

MARCH · APRIL 2023

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Further details at [www.hertfordtheatreweek.org.uk](http://www.hertfordtheatreweek.org.uk)

Monday March 27<sup>th</sup>

White Cobra Productions, Northampton  
**The Lonesome West**

by Martin McDonagh

An amateur performance by arrangement with Concord Theatricals Ltd.

Tuesday March 28<sup>th</sup>

Hertford Dramatic & Operatic Society, Hertford  
**Wyrd Sisters**

By Terry Pratchett adapted by Stephen Briggs

An amateur performance by arrangement with Colin Smythe Ltd.

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Wednesday March 29<sup>th</sup>

Global Theatre Company, Waltham Forest  
**Home**

by David Storey

An amateur performance by arrangement with Concord Theatricals Ltd.

Thursday March 30<sup>th</sup>

Barn Theatre Club, Welwyn Garden City  
**Constellations**

by Nick Payne

An amateur performance by arrangement with Concord Theatricals Ltd.

Friday March 31<sup>st</sup>

The Company of Players, Hertford  
**Shakespeare in Hollywood**

by Ken Ludwig

An amateur performance by arrangement with Concord Theatricals Ltd.

Saturday April 1<sup>th</sup>

Barn Theatre Club, Welwyn Garden City  
**Peep**

by Jodi Gray

An amateur performance by arrangement with Nick Hern Books

***Festival Note: Frequent strong  
language and adult content.***

Followed by the Presentation  
of the Awards

# Bengeo Parish Magazine and Community News



Spring is round the corner. Time to look forward to lighter evenings and exploring the countryside.

The Community Garden is underway and Marilyn Taylor tells us how the site on the corner of Duncombe Road was occupied by the Victorian water tower for many years. Bridget Hersant gives us a glimpse of spring with her article on cowslips and their folklore.

There are announcements of regular summer activities and special events such as the Parish Coronation Tea on Sunday 7th May in the Church Hall. If you are newly retired or would like to offer more in the community there are opportunities to get involved with various activities either donating or helping out – look through the pages for more details.

## The Editorial Team

*The views expressed by the contributors are not necessarily those of the Editorial Team or the PCC. Whilst every care is taken, we cannot be responsible for the action of any of the contributors or advertisers in this magazine.*

Front cover: a glorious Magnolia in full flower.

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## Editorial Team

Items for the magazine should be sent to [magazine@parishofbengeo.com](mailto:magazine@parishofbengeo.com)

## Copy dates for 2023

Items should be sent by the middle of the month preceding publication.

## Advertising

Please address all advertising enquiries to [magazine@parishofbengeo.com](mailto:magazine@parishofbengeo.com)

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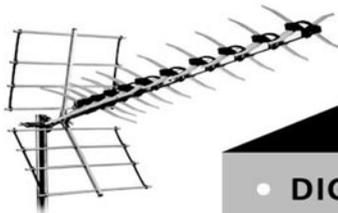


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# Save Bengo Field – An Update

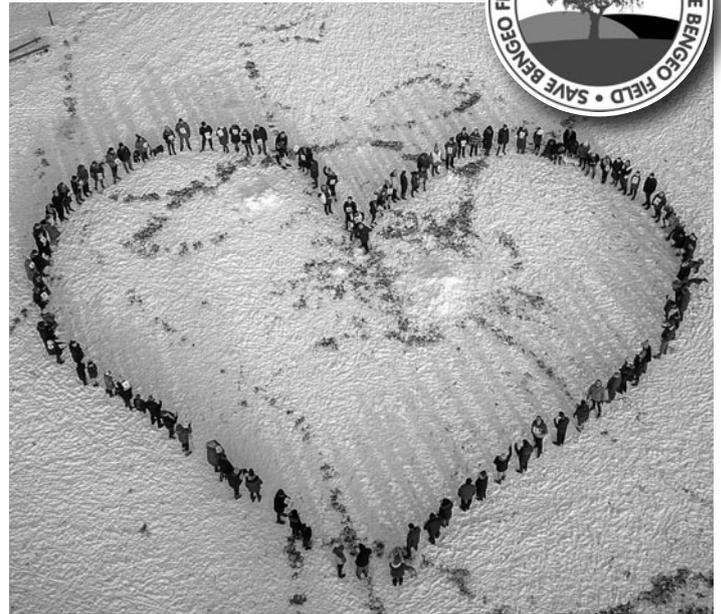


At time of writing in early February, we are still awaiting the planning application to build 100 homes on Bengo Field to be submitted. By the time you read this, the application may well be in and the window to make your objections will be diminishing or even closed.

We urge you to keep an eye on our website [savebengeofield.org.uk](http://savebengeofield.org.uk) or our social media pages on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram for the latest news. The Save Bengo Field team will do our very best to let everyone know as soon as the planning application is in. Every individual email will count!

In December, during the freezing weather, the community came out in force to demonstrate their love for Bengo Field, helping to create this stunning heart in the snow. Thank you to everyone who showed their support on this very cold day, displaying the commitment we all have to save Bengo Field.

When the planning application is submitted, we hope the community will rally and everyone who loves Bengo Field will write their emails to object to the destruction of this beautiful landscape. There is a wealth of information and reasons to object



available online that you can read and include in your response.

Together we saved Bengo field from quarrying and together, again, we can save Bengo field from ruin and keep it as an important well-loved amenity for the community, for generations to come.

Thank you for your support!

**Save Bengo Field team**



## Waterford Marsh restoration

Major works have commenced early in the New Year at Waterford Marsh to improve the habitat along the Beane. The scheme is a combined project between Hertfordshire County Council and the Environment Agency.

Initially some additional strengthening materials were installed at the breach site by the Horseshoe Weir to protect the adjacent footpath. A team

from the EA installed a number of sandbags on 3rd January. Further measures to mitigate the impact of flows around the breach will take place over the coming months.

The main task this winter has been dealing with extensive sections of concrete walls along the Marsh which were collapsing. The walls have been broken up and removed by contractors. Then more natural, sloping banks have replaced the walls and areas with 'brash berms' gradually installed to increase habitat diversity. These are made from woody debris secured within the channel with the use of stakes, some acting as 'deflectors' to help vary flows along the river.

Further plans include removing a small weir upstream and creating further wetland scrapes on the Marsh to hold more water.

*From The River Beane Restoration Association newsletter*

## Friends of St Leonard's

The Friends of St Leonard's are looking forward to warmer days and opening up St Leonards Church for its summer season. Look out for more details of our programme of events on the website too.



Last year we worked with our friends at Courtyard Arts to create bunting to decorate the church and to have a Children's Art Workshop. We are

planning to do the same this year. We loved seeing the amazing creativity of our local children.

We will also be open for tea and cakes on Sunday afternoons from 4th June. It is always a huge pleasure to welcome visitors to St Leonard's and to show them around this little gem of a church. Last year visitors came from far and wide and we are always looking for more volunteers to help run the teas – even just taking one Sunday afternoon slot helps a lot. Please get in touch if you would like to get involved.

Becoming a Friend of St Leonard's Church will give you advance warning on what is happening and reduced ticket prices for our concerts. You can join through our website [www.stleonards.parishofbengeo.com/friends-of-st-leonards](http://www.stleonards.parishofbengeo.com/friends-of-st-leonards).

**Helen Fleming**

Secretary [friendsofstleonards@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofstleonards@gmail.com)

## The Craft Club is 10 years old!



Community Craft Club was started January 2013, 10 years ago, and set up by Sarah Newstead and Gail Cramphorn. It has been running

in Duncombe Hall every 2nd Wednesday of the month from 10am to 12 noon. Since Sarah moved out of the area Gail has been assisted by Carol Warren. Many crafts have been bought along, some people sharing new crafts and ideas. It is not all about knitting; there is sewing, card making, drawing and model making. A coffee or tea and a biscuit is still just £1.

Why not come and join our regular attendance of 12 to 16? All are welcome, sometimes we have people just calling by for a chat! The next Craft Club meetings are on 8th March, 12th April and 10th May at 10am in Duncombe Hall.



**Our big annual fundraiser afternoon tea will be held on Saturday 10th June at 1 The Orchard from 3–5pm.**

This is advance notice there will be more details in the next magazine, tickets at £10 will include a full afternoon cream tea and as much tea/coffee as you would like.

Please put the date in your diary and come and support us.

Thank you.

**Libby Shillito**

## Annual Pet Service

**Service Sunday 2nd July at 4pm in St Leonard's Church.**

Advance notice, please save the date in your diary, there will be more details in the next magazine.

Our Lay Reader Bob Kelly with his dog Oskar will take the Service which will be followed by refreshments.



This year we will be raising money for the Charity DOTS (Dogs on the streets).

**Libby Shillito**

## Holy Trinity Coronation Tea Party

**Sunday 7th May 3–5pm in the Church Hall.**



Tickets at £10 will be on sale from the beginning of April from Libby or Peter. We do hope that you will join us to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles, if you could wear something with red, white and blue that would be great.

Any more details required please ring Libby on H 583979.

# History of the Bengoe Community Garden Site

The Garden was the site of the first Bengoe Water Tower, hence the name Tower Street. In 1877 the existing waterworks were not sufficient to supply the growing community and it was decided a Water Tower was needed in addition to the reservoir.

In early 1878 the tenders were put out to build the tower. The lowest tender was Messrs. H Rayment for £1,960, and it was paid for by a public works commission loan of £2,000.

The tower was built on land leased from Mr Parker of Ware Park for £10.13s.6d per year for a period of 30 years. It was made of brick 37 feet in height with an iron tank on top holding 20,000 gallons. It was supplied by a well, water wheel and pumps from the River Beane at Waterford on land leased from Mr Abel Smith MP.

In October 1878 the system was tested successfully in the presence of Mr T Sheffield and the works were taken off the hands of the contractors and water supplied to the village. It was also around this date that the previously open reservoir at the top of Port Hill was covered over.

By the 1920s the water tower was too small for Bengoe's growing population and a new tower was

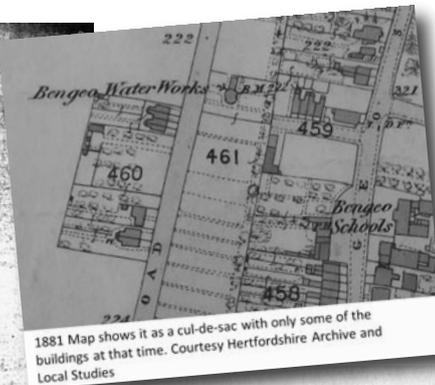
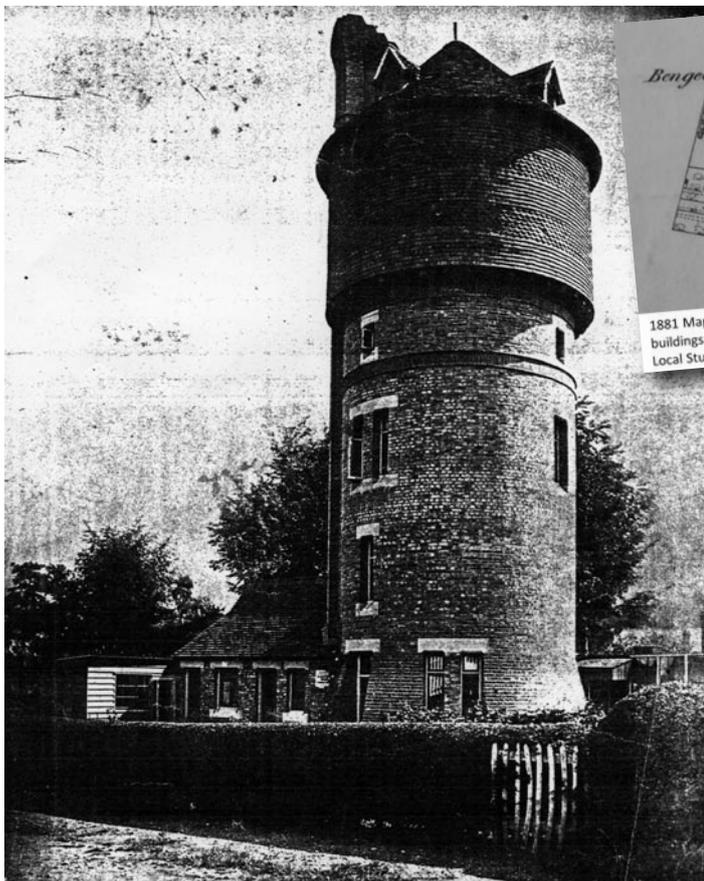
commissioned and built in 1929 alongside the track that is now The Drive.

The old tower was demolished in 1936 and an ARP shelter and air raid siren were built on the site. No photos have been found of this but it was a simple solid arched structure with a 'blast wall' at the entrance. It stood longways to Tower Street.

Tower Street itself was formed around the same time as the tower was built by Mr Robert Green. It was originally a cul-de-sac put in to lead from Bengoe Street to the Water Tower that was built with access from Duncombe Road. When built it was called Tower Road but it changed its name at various times on various documents.

The tower was occupied by Mr George Roberts whilst he built the houses 10 and 12 Tower Street. He then moved into No. 12 which was next door to the tower and also rented the land around the tower from Hertford Corporation to use as a builder's yard. Later Mr Mansfield lived in No. 12 and rented the grounds as an allotment.

These grounds are now occupied by the bungalows and the garden is the area that the tower itself occupied.



1881 Map shows it as a cul-de-sac with only some of the buildings at that time. Courtesy Hertfordshire Archive and Local Studies

Once the last family left the tower it was used by the local scouts and rented as an electricity substation, its descendant still occupies the ground between the garden and the Parish Hall.

**Marilyn Taylor**



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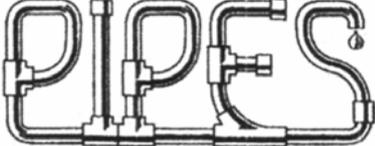
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# On The Doorstep – Cowslips



The Cowslip, a beautiful yellow flower that as the weather warms and we head into spring, makes an appearance around late March to April. It can quite often be found growing in meadows and the edge of woodland and tends to like dry chalky soil. The cowslip is part of the primrose family, *Primula veris*. The Cowslip has five bright yellow petals that have a dark orange fleck at the centre. The petals grow out of a long green calyx to form nodding heads that hang in cluster to one

side. The flowers also have an apricot-like smell to them. The stalks are tall and have a downy appearance and the tongue-like leaves are dark green and wrinkled and grow from the base of the plant.

There is also a very similar flower to the Cowslip called the Oxlip, but the Oxlip is quite rare and restricted to certain areas: Cambridgeshire, Suffolk and Essex, although you may spot some in Hertfordshire. The Oxlip has paler petals that are slightly more open and they do not have the orange centre of the Cowslip or the apricot smell, but the flowers also hang in clusters to one side of the plant. Then to make matters even more complicated there is the false Oxlip, which is a hybrid of the Cowslip and Primrose. Like the Oxlip the false Oxlip has a slightly more open flower but like the Cowslip has the orange fleck at the centre. One way of distinguishing the false Oxlip, however, is that the flowers do not hang to one side but splay out in all directions. Whatever you spot they are all equally beautiful and are a pleasure to see.

The Cowslip was a very common flower but between the 1930s and 1980s declined rapidly due to loss of habitat and farming practices. Thankfully in recent years the flower has shown signs of

recovery and we are fortunate that Hertfordshire is a county where lots of cowslips have started to reappear.

The flower is the county flower for several counties: Northamptonshire, Worcestershire, Essex and Surrey. It is said to symbolise comeliness and winning grace and used to be scattered on church paths at weddings and put into garlands for May Day. The flower used to be used for sleeping problems, headaches and nervous tension and was made into a tea. The leaves have been used in cooking and are said to have a citrusy flavour and the leaves flavoured English wine.

The name of Cowslips used to be Cow slop due to its association with cow pats, presumably growing out of the ready-made fertilizer, however, over time the name changed to Cowslip. Other names that the Cowslip is known by are Freckled Face, Golden Drops, Bunch of Keys and Fairies Flowers among others. In fact Shakespeare mentions Cowslips several times in his writings, one being in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*:

'The Cowslips tall her pensioner be;  
In their gold coats spots you see,  
Those be rubies, fairy favours;  
In those freckles live their savours,  
I must go seek some dewdrops here,  
And hang a pearl in every cowslip's ear.'

'Those be rubies, fairy favours;' are the orange fleck in the flower and it was believed the apricot smell came from them, 'In those freckles live their savours,'

Cowslips are also sometimes known as St Peter's Keys, because of the way the flowers hang in a cluster like a bunch of keys. Legend has it that St Peter was told that a duplicate set of keys to heaven had been made and he let his keys drop and where they fell Cowslips grew. Norse mythology dedicates the plant to Odin's wife Freya, the goddess who held the keys to happiness and love, and in Christianity the flowers have sometimes been dedicated to the Virgin Mary.

Whatever the name, myths or legends the Cowslip is a real spring beauty and definitely a flower that when spotted, cheers the soul and lifts the spirit.

**Bridget Hersant**

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# The cost of living crisis

As part of over 1,200 Trussell Trust-backed foodbanks across the UK we have seen our busiest year in 2022, with over 4,100 food parcels packed and distributed from the Hertford & District's two depots alone. It was also a year that saw huge growth in the number of families needing the foodbank and over 1,700 of the food parcels were for children.

Thankfully, the wonderful communities in Hertford and Ware have continued to provide generous donations, allowing us to create Food parcels including seasonal items such as Christmas Puddings, Mince Pies, Selection Boxes and Advent Calendars over the Christmas period.

The fantastic financial donations received from both businesses and individuals have also allowed us to diversify our offerings and we are now able to include a number of fresh food items such as eggs, bread, spread, cheese along with Fruit and Root vegetables with every parcel.

But this year hasn't only been about Food. As gas and electricity prices have soared, we have found that needs for items such as blankets and hot water bottles have increased. Once again, we are grateful to have been able to provide these to those in need and will continue to do so throughout 2023. Unfortunately, the cost-of-living crisis is predicted to worsen throughout 2023 and into 2024, so it is vital that The Hertford & District Foodbank continues to adapt providing support wherever we can.



Here at the Foodbank we are grateful for all the support we have received over the last year and ask for your continued support as we fight hunger and work towards a future where Foodbanks are no longer necessary.

There are many ways to support the Foodbank – one of the easiest is to donate an item or two from the lists below of most needed products and drop them into one of our permanent donation points.

- »»» Tinned Potatoes
- »»» Tinned Rice Pudding
- »»» Long-Life Fruit Juice
- »»» Deodorant
- »»» Toothpaste

## The race against hunger

On Saturday 1st April 2023, supporters all around the UK will come together to Race Against Hunger to raise money to help end the need for food banks in the UK. Walk or run, the choice is yours.

All money raised will go directly to the Trussell Trust and not individual Foodbanks. Race Against Hunger is more than just a run. It's a movement for change.

Thank you for all your contributions.



## 2nd Bengeo Scouts Update

The 2nd Bengeo Scout group have had another exciting half term. Both Beaver colonies enjoyed a visit from two PCSOs, Graham and Abby. They led a fingerprint workshop and spoke to the Beavers about Stranger Danger. The Beavers were given the opportunity to ask lots of exciting questions! The Cubs enjoyed an environmental talk as well as working on their money matters badge. The Cubs have also been out collecting for the Hertford Food Bank. The Scouts took part in a Ready, Steady, Cook challenge and took 2nd place! Congratulations to the team as well as the leaders and helpers involved. The Scout Group currently have a vacancy for a Chairman as well as assistant leaders. We also have places available for boys and girls in all sections. The Scout Hut is available for hire. Please enquire through the 2nd Bengeo website.

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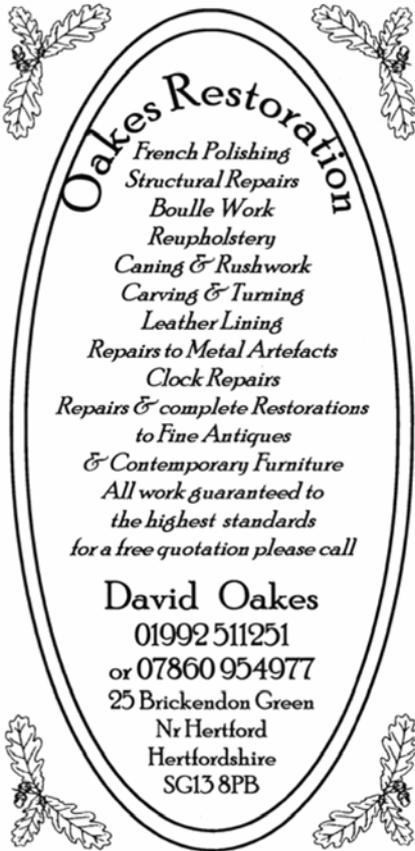
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## Hertford Art Trail 2023

Saturday 8th to Saturday 22nd April

The Hertford Art Trail is an established Arts event in Hertfordshire as it benefits both the artists and participating venues in Hertford. Courtyard Arts is pleased to take over the running of the event from this year.

Courtyard Arts would like not only to re-build the relationships with local artists and businesses who have previously taken part but involve new businesses that have become part of our town. The aim is to grow the trail over the next few years.

We hope that the trail will bring visitors into the town and benefit businesses by increased footfall and artists with more sales. This will be an opportunity to support local artists by providing them with the means to showcase their work to the public.

**Laura Burns**  
Courtyard Arts

## Courtyard Arts Exhibitions

### Paint and Stitch - Peter and Janet Gibbs

7th March to 1st April

Peter has been painting in watercolour and acrylic for over 20 years, with several years attending classes at Courtyard. He loves colour, and specialises in seascapes, prehistoric landscapes, and early industrial architecture, such as the Pyrenean railway viaduct depicted here.

Janet has stitched from kits on and off for much of her life but took it up seriously as a Lockdown Project. During that period she began to create her own designs, seeking to capture both natural and man-made structures through the varied textures of canvas work.

### Courtyard Open 2023 Exhibition

8th April to 29th April

A combination of 2D and 3D works selected by our panel of judges provides an exciting opportunity to view the best work of professional and amateur artists.



## The Company of Players

presents

### Shakespeare in Hollywood

By Ken Ludwig | Directed by Paul Morton  
Little Theatre, Balfour Street,  
Lower Bengeo, SG14 3BB

17th – 24th March 2023 at 7.45pm

Lights, Camera, Shakespeare! It's 1934, and Shakespeare's most famous fairies, Oberon and Puck, have magically materialised on the Warner Bros. Hollywood set of Max Reinhardt's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. The mischievous magic of moviedom sparkles in this hilarious comic romp. Tickets from [www.cops.org.uk](http://www.cops.org.uk).

# Christmas Quiz Answers

The Quiz was, as always, enjoyed by everyone with sixteen correct quizzes returned. The draw for the chocolates was taken on 8th January in church. The winners were Sue P, Ann R and Mandy H all local people. There was the added bonus of £235 for church funds.

Thank you to all who supported us.

### Libby and Peter Shillito

Here are the answers to the questions about towns in Britain.

1. Bill's Castle (4, 7) **Fort William**
2. Mum has now recovered (10) **Motherwell**
3. Lady Godiva rode here (8) **Coventry**
4. Need them for dog walking (5) **Leeds**
5. Secure firmly (6) **Bolton**
6. Ship's Company (5) **Crewe**
7. Famous for his Blue Boy (12) **Gainsborough**
8. Careless driver does this to cars (7) **Wrexham**
9. A Modern Fortress (9) **Newcastle**
10. Protector of sea creatures (9) **Fishguard**
11. Applaud them (7) **Clapham**
12. A Highwayman says this (7) **Andover**
13. Peoples Rock (10) **Folkestone**
14. Skull in a rabbit hole (9) **Edinburgh**
15. One of the three Rs (7) **Reading**
16. Crank Miss Rantzen (10) **Winchester**
17. Half a score is alongside (5) **Tenby**
18. Professor of rollers (9) **Doncaster**
19. A complete bacon (6) **Fulham**
20. Tying meat (10) **Nottingham**
21. Latest fortified wine (7) **Newport**
22. Tend fire (5) **Stoke**
23. Is this Piggott's town (9) **Leicester**
24. Pushed down heavy weight (7) **Preston**
25. Where the steer crossed the river (6) **Oxford**
26. Has a letter to spare (5) **Dover**
27. Mother's garden entrance (7) **Margate**
28. Surrounds a factory (8) **Millwall**
29. Body of a ship (4) **Hull**
30. Religious skull (8) **Holyhead**
31. ...in England has the prefix Royal (name three please)  
**Leamington Spa, Tunbridge Wells, Wootton Bassett**
32. ...has an unofficial coat of arms with a crocus in a castle  
**Saffron Walden**
33. ...is recorded as Britain's oldest (5th century) **Colchester**
34. ...in Kent is famous for its Native oysters **Whitstable**
35. ...is the northernmost in England **Berwick Upon Tweed**
36. ...in Derbyshire is the highest market town **Buxton**
37. ...in Cornwall has a Tate Gallery **St Ives**
38. ...in Cheshire is named after King Canute **Knutsford**
39. ...in Sussex did George V recuperate in 1929 **Bognor Regis**
40. ...in Orkney is the largest **Kirkwall**

# World Day of Prayer

(A Women-led Ecumenical Global Day of Prayer)

**Friday 3rd March, 3pm,  
St Joseph's Church Hertford.**

*"I HAVE HEARD ABOUT YOUR FAITH"*



Our sisters in Taiwan are sending us blessings with the service they have prepared for World Day of Prayer 2023.

Taiwan is an island rich

in natural resources and culturally diverse. The women of Taiwan share the issues faced geographically, politically and socially and also their hopes for the future. Let us join with them as we give thanks for the beautiful island and people of Taiwan and encourage one another in our faith just as Apostle Paul did in his letters. World Day of Prayer is an international, inter-church organisation which enables us to hear the thoughts of women from all parts of the world: their hopes, concerns and



prayers. The preparation for the day is vast. An international committee is based in New York and there are national committees in each participating country.

Regional conferences meet to consider the service and then local groups make their plans. Finally, at a church near you on Friday 3rd March 2023, people will gather to celebrate the service prepared by the women of Taiwan.

The Day of Prayer is celebrated in over 120 countries. It begins in Samoa and prayer in native languages travels throughout the world – through Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Europe and the Americas before finishing in American Samoa some 38 hours later.

You too can be part of this Global Prayer, join us in **St Joseph's Church, 23 St John's Street, Hertford, Hertfordshire SG14 1RX, 3pm.** All welcome, the usual tea and cake to follow!

Website [www.parish.rcdow.org.uk/hertford](http://www.parish.rcdow.org.uk/hertford).

Contact Joanne at [j.chadirchi@btinternet.com](mailto:j.chadirchi@btinternet.com).

## Open the Book

### Volunteers needed!

'Open the Book' is an initiative taken to 3 local schools to let children hear the Bible stories in a way they can understand. These take place once a month and the response from the children is great. We need to create a second team to cope with demand. We would like to hear from anybody with teaching or amateur dramatics experience, or just genuine enthusiasm!

Please contact Bob Kelly on [bobjeankelly@gmail.com](mailto:bobjeankelly@gmail.com) or 01763 274653 to find out more.



## A plea for donations for the Flower Fund

The Flower Fund account pays for the flowers that we use to decorate the church all year with special additional arrangements at Christmas, Easter and Harvest. However hard we try to use inexpensive flowers and garden or churchyard foliage, some costs are inevitable. Unfortunately for the past two years we have spent twice as much as has been donated, so the account is depleting rapidly.

Please help us to keep our church looking beautiful, welcoming and cared for by donating, no amount too small or too large! If you feel able to, please donate by BACS bank transfer or by cheque made out to 'Bengeo Holy Trinity Flower Fund' and leave in an envelope for me on the sidesman's table in Church.

Account name: **Bengeo Holy Trinity Flower Fund**,  
Account no: **00796069**, Sort Code: **20-20-37**

Thank you in advance.

**Pam Thain**



# Bengeo Primary School



## Reception classes

Reception all enjoyed a Goldilocks and the Three Bears' workshop.

Goldilocks (Divergent Drama) came to visit their classes and the children helped her role play the story of 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears'.



## Foundation stage

These classes have been making the most of our Forest School.

Nursery explored the Forest School environment using magnifying glasses and bark rubbings to discover the different patterns on a tree trunk.

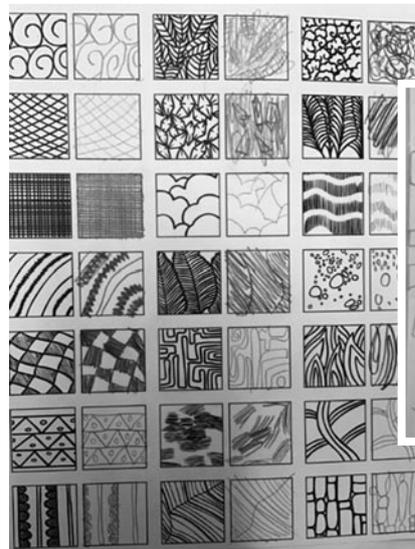
Reception have been completing bark rubbings, observational drawings and even did a dragon dance round the fire pit to celebrate Chinese New Year.

## KS1

In Year 3 PSHE lessons, we have been thinking about our dreams and goals and how we can achieve them. We listened to a story about Jane Goodall who achieved her dream of becoming a special scientist in chimpanzees. We then created a flower with our own dreams and goals.

## KS2

In Year 5 in Art lessons, we have been studying mark making and tone. We have also been practising our observational skills by doing some contour drawing: you aren't allowed to take your pencil off the page and sometimes you don't even look at your paper!





# Mill Mead Primary School



**Ducklings** Our story 'Lost and Found' took us on a journey to the South Pole with a very friendly penguin. The children enjoyed playing in their own Polar Regions role-play area, painting their own penguins and making their own paper boats. Most recently, we

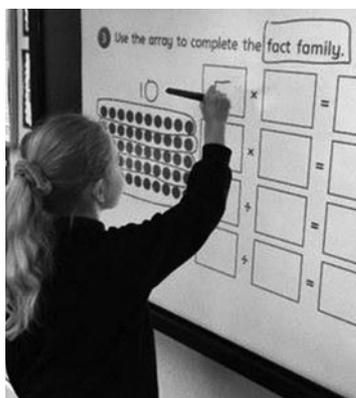
extended our journey up into space on a magical blue balloon. Who knows where our learning will take us next...?

**Mice** In Maths, we have been exploring the days of the week and months of the year. We have also looked at the four seasons and enjoyed matching objects and pictures to each of them. In literacy, we have been writing a list of objects we would take into space if we were to travel in a rocket. Most of us would like to bring food and a teddy.



**Birds** In Maths we are looking at different strategies to add and subtract within 20. We have been using bead strings and number bonds. We also went outside to practise our positional language, using our new vocabulary. We have been

investigating wheels and axles in D&T. We are looking forward to making our vehicles!



**Hedgehogs** We are discovering that we can create a 'fact family' when multiplying and dividing and have been strengthening our knowledge of the two, five and ten times table. In Science, we have set up our own investigations and have been sorting,

naming and labelling different materials and agreeing on their properties.

**Squirrels** We used paper to create patterns and



understand the technique of weaving. Then we put our learning to the test and used materials to weave through our own wool loom, we had lots of fun!

In Science, we have explored force. As a class, we looked at different

surfaces and how this could create friction. We discussed how the more friction created the more force was needed. We put this to the test and placed a toy car on top of a slope of different materials – wood, fabric, sand, bubble wrap, grass and foam.

**Owls** In PE, our swimming lessons are proving a big hit – the children were all assessed at the start of the term and are making clear progress already. I'm so impressed with their resilience and stamina.

Reading, English AND History are all based around our topic of Anglo-Saxons and Vikings, which is a rich area we are all enjoying exploring. In music, we are learning the songs for our performance at the Drill Hall in Ware – who knows one of the Owls might end up on the West End stage one day!

**Badgers** In English, we have been exploring Greek myths and have compared the features between different myths. We have now started to write our own version of Theseus and the Minotaur from the perspective of the Minotaur.

In Maths we have been working hard exploring fractions and decimals – never an easy topic.

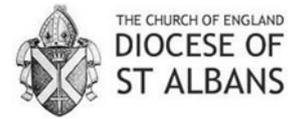


**Foxes** We have been adventuring in the Amazon with our class novel, The Explorer, and learning about climate zones from rainforests to mountains, to polar and to deserts in geography, and compiling mouth-watering Latin American menus in DT. In Maths, the children

have been exploring angles and contemplating coordinates, including plotting starry constellations.



# Tonwell School News



The school looked absolutely beautiful in December when we had unexpected snowfall! Children have had great fun playing with their friends and making snowmen. Despite causing some disruption, I am pleased we have been able to continue with our Christmas celebrations.



Friends of Tonwell did an amazing job organising our Christmas Fair – it was lovely to see so many of our families there. They raised an impressive total of just over £580! Thank you to everyone who helped on stalls, came along to support or donated prizes. We were very happy to see Father Christmas with Mrs Christmas!

Once again the Nativity was held at Holy Trinity



Church. The children's performances, singing and readings in church were fantastic! It's always so wonderful to be able to be in church for this special occasion.



It was very exciting to host a visit from Sir Oliver Heald MP last week. Sir Oliver had a tour of the school and was very impressed with our children's engagement in learning and respectful behaviour. He then gave a talk where he explained more about

his role as an MP. Finally, the children had a chance to ask their own questions, which included some thoughtful and challenging ones: What are the best bits of your job as an MP? What is the government doing to tackle climate change? What were your favourite subjects at school? How did you become an MP? Have you met the Queen?

Early Years having been exploring the village, learning how to use a map. They enjoyed their walk and investigating all the different forms of transport that people in the village use.

To find out more about the fun activities we do at Tonwell St Mary's C of E Primary School please follow us on [instagram@tonwellstmarys](https://www.instagram.com/tonwellstmarys).

## **Tonwell St Mary's C of E Primary School**

**Headteacher: Mrs Sarah Bridgman**

We are offering 30 hour places in our Nursery class.

We also have a Breakfast Club from 8am and After School Club until 5pm daily.

Visits are warmly welcomed.

Please speak to Mrs Moorehead on 01920 462894 between 8.30am and 12 noon to arrange a visit or email [admin@tonwell.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@tonwell.herts.sch.uk)



*"Pupils enjoy writing and use literacy techniques easily to enhance their compositions so that their written work is of a high standard for their age and ability."*

### ISI Inspection Report 2022



**BOOK A  
TOUR**

**Visit us and discover a Duncombe education  
Search Duncombe, Hertford**



JOIN TEAM DUNCOMBE FOR OUR

# DUNCOMBE DISCOVERY DAY

**Thursday  
18th May  
2023**

WHAT COULD YOUR CHILD DISCOVER IN JUST ONE DAY?

## BE PART OF TEAM DUNCOMBE FOR THE DAY

Children in current Years 2 -5 are invited to attend our Duncombe Discovery Day!

A day when your child can be part of Team Duncombe and discover all the enriching ways we bring learning to life.

Perhaps they will come home with a Spanish phrase ready for your summer holiday, or literally slide into our Forest School and be mesmerised by our unique outdoor learning programme, or will they come home feeling part of something so special after just one day that you realise our inspiring educational journey would bring out the very best in them?

Discover a Duncombe education through the eyes of your child and register them for our Duncombe Discovery Day.

## WHAT DID ISI LEARN FROM THEIR VISIT TO DUNCOMBE SCHOOL?

*"Pupils are enthusiastic, committed learners from an early age due to the creative and imaginative lessons."*

ISI REPORT 2022



## GET IN TOUCH

CALL 01992 414109 OR EMAIL  
ADMISSIONS@DUNCOMBE-SCHOOL.CO.UK  
AND OUR REGISTRAR WILL BE HAPPY  
TO SHARE MORE INFORMATION

**NURTURING YOUNG MINDS  
THROUGH AN INSPIRING EDUCATIONAL JOURNEY**



Duncombe School

# A Word from The Rectory

## Snowflake generation

From The Vicar, The Revd Robert Thompson



Among the many crises we're mired in, there is one that nobody quite wants to own or knows how to solve. That's partly because its causes are so complex, but also because its effects are still unfolding.

The rise in depression, anxiety and suicide among 16–24 year-olds looks like an epidemic after The Epidemic. Statistics outlined by the leading charity Young

Minds are alarming. Suicide was the leading cause of death for males and females aged between five to 34 in 2019. The number of young people referred to mental health services reached a record high last year. Today, one in six children aged five to 16 have been identified as having a probable mental health problem. That's five children in every classroom.

It's a troubling fact that teenagers today are more likely to be depressed than those during The Great Depression and, according to psychologist Peter Gray, since the 1950s things have got better for the old but much worse for the young.

What's going on? In the panicked scramble to answer this question, some blame parents. Some blame teachers. Others (and it's usually older people) blame what is often called The Snowflake Generation.

The term snowflake comes from the book and film *Fight Club*, which features the line 'You are not special, you are not a beautiful and unique snowflake.' It's since become a putdown for a generation that's seen as over-sensitive and supposedly lacking in resilience.

What generation in history has had to grow up through a technological revolution that, for all its wonders, has brought so many unforeseen deleterious effects: all-day distraction, a fragmentation of concentration, insidious amplified

comparison, a relentless 24-hour fight for attention? Answer? None.

This generation is an unwitting guinea pig for something unprecedented. They may not have fought in wars, but I'd say they are in a battle. A largely hidden fight involving the self, the mind, the emotions. To blame them for a mental fragility is to do two things: to ignore the problem and to deny our part in it. As Jeremiah puts it, 'The fathers have eaten sour grapes and the children's teeth are set on edge.'

The English punk band Idles have a song called '*I'm Scum*' that makes a virtue of this supposed over-sensitivity, defiantly yelling the warning that 'This snowflake's an avalanche' suggesting that this generation may be more resilient than we think, but they'll bury us all unless we face the problem.

Curiously, sensitivity is probably the key. Responses

### Bereavement Café

Drop in for tea, coffee and a chat

An informal, twice-monthly drop-in for adults who want to meet, share experiences and chat with people who have also been through bereavement.

Hosted by friendly local people, set up by volunteers from Holy Trinity Church, Bengoe

**2023 Dates: first Wednesday and third Thursday of every month**

Thursday 19th January	Wednesday 5th April	Thursday 15th June
Wednesday 1st February	Thursday 20th April	Wednesday 5th July
Thursday 16th February	Wednesday 3rd May	Thursday 20th July
Wednesday 1st March	Thursday 18th May	
Thursday 16th March	Wednesday 7th June	

🕒 Weds 2.30pm - 4pm  
Thurs 6.30pm - 8pm

📍 The Secret Garden Café,  
89 The Avenue,  
Hertford SG14 3DU

**For more information  
please contact us via  
Holy Trinity Church,  
Bengoe, Hertfordshire**

@ info@parishofbengoe.com

☎ 01992 413691

🌐 www.parishofbengoe.com  
/bereavementcafe.php

📌 @BengoeBereavementCafe



to this fragility need to be tender as well as urgent; creative as well as practical. Thankfully, charities like Young Minds are bringing together people (of all ages) to improvise hopeful responses, trying to find ways to restore mental health among the young. Solutions that include creative therapies (art, drama and music), dance, mindfulness, technological de-tox, as well as community projects that help young people develop emotional resilience and self-esteem.

A prophet once described a world where parents turned their hearts to their children and children their hearts to their parents. Perhaps it's time to do away with generational demarcation lines. Millennials, Baby Boomers, Generation X. We all need the same things: we all yearn for a sense of worth and health. To be, like snowflakes: special, beautiful and unique.

**Robert Thompson**

Support our 2023 Lent Campaign for Young Minds  
[www.youngminds.org.uk](http://www.youngminds.org.uk)

**Adult Education Classes in Bengo in April and May**

All are welcome at the Parish Hall, Duncombe Road, for six sessions on 'The Great British Songbook' with Stephen Barnard. The sessions are on Tuesdays from 10am until noon from 18th April to 23rd May 2023. Organisers: Hertford Adult Learning Group (HALG). Cost: TBA.

Email [halgcontact@gmail.com](mailto:halgcontact@gmail.com) for more information.



**Lent Bible Study 2023 – Work in Progress**

For Tuesdays in March, we are looking at those people around Jesus to see who they were and what he says

to them. Perhaps for him these people were his 'work in progress' as he sought to choose the right team, teach and encourage them into a new way of life closer to God.

The Gospels give us an insight into this life on the road for the Apostles, Disciples and followers. The pace is fast and relentless: there is always a crowd expecting a miracle with healing and teaching of a like that had never been heard before. There is a challenge and a lesson at every turn.

We hope this work in progress will also reveal a little of who we are, and how our mission here is shaped by the world-changing events of Jesus' ministry, teaching, encouragement and leadership among ordinary people. Can this translate into 2023 and, are we today his 'work in progress'?

**7th March** John the Baptist, The Commission. John baptises Jesus, some of John's followers join Jesus.

**14th March** Building the Team, The Apostles. Who are they, how were they chosen?

**21st March** The Followers, Disciples. Mary, Martha and Nicodemus to name but a few.

**28th March** In Jerusalem, the confrontation.

**4th April** Holy Week.

All Tuesday evenings 8–9pm at Holy Trinity Church. All welcome.



# Parish Calendar APRIL 2023

<b>Sunday 2nd April</b>		<b>PALM SUNDAY</b>	
9am	Holy Communion		
10am	Parish Communion and Junior Church with procession of palms around the church		
<b>Monday 3rd April</b>		<b>Monday in Holy Week</b>	
8pm	Holy Communion		
<b>Tuesday 4th April</b>		<b>Tuesday in Holy Week</b>	
8pm	Holy Communion		
<b>Wednesday 5th April</b>		<b>Wednesday in Holy Week</b>	
2.30–4pm	Bereavement Cafe at The Secret Garden Cafe, The Avenue		
2pm	Bengeo Afternoon WI, Church Hall, Duncombe Road		
8pm	Holy Communion		
<b>Thursday 6th April</b>		<b>MAUNDY THURSDAY</b>	
10am	Holy Communion		
10.30am	Coffee Pot Charity Café, Church Hall, Duncombe Road		
7pm	Prayer supper in the Church Hall, Duncombe Road, commemorating the Last Supper through word and action		
<b>Friday 7th April</b>		<b>GOOD FRIDAY</b>	
12 noon–2pm	Prayer and meditation		
2pm	Good Friday devotions		
<b>Sunday 9th April</b>		<b>EASTER DAY</b>	
9am	Holy Communion		
10am	Festival All-Age Communion		
<b>Wednesday 12th April</b>			
10am	Craft Club, Church Hall, Duncombe Road		
<b>Thursday 13th April</b>			
10am	Holy Communion		
10.30am	Coffee Pot Charity Café, Church Hall, Duncombe Road		
<b>Sunday 16th April</b>		<b>The Second Sunday of Easter</b>	
9am	Holy Communion		
10am	Parish Communion		
<b>Tuesday 18th April</b>			
8pm	Quiet Time		
<b>Thursday 20th April</b>			
10am	Holy Communion		
10.30am	Coffee Pot Charity Café, Church Hall, Duncombe Road		
6.30–8pm	Bereavement Cafe at The Secret Garden Cafe, The Avenue		
<b>Sunday 23rd April</b>		<b>The Third Sunday of Easter</b>	
9am	Holy Communion		
10am	Parish Communion and Junior Church		
<b>Tuesday 25th April</b>			
8pm	Quiet Time		
<b>Thursday 27th April</b>			
10am	Holy Communion		
10.30am	Coffee Pot Charity Café, Church Hall, Duncombe Road		
<b>Sunday 30th April</b>		<b>The Fourth Sunday of Easter</b>	
9am	Holy Communion		
10am	Parish Communion		

# Parish Prayers

## Daily Prayers for March

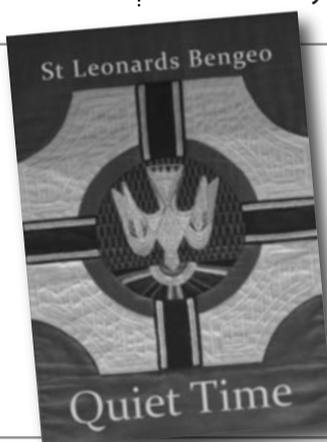
1. St David's Cathedral, Wales
2. HMP Ashfield, Gloucestershire
3. World Day of Prayer, St Joseph's
4. Young Minds, office staff
5. Our Bells and Bellringers
6. Chambers Street
7. Our Lent Bible Study
8. All who are refugees
9. HMP Askham Grange, North Yorks
10. Young Minds support for young people
11. Local clubs and societies
12. Our choir
13. Chelsing Farm
14. The trustees of Young Minds
15. The Christian Church in Ukraine
16. HMP Aylesbury, Bucks
17. The Churches in Ireland
18. Beane River View, residents and staff
19. Our Mothers
20. Chevins Yard
21. The Samaritans, Ware office
22. The Government of Ukraine
23. HMP Bedford
24. Young Minds help for parents
25. The Bereavement Café, Bengo
26. Our 9am Sunday Service
27. Christ Church Place
28. Our Lent Bible Study
29. Hospitals and emergency services in Ukraine
30. HMP Belmarsh, London
31. All Nations Christian College, Ware

## Daily Prayers for April

1. Salisbury Cathedral
2. Our 10am Sunday Service
3. Holy Week Services
4. Open the Book, in local schools
5. Christian Churches in Uganda
6. HMP Berwyn, Wrexham
7. Hertford and District Churches Together
8. Young Life Hertford and Hoddesdon
9. Friends and family at Easter
10. Women and children in Afghanistan
11. All who use the Church Hall, Duncombe Road
12. The Church in Kenya
13. HMP Birmingham
14. The Hertford and Ware Foodbank
15. Local land use and development
16. Friends of St Leonard's
17. Church Road
18. The Christian Doctors Association
19. Christian Churches in Chad
20. HMP Brinsford, Staffs
21. Hertford and Ware Street Pastors
22. Local NHS services
23. St George's Day,  
here in England and elsewhere in the world
24. Coach House Mews
25. The UN Refugee Council, London
26. Christian Churches in Malawi
27. HMP Bristol
28. Sheffield Cathedral
29. Future Hope Hertford and Ware,  
Mentoring Young People
30. Our Holy Trinity Memorial Garden

### Register

24th December 2022 Baptism:  
**Zoe Anne Ariel Dormer and  
 Taylor John Peter Matthew Kirby**  
 12th January 2023 Funeral:  
**Elene Ranson**



### Quiet Time

Quiet Time of prayers and contemplation is on Tuesday evenings at Holy Trinity church. Please note there will be no Quiet Time on Tuesday 3rd April.

# Church Contacts

## Team Vicar

The Reverend Robert Thompson  
The Rectory, Byde Street, Bengeo, SG14 3BS  
E: [info@parishofbengeo.com](mailto:info@parishofbengeo.com)  
T: 01992 413691

## Associate Priest

Fr. David Pepper  
T: 07583 985266

## Reader

Bob Kelly  
T: 01763 274653

## Churchwardens

Diana Howarth  
T: 07711 571272  
Graham Squires  
T: 01992 553465

## Parochial Church Council

*Chairman:* Rev Robert Thompson  
*Honorary Secretary:* David Greely  
T: 01920 412485

## Director of Music and Organist

Dr Andrew Sentance

## Assistant Organist

William Sarjeant

## St Leonard's Church

Friends of St Leonard's  
*New Member Secretary:* Sue Patterson

## Addresses

Holy Trinity Church  
New Road, Hertford SG14 3JJ  
St Leonard's Church  
St Leonard's Road, Bengeo, SG14 3JW

# Local Contacts for Help and Advice

## Bengeo Residents Support Network Against Coronavirus

Many volunteers from Bengeo and the vicinity are offering help and support to vulnerable neighbours. Ring **01992 230155**. Call if you need food or other items, information or just for a chat.

There is a Facebook group to get help or to volunteer: [www.facebook.com/groups/bengeo.residents.against.coronavirus](https://www.facebook.com/groups/bengeo.residents.against.coronavirus)

Below are links to local services that Herts CC have sent out about the coronavirus assistance.

## Medical and Health Advice

[www.nhs.uk/coronavirus](http://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus)

## Information about local council services

[www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/coronavirus)

## Domestic Abuse

[www.sunflower.org](http://www.sunflower.org)

## Hertfordshire Domestic Abuse Helpline

0808 808 8088

[Freephone Monday to Friday, 9am–9pm  
Saturday/Sunday 9am–4pm]

## Financial Advice

### Money Advice Unit

[www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/benefits](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/benefits)

### Hertfordshire Citizens Advice Service

03444 111 444

### National Debtline

[www.nationaldebtline.org](http://www.nationaldebtline.org)

0808 808 4000

## Advice on avoiding scams

Sign up for scam alerts from trading standards  
[www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/updates](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/updates)

### Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline

0808 223 1133

If you are interested in volunteering

[www.thvolunteering.org.uk](http://www.thvolunteering.org.uk)

HertsHelp 0300 123 4044

## Mental Health Advice and Support

### Herts Mind Network

[www.hertsmindnetwork.org](http://www.hertsmindnetwork.org)

020 3727 3600

0300 777 0707 [8am–7pm]

Nightline: 01923 256391

## Emotional Support and Practical Help

[www.hertshelp.net](http://www.hertshelp.net)

[info@hertshelp.net](mailto:info@hertshelp.net)

HertsHelp: 0300 123 4044

*Back cover: Cowslips photographs from Bridget Hersant – see her article on page 9.*

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- WELWYN • 01438 714686
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[www.crematorium.co.uk](http://www.crematorium.co.uk)



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Booking: [www.ninebarrow.co.uk/bengoe](http://www.ninebarrow.co.uk/bengoe) or call 01992 314003

[www.ninebarrow.co.uk](http://www.ninebarrow.co.uk)

# On The Doorstep



All photographs: Bridget Hersant.