



Benefice of Langelei

Welcome to our Benefice Newsletter for June 2021

Benefice Mission: "Our Vision is of a community where Christ has been brought to the community and the community has been brought to Christ. Our Mission as churches in this Benefice area is to maintain sacred spaces, and be flexible, interactive and collaborative with the use of resources."

Stages

*As every flower fades and as all youth
Departs, so life at every stage,
So every virtue, so our grasp of truth,
Blooms in its day and may not last forever.
Since life may summon us at every age
Be ready, heart, for parting, new endeavour,
Be ready bravely and without remorse
To find new light that old ties cannot give.
In all beginnings dwells a magic force
For guarding us and helping us to live.*

*Serenely let us move to distant places
And let no sentiments of home detain us.
The Cosmic Spirit seeks not to restrain us
But lifts us stage by stage to wider spaces.
If we accept a home of our own making,
Familiar habit makes for indolence.
We must prepare for parting and leave-taking
Or else remain the slaves of permanence.*

*Even the hour of our death may send
Us speeding on to fresh and newer spaces,
And life may summon us to newer races.
So be it, heart: bid farewell without end.*

Hermann Hesse from The Glass Bead Game

This month I offer you another poem that has meant a lot to me over the years and which has popped back into my head serendipitously. I came across it during a gap year spent in Boston, Mass. At the end of my time there I found it hard to leave, having formed new friendships and new interests on my first 'adventure' as an adult; but I had a place at university here to take up and I knew I had to come



back and make a fresh start. The 'magic force' that guards and guides us through transitions I would call the Holy Spirit, but that's for each reader to interpret for themselves. The poem has certainly given me reassurance on a number of occasions when change is afoot.

It is not an overtly Christian poem, but with the eyes of faith you might relate it to the Christian journey. Those opening lines remind me of the little epiphanies we experience from time to time, when it seems the clouds part and we glimpse a little of the truth or the divine. But they are fleeting and we cannot hold on to them. Their time comes and goes, and there will be fresh revelations in store.

There is also a strong sense of death and resurrection in it too. All the various endings that we experience make way for new life. Whether it be moving home, changing jobs, the end of a relationship, changes to our routines, our health... Death is also birth, and in all endings are the seeds of new life, new possibilities.

I love the feeling of freedom in the poem; of the soul not weighed down in slavery to habit and routine, but circling ever upward like the lark to 'wider spaces'. Even in our final earthly hours the adventure continues. What a gift life is!

Perhaps this gives you something to ponder as we all look to the future as individuals, as churches and as a team. What do we leave behind, and where are the seeds of new life?

Rev'd Lizzie Hood

Easter Trail

On Easter Sunday I went to church for an Easter trail.

It was my first time on the trail. First I got a sheet and a pencil. Then I went around the churchyard.

I found pretend Easter eggs. There was a challenge at each one. For example, to find a leaf to wave to the next egg to remember Palm Sunday.

We also played the two truths and one lie game as one of the challenges.



The trail told us about the Easter story.

I had to look for the Easter eggs. I looked everywhere.

At the end I got a real chocolate Easter egg.

I really enjoyed it.

Evie (6), Holy Trinity



Sid the Snake

It was hard to keep the children active during lockdown so we decided to start a project that Lily and Harry named 'Sid the snake'. We wanted to make people smile and help give local children something creative to enjoy while encouraging them to walk outside for fresh air.

The first painted stone was placed beside our local footpath as a snake's head with the message: "Let's have some fun and let's see how long we can make him." Now with more than 1000 stones, we're so happy that Sid has a permanent home embedded into the park behind the shops at Leverstock Green.

It's amazing that so many people got involved. Lily and Harry are so chuffed to have been a part of this. Harry has become very fond of Sid the snake and said he'll love him forever. It makes me so happy to think that so many people have created this piece of art of which we can all be proud for years to come! Aware how important it is for people's well-being to come together at times like this, we're proud to be part of such a fantastic community.



Above: Sid with his creators Karen, Lily and Harry in the alleyway, his first home.

Right: Having achieved a greater girth, Sid's new home is by the playground in Westwick Field.



Karen Gates, Holy Trinity

The Diocesan Prayer Rota

As part of our commitment to one another as a Diocesan family, we pray for every parish on a daily rolling programme. The Diocesan prayer rota can be accessed at

<https://www.stalbans.anglican.org/ministry/prayer-diary/>

Our Benefice will be prayed for in July:
4th at Apsley, 5th at Bennett's End, 11th at Kings Langley, 12th at Leverstock Green.
It's a lovely thing to be supported in prayer in this way.

Please take part - for our parishes and for others.

Rev'd Lizzie Hood
Photo: Katherine Harper

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BENEFICE NEWSLETTER

Editorial Team: Jean & Mike Chrisp - mikeandjean23@btinternet.com.

PUBLICATION DATE COPY DEADLINE

5 September 2021	22 August 2021
5 December 2021	21 November 2021
6 March 2022	20 February 2022

The Community Foodbank is open to anyone in need, as often as needed, and no vouchers are required.

All Saints is open daily 9.30am-5pm, St Mary's on Thursdays 10am-3pm
and St Benedict's on Wednesdays 9am-3.30pm.

Donations of non-perishable food and other essential items can be left at any of the churches
during their open hours or at the Dunelm store in Apsley during trading hours.

Please only donate items in date.

Surplus donations are distributed to other local foodbanks and DENS.

For a current list of needs please visit www.beneficeoflangelei.org.uk/allsaints/community or the Facebook page.

Community Foodbank Update

Since opening its doors at All Saints in June 2020, the Community Foodbank has been expanding its reach and has now established branches at St Mary's and St Benedict's, meeting the needs of our communities in Kings Langley, Apsley and Bennett's End. Demand is high as the impact of lockdowns, job losses and financial pressures continue to be felt. As well as welcoming users to help themselves to food and other essential items on a 'take what you need' basis, the Foodbank has also been able to signpost users to other sources of help and support.

Owing to this recent growth, the Foodbank is seeking a voluntary Coordinator and Deputy Coordinator to oversee operations at all three locations. Could this be you, or someone you know? If you're good at organising others and building relationships, perhaps this could be the role for you. It will involve leading a team of volunteers from across the local churches and the wider community, being the point of contact for external agencies,



establishing and nurturing partnerships and reporting on the Foodbank's activity.

We are grateful to the new volunteers who have recently come on board: Kim Nolan has joined the team as Operations Lead for St Mary's and I recently volunteered to look after publicity and social media (please follow and share our Facebook page). However, the Co-ordinator and Deputy posts will be crucial to the smooth running and future direction of the Foodbank as we go forward.



As well as the Co-ordinator roles, we would also love more volunteers to help with 'hands-on' manning and restocking as part of the rota at All Saints, St Mary's and St Benedict's. For more information about the Co-ordinator roles or volunteering at St Benedict's, please contact Fr. James on 01923 903 531 or james.a.mcdonald@live.co.uk For volunteering at St Mary's contact Kim Nolan: kimnolan1975@outlook.com and for All Saints contact Ingrid Allen: iruthallen@talktalk.net



Rachel Williams, All Saints

PARISH DIARY

**IMPORTANT: FOR UP TO DATE INFORMATION PLEASE CHECK WEBSITE AND WEEKLY SHEETS,
SOME SERVICES MAY BE ON LINE AND SOME ACTIVITIES SUSPENDED DURING LOCKDOWN**

HOLY TRINITY, LEVERSTOCK GREEN

Sundays	8.00am	Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
	10.00am	Holy Communion and Junior Church (Sunday School) - Common Worship
3rd Sundays	6.00 - 7.30pm	TYG (The Youth Group)
Mondays	2.00pm	Sewing Group - Meet in Trinity Room
2nd Monday	7.45pm	Trinity Readers
Tuesdays	9.00am	Morning Prayer
3rd Tuesday	10.00am	Music and Meditation, 63 The Horseshoe, Leverstock Green
	8.00pm	Horseshoe Study Group, 61 The Horseshoe, Leverstock Green
Wednesdays	10.00am	Said Holy Communion
	2.00pm	Craft Group
	2.45pm	Collective Worship at Leverstock Green School - Term Time only
3rd Wednesday	10.00am	Mothers Union Corporate Communion
Thursdays	9.00am	Morning Prayer
	10.00am	Toddlers Church - Term Time only
3rd Thursday	3.00 - 5.00pm	Friendship Teas in the Trinity Room
	8.00pm	Trinity Women's Group - Meet in the Trinity Room
Fridays	7.00pm	Choir Practice
Saturdays	9.00am	Morning Prayer
	10.00am	Coffee Shop in Trinity Room with Traidcraft Stall
1st Saturday	10.00am - 12 noon	Churchyard Gardening Party

ST MARY'S, APSLEY END

Sundays	10.00am	Holy Communion (Common Worship) and Young Peoples' Groups
1st Sunday	8.00am	Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
2nd Sunday	6.30pm	Evening Prayer
Mondays	10.00am - 12 noon	Working Party
	8.00pm	Bell Ringing Practice
Tuesdays	9.30am	Buzzy Bees Toddler Group - (Term Time)
Tuesdays	9.00am	Holy Communion at Florence Longman House (See weekly Bulletin for dates)
	11.00am	Holy Communion at Water Mill House Care Home (See weekly Bulletin for dates)
4th Wednesday	7.30 - 9.30pm	Paper Dollies - (WI)
Thursdays	9.00am	Morning Prayer
	9.30am	Holy Communion (Common Worship)
	10.10am	Study Group (Check weekly Bulletin for confirmation)
	7.30pm	AA Group
	8.00pm	Study Group (Manor Estate)
Fridays	10.00am - 12 noon	Working Party
Saturdays	10.00am - 12 noon	Community Cafe

ST BENEDICT'S, BENNETTS END

Sundays	10.00am	Holy Communion (Common Worship)
Mondays	4.00pm	Evening Prayer (Check weekly Bulletin for confirmation)

ALL SAINTS, KINGS LANGLEY

Church open daily 9.30am - 5.00pm

Sundays	8.00am	Said Eucharist (Traditional language 1st Sunday of the month)
	9.30am	Family Eucharist and Saints on Sunday
Tuesdays - Fridays	8.30am	Morning prayer
Tuesdays	11.00am	Holy Communion at Friars Mead (usually last Tuesday of the month)
Wednesdays	9.30am - 11.00am	Tiny Tots (Term Time only)
	7.45pm	Bell Ringing Practice
Thursdays	7.00pm	All Saints Men's Group (Usually 3rd Thursday, time varies)
		Contact Brian McAdam: 07796 131 291
Fridays	6.30pm	Adult Choir Practice

SPECIAL SERVICES AND EVENTS
IMPORTANT - PLEASE CHECK WEBSITE AND WEEKLY SHEETS
FOR UP TO DATE INFORMATION - SOME SERVICES MAY BE ON LINE

HOLY TRINITY, LEVERSTOCK GREEN

June		
Monday 7th	7.30pm	Baptism information evening
Saturday 12th	10.00am	Children's Society coffee morning and box collection
July		
Saturday 3rd	12 noon - 2.00pm	Table top sale in churchyard (see page 9)
August		
August 15th	10.30am	Benefice service followed by bring & share meal at St Mary's (no service at 10.00am) (see page 13)

ST MARY'S, APSLEY END AND ST BENEDICT'S, BENNETTS END

July		
Sunday 4th	10.00am	Bring and share meal after church to mark the lifting of lockdown at St Mary's
Sunday 18th	10.00am	Thanksgiving Eucharist for all those who have had significant birthdays or anniversaries during lockdown at St Benedict's
August		
Monday 2nd	11.00am	Memorial service for Eric Malin at St Mary's
Sunday 15th	10.30am	Benefice service followed by bring & share meal at St Mary's (see page 13)
Advance Notices		
September 11th - 12th	Celebrations to mark the 150th anniversary of St Mary's including:	
September 11th	TBA	Barbecue
September 12th	10.00am	Service with the Bishop of St Albans followed by cake and drinks

ALL SAINTS, KINGS LANGLEY

June		
Sunday 6th	9.30am	Saints on Sunday and Crèche resumes
	11.15am	Church in the Wild - Rafts and Nature Kaleidoscopes
Saturday 12th	10.00am - 12noon	Marriage preparation morning
Saturday 19th	9.00am - 1.00pm	All Saints stall at Kings Langley Village Market
Sunday 20th	9.30am	Monthly All Age Eucharist resumes (3rd Sundays)
July		
Saturday 3rd	10.00am	Baptism Team Meeting
	11.00am	Baptism Preparation
Sunday 4th	11.15am	Church in the Wild - Bug hotel and shelter building
Sunday 11th	11.15am	Holy Baptism - Caleb Oxborough
	TBA	Choir Party
Saturday 17th	9.00am - 1.00pm	All Saints stall at Kings Langley Village Market
Sunday 18th	9.30am	All Age Eucharist
	11.45am	Holy Baptism - Ellis Dalton
Friday 30th	2.30pm	Memorial Service for Joyce Townley RIP
August		
Sunday 1st	11.15am	Church in the Wild - Choose a charity and summer BBQ
Sunday 8th	TBA	Deanery Pilgrimage Outing (see page 9)
Sunday 15th	10.30am	Benefice service followed by bring & share meal at St Mary's (no service at 9.30am) (see page 13)
Saturday 21st	9.00am - 1.00pm	All Saints stall at Kings Langley Village Market
Sunday 22nd	11.45am	Holy Baptism - Leo and Enzo Pitelli
	1.00pm	Parish Lunch followed by Evensong
Wednesday 25th	12noon	Thanksgiving for Marriage - James and Sarah Stevens
Thursday 26th	2.00pm	Memorial Service for Norma Thomas RIP

Retreat Opportunity

Holy Trinity church usually organises a weekend retreat in alternate years which participants have thoroughly enjoyed and found to be beneficial. We go to the Chelmsford Diocesan House of Retreat in Pleshey, Essex, which is about an hour's drive away - far enough to feel away but not too far to make the journey tiring. Pleshey is a lovely old village with pargeted houses, a historic castle, and lovely countryside.



This year's retreat is from early evening on Friday 30th July to after lunch on Sunday 1st August, and will be led by the Rev'd Guy Buckler on the theme of 'living and praying with St Francis'.

At the time of writing there is one space available to make up the party of 16 but if the Government's

roadmap goes to plan, a further 12 places may become available after June 21st. If you are interested in joining us, please contact the Rev'd Lizzie Hood.

The Retreat House has been updated with lovely facilities and we are well looked after and catered for.

Mothering Sunday Afternoon Tea

This year our small fundraising committee decided to offer an Afternoon Tea, not just to members of the congregation, but to some of our community who were alone, unwell or recently bereaved. As we were all still in lockdown, we thought Mothering Sunday was the ideal day, with many unable to see their families or attend church in person. We consulted with Ingrid at All Saints Church for some advice as they had successfully offered afternoon teas last year.



message which was placed inside and, by midday, we were ready to deliver. We had lots of donations of cakes and brownies, and volunteers to deliver the teas as far as Watford and St Albans. We also had some very kind cash donations to enable some to receive their tea as a gift.

We were completely overwhelmed by the

kind comments and gratitude of the recipients with messages of thanks. Lizzie received so many messages and emails it was rewarding to know how much we had cheered people up and added to our church funds too!

On the morning, five of us made up 54 boxed teas of freshly made sandwiches, scones with clotted cream and jam, slices of homemade cake plus some extras. Cathy added a silk flower to decorate the box and Karen wrote a little

Beverley Burgess, Karen Ball, Gillian Redman, Cathy Ayling and Pauline Lindsey, Holy Trinity

St Mary's Confirmation Group



Sylvia & David Williams: "Thank you Richard for leading the process over the last year or so and for this evening. And to Katherine and Omer for their input and support."

Omer Esit: "Richard, thank you all for sharing this beautiful experience with us! I am grateful for your perfect support and guidance throughout this exciting journey!"

David and Sylvia Williams and Omer Esit from St Mary's 2020 Confirmation Group with Rev'd Richard Howlett and Bishop Alan at St. Albans Abbey.

Day of National Reflection: 23rd March 2021



On the anniversary of the first national lockdown Dave and Winn Penn and Katherine and Richard Howlett were at St Benedict's. Sue and Nick Gill were at St Mary's. After the minute's silence at midday, Dave (left) and Richard at St Benedict's and Nick (right) at St Mary's tolled a bell 126 times.

It was sobering to reflect that each of the 126 times the bell sounded marked more than a thousand deaths in our country alone.

God of Love, as we think about all that has changed this year, help us to trust that you are always with us. As we remember those who have died, help us to trust they are at peace with you. As we reach out to others with kindness and care, may hope shine out in every heart and home. Amen.

Rev'd Richard Howlett



Walk on the Wild Side

During recent years, except for 2020, the Deanery has organized a summer day trip to a cathedral city. This year it is hoped that pending government restrictions, we will be going to St Albans Abbey.

Hopefully, some of us will be walking the 7 miles or so to the cathedral, but you are very welcome to travel by car or bus to join us there for a guided tour followed by Evensong before making the journey home.

Details are still at the planning stage, but to whet your appetite, were you aware that the cathedral has shrines to two saints? St Alban's shrine has been there for many years and was rebuilt by the Victorians using some of the original stones from an earlier shrine. After 20 years, its red canopy has been refurbished and is now back in its rightful place.

The second shrine, restored at the beginning of this year to its 14th century condition, is to St Amphibalus, the priest who converted Alban. Previously hidden away in the darkest area of the north aisle, it now proudly sits in the 'Chapel of the Four Tapers', worthy of the man said to have converted Britain's First Saint to Christianity.

Peter Bladon, St Mary's

DEANERY PILGRIMAGE OUTING



SUNDAY 8TH AUGUST 2021

Join us for an afternoon walk to St Albans for a tour of the Cathedral followed by prayers at the Shrine of St Alban and Evensong.

Those who prefer not to walk are welcome to travel by car and meet for the tour. Please contact Fr. James: james.a.mcdonald@live.co.uk if you need a lift or are able to offer a lift to those who need one.

Image: Dave Wood, from the Cathedral website



FIRST RAMBLE OF 2021

Come and enjoy a ramble with friends from other churches across Hemel!

Remember suitable boots and clothing

Date: Saturday 26th June 2021

Time: 10.00am

Start: The War Memorial by St Johns Church, Boxmoor.

Walk: Circular Walk: Grand Union Canal to Winkwell, Little Hay, Felden, Boxmoor.

Duration & Length of Walk: 4 to 4 ½ miles.
2 ½ hrs.

Type of walk: 50 metre gradual climb



TABLE TOP SALE

HOLY TRINITY CHURCHYARD

Saturday 3rd July 12 noon - 2pm

**Bacon butties & teas/coffees
Books, bottle tombola, bric a brac,
cakes, crafts, jigsaws**

£10 per table/space

Phone Gillian on 07770 874744 to book

For Holy Trinity church funds

Please observe Covid guidance in place at the time

The Benefice of Langelei Environmental Team

When talking about pollution, we tend to think about pollution from vehicles or factories, plastic and hard-to-decompose waste, or even toxic materials. A first step towards contributing to reduction of pollution is to be aware of everything that pollutes.



them and they accumulate in their bodies, often contributing to skin irritations or asthma.

The wider impact occurs when cleaning products are flushed down the drain to generate a serious impact on aquatic ecosystems by polluting our rivers, hence the water we drink and use to

Soap has been part of our history for years. It was originally made with natural oils and aromatic plants to give it a pleasant aroma. Most modern homes have a significant number of cleaning chemicals which we buy to fight germs, stains and odours and to keep our homes clean, but have you ever considered the consequences of their use and effect on the health of your family?

Some common household cleaning products contain chemicals that can harm our health and the environment. When we use them to clean our house, they remain there and in the air we breathe. The chemical ingredients of cleaning products can also enter our bodies by skin absorption. Children are especially susceptible to the effects of toxic substances because they are more sensitive to

irrigate our crops, ending up in the seas where we catch the fish we eat.

We can all do a little towards the serious issue of climate change by adapting some of the products we use. Many alternative organic cleaning products which are not loaded with harmful chemicals are now available from most supermarkets and on line from such as Ecover, Green Works, Earth Choice and Ocean Saver. Information on what is available can be found on www.ethicalconsumer.org.

If we all try changing to organic products, hopefully together we can make a difference.

The Benefice of Langelei Environmental Team

Christian Aid Week 2021 in Kings Langley

There were many uncertainties about this year's Christian Aid Week. Where would the United Service take place? Would the House-to-House collection be possible? However, we're delighted with what has been achieved.



'Just Giving' site which is still open (<http://www.kings-langley-churches.org.uk/ChristianAid.html>). We are grateful to God for enabling this and to all who have given their services and donated to this vital work.

Neil Dymond, a Christian Aid volunteer, spoke at our United Service by Zoom and inspired us with the story of Florence in Kenya, where water saved through a recently built dam has transformed her life and that of her community. Many said what joy there was in their life together!

And the House-to-House Collection? More than 25 volunteers came forward to help cover a similar number of roads. So far, over £3,000 has been collected with more expected. In addition, £700 has been donated through the

Climate change seriously affects many in our world including Rose who, at 68 has to walk 6km every other day to collect water and has been this year's focus for Christian Aid. Your giving helps transform lives.

Creator of the sea and sky, in this time of climate crisis, as we pour out our feelings, pour in your Spirit of Hope, and renew our resolve to work together to stop the climate crisis. Amen.

Paul Tucker - Chair, Christian Aid in Kings Langley

Lent Course at St Mary's and St. Benedict's *The Prayers of Jesus* by Amy Boucher Pye

Most of us at some time or another find it hard to pray, but what better example could we have than Jesus himself to teach us how to overcome this? This book can be used for group or personal study and is excellent for both situations. Each of the six sessions followed a similar pattern with an opening prayer, a warm up, a setting of the scene, a bible reading, a session focus, discussion topics, time to pray and final thoughts. There were also some suggestions of further reading for those who wished to delve deeper into what they had learned or experienced.

The sessions were interactive but not in a difficult way. Here are two examples of how this worked. First, when we talked of the faithfulness and love of our Saviour shown through his tears at the tomb of Lazarus and his prayer to God the Father at this time, we were asked to write or draw on a piece of paper any sadness we might have; as a prayerful way of releasing our feelings to God. Then to keep some time of silence to receive from God his response to us. It may not be an answer to our sadness but it would help us just to feel God's presence with us.

Secondly, while talking about Jesus with those he loved in the Garden of Gethsemane and the fact that he knew he had only a short time to live, we were encouraged to write down what we would say to those we loved if we found ourselves in the same situation. The results were that we would tell them we loved them, we would thank them for all they had done for us and that we would pray that God would look after them when we had gone. We agreed in this instance that we should not wait until we were one day

away from death but that we should tell our nearest and dearest what we would say as soon as possible.

Those who felt comfortable were able to share with the rest of the group what they had written and as we got to know each other we all became more confident and shared and supported each other in these exercises. With the help of those around us we were able to ask God to help us stay strong and rooted in Him.

Each week we were given some questions as topics for discussion and these were very interesting.

- ◆ Discuss these words of Frederick Buechner on the Lord's Prayer: *"to speak those words is to invite the tiger out of the cage, to unleash a power that makes atomic power look like a warm breeze."*
- ◆ Put yourself in the disciples' sandals. What do you think you'd be feeling and thinking as you witnessed Jesus at prayer?
- ◆ How do you think Lazarus felt when he walked out of the grave?

Lent is a period observed by many Christians around the world to deepen their faith and by using this booklet, especially in the company of those with whom we regularly worship, we can grow in faith and knowledge of our loving Father and fellowship of those around us.

Jenny Houghton, St Mary's

Open Air Service of Thanksgiving

Did you know West Herts Crematorium holds an Annual Open Air Service of Thanksgiving and Remembrance every year to commemorate the lives of those cremated at Garston?

This year it will be held on Sunday 11th July at 3pm and will be led by our Team Rector, the Revd Lizzie Hood and a Humanist Celebrant.



If you have been affected by loss in the past year, you are most welcome to attend. Seats will be provided, but you are welcome to bring a folding chair. There will be a retiring collection for Rennie Grove Hospice Care.

The crematorium reserves the right to cancel at short notice if Covid precautions indicate the need.

Rev'd Lizzie Hood

Lent group thoughts

Recently I read a comment from a Christian which said: “Every year I wish I could skip Good Friday.” I felt grateful for this shared thought. However Richard led us very effectively through this traumatic and gruelling time in Jesus’ life. It left me with a feeling of being part of that whole experience and, of course, it was no holiday!

Jesus’ prayers in Gethsemane show his humanity, his absolute relationship with God the Father and his unconditional Love for all. I ended the course with a

renewed feeling of Jesus’ great sacrifice on Good Friday which enabled us to feel whole through His love and gift of new life.

Zoom made our study very focused; I didn’t know the others in the group and would have loved to have been able to chat and get to know them better. However I’m glad Zoom made the study possible.

Lilian Hepwood, St Mary’s

Tiny Tots at All Saints

With the recent relaxation in rules I’m so happy that we’re now able to open Tiny Tots for up to 15 mums and carers. We’re often full to capacity and booking requests for the following week start to arrive in my inbox every Wednesday. The group is becoming very popular with local mums, especially as it provides an opportunity to meet up face-to-face, something we’ve all missed so much! I’m hopeful we shall be able to return even more to normality in the coming months.

The sessions start at 10am and finish at 11.30am every Wednesday during term time. We begin with coffee or tea



and biscuits while the little ones play with toys. The children can express their creativity through a variety of different activities including painting, colouring and making things at our craft table

Recently we listened to the story of Feeding the Five Thousand. We counted the loaves and fishes in the basket and tried to share them out. Our mornings usually finish with a story, some singing and a prayer.

If you’d like to book a place on one of our sessions please email itslindy@gmail.com.

Lynne Head, All Saints

Holy Trinity Craft Group



We’re all looking forward to actually being able to meet up as a group again, the meetings last summer under the trees on the cricket green seem a very long time ago.

We’ve kept in contact throughout all the restrictions since March of last year via a WhatsApp group with lots of

pictures of the variety of craft items that have been produced, jokes, photos of families, gardens and wildlife; now all we need is an opportunity to be able to sell some of the wonderful items that have been produced.

Jean B., Jean S., Jenny and Pauline, Holy Trinity

All Saints Church in the Wild

At All Saint's we have started a monthly outdoor service for anyone looking for a different way to worship or who enjoys being outside with nature. Our new 'Church in The Wild' service is held on the first Sunday each month starting at about 10.30am with refreshments in the churchyard. The first two have attracted extended families and include a wide age range.

We have a different theme each month and move about the church grounds finding, making, doing and seeing nature in all its fullness. We pray, sing and chat together quite informally while breathing in and experiencing God's wonderful creation all around us. True, we're also expecting



to witness His vast array of glorious weathers but make sure to come prepared for the worst! Come and share the experience with us - you'll be most welcome and likely to discover it's lots of fun. Our next dates are 6th June and 4th July.

Recent pictures taken at the services show us planting bulbs, hunting for Easter eggs, making brightly coloured head dresses from leaves and sticks, processing around the church while singing for Pentecost, making shakers with tongues of fire and enjoying one another's company. Do come and join us, everyone is very welcome.

Keith Gower, All Saints

St George's Day Quiz



The Friends of All Saints held a quiz on the evening of Friday 23rd April by Zoom with a St George's Day theme. The event attracted over 80 persons across 30 teams, we charged £10 per household and raised £720 towards the preservation of and improvement to the fabric of All Saints church.

The Zoom technology was again masterminded by Andrew and Sarah Wragg who enabled us to enter individual team 'break-out' rooms when required to compile and submit our answers. My brother-in-law, Tony Refold, was our quizmaster.

The event was an excellent follow-up to our successful Burns Night quiz in January and we will be holding another Zoom Quiz in the Autumn.

Brian McAdam, All Saints

United Benefice Service 15th August 2021

Following our consultation in 2019 and a Covid-hiatus in 2020 we are planning to move our annual joint Benefice service into the summer months when we can (hopefully) benefit from fine weather and combine it with a social.

This year's plan is to worship together on Sunday 15th August at St Mary's, Apsley at 10.30am and to have a bring-and-share lunch outside afterwards.

The theme of the service will be our care for God's creation and the new Benefice Environment team is considering some helpful displays to help us with our daily lifestyle choices.

Rev'd Lizzie Hood

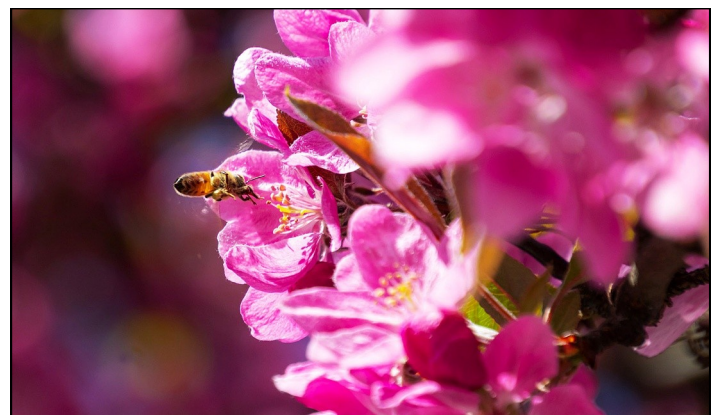


Photo: Katharine Harper

News from St Mary's



The damaged beech tree in the churchyard has finally been made safe, leaving us with a great deal of wood which quickly disappeared.

This spring, the primroses, daffodils and bluebells in the churchyard have been excellent, enabling the children to provide a wonderful Easter garden. On Holy Saturday a few of us supported three of our congregation at St Albans Cathedral as they were confirmed by the Bishop of St Albans in a very moving service (see page 8).

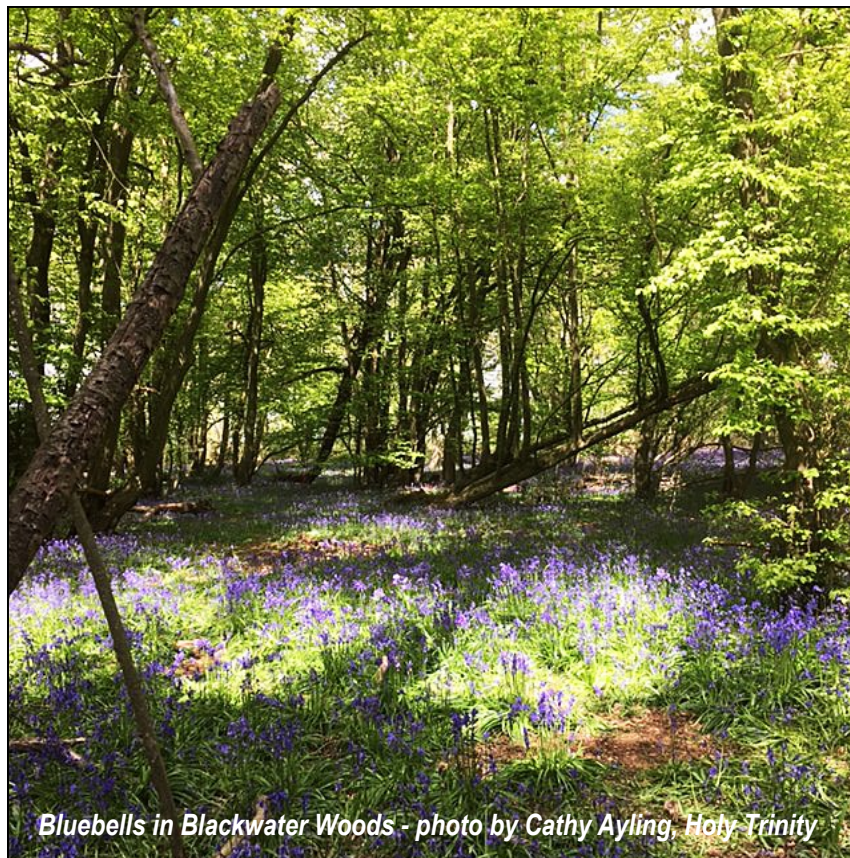
Following our service on Easter Sunday we held an Easter trail in the churchyard with a prize

for us all on completing it. Our thanks to Helen Brewer and Gemma Wiggins for organizing it, and by doing so raising some much needed funds. We enjoyed wonderful weather and thank all who supported the event.

The food bank continues to be well used (see page 4), and thank all whose donations make it possible.

The church was open for prayers to mark the death of the HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh on the day of his funeral, Saturday 17th April.

*Peter Bladon,
St Mary's*



Art in Lockdown

More than a year ago we went into lockdown which affected just about everyone. Fortunately, glorious weather allowed many of us to get to know and enjoy our beautiful countryside and gardens more than ever before. We noticed how nature evolved throughout the months. God made this wonderful world for us and gave us time to savour so much that we'd taken for granted.

I enjoy nature and take lots of photos of clouds, trees and flowers that give me inspiration for my watercolour painting. Like so many, I began to notice all the wildlife on our doorstep including the birds, wild flowers, trees coming into leaf and blossom, insects and butterflies - nature's very own art palette.

It was a joy to see Katharine Harper's doodles and amazing photographs and photos each week and by others of their walks and gardens. In these dark times It was a delight to see so many artistic and beautiful creations.



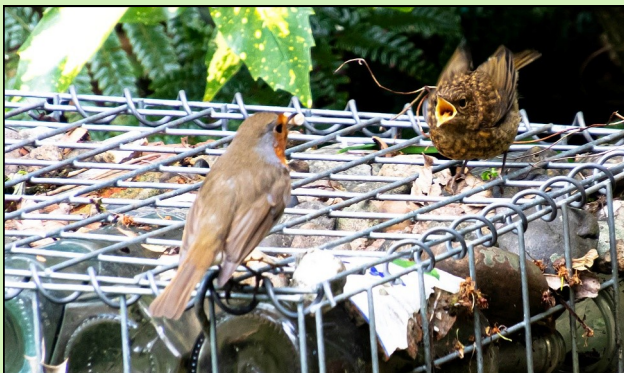
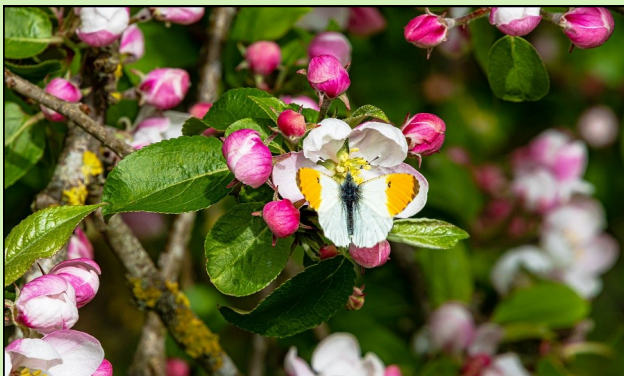
I've enjoyed developing my watercolour painting skills. Unfortunately our art lessons ceased last March, however, Zoom came to our rescue, our classes resumed and our painting continued. WhatsApp became another vital tool allowing us to maintain contact and to share our paintings, thoughts and ideas.

The most brilliant art lesson of all was when our teacher Niki Bell took us to Hockeridge Woods in Berkhamsted to paint *en plein air*. Abiding by social distancing guidelines, we had the most wonderful time. It was as if we' never been apart. It was so lovely to see everyone in person instead of on a screen and felt like a return to normal.

Whatever the new normal will be I believe many of us will appreciate our stunning countryside, wildlife, family and friends rather more than we did just over a year ago.

Viv Hagel, St Mary's

Photos (below) by Katharine Harper



SUMMER CONCERT

at St Benedict's, Bennett's End

Peascroft Road, Hemel Hempstead HP3 8EP



THE SITTING ROOM SINGERS

will sing some of their favourite songs on
WEDNESDAY 14th JULY 2021
to raise funds for the repair of the church roof

Start at 7.15 pm

with interval refreshments

ALL WELCOME

Donations can be made at the door or on-line if able

Details from Bob Day

01442 737 494 or bob.day@sky.com

Photography in Lockdown

In June 2020 and quite independently, Lorraine Ellis from Holy Trinity and John Allen from All Saints joined an online Digital Photography Course. We already knew each other having both worked at Phasels Wood Activity Centre and were quite surprised to find each other on the course which attracted more than 2000 amateur photographers worldwide.

A year-long course for beginners and established amateur photographers who want to get more from their equipment and hobby, 'A Year With My Camera (AYWMC)' is hosted in the UK for DSLR camera users, and isn't necessarily suitable for phone camera users.

A new course starts approximately every quarter. We receive an e-mail each week with the lesson and post our 'homework' and any questions in a private Facebook Group. The Group Administrators then comment on what we post. The

lessons are grouped into 4-week modules on different topics including exposure, composition, shadows and lighting, depth of field, editing and publishing.

John says "A lapsed hobby (film) photographer before doing the course I decided to re-kindle my hobby as a lockdown project. The course has been a godsend and through it has provided a useful resource for photographing church events."

Lorraine says "I had a big birthday just before the first lockdown and received a new DSLR camera. The course gave me the opportunity to learn what the camera could do and chances to practice and improve my photography by taking photos I would never have dreamed of trying in the past. A great help in lockdown."

Lorraine Ellis and John Allen



Photos (below) by Katharine Harper

