

NOVEMBER • DECEMBER 2024

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PROGRAMME TO INCLUDE

George Butterworth

Suite for String Quartet

Frank Bridge

2 Old English Folk Songs

Fritz Kreisler

Introduction and Romance from String Quartet in A minor

Edward Elgar

String Quartet in E minor

Bengeio Parish Magazine and Community News



It hardly seems possible that we are in the runup to Christmas already and are advertising Christmas events in the magazine. There is traditional entertainment ranging from folk singing to herald a Christmas wassail, a pantomime (oh, yes, it is!) to singing along to carols in church.

Whatever the weather over the late autumn and winter there are opportunities for getting out and walking in the countryside around Bengeio. A number of groups cater for all types of walking experience, from a short social saunter to a longer distance hike. See the details on pages 6, 7 and 12.

The Editorial Team

The views expressed by the contributors are not necessarily those of the Editorial Team or the PCC. Whilst every care is taken, we cannot be responsible for the action of any of the contributors or advertisers in this magazine.

Front cover: Barry Goodey, Big Drone Shots.
See the article on page 9.

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Editorial Team

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

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The Bengeo Field Planning Decision

Many residents are devastated that the 118 new homes on Bengeo Field were given the go-ahead. Your Bengeo Ward Councillors Alex Daar, Ben Crystall and Vicky Smith and others from the BNAP and Save Bengeo Field campaign attended the Development Management Committee meeting in September and spoke against the application, yet it was subsequently approved.

The Bengeo application was discussed for three hours with the DMC, with points raised about transport, infrastructure, water and affordable housing. Aska Pickering, Chair of the Save Bengeo Field campaign (SBF), expressed the views of residents that serious points about the special value of landscape and amenity were not given due weight. Two areas continue to be a major concern – threat of contamination to Hertford's water supply and pressure on an already overburdened sewage system. Both issues have been highlighted by SBF campaign on numerous occasions through expert reports and evidence of historical problems. SBF campaign does not feel mitigation processes have been explored sufficiently to prevent a threat of contamination to the drinking water. They also believe that adequate regard has not been afforded to reduce how the extra housing will impact the existing sewage system.

Councillor Sarah Hopewell, Executive Member for Wellbeing at EHC, explained that all local authorities are legally required to follow national planning policy and the government requires councils to provide a minimum of new homes based on a housing need calculation. The basis of planning is the District Plan and the BNAP which included Bengeo Field (Hert4) as a future potential development site. Decisions on development are weighted heavily against local councils and there are cases where the Planning Inspector has overruled councils who rejected similar developments in Hertfordshire.

The Save Bengeo Field group thanks all the residents and campaigners who provided continued support. Nevertheless, it believes that the wishes of local residents and previous EHDC statements were not taken sufficiently into account during the DMC meeting and is taking expert advice on the next steps.

Meanwhile, the new government has been reviewing national planning policy. While this review is underway councillors have suggested that this is a chance to put forward views on what future planning policy should look like.

Go Outdoors

Walking for pleasure and health

Veronica Fraser, a volunteer Health Walks leader encourages us to get outside.

"Looking out of your window at this time of year and your first thought may not be 'I can't wait to get outdoors' but in Bengeio we have some wonderful countryside right on our doorstep, sociable groups to walk with and you can enjoy the Autumn colour changes and the many health benefits of walking.

The benefits? As a weight bearing exercise walking is guaranteed to increase heart and lung fitness, resulting in stronger bones and better balance, whilst reducing body fat. These are important factors in reducing the risks of diabetes, heart disease and stroke.

To maximise these health benefits we should try to walk briskly for 30 minutes a day but simply walking several times a week is good.

No sense of direction? Don't like walking alone? There are a number of local groups who would welcome you along."

Hertfordshire Health Walks

Veronica is a leader for Hertfordshire Health Walks which have walks almost every day. The nearest walk sets off from Bengeio Avenue shops every Tuesday at 10am to walk for 1½ hours before returning for coffee.

On Wednesdays you could join a much shorter flat walk around Hartham. On Sundays we take advantage of the many paths around Hartham for a long walk.



Jane Tether and Jan Kirk, HHW walkers.

HHW and other groups were out in force at a 'Breathe Easy' event at BEAM recently. Jan Kirk, a new member of HHW, says, "I read about the walks while I was working and now I am retired and after COVID I needed to get moving again. I spoke to the nurse at my surgery, and she put me in touch with the organiser. My first week was just me and two volunteers, but it grew from there and now there are 10 in the group. We go at the pace of the slowest walking for about an hour and end up with a coffee afterwards. The social side is important as I have made new friends who now socialise together." Jane Tether, who is a volunteer with the group, says, "Please come as we need more volunteers."

The walks are free and suit different abilities. See the list for all the local walks and note the registration details on page 12 of this magazine.

East Herts Footpath Society

If you already walk a bit, East Herts Footpaths Society, a walking and footpath campaigning charity, offer walks twice a week.

See their website for how you can join www.easthertsfootpathsociety.org. Membership is £6 per household.

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U3A Walking Groups

If you are a member of the U3A you may already be aware they have several walking groups. Mike West explains how he got involved as a leader and how he benefits from longer walks. He says "When I retired and ceased commuting, I was keen to maintain some way of keeping moving and expanding my horizons, both literally and metaphorically. I had done some national long distance walks many years ago, including the South Downs Way, Offa's Dyke Walk and similar routes in France. Group walking in a regular and an organised way, enjoying the company and fellowship of some new people and discovering aspects of the underrated but wonderful East Herts countryside that I'd not known before seemed ideal. I signed up to two of the Hertford & District U3A groups. The Thursday 2 Group walks about 5 miles twice a month, returning to a pub for lunch. The Long Distance Walkers meet once a month and bring a snack lunch so we are not bound by pub locations. Our walks are usually about 7–10 miles. I find this

greater challenge both stimulating and rewarding. When the group's founder leader retired, I was 'invited' by the group to take over. That was in 2006, and I'm still in the role! This involves arranging a programme of walks led by members who feel able and competent to take this on and encouraging others to come forward and take a turn.

My walking with these groups has given me regular exercise, good conversation, new friendships, a closer relationship with nature and the seasons, plus some excellent walking holidays including the Peak District, Yorkshire Dales and Exmoor."

I would encourage anyone to look for a group suitable to their capabilities (and diary), and if there isn't one yet, to consider forming a new one with others of like mind."

If you are interested in joining a U3A Walking Group, please contact Membership Secretary Val Vanderbroeck at membershipsecretary@hertfordu3a.org.uk, 07476 943269 or the Groups Advisor Robert Sprigge at groupsadvisor@hertfordu3a.org.uk.



U3A Long Distance walkers in Woodhall Park.

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Scouts' News

Ten 2nd Bengeo Scouts took to the skies in early September on a day's gliding training at Little Gransden Airfield, North of Royston. The experience was part of their Air Activities badge, organised by the Cambridge Gliding Centre in conjunction with Hertfordshire Scouts. Only a few places come up each year, so it was a thrill for the Bengeo Troop to jump in the cockpit with the instructor, and even more exciting to be handed the controls briefly. Zoe,



2nd Bengeo Scouts with the Falke motorglider that Hertfordshire Scouts bought from the Falkes Flying Foundation.

About our Cover Photo

The image of the Aurora Borealis or Northern Lights on the front cover of the magazine was captured by Barry Goodey's drone one evening in October. These phenomena are short-lived periods of high geomagnetic activity where the Earth's magnetic field changes very quickly and strong electric currents flow high in the atmosphere. The clear, cold evenings in October were ideal for aurora spotting in southern parts of England.

The aurora are caused every few years or so by large explosions on the Sun when huge amounts of charged particles are thrown out into space. These particles sometimes travel towards Earth where they are captured by the Earth's magnetic field and guided towards the geomagnetic polar regions. They are slowed down by Earth's atmosphere, which acts as a shield. The energy released in collisions with oxygen, nitrogen and other gases in the atmosphere reacts and gives off colours of blues, greens, yellows and reds observed in the aurora.

One thing to note is that a digital camera is more sensitive than our eyes and will pick up the colours of the aurora. A faint display may appear white or grey to the eye but a long-exposure photo will pick up the greens, reds or purples. If you use a camera where you can manually set a long exposure time you will be able to see more. A lot of smartphones now have a night mode which can pick up more colours.

Good hunting!

takes up the story: "We woke up bright and early to get to the airfield. It was quite foggy so we couldn't start gliding straight away, and we needed a safety briefing first. To select the order we'd fly in we had to answer questions until we had a list of names. We also had to choose our own call sign and learn the phonetic alphabet. Once the weather cleared we went up one by one for about 30 minutes. Those waiting to fly made a little model plane and filled out worksheets."

It was a long day but everyone waited until the very last scout landed to cheer him home. It was an unbelievable opportunity: the Scouts are still pinching themselves!

Afternoon WI

Bengeo Afternoon Women's Institute meet on the first Wednesday of the month at 2pm in **The Church Hall, Duncombe Road, Bengeo, SG14 3DA.**

At our meeting today, Wednesday 2nd October, we welcomed Margaret Aldrich who came with her vast supply of craft bits and pieces for our Craft Afternoon with her. Our ladies went home having made Christmas decorations, lavender bags, decorated pebbles and bead bracelets.

Our meeting on 6th November will be a fun afternoon social with Pudsey and on 4th December we will be entertained by the Fuller Bell Ringers.

We are a small group of ladies who give all our visitors a warm welcome so do please come along to any of our meetings, first visit FREE. If you would like more information please contact me, Janet Butler Secretary on **01992 463967** or **07961 906860.**

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Courtyard Arts Exhibitions

CHILDHOOD LOST – Mandy Newman

Stables Gallery

Tuesday 21st October to Saturday 16th November, 2024



UK contemporary Fine Artist Mandy Newman is a First Class graduate of both the University of Hertfordshire and Bucks New University and a Honorary fellow of the Free Painters and Sculptors.

She presents new 2-dimensional work on the theme of 'Lost childhoods'. Her return to the bold, figurative artistic interpretation is coupled with a piercing intensity and an extraordinary evocative expressive vision that's sure to resonate with viewers.



Courtyard Arts Members' Show 2024

Submission Date: Saturday 23rd November, 2–3.30pm or Sunday 24th November, 10am–11.30am

Exhibition Dates: 26th November to 21st December

Private View/Christmas Party: Friday 29th November, 5–8pm

We are delighted to invite members of Courtyard to prepare their work ready for our annual Members' Show. After the success of last year's exhibition, we can't wait to showcase the work of our talented community again.

Potential exhibitors are invited to download a copy of the submission form and bring it along with their artwork. Printed copies of the form are available at Courtyard or on the Courtyard Arts website.

BEYOND THE HORIZON – Steve Baldwin

29th October to 23rd November 2024



Steve's previous solo exhibition at Courtyard Arts in November 2021, 'Our Landscape – My Vision' concentrated on local landscapes. Whilst these still represent the majority of his work, and will again take centre stage, he felt it was

now appropriate to take the opportunity to look further afield. As a consequence this new collection of work will include cityscapes, takes a glimpse at some of his images from overseas and includes some of his latest monochrome images.

CAROLS AT CHRISTMAS from The Courtyard Quartet

Saturday 7th December
(Time TBC)



COPS Theatre

present

A Christmas Carol: A Ghost Story

By Charles Dickens

Adapted by Mark Gatiss

Directed by Loretta Freeman

29th November to 7th December 2024 at 7.45pm
Matinees on 30th November and 7th December at 2.30pm

"Fabulous... irresistibly theatrical... a big, bold, inventive, yet remarkably faithful staging of Dickens' evergreen opus"
Telegraph



It's a cold Christmas Eve and mean-spirited miser Ebenezer Scrooge has an unexpected visit from the spirit of his late business partner Jacob Marley. Bound in chains as punishment for a lifetime of greed, the unearthly figure explains it's not too late for Scrooge to change his miserly ways and escape the same fate, but first he'll have to face three more eerie encounters...

Dickens' iconic story needs no introduction and Mark Gatiss' spine-tingling adaptation is faithful to its heart and spirit – an irresistibly theatrical retelling of the classic tale of life, love, loss and redemption. This production will contain music, dance, puppets, singing, snow... and most of all, love and laughter. What a wonderful way to get ready for Christmas!



All events except where stated – non-member £1 entry.

- **2nd November** Bingo and Raffle, 8pm
- **9th November** The Soul Man, 9pm
- **16th November** Bingo and Raffle, 8pm
- **14th November** Wine Tasting, 7pm (for 7.30pm start)
£22.00 per person booked in advance
- **23rd November** The Bonnet, 9pm
- **30th November** Bingo and Raffle, 8pm
- **7th December** The Phoenix Blues Band, 9pm
- **14th December** The Soul Enforcement Bureau, 9pm
- **21st December** Super Bingo and Raffle, 8pm
- **24th December** Mario & Friends, 9pm
- **28th December** Bingo, 8pm
- **31st December** New Year's Eve Party with The Dawn Chasers 7pm–1am

Hertfordshire Health Walks

East Herts



Timetable of WEEKDAY walks SEPTEMBER – DECEMBER 2024

Enjoy the countryside and local green spaces with FREE Hertfordshire Health Walks led by friendly volunteers

Hertford and Area Walks and meeting point	Day/time	Date	Information
Sele Farm and Panshanger Park Meet on grassed area outside the shops, Fleming Crescent / Tudor Way, Hertford, SG14 2DJ. Toilets are available at the Sele Community Hub at Fleming Crescent shops <u>before</u> the walk. (Join us for cuppa afterwards from 11am at The Golden Griffin Pub. Last Monday of the month.)	Mondays 10:00 am	Every	GRADE 2
			GRADE 3 - 4
Bengeo and Waterford Marsh Meet on the grassed area opposite the shops on The Avenue, near the junction with Cowper Crescent, SG14 3DU. (Join us for a cuppa afterwards in the Secret Garden Café.)	Tuesdays 10am	Every (Excluding 24th and 31st December)	GRADE 3 - 4
Hertford and Hartham Common Meet at the fountain outside Café Nero/The White Hart pub on Salisbury Square, Hertford, SG14 1BE. Note: This walk is often at a slow pace and may take up to 1 hour to complete. (Join us for a cuppa afterwards at Mudlark's Café.)	Wednesdays 10:15 am	Every (Excluding Bank Holidays)	GRADE 1
Sele Farm Meet on grassed area outside the shops, Fleming Crescent / Tudor Way, Hertford, SG14 2DJ. (Join us for a cuppa afterwards at the Sele Community Hub at Fleming Crescent shops, where toilets are available, or outside Simmons in good weather.)	Thursdays 10am	Every (Excluding Bank Holidays)	FIRST STEPS (Suitable for wheel chair and buggy users)
Ware Meet at Southern Maltings, Kibes Ln, Ware SG12 7BS (Join us for a free cuppa afterwards in Local Social's Café.)	Fridays 10:00 am	Every	FIRST STEPS (Suitable for wheel chair and buggy users)
Stanstead Abbots Meet in the Red Lion pub car park, 1 High Street, Stanstead Abbots, SG12 8AA (Join us for a cuppa afterwards in the pub.)	Fridays 10:00 am	Every	GRADE 3 - 4
Hartham Common Meet by the bench near Hartham Leisure Centre, Hertford, SG14 1QR. (Join us for a cuppa afterwards at the leisure centre where toilets are available.)	Sundays 2 pm	Every	GRADE 3 - 4
Grade 4+ Progression Walk			
Wadesmill, near Ware Meet at The Feathers Pub, 49 Cambridge Road, SG12 0TN. (Join us for a cuppa afterwards in the pub.)	Monthly 10:00am (3rd Thursday)	Sep 19 Oct 17 Nov 21 Dec 19	GRADE 4 +

All walks are FREE, no booking required. All walkers need to register with us first. You can do this online or arrive 15 mins early to fill in a form. Walks range from a gentle First Steps (20-30 minutes) and increase in length and time up to Grade 4+. The walking times are for guidance but may be longer depending on the fitness of walkers and the weather. Contact us: E: healthwalks.cms@hertfordshire.gov.uk T: 01992 555888 or visit www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/healthwalks

Friends of St Leonard's – Winter 2024



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 Saturday 7th at 7.30pm. These have been very popular concerts as they get us all in the mood for Christmas. Tickets are

available via boxoffice@parishofbengeo.com. This was a sell-out last year so get your bookings in quickly.

Keep in Touch

To keep in touch with our plans for 2025 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. You can join through our website www.stleonards.parishofbengeo.com/friends-of-st-leonards or just get in touch via my email.

Helen Fleming

Secretaryfriendsofstleonards@gmail.com

Herts and Beds Bike and Hike

Thank you to all who assisted welcoming and booking in cyclists and walkers who called in to St Leonard's and Holy Trinity on Saturday 14th September. It has been a few years since anyone from our two churches took up the challenge, and it is clear that whilst this is still an enjoyable and well-run challenge there are fewer taking part. This does make the traditional Bengoe welcome all the more important, especially after hauling yourself up Port Hill or the Warren!

So once again thank you for your willingness to play your part in this challenge.

David Cramphorn



The Children's Society

A reminder for all House Box Holders, the annual count will take place in October. If we

haven't already had your box, we would be very pleased if it could be returned to us this month, please. Your support is much appreciated.

Many thanks

Christingle Service

**Advent Sunday 1st 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 for the many vulnerable young people facing exploitation in the world of social media which is just one example of the work of the Children's Society.

Any queries about the Houses boxes or the Christingle Service please contact me on **01992 583979**.

Libby Shillito

Hertford Adult Learning Group

Music Appreciation Course

Tuesday mornings

14th January to 25th March 2025

'The Soul of Russian Music with a Native Russian' is the intriguing title of Hertford Adult Learning Group's next course at the Parish Church Hall, Duncombe Road, Bengoe.

You are very welcome to join us for 10 sessions on Tuesday mornings, 10.30am to 12.30pm, with music lecturer Marina Burrell. The fee is only £40. For further information please contact **01992 589538**.

If you are already on our database you will receive further details by email. If you would like to join the database please contact halgcontact@gmail.com.

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Hertford and District Churches Together



HDCT is made up of members of each of the churches in town and the surrounding villages getting together to support the community through volunteer commitment, funding, worship and prayer. This enables local projects to flourish and gain further support.

Foodbank Hertford started amongst support and funding from HDCT, ensuring ongoing and wider financial commitment, food donations and volunteer support, with the URC giving generous space. The consistent enthusiasm and challenging work has led to the support from supermarkets, businesses, youth groups and schools. The Foodbank in Hertford is part of the Trussell Trust, which enables close links to Ware, Hoddesdon and parts of North London when required.

Young Life and Wyld Life Hertford both provide safe spaces with games for Young People organised by enthusiastic caring Youth Leaders engaging with young people. They meet in URC church hall, Hertford Baptist Church and outside St Andrews. Young Life also work within and with local Schools, time and space appropriate for young people is made for the word of God.

Future Hope Hertford runs youth groups in the Pioneer Hall on the Ware Road in addition to the bus, a mobile safe space for young people who meet in Hartham and Ware. This is an opportunity for young people venturing out into the evening with friends for the first time to escape from unsafe situations. Future Hope provides mentoring for young people and groups for parents to meet. Future Hope also provides Drug Education services into schools.

Street Pastors continue to work in to the early hours of Friday and Saturday mornings in Hertford and Ware, and at other times the towns are really busy.

The Wellbeing Church is outreach to the 20- to 30-year-old age group, using social media, sports and social get togethers that are appropriate to that age group and supports them into local churches.

HDCT also gives grants to local schools to purchase books or other media to assist with teaching about the Love of God. HDCT also supports other groups around the world.

As ever volunteers are always required to take on roles in each of the local organisations. If you would like more information, please contact David Cramphorn towerworks32@gmail.com.



Mill Mead Primary School

Here is what our classes have been doing this term.



Ducklings. Our core book, *'The Ugly Duckling'*, has provided us with lots of opportunities to think about our Mill Mead school values and how we should treat others. We have created lots of amazing artwork on ducks and swans and

have learned a lot about where those animals live.



Mice. The children started learning about their emotions, with the help of The Colour Monster, linking this to the Zones of Regulation. They created their own monster and

feeling jars, while learning some new vocabulary to express their feelings. They practised their bike safety, spatial awareness and balancing skills on balanceability days with their own bike course set up in school.



Birds. We made wonderful 17th Century houses in the holidays, and it was great to use them to model what London looked like before the Great Fire started. In Maths we

have been working on our number facts within 10.

We have been subitising, regrouping, adding and subtracting. In English, we are loving our book *'We're Going on a Bear Hunt'*.

Owls. In Science, we are learning all about sound: pitch and volume, and how that changes sound waves and how we hear sounds. In History, we have uncovered the artefacts in King Tutankhamun's tomb, and learned about how artefacts tell us about how people lived. In PE, we are spies in dance and learning netball skills.

Hedgehogs. We used the skills of exploring, investigating, problem solving and creativity when we made felt in one of our art and craft lessons. The children had to follow instructions, cope with new materials and get a bit wet but the end results are a delightful array of colourful creations. They have also written some super historical recounts in English inspired by the book *'Samson's Titanic Journey'*.



Squirrels. We enjoyed acting out some of the well-known Aesop's fables like *'The Boy who Cried Wolf'* and *'The Hare and the Tortoise'*. More recently, we have been lucky enough to take a trip back in time to The Stone Age with a trip to Celtic Harmony Camp. We loved learning how life was like back then and learned some new key skills which helped our understanding.



Badgers. Have been having fun competing in Times

Tables Rockstars to sharpen multiplication skills. In Music, the students have been learning to play the traditional South African song *Shosholozza* on the xylophones, exploring new rhythms and melodies. They have also been fascinated by our Space topic, making connections in both Science and French.

Foxes. Have been focussing on our own mechanical fox, Malkin – a key character in our class text *Cogheart* about the Industrial Revolution – rewriting a dramatic chapter of the book from his perspective. In Science, we are exploring circuits and electricity and have been building our own working circuits, experimenting with different elements and observing the outcomes. Most importantly, we finally have our latest cast of *Macbeth* for this year's Shakespeare Schools' Festival.



Bengeo Primary School

We are delighted to share that the construction of the school's new pond is finished. The children asked for a pond, and thanks to the generosity of the Bengeo Parents' Association we were able to make it happen.



Year 3 Monkey Puzzle class attended a sport event at Wodson Park- they got to try badminton, boxing, skipping and curling!



Our Year 6 Football and Netball teams are enjoying their weekly matches against local schools, with some wins and some losses, they are playing with enthusiasm and great sportsmanship.





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Duncombe School's Community Chronicles

October 2024



Hello Everyone!

We can hardly believe it's already October half-term—where does the time go? Team Duncombe have once again leapt into an exciting and engaging year of learning. We've already enjoyed a range of school trips, including Celtic Harmony, Beckonscott Model Village, and our first residential trip of the year.

We also celebrated our annual Global Be Well Day with our Cognita families worldwide. This year, we extended the celebration into the Hertford community, visiting our friends at The Dell and Bentley House.

There has been so much to celebrate over the past few weeks, including our new Microsoft status, individual pupil successes, academic achievements, and fantastic sporting victories.

We have seen the return of our Breakfast Music Assemblies, filling the halls with beautiful voices and instrumental performances. We welcomed some of our Team Duncombe families into school for International Languages Day, where they shared insights about their nationalities—check out our Instagram for more details!

What an incredible first half-term it's been! So grab a coffee, catch up on all the latest Team Duncombe news, and we look forward to sharing even more exciting adventures in the next edition!

Team Duncombe

Celebrating Innovation:

Team Duncombe Achieves Microsoft School Showcase Incubator Status!

We are excited to share that Duncombe has achieved Microsoft School Showcase Incubator status—a fantastic recognition of our sector-leading approach to digital learning and innovation embedded throughout our curriculum. While our core focus is the children's learning, we are equally committed to involving parents in our digital journey. Recently, we held a Year 2 Digital Learning Workshop, where parents were fully immersed in the experience, offering them a glimpse into how technology is transforming our classrooms. It was wonderful to see them engage and join us on this exciting path!



Celebrating Success:

Team Duncombe Sporting Triumphs!

We are immensely proud of our U11 Football team for their incredible achievements! After an impressive performance at the IAPS Regionals, they secured 3rd place and have qualified for the National Finals! This is a tremendous feat, showcasing their hard work, teamwork, and determination. To make it even more exciting, they've also qualified for the National Finals at the ISFA Regional Finals—two finals in just a fortnight!

But that's not all! They brought home a shiny trophy after winning the East Herts Prep Partnership Football Cup!



Our young ladies have also kicked off the year with fantastic netball wins across various year groups. Go Team Duncombe!

Celebrating Wellbeing:

Global Be Well Day at Duncombe!

This year's our Global Be Well Day theme was *Giving*, and our Team Duncombe community came together in such meaningful ways!

Treetops kicked things off by creating heartfelt cards and pictures for the residents of Bentley House and The Dell, spreading love and smiles across Hertford. Lower School added sweetness to the day, decorating delicious tray bakes and cupcakes—personally delivered by our amazing Year 6 children to Bentley House. They spent time with the residents, sharing stories, laughter, and their lovely gifts.

Year 5 and 6 also played a vital role in supporting our annual charity, Feeding Communities. They helped prepare meals that were boxed up and delivered to City Harvest, ensuring that families in need will receive them this evening. Huge thanks to Raj Singh and his team for their valuable insights on giving and the impact these meals will have on our local community.

The day was filled with fun too—daytime discos, mindfulness activities, and a whole-school art project kept the energy high! moments!



Stay up to date with all our exciting adventures by following us on
Instagram



A Word from The Rectory

Not forgotten

From The Vicar, The Revd Robert Thompson



I turned up in time to take what I imagined to be the first service of the day at a local crematorium only to find that I'd be beaten to it. There, in the otherwise deserted car park, was a black van bearing their company logo and its strapline 'Unattended Direct Cremation Funerals.'

There was a time when a van like this would be a routine sight at one end of the working day or

the other, and it was always a sad one. Unattended funerals were filled with pathos, the funerals of people so utterly alone in this world that not one person had come along to see them off, or the funerals of unborn babies who had never managed to arrive. These days, however, you'll find the black van parked in the crematorium rather a lot.

Unattended funerals are a growing phenomenon in the UK right now. Shiny adverts on daytime television trumpet their services. There's no need to negotiate the emotional minefield of grief nor yet suffer the bleak melancholy of attending a funeral when the black van can convey your loved one's mortal remains directly to your front door.

The service provided is, quite literally, the last word in convenience. I can't blame the funeral industry for this new undertaking; it's a logical extension for a consumer-driven operation. We live in the age of mobile ordering, drive-thru and pavement pick-up. Does it really represent an indignity to have granny's body shipped from a chilled warehouse to a crematorium and her ashes conveyed directly to you without any unnecessary detour to a chapel of rest and all that expensive ceremonial fuss?

Yes. Yes, it does.

Believe it or not (and admittedly, many people don't) it remains a tenet of Christian faith that

human beings are more than the warm wet biological machine our post-Christian culture tells us we are. We are created in the image of God. God counts every hair of our head. Our lives are written on the palm of God's hand. Our bodies, says the bible, are given to us in sacred trust – jars of clay honoured for the treasure of the soul they carry.

'Ashes to ashes, dust to dust.' Those words were never meant to sound like an after-thought, the last gleanings of our lives swept up and boxed up for home delivery at the moment of their extinction. And I don't think that many people want that for themselves either. Yes, granny may have said something about 'just chucking her over the garden hedge' when she died. She might have come back from the crematorium complaining about the funerals of friends, their naff taste in poetry or clichéd music, sung to their rest by Robbie Williams or Frank Sinatra.

But I'd be surprised if you were ever expected to take her at her word. What she meant to say is that she knew attending funerals is hard. Whichever way you spin it, funeral services mean death and grief and dirty great bills, emotional cost and financial cost, and we would all like to spare one another the price of that if we could.

But we can't avoid it. The end of a life, if we believe a life has meaning, is a dreadful event. The end of a life, if we believe a life has no meaning, is a more dreadful event still. It is hard to face it. But if we pluck up courage to stand in person and look on death at a funeral service, to feel the enormity of a single lost life, then that will be a witness to the value of all lives. Some people would even thank God for them.

There is little doubt in my mind that the way we commemorate the dead in this country is changing. Removing your hat for a passing hearse, giving way to a funeral cortège on its last solemn journey, bowing your head and keeping silence in respectful memory of the departed were once common customs, and we need to learn them again.

Standing at the Cenotaph in Hertford on Remembrance Sunday in recent years I've been

surprised by the number of people who showed by their behaviour that they didn't know what was required of them, fumbling with their phones and bearing mugs from the chain coffee shops for the two minutes' silence.

I'll grant them this though – at least they showed up.

With my prayers,

Robert Thompson

Remembrance Sunday is 10th November.

**Annual Christmas Service of Remembrance,
Remembering Loved Ones, in Holy Trinity
Churchyard and Memorial Garden, Sunday 8th
December, 3.30pm.**



The meaning of Advent

Advent is traditionally a time of candles, we light a candle at the beginning of each of the Sunday services in advent, culminating in the final candle on Christmas Day. Advent is often described as waiting for the light, that eager anticipation of that crowning last candle and the celebration of the babe in a manger, the new light to the world. The church celebrates many other events by lighting a candle. We have a decorated baptismal candle at the font with a smaller token candle given to the families, and around Christmas we have the Candlemas or Christingle which, of course, features a candle.

Almost all of the books of the Bible mention 'light'. From Genesis, 'Let there be light' to Jesus as recorded here from St John's Gospel. Jesus spoke to the people saying, "I am the light of the world. He that follows me will never live in darkness but will have the light that gives life".

Join us for just three Tuesday evenings during Advent: 3rd, 10th and 17th December at 8pm in Holy Trinity. We shall explore the notions that 'I am the light', 'Waiting for the light' and 'Walking in the light'. All are welcome even if you have time for just one evening.

Contact David Cramphorn for further information towerworks32@gmail.com.

Parish Calendar NOVEMBER 2024

Sunday 3rd November		All Saints' Sunday
9am	Holy Communion	
10am	Parish Communion	
Tuesday 5th November		
8pm	Quiet Time at Holy Trinity Church: Prayer and Meditation	
Wednesday 6th November		
2pm	Bengeo Afternoon Wl, Church Hall, Duncombe Road	
2.30–4pm	Bereavement Café at Secret Garden Café, Bengeo	
Thursday 7th November		
10am	Holy Communion	
10.30am	Coffee Pot Charity Café, Church Hall, Duncombe Road	
Friday 8th November		
7.30pm	Concert at Holy Trinity Church, Chamber Music with The Academy of St Martin in the Fields An Evening of Words and Music for Remembrance Sunday	
Sunday 10th November	Third Sunday before Advent (Remembrance Sunday)	
9am	Holy Communion	
10am	Parish Communion Commemorating the Fallen at Bengeo War Memorials	
Tuesday 12th November		
8pm	Quiet Time at Holy Trinity Church: Prayer and Meditation	
Wednesday 13th November		
10am	Craft Club, Church Hall, Duncombe Road	
Thursday 14th November		
10am	Holy Communion	
10.30am	Coffee Pot Charity Café, Church Hall, Duncombe Road	
2.30–4pm	Bereavement Café at The Oasis Café, Ware Road Methodist Church, Hertford	
Sunday 17th November	Second Sunday before Advent	
9am	Holy Communion	
10am	Parish Communion	
Tuesday 19th November		
8pm	Quiet Time at Holy Trinity Church: Prayer & Meditation	
Thursday 21st November		
10am	Holy Communion	
10.30am	Coffee Pot Charity Café, Church Hall, Duncombe Road	
6.30–8pm	Bereavement Café at Secret Garden Café, Bengeo	
Sunday 24th November	Christ The King	
9am	Holy Communion	
10am	Parish Communion	
Tuesday 26th November		
8pm	Quiet Time at Holy Trinity Church: Prayer and Meditation	
Thursday 28th November		
10am	Holy Communion	
10.30am	Coffee Pot Charity Café, Church Hall, Duncombe Road	

Parish Calendar DECEMBER 2024

Sunday 1st December		Advent Sunday
9am	Holy Communion	
10am	Parish Communion	
4pm	Christingle Service, supporting the work of The Children's Society	
Tuesday 3rd December		
8pm	Advent Study 1 Waiting for the Light, Holy Trinity – all welcome	
Wednesday 4th December		
2pm	Bengeo Afternoon WI, Church Hall, Duncombe Road	
2.30–4pm	Bereavement Café at Secret Garden Café, Bengeo	
Thursday 5th December		
10am	Holy Communion	
10.30am	Coffee Pot Charity Café, Church Hall, Duncombe Road	
Saturday 7th December		
7.30pm	Christmas Wassail at St Leonard's Church, Bengeo Wassailing with mulled wine and Magpie Lane Folk Band	
Sunday 8th 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	
Tuesday 10th December		
8pm	Advent Study 2 Waiting for the Light, Holy Trinity – all welcome	
Wednesday 11th December		
10am	Craft Club, Church Hall, Duncombe Road	
Thursday 12th December		
10am	Holy Communion	
10.30am	Coffee Pot Charity Café, Church Hall, Duncombe Road	
2.30–4pm	Bereavement Café at The Oasis Café, Ware Road Methodist Church, Hertford	
Sunday 15th December		Third Sunday of Advent
9am	Holy Communion	
10am	Parish Communion	
4pm	'Sing Noel' Carol Concert with guest musical items	
Tuesday 17th December		
8pm	Advent Study 3 Waiting for the Light, Holy Trinity – all welcome	
Thursday 19th December		
10.30am	Coffee Pot Charity Café, Church Hall, Duncombe Road	
6.30–8pm	Bereavement Café at Secret Garden Café, Bengeo	
Sunday 22nd December		Fourth Sunday of Advent
9am	Holy Communion	
10am	Parish Communion	
Tuesday 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	
Wednesday 25th December		Christmas Day
10am	Festival All Age Communion – Celebrating the birth of Jesus with carols old and new	
Sunday 29th December		The Sunday of Christmas
9am	Holy Communion	
10am	Parish Communion	

Parish Prayers

Daily Prayers for November

1. All Saints Church, Hertford
2. Commemoration of the faithful departed
3. Our memorial garden
4. Ware Road, Tonwell
5. The US Presidential Election
6. Samaritans Purse
(distributing shoe boxes of gifts for children)
7. Prison Chaplain Service
8. Christian Churches in Palestine
9. The President Elect USA
10. Our Remembrance Day Service
11. Remember all who have fallen in action
12. Charity and aid workers who have been attacked
whilst assisting those in need
13. Samaritans Purse, International Crisis Support
14. HMP Norwich Prison, Norfolk
15. Parliamentary vote on Assisted Dying
16. Christians Against Poverty
17. Age Concern UK
18. Ware Park Road
19. Christian Churches in Gaza
20. Samaritans Purse – Operation Christmas Child
21. HMP Nottingham Prison
22. Christian Medical and Dental Associations
23. H5 and H6 bus routes
24. Christ the King
25. Warren Park Road
26. Christian Churches in Jordan
27. Samaritans Purse supporting women at risk
28. HMP Prison Governors
29. Thanksgiving for the missionary work
of the Church
30. Christchurch Priory, Dorset

Daily Prayers for December

1. Our preparations during Advent
2. St Andrew's Church, Hertford
3. Christian Churches in Syria
4. World Vision Today – supporting child refugees
5. HMP Oakwood, West Midlands
6. The Future Hope Bus in Hartham and Ware Lido
7. Salvation Army winter refuge centres
8. All who are homeless
9. Warren Terrace
10. Christian Churches in Israel
11. World Vision UK – protecting children
caught up in domestic violence
12. HMP Olney, Rugby
13. UK Cancer Research Charities
14. Alzheimer and Dementia research
15. Our Christmas services and outreach into schools
16. Waterloo Terrace
17. Christian Churches in Cyprus
18. World Vision against child labour
19. HMP Parc, Bridgend, South Wales
20. Hertford and Ware Food Bank
21. Christians in Bethlehem on the West Bank
22. Our Worship Music in Holy Trinity
23. Westmill Lane
24. Christian Churches in Turkey
25. Our families
26. Our friends
27. Our neighbours
28. Coventry Cathedral
29. All who are persecuted for their faith
30. Give thanks for the past year
31. Safe New Year celebrations around the world

Register

Memorial Service 16th September

Guy Horlock

Burial of Ashes 28th September

Joyce Craig

Memorial Service 2nd October

Martin Hale

Funeral 14th October

Bryan Lovell



Quiet Time

5th, 12th 19th and 26th November,
8pm, Quiet Time at Holy Trinity Church.

Waiting for the Light

3rd December, 8pm, Advent Study 1.
10th December, 8pm, Advent Study 2.
18th December, 8pm, Advent Study 3.
Waiting for the Light at Holy Trinity
Church. All welcome.

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

Below are links to local services.

Medical and Health Advice

www.nhs.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

Hertfordshire Support Fund

If you need help, regardless of whether you qualify for benefits, please call HertsHelp on 0300 123 4044, email info@hertshelp.net or visit www.hertshelp.net.

For more information about the support on offer for residents both locally and national, please visit www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/costofliving.

Money Advice Unit

www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/benefits

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 • 01438 714686

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Christmas

in the Parish of Bengoe

Christmas Wassail at St. Leonard's Church, Bengoe

Wassailing with mulled wine and
Magpie Lane Folk Band
Saturday 7th December,
St. Leonard's Church, 7.30pm
All tickets £15
Bookings: call 07910 822069 or
email boxoffice@parishofbengoe.com

Annual Christmas Service of Remembrance & Lighting of Evergreen Tree

Remembering Loved Ones, in Holy Trinity
Churchyard & Memorial Garden
Sunday 8th December, 3.30pm

'Sing Noel!' Christmas Carol Service

Sunday 15th December, 4pm
Carol Concert with guest musical items

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 Rd,
St. Leonard's Church,
St. Leonard's Road
parishofbengoe.com**

