



Benefice of Langelei

Welcome to our Benefice Newsletter No.45 for September 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."

Lizzie, James and Jos met Rev'd Alice Jolley and Coral for lunch in August and took the opportunity to ask Alice some questions. Here are her answers:

Tell us about your calling to the priesthood

I first heard God calling me to a specific kind of ministry when I was 14. And then a few years later a new curate arrived in one of our nearby parishes in Scunthorpe. It was the first time I'd ever seen a young woman in a clerical collar. It was as though God was pointing at her, and then back to me, as if to say "Look! Here's what I've been leading you towards. I want you to be a priest." And that was that. I spent a while ignoring it, or convincing myself I could make my own decisions about my life. But that feeling never went away and at university I couldn't ignore it any longer. I was anxious about working in the Church of England, particularly being gay and ordained, but I had some really amazing support and encouragement while I was discerning. I went to BAP just before I sat my finals, and then straight on to train at Westcott House.

How did you meet Coral?

Coral and I met at Durham University while she was studying Maths and I was reading Theology. We first met on a bus from Durham to Whitton Gilbert where we were going for dinner with some mutual friends. Coral will tell you that her first impression of me was that I was 'really weird'. After that evening I couldn't remember Coral's name, but I remembered her saying she'd had pizza for dinner every night of Freshers' week, so I just referred to her as 'Pizza Girl'. About a year later I asked her out on a date, we were engaged a year after that, and had our Civil Partnership a year after that, so ... I might be 'really weird', but she's stuck with me now!



What's your favourite film, and why?

This is an easy question; my favourite film is *Pride* (2014). It's based on the true story of the group of gay and lesbian activists (LGSM) who raised money to support families affected by the miners' strike in 1984. If you remember that time, or if you like 80s music, or unionisation, this film is definitely for you. It tells the story of two very different groups – the Welsh miners and the LGBTQ+ community – who are united in their struggle for justice and dignity. They discover that they have much in common, and that there is power in their union. A striking miner says "When you're in a battle against an enemy so

much bigger, so much stronger than you, to find you have a friend you never knew existed, that's the best feeling in the world." It's also a very funny and heart-warming film, as well as educational and important. I've probably seen it 20 times, and you must watch it immediately!

What's your favourite book, and why?

This is not such an easy question, in fact I think it might be impossible to answer. I own hundreds and hundreds of novels (as the removal company who moved us from Lincoln can attest), not to mention all the other genres of books in our house, and I've read so many amazing books in my lifetime. I don't think I can possibly choose an all-time favourite, but I'd say *The Mirror and The Light* by Hilary Mantel is as close to perfection as any novel I've ever read. It's the final book in the *Wolf Hall* trilogy, charting the rise and fall of Thomas Cromwell at the hands of King Henry VIII. It is staggeringly beautiful and historically precise (which is important to me). Generally, I like crime fiction, (good) historical fiction, travel writing, and the odd romance - though I prefer the ones ending in tragedy. Make of that what you will.



Although this newsletter was prepared for publication on 4th September, we held it over to include a report of Mthr Alice's installation.

During that time we were deeply saddened to hear of the death of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Our churches have responded by opening Books of Condolence, making the churches available for private prayer, and holding commemorative services.

A prayer for Her Late Majesty

Gracious God, we give thanks for the life of your servant Queen Elizabeth, for her faith and her dedication to duty.

Bless our nation as we mourn her death and may her example continue to inspire us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Continued from Page 1

What Saint has most influenced you in your life?

At the risk of sounding partial, it has to be St. Benedict. I'm fascinated by the monastic life, especially the rhythm of prayer and silence and the ordering of different aspects of life: work, rest, play, prayer, community. I love visiting different religious communities and learning from the way they live together and the ideals they strive towards. I think the Church has much to learn from these communities and I would love to see us all embody more of their values. One of the things I most love about Benedict is his balance of firmness with gentleness; growing in our discipleship means being honest with ourselves and with others, it does not mean being overly harsh or punishing. Benedict saw human beings for what they are: in need of guidance and also in need of love. He knew himself to be a flawed human being in constant need of God's grace. And he encourages us to always welcome the stranger as though they were Christ himself. How often can we honestly say we do that?

What person would you like to have dinner with, and why?

Jack Monroe. I'd like to thank her for her huge contribution to fighting food poverty and for teaching me to cook through her first cookbook. And then I'd fleece her for all her best kitchen tips and tricks.

What's your favourite sweet and why?

Peanut butter M&Ms. Sweet, salty, delicious.

What's your favourite holiday destination and why?

Anywhere with excellent beaches, good sea-swimming and hills to climb with vast views. Northumberland ticks all those boxes and I relax as soon as I arrive. I want eventually to travel through Central Asia by train, and Coral wants to see India.

What do you love most about ministry?

I love the variety of parish ministry the most. It encompasses the whole of human life. I love meeting lots of different people and getting to know them, and the privilege of accompanying them at key times in their lives, and I love that we must always expect the unexpected! I think it's the best thing and occasionally the most head-spinning thing about the job, and it's why clergy must take regular breaks.

Finally, what are you looking forward to most in your new role as Team Vicar at St Mary's and St Benedict's?

I can't wait to get stuck in and getting to know these communities. The two churches are right at the heart of things, and I'm really looking forward to us building and strengthening our relationships with our neighbours. We are all stronger when we work together, and I'm so encouraged to hear of the mutual support between the two churches and in the Team more widely. I especially love working with children and families, and I'm excited for all the opportunities for engagement and growth in our ministry with and to them.

Book Fairies

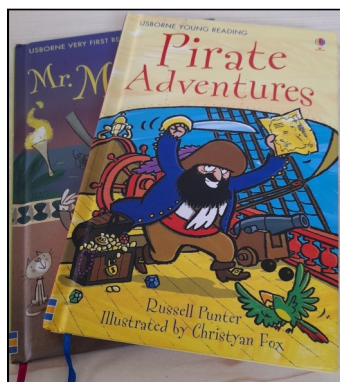
Book Fairies have visited St Mary's. When working in the churchyard on 26th August we found a number of children's books sponsored by local groups and companies.

Book Fairies are people who, when they've finished reading a book they've enjoyed, want a unique and fun way to pass it on to the next person. They pop an official Book Fairy sticker on it, which reads "Take this book, read it and leave it for the next person to enjoy" and may even add a ribbon to dress it up as a gift. Then, when they've prepared their gift, they 'hide' it somewhere in a public place to be found.



...Visit the website <https://ibelieveinbookfairies.com/>

Jean Chrisp, St Mary's



CONTENTS

Lunch with The Rev'd Alice Jolley	1 - 2
A Prayer for the Late Queen Elizabeth II	2
Book Fairies	3
Contents	3
Contacts	3
C of E Routemap to Net Zero Carbon by 2030	4
Services and Events	5 - 6
Beer and Fizz Festival at All Saints'	7
Leafmould	7
Heaven Sent - or Heaven Scent?	8
All Saints' Church in the Wild	9
Safeguarding Awareness	9
Sharpen your Saw	9
News from Holy Trinity	10
Meeting of the Deanery Synod	11
Holy Trinity Strawberry Tea	11
St Albans Pilgrimage to Taize	12
News from All Saints	13
St Mary's Christmas Bazaar	13
Christian Aid Emergency Appeal for East Africa	14
The Benefice of Langelei Newsletter	14
Thank you Jean and Mike	15
Ends	15
Friends of All Saints Quiz Night (Poster)	15
Autumn Concert at St Benedict's (Poster)	15
Licensing of The Rev'd Alice Jolley	16

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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

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ALL SAINTS, KINGS LANGLEY

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BENEFICE NEWSLETTER

Vacant

The Church of England Routemap to Net Zero Carbon by 2030

The six eastern cathedrals at Chelmsford, Ely, Norwich, Peterborough, St Albans and St Edmundsbury held a Zoom Eco Churches conference on Saturday 18th June. The 1st plenary by A Rocha UK CEO Andy Atkins was about the ECO churches initiative; our four churches are registered. It was good to be reminded of the Christian, bible-based reasons for churches and their congregations leading the way on climate change. The Paris conference set a limit for global temperature rise to 1.5°C. However, we are already at 1.1°C and heading for 2.5°C, which will be catastrophic. We need to reduce CO₂ emissions drastically; then we will exceed 1.5°C for a while but get back below 1.5°C rise by the end of the century. This is vital regardless of major problems we face due to Covid, the war in Ukraine and inflation. Key ways include eating less meat, stopping de-forestation, planting trees and switching from fossil fuels to renewable energy sources. The C of E, aiming for zero carbon by 2030 (just 8 years away now!), is demonstrating God's love for us and creation. Ideally we will act ourselves and encourage our communities to join in too.

Caroline Pomeroy, Director of Climate Stewards, also emphasised the effects of climate change; e.g. 30% of species extinction which wouldn't have happened without humans. She said we should spend more time talking about this in our churches. A Green Bible has been published which has 2000 passages about creation, harvest, etc. printed in green. She said where we often translate or refer to humans, the original Greek meant all creation and creatures. Thus, e.g. God's covenant with Noah was for all creation and in Colossians 1:20 the all things, as vs 16 -20 make clear, means all creatures are reconciled to God through the (Jesus') blood of his cross. Those saying we should be saving souls, not species are misreading the Greek text; to love your neighbour as yourself applies to our non-human neighbours as well. Our witness is important, especially robust, proximate hope. She quoted Rob Frost: when Christians take the earth seriously people will take Christianity seriously. Carbon offsetting is a legitimate and essential part of achieving net zero carbon. Even though we might aim to live simply that ALL may simply live we need to

keep warm, eat cooked food and use our cars. We could, e.g., send £60 p.a. to climate stewards to offset our car's CO₂ emissions. Trees planted overseas in a climate where they grow faster while benefiting the local community is perfectly legitimate (see C of E Routemap, details below).



In plenary 3 Nigel Walters, architect, spoke of the practicalities of achieving net zero in our churches as centres of worship in our communities. His view is that conservation means seeing change as a good thing, seeing the church as having a present and future role in its community. The DAC should be our friend. If the quinquennial only considers the building and not your place in the community consider changing your architect! While replacing the boiler with a heat pump or an electric boiler and buying

renewable electricity would get us half way to net zero carbon, better to start with practicalities. Clear gutters – damp buildings feel colder. Create smaller spaces. Heat people rather than buildings, especially if only in use a few hours a week; e.g. try the sort of heating blanket developed for outdoors.

Subsequently I received this: The updated Routemap to Net Zero Carbon. It was emailed to all Synod members on 23rd June. A short link to the new Routemap webpage is <https://www.churchofengland.org/net-zero-carbon-routemap> The full link is <https://www.churchofengland.org/about/environment-and-climate-change/net-zero-carbon-routemap> . The 50-page Routemap doc is a pdf, downloadable from the webpage, or found directly here https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2022-06/nzc_2030_routemap_june22.pdf It is well worth a browse. It endorses much of what is reported above. E.g. for most smaller churches, heated only a few hours per week or month, the carbon footprint is already very low. Here, good maintenance is key: looking after the roof, gutters, windows, and doors, and tackling the causes of damp. The positivity is heartwarming and, we are told, is a great mission opportunity as well as something we can all get involved in.

Bob Day, pp the Benefice Environment Team.

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 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
	3rd Wednesday	10.00am Mothers Union Corporate Communion
Thursdays	9.00am	Morning Prayer
	10.00am	Toddler's Church - Term time only
	2.45pm	Collective Worship at Leverstock Green School - 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

September

Wednesday 7th	2.00pm	Craft group resumes
	7.45pm	PCC meeting
Thursday 8th	10.00am	Toddler's Church resumes
Tuesday 27th	8.00pm	Team Council meeting

October

Saturday 1st	7.30pm	Harvest Concert and supper
Sunday 2nd	10.00am	Harvest Festival
Monday 3rd	10.00am	Leverstock Green School Harvest Service in church
Tuesday 18th	8.00pm	Deanery Synod
Sunday 30th	10.00am	All Saints Sunday

November

Sunday 6th	3.00pm	Service of Thanksgiving and Remembrance
Wednesday 9th	7.45pm	PCC meeting
Saturday 12th	7.30pm	Parish Quiz at Leverstock Green School
Sunday 13th	10.55am	Act of Remembrance at War Memorial
Sunday 20th	6.30pm	Deanery Confirmation Service - venue TBA
Sunday 27th	10.00am	Advent Sunday

Advance Notices for December

Saturday 3rd	Nativity Crib Festival and Light up a Life Service
Sunday 4th	Nativity Crib Festival

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

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

ALL SAINTS, KINGS LANGLEY - SPECIAL SERVICES AND EVENTS

September

Friday 23rd	7.30pm	Friends of All Saints Autumn Quiz, Kings Langley Community Centre (see page 15)
Friday 30th	12 noon - 11.00pm	Kings Langley Beer and Fizz Festival begins - Over 18s (see page 7)

October

Saturday 1st - Sunday 2nd		Kings Langley Beer and Fizz Festival continues (see page 7)
Saturday 1st	12 noon - 11.00pm	Kings Langley Beer and Fizz Festival - Over 18s
Sunday 2nd	12 noon - 5.00pm	Family Day - Kings Langley Beer and Fizz Festival
Sunday 2nd	9.30am	All age Eucharist of harvest
Sunday 23rd	9.30am	Team Eucharist at St Mary's Apsley (no service at All Saints)
Sunday 30th	9.30am	Patronal Festival Eucharist
Sunday 30th	TBC	Patronal Festival Choral Evensong

November

Friday 11th	11.00am	Service at the War Memorial in the churchyard
Sunday 13th	9.30am	Eucharist on Remembrance Day
Sunday 13th	3.00pm	Civic Remembrance Service at the War Memorial
Saturday 26th	TBC	Kings Langley Christmas Light switch on

Advance Notice for December

Friday 9th - Sunday 11th	Christmas Tree Festival
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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
	9.30am	Morning Prayer or Eucharist
	10.00am - 12noon	Food Bank open
	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

September

Sunday 18th	3.00pm	Messy Church - Harvest
Wednesday 21st	7.30pm	Joint PCC at St Benedict's

October

Sunday 2nd	9.30am	Harvest
Sunday 16th	3.00pm	Messy Church:

November

Saturday 19th	10.00am - 1.00pm	Christmas Bazaar (see page 13)
Sunday 20th	3.00pm	Messy church
Sunday 20th	6.30pm	Deanery Confirmation venue TBA

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

September

Wednesday 21st	7.30pm	Joint PCC at St Benedict's
Wednesday 28th	7.00 for 7.15pm	Concert with UkeRythmics and The Sitting Room Singers (see page 15)

Beer & Fizz Festival 30th September - 2nd October 2022

Next month, Kings Langley is preparing to launch the village's first ever Beer & Fizz Festival with more than 24 real ales and a range of champagnes and sparkling wines on offer. The three-day festival is planned from Friday 30th September until Sunday 2nd October when attendees can sample ales from local breweries and across the country. Cider, lager and soft drinks will also be available as well as a selection of alcohol-free options and food stalls.

The event will be split into two parts: first, 12pm - 11pm Friday and Saturday for Over-18s, then a Family Fun Day 12pm - 5pm on Sunday. Dozens of local businesses have pledged to sponsor different aspects of the event while inside, All Saints Church in Church Lane will be transformed into a community space with a bar and music..

Organiser Chris Hughes said: *"This is the first time we've undertaken the ambitious task of holding a Beer and Fizz Festival in the village, but it's shaping up very nicely."*

"Thanks to the generous sponsorship of so many local businesses we will be able to raise much needed funds for charity, which is fantastic."

"We have a strong team of volunteers already willing to help but I'd appeal for anyone who would like to donate some of their time to help man the bar to get in touch!"

Profits raised from the event will be used to support both DENS, the Dacorum charity that houses, supports and empowers vulnerable homeless people, and All Saints Church which relies entirely on charitable donations to stay operational.



KINGS LANGLEY BEER & FIZZ FESTIVAL

30th SEPT - 2nd OCT

FRI & SAT
12-11PM
OVER 18S ONLY

SUNDAY
12-5PM
FAMILY DAY
BOUNCY CASTLE & GAMES

24 REAL ALES
RANGE OF FIZZ

CIDER & LAGER,
ALCOHOL FREE OPTIONS
SOFT DRINKS
FOOD STALLS

AT ALL SAINTS CHURCH, & GROUNDS WD4 8JS

£4 ENTRY
KIDS GO FREE

KLBEERANDFIZZ.CO.UK

Visitors will be charged £4 entry, and will be asked to pay a £5 deposit for a commemorative pint glass. Those wishing to keep their glass will see their deposit donated to DENS.

For more information visit the website at www.klbeerandfizz.co.uk

Leafmould

Leafmould consists of decayed leaves and is of great value in gardening. It forms an important ingredient of soil composts used in the cultivation of pots and, if mixed with heavy clayey land, helps to make it friable and more easily cultivated. Leafmould makes an ideal mulch or soil covering for Rhododendron, Azalea and other shrubs which need to be kept cool and moist at the root in dry weather. It is a necessary ingredient of soil for hardy Ferns, hardy Primulas and many other plants that like a good cool root run.

Leafmould is of particular value for use as a mulch on light land which dries out quickly in hot weather. If sifted leafmould is put on the lawn in February it benefits the soil and promotes growth of the finer grasses.

Leafmould is invaluable in gardens, adds to the store of humus or decayed vegetable matter in the soil and may be regarded as a useful substitute for farmyard manure in that respect. Smaller deciduous leaves like Oak and Beech, etc are best for leafmould. Larger leaves are best put on the compost. For potting, mix $\frac{1}{3}$ leafmould to $\frac{2}{3}$ fine soil and a little sand.

If you're wondering what the circular Hazel pens are for in our churchyard, we collect leaves and make our own leafmould.

More information can be found on the RHS website. <https://www.rhs.org.uk/soil-composts-mulches/leaf-mould>

Tim Ward, St Mary's

Heaven Sent - or Heaven Scent?

My title for these notes is inspired by *Heaven Made*, a BBC documentary series in which a nun makes perfume and soap which the local shop advertises as 'Heavenly Scent'.

I love watching, reading and listening to crime stories and mysteries, more especially those now featured as 'cosy crime mysteries' which I believe refers to stories involving a murder without gratuitous blood and gore, bad language and explicit sex. Check <https://www.iheartbritishtv.com/20-cosy-british-mystery-shows-for-british-tv-fans-who-like-their-mysteries-mild/>

Beginning with G.K. Chesterton's *Father Brown* stories, I have enjoyed many books, films and television programmes involving religion or a religious character - priest, vicar, monk or nun - who normally solves the crime. The following is my list of these stories that I have come across over the years, most of which I'm happy to watch or read again and again. I hope to introduce you to at least one book or series which you may not have already discovered. Check on-line for second hand items if what you seek is currently out of print.

An Island Parish / A Country Parish / A Seaside Parish

TV (BBC1 and currently still available on I-Player)

Extremely interesting and informative, they all involve clergy from the Church of England, Methodist and Roman Catholic parishes, and cover many areas of the UK, including the Island British Overseas Territory of Anguilla and the Falkland Islands.

See https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/An_Island_Parish for information on all 12 series and all 77 episodes.

Heaven Made

TV (BBC and currently still available on I-Player)

Fascinating programmes showing various crafts hand-made by Benedictine monks and nuns for sale to help maintain their local communities.

Brother Cadfael Mysteries by Ellis Peters

Book, Audible, Radio, TV (ITV), DVD

Currently re-showing on the Freeview Drama Channel.

Starring Derek Jacobi and filmed between 1994 and 1998 at a medieval monastery in Hungary they're brilliant and follow the books very well. The BBC also produced an excellent radio drama series based on the books which is available on cassettes.

Sister Fidelma Mysteries by Peter Tremayne

Book, Audible

I first came across *Absolution by Murder*, the first book in the series, about 30 years ago and soon found I couldn't put it down as not only was I enjoying the story but I was

learning so much about The Synod of Whitby in 666 AD, the Celtic church in Ireland and England and the Roman Church of that time. The audiobooks are brilliantly narrated. The 33rd book, *Death of a Heretic*, has just been published (2nd. August).

Sister Boniface Mysteries by Simon Cann

Book, TV (ITV 1921)

This brilliant series is currently re-running on the Freeview Drama Channel. With lots of humour, it was a wonderful antidote to Covid and I foresee it running for many years.

Father Brown by G.K. Chesterton

Although I enjoyed the books many years ago, it is the BBC TV series which now has me hooked. Great fun, the cast is superb and evokes the era very well.

Grantchester by Robert Runcie

These short stories and novels written by James Runcie, son of Robert Runcie, former Archbishop of Canterbury, are set in the 1970s and have recently been dramatised on ITV. They're more up to date than the other series but don't have the humour of *Father Brown* or *Sister Boniface*.

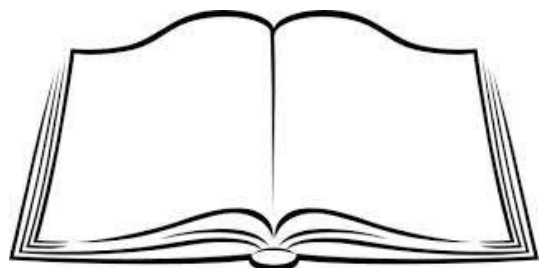
Matthew Bartholomew Series by Susanna Gregory

Book, Audible

Set at Michaelhouse College in medieval Cambridge, these stories concern physician Matthew Bartholomew and his colleague Brother Michael who solve crimes in 14th century Cambridge. David Thorpe's narration of the audio books is excellent. Published in 1996, *A Plague on Both Your Houses* was the first in the series. The most recent, published last year (2021), is *The Chancellor's Secret*. If you like historical fiction I think you will greatly enjoy this series.

Over the decades there have been several other 'clergy' series, including adaptations of classic books, and comedy series including *All Gas and Gaiters* which features St. Albans Cathedral as the fictional St Ogg's. Another is *Oh Brother* starring Derek Nimo. Other crime series involving clergy will be revealed by an on-line search, one of the most recent being *Rev*.

Barbara Chapman., Holy Trinity.



All Saints Church in the Wild

The monthly Church in the Wild group met on 7th August for their annual summer party. The theme was summer fun, and fun was certainly had by all. We made pizzas, held didi car races, enjoyed fancy dress, played with a mud kitchen and sandpit and finished with garden parachute games courtesy of Mr Keith Gower.

Church in the Wild is held at All Saints at 10.45am on the first Sunday of the month. The session starts with coffee and biscuits in the hall until 11.15am when we move into the church garden. Suitable for all ages but aimed at children, we normally have a story or a bible reading followed by an activity to involve the children. Recently we have built animals out of vegetables, constructed a bug hotel, and made shelters for teddies from branches and foliage. We usually finish with an ever-popular campfire for toasting marshmallows and flat breads, with hot drinks in cooler months.



The next Church in the Wild is being held on Sunday 4th September. Do come and join us, all are welcome!

Eleanor Hughes, All Saints

Safeguarding Awareness

Do you need to know more about safeguarding?

With Diocesan agreement, Lynne, the Parish Safeguarding Officer at All Saints has designed a 'light touch' safeguarding course for anyone who volunteers at church including those who do Saturday Cafe, refreshments or any other church duties. Not equivalent to the Basic Awareness course, it includes a brief introduction to safeguarding / what is safeguarding? What to do, how to



react and how to report and work alone safely.

This course will last for a about an hour and will be held in September. Lynne is planning to run face to face courses for Basic Awareness, Foundations and Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse in October with agreement from the Diocese. If you are interested please contact / speak to me.

Susan Rivett, St Mary's

Sharpen your Saw

A woodcutter strained to saw down a tree. A young man who was watching asked "What are you doing?"

"Can't you see?" replied the woodcutter, "I'm cutting down this tree."

Unabashed, the young man said "You look exhausted! Take a break. Sharpen your saw."

The woodcutter told his onlooker he'd been sawing for hours and had no time to take a break.

The young man replied "If you sharpen the saw, you'd cut down the tree much faster."

The woodcutter protested "I don't have time to sharpen the saw. Can't you see I'm too busy?"

To be effective, we must devote time to renewing ourselves physically, spiritually, mentally, and socially.

Jean Chrisp, St Mary's

Inspired by Stephen Covey's 'Seven Habits of Highly Effective People'

News from Holy Trinity

Patronal Barbecue

On 12th June we had a wonderful barbecue in the churchyard - the first for three years. It was a joyous occasion with many folk from the congregation and neighbours joining to celebrate our Patronal Day - AND it didn't rain! As ever, our hardworking committee supplied a wonderful spread with sausages and burgers from David Clarke our local butcher, plus a vegan option, and scrumptious home made puds were donated by our members. It was wonderful to be together doing something normal and getting back into the rhythm of life.



Leverstock Green Village Fete

On a very warm Saturday in July, we participated in the local village fete - the first for three years - selling crafts, Holy Trinity merchandising and giving out leaflets and information about our services. Although disappointed not to get a place in the best decorated stall (after a long run of success, we had to let someone else win this year) we welcomed many people to our stall and it was joy to be supporting the Leverstock Green Village Association.



Leverstock Green Church of England Primary School Fete

It was lovely to be at the busy school fete on 18th June, even though the temperature had dropped by about 15 degrees overnight. We had a very successful day raising much needed funds by organising a bottle tombola and homemade cake stall.



Summer Fun Day

On 23rd July we had a proper old fashioned fete in the churchyard with a bouncy castle, ice cream van, whack the rat (no animals were hurt during the playing of this game), face painting, cake stall, bottle tombola, crafts, refreshments and lots of games and fun. We were supported by the fantastic Jolly Jazzers who played live music throughout the afternoon and made the event go with a real swing. The weather was perfect and despite lots of local events during recent weeks, many folk from the village and surrounding area came along.



Although not a fund-raising project - we just wanted families and neighbours to enjoy the fun - we were able to report a healthy profit.

*Gillian Redman,
Holy Trinity*



Meeting of the Deanery Synod.



What an interesting and varied meeting we had on Tuesday 28th June at All Saints Church in Kings Langley! Following the usual business matters, apologies, minutes, and so on, we welcomed Canon Malcolm Grant from the Beds and Herts Historic Churches Trust who gave an interesting and informative talk about the purpose and work of the Trust. He explained how to apply for grants for restoration or repair work on our beautiful churches which can be of any age to be suitable for grants. His talk was followed by questions and answers and Peter Bladon was able to share his experiences of grant application.

We noted that St Mary's participates in the annual Bike 'n' Hike event which raises funds for the Trust from sponsorship. Monies raised from this event are shared equally between the Trust and the churches taking part.

After sharing news from our various parishes and hearing the treasurer's report we enjoyed a glass of Prosecco or fruit juice before making our way to the bottom of the churchyard to experience Church in the Wild. Led by Rev'd. James McDonald and Jaime Roberts we learned how Church in the Wild works and the involvement of the children and families.

A fire pit was lit and we kept it going with sticks. Jaime read Julie Donaldson's children's story *The Smartest Giant in Town* with interaction from the rest of us. We enjoyed toasting marshmallows and sharing them with each other. The meeting concluded with the Grace said together around the firepit and we all agreed this had been an enjoyable meeting with a difference.

Vivian Hagel, St Mary's

Holy Trinity Strawberry Tea

This year, for the first time since 2019, we were able to hold our Strawberry Tea in August.

In previous years we've worried whether rain would spoil the afternoon but not this year which turned out to be on one of the hottest days this summer. A few decided it was just too hot to sit in our garden but more than thirty joined us to enjoy home baked cakes and scones with clotted cream and jam washed down with tea, followed by strawberries and cream.



This August, Breast Cancer Care suggested their supporters hold an afternoon tea to raise funds for them. It's such a worthwhile charity and one that is close to my heart having close friends that have suffered.

Thanks to the generosity of our lovely guests we were absolutely delighted to have raised £201!

Beverley Burgess

St Albans Pilgrimage to Taize



At 5.00am on Sunday 24th July we left St Albans in a mini bus on our way to Folkestone and met up with the other mini bus which had left London at a similar time. You may recall that it was the very hot day when the British population decided to go to Folkestone so we joined a 6-hour queue to catch our train, eventually landed in Calais at 4.00pm, started the drive to the Taize community in Burgundy, arriving at 1.00am. Fortunately, they had set us up with a dormitory so we didn't have to put up our tents in the middle of the night, for which we were hugely thankful.

Having been unable to go for the last two years, it was amazing to be back in Taize. Our group of 15 young adults which included Anglicans and Methodists joined the 1,500 other young people there from all over the world, fewer than in previous years when there had been up to 4,000 young people. It was nice not being so full and busy this year. Our little group were amazing and everyone got on brilliantly. We set up our camp site on the Monday and everyone threw themselves straight into the daily routine:

8.20	Morning prayer
9.00	Breakfast
10.00	Bible study
11.00 - 12.00	Quiet reflection or discussion group
12.20	Midday prayer
13.00	Lunch
14.00	Discussion group or jobs
16.00	We met up as a group to catch up with one another
19.00	Supper
20.20	Evening prayer
21.30	Meet at Oyak (the bar)



It was lovely to be back in the church at the centre of the community, immersed in the beautiful music. This year's Bible talks were exceptional. The one I attended was led by Brother Matthew. The theme was *Becoming Creators of Unity* with the usual six proposals (one for each day) for everyone to reflect on and discuss.

The talks prompted some fascinating discussions within the group. The fantastic range of different views and perspectives was great as it made our learning and discussions that much more interesting.

The food was as expected (!) – mostly identifiable by colour but edible and filling. On the final Saturday we went into Cormatin for lunch and then left around 11.00am on Sunday, after the Holy Communion Service, arriving back in St Albans at midnight.

It was again a very special week where we all learnt more about God, our faith, our relationship with God and our relationship with one another.

Now we start planning for our trip in 2023, probable dates Sunday 30th July - Sunday 6th August. If camping is not your thing, next year we are planning to have the option of camping or sleeping in a dormitory. Taize is open to all young people between the ages of 15-35yrs. Next year's likely cost will be about £250-£300 for the week including all food and travel. Diocesan grants are available for anyone who would like to go but is unable to afford the cost.

Email: josperris@hotmail.com if you want to know more about Taize or if you'd like to be kept in touch about the plans for the St Albans Diocesan Taize Trip 2023.

Rev'd Jos Perris

News from All Saints

Emerging from the Pandemic which has restricted our activities in so many ways, we have been delighted to be involved with two face-to-face events so far this year.

Race Night

On 27th May, again at Kings Langley Community Centre, more than 40 people enjoyed the thrills of attending a race meeting – well, almost, as the runners and riders come alive via a projection screen and a running commentary! Skilfully managing to replicate the excitement of a real race meeting, the event was expertly compered by Paul Grew who has an excellent ‘track’ record with ASKL in helping us raise funds. Eight races were screened with ‘punters’ invited to back their favourite horses and encouraged to purchase horses, thereby offering the potential to increase their winnings. Everyone had a thoroughly good evening with some even winning (!) although the tote and the race organisers declared a profit in excess of £500 for the church fabric kitty.

Kings Langley Carnival

On 25th June, this annual event in the Kings Langley social calendar for many years has been enthusiastically supported by members of All Saints, this year being no exception. Our fund-raising team ran a very successful tombola raising just over £400 for church funds and meeting with many villagers, with whom we were able to share the good news of our activities at All Saints.

Forthcoming Events

On Friday 23rd September, our ever-popular Quiz Night will be held at the Kings Langley Community Centre. Including the three successful Zoom quizzes held during 2021, this annual event in the Kings Langley social calendar raises funds for the fabric upkeep of our historic church.

A wine-tasting evening is planned for November. As with so many of our events, these not only raise much needed funds but also draw in villagers from outside the church. It is on these occasions where our mission and welcoming are just as important as within the walls of our church building.

If you'd like to take part, especially if you'd like to enter a team, please contact Brian McAdam on 01923 266667 or Clare China on 01923 592005. It would be great if we had a couple of teams from Holy Trinity and St Mary's / St Benedict's to show what you can do against All Saints'!

It is now 25 years since FOAS was formed in response to the need to raise around £40,000 to finance urgent repairs to the Church Tower which were successfully carried out during 1988. Since its inception FOAS has raised around £250,000 to finance other key projects including roof repairs to the church and church hall, a new heating system, disabled access and more recently, new disabled toilets and a full refurbishment of the church vestry.

Looking after and maintaining a historic building, parts of which date back to the 13th century, does not come cheaply and funds have been raised over the years in various ways, including Quiz Nights, Race Nights, Concerts, Barn Dances, Wine Tastings, Sponsored Walks (including the Three Peaks Challenge and Coast to Coast), Fashion Shows, Flower Arranging Demonstrations, Grants, Direct Appeals and a thriving Membership Scheme. We have held two Grand Balls which raised more than £10,000. FOAS is also remembered by parishioners and villagers in their Wills

A lot of effort is involved in fund raising but it can be and very often is good fun and a great way to cultivate community spirit and a sense of mission within our church. It should be remembered that the events held are designed to appeal to the village of Kings Langley in general and not just the regular church-going community. The church building and its upkeep is the responsibility of the entire village, whereas the day-to-day cost of running the church is the responsibility of the church parishioners under their Stewardship Pledging.

Brian McAdam, Chairman, Friends of All Saints

St Mary's Christmas Bazaar

Christmas is coming and hopefully, for the first time in more than three years we will be holding a Christmas Bazaar on Saturday 19th November between 10am – 1pm. Please put this important event in your diaries and tell your family and friends about it. We're hoping again for a good financial result so that we can meet our budget for the year without having to dip into our reserves yet again. It will also be a good chance to get as many of our local community back into the church building, so we can show them that our church is still very much alive and active in both Apsley and Nash Mills.

We're hoping to have a meeting for all stall holders and those willing to help at the end of September. More details concerning this will appear in the weekly Bulletin. Meanwhile, think about what you can do to help and please do speak to either me or Rosemary about any ideas or help you will be willing to offer.

Thank you for your support and remember the date: Saturday 19th November.

Rosemary and Peter Bladon, St Mary's.

Christian Aid Launches Emergency Appeal for East Africa

We have known a little of what a drought feels like this summer. Looking out on dried-up gardens and landscapes with news of problems caused by water shortages. So, we can understand something of what it is like in parts of the world where the situation is far worse such as in East Africa.



"The ongoing drought is causing water scarcity, alarming rates of malnutrition and mass displacement and has led to the deaths of more than seven million livestock, causing the collapse of markets. By September, the drought could leave 20 million

severely food insecure and there are concrete warnings that the October - December rains might fail. Irrespective, severe humanitarian needs will persist throughout 2022-2023".

Christian Aid has launched an appeal for those suffering from extreme drought in the horn of Africa, especially South Sudan, Somalia, and Ethiopia. In reply to a letter from Paul Tucker, Chair of Christian Aid in Kings Langley, Vicky Ford MP, Minister for Africa, Latin America, and the Caribbean said:

"Across East Africa millions are facing huge pressures due to an unprecedented fourth consecutive season of failed rains, conflict (including the impact of Russia's invasion of Ukraine) COVID -19 and flooding. It is extremely concerning that across East Africa over 48 million people face severe food insecurity, of which 700,000 are facing famine-like conditions in South Sudan, Somalia and Ethiopia.

Christian Aid is working through local partners to respond in Ethiopia and Kenya. Together they are helping over 300,000 people by repairing wells, distributing water purification kits, providing cash support, and trucking water to drought affected communities as well as providing fodder and medicine to keep valuable livestock alive. Please do consider supporting this appeal. For information and to donate, please visit: <https://tinyurl.com/KLDrought> . Please also include these people in your prayers and pray for wisdom for those deciding how best to use the monies raised.

Paul Tucker, Chair, Christian Aid in Kings Langley

The Benefice of Langelei Newsletter

In June 2019 we became editors of the newsletter. That and the September issues contained articles about a visit to the Holy Land. An amazing experience for those who went and for us to prepare the report. We also learnt about Embrace the Middle East, a charity based in Amersham which we now support. In the September 2019 issue we introduced ourselves.

Looking back, since then many church events have been advertised and reported in the newsletter including 150 year and 170 year celebrations, Christmas tree festivals, Angel festivals, Flower festivals, Quiz nights, Christmas Bazaars, and Breakfast with Santa to name a few.

We have published articles about Lent courses, retreats, quiet days, poems with illustrations by Katharine Harper, messy church, Christian Aid information, reports of youngsters' first communion and, more recently, confirmations. We love the bug hotel in Kings Langley and are making a 'dead hedge' at home for our wild life.

During lockdown there was community outreach, lockdown thoughts, many splendid photographs, the creation of food banks and the start of the environmental group.

We have included sad farewells, exciting welcomes and a very special wedding at Holy Trinity.

There have been thought provoking articles about disability awareness, organ donations, Christians against poverty and more recently COP 26.

It has been an enjoyable privilege to prepare so many interesting contributions for publication in the Benefice Newsletter. We are very grateful to everyone who has contributed during the last three years and hope you will continue to support the newsletter. All issues are available on the website:

<https://beneficeoflangelei.org.uk/benefice-newsletters/>

Jean Chrisp, St Mary's

On behalf of the Langelei Team I would like to offer huge thanks to Jean and Mike Chrisp as they lay down the role of editors of this Newsletter.

They have worked extremely hard to make it an



interesting and action packed publication, a worthy 'shop front' for our churches, and a unifying thread for our team. We thank them for their professionalism and commitment.

Rev'd Lizzie Hood

Ends

Written by Mr John Salter (1810-1900)

*I have a friend,
Lives at some End,
In Hertfordshire I know;
Can you, my friend,
Tell me the End,
That I may quickly go?
Native:
Of places, friend,
That are called End,
We have a score or so;
To which to send
My worthy friend,
I really do not know.*

*There's Holtsmere End,
And Revel End,
Bennetts End by the kiln;
And Potten End,
And Harpers End,
And Bourne End by the mill,
There's Piccotts End.
And Water End,
Stags End by Gaddesden Row;
Wards End on high,
Bods End close by,
Bury Mill End down low,
There's Gossoms End,*

*And Warners End,
And Fields End in between;
Redbourn Church End,
And Wood Lane End,
And Green End on the green,
There's Snatchups End,
And Frogmore End
And Moor End in a row.
And now my friend
Choose your own end,
And say farewell and go.*

Submitted by Susan Rivett, St Mary's



GATHER THE GANG AND GET COMPETITIVE!

QUIZ NIGHT

IN AID OF THE FRIENDS OF ALL SAINTS

Friday 23 September | 7:30 PM for 8 PM start
Kings Langley Community Centre

Tickets £13 including a light supper
Call 01923 266667
or 01923 592005 to book your spot

Full bar available



AUTUMN CONCERT

at St Benedict's, Bennetts End
Peascroft Road, Hemel Hempstead HP3 8EP



by the UkeRythmics
and The Sitting Room Singers

Wednesday September 28th

Refreshments served from 7.00pm
Concert starts at 7.15pm

This is a free, unticketed concert aimed at welcoming in a new phase in St Ben's and St Mary's mission. There will be a retiring collection towards church repairs. For more information, contact Bob Day 01442 737 494 or bob.day@sky.com



Licensing of The Revd. Alice Jolley

More than 100 people from the churches in the Team came together on the evening of Tuesday 6th September to welcome Mother Alice to her new role as Team Vicar of St Benedict's and St Mary's. As Bishop Alan pointed out (somewhat triumphantly!), Alice has in fact returned to St Albans Diocese where she previously spent a year as a Root at the Abbey - just as Fr James did.

The service was a joyful occasion, with a joint choir and an impressive supply of cake - proof that people from across the Team are grateful for Alice's arrival and the many gifts she has to offer. Bishop Alan preached on the theme of generosity and reflected on his attendance at the recent Lambeth Conference, where Bishops in apparently more challenging situations elsewhere in the world asked what they could do to help us to spread the Gospel here in the UK. Also during the service, key members of the local community expressed how much they are looking forward to working with Alice in the coming months and years. Alice's warmth shone through during the service and afterwards, and we are in no doubt that she will be a well-loved figure both within the Team and in the local community.

We are also delighted to welcome Alice's partner, Coral, and wish her luck as she, too, settles into a new home and a new job.

Rachel McDonald, All Saints

