

# Bengeo Magazine

SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF BENGEO, CHAPMORE END AND TONWELL





# CHRISTMAS IN THE PARISH OF BENGEO



## **Christmas Wassail at St. Leonard's Church, Bengoe**

*Wassailing with mulled wine and Magpie Lane Folk Band*

Friday 8th December, St. Leonard's Church, 7.30pm

All tickets £10

Bookings: call 07910 822069 or email [boxoffice@parishofbengoe.com](mailto:boxoffice@parishofbengoe.com)

## **Annual Christmas Service of Remembrance & Lighting of Evergreen Tree**

*Remembering Loved Ones, in Holy Trinity Churchyard & Memorial Garden*

Sunday 10th December, 3.30pm

## **'Sing Noel!' Christmas Carol Service**

*Carol Concert with guest musical items*

Sunday 17th December, 4pm

## **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

*Celebrating the birth of Jesus with carols old and new*

**Holy Trinity Church, New Road,  
St. Leonard's Church, St. Leonard's Road  
[parishofbengoe.com](http://parishofbengoe.com)**

# Bengeio Parish Magazine and Community News



We have plenty to look forward to in November and December as the nights draw in and the weather gets chillier. Remembrance Day, Advent, Christingle and Christmas with extra services and events. Look on the posters and calendars on these pages for more information.

As one season of openings of Bengeio gardens and St Leonard's teas and concerts closes, another of local exhibitions, events and theatre visits begins. See the Courtyard Arts and Company of Players pages for more details and look out for the popular Wassail evening on the 8th December at St Leonard's.

We all hope you have a wonderful and relaxing Christmas season.

## 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, 14 and 26
BNAP	5
Adult Education, Children's Society, Christingle, Coffee Pot and Bengeio Open Gardens	6
Courtyard Arts	7
St Leonard's News	9
Bengeio Club and Company of Players	11
On The Doorstep – White Dead Nettle and Wild Flowers in the Churchyard	13
Hertford Foodbank, Bengeio and Scout News	15
News from our Schools	16–19
A Word from the Rectory	20–21
Parish Calendar	22–23
Prayers for November and December, Register and Quiet Time	24
Contacts	25
Churchyard Flowers	27
Carols by Candlelight	28

## Editorial Team

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

## Copy dates for 2024

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## Advertising

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# Bengeio Field Housing Proposal – the BNAP Response



When I grew up houses were being built literally everywhere. Riding on a train you would see a village and next to it a massive new housing estate. The reasons for the 60s housing boom were many – housing destroyed in Second World War, a national

effort to knock down the old city slums. The reasons for housing needs today are different but also pressing. Houses are too expensive for young people to get on the housing ladder – there is an acute lack of social housing. But here in the already overcrowded South East does it make sense to destroy our precious Green Belt with the desire to pack in yet more people?

I'm not going to try and answer this question, but it is at the heart of the issue that is facing us as a community right now. Should we allow a precious area of former Green Belt on Bengeio Field to help satiate the unquenchable housing demand?

As a Neighbourhood Plan it is our duty to suggest possible locations for new houses and the area proposed for development was already allocated when our plan was in its infancy. This limits us to some extent in opposing this housing scheme. It is somewhat of a dilemma.

However, we came to the view that we should reflect the overwhelming local opposition to this plan in our response. The proposed plan is also contra to the Local Plan (as it is phrased right now).

I have posted the full response to Facebook and it will also be available on the [lovebengeio.org.uk](http://lovebengeio.org.uk) website and on the East Herts Planning Portal. But the main reason for objection are as follows:

a) Part 2 of HERT 4 (around 100 new houses on Bengeio Field) was subject to prior phased extraction of gravel and EHDC has always made it clear that without this the scheme would not go ahead, the gravel has not been extracted so the houses should not be built.

- b) The proposed scheme would detract from two important views listed in the Neighbourhood Plan namely the view towards the lonely oak and the view towards Ware Park Manor.
- c) Byway 1 which crosses the field is much used by local people for health walks, dog walking and other leisure pursuits. The proposed scheme would have a severe impact on byway 1 and thus this activity.
- d) We agree with Hertfordshire County Council that a health impact assessment has not been undertaken and we furthermore feel that building houses on this site could have a significant negative impact on the health of local people.
- e) We agree with the Environment Agency that the Suds drainage scheme as currently proposed poses an unacceptable risk to the water supply of our area. A risk assessment needs to be carried out so that our groundwater is not polluted.

These in short are some of our primary objections. But we have also made suggestions for the houses should planning permission be granted. We would like to see solar panels on the houses, we would prefer it if no roads crossed Byway 1. We have suggested that semi mature trees should be planted so that the houses are screened more quickly than could otherwise be achieved.

We will have to wait and see whether the houses get planning permission or not. I would not be surprised if this decision takes some time to resolve. Our local scheme is just one of many, some of the issues thrown up are ones that can only be addressed at a Governmental level.

We as a Neighbourhood Plan are not opposed to housing as such, but we are strongly against this scheme as currently conceived.

**John Howson**  
*Chair BNAP*



## Adult Education Classes in Bengoe in January 2024

All are welcome at the Parish Hall, Duncombe Road from 10am to 12 noon on a Tuesday to hear seven sessions on 'Plants, Politics and Economics'.

Andy Beharrell is our tutor. He has given excellent previous courses in Bengoe on money and economics.

**Dates:** 9th January to 20th February 2024  
**Cost:** TBA  
**Organisers:** Hertford Adult Learning Group (HALG)  
**Contact:** For further details and to secure a place  
**01992 589538**

**Janet Sheail**

## Thank You

Many thanks to the several people who picked me up off the pavement in Bengoe Street, when I tripped and broke my wrist on Tuesday 19th September. I am specially indebted to the young lady who put me in her car, drove me home, helped me indoors and rang for an ambulance.

**Janet Sheail**



## Coffee Pot Charity Café donation

The Bengoe Coffee Pot has raised £1700 for the Macular Disease Society and some members of the Hertford Group visited us on the 12th October to say, 'thank you'.

The next charity we are raising money for is Riding for the Disabled based at Digswell, Welwyn.

We are grateful to our volunteers who run the café and to those who are our regular visitors. All are welcome. The Bengoe Coffee Pot runs every Thursday from 10.30am–12 noon in the Church Hall, Duncombe Road. If you can spare 2 hours a month to help run this, we'd love to hear from you.

Contact Pam Thain 01992 583733.



**The Children's Society**

A reminder for all House Box holders, the annual count will take place in October. We would be very

pleased if your box could be returned to us as soon as possible. Your support is much appreciated.

*Thank you.*

## Christingle Service

**Advent Sunday 3th December at 4pm in Holy Trinity Church**

Please come and join us for another delightful Christingle Service, a Service for all ages to raise money for the Children's Society. Pass the word on to friends to come and receive a Christingle in return for a donation.

Thank you for your support.

Any queries about the House Boxes or the Service please contact me on **01992 583979**.

**Libby Shillito**

## Bengoe Open Gardens

Janet Guibride, Open Garden organiser, writes: there were fewer Open Gardens this year because most of the people had to withdraw for very good reasons. Mine, although it is very small, did well, with enough people to enjoy the wine and cheese.

The evening made £65 which was donated to the Beane Marshes Restoration fund, which will be used to make location signs so that people will know where it is.

Pam Thain writes: we welcomed 23 people to our Open Garden on the 9th September in aid of the River Beane Restoration Association. It was the hottest day of the year with a temperature of 32°. Friends, neighbours and complete strangers turned up to support us. We raised £115. Lots of gardening talk, hints, tips and advice were exchanged. Huge thanks to Janet Guildbride and Moira Flindall who managed the refreshments brilliantly and washed up!

We will hope for more gardens next year.



# Courtyard Arts News



It's back again for 2023!  
Purchase your Christmas tree shaped bauble from Courtyard Arts for £2 each (You can buy more than one!)

Decorate your bauble(s) in whatever medium you wish.

Remember, we need to be able to hang them. Return your bauble to Courtyard Arts by Saturday 25th November.

You will be entered into one of 4 age categories – prize for the winner of each category. 6

years and under, 7–11

years, 12–15 years, 16+ years – includes adults. All entries to be exhibited at Courtyard Arts throughout December.

For all the details, please visit our website [www.courtyardarts.org.uk](http://www.courtyardarts.org.uk).



## Material Evidence Members of Herts Textile Arts (HTA)

**31st October –  
25th November**

HTA was formed in 2004 under the umbrella of Herts

Visual Arts with the idea of bringing textile practitioners together. At that time, textile as an art/applied art form was less visible than today and membership served to exchange ideas, knowledge and to find support.

In the intervening years the visibility of textile art has increased. Membership of the group has evolved, and this exhibition provides an exciting opportunity for HTA to celebrate 20 years of creativity and making. HTA members are all bound by fascination with fibre and fabric and delighted by the diversity of style and approach within the group.

This exhibition presents a snapshot of our varied recent work as material evidence of the thriving success that textile art and making has become.

## Courtyard Arts Members' Show

**28th November – 22nd December**



Our annual Members' Show returns this year, showcasing the wonderful and varied work of our local artists and makers.

## Carols at Christmas

**Saturday 9th December**

*(Time to be confirmed nearer the date)*

Join us at Courtyard this Christmas Time for more musical delights from the wonderful Courtyard Quartet. The perfect family treat to start your Christmas celebrations.



## Craft Club

2nd Wednesday of the month

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# St Leonard's News



## Winter Wassail

Winter is a quiet time of year for the Friends of St Leonard's but we always have time for a Wassail! Magpie Lane will join us again at St Leonard's on Friday 8th December at 7.30pm. Anyone who enjoyed the last Wassail and their concert at St Leonard's in the summer will know that this will

be a treat. Magpie Lane always get us in a festive mood – and the warming glass of mulled wine or mug of hot chocolate will help too! Tickets are selling well so book your tickets soon via [boxoffice@parishofbengeo.com](mailto:boxoffice@parishofbengeo.com).

## FOSL at Forty

2024 marks the fortieth anniversary of the Friends of St Leonard's. An enormous amount has been achieved in that time to support our aim to promote interest in the church. A lot of research has taken place to understand more about the history of St Leonard's and the development of Bengoe. We have raised money to support the health of this ancient building and its contents including the never-ending work to keep the fabric of the building in good order. We have also improved facilities in the church (toilets!) to ensure it can be used for different types of events like concerts and education projects.

We are gathering memories of what has been achieved over the past forty years so that we can celebrate next year. If you have any St Leonard's-related memorabilia you would be happy to share, please get in touch. We would love to hear your memories.

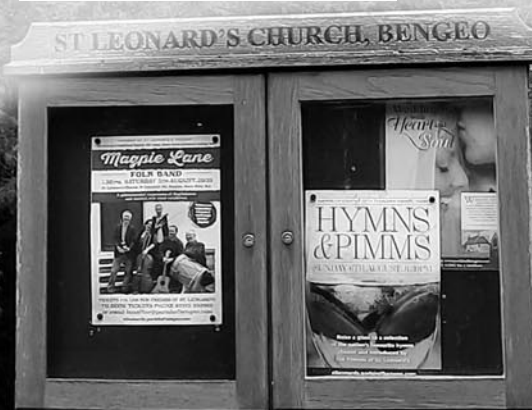
## Keep in Touch

To keep in touch with what's going on at St Leonard's, please follow us on Facebook (Friends of St Leonard's Bengoe).

If you want to get more involved, we would be happy to welcome you into the Friends. A very reasonable £5 for individuals and £10 for families for a year's membership gets you advance warning of our events and special price reductions for some concerts. You can join through our website [www.stleonards.parishofbengeo.com/friends-of-st-leonards](http://www.stleonards.parishofbengeo.com/friends-of-st-leonards) or just get in touch via my email.

**Helen Fleming**

Secretary [friendsofstleonards@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofstleonards@gmail.com)





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### Opening Hours

<b>Monday</b>	<b>09:00am - 5:30pm</b>
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<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>09:00am - 5:30pm</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>09:00am - 5:30pm</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>09:00am - 5:30pm</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>10:00am - 5:00pm</b>



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## Bengeio Club

Petanque Court – Despite our Bowls green now being closed until next season (April 2024) Our Petanque court is open all year – This is currently free for members

use (A small charge is made for hiring equipment if you don't have your own).



We also have a Pool Table, Snooker Table and three Dart Boards at The Bengo Club, As well as a section of games (including Rummikub and Scrabble) and for those preferring cards, crib boards are available.

We are holding a Christmas Fayre on Sunday 26th November. Entry will be free and all welcome – enquires to [admin@bengeioclub.co.uk](mailto:admin@bengeioclub.co.uk).

Entertainment November and December – free to Members a small charge for Non-members.

<b>4th November 2023</b>	The Soulman
<b>11th November 2023</b>	Bingo and Raffle
<b>18th November 2023</b>	Broken Bones
<b>25th November 2023</b>	Bingo and Raffle
<b>2nd December 2023</b>	The Bonnet
<b>9th December 2023</b>	Bingo and Raffle
<b>16th December 2023</b>	Phoenix Blues Band
<b>23th December 2023</b>	Mario
<b>30th December 2023</b>	Bingo and Raffle
<b>31st December 2023</b>	New Years Party with Dakota Smile

## Membership

New Members are welcome – Membership is currently £12 per year (£20 joining fee for new members). Membership enquiries to

[admin@bengeioclub.co.uk](mailto:admin@bengeioclub.co.uk) or pop in and see one of our great Bar team. New Membership forms are in the foyer of the club – sign up with a copy of your ID at the bar.

Members receive reduced price drinks.



## The Company of Players (Hertford)

present

**Rules for Living**

by Sam Holcroft

Directed by Mel Powell

**1st–9th December 2023 at 7.45pm**  
at The Little Theatre, Balfour Street,  
Lower Bengo, SG14 3BB

Everyone creates their own coping strategies or rules for living. But what happens when an extended family gathers in the kitchen for a traditional Christmas and they each follow those rules rigidly?

As long-held mechanisms for survival are laid bare even Mum, who's been preparing this lunch since last January, becomes embroiled. Time-honoured rivalries and resentments will out. Accusations fly, relationships deconstruct, the rules take over.

In Sam Holcroft's theatrically playful, dark comedy the instructions are there for all to see, audience included – so there's really no place to hide.

Tickets on sale at [www.ticketsource.co.uk/cops](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/cops) or [www.cops.org.uk](http://www.cops.org.uk).



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# On The Doorstep – White Dead Nettle

In this edition of *On The Doorstep*, I thought I would take a look at the White Dead Nettle, *Lamium Album*. The white nettle is a perennial and can be seen flowering right into December. Despite the name Dead Nettle, it is not related to the stinging nettle at all, but is part of the mint family, *Lamiaceae*, which includes plants like thyme, sage and lavender among others. This large family of plants takes their name from Greek mythology and the Lamia. The Lamia was a half woman, half serpent monster who ate children and her name translates to gaping mouth. The shape of the flowers in this family resemble a gaping mouth, hence the connection.

Some of the other common names for this plant are, white



archangel, helmet flower, Adam and Eve and blind nettle amongst others.

The white dead nettle has heart shaped, deep toothed leaves and looks remarkably similar to the stinging nettle, however, it does not sting which is probably why they are known as 'dead'. The dead nettle has short hairs on the stem whereas the stinging nettle has long hairs and the flowers of each plant are very different. The stinging nettle has flowers that hang in clusters away from the stem and the dead nettle has pretty little hooded flowers that have a lower lip that acts as a landing platform for insects. The flowers grow in pairs around the stem.

The white dead nettle, is a perennial and can grow to 60cm. It can be found growing almost anywhere, in hedgerows, along paths and roadsides, as well as woodland. There are also other dead nettles – purple/red dead

nettle and yellow archangel as well as others. Purple dead nettle has beautiful red leaves at the top, it only grows to about 30cm and is an annual, unlike the white dead nettle. Yellow archangel also only grows to about 30cm but like the white dead nettle, is also a perennial. White dead nettle is edible. The young uncooked leaves have a mild peppery taste, while the cooked leaves have a similar taste to spinach. The plant is very nutritious containing lots of vitamin C, A and K as well as iron. It has been used medically for skin conditions such as eczema, as well as sore throats and stomach issues. This may be because it has anti-inflammatory properties.

White dead nettle has one of my favourite folklore stories. If you look at the white dead nettle flower and turn it upside down you will see dark stamen that look like little pairs of shoes. The stories are, that either the fairies kept stealing the centipedes' shoes or it was the pixies who were stealing the fairies' shoes, but in order to stop this from happening the centipede or fairy hid their shoes in the hood of the dead nettle flower. A sweet little tale.

So, on your travels keep a look out for this interesting and versatile plant, the white dead nettle. Oh, and of course keep a look out for those pesky little pixies or fairies stealing shoes!

**Bridget Hersant**

## Wildflowers in Holy Trinity Churchyard

Since the grass has been left to flourish and set seed in parts of the churchyard, we are seeing the benefits in greater diversity of species. Bridget Hersant has carried out a short survey of the area and has come up with these additions to the flora.

The first flowers are the ones she thinks are probably growing because there has been less cutting:

- ☛☛☛ Lesser Stitchwort
- ☛☛☛ Squill
- ☛☛☛ Hedge Bedstraw
- ☛☛☛ Hawkbit
- ☛☛☛ Dark Green Alkanet
- ☛☛☛ Vetch – possibly Tufted Vetch

Others are more widespread, but that may not be as a result of less cutting:

- ☛☛☛ Lesser Celandine
- ☛☛☛ Oxeye Daisy
- ☛☛☛ Primrose
- ☛☛☛ Campanula Rotundifolia
- ☛☛☛ Yellow Corydalis
- ☛☛☛ Meadow Saxifrage

Some may also be garden escapees.

*See the photos of the flowers on page 27.*



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# Hertford & District Foodbank

I can report that Harvest Donations have been flowing in and have been very welcome as stocks have dwindled considerably over the past 6 months as food parcel demands steadily grow and by far outweigh the

donations coming in. However, as we are in a good financial position the Foodbank can buy in the core and fresh stock required.

We have advertised for more volunteers

and have been able to recruit several pickers and packers and as always we could not

run this Project without our amazing volunteers. By employing a Foodbank Administrator, we are able to proceed to provide this now essential and valuable service to the Community in a safe, efficient and manageable way. The demands of administration were becoming far beyond a volunteering role.

We thank the churches for their continued support both practically and in prayer.

**Fran Spence**  
*Secretary*



## Winning ways for Scout Night Hikers!

Our 2nd Bengoe Scouts have had a fantastic start to the autumn term by winning the Hertford District Scouting and Guiding groups annual Night Hike. Scouts must complete an arduous walk that can take hours to finish, packed with challenges along the way. Bengoe entered 3 times finishing 1st, 8th and 13th. Nicholas, 12, who led one of the teams, picks up the story.

"This year, we hiked around Cottered, and it was a games-themed night. It was a hard trek, but we all persevered. We had activities to do on the walk such as dancing, Tetris, a throwing game and beacons that we had to collect a letter and number for. This was to make sure we were on the right course, and to gain points as it was a competition.

When we checked in as a team, I had to plot coordinates to make sure we could get round the course safely. We then set off around 7.30pm. It was

really dark, but exciting! My team were very motivated and we reached the finish line just before midnight. We did make a few mistakes, but we ended up on the right path. The hot chocolate at the end was brilliant!"

Scouts acting out their 'in my dreams' ideas – one of the Night Hike game challenges.



Town Councillor Ann Woodward with Maddy Durbin, Artist in Residence, Courtyard Arts.

## Free refills in Hertford

Dozens of local businesses in Hertford have joined the 'Refill Revolution' to cut plastic pollution. They've joined a global network of places helping us all avoid, reduce, reuse and refill, whether that's by offering free refills for your water bottle while you're out and about, or by selling toiletries, laundry liquids or food for your home.

In Hertford, Mudlarks, Courtyard Arts, Leaf, Caffé Nero and Costa Coffee are among the many cafes taking part, with the station cafe at Hertford North signed up too. Plus Natural Health at Old Cross provides a comprehensive refill service and several pubs offer free water top ups too.

With 300,000 refill stations around the world, offering refills for water, coffee, food containers and plastic-free shopping, Refill, the network behind the scheme, estimates 100 million pieces of plastic have been avoided so far.

To find out where you can get refills near you, either look out for the blue refill window sticker or download the Refill app. For more info about the scheme, check out the Refill website [www.refill.org.uk](http://www.refill.org.uk).



# Bengeo Primary School



## Year 6 Woodhall Estate visit

On 21st September our Year 6 classes were given the opportunity to head to Woodhall Estate and take part in an Outdoor Learning Day.

The children had a great time, enjoying activities including a wildlife walk/quiz, bug hunting and habitats, seed collection and planting, and den building.

Thank you to Woodhall Estate for providing this opportunity for the children and to the Bengeo Parents' Association for funding the coach back to school.



## Harvest Food Bank collection

As a whole school we arranged a collection for the Hertford Food Bank – our parents were extremely generous, and the volunteers at the Food Bank were very appreciative.







# Mill Mead Primary School



**Ducklings:** children used creative skills to paint their portraits seeing how unique they are. We have been on an outdoor walk and collected natural objects to notice changes in our environment as the weather began to get cooler.



**Mice:** in Maths we have been sorting, ordering and comparing with dinosaur shapes, practising reading and enjoying Bug Club games.



**Birds:** we have been looking at classifying groups into mammals, fish, insects, reptiles, amphibians and birds and making paper windmills. We used enquiry skills in History to find out about the Great Fire of London and why it spread so quickly.



**Hedgehogs:** We have written stories and learnt and performed *'The Owl and the Pussycat'*. In Science we have been looking at different food groups and finding out about a balanced diet. We created stained glass windows.



**Squirrels:** we have been learning all about the Stone Age and enjoying dance lessons and basketball in PE and also learning about our bodies and what we need to keep healthy in Science.



**Owls:** we have worked hard in Maths and learned about sound in Science by finding the best materials to make ear defenders. We uncovered artifacts in Tutankhamun's tomb and learned about Egyptian belief in the afterlife.



**Badgers:** We read the *Haunting of Aveline Jones* in English and have been working on predicting, inferring and summarising. We debated 'flat earth' and 'spherical earth' in Science and have been enjoying our dance and music lessons.



**Foxes:** We delved deep into Victorian England learning about the Industrial Revolution in History and about emerging electricity in Science. Our school's Shakespeare Festival production of *Romeo and Juliet* got underway.

# Excellent in all areas.

ISI Inspection Report 2022

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



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# Tonwell School News



This half term has been busy.

We were lucky to be having a visit from Gymnast Steve Frew. Steve is a Commonwealth and Olympic Athlete who came into school to share his experience of growth mindset through gymnastics. He shared that it took him 22 years to achieve his dream and make it to the Olympics. Steve got the children to think about what dreams they have for the future. He explained how believing in himself, having courage and resilience helped him to reach his dream of gymnastics. The children really enjoyed their gymnastics session with him. They learnt about balance, determination, teamwork, respect, healthy lifestyle and resilience. It was a wonderful experience for them.



Also in September, Pine Class were invited to attend the official opening of the new walking and cycle path next to the A602. I'm sure many of you are



pleased to see that the roadworks have finally been completed! The new route runs between Sacombe and Stonyhills. Children took part in a treasure hunt and met local councillors.

In October the children had a Countryside Day at Woodhall Estate. The Woodhall charity was established in 1986. It provides a variety of educational opportunities designed to connect children with the countryside in a fun and practical way. The children took part in 8 activity sessions: woodland walk, bug hunting, food chains, hedgehog hotels, forestry, ecosystems, woodland crafts and nature spotting.



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](https://www.instagram.com/tonwellstmarys).

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

**Headteacher: Mrs Sarah Bridgman**

We are offering 30 hour places in our Nursery class.

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

Visits are warmly welcomed.

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

## A Word from The Rectory

# 6th Century St Leonard – a Saint for today

From The Vicar, The Revd Robert Thompson



They came here in small boats. They crossed the channel, a small armada heading for our shores, foreign invaders from 'over there.' The rulers recognised a crisis when they saw one. The people agreed that something should be done. Some were angry. Some were afraid. No one knew what would happen next.

As it happened, the Norman invasion of 1066 turned out to be a watershed moment in the life of the nation. There was no particular feeling of outraged nationalism following the conquest – that concept is a much more modern construct – so peasants would not have felt their country had somehow been lost. In the Middle Ages, visitors to an area that came from a distant town were regarded as just as 'foreign' as someone from another country.

Still, you can't help but wonder what the locals made of it when the Normans arrived in Bengeo and started building a church dedicated to a 6th century peacemaker and social activist – their holy hero, Leonard.

Leonard was an international figure, a reconciler, a minister for God. He witnessed to a God who has no nationality and is free from parochial interests, a God who isn't bound by any culture, belongs to none of us and loves all of us.

What Leonard offered to the people of Bengeo was an openness to the human diversity of the world. And he's still here, his story still relevant, slap bang on the cultural map, right in the middle of one of the fiercest debates of the day, and bravely holding opposing sides together.

Few national conversations have been quite so sharply polarised as that on immigration and integration policy, the loudest voices characterised as 'xenophobes' and 'xenophiles.' Donald Trump was charged with xenophobia for his collective

statements about all Mexicans. Nigel Farage's comments about all Eastern Europeans were labelled xenophobic. The xenophile is one who practises hospitality to strangers and foreigners as a form of moral obligation whoever they are and wherever they've come from. It's a classic dichotomy.

Xenophobe or xenophile? Neither term is easy to live with. They sound like crude caricatures, a way of talking that leads us into attitudes toward foreigners based on pigeon-holed identities and broad generalisations. There's more to them than the stereotypes.

Martin Luther King Jr. had it right, 'Shallow understanding from people of good will is more frustrating than absolute misunderstanding from people of ill will.'

## 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, Bengeo

**2023 Dates:** first Wednesday and third Thursday of every month

Wednesday 1st November

Thursday 16th November

Wednesday 6th December

Thursday 21st December



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,  
Bengeo, Hertfordshire**



info@parishofbengeo.com



01992 413691



www.parishofbengeo.com  
/bereavementcafe.php



@BengeoBereavementCafe





Leonard by contrast, was committed and engaged. His life's work receiving prisoners, strangers and aliens to his community was not some general non-specific form of xenophilia. He understood the 'xenos' to be a quite specific individual, not a broad group. Migrant. Immigrant. Asylum seeker. Refugee. These are names we give to human beings, each with a story, all of whom Leonard wanted to know.

It's a form of hospitality that needs another Greek word altogether – 'philoxenia'.

St Paul wrote, 'Do not forget to show hospitality (philoxenia) to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it'. Jesus said, 'Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me'. Leonard said... well we don't know what Leonard said, we know him only by his actions.

But were he to offer us a word for today it would be philoxenia. And he would show us what it meant. Philoxenia that doesn't disregard the visitor on the basis of what you can see at a distance, philoxenia that inhibits the fear of the foreigner, philoxenia that dispels prejudice and intolerance, unaware and uninformed.

Why is there a church dedicated to St Leonard in Bengoe? A memorial to foreign invaders? A power play by Norman intruders?

It was built by people who understood the meaning of 'philoxenia' – a word to make a community strong.

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

**St Leonard's Day is on 6th November**

## Behind closed doors

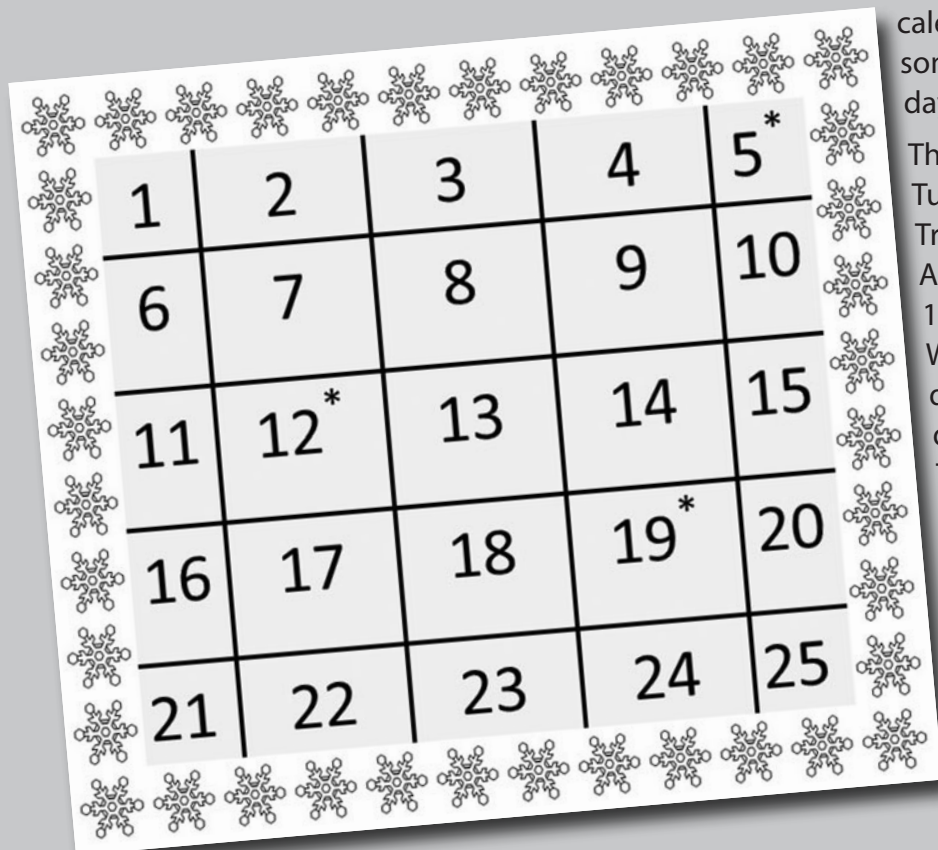
Apparently the first Advent calendar made in the UK with a chocolate hidden behind each small door was produced surprisingly late in 1958, although the tradition of counting the days through Advent goes back much further. You may have your own family traditions or a new modern take on the Advent

calendar with sweets and treats and something to look forward to each day.

This year our Advent Bible Study on Tuesday evenings at 8pm in Holy Trinity church, looks behind three Advent calendar doors, the 5th, the 12th and the 19th of December. Why not come and join us for a quick peek 'Behind Closed Doors' to discover some Old and New Testament stories. We cannot promise a small chocolate bar, but hopefully some treats to make us think.

All welcome, mark your diary now 5th, 12th and 19th December at 8pm Holy Trinity Church.

**David Cramphorn**



# Parish Calendar NOVEMBER 2023

<b>Wednesday 1st November</b>	
2pm	Bengeo Afternoon WI, Church Hall, Duncombe Road
2.30–4pm	Bereavement Café at Secret Garden Café, Bengeo
<b>Thursday 2nd November</b>	
10am	Holy Communion
10.30am	Coffee Pot Charity Café, Church Hall, Duncombe Road
<b>Sunday 5th November                      ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY</b>	
9am	Holy Communion
10am	Parish Communion
<b>Tuesday 7th November</b>	
8pm	Quiet Time at Holy Trinity Church: Prayer and Meditation
<b>Wednesday 8th November</b>	
10am–12 noon	Craft Club, Church Hall, Duncombe Road
<b>Thursday 9th November</b>	
10am	Holy Communion
10.30am	Coffee Pot Charity Café, Church Hall, Duncombe Road
<b>Sunday 12th November      Third Sunday before Advent (Remembrance Sunday)</b>	
9am	Holy Communion
10am	Parish Communion – commemorating the Fallen at Bengeo War Memorials
<b>Monday 13th November</b>	
3–4.30pm	Bereavement Café at Hertford Wellbeing Club, Sele
<b>Tuesday 14th November</b>	
8pm	Quiet Time at Holy Trinity Church: Prayer and Meditation
<b>Thursday 16th November</b>	
10am	Holy Communion
10.30am	Coffee Pot Charity Café, Church Hall, Duncombe Road
6.30–8pm	Bereavement Café at Secret Garden Café, Bengeo
<b>Sunday 19th November                      Second Sunday before Advent</b>	
9am	Holy Communion
10am	Parish Communion
<b>Tuesday 21st November</b>	
8pm	Quiet Time at Holy Trinity Church: Prayer and Meditation
<b>Thursday 23rd November</b>	
10am	Holy Communion
10.30am	Coffee Pot Charity Café, Church Hall, Duncombe Road
<b>Sunday 26th November                      CHRIST THE KING</b>	
9am	Holy Communion
10am	Parish Communion
<b>Tuesday 28th November</b>	
8pm	Quiet Time at Holy Trinity Church: Prayer and Meditation
<b>Thursday 30th November</b>	
10am	Holy Communion
10.30am	Coffee Pot Charity Café, Church Hall, Duncombe Road



# Parish Calendar DECEMBER 2023

Sunday 3rd December		ADVENT SUNDAY
9am	Holy Communion	
10am	Parish Communion	
4pm	Christingle Service – supporting the work of The Children's Society	
Tuesday 5th December		
8pm	Quiet Time at Holy Trinity Church: Behind Closed Doors, Prayer and Meditation	
Wednesday 6th December		
2pm	Bengeo Afternoon WI, Church Hall, Duncombe Road	
2.30–4pm	Bereavement Café at Secret Garden Café, Bengeo	
Thursday 7th December		
10am	Holy Communion	
10.30am	Coffee Pot Charity Café, Church Hall, Duncombe Road	
Friday 8th December		
7.30pm	Christmas Wassail at St Leonard's Church, Bengeo Wassailing with mulled wine and Magpie Lane Folk Band	
Sunday 10th 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, at Holy Trinity Churchyard	
Monday 11th December		
3–4.30pm	Bereavement Café at Hertford Wellbeing Club, Sele	
Tuesday 12th December		
8pm	Quiet Time at Holy Trinity Church: Behind Closed Doors, Prayer and Meditation	
Wednesday 13th December		
10am–12 noon	Craft Club, Church Hall, Duncombe Road	
Thursday 14th December		
10am	Holy Communion	
10.30am	Coffee Pot Charity Café, Church Hall, Duncombe Road	
Sunday 17th December		Third Sunday of Advent
9am	Holy Communion	
10am	Parish Communion	
4pm	Carol Service with readings: 'Sing Noel'	
Tuesday 19th December		
8pm	Quiet Time at Holy Trinity Church: Behind Closed Doors, Prayer and Meditation	
Thursday 21st December		
10.30am	Coffee Pot Charity Café, Church Hall, Duncombe Road	
6.30–8pm	Bereavement Café at Secret Garden Café, Bengeo	
Sunday 24th December		Fourth Sunday of Advent/CHRISTMAS EVE
9am	Holy Communion	
10am	Parish Communion	
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	
Monday 25th December		CHRISTMAS DAY
10am	Festival all age Communion – celebrating the birth of Jesus with carols old and new	
Sunday 31st December		The Sunday of Christmas
9am	Holy Communion	
10am	Parish Communion	

# Parish Prayers

## Daily Prayers for November

1. All Saints
2. Those dear to us departed
3. HMP Exeter
4. UNICEF work in Gaza, Palestine, Jordan and Egypt
5. Christians in Parliament
6. Hornbeam Close
7. Bereavement Café
8. Christians in Brazil
9. HMP Featherstone, Staffordshire
10. Our work in Beane River View
11. Those who work for peace
12. Those fallen in conflict
13. Ives Road
14. Women and girls in Afghanistan
15. Mission Aviation Fellowship
16. HMP Feltham, Young Offenders Prison, London
17. Local businesses
18. Christians in Sport
19. Our choir
20. Lodge Close
21. Hertford and Ware Foodbank
22. All Nations Christian College
23. HMP Ford, Arundel
24. Wakefield Cathedral
25. Our local rivers and water pollution
26. The Bengo Coffee Pot Café
27. Lys Hill Gardens
28. Hertford and District Churches Together
29. Church Missionary Work
30. HMP Forrest Bank, Manchester

## Daily Prayers for December

1. The Church Army refuge centres
2. Local pubs and clubs
3. Our work with local schools
4. Manor Road
5. Advent Bible Studies
6. Christian churches in Egypt
7. HMP Foston Hall, Derbyshire
8. Hospital Chaplains
9. Asylum seekers in the UK
10. Our Bell Ringers
11. Mansfield Gardens
12. The Friends Meeting House, Hertford
13. Christian Churches in Pakistan
14. HMP Five Wells, Northants
15. Our preparations for Christmas services
16. Cancer Research UK
17. The Children's Society
18. Millmead Way
19. Oxfam
20. Mercy Ships UK
21. HMP Frankland, County Durham
22. The Salvation Army
23. Young Minds
24. Save The Children
25. Our families
26. Our friends
27. Mountain Rescue Groups around the UK
28. Bethlehem, on the West Bank
29. Wells Cathedral, Somerset
30. Amnesty International
31. Give thanks and prayers for the past year

### Register

10th September Burial of Ashes

**Morna Lane**

18th September Burial of Ashes

**Keith Walters**

26th September Burial of Ashes

**Joyce Dennison**

8th October Burial of Ashes **Ron Jeffreys**



### Quiet Time

Quiet Time will continue at 8pm at Holy Trinity Bengo on Tuesdays the 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th November.

The Advent Bible Study, Behind Closed Doors, will take place at 8pm on the 5th, 12th and 19th of December at Holy Trinity Bengo.

**David Cramphorn**



# Church Contacts

## Team Vicar

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

## Associate Priest

Fr. David Pepper  
T: 07583 985266

## Reader

Bob Kelly  
T: 01763 274653

## Churchwardens

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

## Parochial Church Council

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

## Director of Music and Organist

Dr Andrew Sentance

## Assistant Organist

William Sarjeant

## St Leonard's Church

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

## Addresses

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

# Local Contacts for Help and Advice

## Bengeo Residents Support Network Against Coronavirus

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

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

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

## Medical and Health Advice

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

## Information about local council services

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

## Domestic Abuse

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

## Hertfordshire Domestic Abuse Helpline

0808 808 8088

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

## Financial Advice

### Money Advice Unit

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

### Hertfordshire Citizens Advice Service

03444 111 444

### National Debtline

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

## Advice on avoiding scams

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

### Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline

0808 223 1133

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

HertsHelp 0300 123 4044

## Mental Health Advice and Support

### Herts Mind Network

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

## Emotional Support and Practical Help

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

*Inside back cover: Wildflowers in the Holy Trinity churchyard,  
Bridget Hersant*

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WELWYN • 01438 714686

HERTFORD • 01992 582052

WARE • 01920 468551

LETCHEWORTH • 01462 684292

HODDESDON • 01992 471709

HARWOOD PARK • 01438 812515

HARPENDEN • 01582 762570

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

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



# Churchyard Flowers





# CHRISTMAS EVE

C A R O L S   B Y   C A N D L E L I G H T

At Holy Trinity Church, New Road, Bengeo, Herts SG14 3JJ

A FEAST OF MUSIC AND READINGS TO CELEBRATE THE SEASON

BRING YOUR BEST SINGING VOICE!

**SUNDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2023 AT 7PM**

FREE ENTRY

DONATIONS FOR UNICEF WELCOME

MULLED WINE AND MINCE PIES SERVED FROM 6.15PM

[www.parishofbengeo.com](http://www.parishofbengeo.com)

