

Bengeo Magazine

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CHRISTMAS IN THE PARISH OF BENGEO



Annual Christmas Service of Remembrance & Lighting of Evergreen tree

Remembering Loved Ones, in Holy Trinity Churchyard & Memorial Garden
Sunday 4th December, 3.30pm

'Sing Noel!' Christmas Carol Service

Carol Concert with handbell ringing, Sunday 11th December, 4pm

Christmas Wassail at St. Leonard's Church, Bengoe

Wassailing with mulled wine and Magpie Lane Folk Band

Saturday 17th December, St. Leonard's Church, 7.30pm

All tickets £10

Bookings: call 01992 314 003 or email boxoffice@parishofbengeo.com

Christmas Eve at Holy Trinity Church, Bengoe

Blessing of the crib, 4pm

All Age Service around the Christmas crib

Carols by Candlelight, 7pm

Favourite Carols, poems and seasonal readings in a candlelit church

Christmas Day at Holy Trinity Church, Bengoe

Festival All Age Communion, 10am

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**Holy Trinity Church, New Road,
St. Leonard's Church, St. Leonard's Road
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Bengeo Parish Magazine and Community News



A tribute to the late Queen on the wall of the White Lion, Bengeo.

We were all saddened by the news that Her Majesty The Queen had died at Balmoral on the 8th September. It seemed hard to take in that her death had come so soon after our celebrations of the Platinum Jubilee when we were out partying in the streets. She was such a fixed and stable part of our lives: so many of us had not known any other monarch.

Holy Trinity church hosted a Book of Condolence during the mourning period and many residents came to express their thoughts on her long reign and what she meant to them. The book will be archived for posterity. There were two Sunday services during mourning where prayers were said for Her Majesty and the new words of National Anthem were sung.

God save the King!

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.

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Editorial Team

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Front cover: The late Queen remembered during the mourning period at Holy Trinity church, Bengeo.



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On The Doorstep

So, November and December are upon us. The end of October and beginning of November is a time to appreciate the full beauty of those glorious autumnal colours before the leaves finally leave the trees. A walk last November, along the New River in Broxbourne was a feast for the eyes, the fiery reds, oranges and yellows of Hornbeam, Beech, Maple, Weeping Willow and Oak, against an azure blue sky, reflected in the water: a true delight and an elixir for the soul.

During the months of November and December you may well be able to spot a few flowers. Some of the hardier varieties may hang on in there for a while, like Campion or maybe a Meadow Cranesbill or Shaggy Soldier. Shaggy Soldier is another of the Daisy family and is not actually native to this country but can now be found here. It has five distinctive white petals that are spread out around a dome of yellow florets which is only 3mm to 5mm across. This flower can be found in some unlikely places. I found the one in the picture on an island in the road. Another plant that can be found still flowering in November is Ivy, it is probably not the most popular of plants as it has quite a pungent smell, but it is a fantastic late source of food for various insects when other sources of food for them have already disappeared. If passing it on a sunny day you may hear the buzz of activity as numerous insects feast.



Shaggy Soldier

Carlina Thistle

Keep a look out for the dried plants too, like Teasels and Carlina thistles, that still maintain a beauty of their own even when dried, especially if surrounded like the one in the picture with Bramble and Common Dogwood leaves. Or at this time of year you might spot the bright orange seeds of the Stinking Iris. This plant is also known as Roast-Beef

plant because it is said that if you crush or bruise the leaves they have a meaty smell... I have never tried it myself.



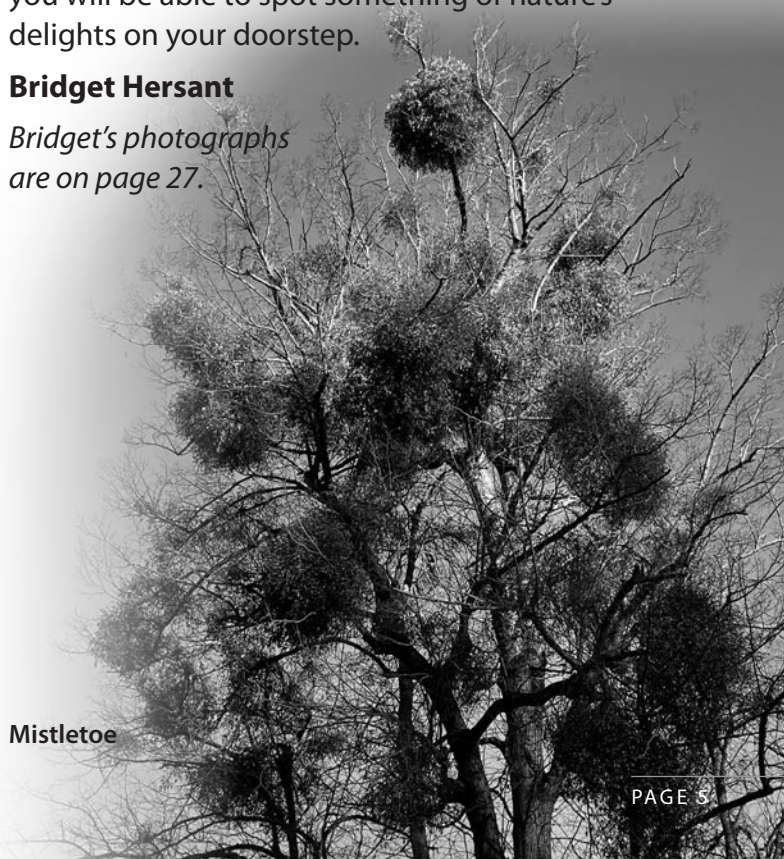
Witch's Broom

As the season moves on and the trees are finally left bare, it's a great time to appreciate their structure and bark or you may be able to see Witch's Broom. Witch's Broom is a dense mass of twigs that grow out of one area on woody plants and can look like a nest or a broom, hence the name. Witch's Broom is actually a deformation which is caused by disease, fungi, mites or some type of stress. The tree or shrub then mutates and produces a mass of twigs from one point, it does not harm the plant and it will continue to grow. When the trees are bare it is also a good time to spot Mistletoe. Many of the trees in Panshanger Park and at Frogmore towards Stevenage have masses of mistletoe that can easily be spotted hanging in large clumps from the tree. Mistletoe is a parasitic plant and can also be the cause of Witch's Broom.

Well, whether you are indoors looking out of the window, riding in the car or out on a walk, I hope you will be able to spot something of nature's delights on your doorstep.

Bridget Hersant

Bridget's photographs are on page 27.



Mistletoe

Bengeio Area Neighbourhood Plan Update

Houses on Bengeio Field



The housing developer Durkan, who recently developed The Stiles on the old nursery site, is proposing a further 100 homes on Bengeio Field (this is the land on the right-hand side of Sacombe Road going from the B158 roundabout to opposite The Wick). The land is mentioned in the Local Plan as a part of the HERT4 development.

In the Neighbourhood Plan on page 38 we state that "If the development of approximately 100 homes within HERT4, which is 'subject to the satisfactory previous phased extraction of mineral deposits' has not received planning permission and is removed from the District Plan as a Strategic Site Allocation, the Neighbourhood Plan would seek to extend LGS1 by a further 2.7ha through a review of the Neighbourhood Plan".

We think that because gravel has not been extracted from the site and is unlikely ever to be extracted we need to re-examine the reasons why the land was allocated for housing in the first place.

As I understand it the primary reason was that gravel extraction would require the land be re-landscaped, thus making housing development possible in the new 'changed' landscape.

There is a very strong argument to say that a field so heavily utilised by local people for recreation and enjoyment of the countryside should not be used for housing and should now be returned to the Green Belt since gravel extraction is now very unlikely. A recent survey of 480 residents found nearly 90% were against the development of the field for houses. The running App Strava produces a 'heat' map which shows the use of various paths around the area. It is very clear from this that Byway 1 which runs through the field is the most heavily used path in the local neighbourhood. Something that does not surprise me as I have seen runners on

the field at almost all times of day and it is an excellent run across to St John's Wood.

There is an active group of residents seeking to stop the development of the houses.

If you wish to become involved, you can find further information on Facebook here www.facebook.com/groups/stopbengeioquarry.

As it currently stands (due to the wording of the Local Plan and a wish to preserve an important local amenity) BNAP will oppose the development of 100 houses on the field. However, there is a need for housing in Bengeio and it is possible that this scheme will be approved as the land has already been removed from the Green Belt.

This being the case, we wish to get the highest standards of design for the estate that we possibly can. I think there are some important things we would aim to get in any scheme. A sufficient quantity of the homes should be 'affordable' and we would like to see sufficient parking space – similar to the amount allowed on The Stiles. The houses should not be uniform in design to increase individuality. Byway 1 should be protected as much as possible so that it crosses as few roads as possible. It would be good if the footpath from The Wick could be formalised and improved. We would also hope that the buffer zone to the north of the site is both a wildlife sanctuary and planted in such a way as to lessen the impact of the housing on the landscape. We have found Durkan to be a good developer to work with and it is important that we as a Neighbourhood Plan maintain a good relationship with them even though at this stage, we oppose the development of the site.

If you wish to find out more information on the scheme you can visit the builder's website here www.bengeowadesmillroad.co.uk.

John Howson

St Leonard's Report



The Friends of St Leonard's were delighted to welcome many visitors to St Leonard's Church in September. In addition to our regular – and very popular – tea and cakes on Sunday afternoons, we opened the church on the week end of the 10th and 11th September.

Our Aspects of St Leonard's Exhibition displayed the fantastic works of art made through the summer by local art groups and by Bengoe residents. All our visitors enjoyed seeing how the special atmosphere of the church had been captured in paint, drawing and photographs. We are really grateful to everyone who submitted a work to be shown.

It was also Heritage Open Weekend

and this attracted many visitors who took advantage of the chance to see inside this rare church. We displayed information about the history of the church, including the many major repairs it has undergone and the story of how it narrowly missed being hit by a bomb in the Second World War.

St Leonard's was also visited by many keen walkers and bikers as part of the Herts and Beds Historic Church Trust 'Hike and Bike'. We were very impressed by the visitors who had 'collected' large numbers of churches in one day and raised money for a good cause.

The church is now closed for the winter except for the much-anticipated Christmas Wassail with folk band Magpie Lane on Saturday 17 December. Start your Christmas season with some rousing music and, of course, refreshments.

Contact boxoffice@parishofbengeo.com to reserve your tickets.

If you are interested in becoming a Friend, and helping us preserve and enjoy this lovely Bengoe building, please get in touch at secretaryfriendsofstleonards@gmail.com or see our web page at www.stleonards.parishofbengeo.com/friends-of-st-leonards.

Helen Fleming



Helen with some of the works at the Art Exhibition.

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Restoring the River Rib for Wild Fish



If you have walked down New Road over the River Rib bridge recently you will have noticed some work to the river and its banks taking place.

This is a project being led by the Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust to help bring the River Rib, a globally rare chalk stream, back to life and better protect its wild fish populations and angling interest.

The Abbey Cross Angling Society manage a 5km section of river between Rib Valley Fishing Lakes and Hartham Common and are keen to see it support healthy populations of native wild fish such as Barbel, Perch, Roach and Dace. They have been working in partnership with the Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust and Environment Agency to plan this project since 2018, which aims to restore about 500m of river back to good health for wild fish and anglers.

The River Rib has been damaged through historic activities such as dredging and flood defences, as well as suffering chronic low flows. This has led to a degraded river in need of work to improve the quality of its habitats and restore its natural processes to function like a chalk stream. Currently the banks are too high, steep and easily eroded, the

river bed has lost its hard gravel bottom, and unmanaged trees along the bank cast heavy shade preventing native river plants from growing which help to oxygenate and manage water levels.

The first stage of the project, which began in early October, is focused on removing a failing weir under the footbridge which was preventing fish from migrating up the River Rib from the Lea. It also artificially slowed the water down, causing silt to drop out and smother the gravel bed. This is particularly damaging to the river's invertebrates (natural food for fish) that tend to live in the spaces between the gravels. By removing the weir, fish can now pass freely, accessing an extra 1km of chalk river for spawning and feeding. The river can also flow freely, helping to move sediment through the system and expose the river bed gravels.

You may also notice that several trees, mostly willow, sycamore and a few ash with dieback, have been coppiced; a traditional form of managing trees along rivers which will promote healthy regrowth. This timber has been recycled and used to create areas of refuge for fish in the river. By introducing woody habitat in the right places, this can support the river to restore itself by providing shallower areas for marginal plants to grow on. The wood will also interact with flows to move water around the channel, creating a more natural, meandering shape.

The work, which has been funded by the Environment Agency, will be completed by the end of October, in time for the spawning season of wild brown trout which begins in November this year.

hertswildlifetrust.org.uk/living-rivers



Brown Trout (Wikipedia Commons).

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Parish Quiz Report

The Parish Quiz was held on Friday, 7th October in our newly improved and decorated Church Hall in Duncombe Road. Six tables of 42 people took part. The quiz was organised by Geoff Cordingley; the technology was sorted out by the Reverend Robert and Gill Cordingley read the questions. It was a fun evening for all present. The event raised £400 for Isabel Hospice.

The Table Round involved identifying county flags. Can you name the counties that are signified by the following flags?



Adult Education classes in Beng eo in January

All are welcome at the Parish Hall, Duncombe Road, from 10–11.30am on a Tuesday to hear ten sessions on 'The History of Ideas'. Edward de Maunsell is returning to Beng eo to get us thinking about Renaissance, Reformation, Enlightenment, Industrialisation, Liberalism, Socialism, Conservatism, Feminism, Environmentalism and Postmodernism.

Dates: 10th January 2023 to 21st March 2023. Organisers: Hertford Adult Learning Group (HALG). Cost: TBA. Contact: 01992 589538.

Beng eo Parish Handbells

We held our first session in September, and as you can see from the photo, everyone appeared to enjoy themselves.

As winter approaches, Holy Trinity Church can get a bit chilly during the week, so we have decided to meet at my house. Here are the details for the rest of the year: meeting on Mondays at 2.30pm at 41 The Drive, Beng eo, SG14 3DE on the 7th and 21st November, and the 5th and 19th of December.

Please feel free to come along on any of those dates if you would like to have a go or contact me for more information.

Jackie Downs

Tel: 01992 584761 | Mob: 07534 434900



Collectors' and Hobbies Show, September 2022

Once more we were blessed with beautiful weather apart from a sprinkling of rain on Saturday afternoon on our outside displays. Peter dashed out to slide the roof over his Morgan car which stood in the Churchyard as an attraction to people passing by and Mike had to vacate his seat at the door, gather his knot making tools together, and man his display within the church building.

There was a general buzz of conversation and bonhomie throughout the two days as visitors chatted to the people manning the exhibits, marvelled at the skills on show and at the extensive number of collectables of various types and sizes. It was good to welcome some fresh faces to augment the backbone of the Show. These returning exhibitors had tweaked their displays each year to provide added interest. With exhibitors ranging from 7 to 90 years of age there was something for everyone to enjoy: from collections of children's toys and models by the younger exhibitors to exquisite embroidery and collections painstakingly built up over many years. It was great to see several families among the visitors milling around.

A constancy of this event, which has now taken place for three years, has been the ploughman's lunches and thanks are due to Penny Andrew shopping around this year to ensure that they were still affordable! All in all, it was a most enjoyable community event which raised around £700 for Church funds to boot.

Mary Crane

Photographs of the Show are on the back page.

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Hertford and District Food Bank, October 2022

Busy times are back again, a bit reminiscent of lockdown with client numbers soaring fast, through August, for example, we were up 85% on August last year. Consequently, we have been spending a lot more to keep our stocks up and to provide fresh food. It is good to report that our finances are still in a good place and can cope with this increased demand and as always we are so grateful to our Treasurer, Colin Bird for his expertise. Harvest donations from schools and churches have been well-timed to fill our shelves and at the time of writing this report, a team of volunteers have been working all day sorting, dating and stacking. Some of the collections have been overwhelming.

As ever we cannot express enough our grateful thanks to our dedicated teams of volunteers. We would also like to thank Hertford & District Churches for all the continuous support and donations of food.

The increase in numbers and the demands of running the Foodbank to the Trussell Trust's high standards have led us to appoint a part-time Administrative Assistant, Hannah Grainger, from 1st October 2022. Hannah has been a volunteer for some years and is already making a huge difference to our IT capabilities for our data bases and administrative systems. We are extremely glad that our operation will be easier to manage and we can concentrate on feeding and helping our clients. Another addition that is making life a bit easier is the installation of an electric charger at the URC, this saves constant trips to car parks in supermarkets to re-charge the Foodbank Van and is so much more reliable.

A new initiative, headed up by Jerry Forrester from the Baptist Church with representatives from other churches, is a Sub-Group to Campaign on a range of local issues around food poverty. Some ideas have already been discussed and the Group meet in November with the Trussell Trust Campaigns Manager to discuss what support is available.

Ware Foodbank is sometimes busier than Hertford and we are grateful to all volunteers that manage and operate the distribution of food in Ware and its surrounding villages. Foodbank accommodation in Ware is still being sought but there are positive

moves on the horizon and we are hopeful that there will be good news ahead.

Hertford Foodbank had a very positive visit from our local MP Julia Marston at the end of July and some actions have already taken place, it has also created a good link to our MP.

We are well stocked with hot water bottles, through a generous donation and we are offering fleeces/throw-overs as an extra addition to food parcels. Assistance with fuel payments is available to some clients as well. So, as winter approaches we know and thank you that you will have the Foodbank, its volunteers and especially those needing help in these challenging times, in your prayers.

Many thanks

Fran Spence
Secretary



The Children's Society

Christingle Service

Our Christingle Service will be held on Advent Sunday 27 November at 4pm in Holy Trinity Church. A delightful Service for all ages, please come and join us, bring a donation for the Children's Society and receive a Christingle.

The work of the Children's Society is very important to many young lives, for example helping young persons at risk of self-harm or suicide, providing children who have been abused with therapy sessions to help them process their trauma and for helping young runaways.

House Boxes

We are still collecting in House Boxes for the annual count, please let us have yours if it has not already been counted.

Many thanks

Libby Shillito



The Company of Players

Theatre production at the Company of Players Little Theatre in Balfour Street, Bengo.

Husbands and Sons

by DH Lawrence adapted by Ben Power
11th–19th November 2022



Husbands and Sons interweaves three of DH Lawrence's greatest dramas and plays them simultaneously. Describing the world he came from with fierce tenderness, Lawrence evokes a now-vanished world of manual labour and working class pride.

"It's risky work, handlin' men, my lass. For when a woman builds 'er life on men, either 'usbands or sons, she builds on summat as sooner or later brings the 'ouse down crash on 'er head – yi, she does."

On the cracked border of Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire stands the village of Eastwood. The women of the village, wives and mothers, struggle to hold their families and their own souls together in the shadow of the great Brinsley pit.

Tickets available by phone (07764 192133) or online at www.ticketsource.co.uk/cops.



Courtyard Arts

Exhibitions at Courtyard Arts Gallery, Port Vale.

Florence Thomas – a retrospective

4th October to 30th November

Courtyard Arts have kindly been gifted this collection of work by Guy, Gill and Andy Thomas, the children of Florence, to display at Courtyard in a retrospective exhibition of her work created throughout her life.

Florence was born in Kirkcudbright in Dumfries, Scotland in September 1928. She had a talent for painting from an early age and produced her first small accurate ink painting at the age of ten years.

She developed her skills in watercolour by sketching landscapes, demonstrating a fine eye for detail and atmospheric.

She and her husband, Hal Thomas, had 3 children and lived the majority of their lives in Hertfordshire. Right through her life, Florence would always use an opportunity to paint a watercolour scene, whether on holiday or out and about, hence the rich collection of paintings.

The Vanishing Exhibition – Frances Wilson

1st–12th November 2022



Frances has drawn and painted all her life, so it has been perfectly natural for her to paint her way through Covid.

Beginning by cutting up unfinished paintings into roughly postcard sized pieces, which gave her some colours and shapes. She then

started altering them, painting on top, playing. When she liked one enough, Frances stuck it to her spare room wall – until she had two walls completely covered in lockdown paintings. Which is this exhibition.

With each postcard being for sale and able to be taken straight away, the exhibition will seem like it is vanishing over its 12 days on show.

Counterpoints – diverging... together – Annie Leach and Friends

15th–26th November 2022



Counterpoints is an exhibition created and curated by 8 women artists who first met while studying art 22 years ago. Although diverse in what we make –

and why we make it – we have become life-long friends and support each other in our creativity.

Exhibiting together for the first time, Counterpoints is a celebration of our friendship and our divergence.



Bengeo Primary School

A few of the things we are up to at Bengeo...

In RE, Year 1 are talking about why and how different religions celebrate a Harvest Festival. We have been learning about Sukkot. Sukkot is a Harvest Festival celebrated by people who belong to the Jewish faith. We found out how Jewish people build a Sukkah, a temporary hut used at Sukkot, and then made our own model of a Sukkah using card, paper and glue.



In Year 2, in our science lessons, we have been learning about germs. We have been doing some experiments to find out how easily germs spread by shaking hands with glitter on. We have also been learning about the importance of a 'fair test' and a controlled test.



On Tuesday both Year 6 classes took part in a Maya workshop, run by the UK's only Maya archaeologist, Dr Diane Davies. They watched a presentation and videos from her archaeological dig in Central

America and then had an opportunity to look at and touch a number of artefacts. The children worked in pairs to decide what they were made out of, used for and who owned them. All the children made a Maya calendar and learnt the Maya dates. To round off the day, they made a Maya headdress and had a go at playing the ancient Maya game of Pok ta Pok.



Well done to the year 3 Cricket team who participated in a cricket festival at Simon Balle School. It was a great afternoon learning how to play Rapid Fire Cricket and playing matches against other schools. All the pupils received a cricket T-shirt for taking part.



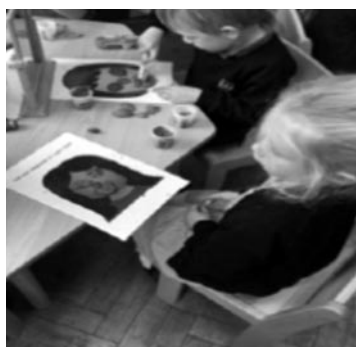


Mill Mead Primary School



Ducklings. Our first book for the term, was 'The Ugly Duckling'. The children explored how to treat others, and how to respect differences. We also completed an

art project, making our own ducklings. Our second book for the term was 'Have you filled a bucket today?' The children created their own buckets full of positivity to help themselves feel happy.



Mice. We have been learning about feelings and emotions by reading several books, our favourite being The Colour Monster. We used this to talk about the Zones of Regulation and created an interactive

display in the classroom. We also had a go at making faces with playdough showing different emotions.

Birds. We have been learning lots of new maths skills and we have also enjoyed learning about the Great Fire of London. In English we read 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt'. We enjoyed acting it out and writing our own story maps.



Hedgehogs. We have been creating our own experiments in science as we decided how to sort different examples of food. We have shown lots of originality in both Art and PE whether it be painting repeat patterns,

pattern rubbing or inventing dance moves to mirror with a partner, demonstrating that we all have lovely imaginations.

Squirrels. In History, we have explored Skara Brae and took part in a virtual reality experience of the uncovered treasures. We 'walked' the Scottish paths looking at the uncovered remains of a small Stone



Age village and discovered what houses would have looked like back then. We are looking forward to our day at Celtic Harmony Camp to carry on our learning about the Stone Age.

Owls. In Maths we have started with number and place value skills; lots of number lines, rounding and focusing right in on the value of each digit. Our Science topic of Sound resulted in what could be the quietest lesson of the entire year when we did a sound study of different areas of the school. Now our teacher knows that we can be absolutely silent for most of the afternoon!



Badgers. In Science, we have been debating the 'Flat Earth' and 'Spherical Earth' theory. We all agreed the Earth is spherical and listened to each other's reasons for this very respectfully. We have also been learning

about Earth's rotation, which gives us day and night, through a fun experiment!



Foxes. We have fully embraced this term's Industrial Revolution topic, including researching the Victorian era in history, exploring electricity in science and diving into

our Victorian adventure novel, 'Cogheart'. We are loving all the twists, turns and mystery of the book. Very excitingly, rehearsals for our production of 'The Tempest' at the Schools' Shakespeare Festival are also underway; with the class brimming with ideas for bringing the Bard's final work to life with a modern twist. We can't wait to watch it all unfold.



Tonwell School News



We have had a busy time at Tonwell St Mary's. Our juniors visited Verulamium Museum in St Albans as part of their history topic on the Romans. They explored the museum, had a workshop looking at real Roman artefacts and visited the ruins in the park.

We were delighted to welcome the Bishop of Bedford to the school. He visited both schools in our new federation to talk about his role in the church and to tell children about the Bishop's Harvest Appeal for Mozambique. We will be making a contribution towards the charity as a school. The children sang one of our harvest songs – he was very impressed!

There have been moments of sadness and reflection in school over the past few weeks as we have talked about Queen Elizabeth. Children wrote prayers and



made pictures, which one of our teachers took to display in Green Park.

The Federation of Thundridge and Tonwell St Mary's C of E Schools is going from strength to strength. More planned shared visits include a visit from the

Paralympian Louise Hunt and Harvest Festival at St Alban's Cathedral. We will also have joint netball and football clubs, joint teams for Hertford and Ware Sports partnership sports events and a residential school journey, and more.

We are delighted to share our recent Ofsted grading as 'GOOD'. The report recognises that our school is 'a warm, friendly and calm place for pupils to learn' and that 'adults have high expectations for pupils' achievement'.

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

Excellent in all areas.

BOOK
A PRIVATE
TOUR

ISI Inspection Report 2022

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



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

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



What makes a Treetops Pre-School education so special?

- Consistently exceeding Early Years national scores
- Specialist teachers across a range of subjects, including Spanish, French, PE, Forest School and Music
- Themed curriculum
- Small classes
- Weekly visits to Duncombe School facilities, including Astro Court, Forest School, Library and Music Studio
- Part of the 15 free hours Government funding.
- 48 week wraparound care available

Why choose a Duncombe education?

- Specialist teachers delivering French, Spanish, ICT, Forest School, Science, Music and Physical Education.
- International technology collaborations
- Range of facilities including Astro Court, Forest School, Library and Music Studio
- Secondary style timetable in Upper School
- Dedicated preparation and support for Secondary School and scholarship applications
- A vast range of extra-curricular activities
- Outstanding pastoral care instilling confidence and determination
- Offering the most competitive Sibling Discount Scheme in Hertford with 48 week wraparound care available

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



A Word from The Rectory

Gods to follow

From The Vicar, The Revd Robert Thompson

*Then the Gods of the Market tumbled, and their
smooth-tongued wizards withdrew
And the hearts of the meanest were humbled and
began to believe it was true
That All is not Gold that Glitters, and Two and Two
make Four
And the Gods of the Copybook Headings limped up
to explain it once more!*



In a once famous poem, Rudyard Kipling writes about 'The Gods of the Copybook Headings.' Long ago, children learned handwriting through the use of 'copybooks,' notebooks that came emblazoned, across the top of each page, with a sentence written in the very best style. Pupils copied each word line after line, from the top of the page to the bottom, following the master.

In Kipling's day schoolteachers thought that copybook headings provided an opportunity to teach not only penmanship but also virtue, and topped their pages with worthy maxims, warnings against vice or exhortations to virtue, bite-sized lessons to be learned from ancient philosophers like Euripides, 'Life has no blessing like a prudent friend' or from the bible, 'Guard your heart above all else, for it is the source of life.'

And according to Kipling 'The Gods of the Copybook Headings' taught him pretty much everything he ever needed to know.

Which gods have you been listening to of late? Of the gods on offer in the poem there's little doubt that it's the 'Gods of the Market Place' that we hear most about these days. Prime movers in the twin areas of politics and economics, presumed to hold the solution to most of our social problems, we wait on their every command.

'Behold your gods!' says Kipling. Sole masters of the future, the keys to your Christmas cupboard jinking at their waist, your heating bills gripped in their merciless hands.

'Wouldn't you prefer the Gods of the Copybook headings instead?' he asks. Eternal Verities, dancing graces, keepers of ancient wisdom and time's survivors. It's the Gods of Euripides and the Bible you want in your corner, says Kipling. Ask the vicar nicely and he'll put a word in for you.

I can't remember a Christmas in which the battlelines between those deities have been so clearly drawn. The Cost of Living Crisis has us in lock-step with the deities of our day. Politics and economics will be the constant counterpoint to the Christmas story this year; the gospel of wealth and power against the gospel of giving, respect and love; conflict and competition in one corner, gift and gratitude in the other.

Bereavement Café

Drop in for tea, coffee and a chat

Bengeo Face to face meetings of the Bereavement Café are on the third Thursday of every month:
17th November, 15th December
Time: 6:30pm – 8pm

Place: Secret Garden Tea Room, 89 The Avenue, Hertford SG14 3DU

Hertford Face to face meetings of the Bereavement Café in Hertford are twice monthly:
7th and 21st November,
5th and 19th December.
Time: 2.00pm – 3.30pm

Place: Mudlarks Garden Cafe, 32 Fore Street, Hertford SG14 1BY

For more information please contact us via Holy Trinity Church, Bengeo
info@parishofbengeo.com
Tel: 01992 413691



Whose side do you choose, asks Kipling? My answer: let's not choose a side at all.

2022 has left us punch-drunk from a struggle between impersonal forces: the rise of tyranny and aggression, fears for our health, the pervasive sense of threat and despair. I'm in absolutely no mood to join the fray and add to the discord. But it's somewhere in the background every Christmas: Christianity vs Commercialism, Grace vs Power, Church vs Market Exchange.

It shouldn't be that way. There is no powerplay at Christmas. The Incarnation is a paradox, a divine response to any pretensions to power. My God is not bigger than your gods. He is tiny, weak and helpless. Heaven does not come down to earth in order to

punch it out. The birth of Jesus does not end empires; three kings bend the knee but do not cast a crown. When God stepped into history Bethlehem barely noticed.

Why? Because that is the only way God can share his Word with us. Peace – a Word he can only demonstrate through powerlessness. God can give love, but even God cannot give peace – peace is something we can only give to each other, an example to instruct us, a model to follow.

'Peace is our gift to each other.' Set that down. Copy, repeat.

With my prayers,

Robert Thompson

Who Do You Think You Are?

Seen the programme? Know the Spice Girls hit? Now explore the Bible as we take a fast pace look at Matthew and the family tree behind the 'boy in the manger'

- 29th November** Skeletons in the closet? God finds faith in the most despised people and the actions of Kings.
- 6th December** God gives hope and a place in history for the lowest of refugees.
- 13th December** The obedience and patience of one woman is stretched to the limit.
- 20th December** John the pathfinder.

Jesus is often referred to as Teacher or Rabbi, yet is questioned many times by the Jewish authorities as to 'By what authority do you teach?' (*Matthew 21; Mark 11; Luke 20; John 2*). The prophets foretold, and expectations were, that a messiah would come from the line of Jesse and King David (*Isaiah 11*). But although this family tree in both Matthew and Luke is proof of that line, it reveals some surprises along the way.

Why not join us for a revealing, and sometimes shocking, exploration of this well-known Bible story?

Dates as above, 8–9pm at Holy Trinity Church.
All welcome.

Bengeo Scouts

The Bengeo Scout group has been busy litter picking around the local area.

We had one Beaver, six Cubs and one Scout team enter the annual Night Hike.

Scouts are starting back after Half Term with new leaders who will bring a fresh approach and enthusiasm to the group. A Monday night Beaver group has started as well in addition to the Thursday Beavers.



Parish Calendar NOVEMBER 2022

Tuesday 1st November	
8pm	Quiet Time, Holy Trinity church
Wednesday 2nd November	
2pm	Afternoon WI, Church Hall, Duncombe Road
Thursday 3rd November	
10am	Holy Communion
10.30am	Coffee Pot Charity Café, Church Hall, Duncombe Road
Sunday 6th November Third Sunday before Advent	
9am	Holy Communion
10am	Parish Communion
Monday 7th November	
2pm	Bereavement Café, Mudlarks, Hertford
Tuesday 8th November	
8pm	Quiet Time, Holy Trinity church
Wednesday 9th November	
10am	Community Craft Club, Church Hall, Duncombe Road
Thursday 10th November	
10am	Holy Communion
10.30am	Coffee Pot Charity Café, Church Hall, Duncombe Road
Sunday 13th November Second Sunday before Advent (Remembrance Sunday)	
9am	Holy Communion
10am	Parish Communion Commemorating the Fallen at Bengo War Memorials
Tuesday 15th November	
8pm	Quiet Time, Holy Trinity church
Thursday 17th November	
10am	Holy Communion
10.30am	Coffee Pot Charity Café, Church Hall, Duncombe Road
6.30pm	Bereavement Café, Secret Garden Café, Bengo
Sunday 20th November Christ The King	
9am	Holy Communion
10am	Parish Communion
Monday 21st November	
2pm	Bereavement Café, Mudlarks, Hertford
Tuesday 22nd November	
8pm	Quiet Time, Holy Trinity church
Thursday 24th November	
10am	Holy Communion
10.30am	Coffee Pot Charity Café, Church Hall, Duncombe Road
Sunday 27th November Advent Sunday	
9am	Holy Communion
10am	Parish Communion
4pm	Christingle Service Supporting the work of The Children's Society
Tuesday 29th November	
8pm	Who Do You Think You Are? Holy Trinity church

Parish Calendar DECEMBER 2022

Thursday 1st December	
10am	Holy Communion
10.30am	Coffee Pot Charity Café, Church Hall, Duncombe Road
Sunday 4th December Second Sunday of Advent	
9am	Holy Communion
10am	Parish Communion
3.30pm	Annual Christmas Service of Remembrance and Lighting of Evergreen Tree Remembering Loved Ones, in Holy Trinity Churchyard and Memorial Garden
Monday 5th December	
2pm	Bereavement Café, Mudlarks, Hertford
Tuesday 6th December	
8pm	Who Do You Think You Are? Holy Trinity church
Wednesday 7th December	
2pm	Afternoon WI, Church Hall, Duncombe Road
Thursday 8th December	
10am	Holy Communion
10.30am	Coffee Pot Charity Café, Church Hall, Duncombe Road
Sunday 11th December Third Sunday of Advent	
9am	Holy Communion
10am	Parish Communion
4pm	'Sing Noel': Carol Service with readings
Tuesday 13th December	
8pm	Who Do You Think You Are? Holy Trinity church
Wednesday 14th December	
10am	Community Craft Club, Church Hall, Duncombe Road
Thursday 15th December	
10am	Holy Communion
10.30am	Coffee Pot Charity Café, Church Hall, Duncombe Road
6.30pm	Bereavement Café, Secret Garden Café, Bengoe
Saturday 17th December	
	Christmas Wassail at St Leonard's Church, Bengoe Wassailing with mulled wine and Magpie Lane Folk Band
Sunday 18th December Fourth Sunday of Advent	
9am	Holy Communion
10am	Parish Communion
Monday 19th December	
2pm	Bereavement Café, Mudlarks, Hertford
Tuesday 20th December	
8pm	Who Do You Think You Are? Holy Trinity church
Thursday 22nd December	
10am	Holy Communion
10.30am	Coffee Pot Charity Café, Church Hall, Duncombe Road
Saturday 24th December Christmas Eve	
4pm	Blessing of the crib All Age Service around the Christmas crib
7pm	Carols by Candlelight. Favourite Carols, poems and seasonal readings in a candlelit church
Sunday 25th December Christmas Day	
10am	Festival All Age Communion. Celebrating the birth of Jesus with carols old and new
Thursday 29th December	
10am	Holy Communion
10.30am	Coffee Pot Charity Café, Church Hall, Duncombe Road

Parish Prayers

Daily Prayers for November

1. All Saints
2. Those dear to us departed
3. HMP Portland, Dorset
4. Hertford Disability Support Group
5. Fire and Rescue Service Chaplains
6. Barnabas Aid for persecuted Christians
7. Aston Grange
8. Local land use and planning
9. Christian Churches in Russia
10. HMP Prescoed, South Wales
11. Silence in memory of all who died in conflict
12. Local sports clubs
13. Remembering all who died in service for others
14. Barley Croft
15. The Foodbank in the URC, Hertford
16. Christian churches in India
17. HMP Preston, Lancashire
18. Local Volunteers
19. Street Pastors in Ware and Hertford
20. Christ the King
21. Bartletts Mead
22. Christians against poverty
23. Christian Churches in Pakistan
24. HMP Ranby, Nottingham
25. Ripon Cathedral
26. The Church Army
27. Advent
28. Balfour Street
29. Quiet Time. Who do you think you are?
30. Christian Churches in Egypt

Daily Prayers for December

1. Prison Chaplains
2. Future Hope, Hertford
3. Hertford and District Churches Together
4. The Salvation Army
5. Beane River View
6. Our private prayers and bible study
7. Mission Aviation Fellowship
8. HMP Risley, Warrington
9. Local Clubs and Societies
10. Local Colleges at Ware and Turnford
11. Our Shoe Boxes delivery and distribution
12. Beetham Court, Crouchfields
13. Quiet Time. Who do you think you are?
14. Christian Aid in Africa
15. HMP Rochester, Kent
16. Those at or home from University
17. Save the Children work with refugees
18. Our Christmas Services
19. Bengo House
20. Quiet Time
21. Christian Churches in Turkey
22. HMP Rye Hill, Rugby
23. Refuge centres for the homeless
24. The town of Bethlehem, Israel
25. Our families
26. Our friends
27. Local pubs and clubs
28. Christian Churches in Palestine
29. HMP Send, Surrey
30. Rochester Cathedral, Kent
31. The Church of Scotland

Register

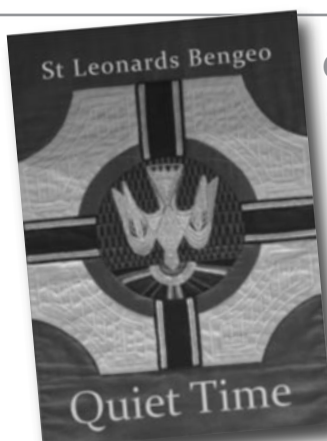
18th September Baptism –
Florence Ellen Smith

27th September Funeral – **Joanne Bennett**

7th October Funeral – **Bryan Andrews**

9th October Baptism –
William Nicholas Woodhouse

16th October Burial of Ashes – **Victor Green**



Quiet Time

Quiet Time is at 8pm on Tuesday evenings at Holy Trinity church during November. From the 27th November through December there will be special sessions called '*Who Do You Think You Are?*' See page 21 for more details. There will be no Quiet Time on the 27th December.

Church Contacts

Team Vicar

The Reverend Robert Thompson
The Rectory, Byde 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

Back cover: Collector's Show at Holy Trinity church, 3rd and 4th September.

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BUNTINGFORD • 01763 274111

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WELWYN • 01438 714686

HERTFORD • 01992 582052

WARE • 01920 468551

LETCHWORTH • 01462 684292

HODDESDON • 01992 471709

HARWOOD PARK • 01438 812515

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www.crematorium.co.uk

On The Doorstep

See Bridget's article on page 5



Autumn Trees



Waterford Heath



Honey Bee on Ivy Flower



Maple Leaves



Meadow Cranesbill



New River, Broxbourne



Oak Leaves



New River, Broxbourne



Seeds of the Stinking Iris



Teasel



The Linley Oak, Bengoe Field



Tree Bark, Moss and Lichen



Winter Tree

All photographs: Bridget Hersant.

Collectors' and Hobbies Show, September 2022

