



Benefice of Langelei

Welcome to our Benefice Newsletter No.42 for December 2021

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

Inspiration

Dear friends, I was recently inspired by burial mounds. Not just in general(!), but specifically the burial mounds at Sutton Hoo in Suffolk, resting place of the Anglo-Saxon royalty of 7th century East Anglia. In 1939, Edith Pretty commissioned local archaeologist Basil Brown to excavate the mounds on her land. Little did they know that not only would they literally strike gold (which would-be grave robbers had failed to do) but the dig would uncover a find of international importance: a magnificent ship burial, thought to be that of King Radwald of East Anglia, who died in 624. The whole site was then more thoroughly excavated and examined with modern equipment in the 1980s and 90s.

The finds - from the famous helmet (pictured) to two spoons marked PAULOS (Paul) and SAULOS (Saul) - the story of the digs, the other burials of Anglo-Saxon royals on the site, the sheer ancientness of it and the fact that so much light could be thrown on the past and on our understanding of it was all really inspiring. But probably most inspiring was the volunteer guide who gave us a tour. All you can see is a few grass-covered mounds, many of which, having eroded away, are barely perceptible. But her enthusiasm and knowledge made the place come alive. She was inspiring, I think because it is a place that inspires her.

Inspires is a great word. It means to encourage in someone an ability or desire to do, or be, or feel something. But it also means to inhale, to breathe in. It is a word we associate with the Holy Spirit in Christian theology. The Holy Spirit is the breath of



God's creative fire, God's powerful, loving encouragement to be and to act as God's people, and to know and to feel God's love. The things that inspire us, that fire us, that light sparks of joy and rightness in us, are things of the Spirit of God. The interests and gifts and skills that can bring joy to us and to others.

In his Second Letter to Timothy, St Paul wrote: *"I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands; for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline."* (2 Tim. 6-7). St Paul reminds Timothy to rekindle or 'stir up'

the gift of God within in him, to stir up his inspiration. It's a reminder to us to rekindle our own gifts, the things that inspire us and that we can use to inspire others - the things in which the Spirit of love and power is at work. I wonder what your inspirations are, what fires you, what sparks joy in you? I wonder what inspiration you are being called to share with other people?

I'm writing this on 'Stir up Sunday' (aka Christ the King), the traditional collect for which goes: *"Stir up, O Lord, we beseech thee, the wills of thy faithful people, that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may of thee be plenteously rewarded."* As the church year comes to an end and we enter the season of Advent and Christmas and look ahead to a new year, we take with us the call to be stirred up, to be inspired, to be re-kindled. Breathe in the breath of God's Spirit. Breathe out your inspiration to others. Wishing you a holy Advent and a joyful Christmas.

Richard and Katherine's Farewell



Richard and Katherine's Farewell

A very special service of songs of praise on the retirement of Richard Howlett was held on 29th September at St. Benedict's Church. 'We wish Richard and Katherine every blessing for a happy retirement.'

- 1: We're not quite sure what you call a group of Clergy!
- 2: David Heath Organist, a good friend of St Benedict's.
- 3: Intercessions were led by Enitan Onabamiro, Churchwarden at St. Benedict's and Bob Day, Reader based at St. Benedict's.
- 4: Richard and Katherine at St Mary's 150th Celebrations.
- 5: The hymns were mainly chosen and introduced by Richard and Katherine.
- 6: Hymn chosen and introduced by The Rev'd Carol Camp, Hon. Assistant Priest based at St. Benedict's.
- 7: First reading was given by Bob Day: Genesis 28 v10 - 17.
- 8: Hymn chosen and introduced by Tim Ward, Deputy Warden at St. Mary's.
- 9: Second reading was given by Susan Rivett, Parish Safety Officer for St Mary's and St. Benedict's: John 1 v47- end.
- 10: Farewell and presentation of a gift by The Rev'd Michael Macey, Rural Dean.

- 11: Farewells and presentations of gifts were led by The Rev'd Lizzie Hood, Team Rector.
- 12: Sylvia Low, Warden at St. Mary's.
- 13: Fr. James McDonald, Team Vicar at All Saints.
- 14: Alison Murray, St. Benedict's.

Photos 1-3 & 5-14 by Ire Onabamiro
<https://photos.app.goo.gl/9JjV2MYTY9Rgsetr5>

There was some talk of a contribution towards a shed!

Jean Chrisp, St Mary's

Katherine and I were bowled over by the generous and delightful gifts and messages to mark our retirement. We shall miss you all but will take with us many good memories of our nearly five years among you.

*With our love and prayers
Richard and Katherine Howlett*

CONTACTS

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

Benefice Office: Church Lane, Kings Langley WD4 8JS

Monday 11.00am - 4.00pm; Wednesday 7.00am - 4.00pm; Thursday Noon - 4.00pm;

Friday 7.00am - 9.30am - **no visitors - please email or phone**

The administrative office is temporarily closed but e-mails and phone calls will be answered

HOLY TRINITY, LEVERSTOCK GREEN

Bedmond Road, Hemel Hempstead HP3 8LJ

The Rev'd Lizzie Hood - Team Rector

01442 264 860 - lizziehood@aol.com

The Rev'd Jos Perris - Associate Priest

07979 590480 - josperris@hotmail.com

ST. MARY'S, APSLEY END

London Road, Hemel Hempstead HP3 9ST

Vacant

ST. BENEDICT'S, BENNETTS END

Peascroft Road, Hemel Hempstead HP3 8EP

Vacant

ALL SAINTS, KINGS LANGLEY

Church Lane, Kings Langley WD4 8JS

Fr. James McDonald - Team Vicar

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

BENEFICE NEWSLETTER

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

PUBLICATION DATE COPY DEADLINE

6 March 2022 20 February 2022

5 June 2022 22 May 2022

4 September 2022 21 August 2022



Grateful for all the contributions included in this December issue, we very much hope you enjoy it and the accompanying pictures. We hope the article about COP26 provides food for thought and may provoke further consideration of this and other serious issues to accompany the important accounts of our Benefice activities.

Having started in June 2019, the next Benefice Newsletter will be our twelfth. Now well past retirement age and in our eighth and ninth decades, we would be happy to pass on the editorial role to anyone who'd like to take it on - and look forward to hearing from you.

Jean and Mike Chrisp: mikeandjean23@btinternet.com

CONTENTS

Inspiration	1
Richard and Katherine's farewell	2,3
Contacts	3
Editorial	4
Contents	4
Vacancy update	4
Services and events	5 - 7
Tiny Tots at All Saints	7
Community Foodbank update	8
Oxygen Recovery at Nascent house	8
St. Mary's 150th Anniversary Celebrations	9
Holy Trinity Craft Group	10
Have an environmentally friendly Christmas	10
The Beryl Milnes Cup and Holy Trinity Quiz	11
Sunnyside Rural Trust	11
Weathering the storms	12
Concert at All Saints	12
Harvest Festival Fun Day at All Saints	13
Posters	13,14
St. Mary's Autumn Fair	14
Remembrance Day at Holy Trinity	15
Remembrance at the Cottage War Memorial	16
All Saints Church Remembrance Sunday Week	16
COP 26: A view from All Saints	17
Joyful Noise at St. Benedict's	18
New lawnmower for All Saints	18
Autumn at Westonbirt, The National Arboretum	18,20
My first Communion	19
New altar frontal for All Saints Lady Chapel	19
Confirmations at All Saints and Holy Trinity	20

*We wish everyone a peaceful Christmas
and hope the New Year will be kind to us all*

Vacancy update

Following Rev Richard Howlett's retirement on 30th September, the PCCs of all four churches in our team met to consider our vision for the years ahead and to think about changes that might need to be made in the provision of licensed ministry when we advertise for a new vicar.

Instead of allotting 75% of a priest to each parish, it was proposed that All Saints and Holy Trinity should have 100%, St Mary's 75% and St Benedict's 25%. That would increase the stipend contribution for All Saints and Holy Trinity and remove some of the financial burden from St Benedict's.

The Informal Vacancy Meeting took place on 11th October with the Bishop of Hertford, Archdeacon of St Albans, and the PCCs of St Mary's and St Benedict's. We considered the production of a Parish Profile (a document that sets out what we are looking for in a new vicar, and what we can offer) and the appointments timetable. We hope to have the Parish Profile ready by mid December, to advertise in January, shortlist in February and interview in March.

In order to achieve the change in ministry distribution, Holy Trinity's and All Saints' PCCs held Extraordinary meetings and both voted to shoulder 100% of the cost of a Vicar. The joint PCCs of St Mary's and St Benedict's then met to move forward with the process. We are feeling very optimistic about the future and hope to find a mission-focussed priest who will help us to achieve growth in our churches.

To facilitate this it was decided that both churches should return to having a service every Sunday, and that they would benefit from seeing their own vicar every week; service times would therefore need to change. From January 2022, St Mary's main service will be at 9.30am, and St Benedict's at 11.15am (with coffee from 10.30am).

St Mary's, St Benedict's and the ministry team are now working on the Profile, and hoping for contributions from their congregations.

Rev'd Lizzie Hood

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

HOLY TRINITY, LEVERSTOCK GREEN - PARISH DIARY

Sundays	10.00am	Holy Communion and Junior Church (Sunday School) - Common Worship
2nd 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
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

December

Wednesday 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd at 8.00pm	Advent discussion on Zoom
Saturday 4th 12.30 - 3.30pm	Christmas Fair in church (see page 13)

Saturday 4th 4.00pm	Light up a light service
Monday 6th 7.30pm	Baptism information evening
Saturday 11th 7.30pm	Jazz Concert 'Swing and sing into Christmas'
Sunday 12th 10.00am	Toddler Nativity during Parish Eucharist
Monday 13th 1.30pm	Woodfield School Christmas Concert
Saturday 18th evening	Santa Sleigh in Leverstock Green
Sunday 19th 6.30pm	Carols by Candlelight
Friday 24th 3.00pm and 5.00pm	Children's Crib Services
Friday 24th 11.30pm	Midnight Mass
Saturday 25th 10.00am	Christmas Day Eucharist
Sunday 26th 10.00am	St Stephen's Day Eucharist
Wednesday 29th 10.00am	NO SERVICE

January

Wednesday 12th 7.45pm	Parochial Church Council meeting
Thursday 13th 5.30pm	Beavers visit church
Friday 14th 5.30pm	Beavers visit church
Sunday 16th 10.00am	Christingle service
Sunday 30th 9.30am	Joint team service at All Saints' on the Feast of Candlemas

February

Saturday 16th 7.30pm	Concert - Chiltern Hills Brass Band
----------------------	-------------------------------------

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
Informal outdoor service	
Tuesdays - Fridays 8.30am	Morning prayer
Tuesdays 7.30pm - 9.00pm	Kings Langley Community Choir rehearsal (church)

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

ALL SAINTS, KINGS LANGLEY - PARISH DIARY (Continued)

Church open daily 9.30am - 5.00pm

Wednesdays	10.00am - 11.30am	Tiny Tots (Term Time only in the hall)
	7.45pm	Bell Ringing Practice
2nd Thursday	11.15am	Holy Communion at St Laura's Care Home (usually 2nd Thursday)
3rd Thursday	11.15am	Holy Communion at Friars Mead (usually 3rd Thursday)
Thursdays	7.00pm	All Saints Men's Group (Usually 3rd Thursday, time varies)
		Contact Brian McAdam: 07796 131 291
Fridays	6.30pm	Adult Choir Practice
Saturdays	11.00am	Bell Ringing Practice (except 3rd Saturday)
3rd Saturday	9.00am - 12noon	All Saints stall at the Local Produce Market in the Village Garden

ALL SAINTS, KINGS LANGLEY - SPECIAL SERVICES AND EVENTS

December

Friday 3rd - Sunday 5th		Christmas Tree Festival (see page 13)
Thursday 9th	7.30pm	Friends of All Saints Zoom Quiz - tickets from b.mcadam1@sky.com or 07796 131291 (see page 14)
Sunday 12th	3.00pm	Christingle
Saturday 18th	4.30pm	Churches Together 'Carols in the Garden' with mulled wine and mince pies (see page 14)
Friday 24th	3.30pm	Crib Service
	7.30pm	Nine Lessons and Carols by Candlelight
	11.30pm	Midnight Mass
Saturday 25th	9.30am	All Age Eucharist
Sunday 26th	9.30am	Said Eucharist on the Feast of St Stephen, First Martyr

January

Sunday 2nd	9.30am	Family Eucharist for The Feast of the Epiphany
Saturday 8th	10.00am	Baptism Visitors Meeting
	11.00am	Baptism Preparation
Sunday 30th	9.30am	Joint team service at All Saints' on the Feast of Candlemas

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

December

Sunday 5th	10.00am	Eucharist at St Benedict's and on Zoom
Wednesday 8th	7.15pm	Sitting Room Singers Carols (see page 13)
Sunday 12th	10.00am	Eucharist at St Mary's and on Zoom
Sunday 19th	10.00am	Eucharist at St Benedict's and on Zoom
Saturday 25th	10.00am	Christmas Day Eucharist
Sunday 26th	10.00am	Eucharist at St Mary's and on Zoom

January

Sunday 2nd	11.15am	Sunday Eucharist (first Service at the new time)
Saturday 8th	2.00pm	Baptism
Sunday 9th	11.15am	Eucharist
Sunday 16th	11.15am	Eucharist
Tuesday 18th	7.30pm	PCC Meeting
Sunday 23rd	11.15am	Eucharist
Sunday 30th	9.30am	Joint team service at All Saints' on the Feast of Candlemas

February

Sunday 6th	11.15am	Eucharist
Sunday 13th	11.15am	Eucharist
Sunday 20th	11.15am	Eucharist
Sunday 27th	11.15am	Eucharist

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

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

December

Sunday 5th	8.00am	Eucharist
	10.00am	Eucharist at St Benedict's and on Zoom
Sunday 12th	10.00am	Eucharist at St Mary's and on Zoom
Sunday 19th	10.00am	Eucharist at St Benedict's and on Zoom
Friday 24th	3.00pm	Crib Service
	11.15pm	Midnight Mass
Saturday 25th	10.00am	Christmas Eucharist
Sunday 26th	10.00am	Eucharist

January

Sunday 2nd	9.30am	Eucharist (First service at new time)
Sunday 9th	9.30am	Eucharist
Saturday 15th	10.00am	Communication Committee
Sunday 16th	9.30am	Eucharist
Tuesday 18th	7.30pm	PCC Meeting
Sunday 23rd	9.30am	Eucharist
Sunday 30th	9.30am	Joint team service at All Saints' on the Feast of Candlemas

February

Sunday 6th	9.30am	Eucharist
Sunday 13th	9.30am	Eucharist
Sunday 20th	9.30am	Eucharist
Sunday 27th	9.30am	Eucharist

Tiny Tots at All Saints

When we started this group in June 2019 I don't think any of us imagined that it would become what it is today. At the beginning of lockdown last year, I wondered whether we'd survive and whether we'd ever start up again. I think we were one of the first groups to re-open just before Easter this year. Yes, it was a risk and yes, I knew that there were lots of people out there who were desperate to get out and meet others with small people. We've changed quite a bit since those early sessions. From a few mums /carers (often less than ten) we are now regularly welcoming between eighteen and twenty mums, grans and carers.

We are open every Wednesday during term time from 10 - 11.30am and all pre-schoolers (0 - 4 year olds) are very welcome. We start with playtime in the church hall where there's a welcome, a cup of tea, coffee or a cold drink and biscuits. At about 11 o'clock we go through to the church for a story and lots of singing and noise making with bells, shakers and tambourines.



I can't finish this note without asking if there's anyone out there who'd like to join us as a volunteer. If you're interested please contact me by email:

allsaintstinytots@outlook.com.

Lynne Head, All Saints

Community Foodbank update

This autumn, as the financial impact of covid continues to be felt the Foodbank has been busier than ever at all three locations: All Saints, St Mary's and St Benedict's.

This Christmas, as well as asking for non-perishable food and toiletries, we're running a Shoebox Appeal to bring a little festive cheer to local families with children who are facing hardship. We ask you to fill a shoebox with some small Christmas gifts (suggestions on the All Saints website and Foodbank Facebook page) and, if relevant, label it with the age (0 - 3, 3 - 6, 6 - 9 or 9 - 12 years) and gender of the intended recipient. Please wrap your shoebox and drop it off at All Saints Church (see below). Spare boxes are available in church.

In partnership with Bennett's End Community Centre we're also asking for donations of new children's pyjamas and unwrapped gifts which we can make up into shoeboxes. Please drop off these items at the Community Centre on Gatecroft. Please contact Quentin on 07774 445778 if you have any questions.



In other news, we recently welcomed Jackie Lintern as our new Foodbanks Co-ordinator. With plans for the future, we're very grateful to her for taking on this important role. While still in need of more helpers, especially at St Benedict's on Wednesdays, we're also delighted to have welcomed new volunteers to the teams at St Mary's and St Benedict's. To find out more please contact Jackie at jackie.lintern@btopenworld.com

Another exciting recent development has been a new partnership with Kings

Langley Football Club, generously hosting a Foodbank donation point at each of their home games. We are very grateful to all who have donated so far, and to KLFC for their support.

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

Rachel Williams, refryer@yahoo.co.uk

The Community Foodbank is open to anyone in need, as often as required and no vouchers are necessary. 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 Mill store in Apsley during opening hours.

For a current list of needs please visit
[www.beneficeoflangelei.org.uk/
all-saints/community/all-saints-
foodbank](http://www.beneficeoflangelei.org.uk/all-saints/community/all-saints-foodbank) or the Facebook page.

Oxygen Recovery at Nascent House

Oxygen Recovery is a charity based organisation helping to rehabilitate people suffering from addiction. St Mary's Church has been providing Welcome Boxes for new arrivals at Nascent House for many years. Just recently we received a heartfelt letter from one of the recipients who stated she was overwhelmed by the kindness and generosity. She also mentioned how thoughtful the contents were and especially appreciated the notepaper, stamps, sweets and clock. Having arrived feeling traumatised and lonely the welcome box made her feel that someone cared. Finally we were thanked for being part of her journey to heal.

We would also like to say a huge thank you to so many for the generous contributions and donations that enable us to continue to supply these boxes. If you are able to make a donation or to support us by contributing items please contact Vivian or Susan.



Vivian, email: vivian.hagel@ntlworld.com
or Susan, email: rivetts@aol.com

Vivian Hagel, St Mary's

St Mary's 150th Anniversary Celebrations



How do you celebrate 150 years of worshipping God in a building designed and built for that simple but all-encompassing purpose? Well, you try to demonstrate the beliefs and values which make St Mary's the welcoming community it is.

In practical terms this involved a weekend of events on 11th and 12th September, bringing the Church family together but also inviting the wider local community.

All age groups were catered for in the activities set up throughout the weekend. Outdoor games were available for the younger visitors and again we were lucky with the weather. Stalls were set up selling plants and Church memorabilia and there was an opportunity to learn more about the history of this lovely building and the people who have worshipped there over the years. You could do this, not only through the information boards and film slide show but also through the Church Registers on display and even a selection of Vicar's diaries!

And, of course, there was the beautiful Church itself, suitably decorated, to fully appreciate, with at times a lovely musical accompaniment to add atmosphere. Thank you's need to go both to David and Mel for their performances on organ and flute, as well as all those working hard in the refectory providing refreshments.

If already not replete with cake, a barbecue was also available outside on Saturday - another opportunity to welcome visitors or simply catch up with old friends.

On the Sunday St Mary's welcomed Bishop Alan to its Eucharist service. Not only did he deliver a thought provoking sermon about the Gospel Principle but he climbed up to the belfry beforehand, to join our dedicated bellringers and demonstrate his own prowess with the bells.

After the service, Bishop Alan blessed the newly refurbished refectory at St Mary's and cut the superb cake kindly made by Gemma to mark 150 years of this amazing building and the people for whom it has been so important.

A weekend of welcome and celebration never happens without an enormous amount of work and commitment. A huge thank you goes to every person who sat by a stall or table, flipped a burger, took money, made coffee, sold a raffle ticket or simply made the event special by their very presence. And none of any of that would have been possible without the people who put in the hard work of organising this event - you know who you are. Here's to the next 150 years!

Fiona Shirley, St Mary's

Holy Trinity Craft Group



We are back in the Trinity Room for our regular Wednesday afternoon sessions. It's so good to all be back together again. The WhatsApp group was an absolute lifeline and has created a strong bond between us, but it just isn't the same. It's great that two new members have joined the group.

We've been busy preparing for several sales opportunities coming up over the next few weeks, with a great variety of goodies for sale - cushions, bags, toys, jewellery rolls, scarves and knitted mince pies stuffed with chocolate to decorate dinner tables.



We are very proud of our special Christmas card produced this year showing a knitted Nativity set which was photographed in our own Christmas stable. They are charming, as you can see from the photograph, and are proving very popular.

Jean, Jean, Jenny and Pauline

Have an environmentally friendly Christmas

- 🌍 Buy recyclable wrapping paper, avoid shiny and glittery paper - many options are available - or try using brown paper and decorate with string or wool.
- 🌍 Buy recyclable Christmas cards and save this year's cards to upcycle for next year.
- 🌍 Cut up your Christmas cards to make next year's Christmas labels.
- 🌍 Buy organic or locally sourced flour for baking mince pies, sausage rolls and other party food.
- 🌍 Try to source Fairtrade or organic wines and Fairtrade mixed fruit and organic meat for your mince pies and sausage rolls.
- 🌍 Use ethical chocolate for Christmas treats. There are lots of brands to choose from, many of them British.
- 🌍 Try not to waste food - reuse your leftovers for another meal where possible. Try to eat some veggie meals too over the festive season.



Home-made fabric Christmas tree decorations made 2016 and still going strong!

- 🌍 Make your own tree decorations from sustainable products such as cardboard, fabric, knitting wool, or baked and decorated biscuits - great fun for children.
- 🌍 Decorate your house with natural products including dried sliced fruit, holly, berries, fir cones and items from our hedgerows - be creative with glue, paint and glitter!
- 🌍 Choose your Christmas tree wisely. There are many places from which to rent a tree to be collected after Christmas and replanted. Or grow your own tree to use year after year.
- 🌍 If you buy an artificial tree, use it for as many years as possible and eventually replace it with a real one.

Your Benefice Environmental Team wishes you all a very Happy and Peaceful Christmas.

The Beryl Milnes Cup and Holy Trinity Quiz

For many years our dear friend Beryl Milnes arranged, wrote and presented an autumn quiz in November to raise funds for Holy Trinity. Beryl would spend weeks preparing it all. She absolutely loved the banter with a mix of parishioners and old friends. Such a popular event, it would sell out without any advertising at all!



able to hold another quiz on 13th November 2021. Assisted by his wife Andrea and daughter Zena, Mike Hawtin's son-in-law John was the quiz master. Just eight teams gathered in Leverstock Green School hall to enjoy an evening of fun and fish and chips. With fewer tables we were safely spaced out!

Sadly Beryl died on 13th April 2020 right at the beginning of the pandemic. We wanted to remember her and thought it would be lovely idea to offer the winning quiz team a cup. After consulting with her family, husband Richard and sons Alistair and David, they kindly donated 'The Beryl Milnes Cup' for the Holy Trinity Quiz.

After two very long years, and the restrictions now lifted, we were at last



The winning team was Gloria O'Dell's 'Sunday Regulars'. Gloria was an old friend of Beryl and it was fitting that hers was the winning team. Having never won the quiz before, Gloria said they were honoured to win the new cup! Richard and David were pleased to present the cup to Gloria at the end of the evening, nineteen months to the day that Beryl passed away.

Beverley Burgess, Holy Trinity

Sunnyside Rural Trust

Sunnyside Rural Trust has two farm shops, one at Northchurch and the other at Hemel Food Garden. Both sell Sunnyside produce including fresh eggs, honey, jam and vegetables. The Trust also trains people with learning disabilities to acquire skills in a number of rural and retail activities. These include beekeeping, looking after chickens, growing a wide range of plants and produce, landscaping and garden maintenance. Both champion local food and promote local organic and fair-trade food. The Hemel Food Garden shop also sells liquids for refillable home care and toiletries.

Adjacent to the farm shop at Hemel Food Garden, Sunnyside Up café serves takeaway food and drink and their outside space is open beside the canal. It has a warm and friendly atmosphere and is dog and child friendly. Situated in a sunny spot with an outside seating area, Sunnyside Up café is a popular destination for passers-by walking along the canal. The café offers vegetarian and vegan menu options, uses organic ingredients and promotes zero waste and plastic free products. They will also soon open in one of their glasshouses.



Sunnyside Up Café and Farm shop (HP3 9BY)
Open 10am - 3pm, Monday - Saturday.

Northchurch Farm shop (HP4 1NJ)
Open 10am - 3pm, Monday - Friday.

Check their website www.sunnysideruraltrust.org.uk

The Benefice Environmental Team

Weathering the storms

It has been a tough year for the charities sector and our Christian Aid team in Kings Langley is no exception. We have had to cancel several of our regular fund raising events due to the pandemic restrictions, but resumed the annual house to house collections during Christian Aid Week in May. Rising splendidly to the challenge, our collectors raised more than £4,500.

Then, in the wake of the devastating earthquake and tropical storm in Haiti, approximately £1,400 was raised by retiring collections in our Kings Langley Churches Together triumvirate. Additionally, Mark Escott, son in law of a committee member, offered to run in a hard half marathon in the Hitchin/Welwyn Garden City neighbourhood sponsored by Rotary. His original intention was to compete with about 300 runners but this event was cancelled at short notice. Undaunted, Mark set out on a solo run on 17th October. He recorded an excellent time of 1hr 56mins for the run that included some hilly and rough country, thereby raising £1,100 by sponsorship, plus some £280 through Gift Aid in all for Haiti.

Subsequently, our local Baptist church devoted £410 to the Haiti Appeal by running a refreshment stall at the annual Village Carnival in September. We were therefore able to send a total of £2,500 to the central Christian Aid Haiti Appeal Fund. This achievement was all the more



encouraging because it coincided with the parallel unfolding tragedy in Afghanistan which understandably dominated the media coverage at that time.

So, like the solidly constructed homes built by Christian Aid following an earlier major earthquake, we are weathering the storms.

Harold Taylor, All Saints

Concert at All Saints

As part of our fund-raising activities at All Saints we have an annual Harvest of Talents in which church members are encouraged to use their skills to raise money for the church. This is based on Jesus's Parable of the Talents (which I'm sure you all know very well!) where a master entrusts part of his wealth or 'talents' to his three servants to look after or invest while he was away on his travels. Two of the servants invested the talents and made money for their master, whereas the third failed to do anything with his, incurring the wrath of the master who punished him by casting him out into the wilderness amongst 'much gnashing of teeth' (I love that bit!)



Anyway, for our contribution, Jill and I decided to put on an informal Sunday afternoon violin and piano recital in church on 19th September in which we played traditional classical works by Handel and Dvorak, later works by one of my heroes, Fritz Kreisler, plus some film music from

Schindler's List and *Ladies in Lavender*. An enjoyable occasion (if a little nerve-wracking!), I'm pleased to say we raised £350 for church funds.

Brian McAdam, All Saints

Harvest Festival fun day at All Saints



On 3rd October we were delighted to welcome the village community and local stall holders to celebrate harvest at All Saints, Kings Langley.

The event included local craft and produce stalls, a barbecue and bar with a selection of craft beers and cider and a childrens' area with a bouncy castle and garden games.

We were serenaded by the wonderful Kings Langley Community Choir in both rain and shine!

There was an excellent turn out, and feedback was extremely positive which bodes well for an even bigger event next year.

Ellie Hughes, All Saints

ALL SAINTS' PARISH CHURCH, KINGS LANGLEY

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

FRIDAY 3rd DECEMBER 10AM - 6PM
SATURDAY 4th DECEMBER 10AM - 5PM
SUNDAY 5th DECEMBER 11AM - 4PM

Come and visit the church full of magical trees and twinkling lights!
Refreshments Raffle Home-made cakes

ENTRY & PROGRAMME £3
CHILDREN FREE

Sponsored by: TAYLORS TOOLS

Proceeds to local charities and the mission of All Saints
www.beneficeoflangelei.co.uk/allsaints
allsaintskingslangley

Christmas Fair

Saturday 4th December
12.30 - 3.30pm

With Light Up A Life Service at 4.00pm

Crafts, games,
Christmas gifts,
raffle,
refreshments

Holy Trinity Church
Leverstock Green

AN INTERACTIVE CAROL CONCERT

St. Benedict's Church, Bennett's End
Peascroft Road, Hemel Hempstead HP3 8EP

THE SITTING ROOM SINGERS

THE AUDIENCE MAY LIKE TO JOIN IN
WITH EVERY THIRD CAROL

WEDNESDAY 8th DECEMBER 2021

Refreshments served from 7pm
Concert begins at 7.15pm

ALL WELCOME

Donations welcome at the door

Details from Bob Day
01442 737 494 or bob.day@sky.com

St Mary's Autumn Fair



We held an Autumn Fair on 20th November instead of our Christmas Bazaar at St. Mary's this year. Fewer stalls and more space for people to move around meant the event was less of a covid risk.

A good outreach to our local community, more than 200 people attended the event. Our Autumn Fair showed visitors that their local church was still very active and welcoming.

My thanks go to the small team who worked so hard in the months leading up to and during the event to ensure its success.



We were fortunate that the weather stayed fine, those who came all enjoyed themselves, many partook of the excellent refreshments, most leaving with bags filled with Christmas gifts, including Pauline's celebrated jams and preserves.

The Autumn Fair raised more than £1,800 for church funds with more due during the following weeks.

Hopefully, next year we will have a Christmas Bazaar, when normal service will be resumed!

Peter Bladon, St Mary's

Hemel Hempstead Rotary Santa Sleigh 2021

ROUTES AND DATES



This year we have reviewed and extended all our routes so please check out our new Santa Sleigh Street Finder on our website and Facebook page.

Some roads/streets have been added, some have moved to a different route and some have regrettably had to be removed.

We will not be knocking on doors so please come out to greet us. Santa's route will be nearby even if it doesn't directly pass your house.

Visit our website www.hemel Hempsteadrotary.co.uk or our Facebook page HemelHempsteadRotary to review maps and check the dates of routes.

Every evening you can track Santa's progress at Christmas.trackit247.com

Track Santa QR

If you want to find out more about Hemel Hempstead Rotary or have any questions about the Santa Sleigh please contact us at RCHHSleigh@gmail.com

Rotary
Hemel Hempstead

Trackit247
LIVE GPS TRACKING

Remembrance Day at Holy Trinity



14th November was a busy day at Holy Trinity. After our 8am Eucharist in traditional language, we had a 10am all-age service catering for the whole spectrum from newly baptised infants, through beavers, cubs and scouts, right up to veterans. Then out to the War Memorial at 11am for our village Act of Remembrance. Two of our youngsters acted as acolytes for the first time. In the afternoon we let our hair down with a lovely multi-generational games afternoon.

Violet says: *"I felt privileged to be chosen to be an acolyte on Remembrance Sunday. When carrying the candle up to the altar I felt proud. The service helped us to remember people who fought and died in the wars. We must remember that without these people our lives could be very different today. I learnt that it is important that we remember and give thanks for our freedom. Many local people from the village attended the service outside and gathered around the war memorial. We all took two minutes to remember people that were loved and lost. Being an acolyte was an honour and I will remember this service for a long time."*

Rachel has written the following: *"I was very happy to be chosen to be an acolyte on Remembrance Sunday this year. Violet and I had a great time, even though it was hard work staying still and trying not to get distracted in church whilst*

holding the candles! I was glad we had a rehearsal as there was a lot to think about during the service and during the Act of Remembrance. When the names of the young soldiers who didn't come home from war were read out, I realised that some of them were really only a few years older than me. To see so many people crowded silently around the war memorial was a very peaceful experience. Even though many soldiers died, it shows me just how hard and dedicated they were to keep on going in those terrible times."

Rachel's Dad, Miles says: *"Such a reassuring turn-out for Remembrance Sunday in Leverstock Green this year, and all in the knowledge that their great sacrifice will never be forgotten. It was especially poignant to note that the Village war memorial celebrated its centenary this year surrounded by such numbers."*

The gathered crowd saw representation from former service personnel of all three armed forces with many campaign and service decorations on show. Members of Holy Trinity were joined by dozens of people from the village who all joined together to stand in humble remembrance of those who have fallen.

Rev'd Lizzie Hood



Remembrance at the Cottage War Memorial in Apsley

Atended by about thirty people, Tim Bourne conducted a short and very moving Service of Remembrance at Apsley's Cottage War Memorial followed by a two minute silence as St Mary's bell struck 11.00am in the background. Two wreaths were laid.

Those present included members of Apsley Paper Trail staff past and present and members of the Heritage Fire Brigade. New CEO Elena Lewendon introduced the reading by Michael Stanyon, former honorary Head of Archive. John Watson, Chair of Trustees and Denise Osler-Briden, who formed a group of volunteers to restore the memorial garden a few years ago, laid wreaths.

A warm welcome, tea, coffee and chocolate biscuits were available in the adjacent Tudor Room behind the Basildon Bond Clock.

*Angela Witts, St Mary's
Additional text, Sue Woolnough
Photographs, ©Phil Roberts*



All Saints Church for Remembrance Sunday Week and Service

All Saints Church had a good turn out for the Remembrance Service on Sunday 14th November, the weather was kind and we had a good response for the retiring collection for The Royal British Legion.

The service was taken jointly by all the churches in the village: All Saints (Fr. James McDonald), Baptist (Matthew Cooper) and Methodist (Andrew Brazier) with representatives from the Guide and Scout movements, the WI, Fire Brigade, Parish Council, Kings Langley School (Head Girl and Boy) all laying wreaths.

Ingrid Allen, All Saints



Where does the Church stand on COP26? A view from All Saints

Many words have been spoken and many more written before, during and after COP26 which many thought would be a forum for 'Saving the World'. Other more realistic observers and participants in Glasgow soon understood that there would be a long way to go before even a small dent in the projected temperature rises would be effected through a paring down of global emissions caused by the continued burning of fossil fuels.

Certainly, the desired maximum projected rise of 1.5°C seems a long way from being achieved.

Here rests the case for the 'glass half empty brigade'! But what of the 'half full' contingent? One view is that while some nations appear reluctant to play ball by continuing with their present non-green energy solutions, those of us in the 'been there, done that' camp from the first Industrial Revolution now need to set an example to the rest of the world.

Much has been said in support of and against the Church of England pronouncing on matters of national importance. In this case, the Church's voice needs to be heard loud and clear to ensure that the Government responds to its COP26 commitments and contribution to fighting climate change in a timely manner. Not conservatively and late as it tends to do in other crises. Examples where the UK can make a difference include:

- Heat pumps replacing gas boilers
- Development of a better charging network for electric vehicles
- More investment in tree planting and peat restoration
- Carbon-capture plans
- Greater use of hydrogen and further investment in renewables
- All nations need to commit to turning their economies along a new zero-carbon path.



These young people came up with a fun and creative way to get their message heard. Photo by Nici Wilcox.

The more voices heard in the UK holding the Government to account the more likely we'll see positive action. Let's ensure that the CofE is one of those voices!

Brian McAdam, All Saints

Link to Archbishop Justin Welby's thoughts on the aftermath of COP26:
[https://www.archbishopofcanterbury.org/reflections-cop26-and-what-comes-next?](https://www.archbishopofcanterbury.org/reflections-cop26-and-what-comes-next?utm_source=Daily+media+digest&utm_campaign=fa51432ae7-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2019_11_27_02_01_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_296e14724b-fa51432ae7-249747620&mc_cid=fa51432ae7&mc_eid=2bc7386128)

[utm_source=Daily+media+digest&utm_campaign=fa51432ae7-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2019_11_27_02_01_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_296e14724b-fa51432ae7-249747620&mc_cid=fa51432ae7&mc_eid=2bc7386128](https://www.archbishopofcanterbury.org/reflections-cop26-and-what-comes-next?utm_source=Daily+media+digest&utm_campaign=fa51432ae7-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2019_11_27_02_01_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_296e14724b-fa51432ae7-249747620&mc_cid=fa51432ae7&mc_eid=2bc7386128)

Joyful Noise at St Benedict's



Joyful Noise choir leader, Sarah Moreton, planned to get the choir singing together again but their usual rehearsal place, Belmont Road Baptist Church, had neither adequate ventilation nor space for social distancing.

We were pleased to offer St Benedict's as Sarah has been a good friend, bringing her school choir in to sing carols at our Christmas Tree festivals when she was music teacher at Lime Walk primary school. We met on Wednesday 22nd September for a *There is a River* Praise evening and on Saturday 16th October for a full afternoon's rehearsal of Roger Jones' musical *The Torn Curtain* (photo above).

Joyful Noise events raise money for charity and, as well as a contribution to church funds, more than £60 was sent to the Bishop's Harvest Appeal. It is great to have St Benedict's Church and Hall used in the week by our communities including by the Sitting Room Singers and, we pray, in due course by our local schools, at least at Christmas & Easter.

Bob Day, St Benedict's

New lawnmower for All Saints churchyard



For many years, our churchyard has been 'closed' with the responsibility for its maintenance falling to Dacorum Borough Council. However, to ensure that the grass is cut on a regular basis a team of enthusiastic mowers, sourced mainly from our Men's Group, carries out this task from March to October on a fortnightly basis.

In September we upgraded our machinery by taking delivery of a new John Deere lawnmower, which was 'blessed' by Fr James, as shown in the accompanying photo!

Brian McAdam, All Saints



*Westonbirt Arboretum
Photos by Viv Hagel, St Mary's*

My first communion

In October I took my first communion. I was very excited when Lizzie asked me and Sophie to be acolytes at the service - our harvest festival. We had some special white robes made for us, they were made by my mummy's friend Linda.

On the day we carried some candles. We carried them down the aisle and Lizzie walked behind us. When we got to the altar, we put our candles in a little holder. In the middle of the ceremony Lizzie asked everyone to think about bible stories with food in them. Me and Sophie had a list of ones we had thought about. Everyone in the congregation called out the ones they could think of, and we ticked them off our list, the grown-ups didn't remember the story of Moses and the manna or Joseph and his brothers which we learnt about in our preparation lessons.

When it was time to have my first communion, I was a bit nervous. Lizzie gave me a wafer and said, 'The body of Christ'. I was happy to have communion like my mummy and brothers.

After the service we joined our church family and shared a special cake with our tea.

Carys, Holy Trinity



New altar frontal for All Saints Lady Chapel



In January this year we started talking about making an altar frontal for the altar table in the Lady Chapel. The table had been donated by Susan Brazier in memory of her husband Geoff. Work started by researching other altar frontals and deciding how much fabric we would need.

A design and costs were presented to the PCC and in February we applied to the Diocese for permission to go ahead. Permission was granted and work started in earnest in March. Fabric, braid, fringing and gold work supplies were ordered and a team of four ladies pooled their skills and expertise and began work.

Our first steps were to create a pattern and then very carefully measure and cut the beautiful blue and gold St Margaret brocade chosen by Father James. We met regularly, worked together to check everything was going smoothly and completed the altar frontal at the end of September just in time for Bishop Alan's visit to dedicate the Lady Chapel on the evening of Tuesday 26 October.

Susan made all the altar cloths and embroidered them. Irene and Margaret lined and stitched the frontal and Lynne stitched the centre panel and did the gold work.

All Saints Stitching Crew

Confirmations for All Saints

On Tuesday evening 26th October, Bishop Alan came to Kings Langley to confirm five candidates from All Saints. It was a great occasion and wonderful to welcome new people into the family of the Church.

It was the first Confirmation at All Saints for almost exactly ten years, the previous one having been taken by Bishop Alan on 8th November 2011. It was good to host one again.

The candidates confirmed were: Andrew Wragg, James Brearley, Ella Brearly, Shannon Day and Lee Lewis.

During the same service, the bishop also dedicated the new Lady Chapel altar frontal and sanctuary furnishings (see page 19). It seemed sensible to 'get our monies worth' while the bishop was with us!

Fr. James was also pleased to be able to make use of a set of vestments which had been bequeathed to him by the late Marion Jones, a reader in his curacy parish. They certainly added to the setting and sense of occasion.



It was also lovely to be able to catch up with friends and supporters and the bishop at the end of the service. And the bishop was very happy to pose for a number of photo calls! All Saints also had a sixth candidate, Emma Colaco, who was Confirmed at the Deanery Confirmation service held at Holy Trinity on Sunday 21st November.

Fr. James McDonald

Confirmations at Holy Trinity



Bishop Michael of Hertford presided at the Holy Trinity confirmation service on 21st November when Jan and Emma from our Benefice, together with candidates from Grovehill, were confirmed.

Rev'd Lizzie Hood

Congratulations to all those confirmed from All Saints and across the Team and Deanery!

Fr. James McDonald

