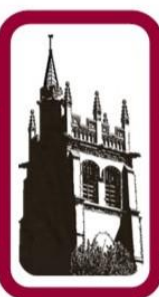


ALL SAINTS'



ALIVE

All Saints' Welcomes Everyone

Ukraine

As we go to press, we have just heard that Russian troops have invaded Ukraine. Our prayers are for peace and for the people of the Ukraine.

Archbishop Justin's 'Thought for the Day' Broadcast on Radio 4 24/2/2022

To wake up to the news of war is terrible.

To wake up to its reality is orders of magnitude worse.

Shakespeare refers to war as chaos - the loosing of the dogs of war - and calls for one of his characters to cry out the warning about what it means.

Those in the Ukraine will be thinking about their relatives on the front lines, or the friends on the front lines. We are thinking, where is it going to go next? Politicians are thinking, what do we do?

In all of the thinking, in all of the responses, there is the great uncertainty which is the worst enemy of good decisions. Uncertainty leads to fear, fear leads to overreaction.

How do we react well? How do politicians in the cloud of war, not really knowing what's going on, but knowing they have no opportunity to wait - how do they make up their minds?

They will rightly call for all of us, and for themselves, to have resolution, courage, determination, a willingness to sacrifice whatever is necessary in order to ensure that peace may come and justice may be done.

Peace and justice. They often seem to contrast, and yet they are opposite sides of the same coin.

We seek peace and justice, and that must end with those involved in conflict not having solutions imposed on them but finding for themselves the way forward to reconciliation and peace.

Right at the end of his life, Jesus Christ, on the eve of his crucifixion, spoke to his disciples and he said something very memorable. 'In the world you will have trouble, but do not be afraid, I have overcome the world.'

For me and for many of faith, the great certainty in the world, the only certainty, is that we know that God does not change. Let us find our resolution, our peace, our certainty not by screwing up our courage, but in the knowledge of the eternal arms that hold us.

May God be with those who suffer today.

A prayer for us all to use from Jo

*Dear Lord,
Author of all peace who through your Son reconciled us to yourself, we pray for peace in our world at this time of the invasion of Ukraine.*

*We pray
for the people of Ukraine - for their safety and that their close ties with the people of Russia and other neighbours will remain strong even in this time of invasion;*

for governments and political leaders - for wise counsel and sound initiative to defuse tension;

for diplomats - that they may have space to negotiate.

We pray that all governments commit time to dialogue and understanding, respect the will and freedom of all peoples, invest in welfare and alleviation of poverty and reject militarism and the threat of violence.

May Christ's teaching and example be our inspiration, may hearts and minds be changed, and may your Holy Spirit be at work transforming each of us day by day, Through your everlasting grace and mercy, Amen

“O come, let us return to the Lord”

Hosea 6.1

Dear Friends,

The pandemic which has kept us apart and caused so much pain and loneliness has abated, and all restrictions are now officially over. This is great news after two years of such tough restrictions and so much suffering (although we are still warned to exercise personal responsibility). Along with so many rules, there have been long periods when we were forbidden to go to church – technically I was not allowed to enter even as the Vicar. And, at times, no funerals and no weddings; in fact – nothing.

Hosea's words come from a time when the people of Israel had been removed from their land, following much destruction and violence, forced to live in exile. They felt alienated, lamenting in psalm 137 “How can we sing the Lord's praise in a strange land?”

Yet they never lost the vision of remembering their true identity. Now they were returning home, and this also meant a return to the worship and service of the Lord. They heard it as such good news, rightly, and although they felt their exile was in many ways a punishment for their sins, they knew that they would be restored and healed.

Our experience of isolation and shock is not unlike the exile, yet hopefully we have remembered to care, to pray, to love. With the pandemic over, we are encouraged to “Return to the Lord” as the faithful have so often needed to do. The need to return can be due to harsh circumstances, or perhaps our own struggle with faith in these troubled times. Yet to feel once again fully part of God's people we need the company of other faithful Christians, to feel the strength of prayer shared, of worship offered. This Lent we will be focusing clearly on the need to return to the Lord.

This is for all of us – for Lent is the time for preparation for Easter and on Ash Wednesday, as the Lenten journey begins – we are reminded that Lent was originally embraced as a time for those preparing for

Baptism or Confirmation and as an opportunity for those who had been absent or even excluded from the Church's fellowship. We now see it as a time for growing in faith and in challenging ourselves to turn away from sin and follow Christ.

This year, I hope that it may be a special time of looking at our relationships and lifestyle, and in our willingness to grow in faith by making a decision to Return to the Lord “who will bind us up and heal us” as Hosea says. For in Christ we know that God is forgiving and welcoming, and he will go to the extremes to show us the depth of his love.

Love and prayers,
Jo

As we return to church and begin once again to host more events, I hope that you can join me in saying this daily prayer for ourselves and for All Saints.

Our Prayer:

*Dear Lord,
You know that we are often afraid and
anxious,
We worry for those we love, for ourselves and
our church.
The future seems so uncertain.
Help us to know the comfort of your presence
close to us
and the strength and creativity of your Holy
Spirit to sustain us through each day.*

*We pray for our church that all feel able to
return safely and joyfully.
Grant that we may find volunteers to share in
prayer, hospitality, welcome and creativity;
And that we may reach new people and
grow
help us to have faith that you are already at
work in our community
and that we do not do this in our strength
alone.*

*Inspire us to reach out to others in your love
and grace.
Remind us that you hold us in the palm of
your hands.
You are our refuge and our Rock and in you
we trust.
Amen*

Feeling Safe in Church

Even though all legal restrictions have been lifted, if you feel that you would prefer to wear a face mask or want to sit socially distanced from others, please feel able to do so.

Some people have good reason to continue to socially distance. Please respect their choice.

We will not yet share the common communion cup so the communion wafers will continue to be intincted with wine for the time being and we will continue to wave to one another at the Peace while infection levels remain fairly high.

We will continue to have hand sanitiser available and have quite a stock of masks if you feel that you need to use these.

Lent Course at All Saints



Please join us and have your say as we learn together this Lent.

The Church of England encourages every member of the church to think about relationships and to listen to one another so that we will:

- be **inspired** by scripture's glorious and joyful vision of God's intention for human life.
- have **discovered** how to engage with rich biblical, theological, historical and scientific thinking about human identity, sexuality and marriage in a way that deepens their desire to know God and follow Christ.
- have a deeper **understanding** of the Church's inherited teaching on Christian living in love and faith, especially with regard to marriage and singleness, and of emergent views and the Christian reasoning behind them.

- have heard the voices and **encountered** the experiences of people who would otherwise have been invisible to them.
- have **learned** different ways of reading scripture together well, allowing it to exert its transforming and revelatory power.
- find **help** for everyday Christian discipleship in all its diversity, physicality, messiness and grittiness.
- be **alert** to the interaction between the life of the church and its cultural contexts and equipped to engage in the public square about what it means to be human and sexual.
- We will also be able to report to the General Synod our thoughts so that Synod can make appropriate decisions on this subject.

Sunday 6th March @ 4pm

Session 1 Learning Together

Sunday 13th March @4pm

Session 2 Identity

Sunday 20th March @ 4pm

Session 3 Relationships

Sunday 27th March @4pm

Session 4 Our bodies and Sex

Sunday 3rd April @4pm

Session 5 Life Together

To take part please contact Jo on 01992 584899 or email vicar@allsaintshertford.org

Volunteers needed

for our Summer term starting on the last week of April until mid July.

To Pray To invite others To assist

Thursday mornings: Prayers and Bears

We are looking for:

Story tellers to help at Prayers and Bears on Thursday mornings

People to make refreshments at Prayers and Bears on Thursday mornings

Monday afternoons 3.00 – 4.30 to help at **Hot Choc Stop** and serve refreshments and welcome people in Church as we open to families and children who pass by.

LiveLent: Embracing Justice

LIVE LENT Embracing JUSTICE

is the Church of England's theme for Lent 2022. Both the Archbishop of Canterbury's 2022 Lent Book, *Embracing Justice*, and the daily reflections booklet for adults (CHP) have been written by Isabelle Hamley.

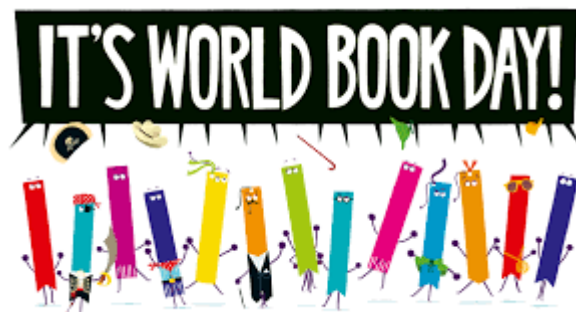
It invites us to examine our own lives truthfully, to see the world more deeply and to pray – for the church and the world far and near – that 'justice may roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream' (Amos 5.24). Each week we follow a different thread through the many stories of justice in the Bible to explore how God works with humanity to bring justice, wholeness and salvation to all.

- There is free online support for groups studying the book - including in-depth interviews with Dr Selina Stone, Bishop Michael Curry, Ruth Valerio and others exploring different aspects of justice.
- The Big Church Read is also offering free downloadable discussion questions and short video introductions for each week from Isabelle Hamley.

As in recent years, the weekly themes of the Archbishop's Lent Book are also explored in daily reflection from the Church of England.

#LiveLent: Embracing Justice offers a daily Bible reading, a short reflection and a prayer, as well as a practical challenge linked to the week's theme. An accompanying child's version is also available to help children and their families explore how we can live well together.

The book and booklets will be accompanied by daily social media posts from Ash Wednesday to Easter Day, together with a wide range of free digital resources for individuals, groups and churches.



In the UK, nearly 400,000 children don't have a book of their own. Having access to books and developing a love of reading for pleasure is vital for a child's future.

World Book Day (3rd March 2022) offers every child and young person the opportunity to have a book of their own.

The scheme works by giving every child a £1 Book Token that matches a specially chosen set of books available in every bookshop that accepts Book Tokens. In the Hertford area that includes WH Smiths, Leaf (8 Old Cross), The Book Nook (Ware) & Waterstones (WGC). Asda, Morrisons, Sainsbury's and Tesco all stock the special books too.

If you live further afield you can find local booksellers via <https://booksaremybag.com/>

You can help change lives through a love of books and shared reading by making a donation or raising funds for World Book Day.

If you'd like to know more, please visit <https://www.worldbookday.com/>

Fellowship Group

Our next meeting is on Monday 21st March at 6.30pm in the Church meeting room. Over refreshments, we will be looking at John Bell's article "Indebting the Future" which offers a Christian ethical perspective on our attitude to money, standards of living and global finance.

All are welcome.



I know the plans I have for you

World Day of Prayer 2022
4th March,
Holy Trinity Bengoe,
10.30am

World Day of Prayer 2022 (formerly known as Women's World Day of Prayer) is a worldwide prayer initiative with material being provided each year by women from different parts of the world. It is held on the first Friday of March each year.

For 2022 the World Day of Prayer in Hertford will be celebrated in Holy Trinity Bengoe on 4 March. The service has the international title of 'I know the plans I have for you' (Jeremiah 29:1-14) which has been prepared by women from England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

All are welcome - the plan is to start at 10.30am and, of course, there will be coffee and cake, and an opportunity to chat. Holy Trinity is in New Road Bengoe and is on bus route 333 out of town. There is usually plenty of parking in New Road.

Coffee Morning and Lent Lunch

On 5th March we will be holding a coffee morning and Lent Lunch, from 10:30 to 2:00, with lunch being served from 12:00. The coffee morning will be in aid of All Saints, while proceeds from the lunch are for Christian Aid.

There will be produce, cake and book stalls, an Aschiana stall, massages, as well as a craft stall, raffle and refreshments. Any help on the day, or donations towards the stalls will be very welcome.

Environmental Talk

At 1:00 on the same day we will be hosting the first of a series of environmental talks. Dave Willis from Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust will be sharing with us the strategies they use in managing their nature reserves and suggesting ways these can be applied in our gardens, our "personal nature reserves"!

Please help spread the word and encourage friends and neighbours to come.

Aschiana

We all enjoy produce from Fiona's stall each Sunday and are grateful to her for the hard work she puts into it week after week, but also for her commitment to helping others with the proceeds.



Currently she is supporting Aschiana, an Afghan run NGO for street children in Kabul. She and John were both formerly trustees, and she now continues that work. Recent news from Aschiana is encouraging in some respects - even in Afghanistan there is some cause for hope and joy, as can be seen from the following:

- The girls are attending the basic education programmes regularly
- Since Aschiana teaches very young girls, the Taliban say this is permitted

- Only women are allowed to teach girls, so Aschiana's female teachers have been coming in to work
- Boys and girls are now in separate classrooms but at least they are at school

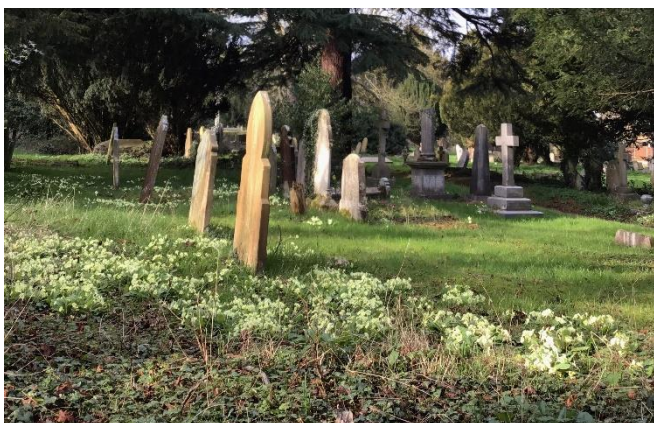
Peregrine Falcons

The peregrine falcons have been seen flying above the tower, and it is probable that they will nest and raise young there in a specially installed nesting platform.



A team of people has put in many hours to install a webcam so that if there are chicks, we will be able to watch their activities from below. We would like to thank Richard Toyn, Barry Trevis, Peter Finney, Brian Dilley and Russell Savory for their time and expertise. In addition we had a generous grant from the Kiln Family Trust, for which we are very grateful.

A Walk around All Saints Churchyard.



As the days get longer and the weather improves there is so much to see in All Saints massive Churchyard. There are the amazing drifts of white snowdrops under the towering trees, then the yellow aconites, followed by purple crocuses, wild primroses and daffodils.



The churchyard has an extraordinary variety of plant and animal wildlife. In a count last summer, 20 species of tree, 54 different wild flowers, 6 species of butterfly and 16 different birds were identified.

The peregrine falcons are often to be seen high up on the tower (see above). We hope the nesting boxes for swifts will be occupied later in the year

Displays around the churchyard are regularly mounted, the current one representing Hope and Joy. Please come and wander around in the tranquility of this sacred space.

Two Lent Ideas:

Rather than giving something up or feeling guilty about not doing anything try these:

<https://dublindiocese.ie/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Acts-of-Love-for-Lent.pdf>

<https://arocha.org.uk/go-green-for-lent/>

All Saints Finance

2021 was tough for everyone including our church. Whilst some costs could be trimmed during the pandemic (mainly utilities) others could not be.

Of course, our income took a big hit by the loss of events and hall income. Overall, we had an operating deficit of £18,603 for 2021. Coupled with the loss of £17,072 in 2020 we have had to cope with deficits totalling over £35,000. Given that coming into the pandemic our opening general reserves were less than £29,000, this

has meant taking extraordinary steps to protect the church operationally.

The first thing we did in 2021 was to critically examine our special funds held for St Johns Hall, the Memorial, Fabric and Organ funds. We were able to release £20,000 from these to bolster our general operating funds.

In addition, in July we held a special gift day which raised over £24,000. We are really grateful that our members responded to this request so generously.

Finally in the last couple of months we were able to restart Soundbites and received considerable support from our regular hirers, with the Phoenix Big Band, Hertford Choral Society and Simon Balle school all donating to the church the entire proceeds of their concerts. This meant that we turned a surplus overall, so that our general funds coming into 2022 have been more than restored.

Recently our Memorial Fund has been bolstered by a legacy from our friend, the late Lynford Neville and now stands at £59,000, the income from which comes to our general funds.

The prospects for 2022 are not particularly good, principally because of inflation, in particular the cost of heating and lighting the church and loss of income from our legacy Cull Heating Fund (our 4% GUK Govt stock is being redeemed and future investment income from this fund will be greatly reduced).

In addition, we have lost some loyal members through ill health and, indeed death, which will have quite an impact on our regular donations. In January we lost over £3,000 so we have a lot to do in the rest of the year as the hall gets back to normal and events can be planned.

It is clear that we will still struggle to break even operationally, and we have a structural deficit. Given that we cannot easily reduce costs, we have to find a way of increasing our regular income. We all have to be focussed on achieving medium term sustainability if we are to remain at the centre of the church's mission in Hertford.

Colin Bird, Treasurer

Parish Diary

Sunday 27th Sunday next before Lent

10.00 am Parish Communion

6.30 pm Choral Evensong

MARCH Tuesday 1st (David)

9.30 am Visit of S Balle Year 5

11.00 am Morning Prayer on Zoom

Ash Wednesday 2nd

7.30 am Head Teacher's Prayers in Church

12.00 noon for 1.00 pm Soundbites

Michael Frith – Organ

8.00 pm Holy Communion at St Andrews

Thursday 3rd

11.00 am Holy Communion in Church

2.00 pm Funeral of Andre Bleriot

7.30 pm All Saints Art in Church

7.30 pm Hall Sub Committee in Mem Chapel

Friday 4th

10.30 am Service for World Day of Prayer at Holy Trinity, Bengoe

5.30 pm Choir Practices in Church

Saturday 5th

10.00 am Coffee Morning in aid of AS

12.00 noon Light Lunches for Christian Aid

1.00 pm Talk: Conservation in the Garden

David Willis HMWT

Sunday 6th First Sunday of Lent

8.00 am Holy Communion

10.00 am All the Family Service *Temptations*

4.00 pm Living in Love & Faith Session 1

Learning Together

6.30 pm Choral Communion

Monday 7th (Perpetua)

1.30 pm Visit of S Balle Year 1

Tuesday 8th (Edward)

11.00 am Morning Prayer on Zoom

7.30 pm MU Lent Meeting with Rev Bill Church

Wednesday 9th (Ember Day)

7.30 am Head Teacher's Prayers in Church

12.00 noon for 1.00 pm Soundbites

Jeanne Mann Violin

Christopher Benham Piano

Thursday 10th

11.00 am Holy Communion in Church

7.30 pm All Saints Art in Church

Friday 11th (Ember Day)**5.30 pm** Choir Practices in Church**Sunday 13th Second Sunday of Lent****10.00 am** Parish Communion & Civic Service**11.00 am** Breakfast in St John's Hall**4.00 pm** Living in Love & Faith Session 2
*Identity***6.30 pm** Choral Evensong**Tuesday 15th****11.00 am** Morning Prayer on Zoom**Wednesday 16th****7.30 am** Head Teacher's Prayers in Church**12.00 noon for 1.00 pm** Soundbites
Neil Crossland *Piano***Thursday 17th (Patrick)****11.00 am** Holy Communion in Church**7.30 pm** All Saints Art in Church**Friday 18th (Cyril)****5.30 pm** Choir Practices in Church**Saturday 19th (Joseph of Nazareth)****9.00 am** Work Party**3.00 pm** Marriage Blessing for Tharan and
Hannah Siva**Sunday 20th Third Sunday of Lent****10.00 am** Family Eucharist**4.00 pm** Living in Love & Faith Session 3
*Relationships***6.30 pm** Choral Compline**Monday 21st (Thomas Cranmer)****6.30 pm** Fellowship & Discussion Group
*Indebting the Future***Tuesday 22nd****11.00 am** Morning Prayer on Zoom**Wednesday 23rd****7.30 am** Head Teacher's Prayers in Church**12.00 noon for 1.00 pm** Soundbites
Gerard Cousins *Guitar***Thursday 24th (Walter Hiton)****11.00 am** Morning Prayer in Church**7.30 pm** All Saints Art in Church**7.30 pm** HCS Rehearsal**Friday 25th (Annunciation of BVM)****5.30 pm** Choir Practices in Church**Saturday 26th (Harriet Mansell)****7.30 pm** Concert HCS: *Dream of Gerontius***Sunday 27th Mothering Sunday****10.00 am** Family Eucharist**4.00 pm** Living in Love & Faith Session 4
*Our bodies and Sex***6.30 pm** Choral Evensong**Tuesday 29th****11.00 am** Morning Prayer on Zoom**Wednesday 30th****7.30 am** Head Teacher's Prayers in Church**12.00 noon for 1.00 pm** Soundbites
Emma Dogliani *Soprano***Thursday 31st (John Donne)****11.00 am** Holy Communion in Church**7.30 pm** All Saints Art in Church**APRIL Friday 1st (Frederick Maurice)****5.30 pm** Choir Practices in Church**Saturday 2nd****12.00 m** Coffee Morning in aid of AS**12.00 noon** Light Lunches for Christian Aid**1.00 pm** Talk on Peregrine Falcons
Barry Trevis *HNHS***Sunday 3rd Passion Sunday****10.00 am** All the Family Service**4.00 pm** Living in Love & Faith Session 5
*Life Together***6.30 pm** Choral Communion**Login details for Tuesday Morning Prayer**

We have had some problems with Zoom links.

If you are not sure you have the up-to-date one for the Tuesday Zoomed Morning Prayer then please email Janet Bird at onzoom@allsaintshertford.org and she will supply.**Contact information**www.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>