

Bengeo Magazine

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This watercolour painting could be yours!



Some 20 years ago Trevor Chamberlain sold this watercolour painting of St Leonard's Church to a fellow member of Holy Trinity Choir. Recently, however, the family of the original owner has now kindly gifted the painting to Holy Trinity so that it may be resold to raise money towards church expenses.

The actual painting measures 17cm by 25cm and is in an off-white mount with a gold frame, measuring 36.5cm by 43.5cm.

If you are interested in making a bid for this painting, you can arrange a viewing at The Rectory, Bye Street by contacting Rev Robert Thompson on **01992 413691**.

Sealed bids for the painting will be accepted up to Sunday 22nd September 2024. It may help you to know that the original price of the painting was £450.

If you would like to make an offer, please leave an envelope with your bid and contact details either in Holy Trinity Church or drop it in to The Rectory.

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So much to look forward to in Bengeo in September and October, but a sad farewell to Tonwell St Mary's School. Sarah Bridgman, Headteacher, writes about leaving her links with Bengeo and we will miss the school's news items.

Following on from the restoration of the reredos in Holy Trinity Church, there is more about the life and works of George Tinworth who sculpted the plaques and created pottery for the Doulton factory.

This year the Pet Service supported the Cinnamon Trust and the speaker Catherine Flanagan tells us about the help it gives to elderly pet owners and bereaved pets.

The Yarnbombers have brightened up the community with well-crafted, imaginative Post Box toppers representing Olympic sports. See the pictures on the back page for their wonderful creations raising money for the Hertfordshire Breast Unit Appeal.

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: Wild Wordship at St Leonard's.
Photograph credits: ANNE SENTANCE.

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Editorial Team

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

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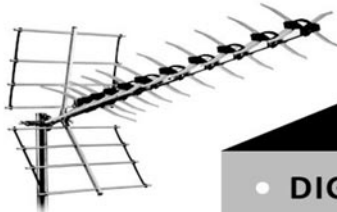


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WILD WORSHIP @ St Leonard's

The Body of Christ, 1 Corinthians 12:14–20



One sunny Saturday afternoon in June, St Leonard's Church hosted its inaugural Wild Worship – an opportunity to immerse ourselves in the natural world and encounter God in the fresh air.

Having lit our fire pit and lantern under a beautiful walnut tree, we started with a lively performance of the Hokey Cokey. But what might have happened if our left hands had refused to do the Hokey Cokey because they wanted to be the right feet? Or if our whole-self had said, "I don't need any of you. I can Hokey Cokey all by myself!"

We reflected on a bible passage about similarly rebellious body parts and concluded how all our different body parts need to work together to be successful. And it's just the same with the natural world around us. We looked at a diagram showing the different parts of a leaf. They each have a special job to do and need to work together for the leaf to grow and flourish.

And then we were off, to forage and collect different leaves for our own works of leaf art. The verdant churchyard provided rich pickings.

As we shared our finished collages, the last line of the bible passage was revealed:

"All of you together are the body of Christ. Each one of you is a part of that body."

Just like our body parts have to work together to be successful; just like the parts of our leaves all have to work together to grow, we – the body of Christ, the family of God – need to work together to achieve great things. Unite, and we are STRONG!



If you would like to join us for our next Wild Worship, please book Saturday 21st September, 2.30–3.30pm in your diary.



Cinnamon Trust Talk

So why is it called The Cinnamon Trust? The Trust was founded in 1985 by Mrs Averil Jarvis MBE and was set up just as her beloved Corgi called Cinnamon passed away in her 17th year and it seemed very appropriate to name the Trust in her memory. And what does it do? The Cinnamon Trust is the only specialist national charity for the elderly and terminally ill and their much loved, much needed, companion animals. The Trust's primary objective is to preserve the treasured relationship between owners and their pets. To this end, they help with things like dog walking when owners can no longer walk the dog themselves or fostering if owners face a spell in hospital.

I first heard about the charity through a friend at work. I applied to the charity and after filling out a form and the charity securing two referee statements, I was sent an identity card so the pet owner was reassured when I first visited. I am involved in the dog walking aspect of the charity. I've been walking dogs for elderly owners who can't get out and walk their dogs anymore and have been doing this in my spare time for 10 years. Not only do I get so much out of walking the dogs, I know the owners get peace of mind knowing their pets are being looked after and exercised by someone who really cares. Also, some of the pet owners don't get many visitors and it's nice for them to have a quick chat with someone and see a friendly face. A pet owner can contact the charity who will look to organise volunteers to help in the area. It really is one of the best things I've done. At the moment I walk Labrador Zac twice a week. He's a joy to walk and he still gets excited every time I visit.

I've met so many lovely owners and their pets over the years. More people need to know about the volunteering aspect but also owners need to know about it too. Many people cannot afford dog walkers and with The Cinnamon Trust owners also know the walkers are genuine pet lovers. Dog walking is just one part of the charity. They also see that cats receive care and grooming or are given medication or that a pet is taken for a vet appointment when the owner cannot take them. The trust's main aim is to keep the elderly and their pets together, in spite

of any difficulties that may arise, and to give owners peace of mind regarding the future of the pets that may outlive them. The Cinnamon Trust helps owners and pets to stay together as long as possible and when death forces a parting, pets come into their home from home sanctuaries or are placed in life long foster homes, when prior arrangements have been made. A network of over 20,000 volunteers 'hold hands' with owners to provide vital loving care for their pets. The charity can make sure someone can keep an eye on the pet's health and if needed get someone to take the pet to the vets or do whatever is needed to keep them together.

Pet Profiling: People of any age can profile their pets with the Trust. This ensures that should they predecease their pet the Trust would take the pet into their care. On request the Trust provides a Pet Profile Pack where owners give information about their pets, including all their routine and little quirks! When the owner has returned the information and their pet is registered, they will be sent emergency cards showing 24 hour contact details and further relevant information. This is particularly reassuring for elderly and infirm people with pets. Once a pet comes into the care of the Trust they are responsible for their welfare and happiness for the rest of their lives. A pet would either be placed in a loving lifelong foster home where they keep in touch and pay all the veterinary bills or pets are cared for at one of their two unique home from home sanctuaries for bereaved pets.

A company called Trusted Care are now providing this service. They will be able to send any enquirers a list of Pet Friendly Care Homes in their area. They can be contacted directly on **01865 587125** which is a dedicated Cinnamon Trust line and the team there will be happy to help or through email at **hello@trustedcare.co.uk**. Obviously if owners need support with their pets once in a home we will always do our best to support them with dog walking, etc.

Who do they help? The Trust helps people aged 65 years and older and anyone in the later stages of a terminal illness, regardless of age. The Cinnamon Trust relies completely on donations, so it is so important to spread the word and raise awareness. As a charity the Trust does not make a charge for its

services, but it naturally hopes that pet owners who benefit from its work will make a contribution towards the cost. It is hoped that an owner might remember the Trust in a Will when a bereaved pet would be coming into its care. The Trust is dependent entirely on voluntary contributions. It receives no state or local authority aid.

Catherine Flanagan

How can people help the Cinnamon Trust?

- By fundraising – coffee mornings, a stall at a fundraising event, sponsored runs or walks, etc.
- Make donations
- Legacies in Wills
- Become a volunteer
- Or by becoming a member, annual membership fee £10, life membership £100, OAPs and under 16s £5.

All supporters (members, volunteers and owners who they help) receive a newsletter in April and another newsletter in October along with their popular Christmas catalogue. Both newsletters give people information on events, stories and poems about the Trust. The majority of products in the catalogue are Cornish – they try and cater for all ages – candles, games, chocolates, pet treats, gift sets – and can be ideal for people who can't shop or leave the house or people who just dislike shopping during the busy Christmas period! Anyone wishing to receive their newsletter and catalogue can call the Trust to give their contact details and catalogue orders can be taken over the telephone by card or via post.

Some facts and figures

- The Trust has 1135 pets in lifetime foster with 840 long term foster homes
- The Trust has spent over £750,000 with vets alone in the last year
- The Trust's two sanctuaries have over 200 pets being cared for 24 hours a day. And it is not only cats and dogs. The other animals being cared for include rabbits, ponies, birds, squirrels and tortoises.

Here are all the details for any further information:

The Cinnamon Trust,
10 Market Square, Cornwall TR27 4HE
 Telephone: **01736 757900**
 Email: **admin@cinnamon.org.uk**
www.cinnamon.org.uk
 Registered Charity No. 1134680



Our Annual Pet Service

This was held on Sunday 7th July at St Leonard's Church. Always a popular occasion it was well attended by about forty-five people and fifteen dogs.

Thanks go to Bob Kelly who took the Service and Anne Sentance who provided the music to our animal friendly hymns. Also thanks to the ladies who provided the cakes and served the refreshments.

We were lucky enough to have a delightful Speaker Catherine Flanagan from the Cinnamon Trust who was able to explain all the aspects of the Trust's work with all types of domestic animals.

It is always a very friendly relaxed Service and everyone stayed on afterwards to chat and enjoy tea and cake, not forgetting the four-footed friends who had some treats.

We all plus our pets received a Blessing and we were really blessed by up above for having sunny weather during the afternoon for the Service after a wet morning and a real torrential downpour in the early evening when it rained 'cats and dogs'!

We are very pleased to say that together with some money from the Coffee Pot we were able to send a cheque for £300 to the Cinnamon Trust which will be used to upgrade amenities at their Sanctuary for dogs and cats, etc.

Thank you to everyone who came for supporting us.

Libby Shillito



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On the Doorstep – September to October 2024

Rosebay Willowherb, what a rather lovely name and a really rather beautiful flower. Scientific name – *Chamaenerion angustifolium*, it is a hardy perennial, which is a native to the UK. Some of its common names are Fireweed, Blooming Sally, Ramping Molly, Bomb-weed.

This plant is tall and grows to heights of 1.5m. It has dark pink flowers that comprise of four spoon shaped petals with four darker sepals. The flowers are arranged into a tall spike: this is due to the flowers opening at the bottom first and then working up to the top. The leaves of this plant are long, narrow and spear shaped. They are unusual as they have red veins that form circular loops that join together and do not end at the leaf's edge. The leaves also grow in a spiral up the stem.

The plant has long pink-tinged seed pods which contain masses of white fluffy seeds, each plant can produce up to 80,000 seeds, which are dispersed by the wind and can be carried long distances. The plant also spreads by rhizomes, sending out shoots, producing large colonies, which have been known to persist for long periods. One colony found in Holland was thought to be 35 years old. This may also be because the plant can tolerate a wide range of climates and soil conditions, shade and full sun.

Rosebay Willowherb can be found growing on waste ground, open woodlands, embankments and verges. The plant was actually considered fairly rare 100 to 150 years ago, but after the birth of the railways and two World Wars, Rosebay Willowherb became widespread. This is due to the plants' ability to colonise the various habitats above, and especially where there have been fires or, as in the World Wars, bombs, hence its two common names, fireweed and bomb-weed. In fact, in 2020 Rosebay Willowherb was chosen to be the flower for London, in part because of its association with colonising bomb sites in the blitz. It is thought that fire and heat can actually aid the germination of its seeds.

The plant is favoured by various pollinating insects and, in particular, by the caterpillar of the rather beautiful large elephant hawk moth, which is a wonderful brown and pink colour.

The plant contains a lot of Vitamin C, eight times more than a lemon. It also contains Vitamin B and

magnesium. The plant's essential oils are used in aromatherapy and extracts from the plant are used in cosmetics. It has also been used as a tea and to help with heart function and the immune system.

Rather unsurprisingly Rosebay Willowherb is associated with symbolising resilience, hope and regeneration. It is certainly lovely to see the pink flowers when they spring up on sometimes unsightly land and bring a bit of colour and joy.

Bridget Hersant

More pictures on page 27.





George Tinworth

Creator of the reredos panels in the Holy Trinity chancel – his life and works.

George Tinworth was noted for making biblical terracotta plaques, some of immense life-size proportions, other miniatures of larger works and many reredos to grace churches in the Victorian era. He leaves a vast legacy of work spanning the Biblical canon and deserves his spot amongst the greatest of British artists of the late 19th century. He worked for the Doulton factory at Lambeth from 1867 until his death.

George was born in 1843 in extreme poverty and at nineteen he pawned his overcoat to pay for evening classes at the local Lambeth School of Art. In *Chums Boys Annual* of 1896 Tinworth explained: "I had to keep the whole affair dark from my father.

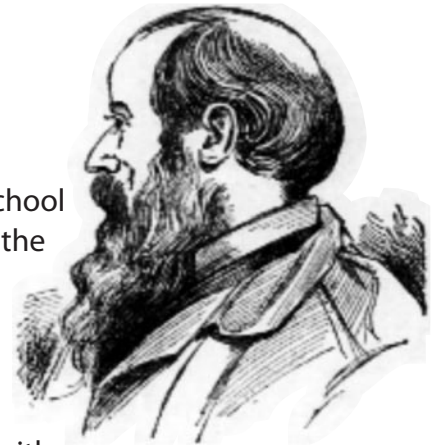
Indeed, I went to Lambeth School of Art of a night for months before he knew anything about it. He used to ask my mother where I was, but happily for me she always refused to gratify his curiosity".

In the same year that he began study at Lambeth he created 'The Mocking of Christ', which has been on show at the Cuming Museum on Walworth Road, Southwark.



Credit: NICHOLAS CARTER

From the Lambeth School of Art, he went on to the Royal Academy Schools in 1864, winning various medals for his work.



He then found a job with Doulton of Lambeth stoneware manufacturer. Tinworth had previously been one of a group of students from the Lambeth School of Art who assisted its principal, John Sparkes in the making of a terracotta frieze for an extension to Doulton's premises.

George Tinworth worked at the Doulton factory making the new range of salt-glazed stoneware that became known simply as 'Doulton Ware'. About thirty examples of his work were shown at the 1867 Paris Exhibition. Church commissions of terracotta plaques soon followed.

The Cuming Museum, Southwark, has three examples of his life-sized clay heads and a terracotta scene entitled *The Jews making bricks under Egyptian Taskmasters*. This last was presented to the museum by Doulton and Co in 1914 as a memorial to Tinworth; they seem not to have recognised that it could be interpreted as an allegory of the exploitation of his fellow clayworkers.

Many of his pieces were shown at the Royal Academy where they were admired by John Ruskin, amongst others. The first to be exhibited there, in the year he joined the school, was a group of children fighting called 'Peace and Wrath in Low Life'. A large-scale terracotta fountain, 'The Fountain of Life', was donated to Kennington Park by Henry Doulton in 1872 (or 1869?). This was vandalised in



the 1980s and The Friends of the Park are seeking funding for its restoration.

Other pieces by Tinworth are to be found in the Museum of Garden History in Lambeth; adjacent to the main entrance of St Bede's College, Manchester; in the panel above the entrance to the former Doulton Works in Black Prince Road, Lambeth; the Baptist Chapel in Wraysbury; in Truro Cathedral, Cornwall; in St Mark's Church in Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent; and in St Mary's Church in Burton, Wiltshire. At York Minster, the reredos of St Stephen's Chapel in terracotta is due to Tinworth. It was added in 1937.

In 1870, Tinworth was commissioned to produce two stone friezes for the royal parish church at Sandringham, Norfolk. The works, entitled *The Brazen Serpent* and *Descent from the Cross* were later removed from the church and in 1930 were donated by The Royal Collection to St Gabriel's Church, North Acton, following a national appeal for assistance in completing the church, after its construction costs exceeded the available funds. They remain on public display in Acton.

Of course, outside of the plaques, George is very well known for his non-religious works which appeal greatly to secular collectors worldwide. He made vases prolifically and his most valuable pieces in the collectors' markets today are his whimsical frogs, mice and monkeys, small pieces which depict them doing human like things, often with great humour. These fetch many thousands at auction as collectors compete to fill their cabinets with mice and frog collections!

Despite his acclaim and success in the 1870s and 1880s, George suffered greatly as tastes changed and large commission works became harder to land. Tinworth died in London 11th September 1913. His name is commemorated in Tinworth Street, Lambeth.

Thank you to Nicholas Carter, Tinworth collector, for help with the article and photographs from his collection.



Credit: NICHOLAS CARTER

BEAM (formerly Hertford Theatre)

Live events and cinema

BEAM

Stage Screen Social

1st September 2024, 2pm

André Rieu's 2024 Maastricht Concert: Power of Love (U)

5th September 2024, 11.30am

BEAM Seniors: Blackbird Blackbird Blackberry (15)

6th September 2024, 8pm
Clinton Baptiste: Roller Ghoster!

7th September 2024
Out of Their Depth: The Parallax View (15)

7th September 2024, 7.30pm
blur: Live at Wembley Stadium

7th September 2024, 7.45pm
The Ronnie Scott's All Stars: The Ronnie Scott's Story

8th September 2024, 6.30pm
Northants Sings Out

12th and 17th September 2024
NT Live: Prima Facie (15)

12th September 2024, 7.45pm

Dad's Army Radio Show

12th and 14th September 2024

USHER: Rendezvous in Paris (18)

14th September 2024

Children's Corner: The Never Ending Story (U)

14th September 2024
Out of Their Depth: Chinatown (15)

15th September 2024, 2pm
Susie Dent: The Secret Lives of Words

18th September 2024, 7.45pm
Crown Ballet® presents Swan Lake

19th September 2024, 11.30am

BEAM Seniors: La Chimera (15)

20th September to 25th October 2024
The Comedy Store

21st and 22nd September 2024

Dear Zoo

21st September 2024

Out of Their Depth: Three Days of the Condor (15)

26th September 2024, 7.30pm
Black Is The Color Of My Voice

26th–29th September 2024
Paul McCartney and Wings – One Hand Clapping (12A)

27th September 2024, 8pm
Dom Joly:

The Conspiracy Tour

28th September 2024

Out of Their Depth: Night Moves (18)

28th–29th September 2024
CMG presents Fairytales and Storybooks

3rd October 2024, 11.30am
BEAM Seniors:

Àma Gloria (12A)

3rd October 2024, 8pm

Rich Hall:

Shot From Cannons

4th October 2024, 7.45pm
24K BRUNO

5th October 2024, 7.45pm
Ruby Wax: I'm Not As Well As I Thought I Was

9th–10th October 2024, 7.45pm

Scummy Mummies: Greatest Hits

11th October 2024, 7.45pm

An Evening with Sir Geoff Hurst

12th October 2024, 8pm

The Comedy Store Players

16th–19th October 2024

HDandOS presents Shrek: The Musical

17th October 2024, 11.30am
BEAM Seniors: Wilding (PG)

20th October 2024, 8pm

Mark Thomas: Gaffa Tapes

22nd October 2024, 7.45pm

Ned Boulting's Marginal Mystery Tour

24th October 2024, 7.45pm
Steeleye Span

26th October 2024, 7.45pm
Musicals: The Ultimate Live Band Sing-Along

27th October 2024, 11am

The Bubble Show from

The Highland Joker

27th October 2024, 5pm

Pam Ayres

28th–29th October 2024

The Very Hungry Caterpillar Show

29th October 2024, 1pm

Wolf Witch Giant Fairy (PG)

30th October 2024, 2pm and 6pm

Pop Divas Live!

31st October 2024,

11.30am and 3pm

Rude Science Live!

Venue Hire Prices

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- Social One – £35ph
- Social Two – £30ph

For more details or to enquire about hiring a space, visit www.beamhertford.co.uk/hire-beam.



The Company of Players (Hertford)

present

The Winslow Boy

By Terence Rattigan

27th September – 5th October 2024 at 7.45pm



Inspired by an actual event, Rattigan's hit 1946 play concerns a father's desperate efforts to clear his son's name when the boy is expelled from the Royal Naval College for allegedly stealing a five-shilling postal order.

Cadet Ronnie Winslow is expelled from the Royal Naval College accused of stealing. His father, Arthur, refusing to believe his guilt and dissatisfied with the manner in which the investigation was conducted, demands a new inquiry and fights tirelessly for his son's honour. Following an independent inquiry, the matter is taken to the House of Commons, but Arthur destroys his health and finances in the process.

Delphiniums

Credit: PAM THAIN



Paul Worthington contacted me this summer to say that as a member of the Delphinium Society he had won the Lady Wightman Cup at the RHS Show at Wisley last summer. He gained the most points in the Novice Class. As there was a Bengeo connection, he

wanted to give us some of his prize delphiniums to display in church. They were gigantic stems over 5' tall.

He wanted to find out about the Wightmans and in doing some research he discovered that Sir Owen and Lady Ethel Wightman were active members of Holy Trinity, Bengeo from 1900 to 1948 and are buried in our churchyard just over the wall from their house "The Garden House" in Warren Park Road. The newish cul-de-sac opposite the house is named Owen's View, a lasting tribute to a great man.

Owen William Wightman was born in York in 1869, his father being a clergyman at York Minster. Owen had three sisters but tragically their father died when Owen was only 15. He started working as an apprentice brewer working his way through the trade to become head brewer in 1892.

In 1895 he married Ethel Marie Hall from Alton, Hampshire who was the daughter of a banker and was 8 years older than him.

In 1897 they bought a substantial house in Warren Park Road, Bengeo. Owen had a new position with the Maltsters firm of John Jasper & Jasper Gripper. The couple had a 2.4 acre garden and were keen gardeners growing and successfully exhibiting Delphiniums, Carnations and Roses at RHS shows.

Sir Owen who was Vice President of the Delphinium Society between 1944 and 1948 dedicated the cup to the memory of his wife Lady Ethel Wightman. They were involved with many political, sporting and floral societies and sat on many committees. They did not have children but gave much care to their community.

Sadly, Ethel died in September 1938. Owen lived on at the Garden House for a further 10 years until his death in November 1948.

Pam Thain

Holy Trinity Flower Guild

Acknowledgements to Hertfordshire and Ware Council archives, Dr Shirley Bassett, Dr Clive Rowe and Jean Woolley.

Official opening of Bengeo Community Garden

Last weekend local residents celebrated the official opening of the Bengeo Community Garden on the corner of Duncombe Road and Tower Street in Bengeo, Hertford. A water tower used to be situated on this site, which had become overgrown. A small group of local residents and Councillors worked together with East Herts District Council, Hertford Town Council, Mudlarks, and local residents on clearing the area and turning it into a community garden.

Rachel Carter, Mayor of Hertford, congratulated everyone involved for all their efforts and persistence in making the garden happen – this is the first completed community project which originated in residents' discussions about the Bengeo Neighbourhood Plan.

Newly elected MP Josh Dean also said: "I am delighted to be here and join you in celebrating this excellent community project. A huge well done to everyone who was involved. This is my first official public engagement as MP. I very much look forward to engaging with residents and community groups."

The organisers also met with the wonderful Mudlarks, the local charity supporting adults with learning difficulties, who transformed the garden. We were delighted to thank Vic Hobson and the Mudlarks Community Garden team in person and donate £400. Thank you for all those who have donated and supported the project so far.

Veronica Fraser, representing the Bengeo Community Garden group said: "Our thanks go to Mudlarks, East Herts Council, Bengeo Neighbourhood Plan and many volunteers for making this happen. We hope even more people will join us in helping the garden to thrive."

There are plans to continue with some small improvements of the garden, including having an information board about the history of this area. If you would like to get involved in the maintenance of the garden please get in touch with Aśka on askawp@gmail.com. You can donate towards the project (account: Bengeo Community Fund, sort: 601039, account: 18421180) or Mudlarks directly.



Credit: MUDLARKS

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A Little Bit of Cheese



Go along to The Secret Garden in the Avenue on Monday or Thursday afternoons from 2 to 5pm and you are guaranteed a treat. Hertford local, Janette Heal, opens

her Pop-up Cheese Shop there offering hand-made, British artisan cheeses from small makers, especially dairy farmers. There is a wide variety of English cheese, with some Scottish and Welsh cheeses to suit all tastes from hard Red Leicester and cheddar to soft goat and sheep cheeses.

Janette says, "My inspiration came from a Hairy Bikers programme showing northern counties small-scale cheese producers. It was a light bulb moment and it became my passion to bring top quality food to Bengoe. It was my goal to find out all I could about seeking out producers and the best way of selling speciality cheese." Janette worked for a while at the famous Paxton and Whitfield cheese shop in London's Jermyn Street before branching out on her own at the local Farmer's Market. The Pop-up Bengoe shop is a step on the way to opening a more permanent outlet in the town. So, do come and see what Janette has to offer. You will not go away empty handed!

Friends of St Leonard's

Heritage Open Weekend is 7th and 8th September when St Leonard's, like many other buildings around Hertford, will be open to visitors. Our opening hours are 11am to 4pm on Saturday 7th and 11am to 5pm on Sunday 8th. Why not take this opportunity to see inside the oldest building in Hertford.

It is also the Herts and Beds Historic Church Trust "Bike and Hike" on 14th September. We are looking forward to seeing the intrepid travellers. Did you know? According to Trip Advisor St Leonard's Church is one of the top 10 attractions to visit in Hertford.

Music

There will be a concert at St Leonard's at 7.30pm on Saturday 14th September. We are welcoming back the duo Andrews/Massey – guitar plus flute and voice. Their extremely varied recitals mix classics of the flute and guitar repertoire with their own arrangements of songs and instrumental classical and folk music. Tickets are £15 and are available from boxoffice@parishofbengeo.com.

Services

The Church will host the Harvest Songs of Praise service on 22nd September at 6.30pm.

Family Fun

The next Wild Worship will be on Saturday 21st September 2.30pm to 3.30pm.

Helen Fleming

Secretary friendsofstleonards@gmail.com

Adult Education Course in Bengoe, September to November 2024: Remembering 1963

A president was assassinated, the Beatles topped the charts, Martin Luther King had a dream and the UK had a freezing winter – there'll be a lot to mull over in our Group's September course.

You are very welcome to join us in the Church Hall, Duncombe Road, for eight enjoyable Tuesday mornings, 24th September to 19th November, 10am–12 noon, with popular tutor Stephen Barnard, whose last course in Bengoe was 'The Great British Songbook'.

The cost is just £30 for eight two hour sessions. Forty people have already signed up so please contact **01992 589538** to check that there are spaces available.

Operation Christmas Child: Shoe Box Appeal 2024

Q. What is it?

A. A Christian Organisation which sends shoe boxes filled with gifts to children throughout the world.

Q. Do only Christian Children receive them?

A. No. All countries who wish to receive the boxes are included whatever their beliefs.

Q. How many boxes do we send?

A. In 2022 10.5 million boxes were sent from all the countries taking part. Overall, 200 million since the project began. The UK sent 252,000 last year. Holy Trinity Church contributed 45 boxes last year.

Q. How much does it cost to take part?

A. As much or as little as you wish and you can take part; by making up a box yourself, donating items (to Holy Trinity Church), or giving a donation.

Q. Can anyone join in?

A. Yes. If you would like further information please contact Eileen or Jim Smith on **01992 558070** or email jimatwick030@gmail.com.

Bengeo Afternoon WI

Our WI meets on the first Wednesday of the month in The Church Hall on Duncombe Road, Bengoe, SG14 3DA at 2.00pm.

Last month our speaker came with armfuls of beautiful flowers and foliage which she arranged in a variety of containers from the very elaborate Church-style display to some simple decorated jam jars and gave some helpful tips. All the 10 arrangements were part of our raffle.

We are a small group of ladies who always give visitors a warm welcome.

Janet Butler, Secretary



Mill Mead Primary School



try. They worked on some large collaborative pieces of art, making a collage butterfly and a life-sized drawing of the caterpillar.



of a flower, looking at the stem, petals, leaves and roots. We had amazing weather for our school trip to Shepreth Zoo and had so much fun learning about the different types of animals.



Ducklings: Nursery read the classic story of *The Hungry Caterpillar*. They used real fruit to explore, peel and chop, making their own fruit salad to

Mice: turned the classroom into a shop selling different items to help us understand different money. They have also been exploring the different parts

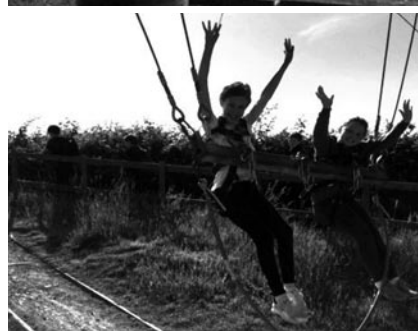
Birds: have been exploring the artwork of Clarice Cliff and created their own paintings and have enjoyed studying historical castles and labelling parts of the building.



Hedgehogs: On our recent trip to Wimpole Hall we came away knowing how to measure Stanley the shire horse, who was a

whopping 19 hands (1.9 metres) and that was just to his shoulders. Our DT project to make Ferris wheels.

Squirrels: The Zoolab visit was a highlight as we got the chance to get up close to some of the species that could be found in a rainforest. In Science, they set up an experiment to test hand span and grip and had fun trying to pick up different size balls while wearing oven gloves, gardening gloves and rubber gloves!



Owls: Had a brilliant trip to the Herts Young Mariners and a Science Day at Presdales; made torches in DT; discussed whether Christians need to go to church in RE and learned about weather forecasting technology in computing.

Badgers: The residential trip was a highlight, where they sailed along the picturesque Jurassic coast and had a thrilling time on the big swing, trapeze, and climbing walls, then enjoying a fun-filled disco in the evening.

Foxes: The trip to PGL at Osmington Bay was a huge success. The Foxes have devoted a lot of time and energy to their End of Year Show. The 6 Factor has been an opportunity for the class to showcase their unique talents, and they have really risen to the challenge. We wish all of them so much love, luck and happiness for the future at their Secondary Schools – they are going to smash it!



Tonwell School News



We love seeing our children enjoy new experiences. They have taken part in exciting challenges and trips recently. The whole school had a wonderful afternoon exploring Ware Library. It was a fun, informative and empowering session. They learnt about how reading helps them with their vocabulary, and that borrowing books is environmentally responsible and financially frugal! Some of our older children joined the students of Thundridge for an afternoon of Rugby. We are very proud of them for trying their best and representing our school.

Thundridge. The children had an amazing time and learned a lot about Hindu culture and beliefs. They heard stories important to Hinduism and enjoyed learning and performing some Indian dances. The boys and girls had the opportunity to experience wearing traditional Hindi clothing and bindis.

The staff and students of Tonwell School celebrated its 166 year existence in July. Sadly, there will be no more news from us due to closure on 31st August 2024.



Pizza Express very kindly offered us a free Pizza making session. The children learnt all about the different ingredients that go into making a pizza and then some fun facts about them such as where they are grown. Everyone enjoyed eating their creations back at school.

It was an absolute pleasure and

privilege to accompany Oak class on their Kingswood trip in June.

The children were fascinated with the exhibits at the Tring Natural History Museum and loved sketching different animals. I am so proud of the resilience and teamwork they showed at Green Park trying out all of the activities. The children really pushed themselves out of their comfort zones showing great courage but also supported their friends. Thank you to Mrs Townsend, Miss Irons and Mr Dove for helping to lead the trip.

Every term we have volunteers from Holy Trinity in Bengeo called Open the Book. The children always enjoy hearing and acting out bible stories. We are so grateful to the team for sharing their experience and knowledge with our school.

As part of Religious Education the children took part in a Hinduism workshop alongside the children of

A message from Sarah Bridgman

Last Head Teacher of Tonwell St Mary's School

It has been a pleasure and a privilege to work as Headteacher at Tonwell St Mary's. I have always valued our strong links with Holy Trinity. Reverend Thompson makes weekly visits to school to listen to readers and support children with meditation. Bob and his wonderful team of volunteers lead Open the Book collective worship time each month, which the children look forward to.

Holy Trinity has always been a special place for me personally. My parents, my grandparents and my great grandparents were married there. My grandfather served as a sidesman, my grandma cleaned the church and my mum even helped with Sunday school.

Eight and a half years ago, when I was considering applying to the school, I attended a Sunday service in which Reverend Thompson included my grandfather (Mick Suckling) in his weekly prayers. It was a special moment for me and felt like a sign that Tonwell was a place I was meant to be.

There have been many highs and lows over the years. I have loved working with some fabulous children, families, governors and staff. We are extremely saddened by the school's closure but hopeful for the future.

I would like to thank Reverend Thompson and all at Holy Trinity for their support for our school.

Editor's Note: After the school closure, Holy Trinity is grateful to Sarah for donating the Tonwell Chapel bible and other items to the church.



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As children transition into Main School (ages 5-11), the curriculum expands to accommodate diverse learning styles and foster strength of character. Small class sizes ensure personalised attention, allowing our teachers to explore and progress every child's talent.

Specialist teachers guide younger children through subjects such as Spanish, French, ICT, and Music, while older children, alongside these subjects, also delve deeper into English, Maths, and Science, with lessons tailored to help them excel.



Enrichment is at the core of our philosophy. From World Book Week, International Languages Day and Science Week, our dynamic calendar of events brings learning to life, fostering a love of knowledge beyond the classroom.

We are extremely proud to have been awarded Highly Commended for 'Excellence in STEM' in the Muddy Stiletto School Awards 2024 and to have been shortlisted for 'Co-educational Independent School of the Year', reflecting our commitment to educational excellence.

In the digital age we live in, we lead the way with innovative programmes that make learning fun and future-focused. We equip children with the skills to thrive online, ensuring they are both knowledgeable and safe.

At Duncombe, wellbeing is key. We create a positive environment that nurtures both physical and mental health, through initiatives like buddy sessions and wellbeing programmes, ensuring every child feels valued.



Our children graduate from Duncombe as confident, compassionate individuals ready to thrive in the 21st Century.

A Word from The Rectory

Play in ten thousand places

From The Vicar, The Revd Robert Thompson



General Synod, the governing body of the Church of England, has finally come up with a good idea. They have backed a statutory right to a minimum of 36 hours rest – a whole day and a half a week – for clergy office holders, including yours truly.

That's fine in principle, but I'm still none the wiser on where to find all this extra free time.

It's not as if I've got nothing else to do. I have two teenagers at home. You can tell that by the clothes strewn across the living room, the drum of goal-bound footballs hammering the garden fence, the sight of dirty dishes crowding on top of the dishwasher, breadcrumbs and butter smears littering every working surface. Make time for rest? Nice work if you can get it.

But I must try. 'All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy,' goes the proverb – and on that count the clergy can be a very dull breed indeed. I won't be the only vicar to feel guilt-stricken whilst off doing something pleasurable on parish time – scouring the cinema foyer to check for fellow clergy on an occasional weekday skive, driving back from some retail therapy at John Lewis with a heavy conscience and a lump in the throat. Wasn't there something more worthy and edifying I should be doing with my time?

Probably the only way I'd make time to let what little is left of my hair down would be if General Synod were to insist upon it. Somehow, once-upon-a-time, we got ourselves a reputation for being anti-pleasure, tea-drinking killjoys. Clearly my superiors know better. God's drink is coffee, of course – first invented by Ethiopian monks – the term 'cappuccino' referring to the shade of brown used for the habits of the Capuchin monks of Italy. Coffee that's born of extravagance, in intimation of an

extravagant God who formed an extravagant people, a craft out of the pleasures of roasted beans and frothy milk.

Which thought I shall hold on to the next time I wrap my hands around a lovely latte, put my feet up and rest a while. This is what God has asked of us. Jesus' makes it a gospel imperative to enjoy God's goodness; mysteriously and wondrously, God revels even more than we do in the slight bitterness of tea, the feel of sunshine on skin, a ripe mango, a juicy piano chord, or a good plot twist.

Throughout Christian history, faith has been a profoundly sensuous experience, a training ground for pleasure and delight. Churches should be a foretaste of God's life, an encounter with beauty and



The Children's Society

It doesn't seem possible, but it is time to count the house boxes for the Children's Society again.

If you would like your box to be counted or to make a donation, we would be very grateful if you could let us have it during September. The Children's Society depends on our support as shown in this example:

Charlie is 18 now but has been caring for his Mum since he was four. His mum suffers from multiple sclerosis and his care for her has varied from giving her medication to providing emotional support to help her look on the bright side. Charlie has found it hard to cope but has had support from The Children's Society Young Carers in Focus Service who have provided him with the skills, knowledge and confidence needed to improve his well-being and quality of life. Charlie says he has been offered a lifeline and the support he has had has allowed him to become his own person.

Many thanks
Libby Shillito

delight, joy and goodness. Christian worship and community have left an enormous legacy of beauty: the paintings of Rembrandt, the poems of Gerard Manley Hopkins, the music of Bach and U2, and basilicas, and iconography, and hot-crossed buns, Guinness and craft-brewed beer; the list of things to delight in could go on and on.

Most of us would count these as blessings. We intuitively know that goodness and beauty are connected to the divine, that 'every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights' as the epistle of St James has it.

Christians have more reason than most to greet these moments with gratitude. We aren't overly ascetic fundamentalists trying to stamp out delight or pleasure wherever it is found. We respond with adoration. We are not only grateful for pleasure; our hearts wonder what kind of Creator makes a world that overflows with such loveliness and beauty. As CS Lewis said, 'One's mind runs back up the sunbeam to the sun.'

Of course, there are times when that feels like a stretch. So much wars against those little moments of glory in our days. Anxiety and needling worries clang in the background; we carry around phones that tweet and chirp demanding our attention so that we'd hardly notice the birds. As busy, practical, hurried, and distracted people, we develop habits of inattention and miss tiny theophanies going on around us.

So we have to learn to surrender, to give up our flimsy illusion of control, and relax into beauty. Because it takes strength to enjoy the world, and we must exercise a sometimes forgotten muscle to rejoice and delight. If we neglect exercising that muscle – if we never savour a lazy afternoon, if we must always be volunteering at church or cleaning out the fridge or clocking in more hours – we'll forget how to notice beauty and we'll miss the unmistakable reality of goodness that pleasure trains us to see.

We must take up the practice – the privilege and responsibility – of noticing, savouring, delighting, the better to know God who, to use Gerard Manley Hopkins's phrase, 'plays in ten thousand places.'

I need choose but one.

With my prayers,

Robert Thompson

Bereavement Cafés in Hertford

What is a Bereavement Café? It is a place where anyone who has experienced the loss of someone close to them, no matter how long ago, is welcome. The atmosphere is very relaxed and informal.

The Cafés offer people a place to meet and connect with others who have had similar experiences to their own. It is a safe place to speak openly about experiences, or simply just meet up for a coffee or a cup of tea.

They are free to attend and you are welcome to drop in at any time during the afternoon or evening. Trained volunteers are on hand for further guidance and support should this be needed. Mostly, it helps just to talk. The hardest thing is walking through the door the first time!

You can find us at **The Secret Garden Café, 89 The Avenue, Hertford, SG14 3DU.**

The first Wednesday of every month, 2.30–4pm and third Thursday of every month 6.30–8pm (except August).

The Oasis Café, Hertford Methodist Church, Ware Road, Hertford, SG13 7DZ. Second Thursday of every month (except August).

For further details please ring **01992 413691.**

Parish Calendar SEPTEMBER 2024

Sunday 1st September		Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity	
9am	Holy Communion at Holy Trinity Church		
10am	Parish Communion at Holy Trinity Church		
2.30–4.30pm	St Leonard's Church: Tea and Tour		
Tuesday 3rd September			
8pm	Quiet Time at St Leonard's Church: Prayer and Meditation		
Wednesday 4th September			
2pm	Bengeo Afternoon WI, Church Hall, Duncombe Road		
2.30–4pm	Bereavement Cafe at Secret Garden Cafe, Bengeo		
Thursday 5th September			
10am	Holy Communion		
10.30am	Coffee Pot Charity Café, Church Hall, Duncombe Road		
Saturday 7th September			
St Leonard's Church Heritage Open Day HBHTC 'Bike and Hike'			
Sunday 8th September		Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity	
9am	Holy Communion at Holy Trinity Church		
10am	Parish Communion at Holy Trinity Church		
2.30–4.30pm	St Leonard's Church: Tea and Tour Heritage Open Day		
Tuesday 10th September			
8pm	Quiet Time at St Leonard's Church: Prayer and Meditation		
Wednesday 11th September			
10am	Craft Club, Church Hall, Duncombe Road		
Thursday 12th September			
10am	Holy Communion		
10.30am	Coffee Pot Charity Café, Church Hall, Duncombe Road		
2.30–4pm	Bereavement Cafe at The Oasis Cafe, Ware Road Methodist Church, Hertford		
Saturday 14th September			
7.30pm	Concert at St Leonard's Church Andrews/Massey Duo (Flute and Guitar)		
Sunday 15th September		Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity	
9am	Holy Communion at Holy Trinity Church		
10am	Parish Communion at Holy Trinity Church		
2.30–4.30pm	St Leonard's Church: Tea and Tour		
Tuesday 17th September			
8pm	Quiet Time at St Leonard's Church: Prayer and Meditation		
Thursday 19th September			
10am	Holy Communion		
10.30am	Coffee Pot Charity Café, Church Hall, Duncombe Road		
6.30–8pm	Bereavement Cafe at Secret Garden Cafe, Bengeo		
Sunday 22nd September		Harvest Festival	
9am	Holy Communion at Holy Trinity Church		
10am	Parish Communion at Holy Trinity Church		
2.30–4.30pm	St Leonard's Church: Tea and Tour		
6.30pm	Harvest Festival Songs of Praise Service at St Leonard's Church Followed by the Friends of St Leonard's AGM		
Tuesday 24th September			
8pm	Quiet Time at Holy Trinity Church: Prayer and Meditation		
Thursday 26th September			
10am	Holy Communion		
10.30am	Coffee Pot Charity Café, Church Hall, Duncombe Road		
Sunday 29th September		St Michael and All Angels	
9am	Holy Communion at Holy Trinity Church		
10am	All Age Service at Holy Trinity Church		

Parish Calendar OCTOBER 2024

Tuesday 1st October	
8pm	Quiet Time at Holy Trinity Church: Prayer and Meditation
Wednesday 2nd October	
2pm	Bengeo Afternoon WI, Church Hall, Duncombe Road
2.30–4pm	Bereavement Cafe at Secret Garden Cafe, Bengeo
Thursday 3rd October	
10am	Holy Communion
10.30am	Coffee Pot Charity Café, Church Hall, Duncombe Road
Sunday 6th October Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity	
9am	Holy Communion at Holy Trinity Church
10am	Parish Communion at Holy Trinity Church
Tuesday 8th October	
8pm	Quiet Time at Holy Trinity Church: Prayer and Meditation
Wednesday 9th October	
10am	Craft Club, Church Hall, Duncombe Road
Thursday 10th October	
10am	Holy Communion
10.30am	Coffee Pot Charity Café, Church Hall, Duncombe Road
2.30–4pm	Bereavement Cafe at The Oasis Cafe, Ware Road Methodist Church, Hertford
Sunday 13th October Twentieth Sunday after Trinity	
9am	Holy Communion at Holy Trinity Church
10am	Parish Communion at Holy Trinity Church
Thursday 17th October	
10am	Holy Communion
10.30am	Coffee Pot Charity Café, Church Hall, Duncombe Road
6.30–8pm	Bereavement Cafe at Secret Garden Cafe, Bengeo
Sunday 20th October Twenty-first Sunday after Trinity	
9am	Holy Communion at Holy Trinity Church
10am	Parish Communion at Holy Trinity Church
Tuesday 22nd October	
8pm	Quiet Time at Holy Trinity Church: Prayer and Meditation
Thursday 24th October	
10am	Holy Communion
10.30am	Coffee Pot Charity Café, Church Hall, Duncombe Road
Sunday 27th October Bible Sunday	
9am	Holy Communion at Holy Trinity Church
10am	Parish Communion at Holy Trinity Church
Tuesday 29th October	
8pm	Quiet Time at Holy Trinity Church: Prayer and Meditation
Thursday 31st October	
10.30am	Coffee Pot Charity Café, Church Hall, Duncombe Road

Parish Prayers

Daily Prayers for September

1. Those in society who are disabled
2. The Drive
3. Christian Churches in Mauritania
4. The Church of England Bishops' Council
5. Maidstone Prison, Kent, for foreign national men
6. Young Life Hertford
7. Hertford and Ware Street Pastors
8. Future Hope Hertford
9. The Garden Cottage,
at the north of our parish boundary
10. Christian Churches in Mali
11. The Church of England Church Schools
12. Prison Chaplains and Prayer Groups
13. Hertford and Ware Food Bank
14. Herts and Beds Historic Churches Trust
15. All Nations Christian College, Easney
16. The Orchard, Bengo
17. Christian Churches in Cameroon
18. Church House Publishing
19. Manchester High Security Prison
20. HertFood, Port Vale, our Lent Charity
21. Local Sports Clubs
22. Our Church maintenance
23. The Orchard, Tonwell
24. Christian Churches in Central African Republic
25. The Archbishops' Council
26. The Church Army work for the homeless
27. Chester Cathedral
28. All who work for peace
29. Our Choir
30. The Vineyard

Daily Prayers for October

1. All affected by the closure of Tonwell St Mary's C of E School
2. Thundridge C of E School
3. HMP Moorland Young Offenders Prison, Doncaster
4. Thundridge School Staff and Teachers
5. Executive Head Teacher Mrs S Bridgman
6. Thundridge School Governors
7. The Warren
8. Bengo School
9. Head Teacher Mrs J Page
10. HMP Morton Hall, Swinderby, Lincoln
11. Bengo School Staff and Teachers
12. Bengo School Governors
13. Nurse Edith Cavell and all who work in war zone hospitals
14. The Wick
15. St Teresa of Avila
16. Our 'Open the Book' and outreach into schools
17. HMP New Hall, West Yorkshire
18. Duncombe School
19. Head Teacher Mr J Phelan
20. Duncombe School Staff and Teachers
21. Tower Street
22. Duncombe School Board of Directors
23. Bengo Parish Pupils and Parents
24. HMP North Sea Camp, Boston
25. Chichester Cathedral
26. Mill Mead School
27. Head Teacher Mrs Walsh
28. Trinity Court
29. Mill Mead School Staff and Teachers
30. Mill Mead School Governors
31. HMP Northumberland, Morpeth

Register

Funeral 12th July **Barbara Taylor**
 Funeral 23rd July **Joyce Craig**
 Wedding 10th August
Alan Cracknell and **Linda Martin**



Quiet Time

Quiet Time at Holy Trinity Church.

Lay Led Service

The fifth Sunday of the month is a Lay Led Service. On the 29th September this will be an All Age Service for children. There will be no communion at this service so please join the 9am service if you wish to participate in the Eucharist.

Church Contacts

Team Vicar

The Reverend Robert Thompson
 The Rectory, Byde Street, Bengeo, 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, Bengeo, 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/updates

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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- KNEBWORTH • 01438 812365
- BUNTINGFORD • 01763 274111
- WELWYN GARDEN CITY • 01707 390018
- WELWYN • 01438 714686
- HERTFORD • 01992 582052
- WARE • 01920 468551
- LETCHWORTH • 01462 684292
- HODDESDON • 01992 471709
- HARWOOD PARK • 01438 812515
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