

ALL SAINTS'



ALIVE

All Saints' Welcomes Everyone

Christmas Joy

Dear friends,

I would like to wish you all joy as Christmas approaches, and I hope that you will be able to celebrate the birth of the Christ-child with us at All Saints.

As I write this just after the Autumn Statement, where our nation has officially gone into recession and a set of tax rises and spending cuts is to be imposed. It's a gloomy situation for most of us, especially with increasing energy bills plus wider concerns about the war in Ukraine and global warming at a time when the human population has risen to 8 billion people, all with their need of homes, food, care and security.

For several months there have been concerns about how Christmas will feel this year. We were told there is likely to be a shortage of turkeys and currently there is a shortage of eggs for our cakes. Happily, there are ways round this, eating other things – if this doesn't sound too Marie Antoinette! There is also the likelihood that many people will cut down on presents this year, and this won't help the economy recover. It seems also that many of the amazing light displays which people put on will not be possible due to energy costs, with some of those having been made to elicit funds for special charities. It's interesting that many of the people raising charitable funding in this way are themselves people with quite limited resources.

If this is all so, where will we find the joy? It's comparatively easy to rejoice when things are going well, more of a challenge in harsher circumstances. I feel that joy comes from relatedness, of meeting with others and valuing one another – of showing how much we care even if we aren't offering large gifts. This basic need of relatedness was made truly obvious during the pandemic when we were forbidden to meet, for it was the people themselves which we truly missed, wasn't it?

Joy is being with others whether in the community, in the family or in church.



Christmas Joy emanates from the birth of Christ the Saviour. No wonder we refer to him as light in the darkness. We need that light more than ever, for our world and for ourselves. His light in our lives and in our community cannot be switched off by an energy crisis. The wonder of God's presence among humankind is to be celebrated, and we sing carols and hymns in thankfulness and joy. We also pray for the world around us where there is so much suffering.

I invite you, then, not to escapism but to an experience of joy in the face of the sad state of the world. Jesus came to bring us hope and peace, which we feel in our own lives when we know him as our Lord, and which we share in this needy world.

Love and prayers,
Jo

New Bishop of Hertford



Downing Street announced on Thursday 24th November that the Venerable Jane Mainwaring is to be the next Bishop of Hertford in the Diocese of St Albans. She is currently the Archdeacon of St Albans, a post she has held since March 2020.

Although Jane has spent much of her ministry in the Diocese of St Albans – as Archdeacon, a parish priest, and a rural dean – she served her curacy in Suffolk having trained for ministry on the East Anglia Ministerial Training Course.

Having grown up in London and Essex, Jane studied Theology and Religious Studies at Leeds University. She has worked for the Diocese of Southwark's retreat centre (while volunteering in a large church youth group in Surrey), and for the YWCA in Coventry, helping young adults move on from emergency accommodation.

Jane studied at Trinity College, Carmarthen (part of the University of Wales), researching in Church of England and Church in Wales Primary schools, whilst also being Chaplaincy Assistant, working with and supporting the students who attended the college chapel.

Jane was Curate at St Gregory's, Sudbury in the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich from 2000 before moving to the Diocese of St Albans to be Team Vicar of St Mark's, Hitchin in 2003. She additionally served as Rural Dean of Hitchin from 2015 before becoming Archdeacon of St Albans in 2020.

While working at St Mark's, Hitchin, Jane married her husband, James, a professional woodwind musician. They have two children, Elliot (17) and Amelie (14). Jane says that music "feeds my heart and soul". She loves musicals – James plays in them – and her household is constantly full of music, as her children also engage with music in different and varied ways. Beside her love of musicals, Jane enjoys being by the sea, swimming and spending time with her friends and family.

The Bishop of St Albans, the Rt Revd Alan Smith, welcomed the announcement, saying:

"I am thrilled that Jane Mainwaring is going to be the next Bishop of Hertford. She is already well known within the Diocese, having served here as a parish priest, rural dean and archdeacon. Her deep faith and pastoral heart have endeared her to those with whom she has worked, and I have no doubt she will be a superb bishop. Please pray for her, James, Elliot and Amelie as they prepare for their move to Knebworth and Jane's consecration, which we hope will be on Thursday 2 February 2023."

Commenting on the news of her appointment, the Ven Jane Mainwaring said:

"Hertfordshire having been my home for the last 20 years, I couldn't be more honoured and humbled to be given the opportunity to continue to serve the churches, schools, chaplaincies and communities of this county in this new capacity. I look forward to deepening existing relationships and establishing new ones, as we seek to share God's love and hope together."

The Ven Jane Mainwaring will become a bishop on 2 February 2023 (details to be confirmed in due course).

She will be formally welcomed to the Diocese as Bishop in a service in All Saints on Saturday February 4th at 16.00.

The search for a new Archdeacon of St Albans will begin before Christmas.

Travelling Cribs

The Mothers' Union have travelling cribs available, suitable for all ages & would love them to visit your home until Christmas Eve.



All sets include an advent calendar, books & activity sheets. If you would like a crib, please contact Ann Stephens-Jones 01992 447726 to arrange collection or delivery

Keeping Healthy in winter

The government has published some advice on how to stay healthy, which can be found at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/keep-warm-keep-well-leaflet-gives-advice-on-staying-healthy-in-cold-weather/top-tips-for-keeping-warm-and-well-this-winter>



Age UK have published more detailed information and advice about how to stay warm and well in winter, you can either call 0800 169 6565 and quote 'WINTER' or visit their website at <https://www.ageuk.org.uk/information-advice/health-wellbeing/keep-well-this-winter/>

There is also advice from the NHS at <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/seasonal-health/keep-warm-keep-well/>

Our GreenWatch talk in January (14th at 13.00) will be on the subject of Insulation.

Produce Stall/Ukraine

Recently the Produce Stall has been in aid of ALFS, getting specific items to specific people/organisations in Ukraine, arranged by Tina Banks (13A Queen's Road). A huge thank you to all of you who have contributed

through the Stall, it has enabled us to buy them a generator! And a supply of water purification tablets. Both of them such important items.



Tina was in Ukraine last week, and this is the list of items she knows are needed in the areas she is targeting. Conditions are worse than they were in August when she was last there, prices are sky high, food is scarce. Electricity is 'on' only from 4 – 8 pm, (now even less) so people are living in the cold and dark. There are more stray dogs and cats....

The larger charities seem to target refugee centres. ALFS' help is targeted to specific needs. The area is still getting bombed. Schoolchildren live largely underground, in the dark. The next artic. Is leaving on 5th December, hopefully taking 20 pallet loads again.

General needs – Generators (£300-350) – diesel is available for them. Essential for medical facilities etc. Thick sweaters and coats, hats, scarves, gloves. Sleeping bags, tents, blankets. 'Camel packs' for soldiers. Nappies, sanitary products, toiletries, deodorant, shampoo, liquid soap, tooth brushes and toothpaste. Torches and batteries. Thermal underwear.

Food – dry pasta, rice, tins of anything. Tea, coffee, chocolates and sweets, biscuits.

Out of date medicines, dressings etc. Torches, batteries, wind-up torches (Tesco). Art materials.

Hand warmers, hot water bottles, candles, water purifying tablets

Ambulance – for getting injured soldiers back from the front line – money. St. Mary's Welwyn are putting on a pantomime, this next week to raise funds for this. It needs to be a 4x4.

Shoe Boxes – for war widows and their children, who have lost husband, Dad, home. Tina's suggested items are toiletries, liquid soap, shampoo, toothbrushes and toothpaste, deodorant. Sweets and chocolate. Pencil case and art materials, stickers, exercise books. A Teddy. Torch, batteries, wind-up torch (Tesco's do a cheap one).

Items can be delivered to Tina, at 13A Queen's Road, just opposite Hale Road, very close to the church.

If you have any problems, I will try to help,
Fiona Earle 01992 462467.

Warm Spaces

Warm & Welcoming Spaces in Hertford

Are you finding heating your home a challenge?

There are warm and welcoming spaces each weekday provided by Churches in Hertford, for people of all ages, from young families to older people. From 7th November 2022 to 31st March 2023.



Mon - Fri 9.00-14.00	Oasis Cafe , Methodist Church
Mon 10.30-12.00	St Joseph's
Tues 14.00-15.30	Warm Hub, Baptist Church Hall
Wed 10.00-12.00	Place of Welcome , Baptist Church Hall
2nd Wed of month 10.00-12.00	Craft Club, Duncombe Hall, Bengoe
Wed 10.30-12.00	St Joseph's
Wed 12.30 (Check website for dates)	Soundbites , All Saint's
Thurs 10 - 12	Duncombe Hall, Bengoe
Thurs 10.00-12.00	Open House, URC
3rd Thurs of month 12.00-14.00	Free hot potato lunch, URC
1st Sat of month 10.00-12.00	Coffee morning, St Andrew's
2nd Sat of month 10.00-12.00	Coffee morning, All Saint's

More to come...



Following a series of difficult Christmases, churches across the Church of England are hoping that 2022 offers a chance to welcome people back to services and events that haven't been possible recently. In line with feedback from dioceses and parishes, we are returning to the very popular Follow The Star branding used in two previous years to encourage people to attend their local church at Christmas and to take the next step on their journey of faith.

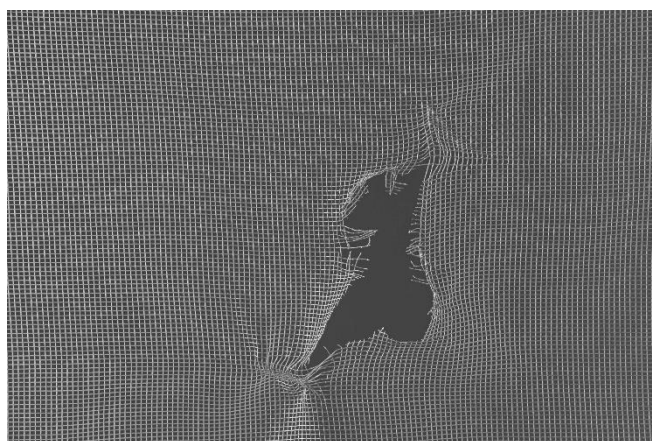
We have developed new resources for 2022 which will work alongside material from previous years, with a focus on **The Great Invitation** - encouraging everyone to share the joy of gathering together to celebrate the birth of Jesus with their family, friends and neighbours - especially after two years where this has been impossible for many.

<https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/resources-advent-and-christmas>

A Torn Safety Net:

How the cost-of-living crisis threatens its own last line of defence

Christian think-tank Theos have published a report on the effect the cost-of-living crisis has had on social and economic security.



"While the cost-of-living crisis has made life acutely less secure for many people, this level of chronic insecurity has been growing over the longer term. The collective impact of household insecurity is beginning to show in whole communities. It is no longer a crisis only of individual circumstances, but a systemic problem, reflected in the fraying fabric of civil society and faith groups. These institutions form a vital part of the safety net offering security and material support to millions of people but are themselves becoming less secure. There is a risk that churches and other faith groups will close, not because of falling attendance or religious affiliation, but because they cannot afford to keep the lights on."

Read the full report on their website at <https://www.theosthinktank.co.uk/cmsfiles/Insecurity-report-v4-combined.pdf>

Millions of people in touch with church community

More than seven million people have had contact with their local church for community support services such as food banks, parent toddler groups and lunch clubs, new figures published this month suggest.

Polling by Savanta ComRes for the Church of England shows that nearly half the population reports having been in contact with their local church – at 46% - with the most popular reasons for doing so being attending weddings, baptisms, and funerals (50%) worship and services (42%) and carol services (39%).

But the figures also show that 30% of those in contact with their local church – or 13.7% of all UK adults – have done so through community services such as a parent toddler groups, lunch clubs and food banks.

The figures also show that twice as many agree (47%) as disagree (23%) that the local church is an important part of their community and just over a half (52%) agree that the Church is an important part of British society.

The findings come after Church of England statistics from 2019 show its churches running or supporting 35,000 social action projects. This includes 8,000 food banks and more than 4,000 parent/carers toddler groups. More than 5,000 churches run or support lunch clubs, coffee mornings or similar hospitality for older people.

The Bishop of Durham, Paul Butler, who speaks for the bishops in the House of Lords on welfare issues, said: *"These figures show the extent to which the Church of England is providing not just spiritual and pastoral support but practical help to communities throughout the country.*

"Jesus's commandment to love your neighbour as yourself is evident in the care and service provided by churches in so many ways.

"The biggest source of practical support provided by Church of England currently is through running or supporting around 8,000

food banks throughout the country and many of our churches are now opening up as 'warm spaces' through the 'Warm Welcome' campaign, as people struggle to pay their energy bills.

"Sadly we anticipate that these services will come under increasing pressure this winter."

A very hard winter for many

The Bishop of St Albans, Alan Smith, convenor of the Bishops in the House of Lords, and the Bishop of Durham Paul Butler, who speaks on poverty issues in the Lords, have responded to the Chancellor of the Exchequer's Autumn statement.

They said: "It is heartening to hear the Chancellor single out the needs of the most vulnerable as a principle behind his Autumn Statement. We recognise that he has had to make some very difficult choices and will continue to pray for him and for the Government as they carry these weighty responsibilities on behalf of everyone.

"Ahead of today's statement one of our key concerns was to see benefits keep pace with inflation. So we welcome the Chancellor's commitment in this regard but continue to call for the end to the two-child limit on Universal Credit, which hits some of the poorest families hardest.

"This is going to be a very hard winter for many. Our churches, in communities across the country, are already reporting alarming rises in demand for foodbanks and other services which have become a lifeline.

"It is heart-breaking to hear of people who just a year ago were donating to foodbanks but are now using them themselves.

"Many of our churches are among the more than 3,700 public spaces which are opening up this winter as a [Warm Space](#) for people amid surging energy bills.

"While we recognise the intense economic pressures on this country, as the Chancellor acknowledges, it is a global situation and we will continue to hold the Government to its commitment to return to giving 0.7 per cent of national income on international development."

You can make a difference




12 Days of Giving is part of Ecclesiastical Insurance's "Movement for Good" programme for 2022. For 12 days in December, they'll be drawing 10 charities per working day to receive

£1,000 - giving away a total of £120,000!!


The first draw takes place on December 1st and the last on the 16th so nominate your favourite charity today!

<https://movementforgood.com/>

All Saints Welcomes Everyone

 **ALLSAINTS**
HERTFORD

**SERVICE OF
LESSONS
AND
CAROLS**



SUNDAY 18 DECEMBER 2022
(Forth Sunday of Advent: 7.00pm)

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

Please note the time – 19.00, due to the Men's Football World Cup Final earlier that afternoon.

Vicar and Churchwarden Charity Fund

Presently, we have 7 old legacies from the 17th and 19th centuries, the income from which is to alleviate financial hardship for people in All Saints' orbit. The yearly income amounts to about £350.00 and this is available to the Vicar

to help individuals in need, for instance visitors to the vicarage who need emergency help.

In recognition of the difficult circumstances facing a lot of people this winter, with raging inflation, especially energy costs, the PCC agreed to expand the charity account by encouraging donations from parishioners who may feel able to handle increased costs themselves but who might like to share what they have with others who may be struggling. Grants could then be given to individuals facing extraordinary need at this time. Grants will be available to be paid from donations, rather than donations being invested for income which is then distributed.

Individual needs will be considered by the Vicar and grants proposed by her to a panel comprising the church officers for agreement, and then administered by the Treasurer. Donations can be paid into All Saints Memorial Fund at NatWest Hertford, sort code 60-10-39, account number 07011113.

Christmas Hampers

Although I no longer feel able to organise a party at Sele School on Christmas day I am planning to organise the delivery of hampers to older people and others who may be on their own at Christmas.

The plan is to pack bags at Cowbridge Hall on the morning of 17th December and then, with help from volunteers, to get them delivered as soon as possible after that.

Funds for "Christmas alone" are very much depleted and I am therefore seeking donations of cash to buy food or gifts of food and other goodies to put into the hampers. We have delivered hampers for the last 2 years and they have been very much appreciated. Obviously, I am very sorry not to be able to offer the party on Christmas Day this year, but if anybody would feel able and keen to organise something another year I would be very happy to pass on my years of knowledge!!

If you feel able to help, please contact me on 01992 587544

Many thanks and Happy Christmas! *Janet Bird*

Celebration Service for Bill Kemm

The service was livestreamed and can be viewed at
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kxi7dQBMjc0>

All Saints Welcomes Everyone 



CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION OF THE BIG BAND SOUNDS

Award winning singer
Robert Habermann returns
to All Saints' with the
Phoenix Jazz Orchestra
to sing original big band
arrangements




Including:


- Come Fly With Me • You Make Me Feel So Young
- Fever • I've Got You Under My Skin
- Have You Met Miss Jones
- and many other great hits

THURSDAY 22 DECEMBER 2022
at 7.45pm (Admission £10)
In Aid of All Saints' Church

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

All Saints Welcomes Everyone 

SERVICE OF EPIPHANY CAROLS



SUNDAY 8 JANUARY 2023
6.30pm

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

 **ALLSAINTS
HERTFORD**
All Saints Welcomes Everyone

GREEN WATCH

A Series of
Talks on
Environmental
Themes

SATURDAY 14 JANUARY 2023
at 1.00pm

Insulation

By Andrew Goodman



Door Open from 11.30am.
Light Lunches from
12noon

- Home Made Cakes • Books • Produce Stall
- Free Admission and Parking in the Churchyard

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

 **ALL SAINTS' WELCOMES EVERYONE**

Soundbites

A Term-Time Series of Concerts on Wednesday Lunch-Times
(Light Lunches served from 12noon for Concerts at 1.00pm)

New Season Starts
WEDNESDAY 25 JANUARY 2023

Felicity Latham (Flute)
Christopher Weston (Piano)

INVITATION TO THE DANCE

Sonata in E major for flute and
harpsichord, BWV 1035
J. S. Bach (1685-1750)
Histoire Du Tango
Astor Piazzolla (1921-1992)
In Ireland
Hamilton Harty (1879-1941)
Impressions Suite
Christopher Weston

Free Admission with Retiring Collection in Aid of All Saints' Church

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

Parish Diary for December 2022/January 2023

Thursday 1st
11.00 am Holy Communion
7.30 pm Herts & Ware SMA Carols

Friday 2nd
5.30 pm Choir Practices

Saturday 3rd (Francis Xavier)
10.00am. Christmas Fair/Coffee Morning
12.00 noon Light Lunches

Sunday 4th Second Sunday of Advent
10.00 am Family Service
6.30 pm Choral Communion

Monday 5th
9.00 am Tuning of Organs
7.00 pm Police, Fire & Rescue Carols

Tuesday 6th (Nicholas)
11.00 am Morning Prayer on Zoom

Wednesday 7th (Ambrose)
9.30 Wheatcroft Rehearsal
7.00 pm Wheatcroft Carols

Thursday 8th (Conception of BVM)
11.00 am Holy Communion
12.00 noon R Hale set-up
7.30 pm Concert by Richard Hale

Friday 9th (Ember Day)
5.30 pm Choir Practices

Saturday 10th (Ember Day)
3.00 pm Open Tower
4.30 pm Eastern District Bellringers Association Carol Service

Sunday 11th Third Sunday of Advent
10.00 am Parish Communion
6.30 pm Choral Evensong

Monday 12th
9.30 am Simon Balle set-up/reh
7.00 pm Simon Balle Carol Service

Tuesday 13th (Lucy)
10.00 am Simon Balle Carol Service
11.00 am Morning Prayer on Zoom
6.00 pm Simon Balle Carol Service

Wednesday 14th (John of the Cross)
10.00 am Simon Balle Carol Service

Thursday 15th
11.00 am Holy Communion
7.30 pm HCS set-up

Friday 16th
1.00 pm Morgans set-up
2.00 pm Morgans Christingle
5.30 pm Choir Practices

Saturday 17th (O Sapientia)
7.030 pm Concert HCS - Wenceslas

Sunday 18th Fourth Sunday of Advent
10.00 am Family Eucharist
3.00 pm Rehearsals
7.00 pm Service of Lessons and Carols **Note time!**

Tuesday 20th
11.00 am Morning Prayer on Zoom

Wednesday 21st
9.30 R Hale Founders Day Service

Thursday 22nd
11.00 am Holy Communion
7.45 pm Concert PJO/R Habermann

Saturday 24th Christmas Eve
4.00 pm Blessing of Christmas Crib
11.30 pm First Communion of Christmas

Sunday 25th Christmas Day
10.00 am Parish Communion

JANUARY 2023
Sunday 1st Naming and Circumcision of Jesus
10.00 am Family Eucharist
6.30 pm Evensong (Said)

Tuesday 3rd
11.00 am Morning Prayer on Zoom

Thursday 5th
11.00 am Holy Communion

Friday 6th (Epiphany)
5.30 pm Choir Practices

Sunday 8th Baptism of Christ
10.00 am Parish Communion
6.30 pm Epiphany Carol Service

Tuesday 10th (William Laud)
11.00 am Morning Prayer on Zoom
7.30 pm MU: AGM & 'Pot Luck' Supper

Wednesday 11th (Mary Slessor)
7.30 pm PCC

Thursday 12th (Aelred)
11.00 am Holy Communion
7.30 pm All Saints Art

Friday 13th (Hilary)
5.30 pm Choir Practices

Saturday 14th
11.30am. Coffee Morning
12.00 noon Light Lunches
1.00 pm GreenWatch: Insulation Andrew Goodman

Sunday 15th Second Sunday of Epiphany
10.00 am Family Eucharist
6.30 pm Choral Compline

Tuesday 17th (Anthony of Egypt)
11.00 am Morning Prayer on Zoom

Thursday 19th (Wulfstan)
11.00 am Holy Communion
7.30 pm All Saints Art

Friday 20th (Richard Rolle)
5.30 pm Choir Practices

Saturday 21st (Agnes)
9.00 am Work Party

Sunday 22nd Third Sunday of Epiphany
10.00 am Parish Communion
6.30 pm Choral Evensong

Tuesday 24th (Frances de Sales)
11.00 am Morning Prayer on Zoom

Wednesday 25th (Paul)
12 noon for 1.00 pm Soundbites
 Felicity Latham - *Flute*
 Christopher Weston - *Piano*

Thursday 26th (Timothy & Titus)
11.00 am Holy Communion
7.30 pm All Saints Art

Friday 27th
5.30 pm Choir Practices

Sunday 29th Fourth Sunday of Epiphany
10.00 am Parish Communion
6.30 pm Choral Evensong

Tuesday 31st (John Bosco)
11.00 am Morning Prayer on Zoom

Contact information

www.allsaintshertford.org

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