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# Bengeio Parish Magazine and Community News



The Bengeio Cricket Club is a real success story and is going from strength to strength thanks to a dedicated team of volunteers. Read about the transformation of the club on pages 6 and 7.

Restoration and cleaning of our historic reredos and font at Holy Trinity Church was carried out recently – go to pages 10 and 11 and the back cover to find out more about renovating these important structures.

If you are out and about in the summer months then look out for Bridget's flower of the month, the Bird's Foot Trefoil. See the article on page 9 and the colourful photographs on page 27.

## 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:

The Bengeio Cricket Team First XI at their ground.

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## Editorial Team

Items for the magazine should be sent to [mail@bengeiomagazine.co.uk](mailto:mail@bengeiomagazine.co.uk)

## Copy dates for 2024

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# Friends of St Leonard's

St Leonard's Church Bengio is now open on Sunday afternoons throughout the summer. Join us from 2.30pm to 5pm and explore the history of this ancient church. Tea/coffee and cake are available for a very reasonable charge.

You can carry out a self-guided tour or just take in the peaceful atmosphere. Children are very welcome – we have a treasure hunt or colouring they can do while parents relax. Well-behaved dogs are also welcome!

We reckon it is the coolest place in Bengio on a hot day (once they arrive)!

## Services and Prayers

St Leonard's remains an active place of worship and there will be the traditional special services this summer. This includes the very popular Pet Blessing Service at 4pm on Sunday 7th July. Bring your pets to say a special thanks for the joy they bring you.

The Hymns and Pimms Service will take place on Sunday 28th July. As well as the usual rousing hymns, this year we are celebrating the very special Fortieth Anniversary of setting up the Friends of St Leonard's. Over the past forty years the Friends have organised events to raise money for the upkeep of this lovely building. As well as major construction work like repairing the roof and building new kitchen and toilet facilities, the Friends have supported restoration of the paintings and

memorials inside the church. This is an opportunity to say thank you for the hard work.

## Music

Our next concert on Saturday 29th June is the Gagliano Quartet. Fiona Bonds again leads a group of very talented professional musicians through a programme of Cowell, Barber and Dvorak.

You can also book for the return to St Leonard's of the Andrews Massey Duo who will bring guitar, flute and voice to fill the church with a lovely sound on Saturday 14th September.

Tickets for concerts are £15 and are available from [boxoffice@parishofbengio.com](mailto:boxoffice@parishofbengio.com).

## Joining the Friends of St Leonard's

If you want to get more involved, we would be happy to welcome you into the Friends. Becoming a Friend of St Leonard's Church will also give you advance warning on our events and a newsletter updating you on activity in the church. You can join through our website [www.stleonards.parishofbengio.com/friends-of-st-leonards](http://www.stleonards.parishofbengio.com/friends-of-st-leonards).

Help with keeping the church tidy or running the teas is always welcome. Please get in touch if you want to know more.

**Helen Fleming**

[Secretaryfriendsofstleonards@gmail.com](mailto:Secretaryfriendsofstleonards@gmail.com)



## How does your garden grow!

The Bengio Community Garden on Duncombe Road is now blooming!

On Sunday 14th July from 2pm to 3.15pm local residents are invited to Bengio Parish Hall in Duncombe Road for an opportunity to talk to those involved in the project so far, share your feedback and find out how you can be involved. There will be tea, coffee and cakes.

We will be also collecting cash donations for the wonderful Mudlarks team of volunteers, who did the amazing job of making the garden design and clearing and planting the area. Careful consideration was given to the design of each part of the plot with the drought tolerant, sun-loving plants at the front of the garden where the sun shines the most, and shade-loving plants at the back under the trees. Wildlife friendly features include two nest boxes and a small bird bath. A shell path allows visitors to walk through the garden and sit in this tranquil haven.

We look forward to meeting you at the Hall on the 14th July.

**Veronica Fraser**



# Bengeo Cricket Club – a success story

The Club has a proud history dating back to 1875 and has experienced somewhat of a renaissance over the last nine years or so having nearly folded as a club in 2015. This is

due to a lot of hard work behind the scenes and grants to support the club's development. The commitment from the club members, many of whom are Bengeo residents is inspiring. They volunteer, for free to coach Junior Programmes or, give up time to keep the ground in good condition over the summer months.

Club Secretary Neil O'Toole explains how this all started, "In 2015 we came close to folding as a club, through lack of players and members. A small band of club members set about stabilising and rebuilding the club. Back then the club had one Saturday team (just) and struggled to get players on a Sunday for friendlies. It was decided that the best way to make the club sustainable and to grow was to build the Colts, the Junior section, and start from scratch. This was a daunting prospect, so we took on the ECB (English Cricket Board) National Programmes of Dynamos (7 to 11 years) and All Stars (4 to 7 year olds). We have done that for the last 5 years. We now have four Colts teams ranging from Under 9s to under 13 year olds and we'll keep building that up. It is a big commitment, and a lot of time goes into running the club, we have at least fifteen volunteers supporting the Sunday morning sessions and thankfully an active committee who get things done. When you see the ground on a Sunday morning there are in excess of 100



All Stars and Dynamos.

youngsters playing cricket and being active, it's very rewarding. The majority of youngsters come from the Bengeo catchment, especially Bengeo Schools and some from further afield. We are the third highest ECB-subscribed programme in Hertfordshire, so we beat a lot of the bigger towns, which is a fantastic effort by the Club, being a smaller local team. We see this as a community asset and we have now made the club sustainable."

Neil adds, "The success of the junior section is also reflected in the senior Club teams. The first team have won their league twice and secured a promotion to the Premier Division of the Herts and Essex Border League in recent years. For the first time in 25 years we now have a 2nd XI Team, who play in the Hertfordshire Saracens League, with many of the players coming from the Colts and Dynamos programme the club have been running. Again, it's fantastic to see the youngsters develop and grow into senior players. We also offer a Sunday friendly team, (ideal for those wanting to get into or back into cricket). A recent highlight was fielding a Sunday team with an average age of 14 who performed incredibly well, this would have been a distant thought a few years back."

"The club has aspired to make cricket a more inclusive and accessible sport by being friendly and family orientated. It has been a real success story here over the last few years. One of our next milestones will be to have a Girls' Colts Team, the numbers of girls getting involved increases every year and we'd be delighted to support more female

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cricket participation at the club and get more people hooked and involved with the game."

Neil goes on to say, "The club has a huge asset in the cricket field and facilities at the ground, which is also shared with Bengo Trinity FC. We were very fortunate that the Town Council gave us a grant towards the new ECB-approved training nets with two wickets with run-up and approaches. It is a big investment and has provided us with real benefits, we can now train away from the cricket wicket in all weathers with a modern first-class facility."

Neil says, "It's a great team effort to keep the club running. We are grateful to our members, Committee and volunteers, not only the coaches who give up their time, but the bar staff, grounds people and parents who come and support us. It's a real community effort and one we're incredibly proud of. It would be fantastic to see more local support and people getting involved with the Club, and there's a bar in the clubhouse too, if extra encouragement is needed!"

Next year is Bengo Cricket Club's 150th anniversary from its beginnings in 1875 so watch out for events to mark the centenary and charity fundraiser, (a walk from the Ground to Lords Cricket Stadium!).  
[www.bengocricketclub.hitscricket.com](http://www.bengocricketclub.hitscricket.com).



Courtyard  
—arts—

## Courtyard Arts Exhibitions

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If you would like to find out more about what the Club offers please contact  
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# On the Doorstep – July to August 2024

Common Bird's-foot Trefoil, this is a rather wonderful yellow flower that is native to Europe and can be seen flowering between June and September. The plant is part of the pea family and grows to around 35cm in height, taller if supported. The flower has five petals, one that covers the stamen, etc with two that surround this and then one slightly larger which acts as a land platform for insects, like many legume plant flowers. The plant has five leaflets, two growing out directly from the stalk and then three in a group that grow on a stem a little higher than the two at the stalk. The group of three leaves giving rise to the plant's common name trefoil.

The flowers appear in small clusters at the top of the stem and have the appearance of soft slippers. Bird's-foot Trefoil is a tough little plant that favours well drained soil, but can be found growing in many places, grassland, moors, heaths, rocky habitat, along the side of paths and roadsides. The plant can withstand mowing, grazing, and trampling. Locally it can be found in abundance at Waterford Heath growing in the short grass, creating a glorious carpet of yellow.

Its scientific name is *Lotus Corniculatus* but it is known by many other common names, in fact it has been attributed over 70 different common names, a popular little plant. Some of the many common names for it are: Butter and Eggs, Eggs and Bacon, Hens and Chickens, probably in reference to the wonderful rich egg yolk yellow of the flowers, which have orangey/red buds and the flowers themselves can be tinged with an orangey/red. Another not so attractive name is Granny's Toenails, in reference to the seed pod shape, which is also why it is called Bird's-foot because of the claw-like seed pods. Some other fascinating names are Cheesecake Grass, Ground Honeysuckle and God Almighty's Thumb and Fingers.

Bird's-foot Trefoil is an important food source for the caterpillars of several butterflies including Common Blue, Silver Studded Blue and Diggy Skipper amongst others. It is a good source of nectar for many other insects. The plant can and has been used as a forage plant for livestock, for silage and hay. Not only that but the plant is good for the soil due to its ability to 'fix' nitrogen, a process of

converting atmospheric nitrogen into ammonia, improving soil fertility.

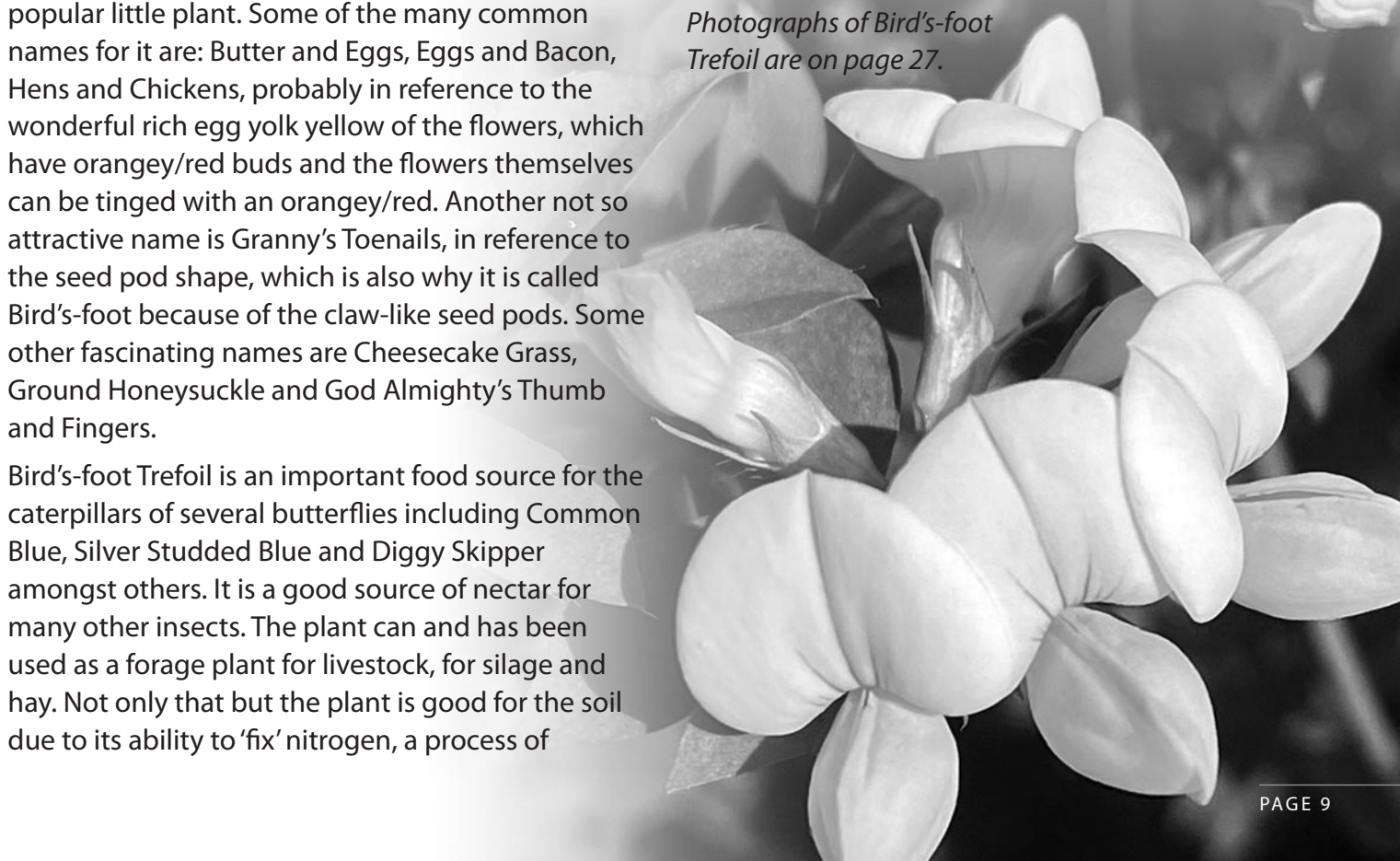
In the past the plant has been used for various medical ailments, the seed pods and flower were used in small amounts as a sedative, for the nervous and cardiac systems, as well as for anxiety, insomnia and exhaustion. However, the plant contains hydrogen cyanide, so not a good idea to be ingested by humans.

In the Victorian Language of Flowers, it was said to symbolise revenge, maybe connected to the fact that the plant contains hydrogen cyanide. In pagan times it was thought the plant offered protection and was woven into headress for summer festivals. When Christianity was embraced the plant became associated with the Holy Trinity because of the group of three leaves together. However, the protection theme remained as children use to name the plant 'No Blame' as it was believed that if picked it would make you immune to punishment, or the wrath of your teacher. Wishful thinking there!

This tough little plant is a winner for me, I love its glowing colours, soft shaped flowers and its many fascinating common names, if you're out and about keep a look out for it.

**Bridget Hersant**

*Photographs of Bird's-foot Trefoil are on page 27.*



# Cleaning and Restoration of the Reredos and Font at Holy Trinity Church, Bengoe, May 2024



The reredos, the decorative screen at the back of the altar at the east end of Holy Trinity church, had become dirty over the years since its installation around 1885 and some of the

figures had been damaged. The reredos was erected as a result of a donation from Robert Smith of Goldings, who was a great benefactor to the church. The figurative scenes on the reredos plaque were sculpted in terracotta by George Tinworth. Matthew Beesley, conservator, carried out the cleaning and restoration of the reredos following a generous donation from Libby and Peter Shillito in memory of their son, Tim.

## Reredos materials

The main part of the screen is composed of Caen stone from Normandy. This stone is particularly absorbent and tends to retain the dirt more than other types of limestone. Bathstone was also used: the honey-ochre coloured Hartham Park for the supporting structures to the reredos and font and the six corbel heads of the chancel; a lighter Stoke Ground for the cupolas, croquettes, finials and tracery, figures and spandrels, as well as the carved detailing to the font. The darker pillars, colonettes, on either side of the central plaque are composed of granite stone.

George Tinworth of the Doulton factory in Lambeth created the three plaques using terracotta. The left-hand plaque shows Christ meeting a woman, the right plaque is Christ meeting Mary after the crucifixion and the central plaque represents loaves and fishes. Tinworth added successive and contrasting coloured slips to develop two- and three-dimensional visual space which enhanced the



sculptures through exposing underlying layers. Cleaning has revealed this two-tone effect and has brought the central Christ figure into prominence. George Tinworth created more plaques for churches in this country and abroad.

### Cleaning the stone and panels

In terms of cleaning, the conservator, Matthew Beesley, used 5 different chelating agents and rinses which are used in conservation for paper, parchment, textiles and ceramics/stone/marble. He started at the top left of the reredos and worked gradually downwards and across. In some places



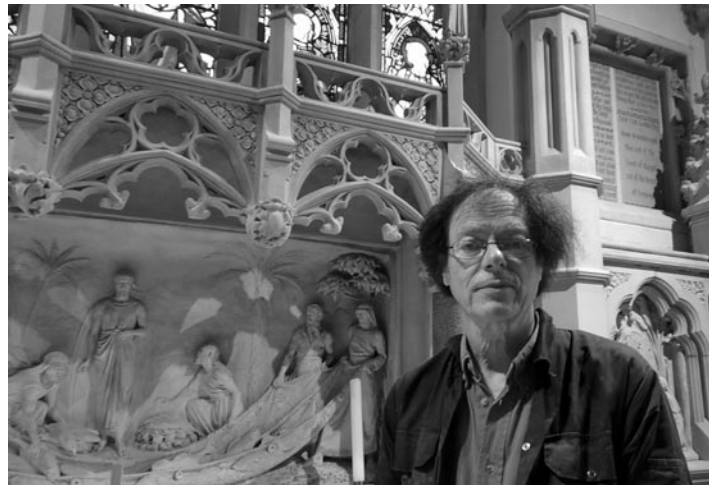
open joints had developed and where condensation had caused moisture run-offs which produced a weak acid eating into the limestone. These joints were later filled. The four text panels were composed of a more porous terracotta, and so these were cleaned with acid-free

paper pulp poultices to extract the subsurface dirt, rather than risking pushing the dirt in solution deeper into the body of the panels. The initial cleaning used a biodegradable emulsifier as a wetting agent for oil-water dispersions across surfaces, enabling simpler rinsing methods.

The results of the conservation speak for themselves as cleaning and restoration brings out the intricacies of the modelling and carving and allows us to appreciate the fine detailing. We are fortunate to have such splendid workmanship in our church.

### About Matthew Beesley

Matthew is an Accredited Conservator with the Institute of Conservation, and a member of the International Institute of Conservation. He works on both secular and ecclesiastical architecture, private collections, monuments, wall paintings, and objects from European, Asian, and Far Eastern cultures from circa 5,000 years ago through to the Post-Modern period, including many UK Cathedrals, museums, working occasionally on the Allied Forces monuments in Normandy, and other objects in several European countries. He regularly works on Egyptian, Greek, and Roman statuary, through to



Matthew Beesley.

annual recurring projects such as Anthony Gormley's and other contemporary sculpture.

After studying Fine Art Painting and Printmaking at Byam Shaw School of Art, London, (mid-late 1970s) followed by a traditional training in masonry, carving, and letter carving, continuing his apprenticeship at Cologne Cathedral over two years, he returned to England. He founded a ceramics and pottery class for the blind, teaching for four years voluntarily in Northampton, and engaged as an art therapist in the community and psychiatric hospitals, also voluntarily.

Early in his conservation career he formed a ten-person team of international architects and conservators to complete the conservation (all internal and external elevations) of Henry VII's Chapel, Westminster Abbey, over a four-year period. Upon completion of the project, He met Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip, and his name was subsequently incorporated into the new stained-glass window in Henry VII's Chapel designed by Alfred Fisher as a celebration of the project's completion, 1995. At the same time, he managed a team to conserve 275 monuments inside the Church of St Helen, Bishopsgate, sheared from walls and damaged by the Liverpool Street Station bombing by the IRA. In 2008, his conservation studio was visited by the then Charles, Prince of Wales, to discuss conservation being carried out on fire-damaged neo-classical marble statuary.

Matthew was also senior conservator at Chichester and Llandaff Cathedrals for several years (1994–1999).

**Editorial note:** *George Tinworth, who created the plaques, will be featured in the next issue of the Bengoe Magazine.*

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## Remembering 1963

### Adult Education Course September 2024

A president was assassinated, the Beatles topped the charts, Martin Luther King had a dream, and the UK had a freezing winter – there'll be a lot to mull over in Hertford Adult Learning Group's September course entitled *'Remembering 1963'*.

You are very welcome to join us in the Church Hall, Duncombe Road, for eight enjoyable Tuesday mornings, 24th September to 19th November, 10am–12 noon, with popular tutor Stephen Barnard, whose last course in Bengoe was *'The Great British Songbook'*.

The cost is just £30 for eight two-hour sessions. For further details contact **01992 589538**.



The Bengoe Club is a friendly Social Club in the heart of Bengoe. It offers its members a great social calendar including live acts on Saturdays, Bingo and Raffle evenings, and live sport on TNT plus sporting activities including Bowls and Pétanque, Darts, Snooker and Pool, Bingo is also on every Tuesday in the Garden Room at 8pm. There is a large selection of games available (not just for the children but adults too) including Crib, Rummikub and Dominoes.

## Bowling

As well as Bengoe Bowlers and the U3A Outdoor Bowls Group there is bowling available on a pay and play basis or by joining the Bowls section (for an added fee). The Bowls section plays on Monday afternoons and evenings from May to September and takes part in friendly matches and league events against local clubs.

Interested? Give Christina (**07961 529226**) a ring for more information.

## Entertainment in July

- **6th** Soul Chain (9pm)
- **13th** Bingo and Raffle (8pm)
- **20th** Free Jukebox Evening
- **27th** Bingo and Raffle (8pm)

## Entertainment in August

- **3rd** Lickin Stick (9pm)
- **10th** Bingo and Raffle (8pm)
- **17th** The Monitors (9pm)
- **18th** Summer Party (Daytime)
- **24th** Free Jukebox Evening
- **25th** Mario (8pm)
- **31st** Bingo and Raffle (8pm)

*NEW MEMBERS WELCOME – pop in and see us soon.*

## Annual Pet Service



**Sunday 7th July, 4pm  
at St Leonard's Church**

This year we will be raising money for a National Charity, The Cinnamon Trust.

Cinnamon Trust is the only specialist national charity which

seeks to relieve the anxieties, problems and sometimes injustices faced by elderly and terminally ill people and their pets, thereby saving a great deal of human sadness and animal suffering. It helps look after animals when their owners through illness or for other reasons can no longer care for them.

Bob Kelly, our Lay Reader, with his dog Oskar will be leading the Service, which is a lovely occasion for all ages. You don't have to have a pet to join us, you will be welcome either with a pet, toy animal or just yourself.

Catherine Flanagan from the Cinnamon Trust will be telling us about the work of the Trust.

Refreshments will be served following the Service, so do stay around for a chat.

For more information, please contact Libby on **01992 583979**.

**Libby Shillito**

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**[www.rscdsherts.org/south-east-herts](http://www.rscdsherts.org/south-east-herts)**





# Bengeo Primary School



## County Hockey Tournament

23rd May

Eight children across Y6 took part in a County Hockey Tournament in Hitchin due to our success in the Hertford and Ware competition. We started off with a 2-0 win over Whitehill. We carried on with a success over Wrexham School with a 2-1 win. Next a 1-1 draw with Richard Whittington. Applecroft Primary had a 2-1 controversial win over us. Then we had a short lunchbreak followed by a game. We had a 1-0 win over Skyswood. Then we drew 0-0 over Roundwood. Then a 5-1 defeat over St Ippolyts. Overall, we came 4th and we won a baton of honesty.

## Tag Rugby Festival – Hertford Rugby Club

On Tuesday 21st May Bengeo entered two teams into the girls tag rugby festival. Both teams did extremely well, winning most of their matches. All

the girls had a great afternoon (despite the weather!) and put into practice the skills they had learnt in PE earlier in the year.

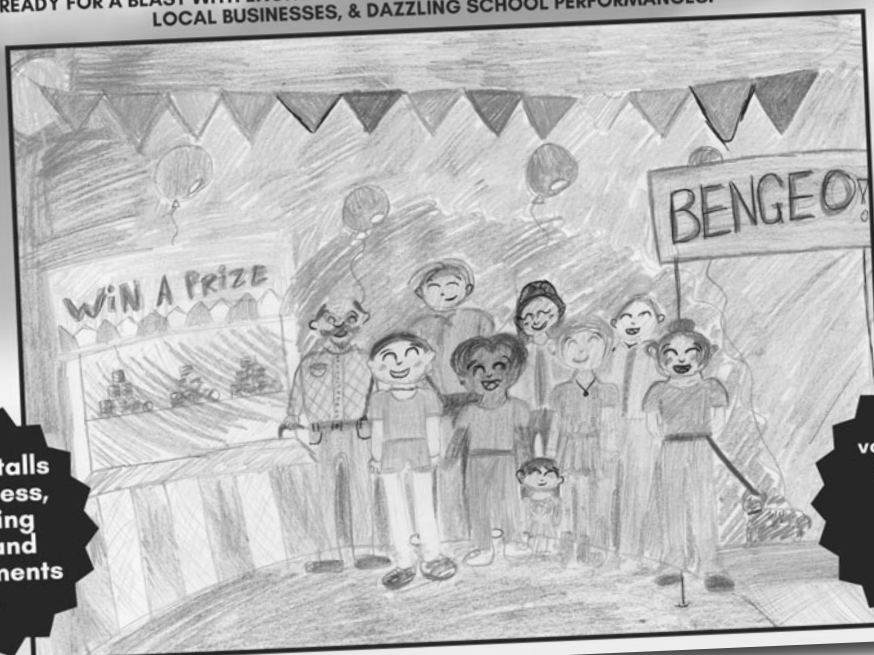


## BENGEO DAY

12 PM TO 3PM  
SUNDAY 7TH JULY 2024  
BENGEO PRIMARY SCHOOL

£1  
ENTRY  
Under 16s  
free

GET READY FOR A BLAST WITH EXCITING FAMILY GAMES, OUR BPA BAR, TASTY TREATS, STALLS FROM LOCAL BUSINESSES, & DAZZLING SCHOOL PERFORMANCES!



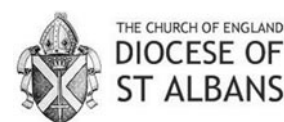
All BPA stalls are cashless, embracing tokens and card payments only.

Sign up to volunteer using the QR code below





# Tonwell School News



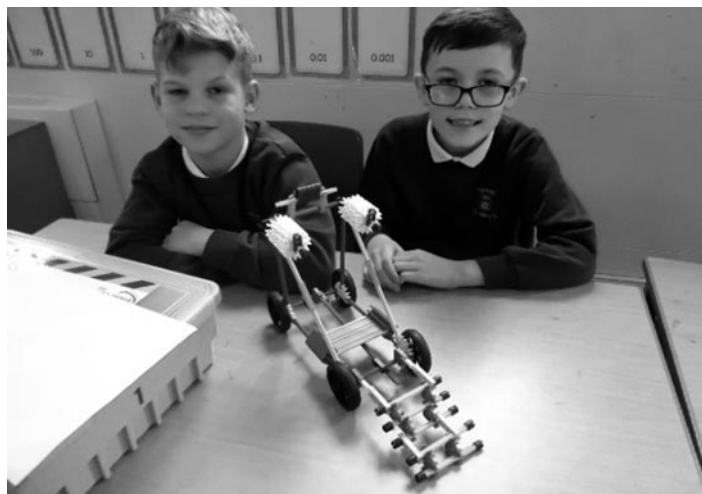
We love seeing our children enjoy new experiences. They have taken part in lots of activities around Easter plus some exciting challenges and trips.



Thank you FOT for organising a lovely afternoon of Easter crafts and to our Open the Book volunteers who retold the Bible story of *The Road to Emmaus*. As always, the children loved dressing up and helping to act out the story.



Once again our older children took part in the Go Construct K'nex challenge. The popular annual challenge provides primary school children with an introduction to the exciting world of engineering and technology. The challenge is run by STEM Ambassadors who are trained to deliver the sessions in school. It requires the pupils to design and build a solution to a problem that is given to the children on the day, developing their problem-solving skills, using creativity as well as early project management



skills. Well done to Oak class for their creative and carefully planned out designs.

Pizza Express very kindly offered us a free Pizza making session. The children learnt all about the different ingredients that go into making a pizza and then some fun facts about them such as where the ingredients are grown.



## 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)





# Mill Mead Primary School



**Ducklings:** focussed on the Natural Environment and have been working hard growing and nurturing different types of flowers, fruits, herbs and vegetables then creating their own vegetable garden art collage. They also learned about

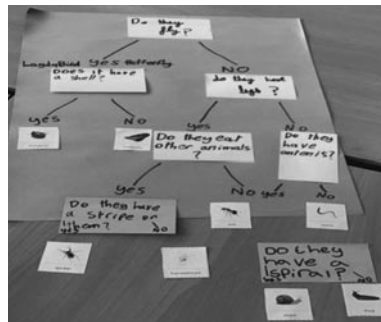
different recycling materials and how we can reduce our waste. Lastly, they were inspired by Van Gogh's 'Sunflowers' painting to make their own art piece, while learning about the life cycle of a sunflower and planting their own.

**Mice:** have enjoyed taking part in a whole school sustainability project and they created their own recycling station in an outdoor area of the school. They took part in balanceability sessions and worked hard developing motor skills along with improving their balance and co-ordination.

**Birds:** went on a museum trip for design, imagination and play. The stage was a big hit and they enjoyed dressing up and acting out stories. As you can imagine, the 'play' area was very popular due to the large blue bricks and the magnetic ball run. Some of the children got to watch and speak to a designer who was there too.



**Hedgehogs:** have built dragons with moving parts, wormeries, towers with 3D shapes, clay pots and clay tiles. All of which have made them ask questions, explore alternative methods and listen to their partners so that they can improve and succeed at a task.



have been learning about how scientists group living things, creating our own questions for classification keys.

**Badgers:** have been learning different tennis strokes in PE and taking part in Science investigations based on forces, such as water resistance, air resistance, and friction. In D&T they designed labels for a spaghetti Bolognese packaging project.

**Foxes:** SATS week was rounded off in traditional Mill Mead style with an epic water fight and pizza feast on the school field. Back at work they have been busy dreaming up some amazing holiday itineraries during our maths budget challenge.

**Squirrels:** in Maths, they have had fun weighing and measuring things and in English writing their own adventure stories, constructing castles in D&T and fine-tuning their athletic skills to really give their best for Sports Day.

**Owls:** learned about food waste, food miles and where our food comes from – and were shocked at how much food is wasted and what that equates to in terms of cash! In Maths they solved all sorts of real-world problems relating to length, capacity and mass. In Science, they

# Excellent in all areas.

ISI Inspection Report 2022

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*ISI June 2022*



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# Discover a Duncombe education



Learning is brought to life at Duncombe School for all our children aged 2-11 years through first-hand experiences and inspirational teaching methods.

A Duncombe education is built upon the firm foundations of inspiring and engaging lessons across the whole school, which contributes to the high academic standards achieved through a diverse curriculum, specialist teaching and a vast number of opportunities. All of these enable independent and creative thinking, resulting in all-round academic excellence.



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- Consistently exceeding Early Years national scores
- Specialist teachers across a range of subjects, including Spanish, French, PE, and Music
- Engaging themed curriculum for dynamic learning experiences
- Small classes for personalised attention
- Weekly visits to Duncombe School facilities, including covered Astro, Forest School, Library and Music Studio
- Part of the 15 free hours Government funding
- 47 week wraparound care available

## Why choose a Duncombe education?

- Specialist teachers delivering French, Spanish, ICT, Forest School, Science, Music and Physical Education.
- International technology collaborations
- 1:2:1 devices for all children from Year 3-6
- Secondary style timetable in Upper School
- Dedicated preparation and support for Secondary School and scholarship applications
- Outstanding pastoral care instilling confidence and determination
- Range of facilities including cover Astro, Forest School, Library and Music Studio
- A vast range of extra-curricular activities
- 47 week wraparound care available

Every child at Duncombe is treated as an individual, encouraged to develop strength of character and prepared for life beyond Duncombe with an open, confident and inquisitive mind.



## A Word from The Rectory

# Mixed messages: a mixed blessing

From The Vicar, The Revd Robert Thompson



In elections across the world, it seems voters are having to develop supernatural levels of insight in order to choose the right kind of person for a particular office. Not because politicians are suddenly of a lower standard than before; but because in a world of carefully tailored messages, it's becoming harder to know what a person really stands for based on what they say.

Mixed signals accompanied the general election campaign from the very start with the prime minister announcing polling day standing in a rain shower in his shirt sleeves – a leader with a plan for everything, apart, apparently, from the famous London weather. The picture of Rishi Sunak standing there in his soaking wet jacket could become a defining image with the electorate left to decide a caption for it. 'Braving the political storm?' 'Things Can Only Get Wetter?'

This is an age-old problem for politicians – good and bad – constantly having to check their 'optics' and their words; negotiating a complex balance between expressing what they think and what they think most people want to see and hear. It is possible and it should be possible for politicians to express what they believe and for us to believe them, but it says something that, even in democracies where people are free to say what they want, some still seem afraid to do so.

If so, this is a spiritual as well as political problem. We end up creating a system that favours people-pleasers who say things they don't really mean in order to gain power over those who really have something to say and mean it. A kind of 'he who flatters wins' situation. Such a system ends up diluting substance and feeding us soundbites and

presentation. By the time the words are filtered through the media, the gap between appearance and reality is often so distorted it's hard to discern what's true.

Woodie Guthrie once wrote a song with the lyric, 'Jesus Christ For President,' but I doubt Jesus would fare any better at the hustings. It's said he didn't look great; he often said provocative things to the wrong people at exactly the wrong time; he hung around with people of little consequence, delivered a very off-putting and baffling manifesto, and had a kind of anti-spin approach to public relations. His campaign ended not in election to high office, but in crucifixion.

Yet the man who turned down the offer of earthly power and who was despised and rejected by many, got his message through all the same. He has more followers today than any head of state. Millions of people can still quote his manifesto and some even try and implement his policies.

Jesus once said, 'Woe to you when all men think well of you.' Good advice perhaps for those politicians seeking popularity at the expense of character, power at the price of principle.

So here's a truism for politicians of every political stripe: if you want your message to stick, say what you mean, and mean what you say – but don't expect people to love you for it.

*With my prayers,*  
**Robert Thompson**



# Continued Support for Families

The Hertfordshire Support Fund is being extended for a further six months until the end of September.

- Supermarket food vouchers for families receiving benefited-related free school meals for the summer school holidays.
- Our welfare assistance scheme, helping households on low incomes facing an immediate financial crisis.
- Support for food banks and help with energy costs delivered by district and borough councils and Hertfordshire Community Trust.
- Support for homeless persons and survivors of domestic abuse.
- £150 vouchers for new pensioners registered for Pension Credits.

- £50 vouchers for care leavers over the age of 19, identified by our Care Leavers team.
- Further funding for our Money Advice Unit and Citizens Advice to enable them to continue offering financial and debt support.

If you need help, regardless of whether you qualify for benefits, please call HertsHelp on **0300 123 4044**, email **info@hertshelp.net** or visit **www.hertshelp.net**.

For more information about the support on offer for residents both locally and national, please visit **www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/costofliving**.

## Citizens Advice Appeal – Sponsored Walk

Citizens Advice is vital for local people – none of us knows when we may need free, impartial and reliable advice to deal with a problem outside our control. As a charity we must fundraise to run our free advice service. All our funding comes from local council grants, charitable grants and foundations for which we have to compete, as well as community fundraising. Over the last five years, our grant from the local council has fallen by 56% (including inflation), which means that we have had to reduce our service by one day a week to save costs.

There will be a 'Go the Extra Mile' Sponsored Walk by our team to show that while we can't walk a marathon on our own, together we can achieve so much more! If you want to join us or come along to cheer us on, we'll be at Hartham Common, Hertford on Friday 5th July AND Friday 12th July. Meet at the car park at 10am. For more information email **comms@citizensadviceeastherts.org.uk**.

If you also wish to donate, Aviva is match funding every individual donation up to £250 for the first six weeks.

## Hertford Pantry

The Holy Trinity Church Lent Appeal was for a home-grown charity this time. The Hertford Pantry has been running for almost 2 years and benefits people in Sele Farm. It is different from the main Food Banks in Hertford as it distributes fresh food. Deborah Bonfield, who set up the charity, says: "We collect food at the end of each day from local supermarkets through the Fare Share food platform and store it overnight then we distribute across 3 sessions a week at our hub in Fleming Crescent, Sele Farm".

The hub is open to all, so anyone can attend and take food that would otherwise be destined for landfill. There is no criteria or referral to collect food from Hertford Pantry – anyone can come. As well as fresh food there are extras that we have purchased plus dried goods that are given to people that need a bit more help.

The sessions are held on Mondays from 1pm to 2pm, Wednesdays 1.30pm to 2.30pm and Saturdays from 11am to noon. On average there are around 80 families per session attending plus they do a certain number of deliveries per week.

The pantry is run purely by volunteers and is a registered charity number 1208168. The Holy Trinity Lent Appeal raised nearly £1,000 for the charity.

# Parish Calendar JULY 2024

<b>Wednesday 3rd July</b>	
2pm	Bengeo Afternoon WI, Church Hall, Duncombe Road
2.30–4pm	Bereavement Cafe at Secret Garden Café, The Avenue
<b>Thursday 4th July</b>	
10am	Holy Communion (Traditional language)
10.30am	Coffee Pot Charity Café, Church Hall, Duncombe Road
<b>Sunday 7th July</b>	
<b>Sixth Sunday after Trinity</b>	
9am	Holy Communion at Holy Trinity Church
10am	Parish Communion at Holy Trinity Church
4pm	Annual Bengeo Pet Blessing Service at St Leonard's Church, followed by refreshments
<b>Tuesday 9th July</b>	
8pm	Quiet Time at St Leonard's Church: Prayer and Meditation
<b>Wednesday 10th July</b>	
10am	Craft Club, Church Hall, Bengeo
<b>Thursday 11th July</b>	
10am	Holy Communion (Traditional language)
10.30am	Coffee Pot Charity Café, Church Hall, Duncombe Road
2.30–4pm	Bereavement Café at The Oasis Café, Ware Road, Methodist Church, Hertford
<b>Sunday 14th July</b>	
<b>Seventh Sunday after Trinity</b>	
9am	Holy Communion at Holy Trinity Church
10am	Parish Communion at Holy Trinity Church
2.30–5pm	St Leonard's Church: Tea and Tour
<b>Tuesday 16th July</b>	
8pm	Quiet Time at St Leonard's Church: Prayer and Meditation
<b>Thursday 18th July</b>	
10am	Holy Communion (Traditional language)
10.30am	Coffee Pot Charity Café, Church Hall, Duncombe Road
6.30–8pm	Bereavement Cafe at Secret Garden Café, Bengeo
<b>Sunday 21st July</b>	
<b>Eighth Sunday after Trinity</b>	
9am	Holy Communion at Holy Trinity Church
10am	Parish Communion at Holy Trinity Church
2.30–5pm	St Leonard's Church: Tea and Tour
<b>Tuesday 23rd July</b>	
8pm	Quiet Time at St Leonard's Church: Prayer and Meditation
<b>Thursday 25th July</b>	
10am	Holy Communion (Traditional language)
10.30am	Coffee Pot Charity Café, Church Hall, Duncombe Road
<b>Sunday 28th July</b>	
<b>Ninth Sunday after Trinity</b>	
9am	Holy Communion at Holy Trinity Church
10am	Parish Communion at Holy Trinity Church
2.30–5pm	St Leonard's Church: Tea and Tour
6.30pm	Hymns and Pimms Songs of Praise Service at St Leonard's Church Celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the Friends of St Leonards
<b>Tuesday 30th July</b>	
8pm	Quiet Time at St Leonard's Church: Prayer and Meditation



# Parish Calendar AUGUST 2024

<b>Thursday 1st August</b>	
10am	Holy Communion (Traditional language)
10.30am	Coffee Pot Charity Café, Church Hall, Duncombe Road
<b>Sunday 4th August</b>	<b>Tenth Sunday after Trinity</b>
9am	Holy Communion at Holy Trinity Church
10am	Parish Communion at Holy Trinity Church
2.30–5pm	St Leonard's Church: Tea and Tour
<b>Tuesday 6th August</b>	
8pm	Quiet Time at St Leonard's Church: Prayer and Meditation
<b>Wednesday 7th August</b>	
10am	Craft Club, Church Hall, Bengoe
2pm	Bengoe Afternoon WI, Church Hall, Duncombe Road
<b>Thursday 8th August</b>	
10.30am	Coffee Pot Charity Café, Church Hall, Duncombe Road
<b>Sunday 11th August</b>	<b>Eleventh Sunday after Trinity</b>
9am	Holy Communion at Holy Trinity Church
10am	Parish Communion at Holy Trinity Church
2.30–5pm	St Leonard's Church: Tea and Tour
<b>Tuesday 13th August</b>	
8pm	Quiet Time at St Leonard's Church: Prayer and Meditation
<b>Thursday 15th August</b>	
10.30am	Coffee Pot Charity Café, Church Hall, Duncombe Road
<b>Sunday 18th August</b>	<b>Twelfth Sunday after Trinity</b>
9am	Holy Communion at Holy Trinity Church
10am	Parish Communion at Holy Trinity Church
2.30–5pm	St Leonard's Church: Tea and Tour
<b>Tuesday 20th August</b>	
8pm	Quiet Time at St Leonard's Church: Prayer and Meditation
<b>Thursday 22nd August</b>	
10am	Holy Communion (Traditional language)
10.30am	Coffee Pot Charity Café, Church Hall, Duncombe Road
<b>Sunday 25th August</b>	<b>Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity</b>
9am	Holy Communion at Holy Trinity Church
10am	Parish Communion at Holy Trinity Church
2.30–5pm	St Leonard's Church: Tea and Tour
<b>Tuesday 27th August</b>	
8pm	Quiet Time at St Leonard's Church: Prayer and Meditation
<b>Thursday 29th August</b>	
10.30am	Coffee Pot Charity Café, Church Hall, Duncombe Road

# Parish Prayers

## Daily Prayers for July

1. Sturla Close
2. Christian Churches in Columbia
3. Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) in Democratic Republic of Congo
4. Polling Station Staff and Security throughout the UK
5. HMP Lewes, East Sussex
6. Herts and Middx Wildlife Trust
7. Friends of St Leonard's
8. St Leonard's Road
9. Christian Churches in Cuba
10. MAF Flights in Papua New Guinea
11. HMP Leyhill, Gloucestershire
12. Future Hope in Hertford Road
13. All who use the Church Hall
14. Our Font and all who seek Baptism
15. St Leonard's Close
16. Christian Churches in Nicaragua
17. The New Parliament
18. HMP Lincoln
19. Bengeo Counsellors: Ben, Alex, Vicky
20. Bengeo Scouts and Guides
21. Bengeo Cubs and Brownies
22. The Malala Fund for Education
23. Christian Churches in Mexico
24. Young Life Crew and Staff, Carin Brae, Scotland
25. HMP Lindholm, near Doncaster
26. Carlisle Cathedral
27. Christians in Sport
28. All who preach and teach in Holy Trinity
29. Templefields
30. Thomas Clarkson – The push back against modern slavery and human trafficking
31. MAF in Chad

## Daily Prayers for August

1. HMP Little Hey, Huntingdon
2. The Samaritans Office in Ware
3. The British Olympic Team
4. The Alzheimer Society
5. Temple Lane
6. Christian Churches in Morocco
7. Christian Aid work with Children
8. HMP Liverpool
9. Local Businesses
10. The Children's Society
11. Mental Health Charities
12. Temple Court
13. Christian Churches in Algeria
14. Christian Aid work in Sierra Leone
15. HMP Long Lartin High Security Prison, Evesham
16. All who drive for a living
17. Our friends and families on holiday
18. The Church response to Mental Health and Physical Illness
19. The Avenue
20. The Salvation Army
21. Christian Aid in Malawi
22. HMP Newton, Durham
23. Greenbelt, Christian Festival
24. Beach and Open Missions
25. Our Bereavement Cafe
26. The Dell, Crouchfield
27. Christian Churches in Tunisia
28. Christian Aid Work in India
29. HMP Lowdham Grange, Nottingham
30. Chelmsford Cathedral
31. Paralympians

### Register

Baptism 12th May **Summer Lee Foskett**

Wedding 18th May

**Matthew Staton** and **Jessica Barnett**

Baptism 19th May

**Ollie Charles Gray** and **Oscar David Gray**

Funeral 20th May **Colin Kime**

Baptism 2nd June **Sienna Grace Smith**

Wedding 15th June

**Mansfield Ololo** and **Ella Cook**



### Quiet Time

Quiet Time at St Leonard's 8pm Tuesdays.

### Celtic Service

When there are five Sundays in a month there will be a service at 10am led by a member of the congregation. The first of these is a Celtic Service of reflection and prayer on the 30th June. Note, there will be no communion at this service, so please join the 9am service if you wish to participate in the Eucharist.



# Church Contacts

## Team Vicar

The Reverend Robert Thompson  
The Rectory, Byde Street, Bengoe, SG14 3BS  
E: [info@parishofbengeio.com](mailto:info@parishofbengeio.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, Bengoe, SG14 3JW

# Local Contacts for Help and Advice

Below are links to local services.

## Medical and Health Advice

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

### Hertfordshire Support Fund

If you need help, regardless of whether you qualify for benefits, please call HertsHelp on 0300 123 4044, email [info@hertshelp.net](mailto:info@hertshelp.net) or visit [www.hertshelp.net](http://www.hertshelp.net).

For more information about the support on offer for residents both locally and national, please visit [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/costofliving](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/costofliving).

### 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/updateme](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/updateme)

### 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

*Inside back cover:*

Bridget Hersant's photographs of Bird's-foot Trefoil.  
See the article on page 9.

*Back cover:*

Matthew Beesley's photographs of Holy Trinity reredos.  
See the article on pages 10 and 11.

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WELWYN • 01438 714686

HERTFORD • 01992 582052

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LETCHWORTH • 01462 684292

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



# Bird's-foot Trefoil





# Restoration and cleaning the Reredos in Holy Trinity Church



Angel with missing forearms; preparation for casting the forearms; reconstructed left wing and forearms.

