

JANUARY • FEBRUARY 2020

# Bengeo Magazine

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# Bengeio Parish Magazine and Community News



Welcome to the first issue of the 'new look' Bengeio Magazine which covers parish and community news.

We hope to involve many local organisations and announce upcoming events that happen in our neighbourhood. Do contact the Editorial Team if you have any future events that you wish to publicise. Please bear in mind that the magazine comes out every two months and the copy date is the middle of the previous month. (See panel for dates.)

This is YOUR magazine and we want it to reflect Bengeio community life. There is so much going on in Bengeio that people need to know about. We hope this new issue will have a wider scope and broaden the readership.

We have a list of local organisations near the end of the magazine and links to Facebook groups and web sites. If there are any that have been missed out, please let us know. We aim to be a co-ordinating point for all information about Bengeio, so help us to achieve this.

Although there is a charge for a subscription to the copy delivered to your door and we rely on advertising revenue, any surplus at the end of the year will go towards local community projects.

## The Editorial Team

Front cover picture: Frosty morning  
Photo: Diana Howarth

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## Editorial Team

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

Copy dates for 2020. Items should be sent to the above email address by the middle of the month preceding publication: 13th February, 16th April, 18th June, 13th August, 15th October.

## Advertising

Please address all advertising enquiries to  
[magazine@parishofbengeio.com](mailto:magazine@parishofbengeio.com)

## Distribution

Bengeio: Pam Martin

Tonwell: Pat Lavis

The magazine can be delivered to your door for a subscription of £6.00 per year. Contact Pam Martin, phone 01992 422441, to ask about obtaining the magazine.

Individual issue: £1.00

6 issues per year: January/February; March/April; May/June; July/August; September/October; November/December.

The magazine is printed by MSPC Ltd, Unit 10, Hartham View Industrial Estate, Hartham Lane, Hertford, Hertfordshire SG14 1QN.

## Parish Events – What's on

**10:30am - 12noon**  
**Duncombe Road Church Hall**  
**all Thursdays**



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**The Lobster Pot**  
**Catering Company**  
**Benge o Lunch**

*'Let's do lunch!' Our Monday lunch clubs in the Church Hall are a great success. Why not bring someone who'd appreciate a trip out and a chat? Invite a neighbour as your guest or just bring yourself if you'd prefer someone else to do the cooking for a change.*

*Coming together for food and fellowship is something that Benge o Church does especially well. Whether it's bread and wine on a Sunday morning or a three-course meal on a Monday afternoon, there's a lot to be said for the simple virtue of coming together around a meal table as friends.*

**Book on 01438 798416**

**Wednesday Craft Club**

Our monthly craft club



10 am - 12 noon

2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month in the Church Hall

£1.00 per person including refreshments

**Next meeting is the 12th February**

**Hertford and Ware Railway Society**

Meeting most first Tuesday evenings of the month in  
**Richard Hale School, Hertford, SG13 8EN**

More information from David Cramphorn,  
**hawrsoc@gmail.com**

**4th February:** David Dent – *The Hertford Loop*  
**3rd March:** Phil Wood – *Continental Decades*  
**7th April:** David Cramphorn – *Indian Railways, Part 3*  
**12th May:** Rob Poole – *Railways of Essex, Thameside*

Tea and coffee from 7.30pm for 8pm start until 10pm.  
Non-members welcome for a small fee.

**Benge o Ladies' Circle**

Meetings now held on the third Thursday of the month  
2pm in the Church Hall, Duncombe Road

We are a local friendly group that have been meeting for over 50 years!

Why not come and join us?

You don't have to join the group, just be a visitor and come along for an afternoon out. There will be speakers most months, but we have social evenings as well. There are outings arranged in the summer. We would like to see some new faces, so please come.

*Entrance is only £3.50 which includes a hot drink and biscuits.*



# Bengeio Neighbourhood Area Plan

## What is the Bengeio Neighbourhood Area Plan and why is it important?



The plan itself is a planning document concerned primarily with land use. While that may sound boring it is in fact incredibly important because it gives local people the

unique opportunity to become involved in the planning process, and to help shape the Bengeio we want for the future. The neighbourhood plan has already been written and is now in the review stage. It covers the whole of Bengeio Ward which stretches from the Three Lakes to St Andrew's Street – these are the political ward boundaries.

### How did we get to where we are now?

The plan started with a large public meeting which was attended by around 200 residents. At the time there was also a wide interest in the quarry campaign and I think at the beginning people saw the plan as growing out of the Campaign. But this soon changed and the plan took on a life of its own.

We created 5 working groups

1. Community, Heritage and Culture
2. Homes and Development
3. Natural Environment and Green Spaces
4. Transport and Travel
5. Business and Enterprise

Each working group met and came up with a set of policies, it is these policies that through a process of filtration and negotiation became the plan as we see it today.

The neighbourhood plan consultation process has involved.

- »»» A public meeting at Bengeio School
- »»» A business forum
- »»» A household survey
- »»» A children's survey
- »»» Two workshops for working group members
- »»» An exhibition on survey outcomes at Bengeio School
- »»» An exhibition of survey outcomes at Mill Mead school

»»» 2 drop in sessions one at the Church Hall and the other at Mill Mead School

The whole community has been leafletted with a cut down version of the plan and as advertisement for each of the above events. In fact there have been repeated leaflet drops, jolly hard work involving a lot of people each time.

Some of the things we have considered is how we could make Bengeio a better place for people to work and live.

So for example the idea of a GP satellite surgery has been raised and discussed and is one of the ideas mentioned in the plan. The idea of increasing walking and cycling is also mentioned in the plan.

### What is the next stage?

The next stage of the plan will be to carry out some of the projects listed in it. These include things like a "Wildlife Garden". Improvements to cycling and walking infrastructure. Perhaps the creation of a new cycle path on the old railway land in lower Bengeio. We've thought about providing better facilities for teenagers and young people.

The current effort to preserve the unique wildlife habitat of Beane Marsh came from an emergency meeting of some members of the Neighbourhood Plan team and Councillors and the efforts of one young woman from lower Bengeio. See page 7 for more information about this project.

### What might Bengeio look like 20 years in the future?

The plan has a vision statement.

'Hertford Bengeio Ward is a vibrant community with easy access to beautiful countryside and historic buildings. Our vision is to create a place for people to walk and cycle safely, with well-connected routes. Development will be to high environmental standards and natural areas and biodiversity will be enhanced and protected. The aim is for facilities to be accessible and designed to offer a diverse range of activities. With a strong business economy, a thriving cultural centre, and valued local heritage, it will be a place people will want to live, work and visit.'

**John Howson**  
*Chair of BNAP*

# More Announcements

## ***Sunshine and Rainbows***

***A free playgroup for bereaved parents and their children, born before or after loss***

*Anyone affected by the loss of a baby, trying for another child or pregnant after a loss, you are welcome to join us for free in a safe and friendly environment.*

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*Join us from 11am until noon on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month*

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*For more information contact Gigliola Hartley  
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*Or find us on Facebook*

*'Sunshine and Rainbows Baby and Toddler Group Hertford'*



## **Beng eo Church Hall Duncombe Road**

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or download the Booking Form from  
the Beng eo Parish website  
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## **Church Flower Donations**

Anyone wishing to make a donation towards the cost of flowers in Church in memory of a loved one or to mark an anniversary please contact Pam Thain on 01992 583733.

*Please make cheques payable to Holy Trinity Flower Fund*

## **The Parish of Beng eo Listening Service**

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## **Citizens Advice East Herts**

**citizens  
advice**

Council Office, Wallfields,  
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Phone : 03444 111 444  
(Mon to Fri: 10am to 4pm)

Online and email advice: [www.ehcas.org.uk](http://www.ehcas.org.uk)

Also at 20 Tudor Square (near Prezzo),  
West Street, Ware on Tuesdays from 10am to 1pm.





# Save Beane Marshes

## What has happened?

The land by the River Beane adjacent to Beane Road near Hertford North station was up for auction. Save Beane Marshes negotiated its withdrawal from auction to purchase it for the community, as a nature reserve. A beautiful asset at the gateway to Hertford!

## How much do we need to raise?

We have reached our initial target of £165,000 thanks to local fundraising activity and generous community donations. Hertford Town Council have supported us with £30,000. We have recently found out that the Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust (HMWT) will cover the shortfall in the funding so that the purchase of land can go ahead. A wonderful Christmas present for the team and people of Hertford!



The best example of a chalk river bank in the county.



Wasp Spider in the marsh.

## What's the longer term plan?

Our objective has always been to conserve and enhance the land for the benefit of ecology and wildlife, and thus also to the benefit of the local community. HMWT have praised the site for its biodiversity value (Beane Marshes lies adjacent to a globally rare and ecologically rich chalk stream). We would like to give the land to HMWT to own and manage, to which they have agreed subject to legal conveyancing.

We continue to fund raise as the site will require longer term maintenance and we want to promote education around the value of chalk streams.

Please stay in touch through our website at [savebeanemarshes.org.uk](http://savebeanemarshes.org.uk).

**Hannah Lilley and John Howson**



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# Concerts in Bengoe



## CONCERTS: JANUARY - MAY 2020

All 2020 tickets can be purchased from Bengoe Post Office SG14 3ES and Hertford Tourist Office on 01992 584 322. All tickets are £14 (apart from The Easter Concert which is £20) and are FREE for under 14's. Tickets are also available on the door, subject to availability.

**WEDNESDAY 8th JANUARY, 2020**

**ELIAS QUARTET**

Beethoven : Quartet No. 15, Op. 13  
Sally Beamish : Reed Stanzas

With a recent five star review from Classical Music Magazine and their most recent CD being Gramophone Magazine's Editors Choice, it's easy to see why Elias Quartet is one of the most celebrated ensembles on the international stage today.

**SATURDAY 1st FEBRUARY, 2020**

**MARY BEVAN - SOPRANO**

**VIV MCCLEAN - PIANO**

Having recently been awarded an MBE on the Queens honours birthday list, Mary Bevan enjoys singing with conductors and orchestras all over the world. She will be joined by Viv McClean who is credited by The Sunday Times for his '...technical mastery'. English programme to include Purcell, Vaughan Williams, Holst and William Walton.

**SATURDAY 21st MARCH, 2020**

**MENDELSSOHN D MINOR PIANO TRIO**

Rhys Watkins - Violin

Rebecca Gulliver - Cello

Sophia Rahman - Piano

With over 20 critically acclaimed CD's to her name, Sophia Rahman joins principal cellist of The London Symphony Orchestra and Hertford based LSO violinist to play the most celebrated trios by Mendelssohn and Clara Schumann.

**FRIDAY 10th APRIL, 2020 (Good Friday)**

**THE EASTER CONCERT**

RACHEL PODGER - SOLO VIOLIN

Sonata no 3 in C major BWV 1005 23'

Partita no 3 in E major BWV 1006 20'

Winner of Gramophone's 2018 'Artist Of The Year Award' Rachel Podger is described as '... the unsurpassed British glory of the baroque violin' by The Times and '...there is probably no more inspirational musician working today' by Gramophone magazine.

**SATURDAY 23rd MAY, 2020**

**UNITED STRINGS OF EUROPE SIMON CALLAGHAN - PIANO**

Beethoven: Piano Concerto No. 4 in G major Op. 58

Beethoven: String Quartet in B-flat major Op. 130 (arr. Azkoul)

Celebrating Beethoven by uniting musicians from around the globe to play with 'phenomenal' Steinway Artist, Simon Callaghan to perform Beethoven's most loved piano concerto.



All concerts are at 7.30pm and will be held at Holy Trinity Church, New Road, Bengoe, Hertfordshire SG14 3JL



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TICKETS CAN ALSO BE PURCHASED ON THE DOOR BUT ARE SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY ON THE NIGHT



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## Children's Society Christingle Service



**The Children's Society**

Thank you to everyone who made our Christingle Service so special; our Helpers who prepared the 100 Christingles, Robert who led the Service, Anne who gave an entertaining talk about the Christingle and her chocolate orange! Thanks also to all the Helpers at the Service and lastly our wonderful musicians who deserve a special thank you.

The Service was very well attended and we were

able to raise £247 for the invaluable work of the Children's Society.

All the house boxes have now been counted and we are able to say that the total of those boxes plus all the fund raising events during 2019 is £2,363. This wouldn't be possible without all the commitment of our dedicated Supporters throughout the year.

With our grateful thanks and our very best wishes for 2020.

**Libby and Peter Shillito**

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# COPS 'Little Theatre' Balfour Street

The January production is *'Alfie'* by Bill Naughton at 7.45pm from 23rd–31st January 2020. We chose this play of the 1960s to celebrate our 50 years of productions in The Little Theatre. At the time this was an extremely popular play and was made into a very successful film starring Michael Caine.



The ultimate amoral 'swinger', Alfie swaggers and philosophises his way through a parade of 'birds' in 1960s London, allowing the

audience to eavesdrop as he goes. When one carefree entanglement proves too close for even Alfie's comfort, the 'swinger' lands with a thud.

We have a short run of *'The Wasp'* by Morgan Lloyd Malcolm from Thursday to Saturday 6th, 7th and 8th February. This is a guest production first performed at The Barn Theatre Studio.

Our spring production is *'Rabbit Hole'* by David Lindsay-Abaire. There will be more details in the

next issue of the magazine.

As you can see from information on the links below, not only is it the Theatre's 50th anniversary, but we have also launched our Theatre Development Fund. This means all ticket prices now include a £1.00 levy but still remain at £12.00 for members and £14.50 for non-members, inclusive of a welcome drink, programme and interval refreshments. We have a number of plans and ideas which will be advised as next year progresses.

## COPS links

[www.cops.org.uk](http://www.cops.org.uk) for general information

[www.cops.org.uk/buy-tickets.php](http://www.cops.org.uk/buy-tickets.php) for all methods of buying tickets.

[www.ticketsource.co.uk/cops](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/cops) for on line bookings

[www.cops.org.uk/history.php](http://www.cops.org.uk/history.php) for the history

[www.cops.org.uk/theatre.php](http://www.cops.org.uk/theatre.php) about the theatre



## Courtyard Arts

### Courtyard Arts Gallery

#### Creative Minds

**Hertford Regional College Creative Enterprise Students**

**7th–18th January**

Presenting the innovative journeys of tomorrow's practitioners, curated by students of Graphic Design, Visual Merchandising and Fine Art.

#### Fleshing Out

**University of Hertfordshire Fine Art Students**  
**22nd January–1st February**

Everyday encounters with the surrounding world provide the materials – exhibiting in the gallery space invites an exploration of the works' relationships to the outside world.

#### Fragments

**Work in Progress**

**4th–29th February**

Collection of new work from a group of textile

artists exploring and interpreting the theme of 'Fragments' through a wide range of approaches and materials.



### Hertford Theatre Gallery

#### Invisible Lines

**Hertford Regional College Photography Students**

**7th January–1st February**

A collection in response to the Sony World Photography competition – touching on issues of identity, the landscape and social exclusion.

#### Piers from the Sea, Part Three:

#### Views from a Sea Kayak

**John Rowlinson**

**4th–29th February**

The culmination of a unique three-year project, etched prints documenting each of the piers of Britain from a rarely captured viewpoint.

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# Lifesaver installed in The Avenue



Headlines Hair Studio have raised an amazing £2000 to purchase and install a top of the range defibrillator outside their salon in Bengoe.

The Headlines team decided in June 2019 that we should have a defibrillator in Bengoe that would be accessible to the whole community 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Fund raising and awareness started on the 26th July with all of the Headlines team raising £647 from a cake sale. Posters helped raise awareness amongst our clients and with generous donations and yet another cake sale in October we reached our target of £2000 in November.

We would like to thank Lee Read, local electrician, for installing the equipment free of charge. A big thankyou to everyone who supported our fundraiser: we are proud to have given the residents of Bengoe a lifesaving piece of equipment!

**Suzanne Sexton**

## How do Defibrillators work?

A cardiac arrest is when the heart, as a result of an electrical failure, stops beating completely. Defibrillators allow users to provide high-energy, powerful electric shocks to the heart through pads which are placed on the chest near the heart. It's the shock itself that's called 'defibrillation' and 'jump starts' the heart again.

Every minute without defibrillation reduces a victim's survival rate. That is why access to immediate help is so important.

## Meals for Rough Sleepers in Hertford

The Housing Options Scheme at East Herts Council, in partnership with churches of Hertford and Ware, is to provide rough sleepers with an evening meal every night over the winter period on a Church Rota basis. People are to be invited through a voucher system that would be available from various sectors similar to that for the Foodbank. This scheme will run during the cold winter months from November 2019 until March 2020 and food will be served from 5pm until 7pm at the Womens' Royal Voluntary Service, Baker Street, Hertford.

Volunteers from Churches around Hertford and Ware with individuals from East Herts Council and Future Living are asked to make a simple balanced meal and dessert on a rota basis around their allocated evening. Here in Bengoe Holy Trinity church volunteers are providing and delivering meals on Tuesdays throughout December, January, February and possibly March.

June Warriner is our local coordinator. She has people willing to make meals and deliver at the moment, but can always do with more people in reserve. She is also asking for winter wear of hats, gloves, scarves and socks for the WRVS in Baker Street. Contact June on 01992 283060 or by email at [junewarriner@hotmail.com](mailto:junewarriner@hotmail.com) if you are willing to help.

# What's going on in Beng eo?



## Beng eo Club

### Fitness

Come and get fit with Pilates and Yoga for adults and Karate for children.

- »»» Contact Marta (07833 145708) for Pilates on Monday evenings and Friday mornings.
- »»» Contact Jane at JB Fitness (07768 778390) for Pilates on Monday and Thursday mornings.
- »»» Contact Kirsty (07912 107915) for Yoga on Wednesday mornings
- »»» Contact Jason about Karate for Children on (07540 429627) after school on Tuesdays.

### Bingo and Entertainments

Our Bingo and Entertainment is open to non-members for a fee of £1. It costs just £30 to join the Beng eo Club which includes a one off payment of £20 and an annual subscription of only £10 a year.

**Bingo** – Come and join Bingo sessions on Tuesday evenings and selected Saturday evenings upstairs in the Beng eo Suite:

- »»» Saturday 4th and 18th January
- »»» Saturday 1st, 15th and 22nd February

**Entertainment** – we offer entertainment on certain Saturday evenings:

- »»» 25th January – Kelly's Heroes
- »»» 8th February – Steve Scott (Motown and Soul)
- »»» 29th February – OMJ (local Beng eo Group)

### The Greyhound

Come to The Greyhound for Tuesday Quiz nights and look out for the



announcements of Live Music events scheduled for January and February.

### White Lion

The White Lion will be closed for refurbishment the second week in January. There will be new toilets, flooring, furniture, decoration and improved disabled access.



The restaurant area will be expanded and the pub will offer a new good value set menu on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

### WEA

The WEA Spring Course is called '*Money, Money, Money!*' A compelling investigation of the history and uses of money in the economy.

The tutor is Andy Beharrell and the course runs for 10 weeks on Tuesdays from 10am starting on the 14th January until the 31st March (except for Half Term week) at the Church Hall, Duncombe Road.

You can enrol online at [www.wea.org.uk](http://www.wea.org.uk). Course Number is C2227109 and costs £58.

### U3A

An astonishing number of U3A groups meet in Hertford and there are four that are local to Beng eo meeting in the Church Hall. If you want to find out more about these groups contact Ian Butler at [ian.butler725@gmail.com](mailto:ian.butler725@gmail.com) who will put you in touch with the group leader.

The Beng eo groups are: Gardens, Ukuleles, Handbell Ringing, Simple Fitness and Tai Chi

### Clubs and Societies

*Do we know about your group?*

The main contacts for local Clubs and Societies will be listed on page 26. If your club or society would like a mention, please get in touch. We know that there is lots more happening in Beng eo. Email us with contact details and a short description [magazine@parishofbengeo.com](mailto:magazine@parishofbengeo.com).



# Bengeio Lives – WILLIAM EARL JOHNS



William was born in Port Vale on 5 February 1893, the son of a William Eastman Johns, a tailor, and Elizabeth Johns (née Earl), the daughter of a master butcher. They moved to Cowbridge

in about 1900. He is best remembered as the creator of the ace pilot and adventurer 'Biggles' and included some of his experiences at Hertford Grammar School in his book *Biggles Goes to School*.

On 6 October 1914 he married Maude Hunt, the daughter of the Rev. John Hunt, the vicar of Little Dunham in Norfolk where he was working at the time. Their only son, William Earl Carmichael Johns, was born in March 1916.

## War and flying

In 1913 he joined the Territorial Army in Swaffham and was mobilised in August 1914. He served abroad with the Norfolk Yeomanry and in the Machine Corps, was commissioned into the Royal Flying Corps (RFC) and posted back to England for flight training.

In April 1918 he was appointed flying instructor at Marske-by-the-Sea in Cleveland, where he wrote off three planes in three days due to engine failure (crashing into the sea, the sand and through a fellow officer's back door) and twice shot off his own propeller with the forward-mounted machine-gun! The Commanding Officer at Marske was a Major Champion, known as 'Gimlet', a name used later by Johns for the hero of a series of stories. He was a flying instructor then performed six weeks of active duty as a bomber pilot on the Western Front before he was shot down and taken prisoner on 16 September 1918. After the war, he remained in the Royal Air Force. By 1923 He had left his wife and met Doris 'Dol' May Leigh. They set up home together in Newcastle in 1924. Although he never divorced Maude Hunt, Doris Leigh was known as 'Mrs Johns' until her death.

He retired from the RAF with the rank of Flying Officer in 1927. As a recruiting officer, Johns initially rejected T E Lawrence (of Arabia) as an RAF recruit for obviously giving a false name, but was later ordered to accept him.

## Writing

W E Johns was an extraordinarily productive author and editor. In his 56-year writing career he penned over 160

books, including nearly one hundred *Biggles* books, more than sixty other novels and factual books, and scores of magazine articles and short stories. He also wrote the 11-volume *Worrals* series (1941–1950), detailing the exploits of plucky WAAF Flight Officer Joan *Worrals* Worralsen. These were created at the request of the Air Ministry to inspire more young women to join the Women's Auxiliary Air Force.

After leaving the RAF, Johns became a newspaper air correspondent. The first 'Biggles' book, *The Camels are Coming*, was published in August 1932, credited to 'William Earle', but later he adopted the more familiar byline 'Capt W E Johns'. The rank was self-awarded; his actual rank of RAF Flying Officer was equivalent to an army Lieutenant. He edited *Popular Flying* and later its weekly sister *Flying* until the beginning of 1939. He was removed as editor because of pressure from the government as he opposed the policy of appeasement. During World War II the propaganda value of Johns' books was seen by the Air Ministry. This opposition to appeasement is reflected in some of his books

He continued writing Biggles stories until his death in 1968. The original for the character of Biggles was speculated to have been Air Commander Cecil George Wigglesworth. Apparently Johns had known Wigglesworth in World War I. Unique among children's writers of the time, from 1935 Johns employed a working-class character as an equal member of the Biggles team – 'Ginger' Habbleshwaite, later Hebbleshwaite, the son of a Northumberland miner.

## Marilyn Taylor



# Local Links for Live Discussion

All these links are live in the digital version of the magazine

## Facebook Groups and Websites Bengoe

### Love Bengoe

[www.facebook.com/groups/334572663543095](https://www.facebook.com/groups/334572663543095)

### Bengoe Residents

[www.facebook.com/groups/698539580298046](https://www.facebook.com/groups/698539580298046)

### Molewood Residents Association

[www.molewood.org.uk](http://www.molewood.org.uk)

## Facebook Causes/Campaigns Bengoe

### Stop Bengoe Quarry

[www.facebook.com/groups/992628417479697](https://www.facebook.com/groups/992628417479697)

### Save Bengoe Countryside Stop the Quarry

[www.facebook.com/savebengoe](https://www.facebook.com/savebengoe)

### Save Beane Marshes

[www.facebook.com/groups/savebeanemarshes](https://www.facebook.com/groups/savebeanemarshes)

[www.facebook.com/groups/1952984661585380](https://www.facebook.com/groups/1952984661585380)

## Hertford including Bengoe

### Hertford Town Council Events

[www.hertford.gov.uk](http://www.hertford.gov.uk)

[www.facebook.com/hertfordtowncouncil](https://www.facebook.com/hertfordtowncouncil)

### Pages

I Love Hertford Page

[www.facebook.com/ilovehertford](https://www.facebook.com/ilovehertford)

### Hertford Facebook Groups

Photos of Hertford, Ware and surround

[www.facebook.com/groups/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/photosofhertfordandware)

[photosofhertfordandware](https://www.facebook.com/groups/photosofhertfordandware)

### Local History

[www.ourhertfordandware.org.uk/content/category/groups/hertford-and-ware-local-history-society](http://www.ourhertfordandware.org.uk/content/category/groups/hertford-and-ware-local-history-society)

## Parish Group

### Holy Trinity Church Bengoe

[www.facebook.com/HolyTrinityBengoe](https://www.facebook.com/HolyTrinityBengoe)

Parish website: [www.parishofbengoe.com](http://www.parishofbengoe.com)

If you want to more up-to-date information about what is going on in Bengoe, then link to these local websites and social media pages. Please tell us about other links you think would be useful to Bengoe residents.





Duncombe  
School

An Independent Preparatory  
School and Nursery

# Duncombe School



At Duncombe School and Treetops Pre-School our teachers nurture children's minds through an inspiring and enriched educational journey and the Autumn term saw testament to this.

We've welcomed local children's author Alice Hemming to Team Duncombe as our Patron of Reading, enriching our English curriculum. Alice has taken part in workshops across the school, starting with our Treetops children where they welcomed Alice into their Reading Café. They listened with great excitement as she read a book from her collection, bringing her characters to life like only an author can.

Over in Main School, Alice hosted a Creative Writing Masterclass with Year 5 and 6 children. Alice shared with the children different ways to capture ideas and inspiration through everyday life and objects. Using a single button, with a unique design, the children created a storyboard, showing how their idea would come together to create a story.

Such a wonderful way of bringing learning to life and obtaining new skills. We are looking forward to seeing Alice during 2020 and welcoming the Hertford community to join us for some of our activities.

Our Head of Science orchestrated a whole school Science week. Every teacher incorporated a Science aspect into their lessons, demonstrating to the children science can happen outside the laboratory. In Treetops, the Pre-School lessons of Literacy, Art and Maths were brought to life through activities based on 'Aliens Love Underpants', even their Labtots session was space themed! Whilst in Upper School, during Maths lessons, the children found the distance of the planets from the sun and used ratios to make a model.

If you would like to find out more about a Duncombe education and how we bring learning to life, please come along to our Open Morning January 23rd or March 12th. Visit our website for more details.



# Bengeo Primary School

A few of the events we have celebrated recently at Bengeo Primary School

## Year 5 Harvest Assembly

In October, our Year 5's performed a Harvest assembly and children brought in food donations for the Hertford Food Bank. The Food bank, who were very appreciative of the school's support, collected the donations in their new van!



## Anti-bullying Week 11–15th November

We took part in 'Anti-bullying week', raising awareness of this through assemblies, class lessons and activities. We also celebrated 'Odd Socks Day' by asking the children to come to school wearing odd socks to celebrate our differences.



## Remembrance Service

Three of our children represented the school at the Mayor's Remembrance Service at Hertford Castle on 6th November. This was a very poignant occasion and the children were able to place remembrance crosses on behalf of Bengeo School.



## Isabel Hospice Charity Day

On Friday 22nd November the school held a charity day in aid of the Isabel Hospice; the charity chosen by our school councillors for this term. The children brought in money donations and bric-a-brac for the hospice shops. We raised £299.83 and a big mountain of saleable goods were accepted gratefully by the hospice volunteer







# Mill Mead School



On Friday 6th December the House and Vice House Captains of Mill Mead Primary School visited a dementia group in Welwyn Garden City. We have four houses in Mill Mead with a Captain and Vice Captain in each house so eight of us went to Welwyn. We have been visiting a dementia group in Hertford for a number of months and both the children and adults found the visits so rewarding we were introduced to the group in Welwyn. When we arrived we sang some Christmas songs and carols with the group while Mrs Nesbitt accompanied us on the piano. We chose songs that we all love including Away in a Manger, Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer and We Wish You a Merry Christmas which everyone enjoyed and knew all the words to!

We then spent some time sitting at tables with the group helping them complete word searches and crosswords, this was a little more tricky. We all moved around the tables to make sure we met everyone in the group and tried each of the different puzzles. To finish our visit we joined the group having cakes and sweets.

As we are all new to our roles of House and Vice House Captains this was our first visit to a dementia group and we all had an enjoyable afternoon. We have another visit to the dementia group in Hertford before Christmas which we are very much looking forward to attending. We'd like to say thank you to the group for making us feel so welcome.



# ALL AGE SERVICES IN THE PARISH OF BENGEO

**Children matter at Holy Trinity Church, Bengoe. Join us at 10am for our special occasional services throughout the year, helping the next generation find their first steps in faith**

## **Dates for 2020**

**2nd February:** Sweetness & Light Sunday

**1st March:** New You Sunday

**22nd March:** 'Love You, Mum' Sunday

**12th April:** Easter Day

**3rd May:** Caring Shepherd Sunday

**7th June:** Three in One Sunday

**5th July:** St Leonard's Sunday (at St Leonard's Church)

**27th September:** Harvest Festival

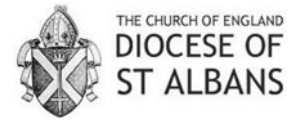
**1st November:** God's Good Guys Sunday

**25th December:** Christmas Day





# Tonwell St Mary's C of E School



Our children took part in the annual Christmas Tree Festival at Leaside Church in Ware.

The School Council have been busy fundraising for Children in Need. They raised a grand total of £140 by organising a pyjama day and after school cake sale. Well done!



A huge thanks to the volunteers from Holy Trinity who have been leading 'Open the Book' worship times in school. The sessions help the children to access and understand Bible stories.



Our children loved performing their nativity 'Shine, Star, Shine' at Holy Trinity church on the 10th December. Our juniors also presented readings and prayers.

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

**Headteacher: Mrs Sarah Bridgman**

We are offering 30 hour places in our Nursery class.

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

Visits are warmly welcomed.

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

Dear God,

It is time to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas – it's not about the presents or the Christmas tree. It's about how you gave us your only son to help us understand love, peace and especially to believe in you! At Christmas, I remember my friends and family: how they comfort me when I am blue, when they make me laugh, how they make me even more happy.

Amen.

# Parish Prayers

## Daily Prayers for January

1. The Christian Church in Israel.
2. Prison Chaplains.
3. Our Bengo Magazine.
4. Christians in Pop culture. TV, Radio, Online and Film.
5. Our 10am Sunday Family Service.
6. The Orchard, Bengo.
7. Our Healing Service.
8. Christians in Lebanon.
9. HMP Nottingham.
10. Planning for Bereavement Cafe in Bengo.
11. Future Hope Mentoring for Young People.
12. Our Font and those seeking Baptism.
13. The Quaker Meeting house in Hertford celebrating 350 years in 2020.
14. The Homeless in Hertford and Ware.
15. The Christian Church in Egypt.
16. HMP Oakwood, West Midlands.
17. Our outreach into Bengo Schools with 'Open the Book'.
18. Christian unity, working together locally.
19. Christian Aid.
20. The Orchard, Tonwell.
21. Street Pastors in Hertford and Ware.
22. The Christian Church in Jordan.
23. HMP Olney near Rugby.
24. Outreach to families through 'Messy Church'.
25. Christians in Sport.
26. HDCT United Service in the Friends Meeting House.
27. The Vineyard.
28. Hospice Chaplains.
29. Christians in Syria.
30. HMP Parc in South Wales.
31. Hereford Cathedral.

## Daily Prayers for February

1. Our Memorial Garden.
2. Our calling to serve Christ.
3. The Warren.
4. Our Times of Silence and Closeness to God.
5. Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) in Angola.
6. HMP Pentonville London. First used in 1842.
7. Our outreach and services in Beane River View.
8. Local Land Use and Planning.
9. Our 8am Sunday Morning Service.
10. The Wick.
11. MAF in Liberia.
12. Our Wednesday morning Craft Club.
13. HMP Peterborough, managed by SODEXO.
14. Those we Love.
15. The Bengo Neighbourhood Area Plan.
16. Our 6.30pm Sunday Evening Service.
17. Tower Street.
18. The Homeless in Ware and Hertford.
19. MAF in South Sudan.
20. HMP Portland, Dorset.
21. Local Clubs and Societies.
22. The Food Bank in Hertford and Ware.
23. Our 10am All Age Sunday Service.
24. Trinity Court.
25. Those who draw upon 'Universal Credit'.
26. MAF In Kenya.
27. HMP Prescoed, South Wales.
28. Lichfield Cathedral.

## From the Church Register

### 20th October

Burial of Ashes: Ros Squires

### 7th November

Funeral: Wendy Broome

### 13th November

Funeral: Joan Whiting



## A Word from the Rectory

From The Vicar, The Revd Robert Thompson

# 2020 vision



There's a story about three men hard at work cutting blocks of stone. When asked what they are doing, one says, "Cutting stone," the second says, "Earning a living," the third says, "Building a palace."

It's a story about vision: the difference between what you see before you and the

ability to see beyond it. It's a matter of undaunted faith and outrageous belief as well as hard work and technical know-how. Some of the world's greatest visionaries were labelled as cranks and misfits at one time or another, their vision vilified as the product of a presumptuous will, an over-active imagination or mere wishful thinking. Remember Mother Teresa, Martin Luther King, John Lennon, Greta Thunberg or Mahatma Gandhi – the kinds of people crazy enough to think they could change the world – and did.

Following a long period of national uncertainty my one prayer for 2020 is that we might finally emerge from it with new clarity, a fresh and clear-sighted understanding of where we now stand and where the future might lead us. Whose vision will help move us on?

Don't ignore dynamic, creative, original thinkers, though they sound too high-minded to be any earthly good. God-given in genius, and chief amongst the weird and winsome is Jesus, history's lead exponent for change, a change in how we perceive the world, our neighbours, and ourselves.

He sees the world as God's world, refusing to compromise on moral standards, refusing to conform to cheap values or go along with that cynical pessimism which some call realism but is in fact a terrible, destructive despair.

He believes that there is a power for good in the world, a power that makes itself known in the deepest and most creative drives and forces in people and in nature; a power that in the last analysis is irresistible.

And he has glimpsed a future in which goodness will triumph over evil, justice over injustice, peace over war; where love will prove more powerful than violence, and the compassionate service of others will prove more lasting than the gratification of oneself.

Blessed are those who teach us to see the world through different eyes – all those dreamers who keep faith with a different future, however imponderable or unlikely it might seem. Thank God for those whose vision inspires us to a profound and revolutionary change in our understanding of what we believe to be possible: as dramatic as the recovery of sight to one born blind, or the resurrection of one who was as dead as a doornail.

'Blessed', might well be the word to describe any of those crackpots talking about our streets and homes

and shops and schools as places where truth and justice might grow. And blessed are those words whispered in your ear that inspire you this year to hope and life, change and renewal.

They might not be as strange as they sound.

*A Happy New Year to all of you.*

**Robert Thompson**



**Join your local Amnesty group and make a difference to human rights**

A new Amnesty Group has started in Hertford and meets on the second Thursday of the month in the Mudlarks Cafe in Railway Street.

# Parish Calendar JANUARY 2020

<b>Thursday 2nd January</b>	
10am	Holy Communion
7.30pm	Service for Healing and Wholeness
<b>Sunday 5th January THE EPIPHANY</b>	
8am	Holy Communion
10am	Parish Communion and Junior Church
<b>Tuesday 7th January</b>	
8pm	Quiet Time
<b>Wednesday 8th January</b>	
	No Craft Club today
<b>Thursday 9th January</b>	
10am	Holy Communion
10.30am	Coffee Pot Charity Cafe, Church Hall, Duncombe Road
<b>Sunday 12th January THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST</b>	
8am	Holy Communion
10am	Parish Communion and 'Good2Go' Singing, games and crafts for children of any age
<b>Tuesday 14th January</b>	
8pm	Quiet Time
<b>Thursday 16th January</b>	
10am	Holy Communion
10.30am	Coffee Pot Charity Cafe, Church Hall, Duncombe Road
2pm	Ladies' Circle, Church Hall, Duncombe Hall
<b>Sunday 19th January THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY</b>	
8am	Holy Communion
10am	Parish Communion and Junior Church
6.30pm	'Something Understood' Short prayer service in a contemplative mood
<b>Tuesday 21st January</b>	
8pm	Quiet Time
<b>Thursday 23rd January</b>	
10am	Holy Communion
10.30am	Coffee Pot Charity Cafe, Church Hall, Duncombe Road
<b>Sunday 26th January THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY</b>	
8am	Holy Communion
10am	Parish Communion and Junior Church
6.30pm	Evening Service Short prayer service, with Thought for The Day
<b>Tuesday 28th January</b>	
8pm	Quiet Time
<b>Thursday 30th January</b>	
10am	Holy Communion
10.30am	Coffee Pot Charity Cafe, Church Hall, Duncombe Road



# Parish Calendar FEBRUARY 2020

Sunday 2nd February		PRESENTATION OF CHRIST
8am	Holy Communion	
10am	All Age Communion	
	Theme: 'Sweetness & Light Sunday'	
Tuesday 4th February		
8pm	Quiet Time	
Thursday 6th February		
10am	Holy Communion	
10.30am	Coffee Pot Charity Cafe, Church hall, Duncombe Road	
7.30pm	Service for Healing and Wholeness	
Sunday 9th February		THIRD SUNDAY BEFORE LENT
8am	Holy Communion	
10am	Parish Communion and 'Good2Go'	
	Singing, games and crafts for children of any age	
Tuesday 11th February		
8pm	Quiet Time	
Wednesday 12th February		
10am	Craft Club, Church Hall, Duncombe Road	
Thursday 13th February		
10am	Holy Communion	
10.30am	Coffee Pot Charity Cafe, Church Hall, Duncombe Road	
Sunday 16th February		SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE LENT
8am	Holy Communion	
10am	Parish Communion and Junior Church	
6.30pm	'Something Understood'	
	Short prayer service in a contemplative mood	
Tuesday 18th February		
8pm	Quiet Time	
Thursday 20th February		
10am	Holy Communion	
10.30am	Coffee Pot Charity Cafe, Church Hall, Duncombe Road	
2pm	Ladies' Circle, Church Hall, Duncombe Hall	
Sunday 23rd February		SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE LENT
8am	Holy Communion	
10am	Parish Communion and Civic Sunday Service	
	Mayor's Sunday in the company of civic dignitaries	
6.30pm	Evening Service	
	Short prayer service, with Thought for The Day	
Tuesday 25th February		
8pm	Quiet Time	
Wednesday 26th February		ASH WEDNESDAY
8pm	Holy Communion	
Thursday 27th February		
10am	Holy Communion	
10.30am	Coffee Pot Charity Cafe, Church Hall, Duncombe Road	

# Church Contacts

## Team Vicar

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

## Associate Priest

Fr. David Pepper  
T: 01992 314012

## Reader

Bob Kelly  
T: 01763 274653

## Churchwardens

Diana Howarth  
T: 01992 587292  
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

As you can see from the pages in this magazine there are many activities and groups in Bengoe.

We would love to list your local club or society here as we know there is lots more happening in the area and it will be a handy reference for readers.

Whether you have a sports club, interest group or work with young people let us know and we can feature your activities and spread the word.

Please contact [magazine@parishofbengeo.com](mailto:magazine@parishofbengeo.com).



## Hertford and District Churches Together United Service

This event is hosted by the Friends Meeting House in Railway Street, which this year celebrates 350 years as the oldest purpose-built Quaker Meeting Room in the world.

This 2020 united service will have a Quaker touch and is sure to be something special. Mark your diary now for Sunday 26th January 3pm. There will of course be tea and cakes to follow.

**David Cramphorn**



Join the Hertford Group  
[www.ilovefreegle.org](http://www.ilovefreegle.org)

We help people give and get things for free in their local community. Some people have stuff they don't want any more. Other people would like things they don't have.

**We match them up.**



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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

**AUSTIN'S**

FAMILY FUNERAL DIRECTORS

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



## Harwood Park

*The perfect setting to commemorate  
the life of your loved one*



Crematorium and memorial  
gardens created and managed by  
the Austin family in the beautiful  
Hertfordshire countryside.

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# Save Beane Marshes

