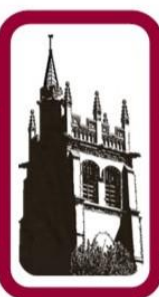


ALL SAINTS'



ALIVE

All Saints' Welcomes Everyone

Dear friends, they say that time flies when you're having fun, so at all Saints we must be having lots of fun! It hardly seems possible that it is 4 months since Rev Jo took her last service here. Since when we have made our way through Advent, journeying towards Christmas. Christmas, as usual, was an absolute whirlwind here at all Saints with so many Carol Services and concerts. The sheer numbers of people who came into the building to remember the birth of Jesus was truly amazing. Seeing the church full on so many occasions was wonderful.

Although we didn't feel able to organise a large Christmas event we held our "Christmas Extra" which was well supported and included a display by Morgans School, and managed to raise £1200. Again, thanks to all who helped and all who supported us. Then we celebrated our own Christmas with our own Lessons and Carols, a lovely Crib service, Midnight Mass and Christmas Day. We were so lucky that Archdeacon Janet was able to lead our worship at such a special time in the Christian calendar.

It feels as though Christmas is hardly over before we start to think about Easter. Some shops are already stocking Easter eggs and Easter bunnies and we are moving swiftly forward to the beginning of Lent with Ash Wednesday this year being on 14th February (which of course is also St Valentines Day). However, before we think about what we can give up for Lent we have a great opportunity to let our hair down on Thursday 8th February when we will be hosting another fabulous concert by Robert Habermann and the Phoenix Big Band. Do think about coming and let all your friends know because it promises to be a really great evening.

All that we have been doing over the last few months would not have been possible without the tremendous support we have received from visiting clergy and also hard work and dedication by a large number of All Saints folk. Verity and I have been most grateful for your support. Thanks to you all.

We are currently putting together our Parish Profile, following on from the vacancy meeting on 14th November with Bishop Jane and Archdeacon Janet. We are hopeful that the post of Vicar at All Saints will be able to be advertised shortly after Easter, so please pray for us all and for whoever God has chosen to be our next incumbent.

As we journey towards Lent may God help us all to spend time discerning what is really important in our lives. In a world where so many live in fear of what tomorrow will bring may God help us to see what we can do to make the world we live in a better place. We are called to love one another as Christ loves us, doing all we can to help our neighbours, wherever and whoever they are. We can all pray for peace in the world and for dictators and tyrants to see the error of their ways, but we are often left feeling helpless and hopeless.



Prayer is vital in all that we do and just because we may not see anything changing, we know that God's timeline is very different from our own and we need to put our trust in the words of Jesus:

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

Love and blessings to you all,
Janet Bird

Freedom of Hertford

Hertford Town Councillors agreed at their Full Council Meeting on 30th October 2023 to make the award to Peter Ruffles MBE and Janet Bird BEM to recognise the positive impact that their many years of work has brought to people's lives.

The Mayor of Hertford, Cllr Vicky Smith, who made presentation at a special commemoration on Friday 15th December 2023, said 'I am delighted that we have been able to honour Peter Ruffles and Janet Bird in this way. Janet and Peter have for decades dedicated their time for the good of others in Hertford.'



'For over 30 years Janet Bird BEM has served the community in Hertford. Since 1992 she has been responsible for organising the Christmas Alone Scheme, ensuring that those who are lonely, alone or elderly have a delicious full Christmas meal on Christmas Day itself.'

'Since 1993 she has been an administrator of the Hertfordshire Convalescent Trust, a registered charity providing grants for needy people in Hertfordshire for convalescent and recuperative holidays.'

'Between 1994 and 2012 she was an advisor at Hertford Citizens' Advice Bureau. She has undertaken a number of roles for the Church including Chair of Hertford and District Churches Together, Vice Chair of the Board for Church and Society, and Church Warden and Lay reader at All Saints Church.'

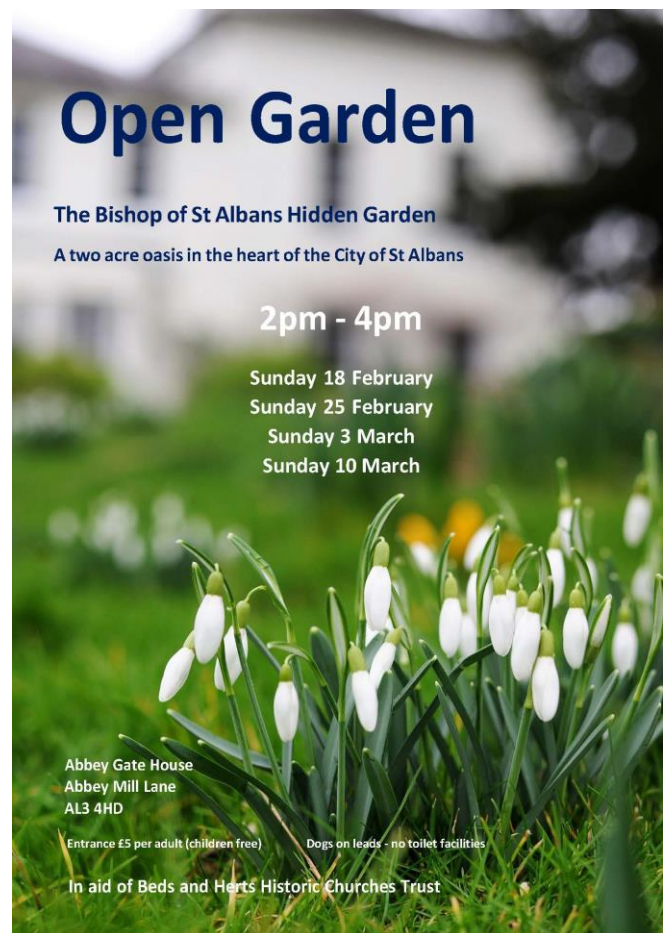
Janet said 'Over the 40 years that we have lived in Hertford it has been a privilege to work with so many people in the community and to do what I can to try to help enrich the lives of those who are sometimes forgotten or

who need some extra support, when life is difficult'.

Garden open

The Bishop of St Albans will be opening his garden on four Sundays in February and March for people to come and look at the display of snowdrops. Those who came to visit in the summer will know that the garden is delightful, it also has an appeal to visitors in the spring as the snowdrops herald the end of winter.

The two acres of garden is an oasis in central St Albans and only open to the public on selected Sundays in the spring and the summer.



Spring opening days are 18 February, 25 February, 3 March and 10 March. Entrance is £5 per person (children free) and dogs on leads are welcome. Footwear suitable for the time of year is advised.

All money raised is donated to the Beds and Herts Historic Churches Trust

Abbey Gate House, Abbey Mill Lane, St Albans AL3 4HS.

DAILY PRAYER FOR THE EARTH



Who, when & where? For a year from January 1st 2024, a group of Hertford residents will meet daily in Salisbury Square at 12 noon.

What? We will read a prayer or a poem from a number of different parts of the world and spiritual traditions, followed by a short period of silent reflection.

Why? "It is now impossible to deny the harm humankind has inflicted upon our Earth. Prayer inoculates us against the despair that leads to inaction, connects us back into the Earth's beauty, and gives us the courage to take small compassionate actions and to face whatever is coming".
Satya Robyn, who came up with the idea

How can I get involved? Join us as little or as often as you would like and let your friends know about Prayer for the Earth.

What else can I do? Small actions add up. Join a local or national group working to protect our planet. See the list in church or talk to Nerine Chalmers.

All Saints Welcomes Everyone



Valentine 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 and songs from the shows



THURSDAY 8 FEBRUARY 2024

at 7.45pm (Admission £10)

In Aid of All Saints' Church

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

www.allsaintshertford.org



Puzzle, Game Swap and Pet Chat

COFFEE MORNING

FRIDAY 9 FEBRUARY 2024

9.30am to 11.30am at

St John's Hall

Churchfields, Hertford, Hertfordshire SG13 8AE
(Adjacent to All Saints' Church)



Bring your knitting, bring your Puzzles and Games to swap.

Let's talk about cats, dogs and the Ukraine, eat cake, and do a group puzzle.

Suggested donation £2 for a puzzle, but if you don't want to donate, that's fine, it's free.



For further information Telephone: 07714999581 or email info@alfsherts.com

ALFS Humanitarian (Animal Larder Food and Shelter)
Registered in the United Kingdom. Charity No.1204519

Ukraine



Hopefully another pallet of goods will be on its way to Ukraine in February. All donations of items (see list in previous newsletter) or cash to fund the journey gratefully received.

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)

<p>Wednesday 7 February 2024</p> <p>Emma Dogliani (Soprano)</p> <p>Francis Rayner (Piano)</p> <p>Emma and Francis return to Soundbites to perform two important works by Robert Schumann, interspersed with piano Intermezzi from Op. 117. Emma studied Bel Canto Singing with Dame Joan Sutherland and Richard Bonynge at the Britten Pears School, Aldeburgh. She made her solo debut with the Royal Opera as Second Flower-maiden in Parsifal with Placido Domingo at the Royal Festival Hall and in Rome. Francis has won major prizes throughout Europe, including the Alessandro Casagrande competition in Terni and the Claude Debussy competition in Paris, with broadcasts on Italian TV, French radio and the BBC.</p> <p><i>Music by: Schumann Frauen-Liebe und Leben (A Woman's Love and Life) Kinder szenen (Scenes from Childhood) Op. 15</i></p>	<p>Wednesday 14 February 2024</p> <p>Netty Rhodes (Recorder)</p> <p>Paul Burrell (Piano)</p> <p>In 2005 Netty she was awarded a Masters Degree from the Royal College of Music, where she studied recorder with Ashley Solomon (early music), and Julien Feltrin (contemporary). She is especially excited to premiere the beautiful new <i>Sonata for Recorder and Piano</i> by Paul J Burrell, in this concert, accompanied by the composer at the piano. In 1975 Paul won the 'Opportunity Knocks' Northwest of England Final with an original jazz piano composition 'Breeze'. At university he gained a love of writing for voice from Professor William Mathias and has had many works performed in British Cathedrals, including Westminster Abbey.</p> <p><i>'The Faithful Music Master' Music by Telemann, Paul Burrell, Jacob van Eyck, Jeffery Wilson, Hans-Martin Linde and Paul Burrell.</i></p>	<p>Wednesday 21 February 2024</p> <p>Nicola Tait Baxter (Cello)</p> <p>Mina Milétić (Piano)</p> <p><i>Nicola Tait Baxter (Cello) and Mina Milétić (Piano)</i></p> <p><i>Music: Dvorak's Complete Works for Cello and Piano</i> <i>Slovakian Dances Op. 46 nos 3 and 8</i> <i>Songs My Mother Taught Me Op. 55/4</i> <i>Polonaise in A Op. posth.</i> <i>Silent Woods Op. 68</i> <i>Rondo in G minor Op. 94</i></p>
<p>Wednesday 28 February 2024</p> <p>Jonathan Lilley (Organ)</p> <p>Director of Music and Organist at Waltham Abbey Church, formerly Assistant at Ely Cathedral. Jonathan trained at the Royal Academy of Music, gaining FRCO diploma as a first year with subsequent diplomas in choral conducting, piano and singing. He went on to Assistant Organist posts at Leeds Minster and then Ely.</p> <p style="font-size: small;">Free Admission with Raising Collection in Aid of All Saints' Church</p>		

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

Parish Diary February 2024

Thursday 1st (Brigid)

11.00 am Morning Prayer
11.30 am Memorial Service for Brian Bromley
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

Wednesday 7th

12.00 noon for 13.00 Soundbites
Emma Dogliani – *Soprano*
Francis Rayner - *Piano*

Thursday 8th

11.00 am Morning Prayer
7.30 pm All Saints Art
7.45 pm Concert by Phoenix Jazz Orchestra
and Robert Habermann

Friday 9th

5.30 pm Choir Practices

Sunday 11th Sunday next before Lent

10.00 am Parish Communion
6.30 pm Choral Evensong

Ash Wednesday 14th

12.00 noon for 13.00 Soundbites
Netty Rhodes – *Recorder*
Paul Burrell - *Piano*

Thursday 15th (Sigfrid)

11.00 am Morning Prayer
7.30 pm All Saints Art

Friday 16th

5.30 pm Choir Practices

Saturday 17th (James Luwum)

9.00 am Work Party

Sunday 18th First Sunday of Lent

10.00 am Family Eucharist
2.00 pm Open Garden – Abbey Gate
House St Albans
6.30 pm Choral Compline

Wednesday 21st (Ember Day)

12.00 noon for 13.00 Soundbites
Nicola Tait Baxter – *'Cello*
Mina Miletic - *Piano*

Thursday 22nd

11.00 am Morning Prayer
7.30 pm All Saints Art

Sunday 25th Second Sunday of Lent

10.00 am Parish Communion
2.00 pm Open Garden – Abbey Gate
House St Albans
6.30 pm Choral Evensong

Wednesday 28th

12.00 noon for 13.00 Soundbites
Jonathan Lilley - *Organ*

Thursday 29th

11.00 am Morning Prayer
7.30 pm All Saints Art

MARCH

Friday 1st (David)

5.30 pm Choir Practices

Sunday 3rd Third Sunday of Lent

10.00 am All the Family Service
2.00 pm Open Garden – Abbey Gate
House St Albans
6.30 pm Parish Communion

Contact information

www.allsaintshertford.org

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Full list of contacts

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