

MAY • JUNE 2023

Bengeo Magazine

SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF BENGEIO, CHAPMORE END AND TONWELL



St Leonard's Church, Bengoe Calendar of Events for 2023

OPENING TIMES FOR VISITORS –

Sundays 4th June to 24th September, from 2.30pm to 5.00pm

TEAS from 2.30pm to 4.30pm

QUIET TIME – every Tuesday Evening at 8pm for one hour from 6th June

June

Sunday 4th Start of Visitor Season and Teas (last orders 4.30pm)

July

Sunday 2nd Annual Bengoe Pet Service at 4pm, followed by refreshments

Saturday 8th Children's Art Workshop

Sunday 9th Concert: Mimram Singers

Saturday 22nd Lutenist Sergio Bucheli in recital, 7.30pm

August

Saturday 5th Magpie Lane Folk Band traditional English music

Sunday 6th Service of Praise with Hymns and Pimms, 6.30pm

September

Saturday 9th Heritage Open Day
Herts and Beds Historic Church Trust 'Bike and Hike'

Sunday 10th Heritage Open Day

Sunday 24th Harvest Festival Songs of Praise, 6.30pm
Followed by the Friends of St Leonard's AGM

December

Friday 8th 'A Christmas Wassail' with Folk Band Magpie Lane, 7.30pm

Further information

Concert bookings: £15 (£10 FOSL members)

Contact Mary Crane on 01992 314003 or

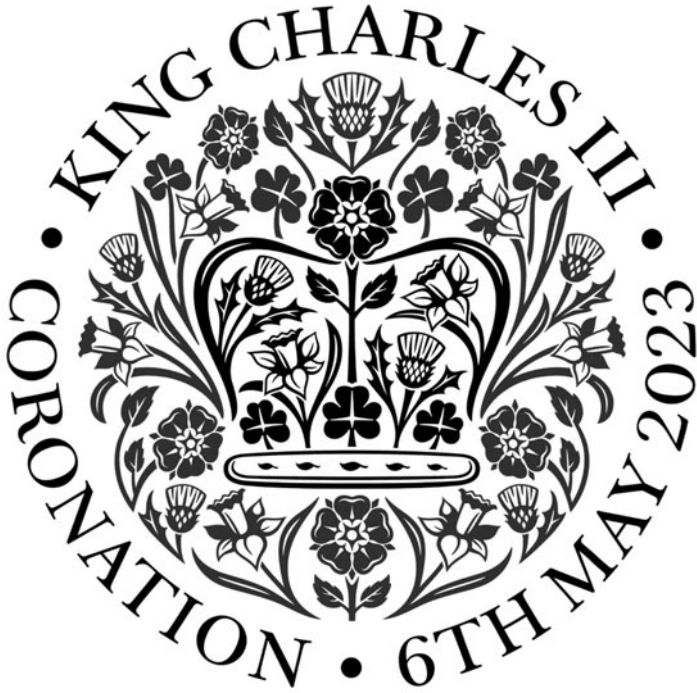
email boxoffice@parishofbengoe.com

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stleonards.parishofbengoe.com



Bengeio Parish Magazine and Community News



The Coronation of King Charles III will be celebrated in Bengeio with street parties and a special Coronation Service on Sunday 7th May, followed by the Parish Tea later in the Church Hall. Please send in your photos of the weekend's events to magazine@parishofbengeio.com to be featured in the next issue.

In this edition, we find out about Julie Walsby's passion for historic embroidery, and John Howson's views on rewilding Bengeio. Bridget Hersant focuses on a widespread flower, Red Campion, which we will see On Our Doorstep in June.

The oldest building in Hertford, St Leonard's church, will be open again for visitors with teas and a tour on summer Sundays, and there is a programme of concerts arranged by The Friends of St Leonard's to enjoy.

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 Services Adverts	4, 8, 10, 12 and 26
Beane River Association, Community Garden, Open Gardens, Flower Club	5
Rewilding Bengeio	6–7
Coronation Tea, Children's Society, Pet Service	7
On The Doorstep	9
Save Bengeio Field, Hertford Food Bank	11
Julie's rich tapestry	13
Friends of St Leonard's Events,	
Scouts News	14–15
COPS Theatre	15
Schools' News	16–19
A Word from the Rectory	20–21
About our Daily Prayers	21
Parish Calendar	22–23
Prayers for May and June, Quiet Time	24
Contacts Page	25
Church Hall Poster	27
Bengeio Day	28

Editorial Team

Items for the magazine should be sent to magazine@parishofbengeio.com

Copy dates for 2023

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

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Please address all advertising enquiries to magazine@parishofbengeio.com

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Tonwell: Pat Lavis

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Front cover:

The West front of Holy Trinity church bathed in sunlight now that the lime walk has been pollarded by BG Drones.



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The River Beane Restoration Association (RBRA) achieves national recognition

As a result of the RBRA's enthusiastic involvement along the river, the Beane has been selected as one of only eight rivers across the country to be part of a national flagship pilot project, aimed at restoring the river to make it an attractive amenity for the communities along the valley, and creating a haven for wildlife.

For well over 20 years, volunteer citizen scientists have been monitoring water levels within the chalk aquifer, which has helped to better understand the relationship between climate, abstraction and flows in the river. This work culminated in a 90% reduction in the abstraction of water from the Whitehall borehole in the spring of 2016. We have also been monitoring trends in the wildlife of the Beane, by taking monthly samples of Riverflies (sensitive invertebrates that live in the river bed) to help detect when pollution events occur. The RBRA has worked with other community groups, including the

Scouts, to control invasive non-native plants like Himalayan Balsam and Giant Hogweed, which upset the balance in a natural river system. In our most recent initiative, last summer, water voles were reintroduced along the river after a 30 year absence. This was the result of a partnership with the Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust and the Woodhall Estate, and followed years of surveying to identify and link up suitable stretches of habitat.

We are now aiming to expand our small army of volunteer citizen scientists, young and old, to get involved in various monitoring activities and projects along the river. To get this initiative up and running, the RBRA is holding an open meeting on Monday 3rd July 2023 in Waterford village hall at 7.00pm.

Bob Thornton

rbra.secretary@gmail.com



Bengeo Community Garden

I hope you enjoyed Marilyn Taylor's article in the last issue on the history of our garden site and you probably noticed a few changes on the ground itself.

East Hertfordshire District Council have been really helpful in pruning or removing trees as needed and stand ready to rotovate the site for us.

Weeding parties are needed so if you have a half an hour spare please drop by and dig out some roots to help us on our way. Gloves, spades and forks are recommended.

Next stages you can expect to see will be creating a path and planting up the garden. Once the basics have been completed we will have a garden launch celebration, hopefully followed by occasional seed swaps and community get togethers.

Meanwhile, come and help us weed!

Veronica Fraser

Please open your gardens

We will be having Bengeo Open Gardens this Summer after a long break.

We would be delighted to hear from anyone who would like to open their garden in July or August, so that we can advertise it.

If you would like to open your garden in May or June, we have missed the *Bengeo Magazine* as it has already gone to print, but we will do our best to advertise it with posters and word of mouth. All proceeds will be given to The Beane Restoration Association.

Please contact Janet Guilbride on 07597 771557 to discuss your dates.

Hertford Flower Club

Come and watch professional flower arrangers demonstrate beautiful floral arrangements.

Hertford Flower Club meets on the 4th Thursday of each month at 2.15pm at Hertford Heath Village Hall.

Thursday 27th April *A Wonderful World* by Lee Berrill

Thursday 25th May *Fabulously Floral* by Gill McGregor. Gill is one of the best demonstrators in England.

Thursday 27th July *Brilliantissium* by Doug Howard

Your first visit is free. Just come along or ring Barbara on 07488 309730 for further details.

Rewilding Bengo?

When I first moved to Bengo in 1990 our garden was a buzzing hive of wildlife. We heard little owl nightly and tawny owls frequently. We had both lesser and greater spotted woodpecker and even slowworm and occasionally a grass snake. Hedgehogs were frequent visitors to our garden and occasionally you could hear them grunting.

Nowadays things are different. I haven't heard a tawny owl since then and the little owl have also disappeared. I know we have hedgehogs about, but I haven't seen one for a couple of years. We still have pipistrelle and I do believe there is still slow worm about, but I haven't seen one. We still have Woodpeckers but fewer of them.

What has caused the decline is reasonably clear, more houses have been built in Bengo and farming practices have changed. These days housing developments are supposed to give back in terms of ecology at least as much as they take. But you cannot easily replace a route across a field, or the value of a sheltered hedgerow to a hunting owl.

It must be remembered too that ecology in the UK has built up around our land use, around our farms and our villages. Land use has changed beyond recognition since I was a child. In those days mixed farms were widespread. Farmers would keep dairy cows and a field or two of barley to feed them in the

winter. Fields were smaller and less intensive. Pesticides and herbicides used far less. There was what I call the intricate 'mosaic' of land use around which our wildlife developed. A field of corn is ploughed in the autumn this provides worms and other creatures to birds living in nearby hedges and woodlands. When the field is harvested some grain falls onto the ground, this provides food for small creatures. Our meadows were once full of wildflowers which provided feeding grounds for bees and other insects which in turn are eaten by birds. We had smaller fields and more hedges. These hedges were generally well kept and had a tight canopy ideal for birds nesting. This pattern of land use had existed for centuries before it changed towards the end of the 20th Century. Larger fields and fewer hedgerows have all taken their toll on wildlife as has changes in land use including housing and development, more roads, and cars. If one part of the delicate mosaic is removed, then the consequences can be far reaching and unforeseen. For example, if a key resting area for migrating birds is removed it could potentially mean an entire local population of that species is threatened.

How can we begin to change this and rewild Bengo?

I think the first thing is to recognise the limitations of what we can achieve. We need to see if there are species for which we can provide space and what ecology and feeding requirements these species have. For example, there would be no point in reintroducing otters if there are not enough fish to feed them. The same is true of owls and of woodpeckers. Animals also need places to nest which are safe and isolated from predators. We need to recognise the requirements of our wildlife and provide the habitats that support those requirements.



There are several simple things which could easily be done to improve the habitat for wildlife. A strip of meadow grass could be planted by the houses along the edge of the Sacombe Road Play Area to encourage pollinating insects and voles and provide a wildlife corridor between areas of otherwise isolated habitats.

We could improve the habitat for woodpeckers by some simple woodland management and protect potential nesting sites by the careful placement of owl boxes. To fully understand the most effective strategy a detailed study would be needed, but these simple and inexpensive measures would be a great start. We need to find a way of living alongside the natural world that preserves it for future generations and the place to start is at home right here in our beautiful Bengo.

John Howson



Holy Trinity Coronation Tea Party

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

Tickets at £10 are on sale from Libby and Peter. We do hope that you will join us for a full afternoon cream tea plus a glass of bubbly to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles, if you could wear something with red, white and blue that would be great.

Any more details required please ring Libby on **01992 583979** or email me at libbyshillito@btopenworld.com.



**The
Children's
Society**

Our big annual fund raising Afternoon Tea will be held on Saturday 10th June at 1 The Orchard from 3–5pm.

Tickets at £10 will include a full afternoon cream tea and as much tea/coffee as you would like.

For model train enthusiasts Peter's trains will be on view. There will also be a raffle and of course the Bring & Buy stall.

Please put the date in your diary and come and join in an enjoyable afternoon hopefully in the garden but if wet indoors.

Tickets will be available from the beginning of May from Libby and Peter. Any enquiries please ring **01992 583979** or email libbyshillito@btopenworld.com.

Thank you

Libby Shillito

Annual Pet Blessing Service

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

Advance notice, please save the date in your diary and come and join us with or without pets.



DOGS ON THE STREETS

will be followed by refreshments. We hope to have a Speaker from DOTS (Dogs On The Streets) who will tell us all about the Charity for which we are raising money this year.

It is always a delightful Service and any pets, dogs, cats, rabbits guinea pigs, hamsters, gerbils, tortoises and of course teddies or other toy animals, will be very welcome!

Libby Shillito

Our Lay Reader Bob Kelly with his dog Oskar will take the Service which

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On The Doorstep

As the Bluebells start to fade in May, another bright and cheerful wild flower starts to make its appearance: Red Campion. Red Campion appears around May and goes on well into the summer months. Red Campion is a native to the UK and grows in light shady woodland and along verges. It has 5 dark pink petals and each petal has a deep indent that makes it look as if there are 10 petals. The petals form a tube, which protrude from a purply calyx. Both the stem and the leaves have downy hairs and are slightly sticky to the touch. The leaves are oblong and are stalkless at the top of the plant. The flowers of red campion have no scent, although the closely related and rarer, White Campion does have a scent. The plant can grow to a metre tall and is a favourite of many insects, including butterflies, moths, bees and hoverflies. Red Campion also has many common names including Robin Hood, Ragged Jack, Adder's Flower, Red Catchfly, amongst others. There is quite a sweet little poem by Cicely Mary Barker, *The Red Campion Fairy*, which mentions the many names given to the flower.

The scientific name for Red Campion is *Silene Dioica*. *Dioica* means two houses and this name is because the plant is either male or female. *Silene* comes from the Greek word *sialon* which is the word for saliva, the plant getting this name because of the sticky foam that the female plant produces in order to capture the pollen that insects bring to the flower when they are gathering nectar.

Where Red and White Campion are growing near to each other, you may find a delicate light pink Campion, this is a

hybrid of the two. There are also two other campions, Bladder Campion and Sea Campion. The Bladder Campion has a white flower and has a large sepal/calyx, looking very much like a bladder, hence its name.

Red Campion is said to symbolise gentleness and in folklore Red Campion guards bees honey and protects fairies from being discovered. The flower has been associated with St James as it begins to flower around his feast day. It is also associated

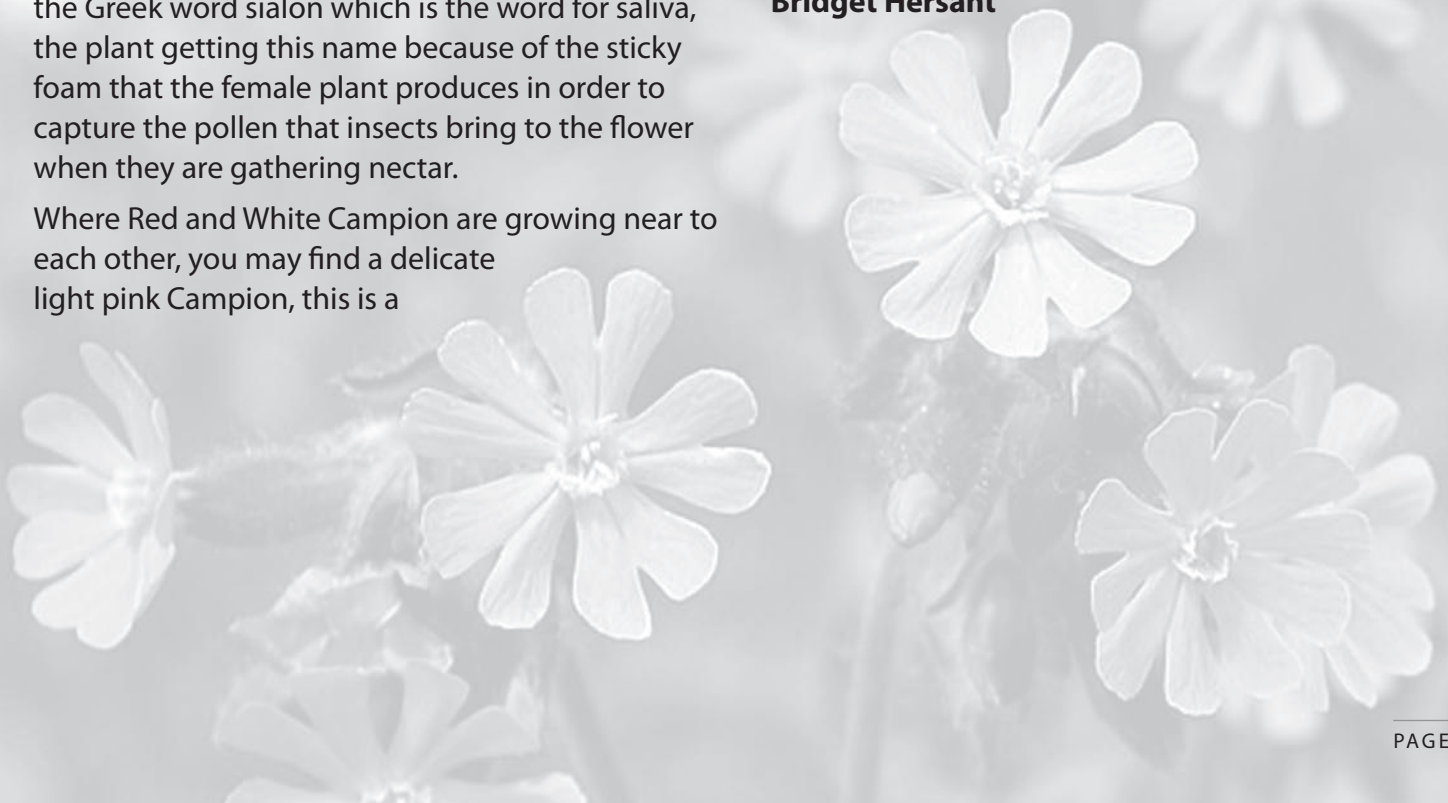
with the Greek god Silenus who was a merry god of the woodlands, often depicted drunk and covered in foam/saliva, I presume due to his drunken exploits! This association links with the way the flower produces foam and the scientific name, *Silene*.

Medical uses of the plant have been various, being used for medical issues such as snake bites, stings, sores, corns and warts, as well as internal bleeding and kidney disease.

The root of the plant has also been used as a substitute for soap which was obtained by simmering the root in hot water.

So, if walking in our local woodlands in May and during the summer months, look out for this cheerful, delight of a flower dancing in the breeze.

Bridget Hersant



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Save Bengoe Field – An Update



The Bengoe Field is busy with walkers, cyclists, joggers and skylarks all enjoying the open space, beautiful views and tranquil setting. Many more people are taking advantage of our precious green surroundings with walks in the evenings now the days are getting longer. I think we can safely say that the community is really enjoying seeing Bengoe Field as it springs into life again.

At time of writing, we are still waiting on the planning application from Durkan for the proposed 100 new homes on Bengoe Field. The application was originally due to be submitted before Christmas last year and although there has been a delay from the original timings, we still expect a submission to

be made relatively soon. The Save Bengoe Field team continue to work behind the scenes so we are ready to leap into action.

Please continue to display posters in your windows and keep an eye on our social media pages and our website for further updates. As soon as the planning application is made we will let everyone know. Remember that every email and letter will count so encourage everyone in your household to be ready to send in their objections.

To keep up to date you can find us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, just search for Save Bengoe Field or you can sign up for email notifications on our website at savebengeofield.org.uk.



Hertford Food Bank Guarantee Our Essentials

We are delighted to be able to say that as a Foodbank we are supporting the Trussell Trust's Campaign – Our fantastic Project Manager Cheryl recently participated in a 30 second video which will make up part of the campaign.

We can't always deal with what life throws at us on our own, which is why we need to have a system in place that supports us all to afford the essentials while we recover from setbacks. Without a decent safety net, we are not properly supported if we face challenging times.

More and more people are speaking up and saying that the basic rate of Universal Credit must at least be enough to afford the essentials we all need to get by.

So join us and call on the government to Guarantee Our Essentials
www.trusselltrust.org/get-involved/campaigns/guarantee-our-essentials.

Shopping List

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Julie's rich tapestry



Julie Walsby has had a long and varied career in embroidery, having started very young. She spent several decades as a volunteer at Hatfield House, which was built by Robert Cecil, first Earl of Salisbury and son of Lord Burghley, and completed in 1611. In the present day, the grand building is the home of the 7th Marquess and Marchioness of Salisbury.

Julie says, "My embroidery career began at the age of 9, being taught by my very talented mother. Since then I have learnt from books, by doing embroidery courses and from other embroiderers. I do my own designs, being inspired by embroiderers of the past."

"Working as Volunteer Textile Conservator in the Textile Conservation workrooms at Hatfield House was a fantastic experience. Joan Kendall, the Head of the workrooms, taught me so much in the 38 years that I was privileged to be there," she said. "I was one of a large group of women, known as the Conservation Ladies, who each came in one day a week, working on the Tapestries and any other textiles which need our care. As I was very short sighted and could see very clearly I helped to conserve part of a collection of antique lace which needed very fine stitching," she added.

"The pieces at Hatfield that particularly inspired my embroidery were a set of 17th century Jacobean crewel work bed hangings". Because of its history, Hatfield is a wonderful and very interesting House to visit, though, except for the Four Seasons tapestries, there are not a lot of the textiles Julie worked on that are on display. "The tapestries were all conserved in the workrooms though I only did a very small bit of stitching on them as my work was on other pieces," Julie said.

Julie has a keen interest in the Raised Work of the late 16th and early 17th Centuries, as well as in the Jacobean crewel (wool) embroideries and Stumpwork of the mid-17th Century. Stumpwork, which is also known as raised embroidery, involves stitched figures which are raised from the surface of the work to form a 3-dimensional effect.

She continues to educate others to this day, drawing upon her experience of working on textiles at Hatfield house, and passing on her knowledge to others, tutoring groups on different techniques and giving talks.

"I tutor the U3A Embroidery group two mornings a month, another in Standon and two other small groups besides occasional workshops for the Textile Art and Stitch group – the old Embroiderers Guild," she said. "I tutor both of these embroidery techniques and also Long and Short stitch and Crazy patchwork; in fact I am busy teaching Crazy patchwork to some members of the Church Craft group!" she added.

For Julie embroidery is not a luxury item, but instead sees it as "a delight and a pleasure to have such an interesting hobby." Julie sees it as part of her role as an embroiderer and as a tutor is to inspire others of any age to try it.

"I have embroidered all my life, usually having several pieces on the go at any one time and am particularly proud of a large Stumpwork box I have been working on for nearly 10 years – it is almost finished!" she said.

Carrie Bone



Friends of St Leonard's

There is much to look forward to at St Leonard's Church, the ancient heart of Bengoe, this summer.

Sunday Teas

The Friends of St Leonard's are delighted to be opening the church for tea and cakes on Sunday afternoons between 2.30pm and 4.30pm from 4th June. Why not drop in to enjoy tea or coffee and some home-made cake while you are on your Sunday stroll. Friends will be on hand to help you explore the nearly one thousand year history of the church and the people who have used it. Children are very welcome – we have a treasure hunt or colouring they can do while parents relax. Well-behaved dogs are also welcome!

You don't have to have tea, you can also just pop in to see the church and enjoy its very special, peaceful atmosphere and learn more about the history of Bengoe.

Music

The Friends have also organised a programme of music for the summer season.

We are delighted to welcome back local choral group the Mimram Singers for a concert on Sunday 9th July. We are looking forward to seeing them, and their friends and family, once again.



Then on the evening of Saturday 22nd July we have a solo concert by the very talented classical guitarist and lutenist Sergio Bucheli. Sergio was born in Mexico and came to London, thanks to a bursary funded by the

Rolling Stones, to study at the Yehudi Menuhin School, then at the Royal Academy of Music. He is a highly regarded young musician and we are delighted that he is bringing his music to St Leonards. Check out his profile via www.hyperion-records.co.uk and you can listen to his music on Spotify to get an idea of his work.

On the evening of Saturday 5th August we are really



thrilled to welcome back Magpie Lane. They visited us last "in the deep midwinter" for the traditional Christmas Wassail. That night they experienced frosty winds and some very deep, crisp and even snow. We are so glad they are coming back to experience St Leonard's on (we hope) a balmy

2nd Bengoe Scout Group Update

The 2nd Bengoe Scout Group have enjoyed a busy few months. Both Beaver colonies have enjoyed learning about international scouting and learning their promise in different languages. They have also been learning about St George and his importance. The Scouts created their own newspaper article and were very lucky to have been visited by the Mayor!

The Cubs collected a whopping 226.84 Kilos of food for the Hertford and District Food Bank. That's roughly 35 Stone. All of us at 2nd Bengoe would like to send a great big thank you to the residents of Bengoe who so kindly donated.

All sections took part in the annual St George's Day Parade. A big well done to all involved in what can be a very daunting experience! We currently have spaces in all sections for both boys and girls. We also have vacancies for a chairman as well as assistant leaders. For more information please get in touch via the 2nd Bengoe Scout Group website.

summer evening. The audience will have the chance to hear some more traditional English music played by a very talented band of musicians. You can find out more about them at www.magpielane.co.uk and also listen to their music on Spotify.

Tickets for concerts will be available nearer the time from boxoffice@parishofbengeio.com.

Children's Art Workshop

Working with Courtyard Arts, there will be a Children's Art Workshop on Saturday 8th July. Children can try out a variety of different activities including collage and printing. It's a fun and free way to entertain families and be creative.

We will also be creating bunting again this year to decorate the railings. Courtyard Arts is creating a bunting flag for children of all ages to colour in. We will then laminate and hang the bunting to bring summer colour to St Leonard's. Last year we received flags from all over Bengeio with entries from 3 year olds to, I quote, "a very old person". Look out for the flags and get your colouring pens and pencils ready!



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 2nd 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 6th August – put the date in your diaries.

The church will also be open on Tuesday evenings at 8pm from 6th June for Quiet Time reflection and prayer.



The Company of Players

presents

The Invisible Men

9th–17th June (to be confirmed)

Little Theatre, Balfour Street,
Lower Bengeio, SG14 3BB

Adapted from the original novel by HG Wells

The Invisible Men is a fast-paced comedy, inspired by the original novel by H.G. Wells, adapted and directed by Laura Ilinca, and will be presented as a world premiere by The Company of Players at The Little Theatre in Hertford.

Jack Griffin, a wannabe scientist who dreams to discover the secret to invisibility moved in with his friends Mr and Mrs Hall a year ago, after his long-time marriage fell apart. Mr and Mrs Hall manage The Cock & Bull Inn, a very unoccupied inn, especially off season, situated in a postcard beautiful but otherwise uneventful little English village. Having little to do with their time, and lacking other bright ideas, they spend their days helping Griffin plotting silly, and frankly a bit creepy revenges against his ex-wife and her new boyfriend. What could go wrong? Not much, as Griffin is known around the village for his idiosyncrasies. Until one day, when two unexpected guests arrive at the inn, bringing with them an unknown number of secret agencies that seem to be quite interested in the invisibility business as well.

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 what is happening and reduced ticket prices for our concerts. You can join through our website

www.stleonards.parishofbengeio.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



Bengeo Primary School

Year 2's visit to Holy Trinity Church

As part of RE learning, our Year 2s went for a visit to Holy Trinity church. Reverend Thompson gave the children a lovely talk about the different celebrations that take place in the church and the children also had an opportunity to explore the church. They all had a lovely time and learnt about a baptism, a wedding and the services that take place over the Easter period.



Mini police

Over the past 6 weeks, we have taken part in Mini Police led by the Hertford PCSOs Abby, Jo and Cleo. Some of the things they told us about were drugs

and alcohol, anti-social behaviour, road safety and online safety. They also helped us prepare an assembly, which we showed to the Year 3 and 4s (they enjoyed it!). All of what they have taught us will stick in our brains forever. We really loved having the PCSOs in our class this term.

Freya and Lola

(Pine Class)

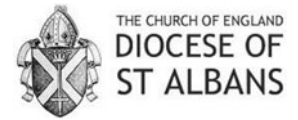
Comic Relief

On the 17th March we celebrated and raised money for Comic Relief Day. The children are responsible for choosing the charity we support each term and this term they chose Comic Relief. They decided how it would be best to support and they decided a Crazy Hair Day and two cake sales. We were all very proud of the children who demonstrated great leadership and collaboration skills organising this fundraising.

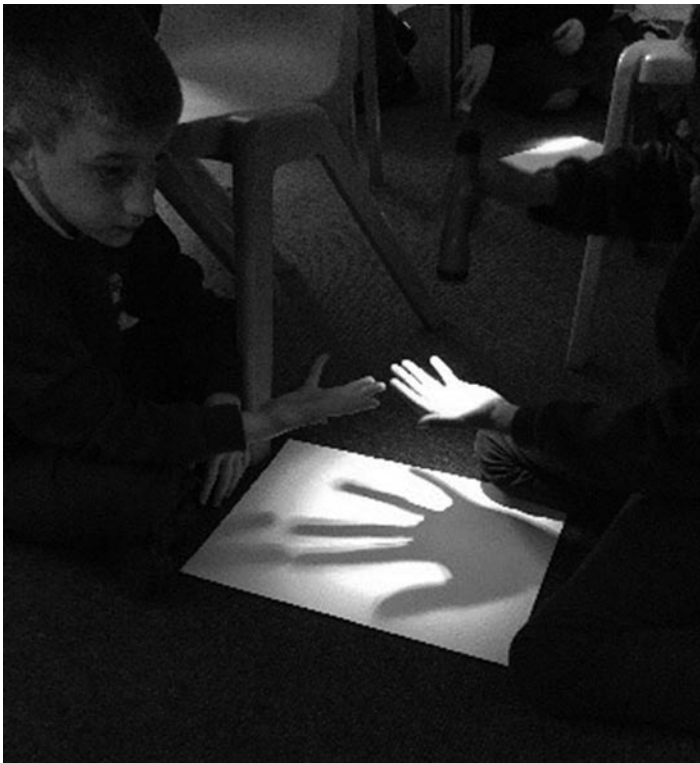




Tonwell School News



In April our Early Years children learnt all about minibeasts. We have enjoyed learning fun facts about butterflies, snails, slugs, spiders and ladybirds and found lots of minibeasts in our outside area! We also enjoyed creating lots of pieces of art, including our own representation of Matisse's snail. Throughout the half-term we have had lots of fantastic enrichment activities happening. At the beginning of the term we enjoyed dressing up as a character from our favourite book, writing our own stories and taking part in a book swap for World Book Day. In the middle of the month we celebrated British Science Week, taking part in a Federation wide project which involved lots of science experiments and an external visitor running workshops throughout the day. At the end of the month we made our own Easter bonnets and showed them off in our very own Easter parade! We have had a brilliant term and can't wait to see what next term brings.



We are pleased to announce that our Thundridge and Tonwell Federation teams have been very successful at both cross country and football. Our children were noted for being kind and respectful.



We are happy to share that Jessica won a Fairplay award.

It was a real pleasure to see children from across our federation come together to celebrate our Science Day. Younger children were joined by parallel classes from Thundridge and took part in exciting workshops together.

Oak class spent the day over at our partner school doing investigations in light and sound, as well as learning more about STEM careers and the diversity there is in the world of science. Thank you to Mrs Coleman for organising and planning this wonderful day!

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**



Duncombe School

EXCELLENT
IN ALL AREAS

ISI REPORT 2022

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

ISI Inspection Report 2022



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Search Duncombe, Hertford



SPRING TERM 2023



Duncombe School celebrates outstanding results!

Scholarships & Awards for Team Duncombe Year 6 2023

We are delighted to share the outstanding success of Team Duncombe in this year's Independent Schools 11+ Examination results. Duncombe has achieved a sector-leading number of offers and scholarships at 11+, with all of our Year 6 pupils gaining places in at least one of their chosen schools. We couldn't be prouder of their dedication and hard work.

At Duncombe, we believe that academic excellence is best achieved through a diverse curriculum, specialist teaching, and a wide range of opportunities. Our commitment to this belief

has resulted in our pupils' exceptional performance and the recognition of their talents across the whole curriculum, including Academic, Sports, Music, and All-Rounder Scholarships and Awards.



Last year, we achieved our highest number of scholarships and awards, and this year's cohort has built on that achievement. We are thrilled to share this year's scholarships as an expression of percentage of places offered is 40%, exceeding last year's outcome of 38%. This accomplishment is a testament to the dedication, hard work, and commitment of our staff and students, as well as the support from their families.

We are proud to say that all scholarships and awards were offered by prestigious local Independent Secondary Schools, including Bishop's Stortford College, Haileybury College, St Albans High for Girls and St Albans Boys, St Edmund's College, Queenswood, and Sherrardswood School. In addition, places were offered for the prestigious state school, Hockerill Anglo European College.

Mr Phelan, Headteacher of Duncombe School, said, "We are immensely proud of our Year 6 pupils and their exceptional achievements. Their success is a testament to our inspiring educational journey, the dedication of our staff, and the exceptional hard work of our pupils. We look forward to continuing to support and inspire our pupils to reach their full potential."



Duncombe School

A Word from The Rectory

Clinging on to the old cloth

From The Vicar, The Revd Robert Thompson



In church we call this period of the year Ascensiontide. It's a time when we, like the disciples, are called to grow up. Easter is past, Jesus returns to the Father, and we are left without him.

Clearly, the disciples felt the post-ascension world to be a scarier and less certain place. Where would they find

direction and comfort from now on? In the bible 'the comforter' is another name for the Holy Spirit, whose presence has not yet been felt by the disciples. It's also another name for a child's transitional object, or what my nephew used to call his 'blanky'.

The whole idea of transitional objects comes from the psycho-analyst Donald Winnicott. Winnicott's work is focused on the process by which a child disengages from its mother. At birth, children are unable to distinguish themselves as being separate from their mothers. After all, they've only just come from the comfort of the womb, coupled to their mother.

The painful process of separation begins when a child starts to recognise that a mother sometimes goes away and that its needs are not always met on demand. It's the beginnings of a reality that is separate from you. Independence has begun. We're growing up.

Of course, it's not unusual for children to have to hang on to their comforters, cuddly toys, or blankies as they find their place in the world. But as their confidence grows in the permanence of a mother's love – a love that continues even when she is absent – a child will learn to trust that love without the need for transitional objects.

At his resurrection, Jesus said to Mary, 'Do not cling to me.' Yet the Church continues to cling to its transitional objects. They take many forms. We've

sometimes obsessed about the exactitude of public worship in ways that make religious ceremonies look very much like transitional objects. We've sometimes claimed an authority to which we're not entitled and a deference we have not earned. We've sometimes brooded over our loss of place in national life and on the public scene. We'd prefer things as they are, and in their place, and are loathe to change.

The immediate and panicky reaction you get from many Christians if you threaten their comforters is generated deep in the psyche. It's not unlike my nephew and his blanky. No other square of material could ever replace that old cloth. There'd be tears before bedtime if you ever tried to replace that cosy comforter.

But he grew up. He learnt to trust that he is loved, and the need for the blanky dropped away. As

Bereavement Café

Drop in for tea, coffee and a chat

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

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

2023 Dates: first Wednesday and third Thursday of every month

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

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

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

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

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

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

@ info@parishofbengoe.com

📞 01992 413691

🌐 www.parishofbengoe.com
/bereavementcafe.php

📱 @BengoeBereavementCafe



Christians, we ought to do the same. King Charles, at 74 years old, is Supreme Head of a national church beset by in-fighting, most of which is between spiritual infants who find that their transitional objects are being threatened.

So what we are looking for is leadership that's come of age. Jesus calls on us not to cling on; only then can we learn to stand in his strength and walk on into the future, confident in the love that set us going.

The next stop is Pentecost, when God sends his Spirit to be 'our comforter', the best and only one we need.

With my prayers,

Robert Thompson



The Coronation of King Charles III will be a special moment in the life of our nation. The Coronation Service will take place on Saturday 6th May 2023 at Westminster Abbey, conducted by the

Archbishop of Canterbury. The ceremony is rooted in a tradition that can be traced back to 973 and the coronation of King Edgar by St Dunstan, but will also reflect the way the monarchy continues to evolve and the role of the King today. Throughout the Coronation Weekend, themes of community life, volunteering and service will be highlighted and celebrated both nationally and locally.

Here in Bengoe a special Service of Holy Communion will take place at Holy Trinity church at 10am on Sunday 7th May to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III.

Later in the day the parish will come together for the Coronation Tea Party at the Church Hall, Duncombe Road. For more information see page 7 of the magazine.

About our prayers for May and June

Our prayers reflect the views of two social influencers, Sir David Attenborough and Gary Lineker, in the early part of 2023. Both well-known public broadcasters, they have used traditional good quality prime time television programming and the more modern Twitter, to raise powerful messages that are both confrontational and motivational thereby encouraging groups to do something positive to effect change.

I have friends who are unable to watch any of the Sir David Attenborough programmes as they feel angered and depressed by the level of damaging pollution, waste and mismanagement that has impacted on nature and the environment. However, this Sunday evening viewing has influenced and encouraged many groups to act for nature and the environment.

Gary Lineker called out government policy towards Refugees and Asylum seekers, raising the awareness of compassion to all who seek refuge here in the UK.

We have centred our prayers in May around the environment, including two local rivers, and for June the plight of refugees. We continue to pray for The National Prison Service, local roads and our neighbours.

David Cramphorn

Parish Calendar MAY 2023

Wednesday 3rd May	
2–3.30pm	Bereavement Cafe at Mudlarks Garden Cafe, Hertford
2pm	Bengeo Afternoon WI, Church Hall, Duncombe Road
Thursday 4th May	
10am	Holy Communion
10.30am	Coffee Pot Charity Café, Church Hall, Duncombe Road
Sunday 7th May Fifth Sunday of Easter	
9am	Holy Communion
10am	Parish Communion (Coronation Thanksgiving Service)
3–5pm	Coronation Tea Party, Church Hall, Duncombe Road (tickets required)
Tuesday 9th May	
8pm	Quiet Time, Holy Trinity Church
Wednesday 10th May	
10am	Craft Club, Church Hall, Duncombe Road
Thursday 11th May	
10am	Holy Communion
10.30am	Coffee Pot Charity Café, Church Hall, Duncombe Road
Sunday 14th May Sixth Sunday of Easter	
9am	Holy Communion
10am	Parish Communion
Tuesday 16th May	
8pm	Quiet Time, Holy Trinity Church
Thursday 18th May	
10am	Holy Communion for Ascension Day
10.30am	Coffee Pot Charity Café, Church Hall, Duncombe Road
6.30–8pm	Bereavement Cafe at Secret Garden Cafe, Bengeo
Sunday 21st May Seventh Sunday of Easter	
9am	Holy Communion
10am	Parish Communion
Tuesday 23rd May	
8pm	Quiet Time, Holy Trinity Church
Thursday 25th May	
10am	Holy Communion
10.30am	Coffee Pot Charity Café, Church Hall, Duncombe Road
Sunday 28th May PENTECOST	
9am	Holy Communion
10am	Parish Communion
Tuesday 30th May	
8pm	Quiet Time, Holy Trinity Church
Wednesday 31st May	
2pm	Bengeo Afternoon WI, Church Hall, Duncombe Road

Parish Calendar JUNE 2023

Thursday 1st June	
	NO 10am Holy Communion Service
10.30am	Coffee Pot Charity Café, Church Hall, Duncombe Road
Sunday 4th June TRINITY SUNDAY	
9am	Holy Communion
10am	Parish Communion
2.30–4.30pm	St Leonard's Church: Tea and Tour
Tuesday 6th June	
8pm	Quiet Time, St Leonard's Church
Wednesday 7th June	
10am	Craft Club, Church Hall, Duncombe Road
2–3.30pm	Bereavement Cafe at Mudlarks Garden Cafe, Hertford
Thursday 8th June	
10am	Holy Communion
10.30am	Coffee Pot Charity Café, Church Hall, Duncombe Road
Sunday 11th June First Sunday after Trinity	
9am	Holy Communion
10am	Parish Communion
2.30–4.30pm	St Leonard's Church: Tea and Tour
Tuesday 13th June	
8pm	Quiet Time, St Leonard's Church
Thursday 15th June	
10am	Holy Communion
10.30am	Coffee Pot Charity Café, Church Hall, Duncombe Road
6.30–8pm	Bereavement Cafe at Secret Garden Cafe, Bengo
Sunday 18th June Second Sunday after Trinity	
9am	Holy Communion
10am	Parish Communion
2.30–4.30pm	St Leonard's Church: Tea and Tour
Tuesday 20th June	
8pm	Quiet Time, St Leonard's Church
Thursday 22nd June	
10am	Holy Communion
10.30am	Coffee Pot Charity Café, Church Hall, Duncombe Road
Sunday 25th June Third Sunday after Trinity	
9am	Holy Communion
10am	Parish Communion
2.30–4.30pm	St Leonard's Church: Tea and Tour
Tuesday 27th June	
8pm	Quiet Time, St Leonard's Church
Thursday 29th June	
10am	Holy Communion
10.30am	Coffee Pot Charity Café, Church Hall, Duncombe Road

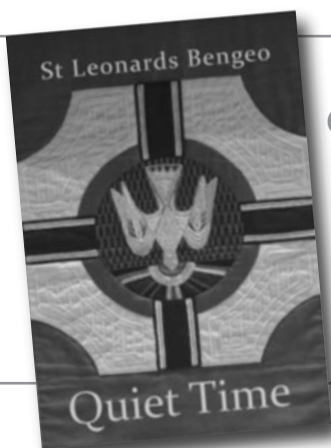
Parish Prayers

Daily Prayers for May

1. Courtyard Mews
2. Air Quality and Pollution Control
3. Christian Churches in Sudan
4. HMP Brixton, London
5. Reducing our usage of plastic
6. The Royal Family
7. Coronation Celebrations in the Parish
8. Cowbridge
9. River Beane Restoration Association
10. HMP Bronzefield, Surrey
11. Christian Churches in Somalia
12. Friends of the Rib and Quin
13. Local land use and farm management
14. Christian Aid local collections
15. Cowper Crescent
16. Christian Aid help for farmers in Africa
17. Christian Aid working in disaster areas
18. Ascension Day
19. The Trustees of Christian Aid
20. Doctors without borders in Afghanistan
21. Those seeking Ordination
22. Cross Road
23. Asthma Research
24. The Methodist Church
25. HMP Buckley Hall, Manchester
26. Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust
27. Surfers against Sewage
28. The Holy Spirit in Holy Trinity Bengoe
29. Crouchfield
30. The Woodland Trust
31. World Wildlife Fund

Daily Prayers for June

1. HMP Bullingdon, Oxford
2. The UN Refugee Council
3. Christians in radio and television media
4. Our Parish
5. Cumberland Close
6. Waterways Chaplaincy
7. Christian Churches in Albania
8. Holy Communion
9. The RNLI
10. The King
11. Local Councillors
12. Danesbury Park
13. Herts Welcomes Refugees
14. Christian Churches in Romania
15. HMP Bure, Norfolk
16. The UK Border Force
17. Hertford Town Council
18. Our Fathers
19. Desborough Close
20. The Barnabas Fund for Persecuted Christians
21. All Nations Christian College, Easney
22. HMP Cardiff, Wales
23. Local Sports Teams
24. The Foodbank Hertford and Ware
25. Hertford and Ware Street Pastors
26. Dimsdale Street
27. Young Minds – Holy Trinity Church Lent Charity
28. Oxfam working in Africa
29. HMP Channings Wood, Devon
30. Southwell Minster



Quiet Time

Quiet Time of prayers and contemplation in Holy Trinity Church on Tuesday evenings at 8pm during May. Please note that from 6th June Quiet Time will be in St Leonard's Church.

Church Contacts

Team Vicar

The Reverend Robert Thompson
The Rectory, Bye Street, Bengoe, SG14 3BS
E: info@parishofbengeo.com
T: 01992 413691

Associate Priest

Fr. David Pepper
T: 07583 985266

Reader

Bob Kelly
T: 01763 274653

Churchwardens

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

Parochial Church Council

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

Director of Music and Organist

Dr Andrew Sentance

Assistant Organist

William Sarjeant

St Leonard's Church

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

Addresses

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

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

Medical and Health Advice

www.nhs.uk/coronavirus

Information about local council services

www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/coronavirus

Domestic Abuse

www.sunflower.org

Hertfordshire Domestic Abuse Helpline

0808 808 8088

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

Financial Advice

Money Advice Unit

www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/benefits

Hertfordshire Citizens Advice Service

03444 111 444

National Debtline

www.nationaldebtline.org
0808 808 4000

Advice on avoiding scams

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

Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline

0808 223 1133

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

HertsHelp 0300 123 4044

Mental Health Advice and Support

Herts Mind Network

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

Emotional Support and Practical Help

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

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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

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BENGEO DAY

12pm – 3pm
Sunday 9th July 2023

Join us once again for our
much loved family event.

Featuring fun kids activities, BPA bar, yummy
food zone, small business market place, and
performances from our Bengeo Primary School
year groups and Young Voices.



Bengeo Primary School – SG14 3DX

All BPA stalls are cashless, accepting Tokens & Card Payments ONLY