

ALL SAINTS'



ALIVE

All Saints' Welcomes Everyone

Looking forward

November has been a busy month. A time for remembering and giving thanks for the lives of so many. Strangers who fought and gave their lives in war that we might live in freedom, but also friends and family members who we especially think of at our Memorial Service for the Faithful Departed. Also, as you will read elsewhere in this newsletter, we also remember with thanksgiving, and some amazement, Michael Metcalfe, who has left All Saints a truly amazing legacy.

This year we have also been very grateful to Chris Dunne, Tom Cook and other friends of the late Mark Mobley who raised money and then spent time and expertise repairing the wall in the Memorial Garden in the middle of the Churchyard, in memory of their friend who died so tragically young. It has made such a difference, and we thank them most sincerely.

Now, however, is the time to begin looking forward. As we enter the season of Advent we look forward, not only to Christmas, but also to the time when Jesus will come again. Advent is a time of preparation, a time to consider what our Christian faith means in our lives. This year is also a time to think about our hopes and aspirations for this church of All Saints and how we can best serve the community in which we are privileged to live. However, it is also a time when we can consider how best to share the message of the Good News of Jesus with all who will be visiting this building over the next few weeks and into the New Year.

As we work our way through the vacancy following Jo's retirement, we are very lucky to have so much support from a number of Clergy and Readers, allowing us to continue with most of our normal programme. We are particularly blessed to have Archdeacon Janet taking our services on both Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. However, as ever at

this time of year we do need to call on as many church members as possible to help at the Christmas Carol services which we will be hosting for local schools. We want to ensure that everybody who visits us is given a warm welcome and so we are calling for volunteers to be present to help where needed and for those who are key holders to come forward to volunteer to open up and lock up for some of the special services.

As we look at the sadness and violence in today's world, we need to remember the true message of Christmas and the image of the young parents forced to bring their first born into the world in a stable full of animals. Christmas is about love and compassion for those in need, not about running ourselves into the ground worrying about whether we can afford all the food and presents that the media want us to believe are essential.



Let's concentrate on caring for others as well as giving thanks to God for blessings that we have. Perhaps making a donation to charity in lieu of giving unnecessarily expensive

presents that we can't really afford, or buying more food and drink than we really need. We have many charity shops locally where we can get real bargains as well as helping other people. Perhaps you will have other ideas but my prayer for this December is that we will all find time to consider how we can truly invite Jesus into our hearts and into our homes at this very special time of year.

In a world of darkness may we welcome Jesus, the light of the world, so that all who walk in his way may know his love and by his Grace may we share that light and love throughout this town of Hertford and out into

the wider world, bringing comfort to those in need and hope to those in despair. God bless you and all those you love this Christmas and may the Prince of Peace prevail in a world where he has never been more greatly needed.

Love Janet & Verity

Finance Update

Colin Bird

The last couple of months have seen us with serious but expected financial problems but a generous legacy from one of our committed members and a wonderful gift from a fellow Christian, which has come out of the blue, has just transformed our situation.

For the 9 months to 30 September our operating deficit was £28,000! We started the year with a general fund of only £13,000 so we knew this year would be tough. We financed our church by using two generous legacies we received in 2022, totalling £22,000, so we were down to reserves of £7,000 and facing a tough last quarter. In fact, for the first time since I became Treasurer, some 36 years ago, we did not pay our parish share in full.

But in October we received a legacy of £10,000 which has been put into our general fund, and we were hopeful that would see us through to the end of the year, much depending on the cost of gas and electricity.and then, out of the blue came a gift from the estate of Michael Metcalfe, deceased. Mr Metcalfe was 90 years old and a member of the Catholic Church in Hertford. He lived modestly in the parish, and we think Jo used to see him walking through the churchyard.

Mr Metcalfe has left his entire estate to charity (hence no death duties are payable), and we are one of the beneficiaries. In November a first distribution from the executors was declared following the sale of his house and release of his bank deposits, which have turned out to be substantial. All Saints has received an amazing £280,000! We can expect a second distribution when his portfolio of shares has been realised. This should exceed a further £100,000.

Mr Metcalfe's generosity to us will transform our finances. We will need to spend money on our priorities, on enhancing our mission (which is why we are here in the first place!), sorting out the heating and the leaky South Aisle roof and on CCTV to enhance our security (a requirement of insurers after the window damage). The PCC will be considering all these in the near future.

Of course, the more we spend, the less we have to earn interest. To cover our operating deficit in 2023 we would need to have £600,000 earning 5%, so whilst the Metcalfe legacy is amazing and will allow us to move forward positively, it is not sufficient on its own to make our church sustainable; it will, however mean that a new incumbent will have time to lead the church without worrying about short term finance issues. Hopefully this will make us more attractive to clergy thinking about the next steps in their careers. The PCC will need to keep sustainability on its agenda going forward.

It is astonishing that history repeats itself, given that 30 years ago the church was in a real mess, with major repairs needed and no money. We were rescued by a completely unexpected legacy from the estate of Reginald Cull, who left us £300,000 (a huge sum then), which enabled us to repair the church and create the kitchen, toilets, and meeting room at the West end of the church. We were also able to install the glass entrance porch in Mr Cull's memory.

Years Mind

Each week our notice sheet includes the names of those whose anniversary of death occurs in the coming week. The list we use was originally compiled from those with entries in the Memorial Book but, of course, it is open to all. If you would like someone added to the list, please let Martin P know.

Church Social Media

Unfortunately, one of our Facebook accounts was successfully hacked and hijacked and then abused. As a result, Facebook have wisely disabled it and thus we are unable to access the church's Facebook or Instagram

pages. We are hopeful that we will be able to restore this before mid-December and will email/Whats App confirmation. In the meantime, please treat any postings on our Facebook and Instagram pages with caution.

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 on 01992 447726 to arrange collection or delivery or there will be some available at the All the Family Service on Sunday 3rd December.

Waste Aware



Search for **Hertfordshire Worth Saving** on line to check out [#WorthSaving – Save Food, Save Money](#), a campaign supported by Councils across Hertfordshire offering practical advice to help

us to save money, reduce waste and protect the environment by throwing away less edible food.

Research in 2020 found that the nearly a quarter of the weight of the typical refuse bin across Hertfordshire was **wasted edible food**. This stimulated the Hertfordshire Waste Partnership to develop the [#WorthSaving – Save Food, Save Money](#) campaign.

3,000 householders responded to a food waste survey which was followed up by focus groups and vox pops. From this consultation the Partnership developed its **4 steps to save programme**.

This shows how the average household could save up to £720 per year by simply:

1. Planning - checking what you already have and planning your meals before making a shopping list
2. Shopping for what you need sticking to your list
3. Storing what's been bought appropriately so it lasts until its needed – and knowing what the dates on the packaging mean.
4. Eating what's been bought, being aware of portion sizes and getting creative with left-overs.

Besides saving money in a cost-of-living crisis, throwing away less edible food can really help the environment. Food that's planted, grown, reared, harvested, prepared, transported and retailed, only to be wasted by consumers contributes 8% of global Greenhouse Gas emissions, (GHGs) a major factor in climate change. And the land, water and other resources needed to grow food can also harm our biodiversity. So its vitally important that we don't waste what's been produced.

Check out the campaign -it's full of practical help in the fight against food waste. Maybe you have some food saving tips you can share with others - we'd love to hear from you.

Ukraine



This pallet of toiletries, sanitary, toothpaste, baby soap, and washing powder for Ukraine, was funded by many donations of ten, twenty pounds etc. They are on their way to Ukraine along with some Christmas gifts for the children. Thank you all!

All Saints Welcomes Everyone



Christmas EXTRA

SATURDAY 2 DECEMBER 2023
10.30am to 2.00pm

COME AND SHOP EARLY FOR **EXTRA SPECIAL**
HOMEMADE CHRISTMAS GIFTS

Featuring
DISPLAY OF
STAINED GLASS
By **MORGANS**
SCHOOL

- Homemade Christmas Wreaths
- Homemade Candles • Homemade Crafts
- Delicious Homemade Christmas Cakes
- Homemade Decorations • Homemade Cards
- Homemade Produce • Aschiana Charity Stall
- Chocolate Tombola • Raffle • Books • Games

REFRESHMENTS SERVED ALL DAY • LUNCH FROM 12noon

ALL SAINTS CHURCH - Queens Road, Hertford, Hertfordshire SG13 8AY

www.allsaintshertford.org

Hertford Choral Society presents

This Joyous Night

An Evening of Christmas
Music and Carols

7.30pm, Saturday 16th December 2023
All Saints' Church, Hertford SG13 8AY

Programme: Alan Woods: *This Joyous Night* and Christmas Carols for audience and choir
Orchestra: Serafine Sinfonia
Soprano: Natasha Page
Conductor: Manvinder Rattan
With: Benington Primary School Choir

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



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**HARRY POTTER • STAR WARS
JURASSIC PARK • GLADIATOR
ET • PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN • JAWS
INDIANA JONES • INTERSTELLAR
SCHINDLER'S LIST • INCEPTION
AND MORE**

Disclaimer - Titles are listed to describe our musical program to guests only. London Film Music Orchestra is not affiliated with or endorsed by the titles listed. All trade marks are the property of their owners.

All Saints Welcomes Everyone



FESTIVE SERVICES

Sunday 3 December 2023 • 6.30pm

Advent Carol Service

Sunday 17 December 2023 • 6.30pm

Service of Lessons and Carols

Sunday 24 December 2023 • 4.00pm

Blessing of the Crib
Family Christmas Service with Carols

Sunday 24 December 2023 • 11.30pm

Midnight Mass

Monday 25 December 2023 • 10.00am

**Christmas Day Family
Eucharist**

Sunday 7 January 2024 • 10.00am

All the Family Service for Epiphany

Sunday 7 January 2024 • 6.30pm

Epiphany Carol Service

**WE WISH YOU A PEACEFUL CHRISTMAS WITH
EVERY BLESSING FOR THE NEW YEAR**

For all Regular Services, please check the website

ALL SAINTS CHURCH - Queens Road, Hertford, Hertfordshire SG13 8AY

www.allsaintshertford.org

Parish Diary December 2023/January 2024

Friday 1st (Charles de Foucault)

9.00 am Organ Tuning
5.30 pm Choir Practices

Saturday 2nd

10.30 am Christmas Extral!

Sunday 3rd Advent Sunday

10.00 am All-Age Service
6.30 pm Advent Carol Service

Wednesday 6th (Nicholas)

9.30 am H&WSMA setup
7.30 pm Herts & Ware SMA
Christmas service

Thursday 7th (Ambrose)

11.00 am Morning Prayer
12.00 noon R Hale set up
7.30 pm Concert by Richard
Hale School

Friday 8th (Conception of BVM)

5.30 pm Choir Practices

Saturday 9th

5.00 pm & 7.30 pm Concerts by London
Film Orchestra

Sunday 10th Second Sunday of Advent

10.00 am Parish Communion
6.30 pm Choral Evensong

Tuesday 12th

10.30 am Interment of Ashes

Wednesday 13th (Lucy)

6.00 pm Abel Smith Carol
Service

Thursday 14th (St John of the Cross)

9.00 am Wheatcroft Setup
11.00 am Morning Prayer
7.00 pm Wheatcroft Carol
Service

Friday 15th (Ember Day)

1.30 pm Morgans Christingle
5.30 pm Choir Practices

Saturday 16th (Ember Day)

7.30 pm Concert by HCS

Sunday 17th Third Sunday of Advent (O Sapientia)

10.00 am Family Eucharist
6.30 pm Service of Lessons and
Carols

Monday 18th (O Adonai)

9.30 am Simon Balle set up
7.00pm Simon Balle Carol
Service

Tuesday 19th (O Radix Jesse)

10.00 am Simon Balle Carol
Service
6.00 pm Simon Balle Carol
Service

Wednesday 20th (O Clavis David)

10.00 am Simon Balle Carol
Service
4.00 pm R Hale setup

Thursday 21st (O Oriens)

9.30 am Richard Hale
Founder's Day Service

Saturday 23rd (O Emmanuel)

9.00 am Church Decorations

Sunday 24th Fourth Sunday in Advent/ Christmas Eve

10.00 am Parish Communion
4.00 pm Blessing of Christmas
Crib
11.30 pm First Communion of
Christmas

25th Christmas Day

10.00 am Parish Communion

Thursday 28th (Holy Innocents)

11.00 am No Service

Sunday 31st First Sunday of Christmas

10.00 am Parish Communion
6.30 pm Evensong (Said)

JANUARY

Sunday 7th Epiphany

10.00 am All-Age Service
6.30 pm Epiphany Carol
Service

Thursday 11th (Mary Slessor)

11.00 am Morning Prayer
7.30 pm All Saints Art

Friday 12th (Aelred)

5.30 pm Choir Practices

Sunday 14th Second Sunday of Epiphany

10.00 am Parish Communion
6.30 pm Choral Evensong

Weds 17th

12.00 noon for 13.00
Soundbites
Alexander Ardakov – Piano

Thursday 18th (Week of Prayer for Xn Unity)

11.00 am Morning Prayer
7.30 pm All Saints Art

Friday 19th (Wulfstan)

5.30 pm Choir Practices

Saturday 20th (Richard Rolle)

9.00 am Work Party

Sunday 21st Third Sunday of Epiphany

10.00 am Family Eucharist
3.00 pm Xn Unity Service at
Sele Farm Community Centre
6.30 pm No Choral Compline

Wednesday 24th

12.00 noon for 13.00 Soundbites
English Piano Trio

Thursday 25th (Conversion of St Paul)

11.00 am Morning Prayer

Sunday 28th Fourth Sunday of Epiphany

10.00 am Parish Communion
6.30 pm Choral Evensong

Wednesday 31st

12.00 noon for 13.00 Soundbites
Beth Spendlove Violin
Ian Ray Piano

FEBRUARY

Thursday 1st (Brigid)

11.00 am Morning Prayer
7.30 pm All Saints Art

Friday 2nd

5.30 pm Choir Practices

Sunday 4th Presentation/Second Sunday before Lent

10.00 am Christingle
6.30 pm Parish Communion

Contact information

www.allsaintshertford.org

[f](#): [t](#): [i](#): AllSaintsHerf

Churchwardens

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Full list of contacts

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