



# Benefice of Langelei

Welcome to our Benefice Newsletter No.44 for June 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 gift and fruit of the Spirit

I have been a church goer for almost all of my life: Sunday school, choir boy, bellringer, server; then later PCC member, churchwarden and so on. While a youngster it was Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Ghosts were not what I wanted to think about, especially on dark winter evenings when going to a dark, grave-surrounded church out in the countryside (as St Nicholas, Stevenage was then). Yes, I was keen but I did not have a personal relationship with Jesus nor was being filled with the Spirit part of the vocabulary; rather, confirmation classes were, as I recall, mostly about the 39 articles (see the book of Common Prayer). This all changed in my mid-30s when, after a few fallow years of not going to church (we were sadly not made welcome in Guisborough), God moved us to Hitchin. There we joined our neighbours in going to Holy Saviour Church. There was a charismatic group at the church and we soon got involved in one of their home groups. Sallie quickly gave her heart to the Lord but, like many men, I was reluctant and critical despite being, as I understand it, the subject of much prayer. It was at a Lent course that God, through the speaker, urged me to yield my heart to Him and I was filled with the Spirit as I gave my heart to Jesus.

The charismatic movement was not liked by everyone, partly due to some having extreme or intransigent views on such issues as healing and speaking in tongues (St Paul knocked that one on the head in Corinthians 13). Not that there is anything wrong in praying in tongues. It can be especially helpful when you run out of language to praise God or have no idea what to pray. But it is not a spiritual requirement. However it is worth noting that, following Jesus himself, St Paul and the Wesleys (among many) were considered extremists by the leaders of their day. In regard to the importance of being filled, and (daily) filled again, with the



Holy Spirit, they were surely right on the ball. This is not only a key message in many of Paul's letters but also in the Gospels - Luke 1:35, Luke 1:41, 42 and 4:1, etc. As John Marsh said at a seminar in St Albans, we needed Jesus to bring God down to earth and we need the Spirit to bring Jesus up to date, to show us how to deal with today's issues and to ensure we have the intimate relationship with God that He desires.

The guidance and empowerment of the Holy Spirit has been vital to me, not only in leading home groups and Lent and alpha courses and in preparing sermons and intercessions but in all aspects of mine and my family's lives. We all experience times of doubt and concern. Who hasn't asked questions, what with the pandemic, Ukraine and the reluctance to act on Global warming and sustainably to care for our planet, God's earth? At such times I recall all the wonderful things Jesus has done through his Spirit. This reminds me of the truth of the gospel, of God's love for each and every one of us shown in the passion, death and resurrection of his only Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, and in the gift of the Spirit.

So my hope and prayer for you all this Pentecost is that you will want to be and will be filled time and again with God's Holy Spirit. For, as St Paul reminds us in 1 Corinthians 6:19, our body is a temple of the Holy Spirit. In Galatians 5:22 Paul further tells us that the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. As we live these out we build strong communities; we love and serve all our neighbours just as Jesus wants and asks us to. Be filled, be blessed, be at one with yourself and each other. Be an Easter people and bear much Pentecost fruit.

*Bob Day, St Benedict's.*

## Update from the Community Foodbank: Easter Egg Appeal



### Community Foodbank

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 9.30am - 3.30pm and St Benedict's on  
Wednesdays 9.30am - 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 opening hours.

**F**or the second year running, the Community Foodbank ran an Easter Egg Appeal, sharing a little bit of joy with those in need this Easter. Thank you to everyone who generously donated - we collected 322 eggs in total! As well as distributing them to local families using our Foodbanks over Easter, we also delivered eggs to residents at St Laura's, Friars Mead, Willow Edge, The Cloisters and Saddlers Walk, and to families recently arrived in our area from Ukraine.

We'd like to say a huge thank you to Quentin Ross-Smith who co-ordinated the Appeal, as well as Paul Frame who organised a donation of 50 eggs from UPS, and Cathy Swain who also organised a collection at Redline Group Limited. We're also very grateful to Bennett's End Community Centre for acting as a drop-off point, to Social Worker Mary Nyariki who helped distribute eggs, and all the volunteers at our three Foodbanks who helped with storing and distributing them. Thank you to you all!

On a more difficult note, the Foodbank has become busier than ever in recent months. All three locations – at All Saints, St Mary's and St Benedict's – have seen increased demand as living costs continue to rise. Each week we are in urgent need of donations of non-perishable food. Please see the the accompanying list for drop-off

### Shopping List

*Tinned meat  
(ham/corned beef/  
meatballs/hotdogs)  
Tinned fish  
Tinned potatoes  
Tinned spaghetti  
Tinned tomatoes  
Tinned vegetables*

*Biscuits  
Cereal  
Lentils  
Soup  
Mug Shots  
Pot Noodles  
Pasta sauces  
Crisps  
Squash  
Fruit juice*

*Tinned fruit  
Tinned rice pudding  
Tinned custard  
Jelly  
Sponge puddings  
Instant coffee  
Instant hot chocolate  
UHT milk*

*Deodorant  
Sanitary towels/  
tampons  
Toothbrushes  
Toilet paper  
Shampoo  
Shower gel  
Soap  
Laundry powder/liquid  
Washing up liquid*

points. As ever, please Like our Facebook page for the latest news and current needs. Thank you for your support!

Rachel Williams, [refryer@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:refryer@yahoo.co.uk)



## Time for change



**The next Benefice Newsletter (September 2022) will be our last - time for someone else to take over.**

We are grateful for the contributions included in this issue and all previous issues since we took over the Newsletter in June 2019. It has been a pleasure and a privilege to prepare them for publication.

We hope the article from Fr James (page 12) provides food for thought and may provoke further consideration of this and other serious issues to accompany the important accounts of our Benefice activities.

*Jean and Mike Chrisp: [mikeandjean23@btinternet.com](mailto:mikeandjean23@btinternet.com)*

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## CONTACTS

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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](mailto:lizziehood@aol.com)

The Rev'd Jos Perris - Associate Priest

07979 590480 - [josperris@hotmail.com](mailto:josperris@hotmail.com)

### **ST. MARY'S, APSLEY END**

London Road, Hemel Hempstead HP3 9ST

Vacant (See Vacancy update page 8)

### **ST. BENEDICT'S, BENNETTS END**

Peascroft Road, Hemel Hempstead HP3 8EP

Vacant (See Vacancy update page 8)

### **ALL SAINTS, KINGS LANGLEY**

Church Lane, Kings Langley WD4 8JS

Fr. James McDonald - Team Vicar

01923 903 531 - [james.a.mcdonald@live.co.uk](mailto:james.a.mcdonald@live.co.uk)

## **BENEFICE NEWSLETTER**

Editorial Team: Jean & Mike Chrisp - [mikeandjean23@btinternet.com](mailto:mikeandjean23@btinternet.com).

### **PUBLICATION DATE COPY DEADLINE**

4 September 2022 21 August 2022

4 December 2022 20 November 2022



## Bike and Hike 2021 - Part 2



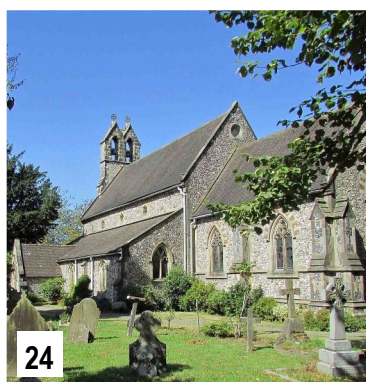
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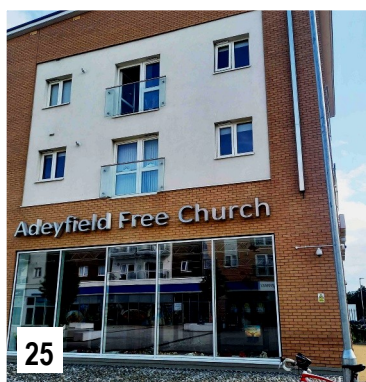
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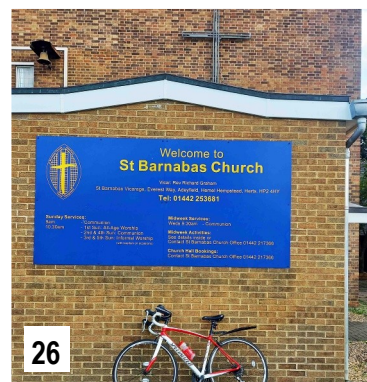
This route had me on very familiar territory as it is one of my regular cycling circuits. Here I was concentrating so hard to go up to St Lawrence's (21) and to find St Saviour's (22) that I missed a church. I have since discovered the Methodist Church is just off the High Street but chose not to go back down the hill to capture it! I knew I had to get a move on so didn't loiter and headed to the Church of the Ascension at Bedmond (23), known to many as the 'tin church'. After the essential photo and a few of the English rolling hills along Bedmond Road, I continued to Holy Trinity at Leverstock Green (24) for a quick photo stop before going to the new Adeyfield Free Church on Maylands Avenue (25), my childhood church of St Barnabas (26), St Paul's Church, Highfield and the Church of the Resurrection, Grovehill.

According to my time sheet it was 16.26. Officially the day ends at 5.00pm so I was just within my target and a great freewheel down the Link Road to my final St Mary's (27) of the day. However I arrived just as a bride and groom were exiting the church followed by many guests which hampered my time and photo opportunities as I was sure they didn't need a tired cyclist in their photos! A short ride took me to Carey Baptist Church (28) where a helpful gentlemen reminded me that I had forgotten the Quaker Meeting House so, after photographing both that and Alexander Road Congregational Church, I tackled Heather Way, a steep hill off Queensway, opposite the fire station, determined not to stop until I reached St Mary's Road.

I received a warm welcome at the Quaker Meeting House (29) as well as congratulations for my ride and they logged me as 16.59! 42 churches within the official time and just the cycle home to complete. Fittingly, my last church was Belmont Road Baptist Church (30) but was officially out of time.

The observant among you will realise I missed out one of our Benefice, St Benedict's and I can only blame myself for being too restful at St Mary's and enjoying the company! 43 Churches, 37.4 miles according to my recording and about £450 raised if you include the gift aid. A big thank you to those that supported and sponsored me.

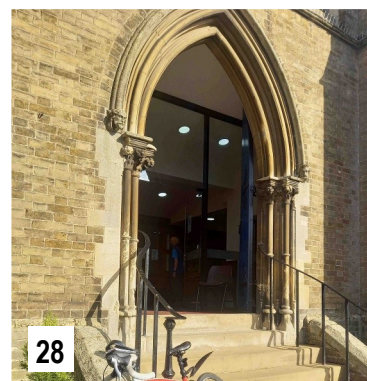
Susan Rivett, St. Mary's



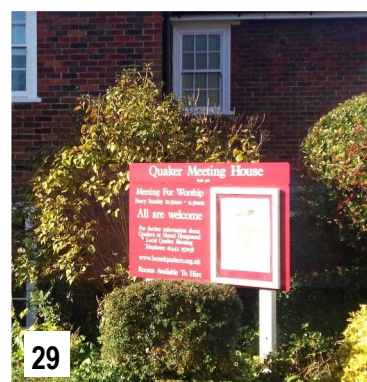
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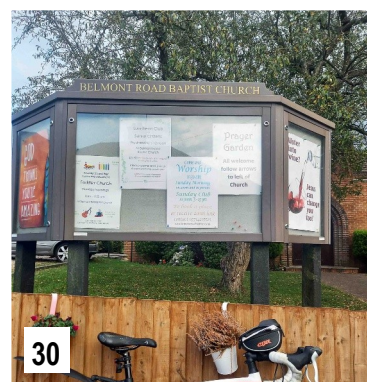
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**IMPORTANT: FOR UP TO DATE INFORMATION PLEASE CHECK WEBSITE AND WEEKLY SHEETS**

## 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
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

### June

Sunday 5th	8.00am and 10.00am	PENTECOST
Sunday 12th	10.00am	TRINITY SUNDAY Patronal Festival, family Eucharist followed by churchyard BBQ
Saturday 18th	11.00am - 4.00pm	Children's preparation for first Communion
	tbc	Leverstock Green School summer fete
Monday 20th	7.30pm	Baptism information evening

### July

Saturday 2nd	11.00am	Leave Holy Trinity for Deanery Pilgrimage to St Albans
	2.30pm	Non walkers meet in South Transept; Tour:
	4.00pm	Evensong - Please arrange own lifts back. More details to follow.
Wednesday 6th	7.45pm	Parochial Church Council
Saturday 9th	tbc	LGVA summer fete
Wednesday 19th	10.00am	Leverstock Green School Leavers' service in church
Saturday 23rd	12noon - 4.00pm	Holy Trinity Fun Day in churchyard
Sunday 31st	10.00am	Team Service at Holy Trinity

### August

Sunday 14th	3.00pm - 5.00pm	Strawberry Tea at 5 Pancake Lane
Sunday 21st	3.00pm	Pet Service

## 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
Wednesday	7.00pm	All Saints Men's Group (Usually 3rd Wednesday, time varies)
		Contact Brian McAdam: 07796 131 291
Wednesdays	10.00am - 11.30am	Tiny Tots (Term Time only in the hall)
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)
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

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## ALL SAINTS, KINGS LANGLEY - SPECIAL SERVICES AND EVENTS

### June

Sunday 5th	9.30am	Eucharist for the Feast of Pentecost, Preacher Jaime Roberts (Pre-Ordinand on Placement)
	12 noon - 4.00pm	Jubilee Garden Party in the Village Garden
	5.00pm	Choral Evensong followed by fizz and cake
Sunday 12th	9.30am	High Mass for the Feast of the Holy trinity, Guest Preacher Fr Sam Korn, Chaplain St Mary Magdalene Academy Islington and Associate Priest St Mary's Bourne Street <i>Incense will be used at this service</i>
Wednesday 29th	7.30pm	Taize Eucharist on the Feast of St Peter ( <i>incense</i> ) followed by drinks and nibbles

### July

Saturday 2nd	11.00am	Leave Holy Trinity for Deanery Pilgrimage to St Albans
	2.30pm	Non walkers meet in South Transept; Tour:
	4.00pm	Evensong - Please arrange own lifts back. More details to follow.
Saturday 9th	3.00pm	Wedding of David Swan and Madeline Bromwich-Wickham
Saturday 16th	10.00am onwards	Summer Fete
Thursday 21st	7.30pm	Taize Eucharist on the Eve of Mary Magdalene ( <i>incense</i> ), followed by drinks and nibbles
Sunday 25th	5.00 - 7.00pm	Pimm's and Hymns (aka soft drinks and songs) returns!
Sunday 31st	10.00am	Team Service at Holy Trinity (no service at All Saints)

### August

Saturday 6th	3.30pm	Wedding of Graham Hunnisett and Tanya Smith
Sunday 7th	11.15am	Church in the Wild - Summer Party

### Advance Notices for September

Tuesday 6th	7.30pm	Licensing of Mother Alice Jolley at St Benedict's Church
Sunday 11th	9.30am	Installation of Mother Alice Jolley at St Mary's
Friday 16th - Sunday 18th		All Saints Beer Festival

## 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

### June

Saturday 4th	2.00 - 5.00pm	Jubilee Tea - Tickets available from Gemma Wiggins, Viv or Rosemary ( <b>see Page 13</b> )
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### July

Saturday 2nd	11.00am	Leave Holy Trinity for Deanery Pilgrimage to St Albans
	2.30pm	Non walkers meet in South Transept; Tour:
	4.00pm	Evensong - Please arrange own lifts back. More details to follow.
Sunday 31st	10.00am	Team Service at Holy Trinity (no service at St Mary's)

### Advance Notices for September

Tuesday 6th	7.30pm	Licensing of Mother Alice Jolley at St Benedicts Church
Sunday 11th	9.30am	Installation of Mother Alice Jolley at St Mary's



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

Sundays	11.15am	Family Communion - church open from 10.30am
Wednesdays	9.00am - 3.30pm	Church open as a quiet space for prayer and food bank

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

<b>July</b>		
Saturday 2nd	11.00am 2.30pm 4.00pm	Leave Holy Trinity for Deanery Pilgrimage to St Albans Non walkers meet in South Transept; Tour: Evensong - Please arrange own lifts back. More details to follow. Team Service at Holy Trinity (no service at St Benedicts)
Sunday 31st	10.00am	

### Advance Notices for September

Tuesday 6th	7.30pm	Licensing of Mother Alice Jolley at St Benedicts Church
Sunday 11th	9.30am	Installation of Mother Alice Jolley at St Mary's

## The 'Big Hoot'

**D**id you see 'The Big Hoot' laid out in Hemel Hempstead 10th February - 19th April? It was of models of owls designed and made commercially then all painted differently by other people. I think they were about 4-5 feet tall, but didn't actually manage to measure them.

With a word search to do and pictures to colour, they were probably intended for younger people but I thought the

different designs were lovely - particularly number three: 'Oh What A Night' by Roy Meats.

It was particularly interesting that one of the pictures printed on the map was of OUR St Mary's, Apsley and not the St Mary's in the old town!

*Rosemary Bladon, St Mary's.*



## Vacancy update

Our Team Rector, Rev'd Lizzie Hood writes: in the last Newsletter I reported that we were looking forward to a busy interview day.

It was indeed a hectic schedule and a very rewarding day, meeting some excellent candidates. I am delighted to say that our hopes were fulfilled and we were able to appoint a very gifted priest, the Rev'd Alice Jolley, as our new Team Vicar with responsibility for St Mary's and St Benedict's.

Alice and her partner Coral will move house during the summer. Alice will be licensed by The Bishop at a service at St Benedict's on Tuesday 6th September at 7.30pm and installed at St Mary's on Sunday 11th September during the 9.30am service.

I have asked Alice to tell us a bit about herself:

Let me introduce myself! I am Mother Alice Jolley, and I'm currently a curate in the city of Lincoln. I'm very much looking forward to joining you in late summer.

I was born and grew up in North Lincolnshire, and then during my gap year I was a pastoral assistant at St Albans Cathedral, where I fell in love with the story and the example of Alban. From there I went to read Theology at Durham University, and then on to train for ministry at Westcott House in Cambridge.

I live with my partner, Coral (who will be starting her new job at Longdean School, teaching Maths, in September), and



our very large and very lazy greyhound, Fernando. All three of us are very excited to get to know everyone in our new communities – the dog is especially keen to meet lots of new people!

We love being outside; walking in the countryside, in the hills or on the coast, swimming in lakes or in the sea, and camping in beautiful places. We also love cooking exciting food and eating with friends, and trying new recipes. We are hoping to learn new gardening skills once we move, and perhaps even grow some vegetables! We also love music and the theatre, and are excited to be much closer to London for going to concerts and plays.

I read lots and lots of novels, and I've recently also got really into travel writing. My other interests are contemplative prayer, social justice, and ecclesiastical law (I am currently doing an LLM in Canon Law at Cardiff University). During my curacy I have enjoyed learning about community building, and have been involved in a number of social action projects. I love working with children - in school, in church, and in the community. I have learned lots from ministering during the pandemic, especially with regard to practical support in the community, as well as mental health first aid.

I am looking forward with joy to settling into the communities at St Mary's and St Benedict's, and in the Team more widely. Please be assured of my prayers for you all in the meantime, and please do pray for me, too.

*With all best wishes, Mother Alice.*

## Easter Monday Pilgrimage

On Easter Monday, a small band of nine pilgrims (not all in the photo) gathered for breakfast before making the near six mile journey to St Albans for the Easter Monday Pilgrimage.

Sunny but not too hot, the weather was just right for walking. We made a pit stop at the Tin Church, Bedmond where we received a warm



and friendly welcome. We continued our journey and enjoyed each other's company on our way to St Albans.

We arrived with time to spare and enjoyed our packed lunches before joining the procession into the Abbey for the service.

*Ingrid Allen, All Saints.*



## Spring Sing at All Saints



1<sup>st</sup> April saw Swindon Male Voice Choir and Kings Langley Community Choir singing at All Saints to entertain us and to raise money to support the mission of All Saints.

A member of the audience hit the mark afterwards when she said: *"What was so good about the evening was the different styles of the two choirs."*

The programme from the Swindon Male Voice Choir included 'Let All Men Sing', 'When the Saints' and 'Song of



*the Jolly Roger*'. A lucky young member of the audience received the sabre to wave!

Kings Langley Community Choir's programme included: 'Let It Be', 'Hold Back The River', and 'Hallelujah'.

The evening drew to a close with both choirs and the audience singing 'Happy Birthday' to one of the choir members. An uplifting end to the evening and great fun to have everyone joining in.

*Sheila Ashman, All Saints*

## Scout Uniformed Ringing Band ring for St George's Day

Our picture shows the Scout Uniformed Ringing band who rang for the St George's day service at St Peter's Church, Berkhamsted on Saturday 23rd April. A combined band, it was made up of Hemel Hempstead and West Hertfordshire District Scout Members. Chris led the ringing for the service, Susan (St Mary's), Keith (Kings Langley) and I also rang as part of the band. Chris is second from right with Susan and Keith at the centre.



A former 1st Apsley Scout and a District Explorer Member, Chris is a church bell ringer based at St Mary's Church, Apsley where he has been ringing for the last six

years. He will also be captaining the Hertfordshire County Association of Change Ringers Youth band in July at the National Youth Competition in Exeter. Susan Rivett and Keith Gower are Adult District Scout members and Keith is also one of the Squirrel leaders at 1st Apsley. I'm a non-Uniformed District Scout and 1st Apsley member.

If you wish to share any details in the News Letter you may encourage more youngsters or Adults to give ringing a go. New recruits are welcome at any age from 11.

*Sue Gill, St Mary's.*



## Lent and Easter at St Mary's



The photos give a taste of what we got up to at St Mary's during Lent and over Easter including the Lent Lunch, Mothering Sunday flowers, Good Friday, Easter Day trail and Easter Monday Pilgrimage to the Abbey.

It was good to celebrate the Risen Christ with other members of our Benefice, Deanery and Diocese.

*Peter Bladon, St Mary's*



## Can you help?

We have always been blessed at St Mary's with a good working party and, indeed, over the years with their help and support, have achieved wonderful results at national level for the state of both the churchyard and the church itself. However, we have recently lost a couple of our most loyal members and, as the rest of us get older, this appeal is to request some of our younger members to step up to the mark to help spread the load.

We meet Monday and Friday mornings 10am - 12 noon, but there is also the chance to meet in the evenings (during the summer) or on Saturday mornings during café. If you would be willing to help in any way, please speak to me and I and the rest of the team would welcome you on board! Many thanks.

*Peter Bladon, St Mary's*

## Mara's Christening



Mara Frances Badger was baptised at St Mary's by Father James on Sunday 8th May. We all had a wonderful time, the weather was perfect and we were delighted to be joined by friends and family, including members of St Mary's congregation and the Buzzy Bees volunteers.

*Amanda Badger, St Mary's*



## Holy Trinity Mothering Sunday afternoon tea



**A**gain this year, a small band of ladies created 33 wonderful Afternoon Tea Boxes to celebrate Mothering Sunday. Goodies included four different kinds of sandwiches, biscuits, a savoury, scone, clotted cream, jam, tea, homemade cake.

The comments have been very complimentary, and we know that the boxes have been enjoyed as tea in the

garden, sitting at a dining room table and even as a picnic in Wendover Woods.

We would like to thank the wonderful folk of The Kitchen at Inspired in Kings Langley who have supported us again this year.

*Gillian Redman, Holy Trinity*

## Safeguarding training

**I**n November 2021 the Church of England issued a document which updated the whole Safeguarding Training framework for Clergy and Lay Members, to be effective from January 2022. No discussion, we just had to work out how to implement it. Given that the whole of the country has to comply, we feel the support or guidance from the C of E has been poor. One major change is that the DBS certificate now has to be renewed every three years instead of every five, which meant that a lot of our certificates were out of date.

In discussion with Lizzie and James, we decided to work together and have a coordinated plan across the Benefice. We are lucky to have Lynne who has experience of Safeguarding from her work role and she started us off by reducing the 38-page document to 10 critical bullet points for a three-year action plan. We have worked hard to get this in place and feel that we are ahead of the game with our achievements so far.



There is now a requirement to have all volunteers trained, even those without DBS certificates, and we are working out how we manage all this extra training. Lynne has run a couple of group sessions and we will be running more during July.

We have each completed the first three courses, Lynne and Susan have completed the Safeguarding Leadership Pathway course and Pauline has now had her invitation and will be doing the course in June. We then have another course to do to complete our training.

Our thanks to Lizzie and James for their input and support and for all those members of our PCCs and congregations who have completed their training.

*Lynne Head (PSO All Saints): 07496 994091*  
*Pauline Lindsey (PSO Holy Trinity): 07855 731523*  
*Susan Rivett (PSO St Benedict's and St Mary's): 07908 644600*



## Keeping the doors open: balancing keeping going with keeping growing

All Saints are delighted to have been awarded a grant of £5,000 by the National Churches Trust (NCT). The plaster dust we'd noticed in recent months on the nave pews turned out to be a symptom of water ingress into the north clerestory: left unattended, something more major than flaking plaster might have developed! We're grateful to receive part-funding of the £16,000 total.

The NCT exists to keep churches open and in use. In November 2021, their Vice President, Michael Palin (yes, the Python) said: *"The UK has over 39,000 church buildings. The restrictions of COVID-19, result[ed] in reduced funding and fewer worshippers ... Yet churches remain a vital and much-loved part of the UK's history and heritage and we can't let them fall into neglect and disuse"*

The NCT is just one of the voices asking: after Covid, what is the future of the UK's churches? Of the Church of England? Articles from the *Spectator* (*Holy relic: what will be left of the Church of England after the pandemic?* 06.02.21) to the *Guardian* (*The Guardian view on the Church of England: the numbers are not adding up* 26.10.21) ask the question in various ways. Most answer with three points which I broadly agree with: 1) the overall picture of decline is accurate; 2) the Archbishops need to tread carefully in articulating their vision - anything that looks like undermining the parish system goes down like a lead balloon with clergy, congregations and communities (they are now careful to speak of 'revitalising parishes'); 3) change is needed.



But what change? One school of thought says that some churches should be given over to other uses and community groups. This has and will happen, often very successfully. Another school of thought says churches should become more 'relevant'. But at what point has a God who allowed himself to be killed been 'relevant'? *"For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength"* (1 Corinthians 1.25). The Church isn't called to be relevant but to proclaim something other, something wonderfully, mysteriously, weird; something which is so not-of-this-world, so not-the-way-we-do-things, that we believe it to be true.

We need a different change. Parish churches need to regain their confidence that their doors are meant to be open, their walls standing, their roofs on for everyone: hosting coffee mornings and foodbanks (**see page 2**), school visits and community groups, holding social events, services and

festivals. And at the same time, the parish church needs to regain its confidence that this welcoming in and reaching out, this Baptising, Marrying, Christening, serving, Fete-holding, cream-tea-eating, Beer Festival-ing (coming soon to All Saints!) parish life we live reflects the all-embracing love of God. And it needs to regain its confidence in articulating this. We keep going to keep growing.

The parish church alone cannot save the Church of England. But if each one can renew its confidence as a parish church, for everyone, we might find we're on the way to something more important.

Fr. James



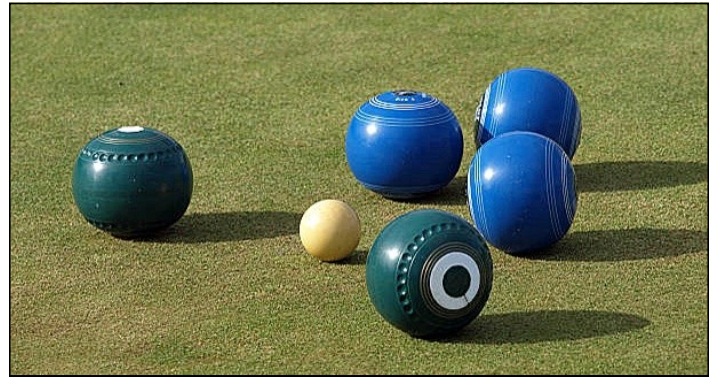


## All Saints Men's Group activities



**O**ur Men's Group is now in its 4th year since launching in November 2018 - coincidentally, the same day that Fr James was appointed here as Team Vicar. Since then, we have held numerous events including film nights, quizzes, archery, ten-pin bowling and meals together. We have also held discussion on many topics inspired by 'Table Talk for Men'.

During the 2020 lockdown we held a very successful 'Grill the Vicar' session on Zoom, during which Fr James was subjected to some challenging and wide-ranging questions on Christianity, faith and various moral issues.



On 18th May, twelve of us tried our hands at bowls at Kings Langley Bowling Club which inspired some of us to join up. Other events planned for the year include a visit to Top Golf in Watford, an outdoor games event and a pub walk.

We had hoped that we could arrange for a 'Bishop's Breakfast' with Bishop Michael in November, but this is now unlikely, since his recent elevation to Bishop of Bath and Wells.

The Men's Group is open to all men in Kings Langley, whether churchgoers or not. We always welcome new members.

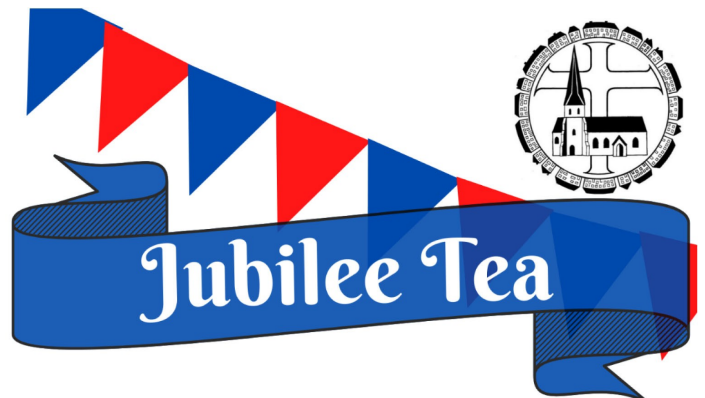
Brian McAdam, All Saints

## All Saints Church in the Wild



**A**t Church in the Wild 1st May, 35 of us gathered in the churchyard to learn about the Eucharist. We baked our own bread dough to share.

Please note there will be no Church in the Wild on 5th June (Jubilee Garden Party). The next Church in the Wild will be on 3rd July.



**Saturday 4th June 2022**

**2pm - 5pm**

Join us at St Mary's, Apsley End for Afternoon Tea to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee

£6 per adult, children 2-12 years £4, under 2's free

Buy tickets in advance at St Mary's, online via Eventbrite or on the day

Garden and children's games - 50p

If you fancy....dress in red white and/or blue!!!

## Eco Tips from World Earth Day

**W**ith raging wildfires, plastic piling up in our oceans and icebergs rapidly melting, there's no getting around the fact that our planet needs our help. Even though it's very easy to feel helpless, every step in the right direction counts. Here are some everyday tips:

**Plant trees.** One of the best ways to help the Earth, is to plant some trees. Planting trees is an easy way to remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and a great way to counter deforestation. Plant native trees rather than exotic ones which require more water and fertilizer.

**Unplug your devices.** One of our easiest Earth Day tips is to simply unplug your electronics when not in use. Devices left plugged in, even when turned off, still consume power, a negligible amount each day but it adds up over the course of weeks and months. A simple way to save money too.

**Laundry.** It is estimated that 75 - 90 percent of all the energy your washing machine uses goes to warming up the water so switching to colder water can lower your gas or electric bill. Avoiding using a tumble dryer can also save energy and the quality of your clothes. Hang-drying your clothes keeps the fibres intact, maintaining both the shape and colour longer.



**Rent or borrow clothes instead of buying them.** Buying brand-new clothes encourages the abuse that fast fashion puts

on the planet. Borrowing, renting or buying second hand clothes is beneficial for both the environment and your wallet.



### Ditch cling film.

Replacing your cling film with something more sustainable is an easy way to be more eco-friendly. Wrap made of beeswax is an affordable swap. Ziplock bags are another kitchen evil so opt for

reusable silicone ones instead. Alternatively, use fabric napkins to wrap sandwiches etc. Washable and no waste!



### Change your toothbrush to bamboo.

Currently, 99% of the world's toothbrushes are made with plastic handles that may never breakdown.

Alternatively, bamboo toothbrush handles take around six months to fully compost.



**Reach for a shampoo bar.** Cut back on your plastic use in the bathroom by replacing your several different kinds of shampoo with a single shampoo bar.

The bars are plastic-free and are used just like bar soap. Lather up, put the suds in your hair, and rinse.

*The Benefice of Langelei Environmental Team*

## Composting

**W**hat a load of rubbish. Or is it? Every year UK households throw away some 5 million tonnes of food. All our food waste at home goes on our compost heap together with grass cuttings, non-invasive weeds like buttercups and soft non woody hedge cuttings. Before the days of refuse collection almost every household had a compost heap, well known for its rich source of nutrition for the garden in the form of humus, and for its water retention, owing to its bulking action.

A compost heap should be at least about a metre square with good ventilation and drainage and located somewhere cool and shady. Two heaps are beneficial as turning over puts the top un-rotted material inside the heap. Nature does the rest. Beware - large compost heaps can generate quite a bit of heat - 60° C, enough to kill seeds.

Large quantities of any single material, like grass cuttings, should be spread evenly, not too thickly and covered with a little soil. Some small woody material is beneficial as this helps to aerate the heap and keeps it well drained.

You may find the following reading helpful:

*Composting - How to make compost* / Young People's Trust For the Environment <https://ypte.org.uk/factsheets/composting/how-to-make-compost>

*Composting* / RHS Gardening <https://www.rhs.org.uk/soil-composts-mulches/composting>

*Tim Ward, St. Mary's*



## Hope for the future



In recent years scientists have discovered that if the Earth is not to see another mass extinction event, if not in our lifetime but in the lifetimes of our children, then positive action is needed from individuals as well as groups, countries and companies. It is essential we clean up the ecological state of our planet. I shan't list here all the ways in which this can happen, but over the last month I have witnessed, both locally and much further afield, that action IS being taken and, thankfully, is already having a positive effect.

We live opposite the playing fields for Hobbs Hill Wood schools which are also used occasionally by Longdean, local scouts, guides and others. When I looked out of our front windows on 17th March, I saw a small army of young people, together with adults leading them planting what I estimate to be well over 100 saplings. Some marked the boundary between Longdean and Hobbs Hill, others replaced the established trees which had been cut down in order to build the NEW Longdean school buildings. Even more were planted in the area which abuts the community orchard by Northend. My two pictures above give an idea of their task that day, but in respect for any possible concerns over privacy, I have not included the more close-up views.

Nationally there have been many such schemes, the most prominent being the National Trust's 'Plant a Tree' scheme, and similar schemes run by the Wild Life and Woodland Trust, the Queen's Green Canopy, marking her Platinum



Jubilee, in addition to the earlier Diamond Jubilee Wood, and the BBC's Countryfile 'Plant a Tree' scheme. If you do a computer search, you will find many other similar schemes.

On 19th April, Martin and I set off for North Devon to see his family for the first time since September 2019 due to the Pandemic. The journey generally takes about 4½ – 5 hours and is mostly by motorways. It was a lovely sunny day and I spent most of the journey looking out of the windows to take in the views. Until the pandemic we had done this journey at least once every year since the 1980s, so we know the scenery well. On this occasion many changes were evident, most of them involving the mass planting of trees. Some were obviously young but well established. Others were only recently planted, their tell-tale protective surrounds very obvious. We must have passed many thousands of these trees either in farmers' fields, or in areas adjoining the motorways. As well as the trees, a considerable number of large new areas were covered in solar panels and a growing number of wind-farms were also evident, together with the new less invasive diamond shaped 'T' electricity pylons.

The next day, we set off for Arlington (National Trust) where we were meeting up with Martin's sister, his niece and her husband. It was another glorious day, more like mid-summer than spring. Thanks to a satnav error, we were taken 'all around the Wrekin'. We travelled many miles of typical narrow Devon country roads with high hedgerows dotted with







bluebells, primulas, wild garlic and many more wild flowers. Where I was able to see over the hedgerows, especially where there was higher ground, again there was plenty of evidence of trees planted in very recent years, solar panels instead of crops, occasional wind-turbines and some of the newly designed electricity 'T' pylons. With everything bursting into bloom, and the pale green of leaves starting to emerge, it was something of a magical journey – if a little 'hairy' at times when traffic came the other way.

After reaching Arlington, I drove my 'buggy' in through the main entrance to be met by a very cheery NT gardener / volunteer who informed me he was planting a new patch of wild-flowers to encourage the pollinators. He also pointed out earlier plantings of Camassias which are also loved by bees, butterflies, etc. As we moved closer to the Camassias we could hear the buzz of the insects. It was a glorious day, and really quite hot. The many rhododendrons and azaleas were in full bloom. The NT had set out a scheme for youngsters not just to identify the different kinds of bees, but also to encourage the design of bug hotels. Like the large one shown in my picture on the bottom right of the previous page. Bees and other insects were everywhere, and I was lucky enough to photograph a bee with its proboscis deep in the azalea blossom. I think it might be a Tawny Mining bee.

Thursday dawned and with a beautiful blue sky and plenty of sunshine, was all set for another such day. This time we were meeting up with the family at RHS Rosemoor, where our

niece also works. Like all RHS Gardens it is well worth a visit if you are in North Devon, just outside Great Torrington.

Here too was much evidence of additional tree planting and gardens designed to encourage pollinators. The cherry trees in particular were in full bloom and wonderful to see. Then there were the giant Easter eggs! As at Arlington, this was part of a scheme to get children involved, and, as well as a competition based around the eggs, came with a chance of meeting the Easter Bunny and a flower fairy shown with Martin in my picture below.

We returned home on Friday after a visit to Martin's nephew and his family, who had just returned from a brief break in Cornwall. The journey home was horrendous, taking 7 hours in total, but it was good to be home. Over the last week, and looking through the many photos taken while away, I felt very encouraged that so many groups and individuals were working hard to ensure we can mitigate the problems caused by the human race to the environment. If we continue with the measures I had seen, and more, we should be able to improve things and give our children and grandchildren the chance of a better world. This feeling was increased today (Sunday 8th May) when I looked out of our front window again to see the young saplings planted less than two months ago, which had all burst into leaf, and I thanked God for giving us both the knowledge and the will to work to save this wonderful planet of which we are all a part.

*Barbara Chapman, Holy Trinity*

