

Bengeo Magazine

SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF BENGEO, CHAPMORE END AND TONWELL



SHOWS YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS

BEAM
Image. Motion. Sound.



BEAM Folk Week
Wed 23 - Sun 27 Jul



Rude Science
Wed 30 Jul - 11:30am & 3pm



Man in the Mirror
Fri 1 Aug - 7:30pm



CIRQUE
The Greatest Show: Reimagined
Sat 2 Aug - 2:30pm & 7pm



BEAM Summer Comedy Special
Fri 22 Aug - 7:30pm



Raynor Winn and Gigspanner Big Band present SALTINES
Sat 23 Aug - 7:30pm



Uncle Funk's Decades in Dance
Fri 29 Aug - 7:30pm



Arthur Smith
Sat 30 Aug - 7:30pm



The Void
Tue 9 & Wed 10 Sep - 7:30pm

Bengeio Parish Magazine and Community News



Our front cover features the yarnbomb display for VE 80 in the Hertford Castle grounds featuring military, civilian and animal heroes from 1945 and 2025 and scenes from a street party.

Among the carefully crafted items were land girl Agnes Mant and Gordon Taylor of the Home Guard who met in Hertingfordbury. Their story continued as they married in Holy Trinity Bengeio in 1950 had two daughters who are yarnbombers: the eldest Marilyn made her parents' figures for the display.

The choir 'Just Love to Sing' took part in the VE day street party in Duncombe Road among residents in 1940s outfits.

There are plenty of other events on offer in Bengeio this summer announced in the pages of the magazine. But if you want to get away from it all then seek out Bridget's plant of the month, Purple Loosestrife, in the fields and open spaces around Bengeio.

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.

Contents

Local Adverts	4, 8, 10, 14 and 26
Bengeio Field, PO Box and Mosaic	5
On the Doorstep	6
FOSL	7
Scouts, Children's Society and Concert	9
Courtyard Arts, HALG, Let's Do Lunch and Pet Service	11
Wild Worship, Front Gardens and Flower Festival	12
Open Gardens	13
Community Garden, Pet Service and News from the Schools	15–19
A Word from the Rectory	20–21
Thank you from CHiPS	21
Parish Calendar	22–23
Daily Prayers for July and August and Register with Quiet Time	24
Contacts	25
Bengeio Day and Loosestrife	27
St Leonard's Calendar	28

Editorial Team

Items for the magazine should be sent to mail@bengeiomagazine.co.uk

Copy dates

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

Advertising

Please address all advertising enquiries to mail@bengeiomagazine.co.uk

Distribution

Bengeio: Diana Howarth | **Tonwell:** Pat Lavis

The magazine can be delivered to your door for a subscription of £6.00 per year. Contact Diana Howarth on 07711 571272 for more information or email mail@bengeiomagazine.co.uk.

Individual issue: £1.00.

Cheques payable to: 'Bengeio Magazine' or pay by BACS to Bengeio Magazine, 20-05-73, 53580091.

6 issues per year: January/February; March/April; May/June; July/August; September/October; November/December.

The magazine is designed by GREENGilbert carey@greengilbert.co.uk and printed by MSPC Ltd, Unit 10, Hartham View Industrial Estate, Hartham Lane, Hertford, Hertfordshire SG14 1QN.



Classic
MOBILITY



01992 552224

www.classicmobility.org.uk





**MOBILITY SALES • MOBILITY HIRE
REPAIR & MAINTENANCE**

Classic Mobility is a family run business with over 20 years experience in sales and care of your mobility equipment

- ✓ Short and long term hire
- ✓ Quality equipment & service
- ✓ Delivery within 24 hours
- ✓ Home visits available
- ✓ Delivered & installed by our own trained technicians



**15 Church Street, Hertford,
Herts SG14 1EJ
shop@classicmobility.org.uk**

Wheelchairs • Mobility Scooters • Power Chairs
Walking Aids • Bathing • Seating • Walking Frames
Stair Lifts • Care Beds • Daily Living Aids

Spoons Kitchens, Bedrooms & Living Space.



SPOONS
KITCHENS
BEDROOMS AND LIVING SPACE





KITCHEN BEDROOM OR STUDY ?

INFO@SPOONSKITCHENS.CO.UK
WWW.SPOONSKITCHENS.CO.UK
PHONE: 01992 472133



SCAN ME

HERTFORD SHOWROOM

Community Mosaic Project

Photo credit: Rebekah Hiles



Following the Love Bengeio Community Group discussions back in December 2024, six women from Bengeio came together with the idea to create a beautiful mosaic to celebrate the unique community and history of our beloved Bengeio. It would be a project to unite and involve all members of this special place. The group are currently considering the mosaic's location and which particular characteristics of Bengeio's stunning scenery it should depict in the finished piece. Furthermore, if you have a wall space along Bengeio Street where it may suitably be located please do get in touch with them via Aska Wisniewska-Pickering on email askawp@yahoo.co.uk.

The finished mosaic will certainly be a lasting tribute to be enjoyed for generations to come. "It is an inclusive creative opportunity that we really hope residents will enjoy being part of. They can place a tile onto the mosaic itself and contribute to a moment in history!" Becky Hiles, Bengeio Mosaic working group.

Expert guidance will come from artist Claire Costello, who has much experience in similar projects locally including a Buntingford Mosaic (left). Based on her previous work the group estimates it needs to secure £4,000 for the full expected costs including frame and materials as well as community workshops and mosaic making sessions. The group have been busy this year applying for grants and seeking funding sources and want to thank Holy Trinity Church for £100 donation. The project still needs to achieve further funding and if you wish to help please contact the group on askawp@yahoo.co.uk for more information. To find out more about Love Bengeio Projects: www.lovebengeio.org.uk.

Update on the granting of planning permission for 118 homes on Bengeio Field

Following the granting of planning permission by East Herts District Council, the Save Bengeio Field Group took legal advice and determined that there were grounds to apply for a judicial review of the decision. Judicial review represents the only and last chance to be able to save the field from the proposed development.

There is a high bar to be granted judicial review, as there are very limited and defined circumstances upon which you can apply, and the issues need to be significant.

Save Bengeio Field Group have now applied for judicial review and are waiting to hear from the Planning Court whether they are happy to grant the review.

Save Bengeio Field Ltd has been established as a charitable company limited by guarantee to represent local campaigners and residents. In preparation for the judicial review, the company will be shortly opening its membership to the supporters.

Please look out for updates on the Love/Save Bengeio Field Facebook page and www.SaveBengeioField.org.uk.



On trial in Bengeio



Have you used the new solar-powered postbox at the Avenue shops?

The reimagined design is part of Royal Mail's drive to enable customers to drop their parcels in postboxes, which now accept any barcoded parcels that fit.

The iconic postbox has been given a modern makeover with an extra-large opening to accept

parcels larger than those that fit through a standard letterbox. Customers scan their parcel's barcode and a drawer opens for them to drop it in. They can also request proof of posting using the Royal Mail app.

The Bengeio box is one of five that are being piloted in Hertford, Ware and Fowlmere in Cambridgeshire before Royal Mail rolls them out further across the UK. So, why not give it a try?

On The Doorstep – Purple Loosestrife

In this edition purple Loosestrife is my flower of choice. Loosestrife, Latin name *Lythrum salicaria*. *Lythrum* comes from the Greek word *lythron* meaning blood, maybe because of the association with the plant having reddish stems or being used as a herbal remedy for stopping bleeding. *Salicaria* means willow like, this is possibly a reference to its height or maybe its long willow like leaves. Other common names for this flower are rose loosestrife, willow weed, long purples or Red Sally among others.

Purple Loosestrife is a native to the UK and Europe, it grows to approximately 1.5 metres and has striking tall spikes of magenta-coloured flowers, each flower

being around 10mm to 15mm and made up of 6 narrow petals. The leaves are downy, long and lance shaped and usually grow opposite each other from the square shaped stem, although you can sometimes find the leaves growing in threes. The plant can have many stems all growing from one root.

The plant is widespread in the UK and prefers a wet habitat like marshes, pond edges, river banks and ditches. The water is one of the ways the plant disperses the small reddish seeds that it produces, the other dispersal method is on the wind.

In America the plant is not native and is considered as an invasive species and is viewed and treated in much the same way as we view and treat Himalayan Balsam.

The flower is pollinated and loved by various long tongued insects, red tailed bumble bee, brimstone butterfly and elephant hawk moth being a few of them.

The plant has been used to make dyes, producing a red colour. it has also been used medicinally and valued as an astringent especially for bleeding and also used for bleeding gums, varicose veins, eczema as well as being known for its anti-fungal and anti-inflammatory properties.

The flower symbolises peace and tranquillity. In Russian folklore the flower was said to hold healing powers and quarrelling friends would come and make peace using this flower. Crosses were often made of this flower to ward off evil. The plant is also meant to have a calming effect on animals, hence its name Loosestrife, perhaps losing strife. The plant is also associated with love and resilience.

Purple Loosestrife is a striking plant and a beauty against a watery background – a pleasure to see at place like Panshanger, along the Lea, at Amwell Nature Reserve and many other places I am sure.

Bridget Hersant

Friends of St Leonard's

St Leonard's Church Bengoe is open for Tea and Tours on Sunday 27th July and Sunday 31st August. Join us from 2.30 to 5pm and explore the history of this ancient church. Tea or coffee and cake are available for a very reasonable charge.



You can do a self-guided tour or you can quiz our stewards to test their history knowledge. 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 Bengoe on a hot day!

Children's events



We are having a Children's Art Workshop on Saturday 12th July from 10.30am to 2pm, in association with Courtyard Arts. At previous events we have seen amazing printing and modelling. Bring your children along to try out different arts and crafts. It is free (although we always appreciate a donation).



On Saturday 19th July, Anne Sentance will lead Wild Worship in the St Leonard's churchyard. It's another opportunity to be creative and to enjoy this peaceful space.

Music

Fiona Bonds is gracing St Leonard's once again on Friday 11th July. Her concerts are always magnificent, and St Leonard's is a very special

place to hear music. Tickets are £15 and are available from boxoffice@parishofbengoe.com.

Bengoe resident Colin Eldred is a talented clarinet player. He is joining forces with harpist Eleanor Potter on Saturday 30th August for a short afternoon concert at 3.30pm, followed by tea and cakes. Entry is free, and a collection will be made for the Friends of St Leonard's.

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 6th 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 3rd August. This is a chance to share favourite hymns and socialise over a glass of Pimms.

The work of The Friends of St Leonard's to maintain this lovely, but fragile, building goes on. Work to repair the lead flashing on the tower earlier this year revealed more damage to the cedar-wood shingles. These will need to be repaired so there will be further work this summer. The Friends fund this work so all donations are very welcome.

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.parishofbengoe.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



WESTMILL GARDEN CENTRE
Westmill Farm, SG12 0ES
Web: www.westmillgardencentre.co.uk

A gardener's paradise. Home grown seasonal plants, good quality soft fruit and vegetables. Gorgeous hanging baskets, perennials, shrubs, herbs, composts, fertilisers, tools, seeds, wild bird food, irrigation systems and coal.

□□□□□□□□□□□□□□
PJG
PLUMBING SERVICES
CALL PAUL
01992 587163
07929 867130
FREE ESTIMATES
 □□□□□□□□□□□□□□

The logo for BG Drone Shots is centered at the top, featuring a silhouette of a drone above the text "BG DRONE SHOTS" in a bold, hand-drawn, black font. Below the logo, the text "BG Drone Shots, who provide the aerial views for the magazine, have a range of high quality drone images printed on white wood boards ready to hang." is written in a clean, sans-serif font. Underneath this, the text "To order go to:" is followed by the website address "www.bgdroneshots.co.uk" in a bold, sans-serif font. At the bottom, the text "£15 from every purchase will be donated to Holy Trinity church." is written in a clean, sans-serif font. The entire advertisement is enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

Central Heating. Boiler Breakdowns, Central Heating Repairs, Boiler Servicing, Radiator Maintenance.

2nd Bengo Scouts Spring into Action – From Kindness to Canoes!

Our local group have been busy making a difference this spring, starting with a strong community focus. The Beavers started the term with a visit to our friends at Beane River View Care Home. We played board games with residents and enjoyed catching up with familiar faces!



The Beavers also had a great time learning about conservation and how to protect our environment as well as learning about staying safe.

Cubs and Scouts kicked things off with a village litter pick, helping to keep our shared spaces clean and green. Then they turned their attention to supporting the

local food bank, collecting from our generous Bengo residents and delivering an 'overwhelming amount' to Hertford.



As the sun returned, so did the splash, when Scouts took to the water at Lea Valley for a high-energy evening of canoe racing and paddleboard antics – earning badge credits and soaking up the fun (quite literally, for some!)

If your child loves adventure, wants to give back to their community, and learn real-life skills in a fun, friendly group – 2nd Bengo could be the perfect fit. If you are interested in becoming an adult leader we'd love to hear from you. Get in touch to find out more! Contact debbie.ryan@hertfordscouts.org.uk.



The Children's Society

Bring & Buy Coffee Morning

Thank you to everyone who helped or supported us in any way at our Coffee Morning held at the end of April, it was very successful and we were able to raise £545 for the work of the Children's Society.

In addition to our usual stalls and the raffle we were able to have a plant stall which proved to be very popular, something we hope to have again in the future.

Recently we received a lovely thank you from the Society saying that the £1,825.45 that we raised last year went towards them being able to reach 72,016 children through their direct support services and work directly with 5,865 parents and carers.

This is really gratifying to know and makes all our fundraising activities worthwhile.

Many thanks again to our Supporters.

Libby Shillito



Bengo concerts

We were treated to a wonderful evening of chamber music by Fiona Bonds, viola, Hugh Webb, harp and Michael Cox, flute at Holy Trinity Church on the 6th June. Fiona, Associate Principal Viola player with the Academy of St Martin in the Fields arranged the concert as part of the Mariner outreach Project.

Date for your diary: Friday 11th July at St Leonard's church where Fiona and Friends will present another not-to-be-missed programme.

Visit the largest independent bed showroom in Herts & Essex



Deans Furnishers .com



Looking for a perfect night's sleep?

For over 45 years, our family-run business has been your go-to destination for beds and mattresses.

Whether you need a traditional pocket sprung mattress, the latest in foam technology, or even a customized size, we'll help you find the perfect solution for a restful night.

We stock the leading brands like Relyon, Sealy, Dunlopillo, Rest Assured, Silentnight and Sleepzee, ensuring you get the best quality and comfort.

Beyond Beds

Explore our extensive collection of home furnishings, from bedside tables and wardrobes to dining tables and sofas, featuring renowned brands including Tetrad.



We Make It Easy

At Deans we treat our customers like family. Our knowledgeable team will help you select the best furniture or mattress for your needs. Plus, our free delivery service is always to your room of choice and includes unwrapping, assembly and removal of packaging.

Recycling service
for old furniture

Handy Location & Parking
Just off the A602 in Stonyhills
with FREE PARKING on site

Convenient Opening
7 days a week inc bank holidays

Deans Furnishers
Stonyhills, Ware SG12 0HJ
01920 468887 • deansfurnishers.com

Open Mon-Sat 9am-5pm
Sun 10am-1pm
Bank Holidays 10am-3pm



Courtyard Arts

12 Artists

Deana and Friends

**Tuesday 17th June to
Saturday 5th July, 2025**

This visual feast of an exhibition brings together a collective of 12 artists working across a rich spectrum of mediums, including oil and acrylic painting, watercolour and ink, pen and collage, glass, photography, pastel & metallic leaf.

Each artist, with their own distinct style, invites you to explore the subjects they love and that matter most to them. From the bold to the subtle, the intimate to the expansive, their works together form a vibrant tapestry of expression – inviting viewers on a journey through textures, colours, and stories that celebrate the boundless possibilities of their chosen mediums.



Wilderlust

Anastasia Olarou and Liva Vilnite

Tuesday 8th to Saturday 26th July, 2025

This exhibition invites you on a journey not to distant lands, but to a place within each of us – the curious child we once were and can still be. In the rush of daily life and the weight of tomorrow's worries, we often forget the closest destination: our own sense of wonder.

This inner child embraces the contradictions and contrasts of nature, using them as a lens through which we can view ourselves with gentleness and curiosity.



Let's do Lunch!

Where can you enjoy a convivial lunch with your neighbours? There are a number of restaurants and pubs in Hertford, but do you know of one in Bengeio that is a best kept secret?

Twice a month, on the 2nd and 4th Mondays, lunch is provided by The Lobster Pot caterers in the Church Hall, Duncombe Road from 12 noon for 12.30pm. They offer a three-course meal, with wine, coffee and chocolates for £20 per head.

If you would like to give it a try, then contact The Lobster Pot either by email claire.lobsterpot@outlook.com or by phone on 07887 543464. See you there.

HALG course on Victorian England next September 2025

Our tutor will be Adam Smith who has taught several popular courses in Bengeio. He led the very first HALG course on Eight London Houses via Zoom, and then enlightened us on the role of women in the story of the English country house. This time his subject is the momentous transformation of England during the 63 years of Queen Victoria's reign.

There will be 10 sessions on Tuesday mornings. We revert to a 10am start, finishing at 12 noon with a 15 min break. Dates are Tuesday 23rd September to 2nd December with half term break 28th October. The venue is the Parish Church Hall, Duncombe Road, Bengeio. Fees TBA.

The emphasis is very much on learning for pleasure in a sociable atmosphere. Do come and join us.

To join our mailing list send your contact details to halg.contact@gmail.com. Further information 01992 589538.



Annual Pet Service

**Sunday 6th July at
St Leonard's Church at
4pm**

This is a delightful Family Service for all ages. All pets are welcome, of course, also teddy bears and other cuddly creatures. Please stay for refreshments and a chat after the Service.

This year we will be raising money for 'Alfs' a local Charity supporting the community and their pets and also the people and animals of Ukraine. Any queries please contact Libby Shillito on 01992 583979.

Wild Worship at St Leonard's



In July, St Leonard's will be hosting its Wild Worship gathering in the churchyard. What is Wild Worship? It's an outside gathering inspired by the growing contemporary

movement of Forest Church, a form of worship that offers an opportunity to connect with the natural world and encounter God in the fresh air. After all, Jesus usually talked to his followers in the open air!

We gather around a fire pit under the walnut tree, where our immersion in the natural world encourages a deeper appreciation for God's creation and gives a new perspective to bible stories and themes. Our songs, nature-based activities, reflections and prayers are accessible to everyone and particularly suitable for families and young children. The final treat of toasted marshmallows has been a particular highlight.

Last summer, our first gathering looked at the apostle Paul's letter to the church in Corinth, and we reflected how The Body of Christ – us – needs to work together to be successful, and how it's just the same with the natural world. The different parts of a leaf each have a special job to do and they need to work together for the leaf to grow and flourish. Then off we went to forage and collect different leaves for our own works of leaf art. St Leonard's churchyard provided rich pickings!

At our second meeting, we read Psalm 139 about how God put each of us together, forming everyone with special care. Our Wild Weaving activity taught our younger members words such as loom, warp and weft. Looking at our finished weavings, we discussed how similar yet individual they were – just as God has made his people alike yet completely unique!

Our next Wild Worship will be held on Saturday 19th July at 2.30pm. All ages are welcome, and we'll be praying for a sunny day. We look forward to seeing you there!

Anne Sentance

Waterford Summer Flower Festival

St Michael and All Angel's Church 5th and 6th July from 11am to 4pm. See stunning flowers in this beautiful historic church and an exhibition of photography by Steve Baldwin. There will be a sale of small paintings by Trevor Chamberlain in the Village Hall opposite. Teas, coffees and homemade cakes available throughout the weekend.



Bengeo Community Garden

Our Community Garden on the corner of Duncombe Road and Tower Street is bursting into summer colour, restoration of the cast iron fence is underway and we now have an open compost area.

Plans are underway for access to the water butts and we hope to refresh the shell path over the summer.

We're working with Mudlarks to look after the garden and we're aware there are a few gaps in the planting. Please let us know if you want to donate a plant and we can make sure it goes in the right place.

Veronica Fraser

Local Front Gardens

A new Facebook Group (Bengeo Front Gardens) has recently been launched by the Love Bengeo Community Group www.lovebengeo.org.uk.



Over a hundred residents have already joined the Group and we're hoping that lots more will do so. It's a place to share photos of our front gardens, window boxes and

containers as the seasons change, as well as tips and information on greening and increasing biodiversity in them.

The Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust www.hertswildlifetrust.org.uk provided helpful advice and resources for the Group, which have been shared, along with information on local gardens which opened to the public through the National Gardens Scheme www.ngs.org.uk.

If you are on Facebook, please search for 'Bengeo Front Gardens' and join our Group.

Brenda Henningham



NGS Open Gardens in Bengoe

There are two Bengoe gardens open in August and September under the scheme.

Admission £5, children free.

8 Gosselin Road

Annie Godfrey and Steve Machin

Open dates Wednesday 20th August and Wednesday 17th September, 12 noon until 4pm.

The garden will showcase late summer flowering perennials and ornamental grasses that are perfect for keeping the interest going in everyone's gardens.

A good collection of ferns is displayed under a pergola in the shade of rambling roses and scented jasmine. Hopefully, there will be lots of inspiration for visitors to take home plus plants for sale.

Annie's nursery Daisy Roots is open every Friday and Saturday from March to October at Jenningsbury, London Road, Hertford and online at www.daisyroots.com.



Gardener Wanted

Gardener to look after mature garden and surrounds at a home in St Leonard's Road, Bengoe.

Lawn and hedge cutting, flower bed and pot plant maintenance, wood treatment, pruning, path sweeping, etc.

Ideal for someone semi-retired and local.

Completely flexible hours.

Long-term engagement.

PLEASE CONTACT ROBERT OWEN

Mobile: **07836 660551** Email: rcwo@hotmail.co.uk



Photo credit: Peter Freeland

Terrace House Garden, 35 Fanshawe Street

Peter Freeland and Rosie Freeland

Open Saturday 23rd August 2025, 12 noon–6pm.

Terraced garden with stunning views across the



Beane Valley. Seven levels featuring rockery, secluded pond, wisteria tunnel and orchard with wildflowers. August highlights include dahlias, ornamental grasses and sunflowers. Some steep steps with railings.

Ice creams on sale in aid of Isabel Hospice and homegrown plants in aid of Rotary Polio Foundation. NGS also supports nursing and health charities.

Peter Freeland offers planting design and garden maintenance peterfreeland@gmail.com.

Local Services



**BROAD OAK
MANOR**

Putting life back into living

**ASSISTED LIVING
PRIVATE NURSING HOME
CARE AT HOME**

Bramfield Road, Hertford, SG14 2JA
Tel: 01992 551900 info@broadoakmanor.co.uk
www.broadoakmanor.co.uk

The Secret Garden
Family run tea room
and gallery



Tea & coffee
Breakfast
Lunch
Milk Shakes

89 The Avenue
Bengeo SG14 3DU
Tel: 01992 58137
Facebook: The Secret Garden
Instagram: thesecretgdn



**HERTFORD
TV SERVICE**

Please call: 01992 552955

- AERIALS & SATELLITE INSTALLATIONS/REPAIRS
- TV REPAIRS (OLED, LCD, LED)
- TV WALL MOUNTING & SOUNDBARS
- WIFI SYSTEMS & DATA NETWORKING
- CCTV & WIRELESS BURGLAR ALARM SYSTEMS
- STARLINK INSTALLATIONS

www.hertfordtvservice.co.uk
Unit 1B, Foxholes Avenue, Hertford SG13 7JG
LOCAL FAMILY BUSINESS EST 1979
ALL WORK FULLY GUARANTEED




Castle Joinery
Joinery Specialists

01992 584410
www.castlejoinery.org.uk
castlejoinery@gmail.com

Windows (all types), Doors,
Staircases, Gates, Furniture, Bespoke
Designs, Softwood, Hardwood

Established in 1960, we are a family
run business providing first class,
handmade to order joinery products.



Oakes Restoration
French Polishing
Structural Repairs
Boulle Work
Reupholstery
Caning & Rushwork
Carving & Turning
Leather Lining
Repairs to Metal Artefacts
Clock Repairs
Repairs & complete Restorations
to Fine Antiques
& Contemporary Furniture
All work guaranteed to
the highest standards
for a free quotation please call

David Oakes
01992 511251
or 07860 954977
25 Brickendon Green
Nr Hertford
Hertfordshire
SG13 8PB

**WHEN YOUR FEET HURT?
WHY NOT GIVE THEM A TREAT!**

Miss Lorna Driver MCFHP MAFHP
QUALIFIED FOOT HEALTH PROFESSIONAL

Visiting practice
Toenails cut
Corns removed
Calluses treated
Tel 01992 466649




**WEST & SONS
FUNERALS**
INDEPENDENT FAMILY RUN
FUNERAL DIRECTORS

**Here for you at your time of need
Professional Services with
Personal Care**

Bespoke Funeral Plans | 24 Hour Service | Private Chapel of Rest

01992 260 800
info@westsfunerals.com
www.westsfunerals.com
110 Fore Street, Hertford SG14 1AB

**Dance Scottish on Tuesday nights
for Fun, Fitness and Friendship**
Sele Farm Community Centre 7pm – 8.15pm

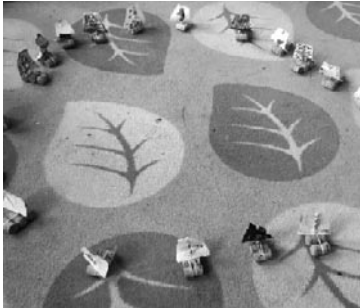
**All welcome, £15 per half term
No previous experience needed**

Email: sehscds@hotmail.com
www.rscdsherts.org/south-east-herts






Mill Mead Primary School



Ducklings' class have been exploring how plants and flowers grow and what they need to thrive. In Maths we have been investigating shapes and patterns in the real world.



Birds' class have been to the Museum of Childhood in Bethnal Green and had a walk up to Sele School to attend an agility afternoon. A highlight for our D&T topic has to be our smoothie tasting with our favourite ingredients.



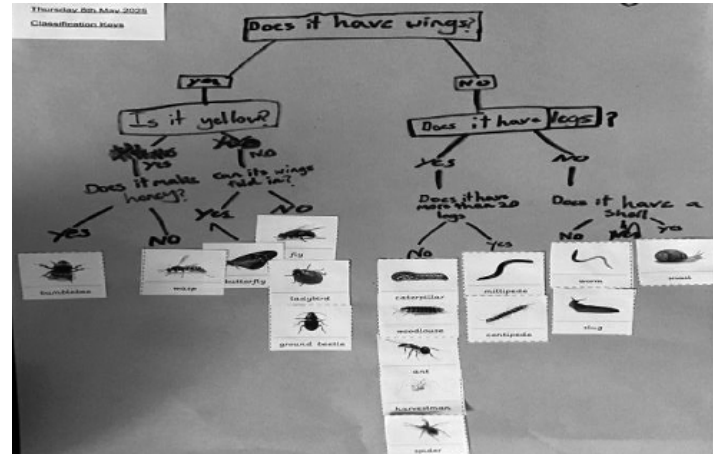
Mice class have helped develop the outdoor garden area, by planting and caring for a variety of flowers and have been busy training and practising for our Sports Day.



Hedgehogs' class have made wonderful clay models, pinch pots and tile houses and were excited to learn that Queen Victoria was on the throne at the time of the first ever FA Cup Final.



Squirrels' class have been busy designing and building their very own castles. With turrets, battlements, and drawbridges before



bringing their ideas to life using a variety of materials. With VR headsets on, they explored the sights and sounds of one of the Amazon's ecosystems learning about the importance of rainforest conservation.

Owls' class have enjoyed learning about how chocolate is made, from growing on the trees in Cote d'Ivoire to the factories in Europe. In Maths they have spent some weeks applying their knowledge of money and measures to solve real world problems.

Badgers' class have written contemporary narratives of Macbeth and the results have been amazing. In computing we have started to make our own stop motion animations. We have been using Playdoh to make our models.



Foxes' class have been exploring the circulatory system and measured their heart rates before and after exercise to understand how our bodies respond to physical activity. In History they have been comparing the justice systems of the past to our own,

observing fascinating differences - and some surprising similarities! Of course, much of our time and effort has been focused on SATs.



Bengeo Primary School

The week before half term we had a fantastic turn out at the Presdales football festival, with 42 girls representing Bengeo from years 4 and 5. Some of these playing a football match for the first time. Many of the opposition were more competitive than we had anticipated but the girls went out to play, have fun and for many to try something new. Some of our teams scored a goal and each goal keeper made a number of phenomenal saves. We will look forward to some UKS2 training and aim to arrange some friendlies.

Well done to Vivi for receiving a special mention and a player's medal for her excellence during the afternoon. The girls will be thankful to Ms Clarke, Mr Lincoln and Mr Hennessey for their support during the afternoon.

Bengeo Day – 5th July

Please see the advert on page 27 for more information.

Acorn Class

In Nursery we have started our new topic - People who help us. We have been learning about how doctors and nurses help us. We also had a visit from Mr Hennessey our Caretaker and John who is our Crossing Patrol man.

Amwell View School Tonwell Satellite Provision

Amwell View School, a community special school for pupils with severe learning difficulties, opened a third Satellite Provision for ten pupils, in the village of Tonwell. Previously, the site was Tonwell St Mary's Primary School, and it is a beautiful building with a chapel which was built in 1858. The building was last used as a church in the early 2000's and then it was used as a primary school until August 2024.

Amwell View School's main site, is based in Stanstead Abbots and has significantly grown over recent years, from 80 pupils in 2005 to 181 pupils on roll 2025. In September 2025 the school will open a second class at Tonwell Satellite for a further eleven pupils.

Headteacher, Neil Ward said: "Pupils will have the opportunity to complete their learning with all of the resources, equipment and space they may need. We have resourced the new site with everything essential to provide the same level of outstanding provision that Amwell View currently provides. Pupils will have the opportunity to use the different areas of the school within their learning and also enjoy the environment".

Class Teacher Tonwell 1, Hayley Warrington said: "The Tonwell Satellite base has provided many fantastic opportunities for pupils to grow their confidence, social and communication skills in a new setting and within the wider community.

Over the year, pupils have experienced shopping in local supermarkets, attending the school's new allotment, swimming at Hartham leisure centre, visiting the zoo, attending sports trips with other schools and much more. They have flourished in the new environment and many parents have commented on the visible increase in confidence their young people have shown. We are really proud of how the pupils have adjusted to the new satellite base and are excited for more peers to join them in the near future".





REGISTER
NOW FOR
SEPTEMBER
2025 ENTRY

DISCOVER

A DUNCOMBE EDUCATION



Duncombe School

An Independent Preparatory
School and Nursery

EXCELLENT IN ALL AREAS ISI REPORT 2022



BOOK YOUR
TOUR TODAY

 01992 414109

duncombe-school.co.uk

Discover a Duncombe education

Every child's journey begins the moment they step through our doors. Starting at age 2 within our Treetops Pre-School, learning becomes an adventure where curiosity and creativity thrive. Our child-centred approach blends traditional teaching with hands-on experiences, making each day exciting and educational.

As children transition into Main School (ages 5-11), the curriculum expands to accommodate diverse learning styles and foster strength of character. Small class sizes ensure personalised attention, allowing our teachers to explore and progress every child's talent.

Specialist teachers guide younger children through subjects such as Spanish, French, ICT, and Music, while older children, alongside these subjects, also delve deeper into English, Maths, and Science, with lessons tailored to help them excel.



Enrichment is at the core of our philosophy. From World Book Week, International Languages Day and Science Week, our dynamic calendar of events brings learning to life, fostering a love of knowledge beyond the classroom.



We are extremely proud to have been awarded Highly Commended for 'Excellence in STEM' in the Muddy Stiletto School Awards 2024 and to have been shortlisted for 'Co-educational Independent School of the Year', reflecting our commitment to educational excellence.

In the digital age we live in, we lead the way with innovative programmes that make learning fun and future-focused. We equip children with the skills to thrive online, ensuring they are both knowledgeable and safe.

At Duncombe, wellbeing is key. We create a positive environment that nurtures both physical and mental health, through initiatives like buddy sessions and wellbeing programmes, ensuring every child feels valued.



Our children graduate from Duncombe as confident, compassionate individuals ready to thrive in the 21st Century.

A Word from The Rectory

Finding an AB of C

From The Vicar, The Revd Robert Thompson



Shortly after the resignation of Justin Welby a journalist called me. Did I have any comment to make on the failures of the former Archbishop?

My first reaction was one of wonder that journalists were canvassing my opinion on the matter. Until realisation dawned. There are two Robert Thompsons currently serving the Church of England: me, and an outspoken radical liberal

priest whom journalists keep on speed dial for uncompromising comment. Someone must have hit the wrong button.

'Oh, you don't want me, you want the other one,' was my rather limp contribution to the national headlines. Media City was not to be put off, though. 'Oh,' said the rather deflated-sounding reporter, '... Sure you've not got a comment on it anyway?'

Whatever I said, it was clear that only one response was expected. The one thing that Justin managed to unite almost everyone on – inside and outside the Church – is that he needed to go. A survey by the Daily Telegraph had readers vote 93% in favour of his resignation. A YouGov poll showed that, of those who had ever actually heard of him, there was a clear negative assessment of his leadership. Whatever mistakes have been made, it would have been impossible to lead anyone anywhere if no one wanted to follow.

Which leads me to the other matter I've been pressed on recently: do I have any thoughts on who should succeed Justin Welby as Archbishop of Canterbury? Here's another question on which I have 'no comment' to make, for the simple reason that it looks like an impossible job. The role has far too many expectations of it from far too many

directions in a Church more divided than ever on almost every issue.

Who on earth would want that job? Unless the chosen candidate called has a CV to match that of the Archangel Gabriel, maybe they should just let the phone ring.

One man who did take the call was Rowan Williams (remember him?) An Archbishop of Canterbury of no great crimes or misdemeanours, yet was regularly criticised, usually for one of two things: using academic language that people don't understand, or speaking plainly on controversial issues that people don't want to hear.

But the truth is that Rowan Williams was (and still is) a master at talking about God with valuable things to say on current issues in God's world. Faithful in prayer and Christian example, Rowan was equally at home expressing his faith in high-brow academic circles and parish church Sunday schools.

So, lest you'd forget what a great blessing to the nation a good Archbishop of Canterbury can be, here's a little story from the archive...

A six-year-old Scottish girl named Lulu wrote a letter to God: 'To God, How did you get invented?' Lulu's father, who is not a believer, sent her letter to various church leaders: the Scottish Episcopal Church (no reply), the Presbyterians (no reply), and the Scottish Catholics (who sent a theologically complex reply). He also sent it to Rowan, then Archbishop of Canterbury, who sent the following letter in reply:

Dear Lulu,

Your dad has sent on your letter and asked if I have any answers. It's a difficult one! But I think God might reply a bit like this –

'Dear Lulu – Nobody invented me – but lots of people discovered me and were quite surprised. They discovered me when they looked round at the world and thought it was really beautiful or really mysterious and wondered where it came from. They discovered me when they were very very quiet on their own and felt a sort of peace and love they hadn't expected. Then they invented ideas about me – some of them sensible and

some of them not very sensible. From time to time I sent them some hints – specially in the life of Jesus – to help them get closer to what I’m really like. But there was nothing and nobody around before me to invent me. Rather like somebody who writes a story in a book, I started making up the story of the world and eventually invented human beings like you who could ask me awkward questions!

And then he’d send you lots of love and sign off. I know he doesn’t usually write letters, so I have to do the best I can on his behalf. Lots of love from me too.’

+Archbishop Rowan

That, in essence, is the kind of Archbishop I’d like to see – someone able to write a letter like that, someone whose faith can restore our faith.

Find us an AB of C like that, please – it would be just the start we need.

With my prayers,

Robert Thompson



On behalf of CHiPS can I thank everyone who is part of Holy Trinity church for your very kind donation of £1200 to CHiPS.

We strongly rely on the support of local people like yourselves to run a full range of fun activities and to enable us to continue providing fully accessible playschemes for local children with special needs alongside their brothers and sisters. For many of our children with special needs a CHiPS playscheme is the only playscheme which they are able to attend. This is not only vital for them with play and social opportunities which they would otherwise miss out on, it also gives parents/carers an important short break from their caring responsibilities.

Thank you again

Graham Nickson

Chair, CHiPS trustees

Professional Carpet and Upholstery Cleaning

Stain and Odour Removal |
Rug Cleaning | Leather Care
| Scotchguards

Fully Insured, Free Quotes

CALL DUNCAN

07958 729074 | 01992 586004

Email **dharris26@hotmail.co.uk**

www.dharriscleaning.co.uk

PAGE 22

Parish Calendar AUGUST 2025

Sunday 3rd August		Seventh Sunday after Trinity	
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		
Tuesday 5th August			
8pm	Quiet Time at St Leonard’s Church: Prayer and Meditation		
Wednesday 6th August			
2pm	Bengeo Afternoon WI at St Leonard’s Church		
Thursday 7th August			
10.30am	Coffee Pot Charity Café, Church Hall, Duncombe Road		
Sunday 10th August		Eighth Sunday after Trinity	
9am	Holy Communion at Holy Trinity Church		
10am	Parish Communion at Holy Trinity Church		
Tuesday 12th August			
8pm	Quiet Time at St Leonard’s Church: Prayer and Meditation		
Wednesday 13th August			
10am	Craft Club, Church Hall, Duncombe Road, Bengeo – all welcome		
Thursday 14th August			
10.30am	Coffee Pot Charity Café, Church Hall, Duncombe Road		
Sunday 17th August		Ninth Sunday after Trinity	
9am	Holy Communion at Holy Trinity Church		
10am	Parish Communion at Holy Trinity Church		
Tuesday 18th August			
8pm	Quiet Time at St Leonard’s Church: Prayer and Meditation		
Thursday 21st August			
10.30am	Coffee Pot Charity Café, Church Hall, Duncombe Road		
Sunday 24th August		Tenth Sunday after Trinity	
9am	Holy Communion at Holy Trinity Church		
10am	Parish Communion at Holy Trinity Church		
Tuesday 26th August			
8pm	Quiet Time at St Leonard’s Church: Prayer and Meditation		
Thursday 28th August			
10.30am	Coffee Pot Charity Café, Church Hall, Duncombe Road		
Saturday 30th August			
3.30pm	Concert at St Leonard’s Church: a Musical Tea Party with Colin Eldred (clarinet) and Eleanor Potter (harp)		
Sunday 31st August		Eleventh Sunday after Trinity	
9am	Holy Communion at Holy Trinity Church		
10am	Parish Communion at Holy Trinity Church		
2.30–5pm	St Leonard’s Church: Tea and Tour		

Parish Prayers

Daily Prayers for July

1. Future Hope Hertford – mentoring young people and families
2. Christian Churches in Syria
3. HMP Wandsworth, London
4. Our Bereavement Café
5. Herts Young Carers
6. Holy Trinity Church website and Facebook sites
7. Chambers Street
8. Mission Aviation Fellowship Head Office in Folkestone
9. Christian Churches in Gaza
10. HMP Warren Hill, Suffolk
11. Local cricket teams
12. Local businesses
13. The Bengoe Parish Magazine
14. Chesling Farm
15. Our Church maintenance
16. Christian Churches in Lebanon
17. HMP Wayland, Norfolk
18. Prison Chaplaincy Service
19. Our friends
20. Our neighbours
21. Chevins Yard
22. Mental Health Charity MIND
23. Christians in Iran
24. HMP Wealstun, Yorkshire
25. Peel Cathedral, Isle of Man
26. Christian Beach and City Missions
27. The Samaritans
28. Christchurch Place
29. The Charity Age Concern
30. Christian Churches in Myanmar
31. HMP Werrington, Young Offenders Institute

Daily Prayers for August

1. The Alzheimer's Society – Support For Families
2. All who are travelling on holiday this month
3. All who sing in church, for practice and worship
4. Church Road
5. Rape and Sexual support Charity SARSAS
6. Christian Churches in Brunei
7. HMP Wetherby, Young Offenders Prison
8. Young Life and Wyld Life Youth Outreach in the UK
9. UK Christian Broadcasters, Radio, TV and online
10. All who preach and teach at Holy Trinity Bengoe
11. Coach House Mews
12. The Isabel Hospice, Welwyn Garden City
13. Christian Churches in Vietnam
14. HMP Whatton, Nottingham – A Sex Offenders Prison
15. Our local Doctors and NHS providers
16. Local sports clubs
17. Hertford and Ware Foodbank
18. Courtyard Mews
19. The Salvation Army Refuge Centres
20. Christians in Turkmenistan
21. HMP Whitemoor, Cambridge
22. Hertford and Ware Street Pastors
23. Railway Chaplains
24. Greenbelt Christian Festival
25. Cowbridge
26. Christians Against Poverty
27. Christians in Kazakhstan
28. HMP Winchester, Hampshire
29. Leicester Cathedral
30. Our families
31. Our friends

Register

Wedding 26th April

Doubleday and Riddick

Baptism 18th May

Oliver Stokes

Quiet Time

The Tuesday evening sessions of Quiet Time at 8pm will be in St Leonard's Church during the months of July and August.



Sunday Services

The 9am and 10am services will be held at St Leonard's Church during the month of July while Holy Trinity church is being redecorated.

Please note that there will be no online service during July as there are no facilities for this to take place at St Leonard's Church.

Church Contacts

Team Vicar: The Reverend Robert Thompson
The Rectory, Byde Street, Bengoe, SG14 3BS
T: 01992 413691 E: info@parishofbengeio.com

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

Domestic Abuse

Hertfordshire Domestic Abuse Helpline
0808 808 8088 [Freephone Monday to Friday,
9am–9pm; Saturday and Sunday 9am–4pm]

Refuge Free and Confidential Helpline 24/7
0808 2000 247

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 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.

Money Advice Unit
www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/benefits

Citizens Advice Service – East Herts

Local Message Line 01920 459944. Monday to Thursday, leave a message with your details, and an adviser will call you back Monday to Thursday, between 10am–4pm.

Out of Hours Helpline 0800 144 8848. Monday to Wednesday, 4–8pm, Thursday and Friday 4–9pm, and Saturday 10am–4pm.

Local contact centres: **Hertford Sele Community Hub, 18 Fleming Crescent, Sele, Hertford, SG14 2DJ.**
Open Wednesdays 11am–1pm. **Ware Contact Centre, Ware Priory, High Street Ware SG12 9AL.**
Open Tuesdays 11am–1pm.

National Debtline
www.nationaldebtline.org
Helpline 0808 808 4000. Monday to Friday 9am–8pm, Saturday 9.30am–1pm, Sunday closed.

Advice on avoiding scams

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

Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline
0808 223 1133

Mental Health Advice and Support

NHS Mental Health Services in Herts
Call for free 0800 644 101 this number is open 24/7 or call 111 and choose option 2
E: hpft.spa@nhs.net

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

Emotional Support and Practical Help

Samaritans
116 123 lines open 24 hours a day, calls are free
www.samaritans.org

Childline
0800 1111 or webchat
24-hour counselling service for children and young people 24/7
www.childline.org.uk

Personal, caring and independent.

*The complete
funeral service*

24 hour service

•
Private Chapels of Rest

•
Bespoke Funeral Plans

•
Own Crematorium

STEVENAGE • 01438 316623

HITCHIN • 01462 438422

KNEBWORTH • 01438 812365

BUNTINGFORD • 01763 274111

WELWYN GARDEN CITY • 01707 390018

WELWYN • 01438 714686

HERTFORD • 01992 582052

WARE • 01920 468551

LETCHWORTH • 01462 684292

HODDESDON • 01992 471709

HARWOOD PARK • 01438 812515

HARPENDEN • 01582 762570

AUSTIN'S

FAMILY FUNERAL DIRECTORS

www.austins.co.uk

Serving the local community for ten generations



Harwood Park

*The perfect setting to commemorate
the life of your loved one*



Crematorium and memorial
gardens created and managed by
the Austin family in the beautiful
Hertfordshire countryside.

www.crematorium.co.uk

Bridget Hersant's Loosestrifes

See Bridget's article on page 6.





BENGEO DAY 2025
Saturday July 5th, 2-5pm
Bengeo Primary School

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.

We can't wait to see you there!



ST. LEONARD'S CHURCH, BEN GEO CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2025

QUIET TIME – Tuesday evenings at 8pm from 5th June

June

Saturday 21st Little Trains for a Little Church, 10.30am to 4.30pm

Sunday 22nd Little Trains for a Little Church, 10.30am to 4.30pm

Sunday 29th Teas and Tours, 2.30pm to 5pm

July

Sunday 6th Annual Pet Service at 4pm, followed by refreshments

Friday 11th Concert: Fiona Bonds and Friends, 7.30pm

**Saturday 12th Children's Art Workshop, in association with Courtyard Arts,
10.30am to 2pm**

Saturday 19th Wild Worship in the Churchyard, 2.30pm

Sunday 27th Teas and Tours, 2.30pm to 5pm

August

Sunday 3rd Service of Praise with Hymns and Pimms, 6.30pm

**Saturday 30th Concert: A musical tea party with Colin Eldred (clarinet)
and Eleanor Potter (harp), 3.30pm**

Sunday 31st Teas and Tours, 2.30pm to 5pm

September

**Saturday 13th Heritage Open Day, 9am to 5pm
Herts and Beds Historic Church Trust 'Bike and Hike'**

Saturday 13th Concert: Hilary James and Simon Mayer, 7.30pm

Sunday 14th Heritage Open Day, 11am to 5pm

**Sunday 14th Talk: "Gerard Gosselin - *Saviour of St Leonard's*" by
Michael Maslinski, 3.30pm**

Sunday 28th Harvest Festival Songs of Praise, 6.30pm

Followed by the Friends of St. Leonard's AGM

December

Friday 19th Concert: 'A Christmas Wassail' with Magpie Lane, 7.30pm

Further information

Concert bookings: £15 boxoffice@parishofbengeo.com or 07910 822069

stleonards.parishofbengeo.com or Facebook: Friends-of-St-Leonards-Bengeo