

ALL SAINTS'



ALIVE

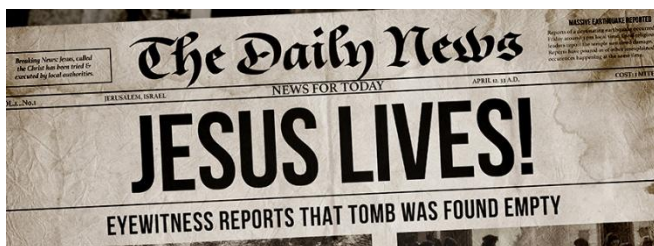
All Saints' Welcomes Everyone



Jesus is risen from the dead

There's a website that encourages you to write an autobiography or story in six words or less. It's full of people both famous and ordinary trying to distil their lives down to six words about what is most important or distinguished or interesting about them.

Some six-word stories are poignant: "I still make coffee for two," writes someone recovering from a breakup. Some are tragic: the inspiration for the project was an old tale about Ernest Hemingway, who, challenged to write a story in six words, is said to have come up with this: "For Sale: baby shoes, never worn."



It made me think that for all the joy and fanfare of the upcoming Easter celebrations, for all the mystery of faith in God, for all the billions of words used over centuries to explain it all, Christianity itself has a 6-word story: Jesus is risen from the dead.

There are thousands of words in the Bible and none of them make any sense without these six words.

These are the words that the breathless women carried from the empty tomb back to the other disciples. These are the words that have been passed from person to person, from community to community, every day since then -- in secret, in triumph, in darkness, in celebration.

Henry Ossawa Tanner. *The Three Marys*. 1910

These six words that have taken us from scattered, broken people who are lost to the largest religion in the world. It is these six words that have found countless individuals whose lives were already dead -- broken by pain and suffering, by sin and darkness -- and given them new life.

These are the words that are whispered at bedsides and shouted from rooftops and shared at dinner tables and workplaces and in neighbourhoods. These are the words that have been forbidden by governments both ancient and modern, and yet somehow, they have still been spoken, still been shared. Millions of lives have been transformed by these six words beginning with Mary Magdalene at the empty tomb.

C.S. Lewis once said, "I believe in Christianity as I believe that the Sun has risen, not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else."

This is the story of our lives, the story of the life of the world, the story of life itself. It is the story of how life is stronger than death, how God's love for us is stronger than death. It is, in the end, the only story that there is.

And so, in the Easter season, we hear these six words again: Jesus is risen from the dead.

made available on our website at <https://www.allsaintshertford.org/apcm.php> as they are received along with hard copy at the back of church. Please do read these in preparation for the meeting.

We will then continue our celebrations by sharing a Bring and Share lunch together. Please prioritise being at this meeting as we thank God for our life together.

New Electoral Roll



The Electoral Roll is the parish church's register of electors. In the same way that being on the civic Electoral Roll allows you to vote in parliamentary and local elections and referenda, joining the Church Electoral Roll means that you can vote on Church matters, attend the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) and stand for election to the PCC.

By law, we must prepare a new roll from scratch every six years. 2025 is such a year. During March we began the process of building our new roll.

There are several ways to apply to be enrolled or re-enrolled, in each case filling in a simple form by:

1. Using this QR Code to access the form directly from a smart phone:



2. On-line at <https://www.allsaintshertford.org/er.php> and click on the link in the page.

3. Or type the following link into your browser: <https://all-saints-hertford.myknowchurch.co.uk/form/load/UFZNWkgzSkF0S2tUMk1rUGJJODhG Wm1VRTJhRUIFWkikYkMzajRiVzB0OGQ0 MG96N0Q5QWRVRUswYWM1>
4. Using the paper form, copies of which are at the West End of the Church. Once completed please pop them in the Black Box next to them. (NB as the church is open and the form has personal data, the box is only available before/during/post scheduled services. You can always pop the form through the Vicarage letterbox.)

The important thing to remember is that everyone needs to have registered by Maundy Thursday 17th April.

The new Roll will be available for inspection at <https://www.allsaintshertford.org/er.php> as of Sunday 27th April. A paper copy will also be available.

Please note that, by law, the published list is solely of the names of electors. Corrections can be made but, other than that, names may not be added or removed until Monday 12th May.

GreenWatch 5th April



Saturday 5 April 2025

In a break with our usual pattern, this month's GreenWatch is on Saturday 5th April.

Cristian Pinta is a consultant with over two decades of experience in Arboriculture and Forestry. During this time, he has been involved in many aspects of the tree industry :

- Managing a stock of over 30,000 street trees and 100 hectares of woodland,

- Managing customer interactions on all tree related enquiries and requests,
- Developing and implementing Arboricultural policies and strategies,
- Writing up Arboricultural reports Investigations of tree related subsidence and other property damage,
- Planning, implementing and maintaining new tree and woodland planting schemes,
- Lead teams tree surgeons who carry out all aspects of tree surgery.

Cristian will share some of his knowledge about the most common trees in Hertfordshire. He will be presenting his take on identifying them, the inconvenience some trees may cause and how to best avoid this, as well as the benefits they all bring to us and the environment.

Good Friday Walk of Witness, 10-11.30am, 18th April 2025

This year we are looking to increase the impact and visibility of our Churches Together Walk of Witness. We want to encourage Christians from across the town to leave our churches in significant numbers and bring the message of Easter to Hertford.

This year there will be three groups walking through the town, carrying large crosses and giving out chocolates, hot-cross buns and a small card with a link to a gospel presentation, explaining the meaning of Easter and why Jesus had to die.

The three groups will gather at three different locations between 10.00am- 10.15am:

- Hertford Methodist Church, Ware Road
- All Saints Church, Gasgoyne Way
- United Reform Church, Cowbridge

The groups, carrying crosses, will converge on Hartham Common, near to the children's

playground, by 11am, for a short time of worship, Bible readings and prayer.

Join us and play a part in sharing God's great love with Hertford this Easter. Simply turn up between 10.00am – 10.15am on Friday 18th April at one of the locations.

St George's Day Supper 26th April 7.00 for 7.30pm sharp



Following on from the very successful Burn's Night supper in January we are holding another, this time to mark St George's Day.

Please book with simon at vicar@allsaintshertford.org by Easter Day (April 20th). Tickets are £10 per person.

Menu: Bangers and mash. Followed by apple crumble or trifle - we will be asking for some people to help provide puds.

Bring your own drinks.

All Saints Pastoral Care Group

All Saints will soon be setting up a Pastoral Care Group. The purpose will be to serve our congregation, our parish and the wider Hertford community. We would like to reach those who are struggling in different ways - those who are in need of support through illness, loneliness or other difficulties. As appropriate, members of the group will offer pastoral visits, regular prayer, contact by phone and home communion visits for the housebound.

Many in our church family are already offering such care and support, and it will be very helpful for Simon, our vicar, to know what is already happening.

Please share this information confidentially with him.

Easter Trail



Explore the story of Easter during the upcoming school holidays! From Sunday 13th April there will be an unsupervised interactive Easter Story Trail for you to follow around some of All Saints churchyard!

You will need:

- to read this poster with details which will be on the glass doors inside the church porch
- a smartphone that can read QR codes and enough data to access and watch videos
- an adult accompanying you

There are five posters to find with five QR codes to scan which will retell the Easter story

in a fun and engaging way. The posters will be easily visible and accessible from a path.

Have fun and Happy Easter when it comes!

Coloured Banners on the Pillars at All Saints

During Covid In 2020 / 2021 when we could not get into church properly, Fiona & Nerine made a Nativity scene in the North Porch, and following on from that we used the 'Christmas Tree Cross' during Lent, and I decorated it according to the weekly themes we have followed. I acquired various pieces of coloured cloth for this reflecting the seasons and by Pentecost we had Doves flying around the porch too!



I kept the material at home but brought it to All Saints earlier in the year when I had a 'clear out' and was chatting to Simon and mentioned all this material. He then suggested talking to Alex, and could we 'make something for the pillars at All Saints in the liturgical colours?' The cogs started whirring, and the initial banners I came up with were the green ones for 'ordinary time'. They are on a wire mesh background so different things can be added like greenery, flowers, more materials of different colours – whatever we wish.



For Lent I decided that the banners could be longer as the church is so big, and I made just plain mauve banners hanging on dowelling rods (saved from our church clear out in February!) but made it possible to hang other things on them too like a different coloured cloth and the crown of thorns. They can be built on throughout the season,

then change to something else at Easter. Watch this space! I have also found some brilliant red material for Pentecost, then we will be back to using the green once more.



It would be great if other people could come up with ideas of what can go on these banners in the future, The basic banners will be available, but they can be added to and changed according to the seasons and people's ideas. All Saints is a stunning space to work with, and I hope you agree that what has been done so far has really had a positive impact. Please contact Alex or me for further information.

Dorothy Toyn

Easter in Sweden

Jesus vann! Det ska vi fira!
Jesus won, now let's celebrate!



Yes, it feels a bit strange writing this in the beginning of Lent, but hopefully by the time you read this, we have passed through this very special time and may rejoice in the resurrection of our Lord!

This year we celebrate Easter at the same time as our orthodox and oriental sisters and brothers, so the Hallelujah that we have been saving for 40 days will be even stronger.



In the parish of Kärna, we are (at time of writing) looking forward to even more exciting things this Easter. We have quite a lot of teenage confirmands this year, and some of them will be confirmed during the Easter vigil and midnight mass! That will be wonderful!

Celebrating Easter in the middle of the night is still not very common in the church of Sweden, but it is one of my favourite services of the year – beginning in darkness, listening to the prophecies, lighting the new paschal candle and bursting out singing!

On Easter day the festivities continue, and this year we will also baptize two teenagers in the eucharist service on Easter Day. They too are confirmands, but their confirmation is later in the summer. We are hoping to bring that group of 15-year-olds to you in Hertford in June as part of our pilgrimage to Walsingham. It would be great to meet many of you then!

But before that, we have a great season of joy ahead of us. Jesus won! That's what every Sunday is about, and that's worth celebrating. A lot!

Glad påsk! (Happy Easter) from us in Kärna, Sweden. Fr Olof

Karin Carne

(20/8/57-25/2/25)

Extracts from Rev Simon's Sermon 13/3/2025



The words of Psalm 121 along with other 'psalms of ascent' were sung and prayed by families as they pilgrimed to Jerusalem. Some of that journey will have been difficult and dangerous as they navigated ravines that hid beast and bandit alike. Scanning the rocky outcrops, the pilgrims called on God to keep them safe as they journeyed.

Karin didn't always have it easy in life. Life's mountains could have been very dark and difficult for her. Yet, as we all know, Karin did not let things hold her back. Her simple faith - child-like not childish - based on an acceptance and deep trust in God - gave her a resolute moral compass which guided her through, including those dark ravines.

Karin was very much part of the church here at All Saints right from her first Sunday. She was regularly in charge of the tea pot at post worship refreshments, at other talks and events. Her love of people and interacting with them made some of those roles - washing up, setting up books etc before a service, greeting people at the door as they arrived - a joy for her and for us all. She was joyful, serious, faithful, friendly, curious, and interested. All our loss as a community is heaven's gain.

Karin's uncomplicated faith centred on God's love for her and for all. She totally understood what Jesus meant when He described Himself as the way. For Karin, being a Christian wasn't about having faith like an insurance policy to be cashed in at life's end,

but rather a lifestyle, a way of life, the Way, which came so naturally to her in her character and outgoing nature. She demonstrated her faith in God and in people by her accepting nature and her openness.

For all of us, Karin's death came suddenly and way too soon. As each of us wrestle with that news and try to look for some hope, the writer of the psalm reminds us that our help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth. Christians, along with Karin, trust in a God who watches over our every move, who protects us from all evil, but not just in the joys of life but also in its tragedies. In this season of Lent, we recall Jesus being sent out into the harshness of the wilderness for 40 days. There he experienced the limits of existence and experience before turning towards Jerusalem where he knew their conclusion in his death on the cross.

When the road ahead of us seems bleak; when Karin's death tests our limits; we need to know that the God who watches over us and protects is not distant, but in Jesus, has walked and does walk that the wildernesses of life with us, and loves each of us every step of the way. God raised Jesus from the dead to new and eternal life so that we, looking to, living and loving His way as Karin did, can be welcomed with her, into the presence of His father's expansive love forever.

Lastly, I was wondering what our greatest tribute to Karin might be as we remember her today? How might we live differently because of having her in our lives?

Karin lived life to it's fullest despite adversities, but she never let them hold her back. So maybe that's it - we often we make our lives more complicated that they need to be, so today let's commit to being more Karin and:

- live life to its fullest, despite adversities, but let's not let them hold us back
- take pride and joy in the little tasks that serve others
- be open, accepting and welcoming to all

for this is the way of Jesus, Karin's way, and I cannot think of a better way of remembering her than by committing ourselves to living that.

Amen.

Parish Diary April 2025

Tuesday 1st

8.00 am Morning Prayer
5.00 pm Evening Prayer
7.30 pm Lent Group at Hailey Cottage

Wednesday 2nd

8.00 am Morning Prayer
5.00 pm Evening Prayer

Thursday 3rd

8.00 am Morning Prayer
9.30 for 9.45 Lent Group in church
11.00 am Holy Communion
5.00 pm Evening Prayer
7.30 pm All Saints Art

Friday 4th

5.30 pm Choir Practices

Saturday 5th

9.30 am Morning Prayer
11.30 am **Greenwatch** Coffee
12.00 noon Light Lunches
1.00 pm Talk 'Trees...'
Christian Pinta

Sunday 6th Passion Sunday

10.00 am All Ages Together
 Communion *The Cross*
6.30 pm Stations of the cross

Monday 7th

8.00 am Morning Prayer
10.30 am Service at Bentley House
5.00 pm Evening Prayer

Tuesday 8th

8.00 am Morning Prayer
5.00 pm Evening Prayer
7.30 pm Lent Group at Hailey Cottage

Wednesday 9th (Dietrich Bonhoeffer)

8.00 am Morning Prayer.
5.00 pm Evening Prayer

Thursday 10th (William law)

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

Friday 11th (George Selwyn)

5.30 pm Choir Practices

Saturday 12th

9.30 am Morning Prayer

Sunday 13th Palm Sunday

10.00 am Holy Communion
6.30 pm Meditation for Palm Sunday

Monday 14th (Mon of Holy Week)

8.00 am Morning Prayer
10.30 am Service at Bentley House
5.00 pm Evening Prayer
8.00 pm Compline

Tuesday 15th (Tues of Holy Week)

8.00 am Morning Prayer
5.00 pm Evening Prayer
8.00 pm Compline

Weds 16th (Weds of Holy Week)

8.00 am Morning Prayer
5.00 pm Evening Prayer
8.00 pm Compline

Maundy Thursday 17th

8.00 am Morning Prayer
5.00 pm Evening Prayer
8.00 pm Choral Communion

Good Friday 18th

10.00 for 10.15 Walk of Witness
 starting from All Saints
1.00 pm Choir Practice
2.00 pm An Hour at the Foot of the Cross

Saturday 19th (Easter Eve)

9.00 am Work Party
9.30 am Morning Prayer

Sunday 20th EASTER DAY

10.00 am Parish Communion
6.30 pm Evensong (said)

Monday 21st

8.00 am Morning Prayer
5.00 pm Evening Prayer

Tuesday 22nd

8.00 am Morning Prayer
5.00 pm Evening Prayer

Wednesday 23rd

8.00 am Morning Prayer
5.00 pm Evening Prayer

Thursday 24th

8.00 am Morning Prayer
11.00 am Holy Communion
4.00- 9.00 pm Street Food Heroes
 in Churchyard
5.00 pm Evening Prayer
7.30 pm All Saints Art

Saturday 26th

9.30 am Morning Prayer
10.00 am MU Sharing Day
7.00 for 7.30pm sharp St George's Day Supper

Sunday 27rd 2nd Sunday of Easter

10.00 am Parish Communion
6.30 pm Evensong (said)

Monday 28th (George)

8.00 am Morning Prayer
10.30 am Service at Bentley House
5.00 pm Evening Prayer

Tuesday 29th (Mark the Evangelist)

8.00 am Morning Prayer
5.00 pm Evening Prayer

Wednesday 30th (Pandita Ramabai)

8.00 am Morning Prayer
12.00 for 1.00 pm Soundbites
 Cygnus Trio
5.00 pm Evening Prayer

MAY

Thursday 1st (Philip & James)

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

Friday 2nd (Anathasius)

1.00 pm Wedding of Sonal Pandya and Tim Quadling
5.30 pm Choir Practices

Saturday 3rd

9.30 am Morning Prayer
1.00 pm Wedding of Lydia Bancroft and James Stuart

Sunday 4th 3rd Sunday of Easter

10.00 am All Ages Together
 Communion
6.30 pm Stations of the Resurrection

Contact information

www.allsaintshertford.org

   AllSaintsHerff

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