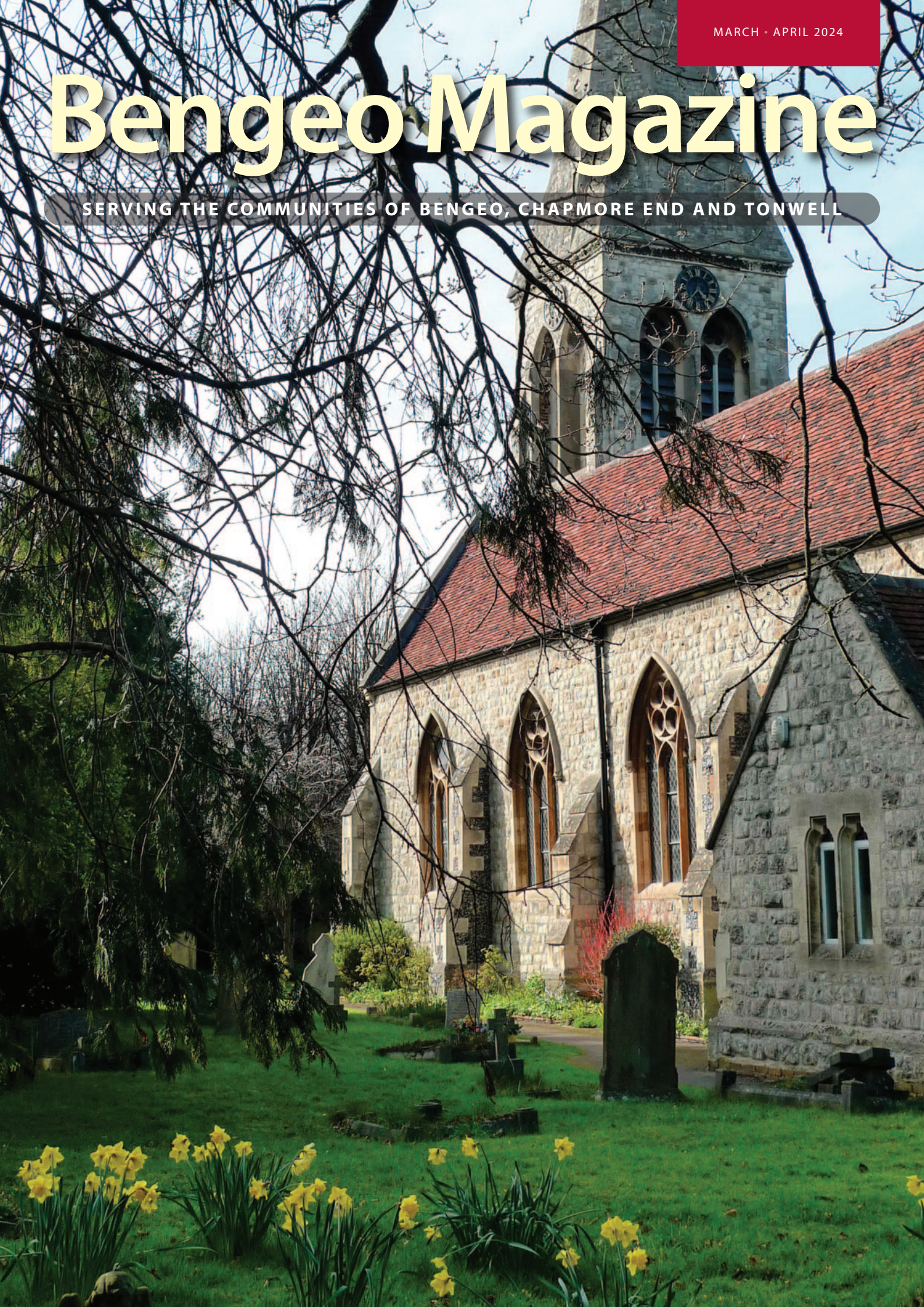


MARCH • APRIL 2024

# Bengeo Magazine

SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF BENGEO, CHAPMORE END AND TONWELL







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HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, BENGEO



# Bengeo Parish Magazine and Community News



## Thank you, Bengeo

Even when the cost of living is rising, the people of Bengeo and Hertford have given generously to good causes.

The Yarnbombers, whose wonderful Christmas display was featured in the last issue of this magazine, raised a total of over £24,000 last year for the Herts and Essex Air Ambulance. An astonishing achievement!

Further afield, Samaritan's Purse relied on local people and youth groups to create shoeboxes and donate funds to send them to disadvantaged children round the world. In church, the Christmas collection helped children in war-torn Gaza.

This year's Holy Trinity Lent appeal is for Hertford, the charity in Port Vale that supplies local families with much needed supplies and has regular trips to Ukraine.

### 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:  
Daffodils in Holy Trinity churchyard.

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### Editorial Team

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

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Please address all advertising enquiries to [mail@bengeomagazine.com](mailto:mail@bengeomagazine.com)

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# Friends of St Leonard's



Spring is here and the Friends of St Leonard's are looking forward to warmer days and opening up St Leonard's Church for its summer season.

We are planning plenty of events for the summer. We reopen for Sunday teas and tours on the 9th of June. It is always a huge pleasure to welcome visitors to St Leonard's and to show them around this little gem of a church. Nearly one thousand people dropped in to see the church during last year's open season and we hope to see many more this year. We are always looking for more volunteers to help run the teas or help guide visitors around the church – even just taking one Sunday afternoon slot helps a lot. Please get in touch if you would like to get involved.

We have several concerts planned so look out for details of these on the website [www.stleonards.parishofbengeo.com/events-and-concerts-at-st-leonards](http://www.stleonards.parishofbengeo.com/events-and-concerts-at-st-leonards). We will advertise how to buy

tickets later in the year. You can also follow us on Facebook (search for St Leonard's Bengeio and you will find us).

As part of the Parish of Bengeio we hold special services in St Leonard's. This year we will again have our Pet Blessing service in early July and the very popular Hymns and Pimms service later on the same month.

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

It is the fortieth anniversary of the Friends this year. The Friends have done an immense amount to support the maintenance and use of this precious part of Bengeio and Hertford's history. We are planning to celebrate the anniversary later in the year and we are gathering memories of what has been achieved over the past forty years. If you have any Friends/St Leonards-related memorabilia you would be happy to share, please get in touch. We would love to hear from you.

**Helen Fleming**  
**Secretaryfriendsofstleonards@gmail.com**

## 2nd Bengeio Scouts update

2nd Bengeio Scout Group have enjoyed another eventful term!

Both Beaver colonies have been focussing on our Scout Values with a particular focus on being caring. The Beavers learned about loneliness and how they can help others who could be feeling lonely, particularly after the festive period. This culminated in a visit to Beane River View Care Home where the Beavers presented homemade calendars to residents, spoke to residents and finished with a sing-a-long.

Both Cub Packs enjoyed learning about Scottish traditions on Burn's Night. They had great fun tasting haggis, neeps and tatties and finished up with some Highland Games.

The Scouts have been learning about internet safety, practising circus skills, taking part in the annual *Ready, Steady, Cook* competition as well as



a visit to Bayfordbury observatory! Very busy indeed!

2nd Bengeio are very proud to have had three of our Beavers earn their highest achievement award. Albert Wyer, Dylan Keane and Becky Maiden have all achieved their Chief Scout Bronze Award, well done all! We currently have spaces in Beavers and Cubs for both boys and girls. For more

information, please get in touch via the 2nd Bengeio website [www.bengeioscouts.co.uk](http://www.bengeioscouts.co.uk).



## HALG Classes in Bengoe in April – May 2024

All are welcome at the Church Hall, Duncombe Road, from 10am to 12 noon on a Tuesday for six sessions on *'Women Radicals Who Changed Their World and Ours'*.

Our tutor is Janet Berenson, who has given us some very lively and stimulating literature courses in the past.

Janet writes: 'Throughout history there have been women who have broken free of restrictive cultural and social expectations to behave radically. Together, we will explore the lives and achievements of women in different times and places in the world, whose radical ideas and actions have changed their world and, in many cases, left a legacy which has provided freedoms and opportunities for us today.'

**Dates:** 9th April – 21st May 2024  
(no class 23rd April)

**Cost:** £30

**Organisers:** Hertford Adult Learning Group (HALG)

**Contact:** Further details and to secure a place call 01992 589538

## Holy Trinity Memorial Garden – can you help?

Since the re-design and planting of the Memorial Garden some years ago, organised by Colin Kime, the maintenance of this lovely peaceful spot has been left to a few volunteers. The Memorial Garden is a quiet oasis in a secluded part of the churchyard.

To keep it looking beautiful we need more help from people in the Parish. This just involves weeding, sweeping the paths and removing floral tributes that are past their best.



**Date for the diary: Saturday 27th April**  
**Bring & Buy Coffee Morning, 10am to 12 noon**  
**at 1 The Orchard Bengoe.**

Do come and join us for coffee and biscuits. There will be a raffle, cake stall and the White Elephant stall to raise funds for the Children's Society.

Any enquiries or requests for lifts please ring Libby on 01992 583979.

## Annual Pet Service

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

This year we will be raising money for The Cinnamon Trust, a National Charity which helps look after animals when their owners through illness or for other reasons can no longer care for them.

More information about this Service and the Cinnamon Trust will appear in the next magazine so please, pet owners, keep the date free.

**Libby Shillito**

As always with these matters the more people who offer to help, the less each of them has to do.

If you can spare any time, please contact Rosie Freeland on [rosiefreeland@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:rosiefreeland@yahoo.co.uk).



# Hertford and District Churches Together

HDCT is an organisation that includes Hertford Town and surrounding village churches of all denominations. It is a demonstration of all Christian churches, congregations and volunteers working together encouraging one another and, drawing on a wide skill set and resources, to serve the communities in and around Hertford. All this is in addition to the valuable work being done by churches in the area. The groups that are currently supported by HDCT include:

**Young Life Hertford** has offices and YL meetings in the Cowbridge Rooms, with thanks to the URC. YL take school assemblies in secondary schools in Hertford and Ware and are developing lunchtime groups. YL run an after-school club in St Andrew's School: 'Toastie Tuesday' for years 7–11 to drop in and chat.

**Faith in Print.** Books and media given to local schools to aid teaching about faith.

**FutureHope** use the Pioneer Hall at the Methodist Church in Ware Road seeing 20 to 30 people attending their drop-in café on Wednesdays and mentoring teenagers and parents in separate groups. FutureHope also run drug awareness courses in local schools and use a converted mobile library as a hub for youth outreach work especially on Hartham Car Park on a Friday evening.

**Hertford and Ware Street Pastors.** Hertford and Ware have small teams that work in the town centres Friday and Saturday evenings. Teams are trained by Street Pastors, a national organisation that liaises with local councils, church groups and police authorities.

**Hertford Wellbeing Church** and the Town Church had recently campaigned on the streets of Hertford in support of Pro-Life issues. Even if they were not always met with agreement, it did at least provide a starting point for discussion with members of the public. The Friday night video games and pizza night is still popular with young adults and the Wellbeing Church now has two football teams.

**Service for the World Day of Prayer.** This will be held on 1st March at the Baptist Church for prayer from 3–4pm and 8–9pm and vigil and silence in between those times. Refreshments at 4pm and tea and coffee all day. The focus will be on praying for the Middle East.



**Hertford and District Foodbank.** Local schools are very supportive, providing donations especially at Harvest and Christmas. Although donations of food are always welcome, look out for the monthly shopping list. The Foodbank is hosted by the URC in the Cowbridge rooms.

Special events for Lent

**Tuesday 12th March** at the URC Riding Lights Theatre Production at URC.

**Sunday 23rd March, 3pm** Methodist Church. A Hymns and Cake event for Christian Aid.

**Good Friday Walk of Witness** 10am starting at the Methodist Church then on to the Friends Meeting House, for a prayer and a song or two, then on to URC Cowbridge Halls for refreshments.

**Daily Prayer for the Earth.** For a year, from 1st January 2024, a group of Hertford residents are meeting daily in Hertford's Salisbury Square at 12 noon. They read a prayer or a poem from different parts of the world and spiritual traditions, followed by a short period of silent reflection.

**David Cramphorn**

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# On The Doorstep – March and April



Spring is here and so the Wood Anemone is my flower of choice this time. The Wood Anemone is a ground covering plant, with a pretty star like flower, approximately 2cm across and on a long stem. It usually has six or seven white petals, although they can sometimes be found with a pinkish tone to them as well. The leaves of the plant come from the base and are, I think, as attractive as the flower, they have three lobes, each lobe being divided. The plant grows between 5cm and 15cm in height.

The Wood Anemone is part of the Buttercup family and its scientific name is *Anemone Nemorosa*, anemone comes from Greek and means 'daughter of the wind', and in fact one of the common names for the flower is Windflower, some say this comes from the myth that the Greek god of wind Anemos, sent the flowers ahead of him to herald his coming. *Nemorosa* comes from the Latin 'nemus' which means forest, in reference to the plant's habitat. Other common names for this flower are, thimbleweed, moonflower and smell fox, this one possibly being used due to the musky smell of the leaves.

The Wood Anemone is a native of the UK and Northern Europe and, as its name would suggest, likes a habitat of deciduous woodlands and hedgerows. The plant blooms in March, April and on into May making the most of the sunlight before the canopy of the woods closes over and becomes too dense. The flowers of the Wood Anemone will track the sun if it is in a southerly sunny position in the

woods. This is like the Lesser Celandine I wrote about in the last magazine.

Wood Anemone produces seeds but they are mostly infertile and so the plant uses rhizomes (underground roots) to spread. The plant spreads very slowly only 2cm to 5cm in a year and this is probably why the Wood Anemone is used as an ancient woodland indicator. The plant is rarely eaten by animals as it has a bad taste, and it is also poisonous to humans. However, the flower attracts several pollinators and is a favourite of the Hoverfly.

Wood Anemone has in the past been used as a cure for headaches: poultices would be made with the plant in them and then pressed to the head. However, the plant can be a skin irritant for humans, so I am not sure how effective it would have been.

In some cultures, like the Egyptians and the Chinese, there was a belief that anemones would bring illness and the ancient Greeks saw them as a symbol of early death. However, the Romans believed that the flowers were a good luck charm and would pick the first flowers to ward off fevers. The flowers have also been associated with anticipation, renewal and new beginnings. Whatever the symbolism, I think they are one of the prettiest of spring flowers. They can be found in many of our local woodlands and make a fantastic display especially if mixed with Bluebells, creating glorious hues of blue and white across our local woodland floors.

**Bridget Hersant**



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## The Easter Cross

Every year at Holy Trinity church we decorate a large wooden cross with flowers and place it outside the West Door to celebrate Easter Day.

In past years we climbed ladders to tape Oasis floral foam to the wood and then placed flowers at the top of the Cross. This was a bit tricky for the flower arrangers, so last year we borrowed three trestles from Castle Joinery and lifted the Cross horizontally on to them to make life easier.

This Easter Saturday we will lay the cross on the trestles again, tape Oasis and add flowers and greenery over the whole Cross. On Easter Sunday morning people bring flowers from their gardens to church to add to this colourful display. Without willing volunteers (and James Dutton's strength in lifting the heavy cross) we could not achieve this.

We hope people enjoy the sight of this floral display during the following week as they walk up the lime avenue towards the church.

**Pam Thain**

*Holy Trinity Flower Guild*



## Bengeio Bowls

Some of you may be unaware that, hidden away behind the Bengeio Club on Bengeio Street, there is a bowls green. This is the home of the Bengeio Bowlers and also the U3A Outdoor Bowls Group.

The Bengeio Club offers its members a great social calendar including live acts on Saturdays, karaoke evenings, bingo and live sport on TV plus sporting activities including bowls and pétanque.

The Bowls Section is a friendly group and we play socially on Monday afternoons and evenings in the summer months (May – September) as well as running our own competitions, competing in a local mixed league and playing friendly games against local clubs.

Are you interested in playing bowls but, as a beginner, don't know where to start? We have the answer as we will be having Open Days on the 11th and 12th May, 10.30am–4pm. Do come along whether you are a beginner or have played before. We have bowls you can borrow and we just ask that you wear trainers or similar to prevent damage to the green. Alternatively come along on a Monday afternoon at 2pm or Monday evening at 6pm. You'll get a warm welcome.

Interested? Do give Christina (07961 529226) a ring for more information.



## White Lion

There are some new meal deals at the White Lion:

- Fab Thursdays - 25% off food and drink 12 noon to 4pm
- Burger Thursdays from 5pm

And, of course, fish and chips on Tuesday evenings.

Book now for Mother's Day on the 10th March. Bookings only, call 01992 509717.

## The Greyhound

The Secret Thai Garden is under new management and has an exciting new menu.





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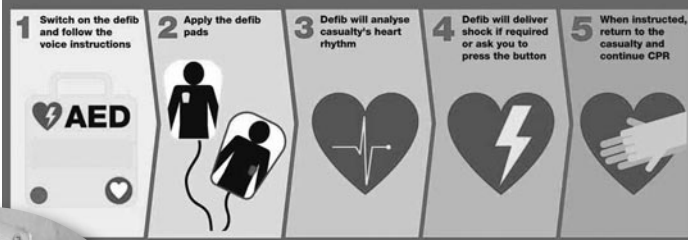
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## A Defibrillator for the Church Hall

### How to Use a Defibrillator



In addition to the defibrillators outside the Avenue shops and at Mill Mead School, one has been recently installed in the Church Hall, Duncombe Road.

This defibrillator will be available when the Hall is open, but there is a note on the door which has details of a nearby keyholder for access to the Hall when it is closed.

There are full instructions on the use of the device. Here is a summary of what to do.



1938 Bengeo Bus. Courtesy Marilyn Taylor.



1960s bus. Courtesy Ian Smith.

## New bus routes for Bengeo

You may have noticed that since the 7th January there are different buses following routes in Bengeo.

Replacing service 333, weekday daytime buses operate hourly to Parker Avenue (H5) and Bengeo Shops (H6) with stops every half hour along most of the route into town along Bengeo Street. At peak times and on Saturdays and Sundays buses will continue to serve both estates as a single loop with these journeys also numbered H6.

The rest of the old 333 service is a separate route from Hertford Bus Station to Foxholes and Pinehurst estates also linking with Hertford North Station (H1).

The Bengeo route has had a few changes over the years, and a few different buses.



Bengeo Bus today.





Courtyard  
—arts—

# Courtyard Arts News

These forthcoming events are held at the Courtyard Arts Gallery.

## My Heart under my Feet

**Paul Morris, 5th–30th March**

Paul has been a practising fine artist for over thirty years with a long exhibiting history. In 2014 his first book – *A Toby in the Lane, A History of London's East End Markets* was published by the History Press. His main focus of



artistic interest then switched to a fervent love of street photography based mainly in London and coastal areas of England.

Paul moved to Hertford three years ago and this exhibition examines and reflects his growing passion for the town and surrounding landscape.



## The Company of Players (Hertford)

present

### The Bright and Bold Design

By Peter Whelan,

directed by Jan Palmer Sayer

**12th–20th April 2024 at 7.45pm**

In the North Staffordshire Potteries in the 1930s, Jessie Frost works for a small traditional firm, hand painting traditional designs in the time-honoured fashion until the arrival of Jim Rhys as the firm's new Art Director. A man possessed with both high ambition and strong views of the future, Jim's views on design create tension with the factory owner, and his political beliefs gradually lead him into conflict within the small community. But in Jessie Frost, Jim recognises a special talent, one which he promptly sets out to nurture though not necessarily with her blessings. The result is a play of great warmth, charm, passion and grace, an exploration of the true nature of the art of politics, and the politics of art.

Book online: [www.ticketsource.co.uk/booking/select/RdiEJKhzXNnT](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/booking/select/RdiEJKhzXNnT).



## Courtyard Open

**9th–29th April**

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



## Hertford Art Trail 2024

**Various Artists, 6 - 20 April**

Local artists and makers showcase their latest works across various locations throughout the Town Centre.

## Riding Lights Theatre

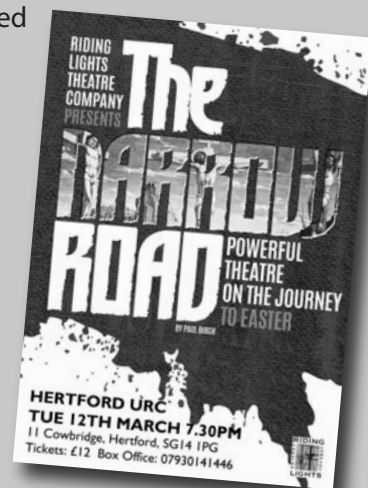
### Production: The Narrow Road

**Hertford United Reformed Church,  
Tuesday 12th March, 7.30pm**

As part of the Hertford & District Churches Together Lent Events, Hertford URC has commissioned the Riding Lights Theatre Company to perform their Passion Play which is touring through Lent and Holy Week. *The Narrow Road* is more than a play to be performed for an audience; it is also a communal experience of theatre and worship. It is aimed at adults and young people aged 12 and older. The performance may be suitable for younger children who are familiar with theatre-going experiences.

Amid the heat and beauty of ancient Palestine, a man stands alone on a dusty road. An extraordinary journey before him; one that will re-trace the footsteps of Jesus into a world of miracles and madness, violence and liberation. As *The Narrow Road* is walked this turbulent world is turned upside down; its inhabitants confronted by an unexpected challenge of a life beyond. Compellingly performed. *The Narrow Road* asks each of us to step out in faith on the journey today.

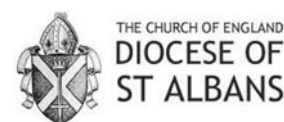
*The Narrow Road* is a communal experience of theatre and worship for the season leading to Easter.







# Tonwell School News



The whole school had a great time visiting the Aerozone at Stansted in January. Children learned about different jobs at the airport, found out more about how planes fly by making paper aeroplanes, trying on the different uniforms and visiting the viewing platform to see them taking off.



The children also had a visit from staff and students at Amwell View school to learn all about Boccia. The children really enjoyed their session with their Sports Ambassadors.



Every month we have a visit from the volunteers at Holy Trinity Church in Bengoe who share Bible stories with the children during their Open The Book collective worship. The children love getting dressed up and acting out Bible stories.

The older children have been learning about living things and their habitats. The children have been grouping and classifying animals in the Amazon. They have explored how the animals in the Amazon are different to the animals that live in the UK.

In Geography the younger children have learnt about the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings. They created timelines and identified when key events took place. They also learnt about Scandinavia and located countries on a world map. The children enjoyed finding out about the similarities and differences between the UK and Scandinavia.

We have places available, please email [admin@tonwell.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@tonwell.herts.sch.uk) to book a tour. To find out more about the fun activities we do at Tonwell St Mary's C of E Primary School please follow us on instagram @tonwellstmarys.

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

**Headteacher: Mrs Sarah Bridgman**

We are offering 30 hour places in our Nursery class.

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

Visits are warmly welcomed.

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





# Bengeo Primary School

## Year 2 trip to the STEM centre, Stevenage



Year 2 children had a wonderful time visiting the STEM centre in Stevenage. They made and launched rockets, created their own slime and had fun experimenting with different science equipment. Finally the children watched a magic show, which they realised wasn't magic but in fact science!

## Year 1 History workshop



Year 1 had a fantastic time at their Hertford Museum toy workshop. They were learning and playing with toys from the

past and how they are different to toys they play with now.

## Reception Goldilocks drama workshop

Reception classes had a visit from Goldilocks. They had an adventure into storyland, role played the story and sang lots of songs. It was fun!





# Excellent in all areas.

ISI Inspection Report 2022

*"Pupils relish the opportunity to learn in every lesson"*  
*ISI June 2022*



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# Discover the Magic of Learning Duncombe School's Community Chronicals



Hello Everyone!

Can you believe how quickly this first half of the Spring Term has flown by? Team Duncombe will be practising for Sports Day and our end-of-term productions before you know it!

Once again, Duncombe School and Treetops Pre-School have brought learning to life in so many different ways since we last wrote to you. We've enjoyed numerous celebration days, enrichment activities, and workshops, just to name a few. In this edition, we've chosen our favourites to share with you in a bit more detail, so please do read on.

Beyond our day-to-day learning, we've enjoyed welcoming parents into the school to share in the delights of Open Mornings, Class Assemblies, Breakfast Music Concerts, Open Classrooms, and Information Evenings. It's been a busy one!

What an incredible term it has been so far! It truly reaffirms that learning comes to life here at Duncombe.

So grab your coffee, catch up on Team Duncombe's news, and we look forward to sharing more exciting adventures in the next edition!

*Team Duncombe*

## Lego Day Extravaganza: Building Brilliance at Team Duncombe!

Team Duncombe kicked off February with a bang, diving headfirst into the world of creativity and collaboration to celebrate International Lego Day! The excitement was electric as our morning assembly whisked us through the captivating history of Lego, setting the stage for an epic building challenge using the innovative 'Brickit' app, with three lucky participants showcasing their skills.

But the fun didn't stop there! Throughout the day, the entire school embraced the brick-building brilliance, crafting magnificent models and dreaming up ingenious creations that pushed the boundaries of imagination. From Lego-themed STEM lessons igniting curiosity to crafting a larger-than-life Lego Duncombe Bear during break time, every moment buzzed with the thrill of discovery and hands-on learning.

Not satisfied with building solo, our children rallied together, embracing teamwork and camaraderie to tackle collaborative projects that showcased the power of collective ingenuity. Team Duncombe poured their creativity and enthusiasm into ensuring this cross-curricular celebration was an unforgettable success.



## Unveiling Earth's Treasures

Year 3 took a thrilling plunge into the realm of geology and paleontology, led by a Team Duncombe parent who is a geologist and paleontologist. With their expertise, they breathed life into rocks and fossils, captivating the class with a dynamic presentation that left them spellbound. Journeying through time, they uncovered Earth's ancient secrets, from the intricate spirals of ammonites to fossilized branches and even a piece of gneiss from Mount Everest's Base Camp. Each artifact whispered tales of epoch's past, inspiring dreams of future paleontologists among our young scholars.

## Exploring Shakespeare's Universe

Year 5 embraced the challenge of decoding the timeless verses of Shakespeare, breathing life into his iconic characters with boundless enthusiasm and flair. Through interactive workshops and dramatic performances, they delved deep into the playwright's world, unraveling the richness of language and narrative that continues to resonate across centuries.



## Lunar Celebrations

Team Duncombe Treetops ignited the Lunar New Year spirit with an electrifying Dance Workshop! Our young stars from Reception to Kindergarten immersed themselves in the festivities, including dressing up before diving into a Dragon Dance to authentic Chinese beats. With ribbons and pompoms, they brought the sky alive with fireworks, all while swaying to the rhythm like graceful dragons.

Their infectious joy filled the room as they explored the rich traditions of the Lunar New Year through movement and music. At Treetops, every moment is an adventure, and this vibrant celebration was no exception!

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## A Word from The Rectory

# Hovering over the Off button

From The Vicar, The Revd Robert Thompson



'Isn't it awful?' 'I can't bear to listen to it anymore.' 'If I watch the 10 o'clock news before bedtime I don't sleep at night.'

Comments like these are a common lament these days. I'm never entirely sure how best to react to them. A vicar should find a way of looking charitably upon these things. God bless you for your moral indifference. Your lack of compassion. Your social irresponsibility.

There may be mitigating circumstances, of course. Your life may be so weighed down by your own troubles that you can't carry anyone else's. Giving what little spare time you have to current affairs may just leave you feeling wound-up and stressed-out when you've worked hard and deserve some down-time. Sufficient to the day is the evil thereof, and all that.

Strike me down for saying so, but I'm no better arbiter of the world's woes. There's many a news story that has me hurrying across the kitchen for the off button on the radio or sitting on the sofa flicking past the news channels in search of peace and harmony. I could do with the break, to be honest – journalists and reporters have been whispering unpleasantries in my ear all day.

They're now talking about an election warming up at which you half listen because it's not an unimportant event, but you still haven't finished digesting the digested versions of the COVID enquiry to try and understand what was what and who's to blame; but then there's another presidential election unfolding, plus a big article about racial problems in America to read, and you ought to watch the interview with the person who might be

the next prime minister; so you do that while sifting through all the tweets and posts about terrible wars, bad weather, cost of living and climate crisis and after a while you feel you've absorbed a lot of information but learned nothing, and just feel angry or anxious or confused so you switch on the Australian Open hoping to watch Emma Raducanu playing, only she's finished early because she's busy so she says 'throwing up in my mouth' so you turn to Netflix for a temporary reprieve where the fictional problems of any number of stories about a battle-ravaged nuclear-blasted alien-blighted zombie-infested post-apocalyptic world can take your mind off it all.

And relax...

Even if you have dared keep up with things there have been times these last few weeks when it's been hard to keep up with the news – even in barest outline. The speed, the momentousness, the clamour of it, and the short amount of time we have to process – let alone understand – it all increases a sense of feeling overwhelmed.

Someone recently asked, 'Is Britain about to die of news?' It's even been suggested that the news is bad for us; that rather than informing us, it inhibits thinking, makes us passive and indifferent to the suffering of others, while re-affirming our existing prejudices. Add to that the problem of the news itself being faked, distorted or mis-reported and it's tempting to hit the off button and ignore it all – for good.

I'm not sure withdrawal is the answer. It's often when events are at their most confusing and troubling that we need to engage in order to understand them better. The challenge for us seems to be: how do we stay informed about the issues of the day without being overwhelmed or paralysed by them? How do we see clearly, through the forest of words and flashing of images, to what's really going on without first being blinded and then jaded?

We don't want to become the kind of nation described in Deuteronomy, 'A nation without sense, where there is no discernment.' If there's a quality that consumers, deliverers and makers of news

need, it's that gift of discernment: the sound judgement that makes it possible to tell good from bad, recognize truth and integrity; and that makes for wise responses. It can help us in the way we pay attention to news – the time we take to consider it, what to say about it, and recognize what's important.

We need to stay engaged in order to be what the bible encourages us to be: a people 'who understand the times they're living in' so that they can 'know best what to do and discern what the end will be.'

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

## Christmas Quiz

The Christmas Quiz 2023 was a great success and made £340 for Church funds.

There were no entries returned with all the correct answers. However, there were three entries with only one wrong answer: Nicky and Paul Phillips, Maggie Day, Sue and David Kenney. They must have spent many hours at the seaside!

Thank you to all who supported the quiz.

### Libby and Peter Shillito

Here are the answers:

1. Frozen Money (3, 5) **Ice Lolly**
2. Hide Away (4) **LiLo**
3. A Building of little weight (10) **Lighthouse**
4. A walk round for dancers (9) **Promenade**
5. Bird out of breath? (6) **Puffin**
6. Are these on the Net? (7) **Surfers**
7. Light shines on one's equal (8, 4) **Brighton Pier**
8. Travels with Eeyore (6, 5) **Donkey Rides**
9. A greedy diver (6) **Gannet**
10. An insubstantial building (10) **Sandcastle**
11. Shaking Salmon (5, 4) **Jelly Fish**
12. Sang a song in front of girls (10) **Sunglasses**
13. Body builders show these off (7) **Mussels**
14. Needed to make number 10 (6, 3, 5)  
**Bucket and Spade**
15. This clue has nothing to do with the seaside (3, 7) **Red Herring**
16. Hand gestures (5) **Waves**
17. Lettered all through (5, 2, 4) **Stick of Rock**
18. Reef, granny or Turk's Head (4) **Knot**
19. A Cod that signs autographs (8) **Starfish**
20. Squeaky voiced couple (5, 3, 4)  
**Punch and Judy**

21. Musicians don't sit down here (9) **Bandstand**
22. Soldier in front of the sun (7) **Parasol**
23. Worthless at the water's edge (7, 3, 6)  
**Flotsam and Jetsam**
24. Outbursts of flatulence (10) **Windbreaks**
25. Rowers sometimes catch this! (4) **Crab**
26. 1609 metres, but is it 18 carat? (6, 4)  
**Golden Mile**
27. Itsy, bitsy, teeny, weeny, yellow polka dot... (6)  
**Bikini**
28. Covered in black and white (4, 3, 5)  
**Fish and Chips**
29. This chap enjoys a Summer holiday (5) **Cliff**
30. Where sportsmen have painful injuries (7)  
**Groynes**
31. Bird named for moving pebbles (9 ) **Turnstone**
32. Toss in the air, turn a spoon and containers perhaps (7, 4) **Lobster Pots**
33. Too sticky to clean your teeth! (5, 5)  
**Candy Floss**
34. Royal Princess (6) **Marina**
35. Arid checks (anag) (10) **Deckchairs**
36. Kelly's eye-boing! (anag) (5) **Bingo**
37. Bear's story (anag) (6, 4) **Oyster Bars**
38. Sour vines (anag) (9) **Souvenirs**



# Parish Calendar MARCH 2024

Sunday 3rd March		The Third Sunday of Lent
9am	Holy Communion	
10am	Parish Communion	
Tuesday 5th March		
8pm	'3 Crosses' Lent Course in Holy Trinity Church	
Wednesday 6th March		
2pm	Bengeo Afternoon WI, Church Hall, Duncombe Road	
2.30–4pm	Bereavement Café at The Secret Garden Café, The Avenue	
Thursday 7th March		
10am	Holy Communion	
10.30am	Coffee Pot Charity Café, Church Hall, Duncombe Road	
Sunday 10th March		The Fourth Sunday of Lent (Mothering Sunday)
9am	Holy Communion	
10am	Parish Communion	
Tuesday 12th March		
8pm	'3 Crosses' Lent Course in Holy Trinity Church	
Wednesday 13th March		
10am	Craft Club, Church Hall, Duncombe Road	
Thursday 14th March		
10am	Holy Communion	
10.30am	Coffee Pot Charity Café, Church Hall, Duncombe Road	
2.30–4pm	Bereavement Café at The Oasis Café, Ware Road Methodist Church, Hertford	
Sunday 17th March		The Fifth Sunday of Lent (Passion Sunday)
9am	Holy Communion	
10am	Parish Communion	
Tuesday 19th March		
8pm	'3 Crosses' Lent Course in Holy Trinity Church	
Thursday 21st March		
10am	Holy Communion	
10.30am	Coffee Pot Charity Café, Church Hall, Duncombe Road	
6.30–8pm	Bereavement Café at The Secret Garden Café, The Avenue	
Sunday 24th March		PALM SUNDAY
9am	Holy Communion	
10am	Parish Communion with procession of palms around the church	
Monday 25th March		Monday in Holy Week
8pm	Holy Communion	
Tuesday 26th March		Tuesday in Holy Week
8pm	Holy Communion	
Wednesday 27th March		Wednesday in Holy Week
8pm	Holy Communion	
Thursday 28th March		MAUNDY THURSDAY
10am	Holy Communion	
10.30am	Coffee Pot Charity Café, Church Hall, Duncombe Road	
8pm	Holy Communion, The Liturgy of Maundy Thursday	
Friday 29th March		GOOD FRIDAY
12 noon-2pm	Prayer and Meditation	
2pm	Good Friday Devotions	
Sunday 31st March		EASTER DAY
9am	Holy Communion	
10am	Festival All-Age Communion	

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# Parish Prayers

## Daily Prayers for March

1. World Day of Prayer – focus on Lebanon
2. Hertford and Ware Street Pastors
3. Our Church Hall and all who use it
4. Parkhurst Road
5. Christian Churches in Lebanon
6. Oxfam workers in War Zones
7. HMP Highpoint Prison, Newmarket, Suffolk
8. Our local Doctors
9. Christians in sport
10. Our Mothers
11. Peel Crescent
12. Christian Churches in Pakistan
13. Oxfam working with refugees
14. HMP Hindley Young Offenders Prison, near Wigan
15. East Herts Council and Councillors
16. Local sports teams
17. Churches in Ireland
18. Pittaway Walk (off Port Vale)
19. Parenting Mentors
20. Oxfam work with Women's Co-operatives in Africa
21. HMP Hollesley Bay, Suffolk
22. Hertford Town Council
23. The Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust
24. Palm Sunday, The Beginning of Holy Week
25. Hertford, Port Vale
26. Christians in Jerusalem during Holy Week
27. Oxfam Head Office, Oxford
28. Maundy Thursday Service
29. Hertford and District Churches Together
30. Blackburn Cathedral
31. Easter – The Risen Lord Jesus Christ

## Daily Prayers for April

1. Our Easter Celebrations
2. Christian Churches in Sudan
3. Tearfund, working in Ethiopia
4. HMP Holme House, Stockton on Tees
5. Local Land Use and Management
6. Hertford Wellbeing Church, Outreach to Young Adults
7. Our Church work in schools
8. Poplar View (on Crouchfields)
9. Christian Churches in Egypt
10. Tearfund work in Lebanon
11. HMP Hull
12. Young Life work with teenagers in Hertford
13. Sacombe Road allotments
14. Our Church work in Beane River View
15. Port Hill
16. Christian Churches in Jordan
17. Tearfund lobby for climate change action
18. HMP Humber, near Hull
19. Courtyard Arts in Port Vale
20. Local shops and businesses
21. Holy Trinity PCC and Church Wardens
22. Port Vale
23. Christian Churches in Afghanistan
24. Tearfund Head Office in Teddington
25. HMP Huntercombe, prison for foreign national males, Henley on Thames
26. Bradford Cathedral
27. Local pubs and clubs
28. Our Church grounds and memorial garden
29. Redwoods (off Duncombe Road)
30. Christian Churches in Rwanda

### Register

Baptism 4th February –  
**George William Sarjeant**



### Quiet Time and Lent Sessions

All on Tuesday evenings at 8pm in Holy Trinity Church:

- **5th March** QTPlus 'Three Crosses'
- **12th March** QTPlus 'Three Crosses'
- **19th March** QTPlus 'Three Crosses'
- No Quiet Time on the 2nd April
- **9th April** Quiet Time
- **16th April** Quiet Time
- **23rd April** Quiet Time

# Church Contacts

## Team Vicar

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

## Associate Priest

Fr. David Pepper  
T: 07583 985266

## Reader

Bob Kelly  
T: 01763 274653

## Churchwardens

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

## Parochial Church Council

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

## Director of Music and Organist

Dr Andrew Sentance

## Assistant Organist

William Sarjeant

## St Leonard's Church

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

## Addresses

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

# Local Contacts for Help and Advice

## Bengeo Residents Support Network Against Coronavirus

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

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

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

## Medical and Health Advice

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

## Information about local council services

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

## Domestic Abuse

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

## Hertfordshire Domestic Abuse Helpline

0808 808 8088

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

## Financial Advice

### Money Advice Unit

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

### Hertfordshire Citizens Advice Service

03444 111 444

### National Debtline

[www.nationaldebtline.org](https://www.nationaldebtline.org)  
0808 808 4000

## Advice on avoiding scams

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

### Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline

0808 223 1133

If you are interested in volunteering  
[www.thvolunteering.org.uk](https://www.thvolunteering.org.uk)

HertsHelp 0300 123 4044

## Mental Health Advice and Support

### Herts Mind Network

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

## Emotional Support and Practical Help

[www.hertshelp.net](https://www.hertshelp.net)  
[info@hertshelp.net](mailto:info@hertshelp.net)  
HertsHelp: 0300 123 4044

*Inside back cover:*

**Wood anemones.** See Bridget's article on page 9.

*Back cover:*

**Preparing the Easter Cross at Holy Trinity Church.**



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WELWYN • 01438 714686

HERTFORD • 01992 582052

WARE • 01920 468551

LETCHWORTH • 01462 684292

HODDESDON • 01992 471709

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HARPENDEN • 01582 762570

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# Wood Anemones





