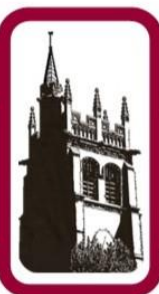


ALL SAINTS'



ALIVE

All Saints' Welcomes Everyone

Trust in our Lord

Dear friends,

As I sit here looking out at a sunny blue sky and a garden full of snowdrops it is hard to understand how there can be so much suffering and violence going on in the world.

Despite all the current problems to do with the cost of living crisis, flu and covid still being a problem for so many of us and all the horrors of war and natural catastrophes I hope that we can still find reasons for rejoicing.

We have had the brilliant news that our dear vicar Jo has come safely through her operation and is now on the road to recovery. Obviously it will take some time until she is able to resume all her duties and she will remain on sick leave for some weeks yet and so we continue to pray for her and for Doug and their family at this difficult time. Thankfully the news about Nerine continues to be incredibly positive and we are beginning to look forward to the day when she will be fit enough to return home to Hertford.

A recent Gospel message from Matthew 6.25-34 told us to not to worry about the everyday things in our life because God will take care of us when we concentrate on serving God and seeking the Kingdom of Heaven. We are told not to worry about tomorrow because today's trouble is enough of its own. Perhaps this might sound a little glib. How can we avoid worrying about what will happen tomorrow or even next week- especially when there seems to be so much to worry about? In an ideal world we should only worry about what we can actually change and then do what we can to make things better but obviously that is easier said than done. Otherwise, we should put our trust in the Lord and the power of prayer.

As we enter the period of Lent, we remember how Jesus dealt with challenges by facing problems head on. We know that he was tempted in the wilderness and yet he came

through because he trusted in God. He was reviled and criticised by the Pharisees and yet he was strong and showed them that he was not afraid of them. The ultimate challenge which Jesus faced was his trial and crucifixion and the horror of hearing the crowds turn against him. Yet still Jesus accepted that what happened was the will of God and commended his Spirit to his heavenly Father.

So during Lent we think of the sacrifices Jesus made and question the strength of our faith; whether we can be strong and cope with the challenges in our own lives. However even though we may sometimes feel weak and unable to cope we have the promise of the Resurrection to support and uphold us. Jesus died for our redemption and to give us strength and support in our hour of need.

Worrying can make us feel hopeless and helpless, we may feel as though we are in a dark place but when we put our trust in Jesus Christ and ask him to support and guide us, we can gain a strength we never knew we had, helping us not only to cope with our own challenges but enabling us to help others. Jesus said "**I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life**".

Love, Janet

Good news from Jo



It was a surprise to hear in December that a routine check-up had indicated that I had cancer of the colon. It seemed unreal as I felt perfectly fine, but planning began to remove the cancer early in the New Year. I am pleased to say that this has now been achieved, on 8th February, as I was operated by a robot controlled by an excellent surgeon. Enhanced recovery meant that I left the hospital five days later. I am now recovering at home.

I was greatly helped by the care given at the Lister hospital, where all the staff were firmly focused on patient care, from my surgeon to the nurses, cleaners and caterers. I also felt a sense that I was in God's hands which gave me a sense of peace in a potentially life-threatening situation. I have also felt held by so many people in prayer, in our parish, across the Deanery and among family and friends, and I am very grateful for this loving support.

I am very pleased to say that I have been informed that all the cancer has been removed, there has been no spread and therefore no chemotherapy will be needed. It's the best possible news in the circumstances.

Nevertheless, I will be off work for at least six more weeks, which certainly adds a fresh dimension to Easter Hope. It was major surgery and healing will take time; I need to be patient. It has been a harrowing time, but it has brought to light that several other people in our community have gone through this testing time and come through very well. It is wonderful to know that God is with us in our times of pain and anxiety, and to feel the strength which comes from knowing that prayers are being offered regularly for one's recovery. But now, please, rejoice with me.

Love, Jo

Bishop Jane's Welcome



Thank you to everyone who worked so hard to make this a very special occasion for Bishop Jane and us all. She was very pleased that it was such a friendly and welcoming event and it been much admired on social media too!

Creation and Wisdom

Geoff Oates 12th February 2023



Proverbs 8 vs 22: *'When He marked out the foundations of the earth, then I was beside him, like a master worker'.*

This second Sunday before Lent is widely celebrated as Creation Sunday, and the delightful passage of poetry in Proverbs chapter 8 introduces a personified 'wisdom' as the first act of God's creation. It tells how Wisdom works joyfully with God at each stage of a creation process that closely echoes the ancient story we know from the opening chapters of the book of Genesis.

The poet who wrote this, perhaps around 200BC, cannot possibly have guessed that his words would become a keystone of Christian theology. Early Christian teachers, including St Paul and St John, understood the figure of 'Wisdom' to be a symbol of Christ, and evidence that the Christ had not merely been brought into being at the moment in history we call the Incarnation, but had been there from the very beginning. This idea we formalised in our Creeds as His being 'Co-Eternal with the Father'. And by the way, even St Paul had no problem at all with the fact that Wisdom, in Proverbs, is very clearly female.

We sometimes try to break up our idea of the Trinity, Father, Son and Spirit, into three clear roles: 1) God the Creator, 2) God the Redeemer and 3) God the Sanctifier, but both St John's Gospel and St Paul's letters assert that Christ was also in there right from the beginning and taking an active role in the work of Creation. 'By him all things in heaven and on earth were made.' What might this idea have to say to us?

Well first of all, I really like the idea of Creation being an act of teamwork, a family thing. There is a joy and a dynamism in making things

together. In the Gospel narratives, Jesus had another father – Joseph, the carpenter – and Jesus followed his dad into his trade. Father and Son working together in the creative, productive space of a carpenter's workshop. The craftsmanship that made our universe became incarnate in the skilled hands of a woodworker.



The role of the carpenter is not just making new things. The workshop is also a place where a worn tool, a broken axle, a damaged plough can be brought to be repaired or refurbished. Not because the materials or the workmanship of the maker have proven to be faulty, but because the craftsman's handiwork is meant to be put to work, to be productive in its turn in field and mill and home, and like all well-used tools, they will suffer from wear and tear. And of course, tools are not all looked after as conscientiously as they should be.

How reassuring to know that the father can pass the repair jobs on to his son and say, 'I'll let you fix this one, you know how, because you helped me make it. Give it all your love and care'

That is what Jesus' divine Father says to us as well. My Son can fix you. Trust him, he helped me make you. In the great workshop of creation, the best person to fix the damage, to make good the wear and tear of life, is the person who made it all in the first place.

The one who is agent of the redemption of our world, also had a hand in its creation. The one who is agent of your redemption also had a hand in making you.

When you buy yourself something technical and expensive, what do you do with the warranty? That little booklet full of conditions and restrictions that says that, if it breaks down within x years, the manufacturer will mend it, or replace it. Do you file it away carefully until it expires? Or does it go in the recycling? I guess the one warranty we do pay attention

to is the one for the motor car. Can you get three years, maybe even 5 years before you have to start worrying about repair bills?

A long warranty is a great sign that a manufacturer has faith in their products. Faith that they won't break down, or faith that, if anything does go wrong, they will still be worth repairing. It is only a very confident, and very caring supplier who will issue a lifetime warranty.

We live our lives under a lifetime warranty. A warranty from our divine maker who has confidence in what He has made, together with His Son. Not because he is certain that nothing will go wrong, but because He has faith in His repair and maintenance team.

And that is maybe a very good way to understand redemption. It's not a one-off act, a like for like replacement of faulty goods. It's a lifetime of care and maintenance, for a product that God believes is worth keeping going – you and me.

When something breaks down after a couple of years of use, I wonder how often you have hunted down the old instruction manual and tried to find the 'troubleshooting' pages. Then you've noticed the 'care and maintenance' chapter and read with horror about all the things you should have been doing regularly, right from the start, to keep the device clean and well oiled. Maintenance isn't an afterthought to think about when things go wrong.

God the Redeemer, God the maintenance man, wasn't an afterthought to creation, He was there for us right from the start. Ready for us as soon as we were ready for him.

There's a big difference between replacing something and renewing it. In what we often call a 'throwaway' culture, there's a lot to be said for what older generations would call 'make do and mend'. You know the old cliché about grandfather's axe? The one that's had seven new handles and five new heads....but grandfather is devoted to it because it has lasted him a whole lifetime. I think God thinks of me like that.

God, I pray, will renew me, every part of me, again and again and again, and yet always recognise and cherish me as the same one who first came out of the family workshop 61 years ago. He thinks I'm worth it. He thinks you're worth it.

Ideas for Lent 2023

Experiencing God's Help in Times of Crisis

*A five-week Lent Course
based on the book*



Tuesdays 8pm
28 Feb & 7, 14, 21, 28 March

St Andrew's Church
Hertford SG14 1HZ

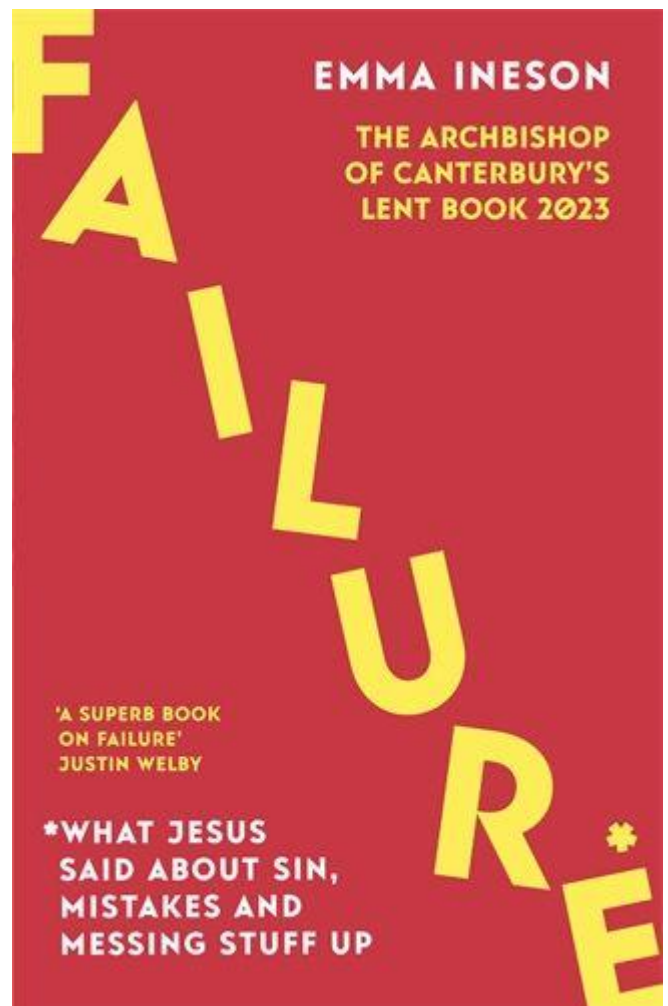
www.hertfordstandrews.co.uk

DUST + GLORY

This Lent we are all invited to explore how we can live well with the mess of everyday life.

Dust and Glory: A Lent journey of faith, failure and forgiveness is the Church of England's Lent theme for 2023, informed and inspired by the Archbishop of Canterbury's 2023 Lent Book, *Failure: What Jesus said about sin, mistakes and messing stuff up* (SPCK) by Bishop Emma Ineson, who has also co-written the daily reflections booklet for adults (CHP).

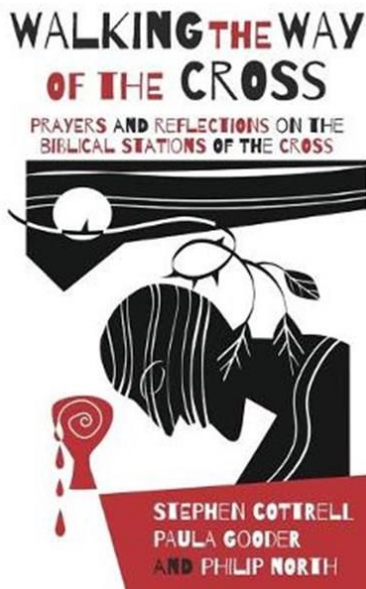
It encourages us to take a fresh look at the frustrations and failings that every day brings and, rather than pretending we can always avoid them, seek to learn from them and grow closer to God through them.



As in recent years, the weekly themes of the Archbishop's Lent Book are also explored in daily reflections from the Church of England. **Dust and Glory: A Lent Journey of faith, failure and forgiveness** offers a daily Bible reading, a short reflection and a practical challenge, as well as a prayer linked to the week's theme. Co-written by Bishop Emma Ineson and Abbie Martin, the booklet is designed to be used either in parallel with the Lent Book or independently. An accompanying children's version is also available to help children and their families explore how we can live well together, offering a simple daily activity designed to explore the weekly themes. The book and booklets will be accompanied by daily social media posts from Ash Wednesday (22 February) to Easter Day (9 April), together with a wide range of free digital resources for individuals, groups and churches.

<https://www.churchofengland.org/our-faith/what-we-believe/lent-holy-week-and-easter/dust-and-glory-lent-reflections>

Stations of the Cross



The Stations of the Cross have formed part of Christian devotion at Passiontide for many centuries because they enable us to engage actively with the path of suffering walked by Jesus.

They originated when early

Christians visited Jerusalem and wanted to follow literally in the footsteps of Jesus, tracing the path from Pilate's house to Calvary. They would pause for prayer and devotion at various points.

Eventually, those pilgrims brought the practice back to their home countries and ever since then Christians of differing traditions have used this form of devotion.

Follow the link below and find out more about the [Walking the Way of the Cross book](#) and [Kindle e-book](#), published by Church House Publishing, which features further reflections on all fifteen Stations by Archbishop Stephen Cottrell, Canon Dr Paula Gooder and Bishop Philip North.

<https://www.churchofengland.org/our-faith/what-we-believe/lent-holy-week-and-easter/stations-cross>

Women of Holy Week

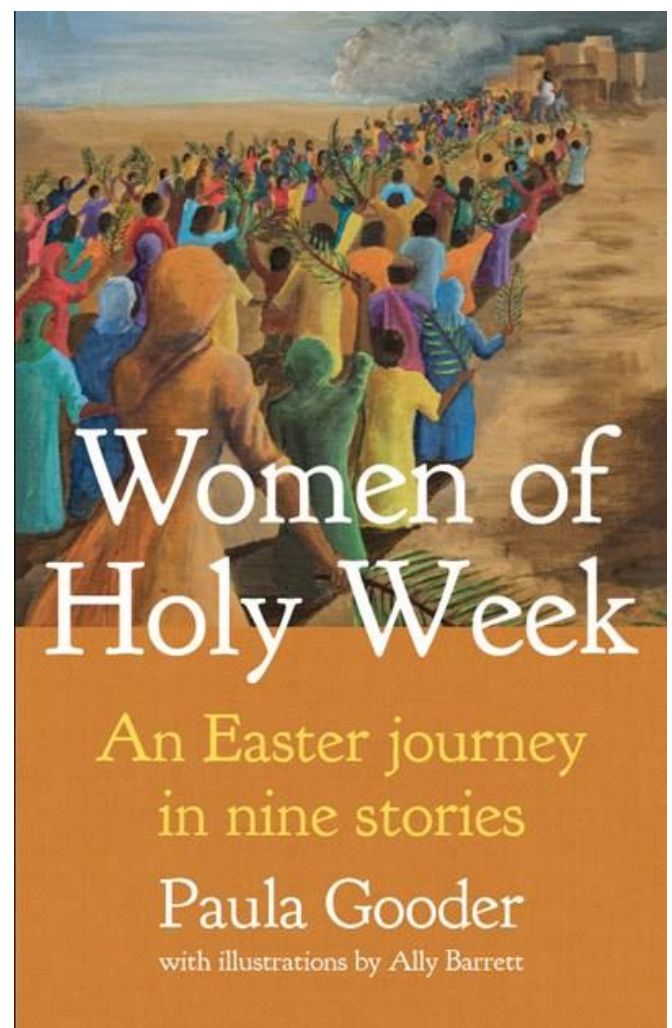
Women of Holy Week is a series of nine stories about nine different, but interlinked, women written by Paula Gooder, originally as Holy Week, Easter and Ascension Day reflections for Southwark Cathedral in 2021.

Starting with Palm Sunday and finishing with Ascension Day, these nine stories imagine what it might have been like to accompany Jesus in this final week of his life from the perspective of nine women.

Some of them we know with certainty were there because the Gospels tell us they were there: the widow with two coins, the woman with the ointment of pure nard, Mary wife of Clopas, Mary Magdalene, Mary mother of Jesus.

Some are not mentioned at all, but someone like them was probably present: a woman journeying to Jerusalem for the Passover, the wife of a scribe, and a female disciple at the Last Supper.

The stories also aim to travel from the outside in: from people who had the most fleeting encounters with Jesus at the start of the week to his most devoted followers at the end.



More information and links to additional materials at

<https://www.churchofengland.org/our-faith/what-we-believe/lent-holy-week-and-easter/women-holy-week>

Easter Flowers



Flowers in church at Easter in memory of loved ones have always been special. Your donations are always appreciated and are a great help in making our church look its very best on Easter morning.

If you would like to make a donation this year Dorothy Toyn or the Churchwardens would be pleased to receive your gift by Sunday April 2nd.

The XMAS TREE CROSS will be decorated on Easter Day. Please remember to bring a flower on Easter Day, Sunday 9th April

Dorothy Toyn
01992 589781
dorothy.toyn@ntlworld.com

Green Watch

March 11th



ALLSAINTS HERTFORD
All Saints Welcomes Everyone

The Charismatic Water Vole

By Josh Kalms

Learn about the Water Vole and discover how Hertfordshire and Middlesex Wildlife Trust are protecting the UK's fastest declining mammal from local extinction.

A Series of Talks on Environmental Themes

SATURDAY 11 MARCH 2023 at 1.00pm

Refreshments Served from 11.30am
Light Lunches from 12noon

• Homemade Cakes • Produce Stall • Free Admission

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

The next Green Watch Talk will be given by Josh Kalms, on Saturday, 11th March 2023, at 1 pm (preceded by coffee from 11.30 am and light lunches from 12 noon.).

Josh is People & Wildlife Officer (Affinity Water Sites) and Water Vole Conservation Officer of the Hertfordshire & Middlesex Wildlife Trust. He will be talking about their work in protecting Water Voles, the UK's fastest declining mammal, from extinction.

<https://www.hertswildlifetrust.org.uk/blog/water-vole-facts>



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)

Wednesday 1 March 2023
Jeanne Mann (Violin)
Christopher Benham (Piano)

Violin Sonata in A - César Franck and music by Gershwin

César Franck's Violin Sonata in A was composed in 1886, and was offered as a wedding present for the violinist Eugene Ysaÿe. The violinist played the sonata many times on his wide-ranging tours and it has become one of the most performed violin works in the repertoire.

Wednesday 15 March 2023
Wild Rose Trio

Jane Rose (Flute and Recorder)
Catherine Wild (Oboe and Recorder)
Phillip Mountford (Piano)

Concertino for flute oboe and piano - Johann Wenzel Kalliwoda
Trio for oboe, flute and piano - Blaz Pucihar
Trio Sonata in C for 2 Treble Recorders and harpsichord - G.P. Telemann

Wednesday 8 March 2023
Amberg Trio (Clarinet, Cello, Piano)

Beethoven's Piano Trio in B-flat major, Op. 11

Composed in 1797 and one of a series of early chamber works involving woodwind instruments because of their popularity and novelty at the time.

The work is also sometimes known by the nickname "Gassenhauer Trio". This arose from its third movement which contains nine variations on a theme from the then popular drama giocoso 'L'amor marinaro ossia il corsaro' by Joseph Weigl.

Wednesday 22 March 2023
Courtyard Quartet

Pam Lambert (Soprano)
Jan Robinson (Alto)
Geoff Blyth (Tenor)
Paul Durbin (Bass)

Nostalgia - a concert of songs evoking memories of 'bygone days'

The Courtyard Quartet is an a cappella vocal group who perform a wide range of music from throughout the ages, and in a wide variety of styles, including early to contemporary classical music; popular music from the 50's to the present day. Their extensive repertoire contains a high proportion of their own original arrangements.

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

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




Free Entry
A donation collection will be taken during the concert

Charity Concert

Featuring West End hits and Big Band favourites. Please join us for a family-friendly concert in aid of Zambian children's charity **Twende Education For All**. Help us provide hospital-based schooling and support for children with cancer and sickle cell anaemia in Lusaka.

Guest compère and soloist
Anthony Harris

Saturday 4th March

Including performances by...


Heath Mount School Bax Choir



All Saints Church Hertford SG13 8AY 7pm

The City of Cambridge Brass Band



**Welwyn Garden City
Orchestra & Chorus**

Beethoven Violin Concerto

with soloist
Sara Trickey

Mozart
Ave Verum Corpus

Haydn
Insanae et Vanae Curae

plus other works for orchestra and chorus

Saturday 18th March, 7.30pm
St Francis' Church, Welwyn Garden City
AL8 6QJ

Tickets £15 / Students £5 / Under 12s free

Online: wgcms.org.uk (booking fee applies)

Phone: 0333 666 3366 (booking fee applies)

On the door: subject to availability



Registered Charity No. 290194

wgcms.org.uk

Hertford Theatre Week

27th March to 1st April 2023 will see the 60th iteration of Hertford Theatre Week, the town's 6-day long drama festival that is widely acclaimed as one of the best such drama festivals in the country.

With Hertford Theatre still closed for refurbishment the Ayckbourn Theatre on the Haileybury College campus, just three miles away, will for a second year be the venue for the festival. Curtain up is at 7.45pm each night, except for Saturday's earlier 7.30pm start to allow time for the presentation of the trophies at the end of the evening



Last year's winner, *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, presented by Hertford's Company of Players

Full details of each of this year's six productions are available at www.hertfordtheatreweek.org.uk and tickets are available at www.ticketsource.co.uk/hertford-dramatic-and-operatic-society priced at £16 per night or a weekly ticket that offers all 6 plays for only £49- a bargain!

Dates for your Diaries

We've been busy planning ahead and here are some key dates in May-July for you to be aware of; full details will be published next month.

15th April - Afternoon Tea and Quiz

7th May Civic Service for Coronation of King Charles III

13th May Plant Sale, Lunch & GreenWatch

20th May Civic Service for new Mayor

10th-17th June Hertfordshire Festival of Music

29th June Phoenix Big Band 7.30 pm

8th July Garden Party at Birds

Hertford Choral
Society presents

St Matthew Passion

J S Bach (sung in German)

The final days of Christ's life, retold by solo voices, orchestra and chorus

7.30pm, Saturday 25th March 2023
All Saints' Church, Hertford SG13 8AY

Orchestra: Eboracum Baroque
Evangelist: Gopal Kambo
Christus: Tom Herring
Soprano: Katy Thomson

Counter tenor: Sam Mitchell
Tenor: Jacob Clark
Bass: Krishnan Ram-Prasad
Conductor: Manvinder Rattan

Tickets:



£16 reserved / £12 unreserved / £4 for students

Email: tickets@hertfordchoral.org.uk

Online: www.ticketsource.co.uk
(booking fee applies)

In person: Hertford Town & Tourist Information Centre,
10-12 The Wash, Hertford SG14 1PX (unreserved only)

For more information please visit
www.hertfordchoral.org.uk



Registered Charity No. 276220

Parish Diary March 2023

Wednesday 1st (David)

12 noon for 1.00 pm Soundbites:
Jeanne Mann – *Violin*
Christopher Benham – *Piano*

Thursday 2nd (Chad)

11.00 am Morning Prayer
7.30 pm All Saints Art

Friday 3rd (Ember Day)

3.00 pm World Day of Prayer service at St Joseph's.
5.30 pm Choir Practices in Church

Saturday 4th (Ember Day)

7.00 pm Charity Concert – Heath Mount School

Sunday 5th Second Sunday of Lent

10.00 am Family Service
6.30 pm Choral Communion

Tuesday 7th (Perpetua)

8.00 pm Lent Course at St Andrews

Wednesday 8th (Edward King)

12 noon for 1.00 pm Soundbites
Amberg Trio – *Clarinet, Cello & Piano*

Thursday 9th

11.00 am Morning Prayer
7.30 pm All Saints Art

Friday 10th

5.30 pm Choir Practices in Church

Saturday 11th

11.30am. Coffee Morning
12.00 noon Light Lunches
1.00 pm GreenWatch: *Water Voles*

Sunday 12th Third Sunday of lent

10.00 am Parish Communion
6.30 pm Choral Evensong

Monday 13th

11.00 am Funeral of Alan Weeks

Tuesday 14th

8.00 pm Lent Course at St Andrews

Wednesday 15th

12 noon for 1.00 pm Soundbites
Wild Rose Trio – *Flute/Recorder,*
Oboe/Recorder & Piano

Thursday 16th

11.00 am Morning Prayer
12.00 noon Funeral of Norman Barnard
7.30 pm All Saints Art

Friday 17th (Patrick)

5.30 pm Choir Practices in Church

Saturday 18th (Cyril)

9.00 am Work Party

Sunday 19th Mothering Sunday

10.00 am Family Eucharist
6.30 pm Choral Compline

Tuesday 21st (Thomas Cranmer)

8.00 pm Lent Course at St Andrews

Wednesday 22nd

12 noon for 1.00 pm Soundbites
Courtyard Quartet – Vocal Ensemble

Thursday 23rd

11.00 am Morning Prayers
7.30 pm All Saints Art

Friday 24th (Walter Hilton)

5.30 Choir Practices in Church

Saturday 25th (Annunciation to the BVM)

3.00 Concert by HCS: *St Matthew Passion*

Sunday 26th Fifth Sunday of Lent (Passion Sunday)

10.00 am Parish Communion
6.30 pm Choral Evensong

Tuesday 28th

8.00 pm Lent Course at St Andrews

Thursday 30th

11.00 am Morning Prayer
7.30 pm All Saints Art

Friday 31st (John Donne)

5.30 Choir Practices in Church

APRIL Palm Sunday 2nd

10.00 am Family Eucharist with Gospel of the Palms
and Gospel of the Passion
6.30 pm Meditation in Words and Music

Maundy Thursday 6th

11.00 am Holy Communion
8.00 pm Choral Communion & stripping of Altars

Good Friday 7th

9.30 am Family Service
10.30 am Walk of Witness
2.00 pm An Hour at the Foot of the Cross

Easter Day 9th

10.00 am Family Eucharist for Easter Day
6.30 pm Said Evensong

Contact information

www.allsaintshertford.org    AllSaintsHerf

Vicar on sick leave. Please do not contact her. Instead
contact Lay Reader/Churchwarden Mrs Janet Bird
wardens@allsaintshertford 01992 587544

Office office@allsaintshertford.org

Full list of contacts

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