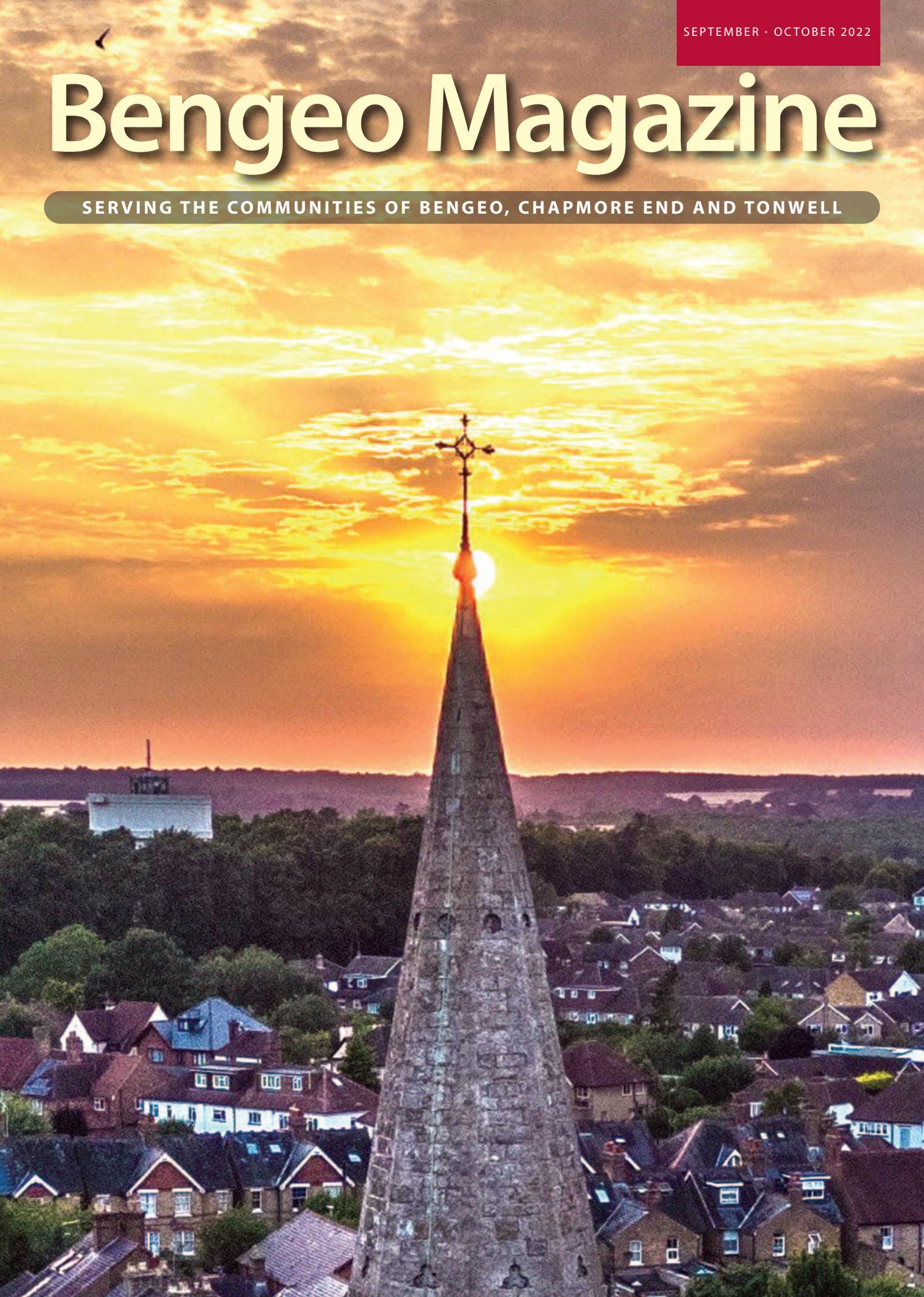


SEPTEMBER · OCTOBER 2022

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# Bengeo Parish Magazine and Community News



There is so much going on in Bengeo to report on or tell readers about that we have a bumper issue of the magazine this time.

Find out about future plans for housing and traffic in Bengeo and how you can contribute to the debates on pages 6 and 7.

There is still time to get out into the countryside and look for flowering plants and fungi selected by Bridget Hersant (page 5) and see if you can catch sight of the newly released water voles in the River Beane (page 11). Indoors, Carrie Bone writes about the discovery of long lost Victorian features of an old house in Bengeo (page 18).

As the autumn nights draw in why not think about new activities such as Scottish dancing, handbell ringing or joining an adult education class. See pages 12 and 16 for details.

...and many congratulations to Sylvia Norman on her 100th birthday!

## 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:  
Sunset over Holy Trinity spire, BG Drone Shots.

## Contents

Local Services Adverts	4, 8, 10, 13 and 30
On The Doorstep	5
Future Plans for Bengeo	6–7
Events at St Leonard’s	9
Water voles are back on the River Beane	11
Local Events	12
Sylvia – celebrating 100 years! and Scouts	14–15
Scottish Country Dancing and Children’s Society	16
Renovations	18
Schools’ News	19–23
A Word from the Rectory	24–25
Parish Calendar	26–27
Prayers for September and October, and Register and Quiet Time	28
Contacts Page	29
On The Doorstep	31

### Editorial Team

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

### Copy dates for 2022

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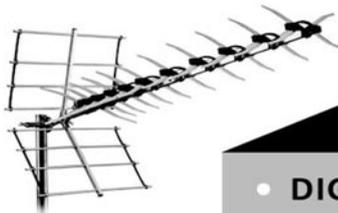


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# On The Doorstep

The summer months are fading and the luscious green leaves are changing to glorious reds, yellows and browns. The first to turn is usually the Horse Chestnut, which actually started to change in late July, early August this year, I presume due to the hot, dry weather we have had, I always think that the Horse Chestnut heralds the coming of the autumn months.



**Knapweed**

So, what can be seen in these autumn months? Well, some of the flowers from the last two months will continue on into September like Knapweed with its beautiful pinkie/purple frond-like petals or Aster, both of which are part of the daisy family. Or you may see Borage still flowering, or one of the Nightshades like Bittersweet and Black Nightshade, both have small but striking flowers. Bittersweet has purple petals with a yellow column where the anthers are and Black Nightshade has white petals. Both Bittersweet and Black Nightshade produce berries, Bittersweet red and Black Nightshade black, both plants are poisonous but not deadly, unlike Deadly Nightshade, but this has darker purple flowers that are more bell shaped. Interestingly, tomatoes, potatoes, aubergine and peppers are all part of the nightshade family.

The autumn is a great time to see all the fruits and berries, Blackberries, Rose hips, Sloes, and if you walk along the path from Stapleford to Woodhall estate, Damson plums. There are also White Bryony berries that can be seen hanging on long vines in the hedgerows. The Spindle tree, that can be found in Panshanger, also produces pink and orange fruits that make quite a beautiful display.



**Blackberries**

Autumn is also a great time to see fungi, there are so many varieties and unfortunately fungi are notoriously hard to identify but there are plenty to be seen locally, from toadstools to bracket fungi and more. However, I did identify one that you might be able to spot when you are out and about and that was the Death Cap, it is medium sized and has a distinctive shiny cap, so shiny that if you look closely at the picture, you might be able to see my reflection on it.

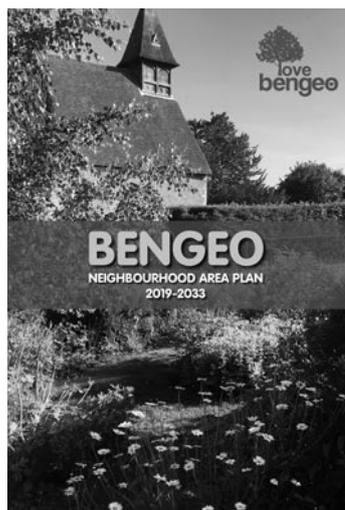
What amazing and wonderful natural beauties to discover on our doorstep. I hope you can get out and discover them this autumn.

## **Bridget Hersant**



**Parasol Mushroom**

# BNAP



## Bengo e Neighbourhood Area Plan Catch Up

Bengo e has been busy as never before as far as the Neighbourhood plan is concerned.

I will give a quick round up of just some of the things that are going on.

## Houses on Bengo e Field

I know this is mentioned in another article but there is a strong feeling in the area that further housing should not be built on Bengo e Field. In the Neighbourhood Plan it says *'The District Plan has allocated one area in Hertford Bengo e Ward for residential development. Policy 'HERT4 North of Hertford' schedules around 50 homes for development on the old nursery site to the north of Sacombe Road by 2022 and, 'subject to the satisfactory previous phased extraction of mineral deposits on the neighbouring site,' around 100 homes to the west of Wadesmill Road between 2022–2027.'*

It is the second phase of 100 homes that is now being discussed. The first part was The Stiles. While Bengo e Field remains a preferred area for gravel extraction, I think there is a strong argument to say that houses should not be built (even though gravel extraction is now highly unlikely). This approach would be supported by the existing wording of the local plan. It is ultimately a political judgement whether this aspect of the local plan can be overridden. But I don't think it should be due to the high landscape and amenity value of the land.

Clearly, the field is used more than ever by local residents and is highly valued. The new proposed minerals plan does not include Bengo e Field in the preferred area but does not come into effect until 2024. At that time a re-evaluation of the situation would be appropriate. But we need to remember that this land was only taken out of the green belt because of the proposed gravel extraction. So, I

think the landscape and amenity argument will remain strong and compelling.

A second consideration is the need for housing in Bengo e which remains acute and it is difficult to see many alternative sites. However, I believe that the proposed houses will only provide a tiny number of the low cost homes that are really needed for our younger generation.

It is the job of the Neighbourhood Plan to respond to any development put forward and we will do that to make sure that if these houses are built they are the type of houses we would like to see in Bengo e. It is my intention that our response will be every bit as vigorous as the response we put in for The Stiles. It is important that we do respond to the proposals whether or not the houses are eventually built.

## Quieter Streets

Over the last few weeks I have had the privilege of meeting many of you and discussing quieter streets. Our overall aim is to produce quieter streets for Bengo e as a whole. It is not just a question of stopping through traffic in Byde Street, although that may well be the first part of what is needed. The Neighbourhood Plan is very conscious of the traffic on Bengo e Street and elsewhere too. We are interested in improving the overall quality of life in Bengo e this is only a start.

While some neighbours are very much against the closure of Byde Street to through traffic which I fully understand (and sympathise with) it is important to note that the Byde Street element is a trial it is not a permanent closure. This trial is important if we are to understand what is needed to manage traffic in Bengo e as a whole. It cannot be denied that this measure will cause inconvenience for some, it is however true that studies of similar initiatives have shown them successful in reducing through traffic as a whole.

It needs to be given a chance. Nobody seems to dispute that traffic from outside the access only area (on the west side of Bengo e) should not be using the rat run as a through route – doing so is not legal anyway. But clearly existing measures to stop this through traffic simply aren't working.

Anecdotally, I haven't driven down the rat run for

over 10 years and have not noticed it taking me much longer. In fact, going down St Andrew's Street has been surprisingly quick even at busy times.

The rat run can take a long time to drive down too particularly at rush hour! So, I believe that the closure will not cause the chaos that I have heard predicted and the public safety improvements are obvious and undisputable.

Any closure will need to be given time, but I do believe that some traffic will be deterred from coming into Bengoe in the first place. So, if less traffic is coming in overall it could have the effect of eventually reducing congestion in other parts of Bengoe too. The only way to know is if we actually try it and then give it a chance to work.

## Bengoe Field Byway 1 as 'Asset Of Community Value'

We are re-applying to have byway 1 declared an asset of community value (ACV). The reason for the application is that we believe that if the path is seen as an ACV it will help to protect the field. I think it is very important to have this path protected and even enhanced so that our residents can continue to enjoy the countryside.

As a regular user of the field I have seen more and more people using the path including more young people. I find this very encouraging and hope that this can be an increasing trend.

**John Howson**

*Chair Bengoe Neighbourhood Area Plan*

## Proposed development for Bengoe Field?

HERT4 is land designated by East Herts District Council for the development of housing. 50 homes have already been built by Durkan, as The Stiles, on the southern part of HERT4 (previously Bengoe Nursery). The same developer is now proposing an additional 100 dwellings on the northern part.



Within the local plan the second part of the development, ie the 100 homes, are made dependent on previous extraction of gravel from the site. Since the public enquiry into the proposed gravel extraction it looks highly unlikely that any further applications to quarry this area will be made. This leaves the status of the land open and it is up to EHDC whether they allow houses to be built or not. It is not a foregone conclusion.

Whilst most residents are fairly happy with the houses developed by Durkan, many are against any further development on Bengoe Field. Hundreds of people worked hard to save the Bengoe Field for future generations and are proud of that success.

We know from surveys that the Field is used more than ever. Should we have new housing on the northern part of HERT4 or would you prefer to keep Bengoe's recreational green spaces? Please join Love Bengoe Field group on Facebook. where you can find further information. Please join us for the consultation meeting with Durkan on the 31st August at Bengoe Cricket Club or have your say by emailing [bengeowadesmillroad@durkan.co.uk](mailto:bengeowadesmillroad@durkan.co.uk) and your Councillor.

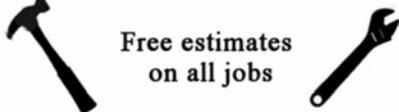
**Aska Wisniewska-Pickering**

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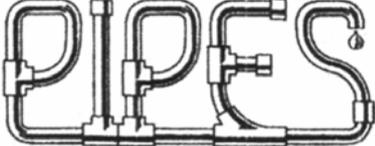


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## Annual Pet Service

We had a very enjoyable Pet Service at St Leonard's at the beginning of July. Our Lay Reader Bob Kelly with his Labrador Oskar led the Service for about 50 people, 20 dogs, a rabbit, 2 guinea pigs, a tortoise and a cuddly tiger and chicken!

Will Sarjeant played the organ for us. One of the hymns which we sang was written by a Pastor in Philadelphia who kindly gave us permission to sing her lovely words to the tune of *O Little Town of Bethlehem*.

Dave and Gemma came with their daughter and Dave spoke to us about his police dog Finn who was badly wounded in an attack. This led to a change in the law. Dave spoke about their Animal Rescue Charity namely Re-homing Animal Telephone Service. Everyone was very generous and we raised £300 for the Charity.



Photograph credit: Mike Howarth

Thanks to Sue and Mary for serving refreshments after the Service which were much appreciated by everyone. Thank you also to our mayor Sue Barber who came with her husband and her two West Highland terriers.

**Libby Shillito**

## St Leonard's Church Events

### 24th and 25th September

Our Open Season with self-guided tours and Afternoon Teas between 2.30pm and 4.30pm will come to an end in September.

On Saturday 24th September at 7.30pm we will welcome the Superb Emperor String Quartet for an autumn evening of majestic music-making.

The Season will be crowned on Sunday 25th September at 6.30pm with our Annual Harvest Songs of Praise service with its traditional hymns. Do come along and join us as we bring to an end another season of much enjoyed get-togethers for our community in the lovely surroundings of St Leonard's.

Concert bookings: £15 (£10 FOSL members).

Contact Mary Crane on **01882 314003** or email **boxoffice@parishofbengeo.com**.

### Art at St Leonard's

The Friends of St Leonard's have had a wonderful creative summer at the Church.

First, our bunting has been a big hit. There has been a constant stream of passers-by stopping to look at all the amazing work done by children (and the young at heart!) to create colourful bunting flags. It will stay up for another couple of weeks, so come and see it for yourselves.

We had a lovely Children's Art Day in July, in



collaboration with Courtyard Arts. Many families enjoyed trying out printing, monument rubbing, doodling, sketching and colouring. There was also a Treasure Hunt to follow

round the church that led to a treasure box full of prizes. A very large number of biscuits were eaten and some fantastic drawings and prints were created.

We have also welcomed local art groups to the church. They have created some lovely works that will be displayed at the Aspects of St Leonard's Exhibition, taking place at the church on Saturday 10th and Sunday 11th September. Several of these will be on sale, alongside cards and other mementoes of our very special church.

Works will be displayed inside the church alongside information on its history. The Exhibition takes place the same weekend as Heritage Open Weekend and the Herts and Beds Historic Church Trust "Hike and Bike". The Friends of St Leonard's will be serving tea and cakes on both days so we are hoping to see plenty of visitors. Please drop in to enjoy this very special place. All details can be found at Aspects of St Leonard's Exhibition – St Leonard's Church Bengeo website (**parishofbengeo.com**).

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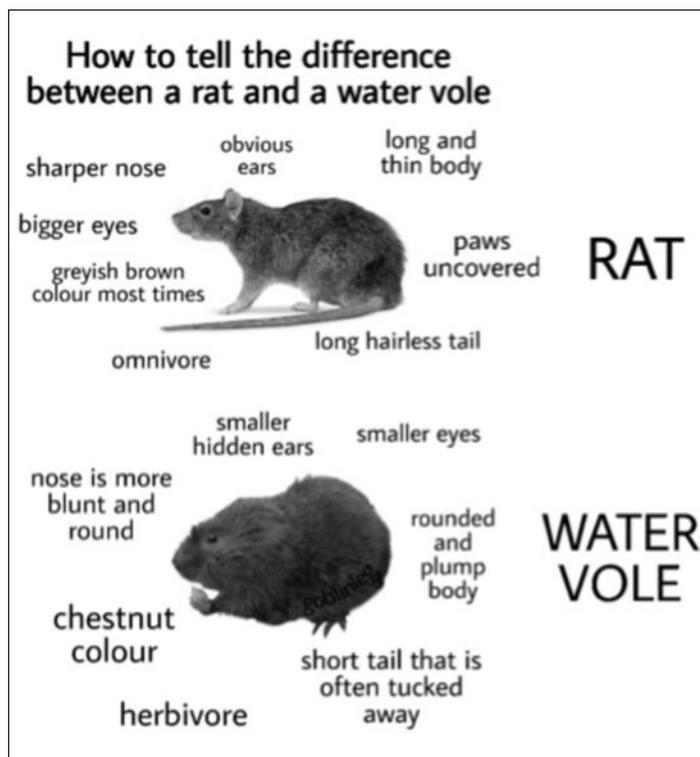
# Water voles are back on the River Beane

In about 2015 Tim Hill of the Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust (HMWT) revealed that the Trust was to make water voles one of their flagship species in their next planning cycle and, unsurprisingly, the RBRA welcomed the opportunity to reintroduce this iconic species to the R. Beane.

The water vole is Britain's fastest declining mammal. The main reasons for this decline, over the last 50 to 60 years, have been gradual habitat loss and the release of predatory mink from UK fur farms in the 1970's. So, two important pieces of work had to be done before voles could be reintroduced. Firstly, a detailed survey of the river corridor was needed. The data from 160 hours of work, carried out by a dozen, trained RBRA volunteers was digitized and analysed, and from those results we were able to identify the largest areas of water vole-friendly water channels. Secondly, the river had to go on 'mink alert'. We had to make sure that we reduced the risk of a mink attack to an absolute minimum. This was done by placing mink rafts, some of which have remote sensors, along the river to monitor their presence. Finally, on 21st July 2022, after several years of preparation and anticipation, 138 water voles, from a water vole breeding farm in Devon, arrived in Watton-at-Stone. On the following day, Elle, from the Derek Gow Consultancy, supervised a team of RBRA volunteers, plus helpers from Woodhall Park and the Wildlife Trust, to release the voles. Half of the animals were released directly into a water channel and left to fend for themselves and establish new territories, while the remaining half were placed, in family groups or breeding pairs, in pens along the main river channel to acclimatise to their surroundings. They were fed daily until, at the end of the week, on the 27th of July, the pens were opened up and the voles were free to go.

Hopefully the voles have now marked out their territories and, despite the warm weather, are settling down and finding abundant food and to do what they do best – which is to breed. As their numbers increase we expect them to spread up and down the river. If you see the voles or their signs it would be useful if you could leave a message on the RBRA website stating when and where you made your observations. Intensive surveys will be done in the autumn but casual records of sightings would also be informative. Once things settle down we hope to put any trail-cam footage up on our website [www.riverbeane.org.uk](http://www.riverbeane.org.uk).

**PLEASE, if you live along the river and are trying to get rid of rats, would you please keep any poison bait boxes as far from the river as you can.**



## Acknowledgements:

The RBRA is grateful for the financial support from the Green Recovery Fund, Woodhall Estate and HMWT.

## For further information:

- [www.hertswildlifetrust.org.uk/news/mammal-risk-extinction-brought-back-beane](http://www.hertswildlifetrust.org.uk/news/mammal-risk-extinction-brought-back-beane)
- [www.hertswildlifetrust.org.uk/blog/water-vole-facts](http://www.hertswildlifetrust.org.uk/blog/water-vole-facts)
- BBC News link



Image courtesy: Demografix

## Bengeo Parish Handbells

I am pleased to announce that a few people have expressed interest in learning how to play handbells, so we are going to have our first session on Monday, 5th September at 2.30pm in Holy Trinity Church. Please feel free to come along and have a go.

For further information, please contact:

Jackie Downs

Tel: 01992 584761 | Mob: 07534 434900

[jacqueline.downs94@gmail.com](mailto:jacqueline.downs94@gmail.com)

## Adult Education classes in Bengeo this Autumn

All are welcome at the Parish Hall, Duncombe Road from 10am to 12 noon on a Tuesday to hear eight sessions on *'Maids and Mistresses: Women and Country houses 1500–1950'*.

Adam Smith is returning to Bengeo with more fascinating insights into social history.

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Bring your own snacks and drinks.

To book, please contact Geoff Cordingley at 01992 524879 or 1B Boundary Drive, SG14 3JG. £10 per ticket or £70 for table of 8.

The quiz will benefit Isabel Hospice.

## Are you active on Social Media? Do you have some time to spare?

We are looking for a volunteer to promote our two Bereavement Cafes held in Hertford and Bengeo. If you are interested and able to create a social media calendar for us, and generally help market the Cafes, it would be much appreciated.

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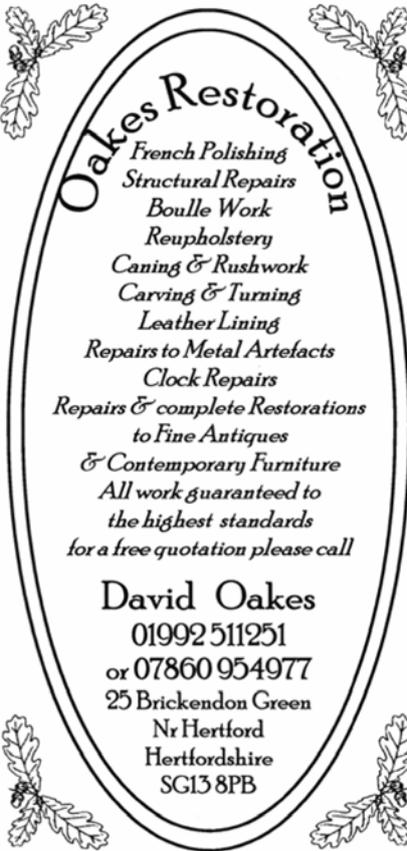
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# Sylvia – celebrating 100 years!

Photograph credit: Mike Howarth



Sylvia Rose Sandford was born on 26th July 1922 in Hatfield where her parents, Frank and Nellie, ran The Salisbury Arms Temperance Hotel. She was the youngest of six, though only four survived babyhood – Arthur, Consie and big brother Alan who had already left home when she was born.

When she was nearly six the family moved to The Plough in Hertford (where Stag House is now) and Mum started straightaway in Form 1 of Ware Grammar School. She used to catch the bus to school but, when a bit older, would cycle with Doreen (later Vigus) via Ware Park! In time Mum was invited to join All Saints' Sunday School. Her parents were only occasional church goers (difficult when you ran a pub) and Sunday School was by invitation only. It was run by Mrs Randall-Smith, the vicar's wife, who was bubbly and full of life though Mum recalls Mr R-S as being rather terrifying! Several Grammar School boys attended Sunday School and one or two girls. Apparently the boys were really

naughty, they let off stink bombs and put pebbles in the collection!

However Mum's church life strengthened and, in time, she joined the Youth Fellowship at All Saints. This must have been a huge organisation as, when we were children, it seemed that everyone Mum said 'Hello' to in the town had been in the Youth Fellowship with her! Certainly it was a major influence in her life and in due course she was confirmed at All Saints. Things were different then and Mum will tell you that it was considered 'greedy' to receive Communion more than once a month.

Mum left school at nearly 16 and worked at Elliot's Music Shop in Hertford. War came soon and she worked at Murphy Radio and then the Civil Defence where, amongst other duties, she was a driver. She also volunteered for night-time fire watching duties from the roof of All Saints' Church. When her parents retired Sylvia moved with them to Hillside in Ware and they worshipped at Christ Church. After the war she was encouraged to attend a modelling course and later worked for Harold B Berliner (Furrier) in London's West End. She flat shared in Bayswater for three years and whilst she sometimes attended the local church in Bayswater Road she says that 'it never felt like home'.

In 1950 Sylvia married Edgar Norman at Christ Church and they lived briefly in London and Fordwich Rise before moving to Bengo Street in 1951. Mum then started attending Holy Trinity, where her late mother-in-law had played the organ and Dad, as a child, had pumped the bellows.

Sue and Nicky were born and christened (Sue at Christ Church and Nicky at Holy Trinity). Sylvia gave up modelling when Nicky was born and was a stay at home Mum until Dad started his own quantity surveying practice and Mum became the office secretary. (Years later she nobly typed my Uni thesis – complete with scientific symbols and two carbon copies, a ghastly job.)

Many happy years followed, with Mum (and Dad) being involved in many community and charitable organisations. In the 1950s she joined Hertingfordbury WI, which played a large part in her life – through it learning sewing and dressmaking and for years being involved in the amateur

dramatic group (her height meant that she often played a man). She also volunteered and helped with the hospital telephone service (remember that?), Meals on Wheels, Good Companions, the Hertford Dr Barnado's Group, etc. In the early 1970s Dad became a Rotarian and Mum joined Inner Wheel, with more opportunities for fun and service. That doesn't mention the many years that she enjoyed 'doing' and being in charge of Church flowers at Holy Trinity, nor the many happy times spent helping at St Leonard's. Sylvia's Church family is very important to her and she was thrilled with the recent tea party held in her honour at St Leonard's – thank you.

Mum and Dad moved house twice in Bengoe, firstly to The Orchard, where Libby and Peter Shillito were wonderful neighbours, and then to The Avenue. Dad died in December 2009 and Mum kept the house and garden going until 2018 when she moved to Bentley House. She kept the car until last year and, until Covid, it enjoyed its weekly run up the hill to Holy Trinity. Mum's faith has always been important – long ago it helped her survive two major illnesses. She is a truly amazing lady and we give thanks for her life, inspiration and example. She now has five grandchildren and five great-grandchildren but of course she still keeps her daughters in order! Deo Gratias.

**Sue (Suella) Hunting and Nicky Phillips**

## Sylvia's 100th Birthday Tea Party Sunday 31st July

We were delighted to hold a Tea Party at St Leonard's to celebrate Sylvia's 100th Birthday. Sixty people were there to celebrate the occasion with Sylvia, her daughters Sue and Nicky and their husbands John and Paul. We enjoyed looking at all the photographs of Sylvia through her many decades and also seeing her precious card from Her Majesty the Queen.

Our thanks go to Penny of Tewin who made the large celebration cake and to everyone who helped in any way with the flower arrangements, catering, waitressing and pouring endless cups of tea!

Our many congratulations, love and very best wishes were given to Sylvia.

**Libby Shillito**

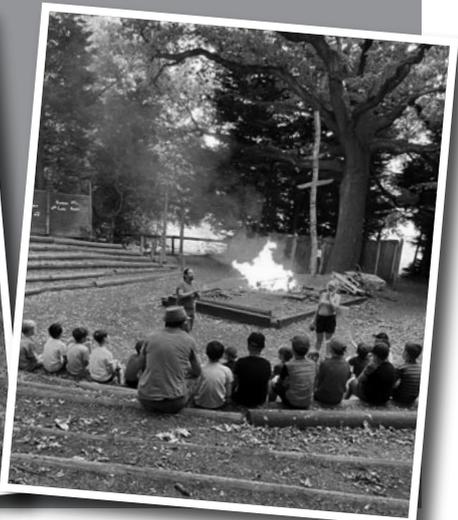


Photograph credit: John Hunting



## 2nd Bengoe Scouts at camp

The Cubs have just spent a very enjoyable week at Belchamps campsite near Southend. They enjoyed singing at campfires, making flagpoles, and did some sumo wrestling. They had a day out at Southend visiting the lifeboat station. They were lucky with the weather as it wasn't one of the scorching weeks we have been enjoying!



# Fun, Fitness and Friendship – Dance Scottish with SE Herts Scottish Country Dance Society!



Have you done the Dashing White Sergeant at a barn dance or the Eightsome Reel at a wedding? At South East Herts Scottish Country Dance Society (SEHSCDS) we do the same sort of dances, but with a bit more polish.

We have been a lively and thriving part of the local community for nearly 65 years. In addition to running weekly classes we featured in town twinning events in Hertford, Evron and Wildeshausen, have danced regularly at Hertford Carnival and other local festivals and ran open air dancing at Hertford Castle for 12 years.

Scientific research has shown that dance can reduce anxiety and depression and have a positive effect on quality of life, body image and mood. It has also found that Scottish country dancing is particularly helpful in maintaining fitness whatever your age. The specific movements in Scottish country dance (skipping, hopping and turning) work effectively to train the nerves and muscles, helping the body to remain mobile. Read more about the health benefits here [www.rscds.org/about/health-strategy/health-benefits-scd](http://www.rscds.org/about/health-strategy/health-benefits-scd).

Scottish country dancing is a very social form of dance which relies on mutual co-operation. Following the patterns of the dance and dancing in time together is fun, exciting and highly satisfying. We are a friendly group of people and would be delighted to get to know you.

So why wait? You don't need a kilt, you don't need to be Scottish and you don't need a partner; just soft flat shoes and willingness to have a go. Come along

to Sele Farm Community Centre, Hertford on Tuesday evenings in term time – 7pm to 8.30pm starting on 13th September 2022 and let us welcome you to our club, where we have qualified and experienced Scottish Country Dance teachers to get you moving. Classes cost £15 per half term.

We are affiliated to the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society (a Scottish registered charity).

To find out more, please visit [www.rscdsherts.org/south-east-herts](http://www.rscdsherts.org/south-east-herts), email us on [sehscds@hotmail.com](mailto:sehscds@hotmail.com) or phone 07842 034890.

We look forward to hearing from you.



**The Children's Society**

## UPDATE

**Coffee Morning  
Saturday 18th June**

Many thanks to Carol and John Warren for holding their Coffee Morning in June. It is always a very enjoyable family event and raised £250 for the Children's Society.

## Afternoon Tea Saturday 9th July

Many thanks to everyone who supported this event, we had about 70 people enjoying afternoon tea in the garden. Thank you so much to all the helpers, too many to mention, for assembling gazebos, tables and chairs, for the help on the White Elephant stall and the Raffle, to all those who made the delicious cakes, cream teas, for pouring endless cups of tea and to the waitresses and washer uppers!

We were amazed by the result, together with some generous donations we were able to give the Children's Society over £1,000.

We are so grateful for all the support for this worthwhile Charity.

## House Box Collection

We will be collecting in the house boxes from the end of September from anyone who would like them counted this year.

*Many thanks*  
**Libby Shillito**

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# Renovations reveal hidden treasures

The ongoing renovations of a terraced house in Bengeo have revealed a long forgotten period feature, after a chance glimpse of wallpaper behind a stud plasterboard wall of the house.

The house, as part of a row of six terraced cottages, is believed to have been built in 1845, and has some areas which have not been updated since the construction of the house, such as the original basement floor, and other rooms have not been updated for several decades, having spent around 40 years of its life as a council house most recently.

The couple are aiming to restore the property as sympathetically as possible, using traditional methods and techniques where appropriate, striking the delicate balance between preservation, restoration and repurposing existing features found within the period property.

During renovation works on the upstairs landing, a plasterboard wall over the stairs was removed to reveal original wooden panelling, with several layers of original detailed wallpaper, which has been covered up for several decades.

The owners sought information to date some of the wallpaper designs on the wall, with the Wallpaper History Society providing a fascinating insight into the past life of the house. They identified it as an Ashlar wallpaper, a block printed pattern, with some designs which can date from 1840, up to 1900. Examples online show designs registered in 1851 in the national archives. Ashlar wallpapers have been most commonly found in public spaces of a property, such as hallways and staircases, as in this case.

The wooden panelling found is also typical of very

early Victorian properties, used as room dividers. In this example, the panelling runs from the kitchen floor, which can be seen from the basement, and continues upwards in the house to the first floor landing, before continuing up to the landing ceiling.

Sometimes known as 'Georgian' boards, it's likely this was covered over with a plasterboard wall in the mid to late 20th century, when the bathroom was moved upstairs, with the wall offering some privacy and soundproofing to the other rooms of the new layout.

The home owners are now mulling their options for how best to preserve their discovery.

One of the options to preserve the wallpaper will be to gently steam it to remove it from the wooden panelling. From there, it can be scanned for digital records or to be reprinted in a modern way. Another option is for the best and largest pieces of the wallpaper that have been removed to be framed and hung on the wall. Other options include keeping it in place on the wooden panelling, but covering with a varnish or a resin to prevent any damage from general wear and tear, and fading from light.

In light of this new discovery, the owners now want to try to incorporate the wooden panelling into the design of the landing, which is still undergoing renovations, with a traditional dark Victorian theme planned.

The wooden panelling will remain in place, and will not be covered over again, but it will receive some long overdue TLC to ensure it lasts for several decades to come.

**Carrie Bone**





# Bengeo Primary School



It has been a very busy half term for us at Bengeo School with many exciting events.

Our annual fundraiser Bengeo Day was a huge success. It was lovely to see the whole community come together to celebrate and we raised a massive £11,200, which is a significant amount of money and will be used to make a real difference to our children. We thank all those who came to take part, enjoy the day and support us.

The children were devastated when the Year 6 annual residential trip was cancelled by the provider within 48 hours of their planned departure. But with no other options available at such short notice, in order to give our children a great experience as they leave us, we arranged 'Bengeofest'. The children



camped for two nights on the field and enjoyed an activity trip, African drumming workshop, circus skills workshop, an outdoor cinema and musical performers. We appreciate the kind comments from neighbours who enjoyed the music, and hope that it did not cause too much of a disturbance to others. We hope the warning on Bengeo Residents Facebook site helped.



# Mill Mead Primary School



**Nursery** have had a busy end to the year! We enjoyed taking part in the whole school sustainability project thinking about ways in which we can reuse rubbish and make small changes to help the planet.

We enjoyed an artistic workshop run by Manic Ceramics, the children produced some very colourful animals.



**Reception.** Our visit to the zoo was the perfect end to our topic on living creatures. We saw so many exciting animals and had an amazing experience. The children then wrote about their adventure and drew their favourite

animals. The class then had the surprise of the inflatables which they all enjoyed. Finally, we enjoyed a day of castle building. The children created some amazing castles and really thought about all the features.

We all enjoyed a fantastic day at Colchester Zoo with Y1 and Y2.



**Year 2's** science experiment has ended but the results have given us lots to think about. We now know what a seed needs to start the process of 'germination' and Year 2 has many budding gardeners.



**Year 3** have been super creative this month. In D&T we have been exploring seasonal fruits and vegetables. As a class, we planned, organised and created two different types of tarts, a savoury and sweet. We used fruits and

vegetables grown in the summer months to make our yummy tarts. In Maths, we have been learning about 3D

shapes and their properties. We created 3D nets and used string to pull them up and show their natural 3D shape, we had so much fun. In ART, we have been looking at how to blend colours and create a gradient effect using paint.



**Year 4.** We had the most amazing time at The Edge, taking part in the activities and taking on new challenges. We took part in activities such as archery, climbing, laser tag and

tackled the high ropes. In DT we have been making books. As well as using some of the skills we have learnt this year, this also included sewing. We then used these books to create our mini books on Hertford. Finally, we enjoyed our trip to Chessington with Y5.



**Year 5** During our sustainability project, we wrote some informative reports on waste and created some beautiful artwork demonstrating the plight of sea creatures caused by plastic

pollution. In English, we 'found' a suitcase belonging to a strange individual and had to work out whose it was.



**Year 6** had a wonderful time at their sun-soaked festival – complete with inflatables, music and glitter! The end of year performance – Year 6 Does Disney – was nothing

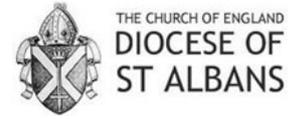
short of spectacular. Amazingly, the students scripted the production themselves; and every one of them threw themselves into the show with enthusiasm, energy and genuine star quality. Their acting, singing and dancing were all-fantastic.



Some of year 5 and 6 spent a weekend in France and Belgium. They had such an amazing time. Some of them even slept a bit!



# Tonwell School News



We held our Summer Fete raising £550 for the school with enormous help and contributions from our Parent committee! A special thanks to those who planned, set up, tidied away, baked, made games and knitted. We also held a jubilee fancy dress competition which the children really enjoyed –the costumes were fantastic.

Our junior children visited The Edge to try out different outdoor and adventurous activities. They showed great resilience and bravery when attempting the high ropes, as well as brilliant support and encouragement for each other.



We held our annual sports day where the teams participated with great determination and enthusiasm. It was lovely to see our older children modelling activities and encouraging our younger ones with such kindness – this is one of the things that makes our school so special.

KS2 enjoyed a visit to St Leonard’s Church to learn more about local history and to have a chance to



have some peaceful, reflective time in the church community gardens.

We are continuing to run our toddler group ‘Tonwell Tots’ in the Autumn term open to all children from 0 to school age. We had over

10 babies in the hall this week and families who had travelled from as far as Hoddesdon and Stevenage. There will be stay and play activities in our EYFS outdoor area and a singing session in the hall.

## Co-op Fund

A reminder that we have been chosen as a Co-op community fund for the next 12 months. Our cause number is 55334 and anyone with a Co-op membership card living within 15 miles of us can choose us to donate to. Please tell your family and friends!

Go to our fund page to see how much we have raised so far!

<https://membership.coop.co.uk/causes/55334>

Thank you to those of you who are following us on Instagram and liking our posts. It’s lovely to be able to share the children’s learning with you and promote our school.



Tonwellstmarys

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

**Headteacher: Mrs Sarah Bridgman**

We are offering 30 hour places in our Nursery class.

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

Visits are warmly welcomed.

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



Duncombe School

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- Part of the 15 free hours Government funding.
- 48 week wraparound care available

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

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# A Word from The Rectory

## Go for broke for Brownie points

From The Vicar, The Revd Robert Thompson



Some years back authorities in Japan trialled a system to motivate the nation into more volunteering. Called *'Caring Relationship Tickets'* it allowed volunteers to bank the hours they spent helping an elderly or disabled person in a personal *'Time Account'* for credits for the care they themselves would receive later in life.

Clergy read the case studies and winced; if this was the future of volunteering then it seemed pretty tacky – 'Do unto others as you would have them do unto you' with all the grace taken out and an arm-twist thrown in.

But we remain students in the art of persuasion all the same, and big believers in a very British system for crediting good deeds: Brownie Points. This hypothetical moral currency was probably named after the brown stamps given out in post-war America; although I prefer the theory that they're named after the badges obtained by Brownies, who were themselves named after a mythological elf who does helpful things around the house for nothing.

Which is wishful thinking, personally speaking – if I were expecting offers of free help these days it seems I'm living in fairyland. The helper elves around The Rectory want payment in a more visible currency. My youngest son will nip to the Co-op when called, but only if he can keep the change; my eldest will help in the garden but not before negotiating a fee, two tasks I'm pretty sure I did for nothing back in the day.

Like the government, I'm struggling to find a middle way that enables me to be both paternalist and libertarian. Should I cajole my kids into acts of

kindness with financial incentives or leave them to do it of their own accord and risk getting nothing done?

Deep down, I'm not sure we can legislate for kindness. Volunteering for rewards sounds like an oxymoron. It would certainly mean re-writing some stories about altruistic deeds: The Good Samaritan wouldn't be the same had his first thought on seeing a battered man in the road been 'I could help here – but what's in it for me?' We'd also have to adjust the bumper sticker that says, 'Volunteers do it for free,' to include the corollary 'just as long as there are pay-offs later.'

It's interesting that researchers are warning that rewarding volunteer work undermines the idea of giving your time freely. The dynamic of giving without expectation of a return is changed when the idea of asset value is introduced. The economy

### Bereavement Café

Drop in for tea, coffee and a chat

**Bengeo** Face to face meetings of the Bereavement Café are on the third Thursday of every month:  
15th September, 20th October  
Time: 6:30pm – 8pm

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

**Hertford** Face to face meetings of the Bereavement Café in Hertford are twice monthly on Mondays:  
12th and 26th September, 3rd and 17th October.  
Time: 2.00pm – 3.30pm

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

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



of kindness is based on voluntary exchange, works of mercy given because there is human need, and there is no accounting for it.

Recent examples of informal volunteering are a case in point. One of the happier outcomes of the pandemic was the huge increase in numbers of people doing something for someone else, for free: shopping for a neighbour, stewarding at vaccination centres, staffing foodbanks.

Many Bengo residents volunteered for a pop-up operation packing food parcels to send out to struggling families. Now based in Hertford, a sign on its centre of operations claims that 'Superheroes volunteer here,' but everyone that works there that I've ever spoken with would claim no bigger cape or better uniform than your ordinary regular Brownie. They just wanted to 'give

something back,' they said. They asked for nothing in return.

Is there a reward for volunteering? Some might say (as they do of Brownie points) that it's all about looking to others and feeling good about yourself; but as Jesus pointed out, the hypocrites liked to do their good deeds for everyone to see, they already had their pay off – namely the approval of those around them.

People don't volunteer because of recognition; if anything, the incentive lies in its hidden opposite. It's said that the great secret of giving freely is that it is its own reward; the trick (as I keep trying to tell my children) is that you won't know this until you try it.

*With my prayers,*

**Robert Thompson**

## All about our Daily Prayers

Daily Prayers are primarily an encouragement for any reader to take some time out, reflect upon the thought for that day, or take in a complete week or month in one go, however your choice.

To pray or read these, you will have noticed a pattern, most Mondays we remember a road, street, close or lane that many will be familiar with or know someone nearby. It is an opportunity to remember the community and the parish of Bengo, perhaps to take some time to understand and to listen to our communities, neighbours and businesses. Wednesday is often a prayer for a wider world concern particularly for those called to assist directly within climate, poverty, national disaster or medical emergency that may have fallen from the national headlines although none the less still being supported often by volunteers

and NGOs. Thursday we reinforce our link with St Leonard, the patron saint for Prisons and Prisoners, as we continue the cycle of prayer around the UK for each of the prisons.

This time for September our focus is on local and international charities, many struggling now for volunteers and regular income against rising costs and overwhelming need and aspiration. For October we continue the prayers as we have since 2013 for local schools and

school communities. Taking time out to pray is our opportunity to 'put the world to rights' to talk about the news, the weather, friends and family just as you would a friend you have known for years, although this space is for you and God, hopefully one or two of these daily prayers will start a conversation, if not with God, then other friends.

**David Cramphorn**



# Parish Calendar SEPTEMBER 2022

<b>Saturday 3rd September</b>	
10.30am–4.30pm	Collectors' Show, Holy Trinity Church
<b>Sunday 4th September</b> <b>TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY</b>	
9am	Holy Communion at St Leonard's Church
10am	Parish Communion at St Leonard's Church
11.30am–4pm	Collectors' Show, Holy Trinity church
2.30–4.30pm	St Leonard's Church: Tea and Tour
<b>Tuesday 6th September</b>	
8pm	Quiet Time at St Leonard's Church: Prayer and Meditation
<b>Wednesday 7th September</b>	
2pm	Afternoon WI, Church Hall, Duncombe Road
<b>Thursday 8th September</b>	
10am	Holy Communion
10.30am	Coffee Pot Charity Café, Church Hall, Duncombe Road
<b>Saturday 10th September</b>	
9am–5pm	'Aspects of St Leonard's Art Exhibition at St Leonard's Church
<b>Sunday 11th September</b> <b>THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY</b>	
9am	Holy Communion at Holy Trinity Church
10am	Parish Communion at Holy Trinity Church
11am–5pm	'Aspects of St Leonard's Art Exhibition at St Leonard's Church
<b>Monday 12th September</b>	
2–3.30pm	Bereavement Cafe at Mudlarks Garden Cafe, Hertford
<b>Tuesday 13th September</b>	
8pm	Quiet Time at St Leonard's Church: Prayer and Meditation
<b>Wednesday 14th September</b>	
10am	Community Craft Club, Church Hall, Duncombe Road
<b>Thursday 15th September</b>	
10am	Holy Communion
10.30am	Coffee Pot Charity Café, Church Hall, Duncombe Road
6.30–8pm	Bereavement Cafe at Secret Garden Cafe, Bengeo
<b>Sunday 18th September</b> <b>FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY</b>	
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
<b>Tuesday 20th September</b>	
8pm	Quiet Time at St Leonard's Church: Prayer and Meditation
<b>Thursday 22nd September</b>	
10am	Holy Communion
10.30am	Coffee Pot Charity Café, Church Hall, Duncombe Road
<b>Saturday 24th September</b>	
7.30pm	Concert at St Leonard's Church, Emperor String Quartet
<b>Sunday 25th September</b> <b>HARVEST FESTIVAL</b>	
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
<b>Monday 26th September</b>	
2–3.30pm	Bereavement Cafe at Mudlarks Garden Cafe, Hertford
<b>Tuesday 27th September</b>	
8pm	Quiet Time at Holy Trinity Church
<b>Thursday 29th September</b>	
10am	Holy Communion
10.30am	Coffee Pot Charity Café, Church Hall, Duncombe Road

# Parish Calendar OCTOBER 2022

<b>Sunday 2nd October</b>		<b>SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY</b>
9am	Holy Communion at Holy Trinity Church	
10am	Parish Communion at Holy Trinity Church	
<b>Monday 3rd October</b>		
2–3.30pm	Bereavement Cafe at Mudlarks Garden Cafe, Hertford	
<b>Tuesday 4th October</b>		
8pm	Quiet Time at Holy Trinity Church: Prayer and Meditation	
<b>Wednesday 5th October</b>		
2pm	Afternoon WI, Church Hall, Duncombe Road	
<b>Thursday 6th October</b>		
10am	Holy Communion	
10.30am	Coffee Pot Charity Café, Church Hall, Duncombe Road	
<b>Sunday 9th October</b>		<b>SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY</b>
9am	Holy Communion at Holy Trinity Church	
10am	Parish Communion at Holy Trinity Church	
<b>Tuesday 11th October</b>		
8pm	Quiet Time at Holy Trinity Church: Prayer and Meditation	
<b>Wednesday 12th October</b>		
10am	Community Craft Club, Church Hall, Duncombe Road	
<b>Thursday 13th October</b>		
10am	Holy Communion	
10.30am	Coffee Pot Charity Café, Church Hall, Duncombe Road	
<b>Sunday 16th October</b>		<b>EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY</b>
9am	Holy Communion at Holy Trinity Church	
10am	Parish Communion at Holy Trinity Church	
<b>Monday 17th October</b>		
2–3.30pm	Bereavement Cafe at Mudlarks Garden Cafe, Hertford	
<b>Thursday 20th October</b>		
10am	Holy Communion	
10.30am	Coffee Pot Charity Café, Church Hall, Duncombe Road	
6.30–8pm	Bereavement Cafe at Secret Garden Cafe, Bengeo	
<b>Sunday 23rd October</b>		<b>BIBLE SUNDAY</b>
9am	Holy Communion at Holy Trinity Church	
10am	Parish Communion at Holy Trinity Church	
<b>Tuesday 25th October</b>		
8pm	Quiet Time at Holy Trinity Church: Prayer and Meditation	
<b>Thursday 27th October</b>		
10am	Holy Communion	
10.30am	Coffee Pot Charity Café, Church Hall, Duncombe Road	
<b>Sunday 30th October</b>		<b>ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY</b>
9am	Holy Communion at Holy Trinity Church	
10am	Parish Communion at Holy Trinity Church	

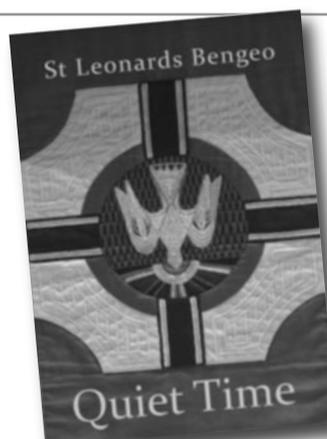
# Parish Prayers

## Daily Prayers for September

1. HMP Oakwood West Midlands
2. Local sports clubs
3. Our hobbies and clubs and pastimes
4. St Leonard's Church
5. Wellington Street
6. SANDS, Stillbirth Charity
7. Oxfam
8. HMP Olney, Rugby
9. Hertford Disability Support Group
10. Herts and Beds Historic Churches Trust Hike and Bike
11. The Holy Cross
12. Westfield Road
13. The Almshouses, Bengoe Charities
14. The Mara Rianda Charitable Trust
15. HMP Parc, South Wales
16. Local Shops and Businesses
17. Local traffic planning and management
18. Our choir
19. Woodhall Close
20. Save Beane Marshes
21. Christian Aid
22. HMP Pentonville, North London
23. The Hertfordshire County Association of Change Ringers
24. Mission Aviation Fellowship
25. The Church Army
26. Woodville Place
27. Children's Integrated Play Scheme – CHIPS
28. The Salvation Army
29. HMP Peterborough
30. Norwich Cathedral

## Daily Prayers for October

1. Tonwell St Mary's C of E School
2. Head Teacher Mrs Sarah Bridgman
3. Ware Road, Tonwell
4. School Teaching Staff
5. Pupils and Friends of Tonwell School
6. Youth Training and Education in Prisons
7. Tonwell School Governors
8. Tonwell School Support Staff
9. Bengoe School
10. The Avenue
11. Head Teacher Justine Page
12. School Teaching Staff
13. HM Inspector of Prisons
14. Bengoe School support staff
15. Governors of Bengoe School
16. Bengoe School Pupils and Parents
17. Warren Park Road
18. Duncombe School
19. Head Teacher Jeremy Phelan
20. The Minister of State for Prisons and Probation
21. Duncombe School support Staff and Directors
22. Duncombe Pupils and Parents
23. Duncombe School Teaching Staff
24. Port Vale
25. Mill Mead School
26. Head Teacher Mrs R Walsh
27. Prison Chaplains
28. Teaching Staff at Mill Mead School
29. Parents and Children at Mill Mead
30. Mill Mead School Governors
31. Mill Mead Support Staff



### Quiet Time

Quiet Time is at 8pm on Tuesday evenings at St Leonard's on the 6th, 13th and 20th September. It returns to Holy Trinity Church on the 27th September and throughout October.

### Register

#### Burial of Ashes

22nd July – Joyce Harrison

31st July – Rose Jeffries

14th August – Jean Brown

#### Baptism

24th July – Angel-Rose and Freddie Harding

#### Marriage

8th August – William Sarjeant and Martha Ray

# Church Contacts

## Team Vicar

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

## Associate Priest

Fr. David Pepper  
 T: 07583 985266

## Reader

Bob Kelly  
 T: 01763 274653

## Churchwardens

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

## Parochial Church Council

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

## Director of Music and Organist

Dr Andrew Sentance

## Assistant Organist

William Sarjeant

## St Leonard's Church

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

## Addresses

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

# Local Contacts for Help and Advice

## Bengeo Residents Support Network Against Coronavirus

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

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

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

## Medical and Health Advice

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

## Information about local council services

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

## Domestic Abuse

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

## Hertfordshire Domestic Abuse Helpline

0808 808 8088

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

## Financial Advice

### Money Advice Unit

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

### Hertfordshire Citizens Advice Service

03444 111 444

### National Debtline

[www.nationaldebtline.org](http://www.nationaldebtline.org)

0808 808 4000

## Advice on avoiding scams

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

### Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline

0808 223 1133

If you are interested in volunteering

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

HertsHelp 0300 123 4044

## Mental Health Advice and Support

### Herts Mind Network

[www.hertsmindnetwork.org](http://www.hertsmindnetwork.org)

020 3727 3600

0300 777 0707 [8am–7pm]

Nightline: 01923 256391

## Emotional Support and Practical Help

[www.hertshelp.net](http://www.hertshelp.net)

[info@hertshelp.net](mailto:info@hertshelp.net)

HertsHelp: 0300 123 4044

*Back cover:*

**Pet Service:** Mayor of Hertford, Lay Reader Bob Kelly, Libby and Peter Shillito. *Photograph by:* Adam Fox.

*All other photographs:* Mike Howarth.

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

# On The Doorstep



**Knapweed**



**Aster**



**White Briony**



**White Briony Berries**



**Blackberries**



**Acorns**



**Spindle Berries**



**Death Cap**



**Oyster Branch**



**Boletus**



**Puff Ball**



**Parasol Mushroom**



**Sulphur Tuft**



**Fairy Ink Cap**

*All photographs:  
Bridget Hersant.*

# Sylvia Norman celebrated her 100th birthday with her family at the Parish Tea Party



# The Annual Pet Service at St Leonard's Church

