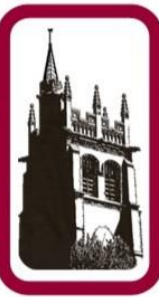


ALL SAINTS'



ALIVE

All Saints' Welcomes Everyone

**A vantage point**

Happy Christmas!

I am writing this in the final throes of the season of Epiphany, during which we see God continuing to reveal to the world who the infant Jesus and adult Christ are and what he came to bring. In that sense, during Epiphany-tide we continue to celebrate Christmas, which is why the tree, the decorations and the star are all still up in church.

Our Christmas celebrations formally end at Candlemas, when we remember the day that Jesus was brought by Mary and Joseph to the Temple and He was presented to God by the old priest Simeon.

Candlemas is a vantage point from which the Church is invited to look back across our celebrating of Christmas and also to look forward to our keeping of the season of Lent.

Join us as we celebrate Candlemas at All Saints on February 2nd at 10am with a Christingle service. This will be the first of a series of renewed monthly All Ages Together Communion services planned with adults and children and their family in mind. We will be trialling this service until June.

Over this period of experimentation, our evening worship on the first Sundays of the month will also change. Instead of offering a Eucharist with Hymns, we will now offer some further variety to our current evening pattern including Taizé style worship and healing services and more! The current Family Communion on the third Sunday will become a Parish Communion during this time. I would be really pleased if you could let me know during June how this slight change to our pattern of worship feels and whether it meets our needs.

Lent is a gift to the church. Historically it was a time to prepare new believers to be baptised at Easter by looking again at the fundamentals of our faith. These days Lent invites us to go deeper into that faith.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday (March 5th) with the offer to receive the Imposition of Ashes on our foreheads to symbolise our need of and our desire to return to God. You can receive 'Ashing' to mark this day outside Hertford East station in the early morning and in Salisbury Square in the later morning and then at a special Eucharist in church at 8pm.

I hope that our keep of this holy season will offer us the chance to explore both of those strands in three distinct ways:

1. **Lent Groups.** We will meet in small groups on different days and at different times to read sections of a book together, to think, and discuss together what we've read, and in so doing to deepen our faith. Details of what we are studying together and how to join a group will be shared at the beginning of February.
2. **A Foundations course.** We will be offering the chance to look at some of the building blocks of Christian faith together such as: Does God love me? Why did Jesus come? What does his death and resurrection mean? Who or what is the Holy Spirit? If being part of this group appeals whether you are new to faith or want to look to renew your faith then join us. Details of how to join this course will be shared at the beginning of February.
3. **The Living Way.** This group will offer the opportunity to explore some of the historic practises of the church which renew faith and draw us close to God through prayer; reading scripture; intentional gratitude; acts of service; silence; fasting and so on. The group

will meet monthly, over the course a year, to learn about a spiritual practise together and then individually to spend the rest of the month trying it out. At the next session we will reflect on our experience of that practise and then learn about a new one. Details of how to join The Living Way, which will meet at the Vicarage, will be shared soon.

As we prepare for, and pilgrim through, Lent this year join me in praying the Lenten Prayer of Ephrem the Syrian* which is vital to an Orthodox keeping of Lent:

*O Lord and Master of my life,
Take from me an ability to be overly curious of
others,
to be lazy, to love power, and to idly chatter and
gossip.
But make your servant wholehearted:
through a spirit of humility, patience, and love.
Yes, O Lord and King, grant me to see my own sins
and not to judge my sister or brother.
For You are blessed for ever and ever. Amen.*

**my transliteration*

Simon

Greetings from Sweden



My name is Fr Olof Söderberg, and I am Rector of Kärna parish in the diocese of Linköping, which is linked to the English diocese of St Alban.

I am friends with Fr Simon, and I had the privilege to visit All Saint's for his licensing (together with another friend, deacon Per, who promised you all a song...).

I hope that we can form a link and a friendship between our two parishes and hopefully share some of our daily and festive life through greetings in our parish newsletters and perhaps also visit one another.

We are nearing the season of Lent, and focusing ahead towards Easter. The Lutheran tradition sprung once from the notion of "sola

gratia" – by God's grace alone are we saved. You cannot "earn salvation" from good deeds and visible acts, but only through faith, says doctrine.

Therefore, Lent in a Lutheran church may not be as visible as in a more catholic tradition, but we sing more solemn hymns and the liturgical music is all in minor keys and subdued. Most people in the Church of Sweden will not give up any particular food during Lent, but there is a tradition of giving up other comforts – especially money – and Lent is a season of raising funds for charities. Many also stay away from social media or try to watch less TV or put aside a little more time for prayer.



I must also mention a tradition that I think is rather particular to Sweden: We do not eat pancakes on the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday, but instead 'Semla'. It is basically a bun filled with almond paste and whipped cream. Very delicious and not at all healthy...

In Sweden, Good Friday is a public holiday, and traditionally it's not very "good". The Swedish name translates to "Long Friday" – for the long suffering of Our Lord, and perhaps also for it historically being a long and boring day when nothing happy was allowed. Now, Good Friday is almost like any other bank holiday, except in church where we have several solemn services throughout the day and evening.

A more recent tradition in the Church of Sweden is celebrating Easter Vigil and Mass at midnight. This year we will even have a Confirmation in the middle of the night in one of the churches in the parish! But still, Easter

Day is the major feast, and of course we pull out all the stops for the celebration!

Now I wish you all a blessed season of lent, and a truly joyous Easter!

And hopefully, we may actually see each other soon. I will lead a confirmation pilgrimage for 18 teenagers from our parish to England in June, and we're all hoping to come visit you! (And we'll see about that song...)

God bless you!
/ ☺ lof

Grand tidy up Saturday 1st February

Since our last tidy up in August, quite a few things have arrived in our church, possibly by accident, that we do not use or need.

We are planning a grand 'tidy up' on Saturday 1st February from 10.00 am. If there is anything of yours that you believe should be kept, please speak to Simon or the Wardens by Sunday 26th January.

All unexplained items will be removed and recycled so please take anything else home before then.

The Nature of Panshanger Park

Thursday 6th February 2025, 18.30-21.30
The Sele School, Welwyn Road, Hertford,

Come along to an evening of talks highlighting the wildlife and habitats of Panshanger Park.

Talks include:

- Recording and Monitoring at Panshanger Park
- Conserving the River Mimram and its Catchment
- The Spiders of Panshanger Park
- Habitat enhancement work at Panshanger
- Volunteering Opportunities at Panshanger Park

The event is free to attend and booking is not required, please just turn up on the day. Parking is available at the school, on arrival please go to the school reception and follow signs for the event.

<https://panshangerpark.tarmac.com/news/explore-the-nature-of-panshanger-park-at-a-community-open-evening/>

Soundbites

ALL SAINTS HERTFORD 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 5 February 2025 Simon Balle School Big Band</p> <p>Music: To Be Confirmed</p>	<p>Wednesday 12 February 2025 Hannah Lewis (Cello) Neil Crossland (Piano)</p> <p>Music: Cello Sonata No. 1 in E minor, Op. 38 - Brahms; Cello Sonata No. 2 in G minor, Op. 67 - Chopin</p>	<p>Wednesday 19 February 2025 Nicola Loud (Violin) Nicky Tait Baxter (Cello) Viv McLean (Piano)</p> <p>Music: Beethoven Piano Trio Op. 11 in B flat; Schubert Piano Trio No. 2 in E minor Op. 67</p>	<p>Wednesday 26 February 2025 Jeffery Wilson (Clarinet & Saxophone) Christopher Weston (Piano)</p> <p>Music: From Little to Big; Featuring works by Rossini, Albeniz, Richard Rodney Bennett and beyond...</p>
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ALL SAINTS CHURCH - Queens Road, Hertford, Hertfordshire SG13 8AY
www.allsainthertford.org

Full details at <https://www.allsainthertford.org/concerts.php#sb>

GreenWatch Saturday 8th Feb

ALL SAINTS HERTFORD All Saints Welcomes Everyone

GREEN WATCH

A Series of FREE Talks on Environmental Themes

SATURDAY 8 FEBRUARY 2025 at 1.00pm

Coffee from 11.30am
Light Lunches from 12noon

• Produce Stall: Homegrown Apples, Homemade Jams, Marmalade and Chutneys, Locally Pressed Fruit Juice and Bird Seed.

The Use of Different Cereals and the Reasons Why We Bake.

By Matthew Rideout
KNEAD & DESIRE Bakehouse : Hitchin

Matthew will demonstrate how we have gone from a hugely diverse and organic cereal system in the UK to a non-organic monoculture, with the loss of our grain heritage and dependence on phosphates.

The Bakehouse makes exceptional handmade small batch organic sourdough products. With fabulous provenance of ingredients and built on the ethos of integrity, transparency and sustainability. The aim of the Bakehouse is to become a local point in the community for customers interested in healthy and sustainable food. In the longer term, they will extend the product range by bringing together other local food producers reflecting that same passion and ethos.

The key words that summarise the aims and philosophy of the Bakehouse: Handmade, Provenance and Sustainable.

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

The Use of Different Cereals and the Reasons Why We Bake - Matthew Rideout, KNEAD & DESIRE Bakehouse: Hitchin.

Matthew will demonstrate how we have gone from a hugely diverse and organic cereal system in the UK to a non-organic monoculture, with the loss of our grain heritage and dependence on phosphates.

Parish Diary February 2025

Saturday 1st (Brigid)

9.30 am Morning Prayer
10.00 am Grand tidy up

Sunday 2nd Presentation of Christ in the Temple

10.00 am All Ages together
Communion *Christingle*
6.30 pm Evensong with hymns

Monday 3rd (Anskar)

8.00 am Morning Prayer
5.00 pm Evening Prayer

Tuesday 4th (Gilbert)

8.00 am Morning Prayer
5.00 pm Evening Prayer

Wednesday 5th

8.00 am Morning Prayer
12.00 for 1.00 pm Soundbites
Simon Balle Big Band
5.00 pm Evening Prayer

Thursday 6th (Martyrs of Japan)

8.00 am Morning Prayer
11.00 am Holy Communion
5.00 pm Evening Prayer
7.30 pm All Saints Art

Friday 7th

5.30 pm Choir Practices

Saturday 8th

9.30 am Morning Prayer
11.30 am Greenwatch Coffee
12.00 noon Light Lunches
1.00 pm Talk 'Use of different cereals' *Matthew Rideout*

Sunday 9th 4th Sunday before Lent

10.00 am Holy Communion
6.30 pm Choral Evensong

Monday 10th (Scholastica)

8.00 am Morning Prayer
5.00 pm Evening Prayer

Tuesday 11th

8.00 am Morning Prayer
5.00 pm Evening Prayer

Wednesday 12th

8.00 am Morning Prayer
12.00 for 1.00 pm Soundbites
Hannah Lewis - Cello
Neil Crossland - Piano
5.00 pm Evening Prayer

Thursday 13th

8.00 am Morning Prayer
11.00 am Holy Communion
5.00 pm Evening Prayer
7.30 pm All Saints Art

Friday 14th (Cyril & Methodius)

5.30 pm Choir Practices

Saturday 15th (Sigfrid)

9.30 am Morning Prayer
11.00 am Wedding of Rachel
Danaka and John Pilli

Sunday 16th 3rd Sunday before Lent

10.00 am Parish Communion
6.30 pm Choral Compline

Monday 17th (Janani Luwum)

8.00 am Morning Prayer
5.00 pm Evening Prayer

Tuesday 18th

8.00 am Morning Prayer
5.00 pm Evening Prayer

Wednesday 19th

8.00 am Morning Prayer
12.00 for 1.00 pm Soundbites
Nicola Lord - Violin
Nicky Tait Baxter - Cello
Viv McLean - Piano
5.00 pm Evening Prayer

Thursday 20th

8.00 am Morning Prayer
11.00 am Holy Communion
5.00 pm Evening Prayer
7.30 pm All Saints Art

Saturday 22nd

9.30 am Morning Prayer

Sunday 23rd 2nd Sunday before Lent

10.00 am Parish Communion
6.30 pm Choral Evensong

Monday 24th

8.00 am Morning Prayer
5.00 pm Evening Prayer

Tuesday 25th

8.00 am Morning Prayer
5.00 pm Evening Prayer

Wednesday 26th

8.00 am Morning Prayer

12.00 for 1.00 pm Soundbites

Jeffery Wilson - Reeds
Christopher Weston - Piano
5.00 pm Evening Prayer

Thursday 27th (George Herbert)

8.00 am Morning Prayer
11.00 am Holy Communion
5.00 pm Evening Prayer
7.30 pm All Saints Art

Friday 28th

5.30 pm Choir Practices

MARCH

Saturday 1st (David)

9.30 am Morning Prayer
5.00 pm & 7.00 pm Concerts
Lumos

Sunday 2nd Sunday next before Lent

10.00 am All Ages Together
Communion *Looking ahead to Lent*
6.30 pm Worship in the style of Taizé

Monday 3rd

8.00 am Morning Prayer
5.00 pm Evening Prayer

Tuesday 4th

8.00 am Morning Prayer
5.00 pm Evening Prayer

Ash Wednesday 5th

8.00 am Morning Prayer
12.00 for 1.00 pm Soundbites
Simon Watterton - Piano
5.00 pm Evening Prayer
8.00 pm Choral Communion
with Ashing

Contact information

www.allsaintshertford.org

   AllSaintsHerf

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