

## ALL SAINTS'



## ALIVE

All Saints' Welcomes Everyone



## A Season of Growth and Gentle Reminders

As I write this, the vicarage garden is finally beginning to win its annual battle against the winter gloom. There is something profoundly hopeful about May, isn't there? It is a month where the promise of Easter begins to take root in the soil of our daily lives. We move from the joy of the Empty Tomb into the steady, warming light of early summer.

We are journeying through the season of Easter. We have celebrated the Resurrection, and we now look forward toward to Ascension Day and the rushing wind of Pentecost. It is a season that asks us a very simple, yet challenging question: \*Now that we have seen the light, how shall we walk?

### The Art of Noticing

I often find that May is the perfect time to practice "the art of noticing." It is easy to rush through the day and through life. But I encourage you in these days to pause. Notice the intricate pattern on a new leaf; listen to the song of the birds; share a moment of genuine stillness. In their own way they resonate with the hope of all being made new because of the empty tomb.

Our faith isn't just found in the "big" moments of Christmas or Easter, but in the quiet, persistent growth of our community. Like the flora around us, our parish thrives when we take the time to nurture one another and live out that faith together in the normal stuff of life.

### Looking Ahead

We have much to look forward to this month. I would particularly like us all to look at the posters outlining our seven stranded vision in

church. These outline ways we can live that Easter faith - what part are we each willing to play to make that vision reality? Please comment, criticise and commit before Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May.

I am particularly mindful of those in our congregation and community who may be facing exams or new transitions this month especially—know that our prayers are with you.

Let us embrace this May with open hearts, ready to be surprised by the Spirit, and open to living the Easter faith in the normal stuff of daily living. Whether you are a regular face in the pews or someone popping in for the first time, you are a vital part of the unfolding story of God at All Saints, where all are welcome, always.

*"The world is charged with the grandeur of God. It will flame out, like shining from shook foil." — Gerard Manley Hopkins*

## What Should We Do?

A Sermon Before the APCM Acts 2:14a, 36-41



I was recently reminded of a story about Sir John Harvey-Jones, the legendary former chair of ICI. He was once invited to trouble-shoot a failing company. He spent weeks looking at their spreadsheets, their machinery, and their history. He then called the entire workforce into the canteen. The staff expected a lecture on "efficiency" but instead, Harvey-Jones stood on a chair and asked one question: **"Do you actually want to be here tomorrow, or are you just waiting for the clock to strike five?"**

He said the room went deathly silent. It wasn't a question about their pensions or their output; it was a question that pierced through to the heart of their own motivation. They were, in a very real sense, "cut to the heart." They realized that they had been maintaining a museum of their past rather than building a future.

In our reading from Acts today, we find a crowd in a very similar position. They have all the data—they've seen the miracles, they know the prophecies, and they've just heard Peter's masterful, albeit uncomfortable, summary of how they've managed to crucify the very Messiah they were waiting for.

And like those factory workers, they realize that "business as usual" is no longer an option. They don't ask Peter for a five-year strategic plan or a budget breakdown. They ask the only question that matters when the penny finally drops from the head to the heart: **"Brothers, what should we do?"**

### The Pierced Heart

Peter stands up. He doesn't offer a gentle suggestion; he offers a challenge. He lays out the truth of the Resurrection so clearly that the crowd is "cut to the heart."



That phrase is vital. To be "cut to the heart" isn't just to be moved emotionally. It is a moment of profound realization where we see the world as it truly is, and we see our place in it. For the people in Jerusalem, it was the realization that they had missed the Messiah. For us at All Saints in 2026, it might be the realization of how much we rely on this community, and how much this community relies on our collective "Yes" to God.

The Question: "What Must We Do?"

The response of the crowd is the most important question any church can ask: **"Brothers and sisters what should we do?"**

They didn't ask, "What should the Vicar do?" or "What should the Diocese do?" They asked what they should do.

As we look toward our APCM, this is our question. Our reports—those booklets you're holding or sitting on—tell the story of the past year. They tell of SmAll Saints beginning and growing to up to around 15 attendees each week; they tell of the work of our PCC seeking to follow where Christ leads and lead us in that way; they tell of creativity in flowers and in liturgically coloured banners; they tell of our growing desire to engage with the wider parish through hosting Streetfood Heroes, concerts, soundbites and other events; and they tell of a desire to nurture and grow faith through a rich variety of worship and our online and in person study groups. What must we do? Well we must ensure that we bravely follow where Christ leads as we journey through 2026 and ensure that the "doing" doesn't end with a printed report.

Peter's answer is three-fold:

1. **Repent:** Turn around. Look at things with fresh eyes.
2. **Be Baptized:** Claim your identity as God's own.
3. **Receive the Gift:** Open yourselves to the Holy Spirit.

### The Life of All Saints

In a parish like ours, "Repenting and being Baptized" translates into how we live our life together. We are a "broad" church in every sense of the word—rich in tradition, yet called to be disciples in 21st century Hertford.



When we look at the vacancies on our committees or the needs of our fabric fund, or my call to you all to COMMENT, CRITICISE and COMMIT on our vision documents, we shouldn't see "chores." We should see the "What must we do?" in action. To serve on the PCC, to volunteer to drive one of the Seven Strands in some way; to help with craft prep for SmAll Saints; or, as importantly, to ensure that the person sitting in the pew next to you feels welcomed—this is the "devoting ourselves to the apostles' teaching" that Acts describes.

### **The Promise is for You**

Peter says, "The promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far off."

That is the mission statement of All Saints Hertford. We are here for the "far off"—for those in our town who haven't yet begun to follow Jesus Christ, for the children who come through our doors for school services and who we encounter through lessons and assemblies, and for ourselves, who are often "far off" in our own hearts even while sitting in the pews. We aren't just maintaining a building; we are rebuilding a lighthouse.

### **Beyond the Meeting**

So, as we move from this service into our meeting, let's do so not with a sense of obligation, but with the spirit of those three thousand souls. They didn't just join an organization; they joined a movement.

The vision before us this year is strong and clear, but it is a living thing. It requires our breath, our time, our talent and our "heart-cutting" honesty.

Let us ask ourselves today, in the silence of our hearts: **"Lord, what would you have me do?"** And then, let us have the courage to listen to the answer and then do it.

**Amen.**

## **Annual Meetings 19/4/26**

Our annual meetings were held on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April. All the papers are available on-line at <https://www.allsainthertford.org/apcm.php> and in a blue folder at the back of church.

Draft minutes will be added to this later this month.



In the Annual Meeting of Parishioners, Janet Bird and Verity Tranter were re-elected as our churchwardens.

In the ensuing Annual Parochial Church Meeting, Colin Bird and Janet Bird were elected as our Deanery Synod Representatives. Linda Dye, Martin Penny and Mary Penny we re-elected and Deborah Bowden was elected to replace Andrew Belfield who stood down after eight years including time as acting Chair during the Vacancy.

Thanks were expressed to all, and the many more who do so many vital (and often unseen) tasks that keep All Saints Vibrant and alive.

## **Contact information renewal**



Thank you to the eighty-one people who have responded to the renewal of our contact list and contact preferences so far.

**If you have not done so, this will be the last newsletter that we send to you and your**

**contact details will no longer be used as of 1<sup>st</sup> May.**

**If you wish to continue to receive communications from All Saints,** please complete a simple form as soon as you can.

It will only take a couple of minutes and can be done either by accessing a short on-line form at

<https://forms.gle/UyupADuQtAmB7xkb8> or filling in a paper version – copies at the back of church.

Please provide as much information as you are comfortable with, but remember it is difficult for Simon to contact, support or visit you if we don't hold at least your phone number and address. For legal reasons we are not allowed to use the information on the parish Electoral Roll.

There are three main categories for communications you may be interested in. These are 'Worship', 'Events' and 'Children and Youth'. For children under 18, we are asking for information of the parent/carer and not the child – you will see on the form where you can enter any children's names and date of birth (so we can tailor any communications and know when they turn 18).

All the data will be held in one central, secure, access-controlled database, which means any changes will be reflected in all our mailing lists (including contacts for rotas etc).

Thank you for your help.

## **LOVE AND HOPE: Hertford Photo Festival by Paul Morris**

This festival originates from a simple but expansive idea that love and hope are not abstract ideals, but practices. They are ways of paying attention, of choosing care over indifference, and of imagining a future shaped by connection rather than division.

The project itself emerged through friendship. Conceived by the Reverend Simon Cutmore, the vicar at All Saints' Church in Hertford, and

me, it grew from a shared desire to create something accessible that could genuinely bring the community together. Photography, which shapes my own way of seeing and creating, felt like the most universal language and art form. With its capacity to slow us down and focus our gaze, it became a powerful instrument for the project.



Hope appears in the festival's commitment to inclusion and emergence. The programme brings together photographers of all ages, backgrounds, and levels of experience, from established practitioners and to, perhaps, those exhibiting for the first time. By removing hierarchy, the festival aims to create conditions where confidence can grow and new voices can be heard. As organisers, both Simon and I felt that to make space for possibility is, in itself, an act of hope.

Planned across four venues in Hertford, the festival site is intentionally dispersed. Photography will be displayed throughout the town, including Courtyard Arts Centre, All Saints' Church, the creative arts and culture venue BEAM, and Hertford Tourist Information Centre. By stepping beyond a single gallery, the festival positions culture as something shared and accessible, part of everyday life rather than set apart from it.

The festival's central strand is its engagement with local schools, working with young people using Polaroid cameras. Instant photography introduces a material relationship to image-making, something that is increasingly rare in the digital age. Each photograph is seen as singular and unrepeatable, asking for intention, patience, and trust. In the hands of young people, these small images become hopeful gestures - evidence that attention matters, that choices have weight, and that creativity can be shared.

ENTER NOW

## HERTFORD PHOTOGRAPHY FESTIVAL

**TITLE: LOVE & HOPE**  
 'However you see it'

**Submissions on Saturday 2nd May**  
 Entry details @CourtyardArts

**FRIDAY 8TH MAY**  
**PRIVATE VIEWING - Courtyard Arts**  
 6pm - 9pm - Drinks + Nibbles  
 Music: Dear Wife

## SATURDAY 9TH MAY

### FESTIVAL DAY - ALL SAINTS CHURCH

12pm - 6pm - Bar + Street Food Heroes

**Music Line-up:**

Junkyard Dawg Jugband Hardcore & Rubble Lewis Sycamore Strtles	Test the Waters Why Not Phoenix Jazz Orchestra
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The festival imagines photography as a social practice rather than a solitary one. It seeks to create spaces where people gather, talk, and recognise themselves and each other. Love emerges through care for place and community; hope through the belief that shared creative experiences can still foster generosity, curiosity, and belonging.

*LOVE AND HOPE Hertford Photo Festival is supported by Courtyard Arts Centre, All Saints' Church, BEAM and Go Hertford, and runs between 5th and 30th May.*

Visit [www.courtyardarts.org.uk](http://www.courtyardarts.org.uk) to take part, submissions by 2nd May 2026.

## Thy Kingdom Come 2026

God with us 14<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> May



Thy Kingdom Come (TKC) is a global ecumenical prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray from Ascension to Pentecost for more people to come to know Jesus.

Since it began in May 2016, God has grown TKC from a dream of possibility into a movement which unites more than a million Christians in prayer, in nearly 90% of countries worldwide, across 85 different denominations and traditions- so that friends and family, neighbours and colleagues might come to faith in Jesus Christ.

Every person, household and church is encouraged to pray during the 11 days in their own way.

Specifically, we again invite each and every Christian across the globe to pray that God's Spirit might work in the lives of 5 people who have not responded with their 'Yes' to God's call.

This year's Thy Kingdom Come is all about the presence of God through His spirit. The God who is with us in the everyday – in the joys and sorrows of life (and everything in between) and the One who, through His spirit, longs to reveal Himself to those who do not yet know Him.

From the story of Ruth to the story of Gideon, from the story of Elijah to the story of the early church who waited for the promised Holy Spirit to come - over the 11 days we will explore a different Bible story each day, which demonstrates God's transformative presence, power and love at work in the lives of people and places.

<https://www.thykingdomcome.global/>

# Hertford Churches Together Eco Team

**Sustainable Eating**  
A talk by **Andrei Lussmann**



Source: Public Health England

Date: Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026

Time: Talk at 5.00pm and Discussion afterwards.  
Tea available from 4.30pm.

Venue: Hertford Methodist Church, Ware Rd, SG13 7DZ

We will be holding our annual Plant Sale on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May. This is a gentle reminder to ask that when sowing, planting, taking cuttings you do a few extras, both as 'insurance' and, hopefully, to be able to bring for us to sell on the day.

We are combining this with a Craft Fair so please do come and look around.

Thank you!

## Thank you from tearfund



## Plant Sale 16<sup>th</sup> May

OUR SPECTACULAR SPRING DOUBLE ACT!

# PLANT SALE AND CRAFT FAIR

With Refreshments and Light Lunches

**SATURDAY 16 MAY 2026**  
10.00am to 2.00pm (Light Lunches Served from 12noon)

- Flower, Fruit and Vegetable Plants
- Seedlings
- Indoor Plants
- Garden Books and Magazines
- Bird Food
- Greeting Cards
- Homemade Cakes
- Raffle
- Produce Stall and...

**...Amazing Local Craft Stalls**

Background Piano Music by Mary and Martin Penny

**ALLSAINTS HERTFORD**  
Queens Road, Hertford, Hertfordshire SG13 8AY  
[www.allsaintshertford.org](http://www.allsaintshertford.org)



## 2026 'Made in Herts'

Founded in Hertfordshire, Hertfordshire Festival of Music brings together outstanding artists and local communities across the county.

In 2026, we mark our tenth anniversary with Made in Herts! — a carefully shaped programme rooted in local places, shared spaces and long-standing musical relationships.

The festival takes place from 30 May to 8 June 2026.

Full festival listings, including dates, venues and booking information, will be published on the website shortly at <https://www.hertsmusicfest.org.uk/>

## Soundbites May 2026

Our Summer season continues with an exciting mix of the familiar and the less familiar in both repertoire and performers – but all of high quality!

Delicious lunches from 12.00 noon followed by a Free Concert (retiring collection) at 1.00 pm.

### Wednesday 6 May 2026

**Fiona Bonds (Viola)**

**Viv McLean (Piano)**



Fiona Bonds enjoys a richly varied and successful musical career. She is Associate Principal Viola of the Academy of St Martin in the Fields and a member of their acclaimed Chamber Ensemble.

She is also Principal Viola of the City of London Sinfonia, a role offering frequent opportunities to appear as a soloist and explore a wide repertoire. Passionate about chamber music, Fiona is excited to have recently joined the Maggini String Quartet, bringing her experience and enthusiasm to one of Britain's most respected ensembles.



Since winning First Prize at the Maria Canals Piano Competition in Barcelona, British pianist Viv McLean has performed in major venues in the UK and worldwide

Music:

Marchenbilder Op113 Schumann  
Lachryme reflections – Britten  
Andante e Rondo Ungarese – Weber

### Wednesday 13 May 2026

**Jilly Mabbi (Soprano)**

**Mary Pick (Soprano/Mezzo Soprano)**

**Mick Wilson (Tenor)**

**Stephen Cooper (Baritone)**

**Barbara Manning (Piano)**

Music: consists of excerpts from Gilbert and Sullivan operettas, Mozart operas and one or two surprises!

### Wednesday 20 May 2026

**Cygnus Trio**

**Javier Montafiana (Violin)**

**Hannah Lewis (Cello)**

**Cesar Saura (Piano)**

Praised for interpretations that are 'as passionate as they are subtle' the Cygnus Trio was formed in 2012 by three students at the Royal Academy of Music.



Music: Trio in A Minor -

Tchaikovsky

### Wednesday 27 May 2026

**Rob Burton (Saxophone)**

**Antonio Oyarzabal (Piano)**

British Saxophonist Rob Burton won the



Woodwind Category Final of BBC Young Musician 2018 and went on to secure a place in the Grand Final at Birmingham's Symphony Hall, where he performed as concerto soloist with the City

of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra.

Highlights since then include appearances with some of the UK's leading orchestras, such as Britten Sinfonia and Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra as well as at prestigious international festivals.



Antonio Oyarzabal maintains an active international career as a soloist and chamber musician, with performances in the United Kingdom and worldwide.

Music: Amy Quarte, Paule Maurice & Fernande Decruck

# Parish Diary May 2026

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup>**  
**5.30 pm** Choir Practices

**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
**9.30 am** Morning Prayer  
**11.30 am** Memorial service for Claire Gittings

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> Fifth Sunday of Easter**  
**10.00 am** Parish Communion  
**4.30 pm for 5.00 pm** Tea and talk at Methodist Church. *Sustainable Eating* Andrei Lussman  
**6.30 pm** **No service at All Saints**

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> Bank Holiday No services**

**Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup>**  
**8.00 am** Morning Prayer  
**9.00 am onward** Set up for Love & Hope  
**10.00 am** SmAll Saints  
**5.00 pm** Evening Prayer

**Weds 6<sup>th</sup>**  
**8.00 am** Morning Prayer  
**9.00 am onward** Set up for Love & Hope  
**12.00 for 1.00 pm** Soundbites  
**2.00 pm** Home Communion  
**5.00 pm** Evening Prayer

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> Julian of Norwich**  
**8.00 am** Morning Prayer  
**9.00 am onward** Set up for Love & Hope  
**9.15 for 9.30** Thinking Thursday  
**11.00 am** Holy Communion  
**5.00 pm** Evening Prayer  
**7.30 pm** All Saints Art

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup>**  
**9.00 am onward** Set up for Love & Hope  
**2.30 pm** NHSBT Award Ceremony  
**5.30 pm** Choir Practices

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup>**  
**12.00 noon – 6.00 pm** Love & Hope Festival with Music Performances and food from Street Food Heroes

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> Sixth Sunday of Easter**  
**10.00 am** Parish Communion  
**6.30 pm** Choral Evensong

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup>**  
**8.00 am** Morning Prayer  
**10.30 am** Service at Bentley House  
**5.00 pm** Evening Prayer  
**7.30pm** Lectio Divina

**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup>**  
**8.00 am** Morning Prayer  
**10.00 am** SmAll Saints  
**5.00 pm** Evening Prayer

**Weds 13<sup>th</sup>**  
**8.00 am** Morning Prayer  
**12.00 for 1.00 pm** Soundbites  
**3.30 pm - 5.00 pm** Organ Teaching  
**5.00 pm** Evening Prayer

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> Ascension Day**  
**8.00 am** Morning Prayer

**9.15 for 9.30** Thinking Thursday  
**11.00 am** Holy Communion  
**5.00 pm** Evening Prayer  
**7.30 pm** All Saints Art

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup>**  
**5.30 pm** Choir Practices

**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup>**  
**9.30 am** Morning Prayer  
**10.00 am – 2.00 pm** Plant Sale and Craft Fair

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> Seventh Sunday of Easter**  
**10.00 am** Parish Communion and Civic Service  
**6.30 pm** Choral Compline

**Monday 18<sup>th</sup>**  
**8.00 am** Morning Prayer  
**10.30 am** Service at Bentley House  
**5.00 pm** Evening Prayer  
**7.30pm** Lectio Divina

**Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> Dunstan**  
**8.00 am** Morning Prayer  
**9.00 am** Holy Communion  
**10.00 am** SmAll Saints  
**5.00 pm** Evening Prayer

**Weds 20<sup>th</sup> Alcuin**  
**8.00 am** Morning Prayer  
**9.00 am** Holy Communion  
**12.00 for 1.00 pm** Soundbites  
**3.30 pm - 5.00 pm** Organ Teaching  
**5.00 pm** Evening Prayer

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup>**  
**8.00 am** Morning Prayer  
**9.15 for 9.30** Thinking Thursday  
**11.00 am** Holy Communion  
**5.00 pm** Evening Prayer  
**7.30 pm** All Saints Art

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup>**  
**5.30 pm** Choir Practices

**Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup>**  
**9.30 am** Morning Prayer

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> Pentecost**  
**10.00 am** Parish Communion  
**6.30 pm** Choral Evensong

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup>**  
**8.00 am** Morning Prayer  
**10.30 am** Service at Bentley House  
**5.00 pm** Evening Prayer  
**7.30pm** Lectio Divina

**Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> Augustine**  
**8.00 am** Morning Prayer  
**9.00 am** Holy Communion  
**10.00 am** SmAll Saints  
**5.00 pm** Evening Prayer

**Weds 27<sup>th</sup>**  
**8.00 am** Morning Prayer  
**10.15 am** Wheatcroft Assembly  
**12.00 for 1.00 pm** Soundbites  
**3.30 pm - 5.00 pm** Organ Teaching  
**5.00 pm** Evening Prayer  
**7.30 pm** PCC

**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup>**  
**8.00 am** Morning Prayer  
**9.15 for 9.30** Thinking Thursday  
**11.00 am** Holy Communion  
**4.00 pm-9.00pm** Street Food Heroes  
**5.00 pm** Evening Prayer  
**7.30 pm** All Saints Art

**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> Josephine Butler**  
**9.00 am** Holy Communion  
**2.00 pm** Holy Baptism: Leo Polycarpou

**Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> Trinity Sunday**  
**10.00 am** Parish Communion  
**6.30 pm** Celebration of Holy Baptism

**JUNE**

**Monday 1<sup>st</sup>**  
**8.00 am** Morning Prayer  
**10.30 am** Service at Bentley House  
**5.00 pm** Evening Prayer  
**7.30pm** Lectio Divina

**Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
**8.00 am** Morning Prayer  
**10.00 am** SmAll Saints  
**5.00 pm** Evening Prayer

**Weds 3<sup>rd</sup>**  
**8.00 am** Morning Prayer  
**12.00 for 1.00 pm** HFoM/Soundbites  
**3.30 pm - 5.00 pm** Organ Teaching  
**5.00 pm** Evening Prayer

**Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> Corpus Christi**  
**8.00 am** Morning Prayer  
**9.15 for 9.30** Thinking Thursday  
**11.00 am** Holy Communion  
**5.00 pm** Evening Prayer  
**7.30 pm** All Saints Art

**Friday 5<sup>th</sup>**  
**5.30 pm** Choir Practices

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup>**  
**9.30 am** Morning Prayer  
**12.45 pm** Wedding of Emily Rebecca Griffin-Saunders and George Henry Artley  
**4.30 pm** HFoM Community Concert

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> First Sunday after Trinity**  
**10.00 am** HFoM Festival Communion  
**6.30 pm** Service suitable for the season

**Contact information**

[www.allsaintshertford.org](http://www.allsaintshertford.org)

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