Compline

Monday 13th

7.00 pm Simon Balle Carol Service

Tuesday 14th

10.00 am Simon Balle Carol Service
11.00 am Morning Prayer on Zoom
11.00 am HertsWise group in Hall
6.00 pm Simon Balle Carol Service

Wednesday 15th

7.30 am Head Teacher's Prayers in Church
10.00 am Simon Balle Carol Service
1.30 pm EOD group in Hall
2.00 pm Funeral of Mark Bartlett at Woollensbrook
Crematorium, Hoddesdon
7.00 pm Police, Fire & Rescue Carol Service

Thursday 16th

11.00 am Morning Prayer in Church
7.30 pm All Saints Art in Church

Friday 17th

9.30 am Richard Hale Founder's Day Service
5.30 pm Choir Practices in Church

Saturday 18th

1.00 pm Wedding of Beth Aldridge and Ashley
Grace

Sunday 19th

10.00 am All the Family Service
6.30 pm Service of Lessons and Carols

Monday 20th

2.00 pm Funeral of Doreen Brown
7.00 pm Abel Smith Carol Service

Tuesday 21st

11.00 am Morning Prayer on Zoom
11.00 am HertsWise group in Hall

Wednesday 22nd

1.30 pm EOD group in Hall

Friday 24th Christmas Eve**4.00 pm** Blessing of Christmas Crib**11.30 pm** First Communion of Christmas**Saturday 25th Christmas Day****10.00 am** Family Eucharist for Christmas**Sunday 26th First Sunday of Christmas****10.00 am** Parish Communion with Hymns**Thursday 30th****11.00 am** Holy Communion in Church**7.30 pm** All Saints Art in Church**JANUARY 2022****Sunday 2nd****10.00 am** All the Family Service**6.30 pm** Parish Communion**Tuesday 4th****11.00 am** Morning Prayer on Zoom**11.00 am** HertsWise group in Hall**Wednesday 5th****1.30 pm** EOD group in Hall**Thursday 6th****11.00 am** Holy Communion in Church**7.30 pm** All Saints Art in Church**Friday 7th****5.30 pm** Choir Practices in Church**Sunday 9th Baptism of Christ****10.00 am** Parish Communion**6.30 pm** Epiphany Carol Service**Tuesday 11th****11.00 am** Morning Prayer on Zoom**11.00 am** HertsWise group in Hall**7.30 pm** MU AGM & Planning Meeting with 'Pot Luck' Supper**Wednesday 12th****7.30 am** Head Teacher's Prayers in Church**1.30 pm** EOD group in Hall**Thursday 13th****11.00 am** Holy Communion in Church**7.30 pm** All Saints Art in Church**Friday 14th****5.30 pm** Choir Practices in Church**Sunday 16th 2nd Sunday of Epiphany****10.00 am** Parish Communion**6.30 pm** Choral Evensong**Tuesday 18th****11.00 am** Morning Prayer on Zoom**11.00 am** HertsWise group in Hall**Wednesday 19th****7.30 am** Head Teacher's Prayers in Church**1.30 pm** EOD group in Hall**Thursday 20th****11.00 am** Holy Communion in Church**7.30 pm** All Saints Art in Church**Friday 21st****5.30 pm** Choir Practices in Church**Sunday 23rd 3rd Sunday of Epiphany****10.00 am** Parish Communion**6.30 pm** Choral Evensong**Tuesday 25th****11.00 am** Morning Prayer on Zoom**11.00 am** HertsWise group in Hall**7.30 pm** MU AGM**Wednesday 26th****7.30 am** Head Teacher's Prayers in Church**1.30 pm** EOD group in Hall**Thursday 27th****11.00 am** Holy Communion in Church**7.30 pm** All Saints Art in Church**Friday 28th****5.30 pm** Choir Practices in Church**Sunday 30th 4th Sunday of Epiphany****10.00 am** Parish Communion**6.30 pm** Said Evensong

Login details for Tuesday Morning Prayer :

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3391379144?pwd=WkRrWSs2bmdMZGZZNlpDb3ZjUG9TUT09>**'Zoom'-ing by 'phone**

Call 0203 051 2874, 0203 481 5237,

0203 481 5240 or 0131460 1196

and use meeting id Meeting ID: 339 137 9144

Passcode: 424739

Contact informationwww.allsaintshertford.org    AllSaintsHertf**Vicar**Rev Canon Jo Loveridge BA MTh AKC,
The Vicarage, Churchfields, Hertford SG13 8AE
vicar@allsaintshertford.org
01992 584899**Office** office@allsaintshertford.org**Full list of contacts**<https://www.allsaintshertford.org/contacts.php>