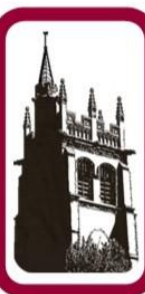


ALL SAINTS'



ALIVE

All Saints' Welcomes Everyone



A Season for the Soul:

Finding Space in the Scramble

As the winter chill begins to yield—however reluctantly—to the first hints of a Hertford spring, we find ourselves once again at the threshold of **Lent**.

It's a season that often gets a bad rap. For many, "Lent" conjures up images of joyless self-denial, the begrudging abandonment of chocolate, or the counting of days until that first Easter egg. But if we view Lent merely as a spiritual obstacle course, we miss the point entirely. In the bustle of our lives—between the school runs, the commute, and the digital noise that follows us everywhere—Lent isn't an added burden.

It is an invitation to breathe.

The Wilderness in the Every Day

The tradition of Lent resonates with the forty days Jesus spent in the wilderness. Now, most of us aren't heading into the desert anytime soon, but we all have our own "wilderness" moments—times of loneliness, testing, or simply feeling a bit lost in the fog of a busy life.

Lent asks us to stop running for a moment and look at where we are. It's about **intentionality**. Instead of just "giving something up" because it's the done thing, why not "take something up" that feeds our inner quest for God?

- **Silence:** Try five minutes of quiet before the laptop opens.

- **Service:** Reach out to someone in our community who hasn't been seen in a while.
- **Study:** Revisit a Gospel story with fresh eyes, looking for the humanity in the margins.

Beyond the Pancakes

While Shrove Tuesday is a wonderful bit of fun (and believe me, I enjoy a pancake as much as the next person), the **Ash Wednesday** services that follow offers something deeper. When we receive the ashes, we are reminded of our mortality—not to be morbid, but to be earthed. It reminds us that we are human, we are fragile, and we are deeply loved by a God who meets us exactly where we are.

This year at All Saints, let's use this time not to strive for "perfection," but to strive for **presence**. Let's be present to God, present to each other, and present to the needs of our neighbours.

A Prayer for the Journey

"Lord, as we enter these forty days,
clear the clutter from our minds
and the heaviness from our hearts.
Help us to travel light,
to walk kindly,
and to find you in the quiet places.
Amen."

You'll a fuller outline of how we will keep Lent more fully as a Festival Of Faith overleaf.

However you pilgrim through this Holy Season I look forward to walking this path with you all. Whether you're a regular in the pews or someone just peeking through the doors to find a moment of peace, you are most welcome here.

Every blessing, Simon



Festival of Faith

This year our Lenten observance is to become a Festival of Faith which will help us examine whether some of the things that drive neighbourhoods and nations still matter.

To help us to do that we are hosting three evening talks, straight after our Sunday evening worship at 7.30pm, focussed on the theme of 'Faith in...' and our speakers will help us to think about why politics, science and care for our children matter for the good of all.

Professor Russell Cowburn 8/3
Rt Hon Josh Dean MP - 15/3
Mark Russell OBE - 22/3

We will also be offering the opportunity to undertake two different forms of self-examination.

During these weeks you may wish to take part in a spiritual MOT. In the same way that we need to ensure that our motor vehicles are roadworthy by passing an MOT, so by doing a spiritual MOT will give us the opportunity to think about what we need to flourish as people, and maybe what parts of lives we need to maybe fine-tuned to enable that. Keep an eye out for the forms in church.

Lent has traditionally been about a spiritual self-examination - what are our inner drives and how do we enable them to be more like Christ's.

On a weekly basis beginning on Thursday 19th February we will be offering the chance to learn about one of the traditional spiritual disciplines that have historically played such a formative part in the life disciples of Christ, and then for a week to try it out, and reflect on it before trying another.

Sign up for a group in church and keep an eye out because if groups like this don't work for you, the material will be collated on a handout available to all.

Hopefully our Festival of Faith this year will have something for everyone and give each of us the chance to understand ourselves and our society's drives and motives more fully, and what we need to enable each of us individually and together, to live life abundantly.

Ash Wednesday 2026



There are four events planned:



7.30 am Ashes to Go – Hertford East station

10.00 am Ashes to Go – Salisbury Square

12.30pm Said Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes

8pm Choral Communion with Imposition of Ashes.

Could folks please return any Palm crosses from former years to the back of church or through the Vicarage door by Monday 16th February please.

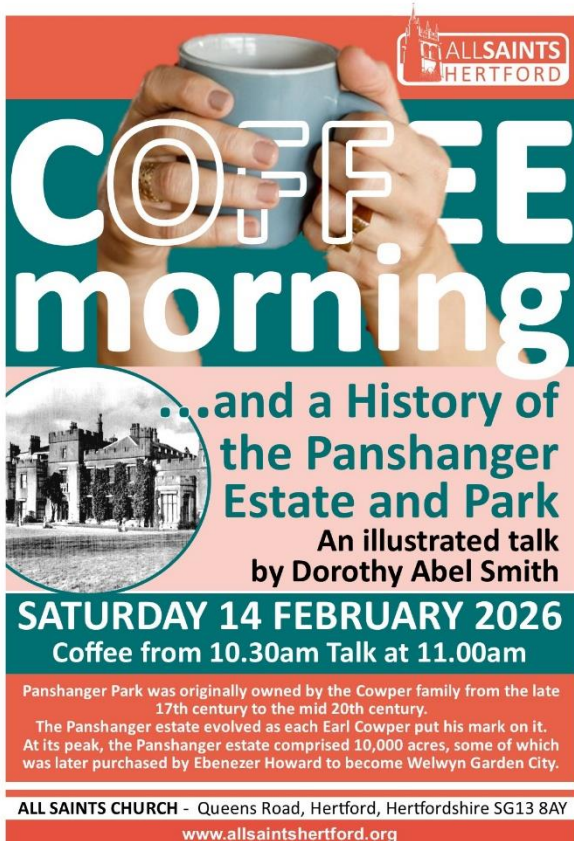
Ash will be made at Evening Prayer on 17th at 5pm and all are welcome at that service.

Up and coming events at All Saints

The events group has met and set out dates for events for the whole of 2026!

The odd date may move, but we have planned something every month, as well as the regular 'Greenwatch' talks every 2nd Saturday, we decided to earmark the 4th Saturday for other events where possible.

These events will be visible on the Church Diary on the website.



COFFEE morning

...and a History of the Panshanger Estate and Park
An illustrated talk by Dorothy Abel Smith

SATURDAY 14 FEBRUARY 2026
Coffee from 10.30am Talk at 11.00am

Panshanger Park was originally owned by the Cowper family from the late 17th century to the mid 20th century.
The Panshanger estate evolved as each Earl Cowper put his mark on it. At its peak, the Panshanger estate comprised 10,000 acres, some of which was later purchased by Ebenezer Howard to become Welwyn Garden City.

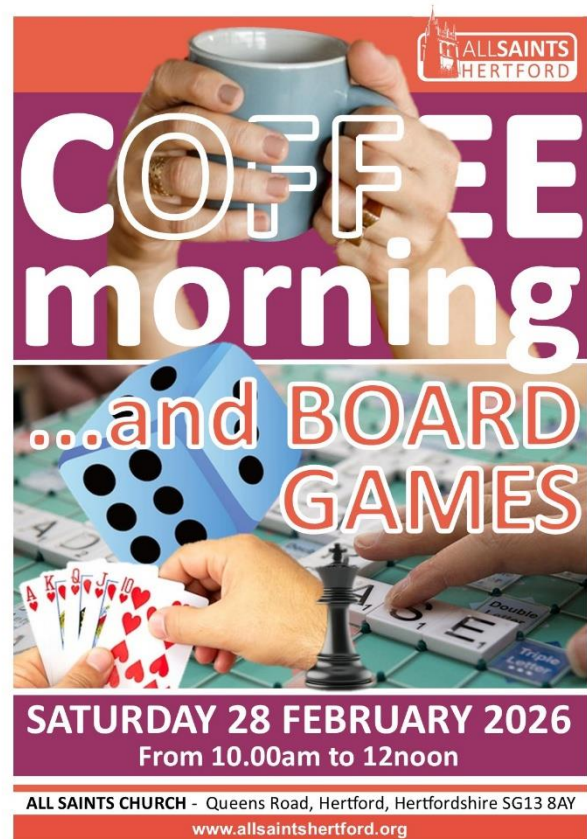
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www.allsaintshertford.org

There is no 'Greenwatch' on 14th February but we do have a 'Valentine Coffee Morning' with Dorothy Abel Smith giving an illustrated talk at 11 am about the 'History of the Panshanger Estate' which will be really interesting. Cakes will be on sale that day too!

On Saturday 28th we have a 'Coffee and Games morning' between 10 and 12.00 with everyone welcome for a fun competitive morning!

In March we have 'Greenwatch' on 14th and on Saturday 28th we hope to have Dog walk

finishing with a Pub Lunch in Hertford. Details to follow.



COFFEE morning

...and BOARD GAMES

SATURDAY 28 FEBRUARY 2026
From 10.00am to 12noon

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

As well as the church events we have booked in to join in with various events in town with stalls booked for 'The Teddy Bears Picnic' at the Castle in July and 'The Christmas Gala in November, which was really successful last year.

We looked back at the Christmas Tree Festival, which we felt was a great success, and pleased to say that it will run again this year from November 21st to November 29th. However, we feel it can be even better, **but** in order to do this we really do need more people to help us at this – and other events. We are also planning ahead MUCH earlier, so that we can sort things like the Tombolas well before the event and not have prizes and sale items delivered on the day itself.

Planning ahead is not something All Saints is used to, but we really have to do this to make our events even better than they have been previously! If you think you can help us with anything, please get in touch with the Events Team! Thank you

Dorothy, Shirley, Nerine & Alex

Finance News

The Christmas Fair raised £2,460.93 – a great result, thanks to all.

Along with equally good contributions across the board, our 2025 income was some £20,000 more than budgeted and our expenditure about £1000 below budget, meaning that our planned deficit of £25000 was reduced to £5,500. More detail and information about our 2026 plans in future issues (and at our APCM).

Charity Event December 8th 2025

Thank you to anyone who helped with this in anyway. Including some match funding from The Big Give the total raised for SchoolReaders was over £68,000!

Dark Skies 7th February



DarkSky
DARK SKIES
An evening of stargazing, educational talks and activities, including mobile planetarium.

BEAM Plus! BEAM will be showing a film on light pollution with a related talk from 3pm-6pm.

Saturday 7th February
Hertford Castle
5 - 8pm

Ticket Prices:
General Admission: £2
General Admission plus Mobile Planetarium: £4

Photo Credit: Paul Crowley

Organised by:  Hertford Town Council

Sponsored by:  lapd lighting design

With thanks to:  University of Hertfordshire
 School of Physics, Engineering and Computer Science
 Hertford Astronomy Group

Following on from Simon Thorp's talk at the October 'Greenwatch' readers may like to join in one or more of the events on 7th February.

This unique community event invites visitors to experience the stars with reduced artificial lighting and minimal light pollution.

Expert groups including **LAPD Lighting Design**, **The University of Hertfordshire: Bayfordbury Observatory**, and the **Hertford Astronomy Group** will join together for an inspiring evening of stargazing, educational talks and hands-on activities. Highlights include a mobile planetarium and interactive learning about the impact of artificial light on people and the natural environment.

In addition, between 3.30pm and 5.30pm, **BEAM** will host a special screening of *Night Burns Like Cigarettes*, followed by a post screening talk from Simon Thorp, lighting designer at LAPD, that reflects on the film and considers if darkness could really play a greater part in our future world.

More details at
<https://www.hertford.gov.uk/events-listings/dark-skies-2026/>

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)

Wednesday 21 January 2026
English Piano Trio
Jane Faulkner (Violin)
Pal Banda Cello)
Timothy Ravenscroft (Piano)
The English Piano Trio has played together for 30 years and has performed on London and European concert platforms. Although well known for their interpretation of music of the classical period, the Trio has commissioned and recorded 20 and 21 century repertoire.

Wednesday 28 January 2026
Alexander Ardakov (Piano)
Alexander Ardakov studied under the renowned pianist and professor Vera Gornostaeva at Moscow Conservatoire. Upon graduating, he joined the Moscow State Philharmonia as a performer. Alexander won prizes at the Kabelevsky Piano Competition in Russia and the Viotti International Music Competition in Vercelli, Italy.

Wednesday 4 February 2026
Lizzie Knatt (Recorders)
Declan Hickey (Guitar)
'Revels and Retellings'
Lizzie and Declan's shared interest in both historical performance practice and the exploration of new chamber music brought them together while studying at the Royal Academy of Music, London. As an unconventional duo their repertoire ranges from the medieval to the present day, encompassing original repertoire, new commissions and arrangements, with a focus on creative programming.

Wednesday 11 February 2026
David Dunnnett (Organ)
David Dunnnett became Organist and Master of the Music at Norwich Cathedral in January 1996.

Music: Sonatasatz D28 - Schubert
Trio Elegique in G minor - Rachmaninov
Trio in E Hob.-XV: 28 - Haydn

Music: Frederic Chopin (1810-1849) including:
Nocturne in B flat minor Op. 9 No. 1,
Nocturne in F sharp minor Op. 48 No. 2,
Four Impromptus and Sonata No. 3 in B minor Op. 58.

Music: Variations on carnival, masque and commedia from the Renaissance to the present day.

Music: To Be Confirmed

Free Admission with Retiring Collection in Aid of All Saints' Church
Registered UK Charity No. 11340135

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

Full details of all these concerts at
<https://www.allsaintshertford.org/concerts.php#sbs>

Good Morning to All Saints Church Members

I would, on behalf of The Rotary Club of Hertford like to thank all concerned who contributed to the collection of coats you allowed us to hold in your Church.

We collected in total that week over 100 coats and I am sure you will be delighted to know that they were all in very good condition and will soon be on their way to help those people who have a need in Ukraine. So our grateful thanks.

Ray Haddock (President)

FUTUREhope

£15pp

FUTUREhope
Hertford&Ware

Incl. Raffle +
you can buy
delicious
homemade
cake for your
table on the
evening

**QUIZ
NIGHT**

**SAT 28TH
FEBRUARY**

7pm
Email
dave@fhhw.org.uk
to sign up!

Light nibbles provided – but please BYOB

Pioneer Hall
11 Ware Road
Hertford
SG13 7DZ

You are invited to the FUTUREhope Hertford and Ware Quiz at 7pm on Saturday 28th February. Ideally we are looking for teams of 8, but if there are fewer of you, we can help put teams together.

Proceeds go towards the work of FUTUREhope, helping vulnerable young

people in Hertford and Ware cope with all that life is throwing at them.

Please come along for a fun and worthwhile evening - tickets are £15pp and can be reserved by emailing Dave Hollis at dave@fhhw.org.uk.

Light nibbles will be provided but feel free to bring your own drinks and snacks.

<https://fhhw.org.uk/>

Covid Day of Reflection Sunday 8th March



The UK Commission on Covid Commemoration was set up to find appropriate ways to remember those who lost their lives since the pandemic began, and to explore how we mark this period of our history.

The Commission held an in depth consultation with those most impacted by the pandemic, including representatives from bereaved family organisations. In September 2023 it published its final report, recommending an annual UK-wide day of reflection.

By continuing to hold a Day of Reflection, in line with previous years, we hope to offer communities across the country the opportunity to join together in commemoration of those who lost their lives.

The next COVID-19 Day of Reflection will take place on Sunday 8 March 2026.

<https://dayofreflection.campaign.gov.uk/>

GreenWatch 14th March



ALLSAINTS HERTFORD
All Saints Welcomes Everyone

GREEN WATCH

A Series of **FREE Talks** on Environmental Themes

SongBird SURVIVAL

By Georgina Bradley
Operations and Finance Manager
The SongBird Survival Trust

By Georgina Bradley
Operations and Finance Manager
The SongBird Survival Trust

SONGBIRD SURVIVAL
Saving songbirds with science

SATURDAY 14 MARCH 2026 at 1.00pm

Coffee from 11.30am. Light Lunches from 12noon

Background Piano Music: Mary and Martin Penny (If available)
Fiona's Produce Stall

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

<https://www.songbird-survival.org.uk/>

Springtime Spectacular



ALLSAINTS HERTFORD
All Saints Welcomes Everyone

ROBERT HABERMANN AND THE BIG BAND

SPRINGTIME SPECTACULAR

Award Winning Singer **Robert Habermann** returns to All Saints' Church with the **Phoenix Jazz Orchestra** to sing original Big Band arrangements and songs from the shows

VOTED BEST INTERNATIONAL CABARET SINGER IN NEW YORK

THURSDAY 19 MARCH 2026 at 7.45pm
(Admission £10 In Aid of All Saints' Church)

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

Photo Festival

Hertford is set to have its first photo Festival in May this year! A joint endeavour with Courtyard Arts and All Saints Church supported by BEAM.

Application forms now available on the Courtyard Arts website
(www.courtyardarts.org.uk/exhibitions/love-and-hope-hertford-photo-festival).



LOVE AND HOPE

HERTFORD PHOTO FESTIVAL

@BEAM @COURTYARD ARTS @ALL SAINTS CHURCH

COURTYARD ARTS - PRIVATE VIEWING - 8TH MAY 6PM-9PM
ALL SAINTS CHURCH - FESTIVAL DAY - 9TH MAY 12PM-6PM
WITH LIVE MUSIC, FOOD TRUCKS & LICENSED BAR

5TH MAY - 30TH MAY 2026

Wall Hangings and Banners at All Saints

We had an excellent meeting in January about the wall hangings and banners on the pillars. Many people said how much they enjoyed seeing the different colours matching the liturgical seasons.

We had lots of ideas, including relating the banners to the readings where possible and mentioning them on the Pew Sheet. We could potentially involve the schools at some point later in the year. We may have a craft session to make some fish (as we did for the doves) or other things, and people can offer to do various weeks with the resources we have gathered.

Another idea was linking animals to the various Saints which sounds interesting. A few people have offered to assist with this task. Watch this space and please contact me with any ideas!

Dorothy Toyn

Creating Space for Nature

No matter what your outdoor space you have there are things that you can do for local wildlife. Whether you have a garden, a yard, a balcony, or a window box you can add and create things to make your space more attractive to wildlife.

Think about adding plants that offer pollen and nectar for bees, butterflies and other insects. Plant flowers that bloom at different times of year to keep the supply of nectar going. Add a tree or bush that has berries which will provide food for birds in the autumn and winter. Holly, Ivy and Rowan are great. Where possible plant native flowers, plants and trees which have evolved to flourish in this climate and to best support animals that rely on them.

Add features that create shelter, this could be artificial such as adding a bird box or a hedgehog house or natural like adding a log pile, creating a hedge, leaving an area of grass to grow long, or creating a mini wildlife flower meadow.

A pond is one of the best features you can add to your space to help wildlife. Your pond doesn't need to be big, a washing-up bowl, a large plant pot, or a disused sink could all be repurposed as ponds, providing you make sure creatures can get in and out. We have an initiative called Pledge a Pond, where we encourage people to create new ponds as well as mapping existing ponds.

There is loads of great advice on the Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust website to help you get started.

<https://www.hertswildlifetrust.org.uk/>

From a 'GreenWatch' talk by Kate Sheard,
Wilder Communities Officer

Hertford Choral Society presents



Brahms *Ein deutsches Requiem*

5.00pm, Saturday 28th March 2026
All Saints' Church, Hertford SG13 8AY

Join us for Brahms' *Ein deutsches Requiem* sung in German, in an arrangement for piano (four hands) and timpani.
Pianists: Jonathan Eyre and Tamas Slater Timpanist: Aaron Townsend
Soloists: Charlotte Brosnan (soprano) and Stephen Kennedy (bass)
Conductor: Manvinder Rattan

Tickets:
£20 reserved / £15 unreserved / £5 students (incl. refreshments)

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 1FX (unreserved only)

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



Hertford Choral Society
Registered Charity No. 276220

Snowdrop Garden – Possibly for the Last Time



The Bishop of St Albans' Garden will open for what may be **the final time** this February, with thousands of snowdrops and early bulbs in bloom.

All proceeds support the **Beds & Herts Historic Churches Trust**.

Dates: 14 & 15 Feb; 21 & 22 Feb

Time: 2-4pm

Location: Abbey Gate House, Abbey Mill Lane, AL3 4HD

Entry: £5 per adult

A warm invitation to enjoy the garden's early spring beauty and help care for our historic churches.

Parish Diary February 2026

Sunday 1st	Presentation of Christ in the Temple	Thursday 12th		7.30 pm	Lectio Divina on Zoom
10.00 am	All-age Eucharist and Christingle	11.00 am	Morning Prayer		
6.30 pm	Breathing Space Taizé	7.30 pm	All Saints Art	Tuesday 24th	
Monday 2nd		Friday 13th		8.00 am	Morning Prayer
8.00 am	Morning Prayer	5.30 pm	Choir Practices	10.00 am	SmAll Saints
10.30 am	Service at Bentley House	Saturday 14th		5.00 pm	Evening Prayer
5.00 pm	Evening Prayer	9.30 am	Morning Prayer	Weds 25th	
7.30 pm	Lectio Divina on Zoom	10.30 am	Valentines Coffee Morning	8.00 am	Morning Prayer
Tuesday 3rd (Anskar)		11.00 am	Talk by Dorothy Abel Smith <i>Panshanger Park</i>	10.15 am	Wheatcroft Assembly
8.00 am	Morning Prayer	Sunday 15th Sunday next before Lent		12.00 for 1.00 pm	Soundbites Students from Haileybury College
8.30 am	Holy Communion	10.00 am	Parish Communion Celebrant: Rev Scott Martin	5.00 pm	Evening Prayer
10.00 am	SmAll Saints	6.30 pm	Choral Compline	Thursday 26th	
5.00 pm	Evening Prayer	Monday 16th		8.00 am	Morning Prayer
Weds 4th		10.30 am	Service at Bentley House	9.15 for 9.30	Thinking Thursday
8.00 am	Morning Prayer	7.30 pm	Lectio Divina on Zoom	11.00 am	Holy Communion
12.00 for 1.00 pm	Soundbites Lizzie Knatt – Recorder, Declan Hickey - Guitar	Tuesday 17th (Shrove Tuesday)		5.00 pm	Evening Prayer
2.00 pm	Home Communion Visits	8.00 am	Morning Prayer	7.30 pm	All Saints Art
5.00 pm	Evening Prayer	10.00 am	SmAll Saints	Friday 27th	
Thursday 5th		5.00 pm	Evening Prayer	5.30 pm	Choir Practices
8.00 am	Morning Prayer	Ash Weds 18th		Saturday 28th	
9.15 for 9.30	Thinking Thursday: LLF	7.00 am	'Ashes to go' at Hertford East	9.30 am	Morning Prayer
11.00 am	Holy Communion	8.00 am	Morning Prayer	10.00 am	Coffee Morning and Board Games
5.00 pm	Evening Prayer	10.00 am	'Ashes to go' in town Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes	7.00 pm	Future Hope Quiz night at Pioneer Hall
7.30 pm	All Saints Art	12.30	Evening Prayer	MARCH	
7.30 pm	LLF Course	5.00 pm	Choral Communion with Imposition of Ashes	Sunday 1st	2nd Sunday of Lent
Friday 6th		Thursday 19th		10.00 am	All-age Eucharis
5.30 pm	Choir Practices	8.00 am	Morning Prayer	6.30 pm	Breathing Space
Saturday 7th		9.15 for 9.30	Thinking Thursday	Monday 2nd (Chad)	
9.30 am	Morning Prayer	11.00 am	Holy Communion	8.00 am	Morning Prayer
3.30 pm onwards	Dark Skies events	5.00 pm	Evening Prayer	9.00 am	Holy Communion
Sunday 8th	2nd Sunday before Lent	7.30 pm	All Saints Art	10.30 am	Service at Bentley House
10.00 am	Holy Communion	Saturday 21st		5.00 pm	Evening Prayer
6.30 pm	Choral Evensong	9.00 onwards	Work Party	7.30 pm	Lectio Divina on Zoom
Monday 9th		9.30 am	Morning Prayer	Tuesday 3rd	
8.00 am	Morning Prayer	Sunday 22nd First Sunday of Lent		8.00 am	Morning Prayer
10.30 am	Service at Bentley House	10.00 am	Parish Communion	10.00 am	SmAll Saints
5.00 pm	Evening Prayer	6.30 pm	Choral Evensong	5.00 pm	Evening Prayer
7.30 pm	Lectio Divina on Zoom	Monday 23rd (Polycarp)			
Tuesday 10th		8.00 am	Morning Prayer		
8.00 am	Morning Prayer	9.00 am	Holy Communion		
10.00 am	SmAll Saints	10.30 am	Service at Bentley House		
5.00 pm	Evening Prayer	5.00 pm	Evening Prayer		
Weds 11th					
8.00 am	Morning Prayer				
12.00 for 1.00 pm	Soundbites David Dunnett - Organ				
5.00 pm	Evening Prayer				

Contact information

www.allsaintshertford.org

   AllSaintsHertf

Vicar

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