



Benefice of Langelei

Welcome to our Benefice Newsletter No.43 for March 2022

Benefice Mission: "Enabling and supporting the churches of our team to grow and flourish as we share the love of Christ in our communities."

The Doorway to the Year

I wonder what sort of doorway you might be facing in life right now? What colour, what shape, what design is it? Is it a big, heavy, hard to open door or a glass door that you can see through? Is it open, closed, or slightly ajar? I wonder how you feel facing this door – scared or excited? Are you worried about what is the other side of it? It might be that you are facing lots of doors and don't know which to open. Every day we face decisions - what to do or say or how to act. Some of these decisions are small, and others might feel life changing.

The month of January is named after the Roman god Janus, the god of the doorway. He is depicted with two faces, looking both forwards and backwards. There are many points in the Christian calendar that prompt us to look forward as well as backwards. Candlemas, for example, when the baby Jesus is presented at the temple, marks the end of the Christmas season but the prophecies of suffering point us towards the cross. Then there is Easter when we celebrate resurrection, and new life out of death. Endings and beginnings.

I preached about doors in my school chapel at Candlemas, and a teacher responded by writing a poem which I think is so beautiful I want to share it with you now (with permission).

The Door, by Al Stewart

*When there's a door in front of me,
I see an opportunity,
I wonder what's behind the door,
I wonder what life has in store.*



*Bishop Paul Bayes as he left
Liverpool Cathedral after
his final service.*

Doorways speak volumes!

*It could be anything on earth:
A font of merriment and mirth,
Or sadness, sorry, wreck or woe;
Unless I pass, I'll never know.*

*The optimist inside me would
Exalt and focus on what good
Might be there on the other side,
Whilst living life's uncharted ride.*

*I know, of course, that there's a chance,
That walking through might cast asance,
The dreams I had, the plans I made -
I'm paralysed; I'm so afraid.*

*I've much for which I must atone,
And now my future is unknown,
And though I can't forget, I can
Aspire to be a better man.*

*I cast aside life's scorn and scandal,
Place my hand upon the handle,
And with one final thought of You,
I open it and walk right through.*

I would like to encourage you now to imagine a door that is propped open; an inviting door that is beckoning you to come in; a door with a welcome mat in front of it. Think about the people and situations that help you to feel at ease, where you feel welcomed and excited about moving forwards. What can you learn from this about welcoming others?

We thank God for all the doorways that will be open to us this coming year. We pray for courage to take new opportunities. We pray that we may open our lives to others and ask that God helps us all to be more open and receptive to His love and His guidance in our lives.

Rev'd Jos Perris

Holy Trinity's Advent Window Trail

By public demand, we again organised an Advent Window Trail around our village. Many of those who had created windows for us last year were willing to do so again, which was much appreciated, and we were quickly able to fill a couple of vacant spots.

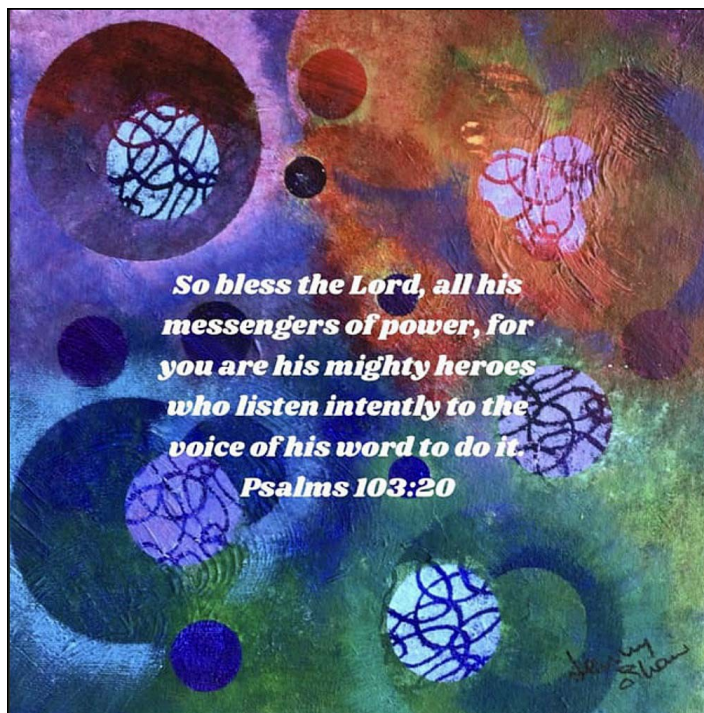
With a changed organising team, it took us a while to cope with some of the technology for producing the posters and maps. But we got there and had everything in place well before 1st December.

Sadly, changes due to Covid meant that number 24 had again to be in the Church porch rather than the children's Crib Services in church and on that afternoon the weather was so bad that few turned up to deliver their completed window sheets and to collect their chocolates.

We've had great feedback from our 'trailers' and the people who provided the window decoration, which was lovely. Thank you all.

Cathy, Lee-Anne and Pauline, Holy Trinity





When Lockdown closed in on us all, I wanted to encourage my Bible Study Group so began to put bible verses onto my pictures and write a short commentary each morning. I now have more than 500 available on my blog which you can find on Jennyslifeandart.com

CONTENTS

The Doorway to the Year	1
Holy Trinity's Advent Window Trail	2
Jenny's life and art	3
Contents	3
Contacts	3
Lizzie's 10th anniversary	4
Extended study leave	4
Services and events	5 - 7
Vacancy update	8
Team vision	8
Scrabble tea at Holy Trinity	8
Choral Evensong at All Saints	9
Trinity Men's Group	9
Joint services	9
The Sitting Room Singers	10
The Benefice of Langelei Environmental Team	10
St Mary's churchyard	11
Preparing for Spring	11
Bike and Hike 2021 - Part 1	12 - 13
Kings Langley Christian Aid	14
New Grandparents and the shed!	15
Springtime in St Mary's Churchyard	15
Holy Trinity Craft	15
Posters	15
School visits at Christmas	16
Holy Trinity and Santa sleigh	16
Trinity colouring group	16

CONTACTS

Norma Howie 01923 266 596 - saintskl2@tiscali.co.uk

Benefice Office: Church Lane, Kings Langley WD4 8JS

Monday 11.00am - 3.30pm; Wednesday 7.00am - 3.30pm; Thursday 11.00am - 3.30pm;

Friday 7.00am - 10.30am - **no visitors - please email or phone**

HOLY TRINITY, LEVERSTOCK GREEN

Bedmond Road, Hemel Hempstead HP3 8LJ

The Rev'd Lizzie Hood - Team Rector

01442 264 860 - lizziehood@aol.com

The Rev'd Jos Perris - Associate Priest

07979 590480 - josperris@hotmail.com

ST. MARY'S, APSLEY END

London Road, Hemel Hempstead HP3 9ST

Vacant

ST. BENEDICT'S, BENNETTS END

Peascroft Road, Hemel Hempstead HP3 8EP

Vacant

ALL SAINTS, KINGS LANGLEY

Church Lane, Kings Langley WD4 8JS

Fr. James McDonald - Team Vicar

01923 903 531 - james.a.mcdonald@live.co.uk

BENEFICE NEWSLETTER

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

PUBLICATION DATE COPY DEADLINE

5 June 2022 22 May 2022

4 September 2022 21 August 2022

4 December 2022 20 November 2022

Lizzie's 10th anniversary

Lizzie was installed as Vicar of Holy Trinity on 16th February 2012, so on 20th February 2022 we celebrated ten years of our common life together.

It was a really joyful service followed by fizz and cake and Lizzie was very touched by all the kindness and some very well chosen gifts including a chocolate bouquet, photo book and flowers. The cake was awesome!

Extended study leave

You may remember that I took some Extended Study Leave (aka sabbatical) back in 2019. After 10 years in ministry we are encouraged to get away from the 'coal face' and find refreshment and new energy in study, rest and a change of scene.

I looked at the Art of the Annunciation in Florence (and still intend to share what I learned with you, but my first attempt was cancelled because of lockdown). I also looked into labyrinths, and visited some medieval ones in French cathedrals, as well as outdoor ones in this country. The labyrinth I made on the vicarage lawn in Leverstock Green will be ready for you to use again whenever you'd like to - as soon as the mowing season starts and I can tidy it up!

That first sabbatical was only a half one because I needed to get back for a new curate to join us, so after three years' delay I am planning to take the second half from 25th April to 12th June this year.

It's proving quite tricky to plan because Covid is still restricting travel. I had hoped to visit Assisi and see the Ravenna tiles, but I'll just have to wait and see. Some more art and craft, and time to read might be the best I can manage, but I shall use it well whatever I end up doing.

Rev'd Lizzie Hood



IMPORTANT: FOR UP TO DATE INFORMATION PLEASE CHECK WEBSITE AND WEEKLY SHEETS

HOLY TRINITY, LEVERSTOCK GREEN - PARISH DIARY

Sundays	10.00am	Holy Communion and Junior Church (Sunday School) - Common Worship
1st Sunday	8.00am	Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
3rd Sunday	6.00 - 7.30pm	TYG (The Youth Group)
2nd & 4th Monday	2.00 - 4.00pm	Colouring Group (see page 16)
2nd Monday	7.45pm	Trinity Readers
Tuesdays	9.00am	Morning Prayer
2nd Tuesday	7.30pm	Trinity Men's Group
3rd Tuesday	10.00am	Music and Meditation - 63 The Horseshoe, Leverstock Green
3rd Tuesday	11.00am - 1.00pm	Talking Elephants bereavement support group
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	8.00pm	Trinity Women's Group
4th Thursday	3.00 - 5.00pm	Friendship Teas in the Trinity Room
Fridays	7.00pm	Choir Practice
Saturdays	10.00am	Coffee Shop in Trinity Room with Traidcraft Stall
1st Saturday	10.00am - 12 noon	Churchyard Gardening Party

HOLY TRINITY, LEVERSTOCK GREEN - SPECIAL SERVICES AND EVENTS

March

Tuesday 1st	4.30 - 6.00pm	Shrove Tuesday pancake tea and races
Wednesday 2nd	10.00am and 8.00pm	ASH WEDNESDAY Eucharist with ashing
Saturday 5th	9.00am - 4.00pm	St Benedict's Vicarage clean up day
Tuesday 8th	12.30pm	Deanery Chapter meets at Holy Trinity
Wednesday 9th	7.45pm	Parochial Church Council
Saturday 12th	10.00am - 12noon	Children's Society box opening and coffee morning
Monday 14th	2.00 - 4.00pm	First meeting of Colouring Group
Tuesday 15th	11.00am - 1.00pm	First meeting of Talking Elephants
Sunday 27th	10.00am	Mothering Sunday all age worship
Wednesday 30th	10.00am	LG School Easter service in church

April

Sunday 3rd	11.30am	Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Sunday 10th	10.00am	PALM SUNDAY procession and Eucharist
Thursday 14th	8.00pm	MAUNDY THURSDAY informal Eucharist
Friday 15th	9.30am - 12 noon	GOOD FRIDAY Children's workshop
	1.00pm	Stations of the Cross
	2.00pm	Good Friday liturgy
Sunday 17th	10.00am	EASTER DAY Parish Eucharist
Monday 18th	9.30am	Breakfast before Easter Monday Pilgrimage

May

Wednesday 4th	7.45pm	Parochial Church Council
Saturday 14th	7.30pm	Parish Quiz at LG school
Thursday 26th	8.00pm	ASCENSION DAY Deanery Eucharist tbc
Friday 27th	1.30pm	Wedding
Sunday 29th	11.15am	Team Eucharist at St Benedict's

ALL SAINTS, KINGS LANGLEY - PARISH DIARY

Church open daily 9.30am - 5.00pm

Sundays	9.30am	Family Eucharist and Saints on Sunday (3rd Sunday All Age Eucharist no Saints on Sunday)
3rd Sunday	8.00am	Said Eucharist (Traditional language)
1st Sunday	11.15am	Church in the Wild - Informal outdoor service
Tuesdays - Fridays	8.30am	Morning prayer
Tuesdays	7.30pm - 9.00pm	Kings Langley Community Choir rehearsal (church)

ALL SAINTS, KINGS LANGLEY - PARISH DIARY (Continued)

Church open daily 9.30am - 5.00pm

Wednesdays	10.00am - 11.30am	Tiny Tots (Term Time only in the hall)
	7.45pm	Bell Ringing Practice
2nd Thursday	11.15am	Holy Communion at St Laura's Care Home (usually 2nd Thursday)
3rd Thursday	11.15am	Holy Communion at Friars Mead (usually 3rd Thursday)
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
Saturdays	11.00am	Bell Ringing Practice (except 3rd Saturday)
3rd Saturday	9.00am - 12noon	All Saints stall at the Local Produce Market in the Village Garden

ALL SAINTS, KINGS LANGLEY - SPECIAL SERVICES AND EVENTS

March

Wednesday 2nd	8.00pm	Sung Eucharist and imposition of ashes
Sundays 6th - April 3rd	4.00 pm	Celtic Evening Prayer
Tuesdays 8th - April 5th	7.30pm	Living in Love and Faith course
Friday 18th	7.30pm	All Saints and Christian Aid present choral octet 'Omnia Voices' in concert (see page14)
Sunday 27th	9.30am	All Age Eucharist for Mothering Sunday with distribution of flowers

April

Friday 1st	7.30pm	'Spring Sing' concert: Kings Langley Community Choir and Swindon Male Voice Choir
Sunday 10th	9.30am	Palm Sunday - Liturgy of Palm Sunday
	5.00pm	Stations of the Cross: words, music and reflection for Holy Week
Thursday 14th	8.00pm	The Eucharist of Maundy Thursday with the stripping of the altars followed by The Watch until midnight
Friday 15th	10.00am	Family Service
	12 noon	The Eucharist of Good Friday
Sunday 17th	8.00am	Easter Day - Outdoor Churches Together service (churchyard)
	9.30am	All Age Worship followed by Easter egg hunt
Sunday 24th	10.45am	APCM following the 9.30am Family Eucharist

May

Sunday 22nd	9.30am	Churches Together in Kings Langley United Service for Christian Aid Week at All Saints
Sunday 29th	11.15am	Team service at St Benedict's

ST. BENEDICT'S, BENNETT'S END - PARISH DIARY

Sundays	11.15am	Family Communion - church open from 10.30am
Wednesdays	9.00am - 4.00pm	Church open as a quiet space for prayer and food bank

ST. BENEDICT'S, BENNETT'S END - SPECIAL SERVICES AND EVENTS

March

Saturday 5th	9.00am - 4.00pm	St Benedict's Vicarage clean-up day
Monday 7th	1.30 - 2.30pm	Churches Together in Hemel Hempstead session 2
Monday 14th	7.00 for 7.15pm	Joint Parochial Church Council
Wednesday 23rd		Interview day
Sunday 27th	11.15am	Mothering Sunday service

April

Sunday 10th	11.15am	PALM SUNDAY Eucharist
Wednesday 13th	7.30pm	Stations of the Cross
Friday 15th	2.00 - 3.00pm	GOOD FRIDAY - An Hour Before The Cross
Sunday 17th	11.15am	EASTER DAY Eucharist
Monday 18th	9.30am	Breakfast at Holy Trinity before Easter Monday Pilgrimage
Sunday 24th	12 noon	Annual Parochial Church Meeting

IMPORTANT: FOR UP TO DATE INFORMATION PLEASE CHECK WEBSITE AND WEEKLY SHEETS

ST. BENEDICT'S, BENNETT'S END - SPECIAL SERVICES AND EVENTS (CONTINUED)

May

Saturday 7th	tbc	Pray Hemel
Thursday 26th	8.00pm	ASCENSION DAY Deanery Eucharist tbc
Sunday 29th	11.15am	Team Eucharist at St Benedict's

ST. MARY'S, APSLEY END - PARISH DIARY

Mondays	10.00am	Working Party in the church and churchyard
	8.00pm	Bellringing practice (not bank holidays)
Tuesdays	9.30am	Buzzy Bees Baby and Toddler Group (Term time only)
Thursdays	9.30am - 3.30pm	Church open for private prayer and food bank
	9.30am	Eucharist
	10.15am	Study Group in the Refectory
	8.00pm	Virtual Home Group
Fridays	10.00am	Working Party in the church and churchyard
Saturdays	10.00am	Saturday Café in the Refectory
Sundays	9.00am	Bellringing prior to morning service
	9.30am	Eucharist in church and on Zoom

ST. MARY'S, APSLEY END - SPECIAL SERVICES AND EVENTS

March

Tuesday 1st	5.30pm	Pancakes in the Refectory
Wednesday 2nd	8.00pm	Eucharist with ashing
Friday 4th	11.00am	World Day of Prayer at Hemel Hempstead Methodist church
Saturday 5th	9.00am - 4.00pm	St Benedict's vicarage cleaning, gardening and painting ready for vicar interview day
Monday 7th	1.30pm	Churches Together Lent Group - St Benedict's Church, Bennett's End
Tuesdays 8th - April 5th	7.30pm	Living in Love and Faith course - All Saints Kings Langley
Saturday 12th	10.00am	Fabric committee meeting in refectory
Monday 14th	1.30pm	Churches Together Lent Group - Hemel Methodist Church, Northridge Way
	7.00 for 7.15pm	PCC meeting
Saturday 19th	12.30pm	Lent Lunch in refectory in aid of Riding for the Disabled
Sunday 20th	3.00pm	Messy Church
Monday 21st	1.30pm	Churches Together Lent Group - St Mary and St Joseph Church, Boxmoor
Saturday 26th	1.00pm	Wedding
Sunday 27th	9.30am	All age Service for Mothering Sunday
Monday 28th	1.30am	Churches Together Lent Group - New Life Pentecostal Church, Lawn Lane

April

Sunday 3rd	11.30am	APCM
Saturday 9th	1.00pm	Baptism
Sunday 10th	3.00pm	Messy Church
Friday 15th	11.30am	Family Stations
	2.00pm	Stations of the Cross
Monday 18th	9.30am	Pilgrimage to St Albans - Breakfast at Holy Trinity

May

Sunday 15th	3.00pm	Messy Church
Sunday 29th	11.15am	Team Eucharist at St Benedict's

*May you be blessed with our Lord's love
and peace this Easter*

Vacancy update

Just to give you an update on where we're at with the vacancy - we did indeed get the Parish Profile put together just before Christmas, as planned, and that was made available with the advertisement at the beginning of January. A number of people have made enquiries and come to scout out the territory, and several applications have now been received.

By the time you read this we will have shortlisted the candidates we would like to invite for interview in March. The interview day will be a busy one, requiring help from parishioners to act as chauffeurs, Bible study groups etc., and hopefully will result in an appointment! Please do pray for God's guidance in this process.

The new timings for services at St Mary's and St Benedict's seem to be working out well, and we are all getting used to the new pattern.



**Saturday 5th March
St Benedict's Vicarage
Cleaning, painting, gardening..
Drop in between 9am and 4pm
Please and thank you!**

The next task is to get the vicarage looking a bit brighter before the interview day. No house ever looks lovely when it's empty, but a good clean-up, some paint in a couple of the rooms, and a tidy-up of the garden should make all the difference.

We are looking to the WHOLE team of churches for support in this, please. Saturday 5th March, from 9am to 4pm is the appointed day, so please come along if you can. We will supply paint and cleaning materials, but it would be useful if you are able to bring your own gloves, cloth, bucket,

secateurs, small stepladder ... so we don't end up squabbling!

Your help would be much appreciated. Thank you in advance.

Rev'd Lizzie Hood

Team vision

As we emerge from these last two difficult years, our PCCs are thinking afresh about their Mission Action Plans. 'Normal service' has been so disrupted that we find ourselves in a different place now and must consider new objectives for the months and years ahead. That is as true for the whole team as for each parish, and the appointment of a new member of our ministry team makes it even more important that we're clear about our direction of travel.

So last autumn various consultations took place around the Benefice and in all our PCCs, and we agreed that our previous vision statement, which has served for thirteen years, is no longer very apt. We wanted to be clear that the real work of mission goes on in the parish, and the team structure is there only to offer support, encouragement and a sharing of good practice. We have therefore agreed the following:

***'Enabling and supporting the churches of our team to grow and flourish
as we share the love of Christ in our communities.'***

Rev'd Lizzie Hood

Scrabble tea at Holy Trinity

On 19th Feb, Dick and Val Selby organised a Scrabble Tea for us, which was great fun. There was hot competition fuelled by scrumptiously delicious homemade cakes. Thanks, Dick and Val - it was a roaring success!

Rev'd Lizzie Hood



Choral Evensong at All Saints to celebrate the accession of HM Queen Elizabeth II

HM Queen Elizabeth II acceded to the throne on 6th February 1952 and the Choir at All Saints held choral evensong for the village to join in celebration of this momentous anniversary.

A wide range of people of all ages attended from All Saints, from St Mary's and from the village, to enjoy the service and the beautiful singing. This included Psalm 122 to a chant by Robinson, the Canticles to a setting by Stanford in B flat and, of course, the National Anthem.

After the service, everyone was invited to stay for fizz and 'Holy Cannoli' [sic] – the cannoli having been donated by Dallings (who gave the cannoli their temporary name).

Sheila Ashman, All Saints



Trinity Men's Group (TMG) returns after Covid lockdowns

After two years of inactivity, TMG has re-established its regular monthly meetings. The group is open to all men whether or not they attend Holy Trinity. Under the new leadership of Dick Selby who kindly offered to take on the group, our first meeting started with a bubbly reception followed by a fish and chip supper.



TMG Christmas cheese and wine party

Our 2022 programme includes our regular supper of fish and chips (other options are available). Once a quarter we meet for Saturday breakfast at a local hotel and have speakers who offer talks on a wide variety of topics. You can find a link to our 2022 programme on the Holy Trinity Website.

Our speaker in February, Mike Vaisey, a private pilot gave a most interesting illustrated talk on his once in a lifetime adventure to the Arctic Circle. In the early 1990s Mike and a friend flew their pre-war Tiger Moths aircraft to the Arctic Circle via St Petersburg, Russia, which turned out to be a far riskier adventure than they had originally thought.

We are always looking for speakers prepared to talk to a small group for supper, so if you would like to join us for a meal we would very much like to hear from you.

Mike Hawtin (+44 7815135131), Holy Trinity

Joint services

Sunday 30th January saw all the churches in the benefice join together in what we hope will become the new way forward. Instead of joining together a couple of times of year (and because of the vacancy) it has been decided that we will visit all the churches by meeting when there are five Sundays in the month.

The next joint service will be at St Benedict's at 11.15am on 29th May.

Ingrid Allen, All Saints



The Sitting Room Singers

On 8th December a couple of my friends and I from Holy Trinity attended a very good Christmas Concert at our sister church at Bennetts End, performed by the Sitting Room Singers. This was really entertaining and most enjoyable with a mixture of modern and old songs from a mixed choir.

Not only did they perform so well, but the audience was also able to participate which brought us great joy. I have heard them before and think the combined voices very easy to listen to. If they perform again, I recommend you should get along to hear them. It was a lovely way to start our Christmas. Thank you to them all.

Anne Twiggs, Holy Trinity



The Benefice of Langelei Environmental Team

Tips for eco-gardening

1. Avoid the use of chemical-based pesticides and fertilizers harmful to wildlife and the environment.
2. Use stuff from the household for gardening. You can use vegetable scraps, grass clippings and plant trimmings by turning them into compost.
3. Choose eco-friendly solutions for gardening. Use leaves as mulch. Be mindful of your purchases. Don't buy plastic pots - choose biodegradable or recyclable alternatives. Use any plastic pots and trays you still have for as long as possible. Buy items such as string and plant labels made from natural materials.
4. Do not use peat. Peat is a huge carbon storage system laid down (produced) over thousands of years that takes a significant amount of time to re-grow. The commercial harvesting of peat far outweighs the time it takes to replace it. Most recently the government has put a plan in place to protect peatlands and therefore gardeners will be banned from buying peat by May 2024. (*Did you know that peat bogs are important places for storing carbon. In one year the peat dug up for use in garden compost in Britain alone releases almost half a million tonnes of carbon dioxide, equivalent to 100,000 cars on the road.*)

(Source: National Trust).

5. Why not devote a patch of your garden to growing your own food? It's cheaper, reduces your environmental impact and



Happy gardening!

tastes better knowing you've grown it yourself. You can grow plenty of foods, including vegetables like carrots and potatoes, and fruit such as apples and berries. Cherry and crab apple are two native trees you could plant to grow your own fruit.

6. Create a pond in your garden to encourage wild life. Even a small pond can be home to an interesting range of wildlife including damsel and dragonflies, frogs and newts. Any pond can become a feeding ground for birds, hedgehogs and bats, the best natural garden pest controller.
7. Last but not least, save water by keeping a water butt in the garden to collect rainwater and, wherever possible, use a watering can and avoid using a hose.



Jean's 'Dead Hedge' was inspired by examples in Cheslyn House Gardens.

St Mary's churchyard



Springtime: some members of our working party have been busy over recent months building another leaf pen. When finished, this new one will be the fifth to have been made during recent years. They are made using reclaimed wood from the churchyard and Bunkers Park and over a couple of years will enable the rest of the churchyard to benefit from the leaf mold that can be produced.

One of our team has been repairing and repainting one of the churchyard seats. This has taken place in the boiler room, a good place to work on a cold, wet winter's morning! The work is almost completed, meaning that come the hot days of summer those folk on a walk to the church will be able to take time to sit in the churchyard and enjoy listening to either the birds or the bells!

Encouraging wildlife: over coffee recently, the working party at St Mary's discussed a paper produced by one of the team describing ways more wildlife could be encouraged in St Mary's churchyard. The principles agreed were to provide:



1. accessible and dignified areas for graves and ashes,
2. safe paths through the site and maintain them,
3. attractive surroundings for the church,
4. attractive areas for outdoor events,
5. an amenity for local people
6. a haven for wildlife.

All areas of the churchyard were reviewed, aiming to agree what has to be done to meet some of these targets on work currently being carried by the small team working on Monday and Friday mornings. A plan for the noticeboard in church was suggested showing activities in various churchyard areas to make everyone aware of what is being achieved.

We've already had some lovely comments concerning the state of the churchyard and its wildlife. However, it would be good if you could check the notice board to see what's being done, and whether there's any way you can help to encourage the plants and wildlife that God has given us!

Peter Bladon, St Mary's

Preparing for Spring

Everybody's garden is different so, instead of saying what readers should do, I will tell you what I shall be doing. Maybe some inspiration or forgotten ideas may come to light.

Everything starts with the garden shed. I shall be going into mine to make sure all the garden machinery and tools are in good working order. Mustn't forget a drop of oil on the wheelbarrow axle - so much better when it's not squeaking! Perhaps a broken handle should be repaired? I shall check the leads for electrical items: lawn mower, hedge cutter, etc to make sure they are not damaged. And the weed killers, sprays and fertilizers to see if any need replacement - there's nothing worse than finding it's run out just when you need something!

On to the greenhouse. I shall make sure over-wintering plants are okay, remove dead leaves, give them a light watering, taking cuttings and pot up.

When the weather is dry, I shall clear the last of the leaves and put them on the compost heap, give the lawn its first trim but not too short. The grass cuttings go on the compost heap. Finally I shall cover the compost heap with about 2in. of soil to help it to rot down.

I shall talk about the compost heap later and for the Eco followers, we've always had a compost heap and never use the green caddy.

Tim Ward, St Mary's

Bike and Hike 2021 - Part 1



1



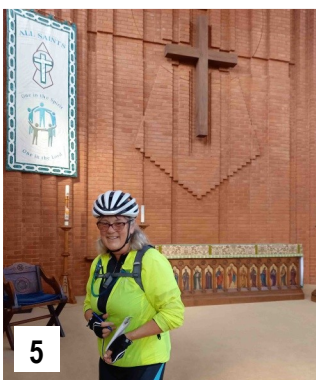
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4



5

The annual Beds & Herts Historic Churches Trust 'Bike and Hike' was established in 1992 to raise money to help the restoration and repair of churches and chapels in the two counties. Of the sponsorship money raised 50% goes to our church and 50% goes to the Trust.

Our church usually sponsors Peter and Rosemary Bladon who, over recent years, have probably raised thousands by pounding the streets of Hemel. As they were unable to take part this year for personal reasons, I decided to take up the challenge. The date, 11th September, coincided with the 150th Celebrations at St Mary's so my plan was to arrive at St Mary's, join the barbecue at lunchtime and then finish my route.

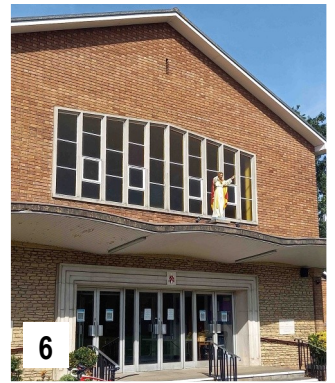
I aimed to visit forty churches or more, starting at the top of the hill in Wigginton. Colin drove me there and, as soon as 9.00am ticked over, he took the first photo at Wigginton Baptist Church (1) before I rode for about two minutes to my second - St Bartholomews in Wigginton (2). It was then all downhill to St Peter's & St Paul's in Tring, the first to be staffed by a friendly face and a link to All Saints as I met John Allen's sister.

They were busy getting ready for a wedding later and, after the statutory photo and signing in, I was soon on my way to church number four - Tring Baptist, followed by St Martha's which was a bit tucked away. While working out my route to New Mill Baptist Church, I met another cyclist who knew the way so we chatted about other cycling challenges and soon arrived at an open church and the first offer of refreshment.

My new found companion was heading off next to the nether regions of the Bucks/Herts borders. I turned my attention to Aldbury to visit St John the Baptist (3), a church I have visited often in my quest to improve my bell ringing. Another open church and more refreshments. I got to my first St Mary's in Northchurch, arriving there at 10.38am after having ridden 9 miles.

Thoughtfully they had provided open house refreshments and it was here I met a family group of walkers and cyclists. I then 'captured' Northchurch Baptist Church (4) before heading into Berkhamsted and up the hill to All Saints (5) which was open and again a familiar church to me. Another connection was that I have sung there a few times with the Hospice Choir and the 'church sitter' knew my big sister.

Berkhamsted is a great place as you can 'catch' a number of churches in a small distance - Sacred Heart (6), the Quaker Meeting House (7), St Peter's (8), Berkhamsted School Chapel, Baptist Church (9) and Sunnyside (10) followed in quick succession. 11.27am and 16 churches ticked off!



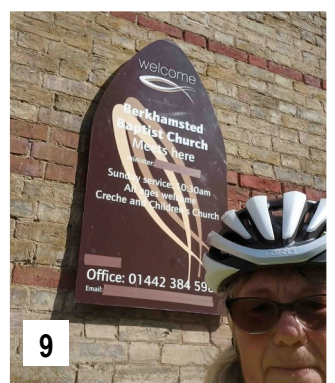
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Bike and Hike 2021 - Part 1 (continued)



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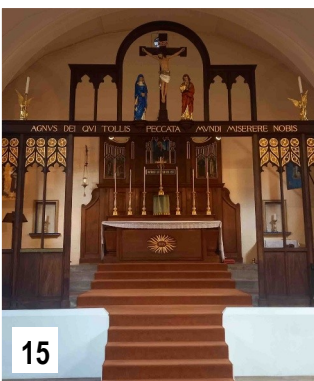
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15

Feeling great and still on target, I headed to St John's, Bourne End (11) where I was greeted in the churchyard by a welcoming committee/gardening task force, met another cyclist and had a chance to see the beautiful frescoed dome in this lovely church. Moving onwards, I cycled along Pix Lane towards Winkwell and Chaulden to St Stephen's and then St George's (12), climbing gradually uphill towards Warners End and St Mark's, where I could only just see the sign peeping over the hedge, and St Albans (13). None were open.

I met a group of three riders from Potten End at Warners End Road, St Albans. We compared routes and hill options, photographed each other and set off again in different directions. The next bit was easy, downhill to Northridge Way Baptist Church followed by St Mary's & St Joseph (14) in Boxmoor. A reflection on the Covid situation, by contrast to earlier years, most of the churches were unstaffed and did not provide sheets to log my visit. In the past, I have enjoyed seeing the names of other participants and the routes taken but this time there was no real opportunity. This also meant that many of the churches had no idea they had been visited.

St Francis, Hammerfield (15) was open and provided a familiar face and name known to some of the St Mary's and St Benedict's congregations, Glen, is a Server there and has been in the past within our parishes. The cyclists I met at Potten End came into view as I left. They had gone the other way round having just left St John's Boxmoor (16) which was open with a sign-in sheet and provided my 25th church! Here I bumped into the cyclist from Bourne End who was heading to St Mary's, Apsley, the same way as me but chose to eat his sandwiches on the Moor first.

I arrived at St Mary's (17) at 1.20pm. It was lovely to see the celebrations and activities for our 150th Anniversary in progress. I laid down my bike, waited for the very popular barbecue, rested, joined in and talked with many familiar folk we'd only seen via Zoom for so long. I had only intended to stay for half an hour but before I knew it the time had ticked on and I realised I was now up against the clock to reach my target of 40 churches.

I left at about 2.45pm to head to Kings Langley where fortunately four churches can be 'clocked' in a short time - Kings Langley Methodist Church (18), Christ Church Baptist Church, Waterside Baptist Church (19) and All Saint's, Kings Langley (20). Having gone along the valley from Boxmoor, there was no alternative but to head off up to Abbot's Langley and tackle Gallow's Hill!

*To be continued
Susan Rivett, St. Mary's*



16



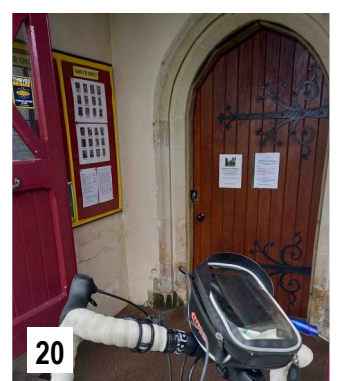
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Kings Langley Christian Aid - Christian Aid Week 15-21 May

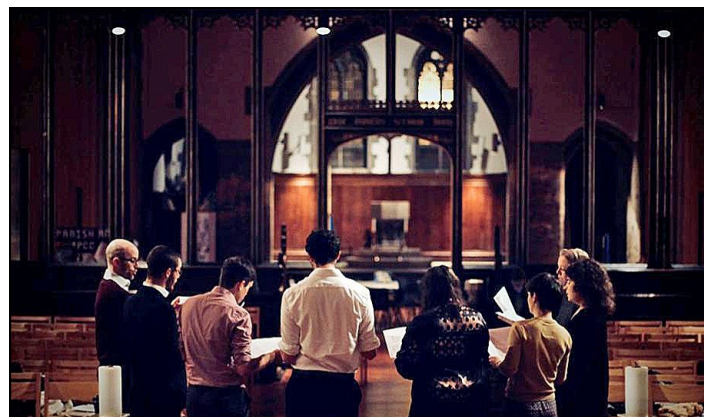


Christian Aid Week this year is taking place between 15-21 May and we are looking forward to meeting many of our village residents again, particularly during the House-to-House envelope collection. Last year we raised £4,583 through this and we are very grateful for the kindness we were shown and the generosity of those who contributed.

For the first time in a generation, global poverty is rising. Covid-19, conflict and the climate crisis are pushing more of our neighbours into a struggle for survival. One mum, Jessica in Zimbabwe, said: *"My children crave a good meal, but I can't provide. It pains me to send them to bed hungry."*

Please help us this year in Christian Aid's fight against poverty and to make a real difference where it is most needed. If you are able to help with the House-to-House do let me know at paul.tucker15@btinternet.com. And do join us for the United Service at All Saints Parish Church on 22 May at 9.30am when we will reflect together on the difference that Christian Aid makes in our world and give thanks to God for all that has been achieved.

Paul Tucker - Chair, Christian Aid Kings Langley



Omnia Voices come to Kings Langley

All Saints Church and Christian Aid in Kings Langley are delighted to welcome Omnia Voices to a special concert at All Saints Church, Kings Langley on 18th March at 7.30pm.

This promises to be a lovely evening of music through the ages from traditional choral to popular. The ensemble of eight singers have a particular interest in performing for people who might not normally have access to live music and since inception have held concerts in several hospices, care homes, shelters, and the Grenfell Tower Support Centre.

Tickets are £15 which includes interval refreshments and can be obtained online at www.bit.ly/omnia-kl or from the Langley Butcher, High Street, Kings Langley, or Kings Coffee Shop, Christ Church Baptist, the Nap, Kings Langley. A limited number are also held by church representatives in the village. You can have a sneak preview of their music at: www.omniavoices.com
Enquiries to: allsaintskingslangley@outlook.com

Christian Aid works in 50 countries around the world supporting vulnerable people with emergency aid and long-term development through partners on the ground. They help people regardless of religion, ethnic origin, or gender.

*Paul Tucker, 07597653382,
Paul.tucker15@btinternet.com*

Christian Aid
& All Saints Kings Langley
present

All Saints
Kings Langley

Omnia

An evening of music through the ages
- traditional choral to popular




omniavoices.com

Friday March 18th 7.30pm
All Saints Church, Kings Langley WD4 8JS
Tickets £15 including interval refreshments

Book online: www.bit.ly/omnia-kl
Tickets also available at Christ Church Bookshop and
Langley Butcher

enquiries: allsaintskingslangley@outlook.com



New Grandparents and the shed!

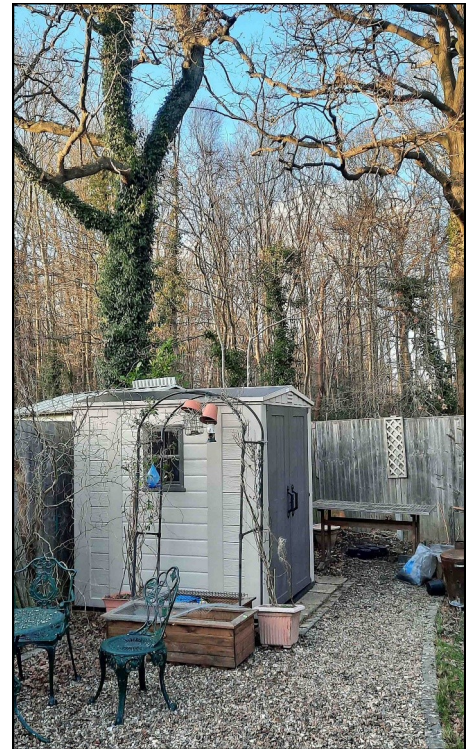


I thought I'd let you know we've finally chosen a shed and are enjoying having one in the garden. It blends in with the fence and the woods which, as you see, are very close by.

Thank you for the generous gifts from deanery and parish which made it possible.



Love to everyone,
Richard and Katherine Howlett



Springtime in St Mary's churchyard



Photos by Katharine Harper

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2022
FRIDAY 4 MARCH
A SERVICE FOR EVERYONE

Churches Together in Hemel Hempstead
invite you to join us
for this global, ecumenical service
at

**Hemel Hempstead
Methodist Church**
270 Northridge Way, HP1 2AU
Service begins at 11 am

I know the plans I have for you
Informed Prayer Prayerful Action
Ecumenical Global Movement 365 days a year
24-7 Prayer Movement Ecumenical Global
Women-led Prayerful Action Ecumenical Global
www.wdp.org.uk Registered Charity Number: 222243

Holy Trinity Craft



Wendy Hiron's latest creations:
Peter Rabbit and Jeremy Fisher:
£15 each.

Contact Jennifer Chaney
jennifer.chaney81@yahoo.co.uk

**FOR SUCH A TIME
AS THIS**

**CHURCHES
TOGETHER IN HEMEL HEMPSTEAD**

LENT GROUP 2022
Mondays 1.30pm
~28th February
The Church of the Resurrection, Grovehill
~7th March
St Benedict's Church, Bennetts End
~14th March
Hemel Methodist Church, Northridge Way
~21st March
St Mary & St Joseph Church, Boxmoor
~28th March
New Life Pentecostal Church, Lawn Lane
~4th April
The Church of the Resurrection

A SIX-SESSION STUDY COURSE
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For more info' contact: secretary@cthh.org.uk

USPG PARTNERS IN GLOBAL MISSION

School visits at Christmas

Christmas is always a busy time in our church schedules with seasonal services and visits from schools and other community organisations. But with the new Omicron variant of Coronavirus making its presence felt last December, the school visits were changing on an almost daily basis - will we/won't we? Should we? Can we?

In the end, each school came to its own decision and the clergy either went into the schools to lead services there instead, recorded content to be streamed into school services, or in only one case came to church as usual.

It was a delight to welcome the children of Chambersbury School to St Benedict's church. They really cheered up the place with their bright red uniforms and their enthusiastic singing, and they gave the most touching rendition of the Christmas story and what it means for us today.



It was a real treat and a joy to be with the children, and to see the church full!

Rev'd Lizzie Hood

Holy Trinity takes part in the Santa sleigh collection

Holy Trinity was one of 25 collecting teams that took part in the annual Rotary Club of Hemel Hempstead Santa Sleigh collection.

In advance of the sleigh run, leaflets were delivered along the route in Leverstock Green. On a thankfully dry and mild evening, the collectors accompanied the Santa Sleigh which attracted large crowds of adults and excited children.

Overall, the Rotary Club raised over £17,000 for local charities, and Holy Trinity was pleased to receive a £350 share of the proceeds.

John Walker, Holy Trinity



Trinity colouring group

Holy Trinity Church is starting a new Social Colouring Group to be held monthly 2 – 4pm in the Trinity Room on 2nd and 4th Mondays starting 14th March.

Colouring is well known as an aid to mental well-being by lowering stress and anxiety. Colouring together is also very sociable and provides a sense of accomplishment.

If you'd like to have a taster session first, without buying your own materials, resources will be available. Feel free to come along and have a go.

No special skills are required. Refreshments will be provided.

Cathy Ayling (01442 257912), Holy Trinity

