

JANUARY • FEBRUARY 2023

Bengeo Magazine

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Bengeio Parish Magazine and Community News



Children enjoyed the unexpected snowfall in December but we don't yet know what the New Year weather will bring. Whatever happens, snowdrops will appear and Bridget Hersant tells us all about these delicate heralds of spring.

Read all about updates from local Bengeio campaign and community groups: the Save Bengeio Field group has swung into action and volunteers are clearing the area for the forthcoming Community Garden in Duncombe Road. We have results of the Council's survey on the potential closure of Bye Street and congratulations to the Save Beane Marshes group on their CPRE awards.

We always look forward to the Yarnbombers displays at Christmas and this year they excelled themselves with sprites having fun in locations in Hertford.

Happy New Year to all our readers

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: Having fun in the snow on Waterford Heath.
Opposite: Holy Trinity Church in winter (BG Drones).*

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Editorial Team

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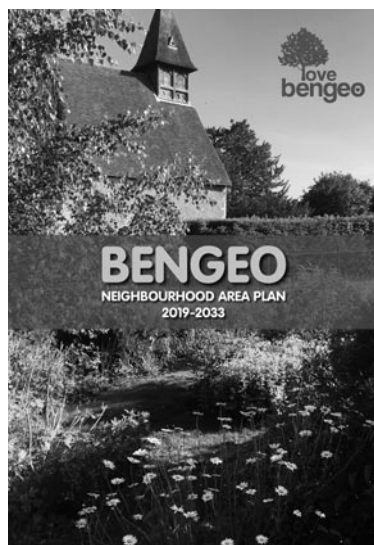
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Bengeo Neighbourhood Area Plan Update



Safer Streets

As I am sure many of you already heard the community consultation found against the point closure of Byde Street. The margin was significant about 38% in favour and 62% against.

One starting point that all seem agreed on is

to try to stop people from outside the access only area using Byde Street, Wellington Street and Nelson Street as a rat run.

As a Neighbourhood Plan we represent all of the people of the neighbourhood and it has always been our aim to try to reduce traffic throughout the entire neighbourhood.

So, we are continuing our discussions with HCC to try to find solutions and we are not about to give up or campaign any less vigorously because this remains a serious issue that needs to be resolved. One thing that I am very clear about is that simply leaving things as they are is not satisfactory and not an option. We are still discussing traffic calming measures such as raised platforms, better signage and re painting white lines, etc. We are also still debating whether an ANPR (Automatic Number Plate Recognition) scheme could be pursued although HCC are not in favour of this measure at present. The Neighbourhood Plan is also keen on discussing ongoing issues on Bengeo Street where traffic is also a significant issue.

We will keep you posted as things develop.

Housing on Bengeo Field between Sacombe Road and Wadesmill Road

As a neighbourhood plan, we oppose housing on this site as it would be contrary to the District Plan and the Neighbourhood Plan as they are currently worded. I encourage as many people as possible to respond to the planning application; we are

expecting that it may be put in during late December or early January. See pages 6 and 7.

The Two Brewers

Planning permission has been given to convert The Two Brewers pub into flats for residential use. As the business had not been profitable for some time this seems preferable to the building becoming abandoned and dilapidated.

All of us at the Neighbourhood Plan team wish you a prosperous New Year.

Bengeo Coffee Pot



The latest charity supported by Bengeo Coffee Pot is Hertford. This is based in Port Vale but encompasses The Hertford Pantry, Help for Ukraine and helping families from local schools. The £1,700 raised by Coffee Pot in the last six months was split equally between Help for Ukraine and Hertford.

At the time of writing the Hertford Pantry, based in the parade of shops at Sele Farm, has helped 1,900 families, with food donations from local people and from nine supermarkets.

Bengeo Coffee Pot is open to all from 10.30am to 12 noon every Thursday morning, 52 weeks a year, and is run entirely by local volunteers. The café has been in operation for 13 years and has raised over £20,000 for local charities.

All welcome.



Community Campaign to Save Bengoe Field Gathers Pace

Credit: BG Drone Shots

A public meeting has taken place to discuss opposition to a proposal to build 100 homes on Bengoe Field. The meeting was called by the Save Bengoe Field campaign group to inform the local community about the planning process, discuss concerns and ask if this proposed application is being made for the benefit of the local community or for profit?



Steve Beeston

Over 120 people packed the Bengoe Primary School main hall to find out more. Councillors Peter Ruffles and Ben Crystall opened the meeting by explaining the principals of the planning process. Peter Ruffles said afterwards, "The meeting was a valued opportunity for Bengoe Councillors to explain something of the contexts and processes. We've attempted to do that in many letters to correspondents, but the packed meeting was a

great chance to do so again and respond to questions."

John Howson, Chair of the Bengoe Neighbourhood Plan steering group, spoke about the 'natural, rolling profile' of the landscape, 'being within easy walking distance to the whole of Bengoe'. He questioned, "you may validly ask why such an attractive amenity would be considered for housing?" He went on to clarify "when the site became part of the HERT4 area and designated for 100 homes, East Herts District Council correctly added the caveat that the homes should only be built subject to the satisfactory previous phased extraction of mineral deposits. So, at the point at which the gravel extraction was rejected by the Public Inquiry in 2019, one may suppose that the question of building houses on the land should also have been ruled out."

Councillor Alex Daar questioned the need for these proposed 100 homes as she revealed East Hertfordshire has delivered more houses than their proposed target by a huge 30%.

Additional speakers covered a number of other concerns for the community including the lack of general infrastructure within the proposal; questioning whether future residents would really walk to the shops on The Avenue and the Co-op to do their shopping? How will traffic in general be

affected with additional deliveries and visitors for the new development? How will Bengeio cope with another 100–200 residents' cars when the traffic is already daily seen backed up to the allotments in rush hour? It was pointed out that the area has a terrible rat-run issue which will unfortunately only get worse with more houses. It was argued that the plans for sewerage for the development were insufficient, especially as some Bengeio residents have already sadly experienced the inadequacies of the current sewerage system. A map showed the potential decrease in catchment area for Bengeio Primary, demonstrating that many local families in the future will not be able to get a place at their nearest school and will most likely have to resort to driving their children across town to other schools. The threat to the local environment and ecology was also discussed and mitigations questioned as to their suitability and benefit to our local community.

Closing the meeting, Andrew Stevenson said, "We need responsible planning and what we are getting from East Herts Council administration is irresponsible planning. It shows real incompetence to put in their own document 'gravel has to come first' and then have an executive policy as reported recently in *The Mercury* saying they support the development! More can be added on our infrastructure's deficit and the need for responsible, intelligent planning that puts infrastructure before a blind adherence to numbers that are anyway outdated."

NEXT STEPS: the Save Bengeio Field group are encouraging the local community to be ready to

express their views via the official planning portal when the application is submitted which is expected to be any day now. The window to object will be short, only 21 days, and there is a high chance it will be over the Christmas holiday period. Why not get your email ready now? If you were unable to make the public meeting the slides can be found on our website at www.savebengeiofield.org.uk and extracts can be found on our Facebook page. Please visit the website if you would like further details on any of the areas of concern.

It is important to remember that it is the number of emails received by the planning team rather than the number of households objecting. Therefore, please ensure that every individual in your household makes their views known via their own email accounts.

We are planning a community fundraiser event held at The White Lion in January, please look out for more publicity and support this event if you can.

We believe the community has some strong arguments against any development of the Bengeio Field but we need everyone to make their views known. If you need any assistance in doing so, please contact us, we are happy to help.

The Save Bengeio Field campaign group wish to thank all the speakers at the public meeting for their time and efforts. To find out more about the campaign to Save Bengeio Field, please visit www.savebengeiofield.org.uk.

Save Bengeio Field Group



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On The Doorstep – Snowdrops

Firstly, Happy New Year. This year I have decided to write about one or two plants/flowers in more detail, so I thought I would start with the Snowdrop.

The Snowdrop is a pretty delicate white flower that blooms between January and February and despite its delicate appearance is able to survive in some of the harshest weather. The flower gently droops from the stem with six petals, usually three larger on the outside and three smaller creating a bell shape.

These petals when turned over have green markings. The plant has two long linear leaves that come from its base and the leaves and stem have (I think), a blueish tinge to them, unlike some of the later flowers that tend to have a bright fresh green.

The scientific name for the Snowdrop is *Galanthus nivalis*, 'gala' coming from Greek meaning 'milk' and 'nivalis' coming from the Latin 'niveis' meaning snowy. It has been known by several other names including Dew Drops, Eve's Tears and Fair Maids. The plant is also a source of alkaloid galantamine, which is used in the treatment of Alzheimer's.

The Snowdrop is not actually a native of the UK but has been here for centuries, it originates from the Alpine regions and is believed to have been brought over either by the Romans or some monks.

Locally, there are always beautiful displays at Benington Lordship and in St Catherine's churchyard, Sacombe. In fact, many churches have displays of snowdrops, which may explain why the Victorians associated them with death. The Victorians were quite superstitious and believed that if Snowdrops were brought indoors they would bring ill fortune and even death to the family. They also believe that the flowers would turn milk sour and spoil eggs. However, thankfully, other more cheerful symbolic meanings have been attributed to them, such as purity and innocence, probably due to the Snowdrop's white colour; also rebirth and hope, due to it being one of the first flowers to appear in the New Year.

There are also legends about the Snowdrop: one legend says that when Adam and Eve were banished from the sunny, warm Garden of Eden into a cold world, Eve was distraught (presumably why the flowers are sometimes known as Eve's Tears). An

angel sent to watch over them, reached down, picked up some snowflakes and blew them, the snowflakes fell and turned into a carpet of Snowdrops. The angel said it was to show that winter would end, the sun would shine again and flowers would bloom, a symbol of hope.

The Snowdrop is a remarkable little flower, beautiful and delicate to look at but with strength to survive in the coldest of weathers and be the first to break through to herald the spring and the hope of better, warmer weather.

Bridget Hersant

The Snowdrop

by Alfred, Lord Tennyson

Many, many welcomes,
February fair-maids,
Ever as of old time,
Solitary firstling,
Coming in the cold time,
Prophet of the gay time,
Prophet of the may time,
Prophet of the roses,
Many, many welcomes,
February fair-maids.



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Adult Education classes in Bengeio in January

All are welcome at the Church Hall, Duncombe Road, from 10.00am to 11.30am on Tuesdays to hear ten sessions on 'The History of Ideas'.

Edward de Maunsell is returning to Bengeio to get us thinking about Renaissance, Reformation, Enlightenment, Industrialisation, Liberalism, Socialism, Conservatism, Feminism, Environmentalism and Postmodernism.

The sessions run from 10th January 2023 to 21st March 2023. *Organisers:* Hertford Adult Learning Group (HALG). *Cost:* £37.50. *Contact:* 01992 589538 to book a place on the course.

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Save Beane Marshes



Jill Digby and John Howson receive the awards at County Hall.

In October Save Beane Marshes won the CPRE Hertfordshire award for Saving and Protecting the Countryside together with the CPRE Gold Standard Award. The CPRE Hertfordshire Awards celebrate the achievements of individuals and groups who have worked to protect, promote and enhance the countryside for the benefit of their local population. The award was for raising above £100,000 for the preservation of the Beane Marshes and we received an additional £30,000 from Hertford Town Council.

This allowed the marshes to be purchased by Hertford and Middlesex Wildlife Trust for the preservation of wildlife and for the local community.

Hannah Lilley of Save Beane Marshes said: 'It was a fantastic privilege to receive this award and it is testimony to the amazing generosity and hard work of the local community. We'd like to thank everyone involved for all their hard work.'

John Howson



The Children's Society

Christingle Service on Advent Sunday

Many thanks to Rachel at Bengelo Co-op for donating the oranges and to all those who helped assemble the Christingles and gave their support at the Service. The Service was well attended with about 70 people. We actually ran out of Christingles but all the children received one as well as several adults.

The Service was conducted by Rev Robert Thompson and Bridget Hersant gave an entertaining talk. We also had our musician's group which greatly added to the delightful Service.

We received some very generous donations and raised the magnificent sum of £751.91 for the invaluable work of the Children's Society.

House Box Collection

Another 'thank you' to all those who have house boxes. They have all been counted and with your generosity have raised £765.57.

We are so grateful to all our supporters and are very pleased to say that the total for this year with Carol and John's Coffee Morning, our afternoon tea, box collection and Christingle Service is £2,777.48.

Our grateful thanks to everyone involved in any way for the willing support you give us.

Date for next year's diary

Saturday 10th June Afternoon Tea at 1 The Orchard, further details in future magazines.

Our very best wishes

Libby and Peter

Bengeo Community Garden

A big THANK YOU to everyone who joined us a few Sundays ago. With your help we were able to clear ivy from the fence and trees and collect hidden litter. The whole site now looks bigger and ready for action. So, what is happening next?

EHDC have carried out a tree survey and will shortly prune branches in order to prolong the life of the existing trees and this will also allow more light to reach the ground. We hope to move the dog waste bin to a less prominent position. Although the cold weather means no planting can take place now, we aim to complete the basic garden layout as soon as possible and winter is a good time for us to prepare an 'interpretation' board explaining the history of the site and our hopes for the future.

Look out for more updates and see you in the garden next year.

Veronica Fraser

2nd Bengeo Scouts

The Bengeo Scout group enjoyed a busy few months with the Cubs taking part in the District Johnson Cup. The Beavers and Cubs enjoyed a joint Halloween Party. The Scouts have successfully regrouped with a brilliant new leadership team and we finished the year with a wonderful Carol Service at Holy Trinity.

Well done to the two Beavers and five Cubs who were awarded their Chief Scout Awards.

The Scout Group currently have a vacancy for a Chairman as well as Assistant Leaders. We also have places available in all sections.

The Scout Hut in Watermill Lane is available for hire. Please enquire through the 2nd Bengeo website.



Ben Crystall, John Howson, Veronica Fraser and Lee Peacock on clearing up tasks.



Bengeo Primary School

Forest School

Having now made the necessary repairs following the vandalism at our Forest School, it is now up and running and classes are on a timetable to visit and enjoy this wonderful facility.

Last week, Year 4 Rowan class had their first visit to Forest School. Excitement levels were high as they made their way across the field and into the forest. The children were tasked with creating a pyramid with natural resources, the primary focus being on teamwork.



Children in Need

The whole school came in wearing their pyjamas to raise money for Children in Need. We also had a community coffee morning (run by some of our Year 6s) and a cake sale. Thanks to the generosity of our parents and local community, we raised an amazing £1,079.56.



New Library

On Thursday 1st December we had the grand opening for our new School Library. As anyone who visits us will know, reading is at the heart of the Bengeo experience. You could not step into our school without seeing our passion for books. What better way to celebrate this than with a brand-new library.



Our library was opened by David Rudd who is chief librarian at Hertford Library. He was warmly welcomed to our school by

our in-house publishing company. We were also delighted to receive a tweet from Michael Rosen wishing us all luck on our reading journey. We celebrated the occasion with bookworm cake and lots of smiles.

The children in school will have regular opportunity to visit the new library and from early next year will have the opportunity to borrow books and take them home. The BPA (Bengeo Parents' Association) have generously committed to increasing the book stock by buying some new books for the library and are also supporting us with the development of an outdoor reading area. Watch this space.



Mill Mead Primary School



Ducklings. Nursery took part in the whole school project, learning about The Gunpowder Plot. They fully immersed themselves in acting out the plot and creating their artwork.

We were lucky to have a professional drama company come and do a

workshop with our class, and the children went back in time to search for Guy Fawkes himself. They used this inspiration to create an impression of his face, using natural resources and they made a life-sized Guy. The children enjoyed the project and were very proud to show off their splatter fire-work art at the exhibition.



Mice. We have been very busy making props for our new toy workshop in the role play area. We are using this to explore many of the things we have been learning about in maths and phonics. We have a wrapping station to explore 3D shapes and lots

of opportunities to write instructions, toy lists and labels. We had a great time making decorations for the rest of the school. We made candy canes from recycled paper and Christmas puddings from paint and old cotton wool.

Birds. In Mathematics we have been adding and subtracting numbers within 20. We have been practising using different strategies such as number lines and 'make ten'. In English we have been learning about poetry. We learnt a poem called '*Down behind the dustbins*' by Michael Rosen. We changed the name of the dog, found our own rhyming words and then wrote our own line. In D&T, we learnt how windmills worked and then made our own. We loved wearing pyjamas to school for Children in Need Day.

Hedgehogs. In Maths, we have covered a number of topics including adding and subtracting 2-digit numbers, measuring in metres and centimetres and now we are looking at statistics with pictograms and bar graphs. We really enjoyed taking our maths outside to see what we could measure with a metre stick.

Squirrels. In Art, we have been exploring craft and using different materials to learn about new artistic skills. So far, we have practised paper weaving, fabric weaving, mood board making and tie dye! We have used all of our new skills to create amazing art pieces.



Owls. We have developed Geography skills learning about modern Egypt. We have explored circuits in Science and learnt about how to make the most of our character strengths in our My Happy Mind sessions.



Badgers. Year 5 have thoroughly enjoyed our new text in English: Shackleton's Journey. We have taken part in expedition interviews – the children pretended to be Shackleton and interviewed 'applicants' for the journey.

We have also had fun in Music as we have been learning the melody for '*Somewhere over the rainbow*' on the xylophones.



Foxes. Year 6 are riding high following their jaw-droppingly brilliant performance of *The Tempest* at the Shakespeare Schools Festival. Our stellar cast took to the stage at London's Arts Depot

theatre and delivered a spell-binding production of the Bard's final work – with exceptional acting; fantastic lighting; a brilliant soundtrack, and ace costumes that brought the play bang up-to-date with a hip Hawaiian theme. Their production brought the house down; dazzling the sell-out audience and stunning the festival organisers, who praised the students' ability to own the stage. Bravo to all.



Tonwell School News



In November we took part in anti-bullying week to raise awareness of different types of bullying. This year's theme is 'Reach Out' and we have talked about ways we can reach out for help if we or anyone we know is being bullied. Children have completed a 'helping hand' to record trusted adults they can talk to at home and in school if they are ever worried or upset.

Our Early Years children learnt about Remembrance Day and why it is important. A fantastic member of staff brought in their Grandad's medals and coat from their time in the armed forces, our children loved exploring the artefacts and had lots of brilliant questions. The children also worked together to make a lovely wreath from old egg boxes. The children also enjoyed learning about Bonfire Night, we were really impressed with their lovely art work!



Finally, we are pleased to announce that we have been awarded a grant from the Co-op foundation to put towards our gardening area and Forest School – we can't wait to see what the children will grow!

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.

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



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Duncombe School



A big hello from Team Duncombe!

For the first time since 2019, Team Duncombe were delighted to hold our annual Carol Service at Haileybury led by Reverend Thompson. The Chapel was not only filled with beautiful music from the children and our solo musicians, but with warmth and love from the whole of Team Duncombe. We have truly missed this event in our calendar.

We are delighted to share that our Green Council's work across the past year has resulted in Duncombe being awarded the Eco-Schools Green Flag Award. This highly demanding award is in recognition of our pupils' commitment to environmental and global issues recognising a highly effective and ambitious eco-plan which still has much more for us to focus on. Mrs Ferguson and Miss Ashcroft have ably worked with the Green Council, and both are extremely proud of this achievement and are ambitious and excited for the future with the ongoing work of the Council. The Award allows us to fly a flag to celebrate and share our success and commitment which is flying high at school.

Alongside this, our Gardening Club just keeps on growing with its achievements! This Autumn Term they have achieved Levels 1, 2 and 3 of the RHS Gardening Award. All the achievements have been made possible thanks to our newly created garden 'Potter's Corner'. Children were asked to plant a range of plants and grasses within the new area, including those which are drought tolerant and focus on gardening activities for wildlife such as building a hedgehog house. What will they achieve in the Spring Term?

Our Christmas Write was all about Brussels Sprouts, are you a lover or a loather? The children have been challenged to make those loveable brussels a firm favourite on everyone's Christmas dinner plate. They

have divided themselves into groups creating roles of campaign manager, speech writer and advertisement/graphic designer, creating campaign teams. We can't wait to hear the results!

It was all about Red Tomatoes or Green Peppers when we celebrated our Global Be Well Day. Focusing on our Wellbeing Charter and in particular on healthy eating, Team Duncombe was immersed in a whole host of activities and experiences, including a LIVE Ready Steady Cook assembly, fruit and vegetable tastings led by our Year 6 and a guess the fruit and utensils in a sensory game which proved very enjoyable with some pretty varied answers! Throughout the day a variety of resources and activities underscored our Wellbeing Charter, with opportunities to exercise, focus on breathing and learn about the importance of sustainability as part of our diet being of benefit for our physical bodies and for the environment in which we live. In addition, our families sent us home videos of their healthy eating cooking creations. We have some budding chefs and presenters in our midst, that is for sure!

Alongside this we've enjoyed welcoming parents for Music Breakfast Assemblies, Nativities from our youngest children and Carol Services and fabulous sporting wins. And we mustn't forget many of our year groups have been on exciting trips, including Year 2 who had a giganticus day at the Roald Dahl Museum.

Follow us on social media to keep up to date with all our news and Open Morning information. If you would like to know more about Duncombe School and Treetops Pre-School, please visit our website at www.duncombe-school.co.uk for more details.

A Word from The Rectory

Multifaith monarch

From The Vicar, The Revd Robert Thompson



The day was 27th January 2005, the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz, the place was St James's Palace, with the then Chief Rabbi Jonathan Sacks in attendance. Her Majesty the Queen was meeting a group of Holocaust survivors.

Royalty arrives on time and leaves on time, and so it always was with the Queen, but not on this occasion. When the time

came for her to leave, she stayed. And stayed. And stayed.

One of her attendants said that he had never known her to linger so long after her scheduled departure. She gave each survivor – and it was a large group – her focused, unhurried attention. She stood with each until they had finished telling their personal story.

It was an act of kindness that almost had the Chief Rabbi in tears. One after another, the survivors came to him in a kind of trance, saying: 'Sixty years ago I did not know if I would be alive tomorrow, and here I am today talking to the Queen.' It brought a kind of blessed closure into deeply lacerated lives.

Why tell this story today? In 2023 a new multifaith monarch will be crowned. And there's every indication that the Queen's attentiveness to religion and people of faith will continue under Charles, not just as a constitutional obligation but as a personal engagement.

He will hold the title Defender of The Faith, despite floating the idea in 1994 that it should be simply Defender of Faith. But there's little doubt that the title will be all-encompassing. No one does interfaith better than the Royal Family, and that started with the Queen herself.

From the first year of her reign in 1952 she was

patron of the Council of Christians and Jews, the organisation founded by the Archbishop of Canterbury, William Temple, and the Chief Rabbi, Joseph Hertz, in one of history's darkest nights ten years earlier.

Only ten years ago at her Diamond Jubilee, the Queen met at Lambeth Palace leaders of the nine leading faiths in Britain: Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Zoroastrian and Bahai. Each showed her an object that held special significance for them. In return she praised their contributions to the nation.

They helped the sick, the elderly, the lonely and the disadvantaged. More and more, she said, the Church of England was actively co-operating with other faiths to build a better society. Faith, and not just Christian faith, reminds us of 'the responsibilities we have beyond ourselves.'

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, Bengeo

2023 Dates: first Wednesday and third Thursday of every month

Thursday 19th January
Wednesday 1st February
Thursday 16th February
Wednesday 1st March
Thursday 16th March

Wednesday 5th April
Thursday 20th April
Wednesday 3rd May
Thursday 18th May
Wednesday 7th June

Thursday 15th June
Wednesday 5th July
Thursday 20th July

🕒 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,
Bengeo, Hertfordshire**

@ info@parishofbengeo.com

☎ 01992 413691

🌐 www.parishofbengeo.com
/bereavementcafe.php

📱 @BengeoBereavementCafe



In his sermon at the state funeral for the Queen last September the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, said of the new king, 'I know His Majesty shares the same faith and hope in Jesus Christ as his mother; the same sense of service and duty.'

True, but, he inherits the throne of a United Kingdom transformed into a multi-ethnic, multifaith society. Royal recognition of the significance of interfaith work has given it a prestige it would not otherwise have had, helping to make tolerance the default option in British life today.

To see the royal family lighting Hanukkah candles with children at a Jewish school or being adorned with flowers by appreciative Sikhs at a Gurdwara, or visiting a Hindu temple for Diwali, is to see royalty at its best. No one would doubt the duty of a monarch to defend the Established Church, but no one would doubt the importance of faith to any monarch who

understands how important other faiths are for their adherents.

Defending the Faith will mean continuing that inclusive, hospitable witness to religion that the royal family have adopted in public affairs. It will mean promoting respect, tolerance and inclusivity – great unifying forces – a unity we will need, the more diverse religiously and culturally we become.

It will mean taking time to listen to the many voices of multi-faith Britain, following the faith that so sustains their personal story.

Robert Thompson

Holocaust Memorial Day is 27th January, 2023

Warm & Welcoming Spaces in Hertford

Are you finding heating your home a challenge?

There are warm and welcoming spaces each weekday provided by Churches in Hertford, for people of all ages, from young families to older people. From 7th November 2022 to 31st March 2023.



Mon - Fri 9.00-14.00	<u>Oasis Cafe, Methodist Church</u>
Mon 10.30-12.00	St Joseph's
Tues 14.00-15.30	Warm Hub, Baptist Church Hall
Wed 10.00-12.00	<u>Place of Welcome, Baptist Church Hall</u>
2nd Wed of month 10.00-12.00	Craft Club, Duncombe Hall, Bengeo
Wed 10.30-12.00	St Joseph's
Wed 12.30 (Check website for dates)	<u>Soundbites, All Saint's</u>
Thurs 10 -12	Duncombe Hall, Bengeo
Thurs 10.00-12.00	Open House, URC
3rd Thurs of month 12.00-14.00	Free hot potato lunch, URC
1st Sat of month 10.00-12.00	Coffee morning, St Andrew's
2nd Sat of month 10.00-12.00	Coffee morning, All Saint's

More to come...

Parish Calendar JANUARY 2023

Sunday 1st January		The Second Sunday of Christmas	
10am		Morning Prayer	
Thursday 5th January			
10am		Holy Communion	
10.30am		Coffee Pot Charity Café, Church Hall, Duncombe Road	
Sunday 8th January		The Epiphany	
9am		Holy Communion	
10am		Parish Communion	
Tuesday 10th January			
8pm		Quiet Time, Holy Trinity	
Wednesday 11th January			
10am		Craft Club, Church Hall, Duncombe Road	
Thursday 12th January			
10am		Holy Communion	
10.30am		Coffee Pot Charity Café, Church Hall, Duncombe Road	
Sunday 15th January		The Second Sunday of Epiphany	
9am		Holy Communion	
10am		Parish Communion	
Tuesday 17th January			
8pm		Quiet Time, Holy Trinity	
Thursday 19th January			
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	
Sunday 22nd January		The Third Sunday of Epiphany	
9am		Holy Communion	
10am		Parish Communion	
Tuesday 24th January			
8pm		Quiet Time, Holy Trinity	
Thursday 26th January			
10am		Holy Communion	
10.30am		Coffee Pot Charity Café, Church Hall, Duncombe Road	
Sunday 29th January		The Presentation of Christ (Candlemas)	
9am		Holy Communion	
10am		Parish Communion	
Tuesday 31st January			
8pm		Quiet Time, Holy Trinity	

Parish Calendar FEBRUARY 2023

Wednesday 1st February	
2pm	Afternoon WI, Church Hall, Duncombe Road
2.30–4pm	Bereavement Café at The Secret Garden Café, The Avenue
Thursday 2nd February	
10am	Holy Communion
10.30am	Coffee Pot Charity Café, Church Hall, Duncombe Road
Sunday 5th February	Third Sunday before Lent
9am	Holy Communion
10am	Parish Communion
Tuesday 7th February	
8pm	Quiet Time, Holy Trinity
Thursday 9th February	
10am	Holy Communion
10.30am	Coffee Pot Charity Café, Church Hall, Duncombe Road
Sunday 12th February	Second Sunday before Lent
9am	Holy Communion
10am	Parish Communion
Tuesday 14th February	
8pm	Quiet Time, Holy Trinity
Wednesday 15th February	
10am	Craft Club, Church Hall, Duncombe Road
Thursday 16th February	
	No 10am service
10.30am	Coffee Pot Charity Café, Church Hall, Duncombe Road
6.30–8pm	Bereavement Cafe at The Secret Garden Cafe, The Avenue
Sunday 19th February	Sunday Next before Lent
9am	Holy Communion
10am	Parish Communion
Tuesday 21st February	
8pm	Quiet Time, Holy Trinity
Wednesday 22nd February	Ash Wednesday
8pm	Holy Communion
Thursday 23rd February	
10am	Holy Communion
10.30am	Coffee Pot Charity Café, Church Hall, Duncombe Road
Sunday 26th February	First Sunday of Lent
9am	Holy Communion
10am	Parish Communion
Tuesday 28th February	
8pm	Quiet Time, Holy Trinity

Parish Prayers

Daily Prayers for January

1. Naming of Jesus
2. Bengio Mews
3. Hertford and Ware Foodbank
4. The Government of Sudan
5. HMP Send, Surrey
6. Mission Aviation Fellowship, Folkestone
7. Our church and church hall maintenance
8. All in the parish who seek Baptism
9. Bengio Street
10. Local doctors
11. Community Craft Club
12. HMP Sheppey, Kent
13. The Friends Meeting House, Hertford
14. The Christian Police Association
15. Our 10am Sunday service
16. Bengio Wick
17. The Church Army
18. Churches working together
19. HMP Stafford, Staffordshire
20. Local sports teams
21. Local pubs and clubs
22. Hertford and District Churches Together
23. Bourne Honour, Tonwell
24. The Woodland Trust
25. Churches Together of England and Wales
26. HMP Stocken, Rutland
27. Christians in sport
29. Our Sunday 9am service
30. Boundary Drive
31. Future Hope, Hertford and Ware

Daily Prayers for February

1. Women and girls in Afghanistan
2. HMP Stoke Heath, Shropshire
3. Amnesty International
4. Fair Trade
5. Our choir
6. Buckwells Field
7. The people and government of Ukraine
8. Christians in Afghanistan
9. HMP Styal, Wilmslow
10. The UN Refugee Council
11. The Bereavement Café
12. Friends of St Leonard's
13. Byde Street
14. Those we love
15. The Bible translators
16. HMP Swansea, Wales
17. Churches and schools in Uganda
18. Christian churches in Malawi
19. Our preparation for Lent
20. The Pens
21. Those facing or in famine
22. Ash Wednesday
23. HMP Althouse, Liverpool
24. The Anglican Church in Uganda
25. Local planning and land use
26. The Church Urban Fund
27. Chapel Court, Tonwell
28. Dementia UK

Register

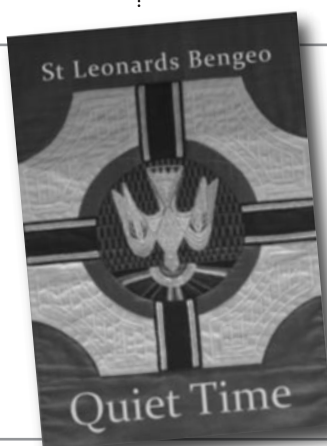
24th October Wedding:

Jorge de Andrade and Alexandra Dean

28th October Funeral: **Valerie Parry**

20th November Wedding:

Edward Harrison and Moira Flindall



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 January.

Church Contacts

Team Vicar

The Reverend Robert Thompson
The Rectory, Byde Street, Beng eo, SG14 3BS
E: 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, Beng eo, SG14 3JW

Local Contacts for Help and Advice

Benge o Residents Support Network Against Coronavirus

Many volunteers from Beng eo 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

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

Medical and Health Advice

www.nhs.uk/coronavirus

Information about local council services

www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/coronavirus

Domestic Abuse

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

Hertfordshire Citizens Advice Service

03444 111 444

National Debtline

www.nationaldebtline.org
0808 808 4000

Advice on avoiding scams

Sign up for scam alerts from trading standards
www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/updateme

Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline

0808 223 1133

If you are interested in volunteering
www.thvolunteering.org.uk

HertsHelp 0300 123 4044

Mental Health Advice and Support

Herts Mind Network

www.hertsmindnetwork.org
020 3727 3600
0300 777 0707 [8am–7pm]
Nightline: 01923 256391

Emotional Support and Practical Help

www.hertshelp.net
info@hertshelp.net
HertsHelp: 0300 123 4044

Inside back cover: On the Doorstep Snowdrops, photographs by Bridget Hersant.
Back cover: Yarnbombers sprites in Parliament Square.

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HERTFORD • 01992 582052

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On The Doorstep



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