

MARCH • APRIL 2022

Bengeo Magazine

SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF BENGEO, CHAPMORE END AND TONWELL





Easter

CELEBRATING HIS RESURRECTION

Holy Week & Easter Services in the Parish of Bengoe

Sunday April 10 Palm Sunday

9am: Holy Communion

10am: Parish Communion & Junior Church
with blessing of palm crosses

Dramatic reading of the Passion of Christ

April 11 Monday in Holy Week

8pm: Holy Communion

April 12 Tuesday in Holy Week

8pm: Holy Communion

April 13 Wednesday in Holy Week

8pm: Holy Communion

April 14 MAUNDY THURSDAY

10am: Holy Communion

7pm: Prayer supper in the
Church Hall, Duncombe Road
Commemorating the Last Supper
through word and action

April 15 GOOD FRIDAY

12noon-2pm: Prayer & Meditation

2pm: Good Friday devotions

Sunday April 17 EASTER DAY

9am: Holy Communion

10am: All Age Communion for Easter Day

Bengeio Parish Magazine and Community News



In March and April we can celebrate the coming of Easter after the long period of winter and the rigours of Lent. 'Spring is sprung' – as Bridget Hersant proclaims in her *'On the Doorstep'* feature where she encourages us to go out and look for the wild flowers around Bengeio. Michael Radley's passion for cultivated flowers, orchids, is the focus of Carrie Bone's article. You can see the splendour of these blooms together with wild flowers at the end paper of the magazine.

The Hertford Oral History group have been in operation since the 1990s and have a wealth of local stories on the Hertford Museum's website. Freda Joshua gives an insight into her work as a volunteer transcriber – maybe you would like to help too?

Keep a look out for forthcoming events. It is going to be a busy summer in Bengeio.

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: Easter Cross outside Holy Trinity Church.

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Editorial Team

Items for the magazine should be sent to magazine@parishofbengeio.com

Copy dates for 2022

Items should be sent by the middle of the month preceding publication.

Advertising

Please address all advertising enquiries to 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.

Cheques payable to: 'Bengeio Magazine' or pay by BACS to Bengeio Magazine, 20-05-73, 53580091.

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

The magazine is designed by GREENGilbert carey@greengilbert.co.uk and printed by MSPC Ltd, Unit 10, Hartham View Industrial Estate, Hartham Lane, Hertford, Hertfordshire SG14 1QN.



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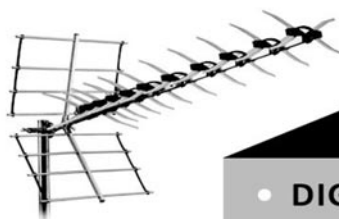
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Hertford Oral History Group

The Hertford Oral History Group (HOHG) was set up in the 1990s to research and record the oral history of Hertford residents, preserve that history for future generations and make the histories gathered widely and freely available. Many recordings have now been completed. These are gradually being transcribed and the resulting records of interviews, 380 and rising, are available from the Hertford Museum website www.oralhistory.hertfordmuseum.org. Do have a look at them – they give a fascinating insight into past life in Hertford and its surroundings.

As you can imagine, making a written copy of the interviews is a huge amount of work for the volunteer transcribers and for those who make a digital copy for the Museum's website.



Freda Joshua is a very productive member of their much-appreciated transcribers' team and she tells us here how she became involved with the group, how it has given her an interest and an insight into local people's lives.

Freda says:

"I first joined HOHG in February 2019 following a volunteering Open Day in the Seed Warehouse organised by the Town Council. I was already a Friend of Hertford Castle, but as those events happen through the summer, I was looking for something useful to pass the time through the winter. At the time, my husband was virtually housebound with COPD so I needed something I could do at home without leaving him on his own for too long. I am a fairly proficient typist and, with my interest in local history, this seemed ideal. Sadly, my husband died in March 2019, but by then I was all set up and raring to go. I think I'm a bit of a fraud so far as transcribing is concerned as Jean Riddell does the actual transcribing and I just type her handwritten notes. Jean, with her vast knowledge of the people and places of Hertford and surround, decided some time ago that it was quicker for her to do it this way than ploughing through the audio tapes to fill in the gaps left by those of us less well-informed transcribers.

We moved to Hertford, well, Chapmore End, to what was then the approved school, in 1965, just as Gascoyne Way was nearly finished, so I do have a memory of how the town was then, albeit rather hazy. We moved into Hertford itself in 1982 after the County Council decided

to close Crouchfield Community School, as it was by then.

Most of the tapes Jean is transcribing at present are from 2002 era so it is interesting to read people's pastimes and their recollections of the shops and businesses from that time and from their youth. It is also interesting to note that, although there has been a huge amount of development around the outskirts of Hertford (ie Sele Farm, etc) and more recently in-filling, a lot of properties were demolished to make way for modern developments, car parks, etc. It's also interesting to learn that the town was surrounded by farms and farming land. Although many of the street names should give that away, sometimes it is difficult to work out who farmed what, where and when!

I have found typing up Jean's transcriptions has been a life-line throughout the pandemic. It has given me something positive to do without endangering my health or anyone else's. I usually do an hour or so of typing in the afternoon, which makes a break from watching too much television or playing computer games, although I do a lot of crosswords and, of course, reading.

It amuses me to think that the apartment I live in in Isabella House is more or less where the County Court in Sovereign House used to be, where I spent many hours in my job as Debt Recovery Officer for the County Council!"

If you would like to become involved with HOHG, then do get in touch with Frances Green drfrancesgreen@gmail.com.

Shoe Box Appeal

Jim and Eileen Smith co-ordinated the assembly and collection of 30 shoeboxes from Holy Trinity plus £200 in donations. Thank you to all who contributed.



This a reply from Samaritan's Purse in response to the Shoe Boxes prepared by

Holy Trinity church, "The boxes collected in Bengoe were sent to St Neots to be processed before being sent on to Liberia, Albania and a country in Africa. Across the UK as a whole we sent shoebox gifts to 277,350 children in eight different countries. Thank you to your church for being part of that."

The 'Thank You' certificate is in the Holy Trinity church porch.

On the Doorstep

**Spring has sprung,
The grass is riz,
I wonder where them birdies iz?
The little bird is on the wing,
Ain't that absurd,
I thought the little wing
was on the bird.**

March and April are upon us, the months of spring, new life and re-growth. This is the time when suddenly all around we start to see life burst forth, as trees and shrubs unfurl their new leaves, fresh and vibrant green and new shoots burst through the brown soil.

Quite a lot of our spring flowers are a glorious yellow, like the daffodil seen on many verges, 'A host of golden daffodils'; as Wordsworth eloquently put it. During the months of March and April we will also see other yellow flowers appear like primroses, cowslip and oxlips – all beautiful spring flowers. Along with these wonderful yellow spring flowers you will find in our local woods the delicate wood anemones, Lords and Ladies also known as Cuckoo Pint and along the edges of the paths the humbler white and red dead nettle. As the months progress we will begin to see more and more of our wild flowers appear: the tiny but beautiful forget-me-nots and the equally small dove's foot cranes bill, which like herb robert and other cranes bill flowers are members of the geranium family. We must not forget the sometimes over-looked lacy beauty of cow parsley, that fills our country lane verges and field edges.

If you take a walk on Waterford Heath and around the quarry areas, don't forget to look out for the wild strawberry flowers that will start to appear or the pretty field pansy along the edges of the fields where the soil has been disturbed. Maybe if you are wandering through Holy Trinity Churchyard you will see the many primroses and you may be able to spot meadow saxifrage or perhaps ground ivy.

Of course, in mid to late April our woods and spinneys will start to fill with the beautiful scent and



Meadow Saxifrage.

blue hue of the bluebells that will carpet the ground, always a delight. Whilst out enjoying the bluebells don't forget to listen out for the cuckoo, although getting rarer you may just be fortunate enough to hear one or keep a look out and you might spot a hare, especially further afield to the north of Hertford. Lots of our wildlife will be busy in the spring months, birds, mammals and plants jump into action, a good example for us to get up and out and appreciate the nature on our doorstep.

Bridget Hersant

There are more photos of wild flowers on page 27.

A passion for orchids

Hertford resident Michael Radley talks of his decades long labour of love growing orchids. Having grown his collection of orchids with his wife for the last 35 years or more, Michael knows a few things about these pretty but challenging plants.

For Michael being part of societies is a key part of being involved in the somewhat niche community. He belongs to the Orchid Society of Great Britain, as well as the Lea Valley Orchid Society, where he is chairman. He has also been an accredited judge for 20 years. For him, and his wife, they have always been interested in horticulture and attend shows together.

"It's nice for more people to join societies and grow orchids, and to grow your own rather than be part of a throwaway society," he says.

More recently he has undertaken an orchid display at the Collectors' Fayre in Holy Trinity Church in Bengio, to display his orchids and connect with the local community.

"It's always fun meeting people with their interests and their hobbies," he says. "The people at the hall were curious visitors, most consider an orchid as what you buy in the one of the supermarkets, but there is a vast array of different orchids," he says.

He has also displayed orchids at Royal Horticultural Society in London and is also the programme secretary of Orchid Society of Great Britain. In addition to this he gives talks and presentations to gardening clubs and societies. He says that joining societies stops people from being isolated with their interests as can happen on the internet.

For Michael, caring for his plants leaves little time for social media, which he finds very time consuming, and for this reason he hasn't expanded his network, although he does have a website and blog – <https://michaelradley.com/blog>.

"For those who have a windowsill of orchids, and if you wish to expand your interest you'll go online and join a society or find some dedicated magazines for orchids. There is a big range of information on the internet and groups on Facebook," he says.

"All orchids need nurturing. Millions from the Netherlands rely on the public killing them," he quips. Many go wrong caring for the delicate flowers and are 'killed with kindness' from too much water, 'drowned' he adds.

"Orchids are quite demanding, and though you can have lovely orchids they're a challenge to grow, I don't see



Michael Radley's orchids at the Collectors' Fayre at Holy Trinity last September.

people up for the challenge," he says. "The issue with orchids is that they grow on branches, and are not designed to be grown in a pot therefore they want to escape the pot. Many see them as disposable items, they buy the plants, they flower and then they die so they then buy another," he says.

While he doesn't tend to his plants daily, it is near enough, with maintenance taking place 3–4 times a week, to care for the 'exceptionally challenging' plants, which he says are difficult to keep alive. He has a greenhouse full of the plants, which in this country cannot grow outside, because they cannot withstand frost.

His collection evolves and changes over the years, with a current interest in South American orchids, preferring species to hybrids, although he acknowledges that hybrids are more forgiving. Additionally, he enjoys nurturing miniature orchids, which is also handy for space saving.

For those wishing to start their collection, a trip to the supermarket or a garden centre will suffice as a starting place, although the varieties on offer are just the tip of the iceberg.

"Orchids are quite a niche hobby, they are cheap enough to buy some from the superstores, but it's not easy or convenient to buy other styles," he says. "The range of orchids that are out there is colossal compared to the half dozen, maybe 20 [types] you'll see [in shops]. In the orchid world there are 32,000 species, it's a glimpse of what the Netherlands produce," he adds.

Carrie Bone

See more orchids on page 27.

If you wish to find out more about growing orchids, why not join your local orchid society, Lea Valley Orchid Society. Contact radleymichael@yahoo.co.uk for more information.

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25 Years of Courtyard Arts



Rosie and Peter Freeland unveiling the Totem Pole at Courtyard Arts in December.

We were delighted to unveil the latest addition to our sculpture garden just before Christmas. Sue Wagstaff and the children from our home educated classes took on the challenge of creating a ceramic totem pole to celebrate the 25th anniversary of Courtyard Arts opening.

"The children spent a long-time discussing ideas for the project and thinking about what Courtyard means to them and others who love the centre. They're immensely proud of their finished project which has been given a permanent space in our garden area for everyone to enjoy" – Sue Wagstaff.

We were also able to incorporate a tribute to our late Chair of Trustees Tony Freeland. Tony was a huge supporter of Courtyard for many years and is greatly missed by everyone. His widow Rosie worked alongside Sue and the children to choose suitable wording and positioning for Tony's tribute as well as funding the project.

We love the new totem pole in our garden. Make sure you pop along to see it and enjoy the space we have created for the community.

Kate Davies

Former Centre Director

Courtyard Arts Exhibition Gallery – Six Views

8th March – 2nd April 2022

Carolyn Perry, Roger Dimond, John Little, Davida McDonald, Frank Beckford, Glynnis Bainbridge.

Six artists who have continued to develop their styles and approaches. The exhibition

doesn't have a common theme but shows each artist's desire to explore the landscape of the visual world which is always fascinating and often curious.

Courtyard Arts is pleased to announce that Laura Burns is the new Centre Director.

The Company of Players



An upcoming production from COPS at the Little Theatre in Balfour Street off Port Vale.

The Hound of the Baskervilles

by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

25th March – 2nd April 2022

Directed by Andy Lee

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's most celebrated Sherlock Holmes story gets a gloriously funny makeover.

When Sir Charles Baskerville is found dead on his estate, with a look of terror still etched on his face, and the paw prints of a gigantic hound beside his body, the great detective Sherlock Holmes is summoned from Baker Street, with Dr Watson in tow, to unravel the mysteries surrounding his death, and investigate the ancient curse of the Hound of the Baskervilles...

Packed full of the verbal and visual ingenuity this performance offers abundant opportunities for silly comedy and slapstick. It is a sublimely funny adaptation of a classic tale. This stage version was adapted by Steven Canny and John Nicholson and was first performed by Peepolykus at the West Yorkshire Playhouse, Leeds, in 2007.

Tickets priced at £14 for members, £17 for non-members and £14 for non-members children are available from Ticket Source (see link on the website www.cops.org.uk or on our Facebook page).

Art Exhibition – Aspects of St Leonard's

Release your inner creativity

Hundreds of people pass by St Leonard's Church every day: workers, runners, shoppers, swimmers, dog-walkers, schoolchildren – and many more. Many of them stop to admire our small and peaceful church, tucked behind its iron fences and yew hedges.

The Friends of St Leonard's want more people to come and enjoy the church this summer. So we want you to release your creativity and give us your paintings, drawings, photographs and poems that show us how you feel about the church. We especially want children to take part and we will run a special event for them in the school summer holidays.

In September there will be an exhibition of the best works at the Church called 'Aspects of St Leonard's', when we can all enjoy the results. Look out for more details on how to take part in the next edition of the Bengo Magazine.

Helen Fleming



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The Children's Society

Future Dates for the Diary:

There will be a Bring & Buy Coffee Morning at the home of Carol and John Warren, 7 Russell Street, Bengio on Saturday 18th

June in the morning from 10am to 12 noon.

Libby and Peter Shillito will be hosting a Garden Party with cream tea and Bring & Buy Sale on Saturday 9th July from 3pm to 5pm at their home, 1 The Orchard, Bengio.

Please watch out for more details of these events in the next magazine.

Libby Shillito

Pet Service

Our annual Pet Service will be held on Sunday 3rd July 4pm at St Leonard's Church, more details to follow in the next issue of the magazine.

Libby Shillito

Forthcoming Events

Concert, Holy Trinity Church

Saturday 30th April 7.30pm

Tatcho Drom, considered one of the UK's leading exponents of Romany Gypsy Music, will perform traditional music on violin/vocals, guitar and cello from across Eastern Europe and the Balkans.

Adult £15, Children free. Pay at the door.

Collections and Hobbies Show,

Holy Trinity Church

Saturday 3rd and Sunday 4th September 2022

COLLECTORS WANTED – If you are a collector or have an interesting hobby we would be delighted if you would share it with the community in the Parish Church over the above weekend. This will be the third such Show that we have staged and the range of items on display has been extremely varied, from a classic car to a small trinket box.

BOOK A SPACE NOW – If you are thinking about it for the first time and would like further information on the practicalities of showing, or have been before and would like to book a space, please contact Mary Crane by phone 01992 314003 or email em.crane@virginmedia.com.

Sunday Afternoon Teas,

St Leonard's Church

From 5th June through to 25th September 2022

The Sunday Afternoon Teas provide a welcome opportunity for members of the community to meet up in the lovely surroundings of St Leonard's Church to have a chat and a cuppa with a piece of cake.

Helpers wanted. If you would like to be part of the team of helpers this year you will be very welcome. Just contact Mary Crane by phone 01992 314003 or email em.crane@virginmedia.com and she will let you know what it entails.

Holy Trinity Church Christmas and New Year Quiz 2021

The Christmas Quiz 2021 raised £293 for church funds. Many people returned their quiz sheet and 32 had the correct answers. We were also given two more boxes of chocolates so there were five winners. Congratulations to Alison Clinch, Jackie Downs, Ian and Wendy Smith, Ann Read and Charlie Harvey-Burrows.

Thank you to everyone who bought a quiz we hope that you all enjoyed this festive piece of fun.

Libby and Peter Shillito

Miscellany Answers

Sweets

1. Wobbly infants (5, 6) *Jelly Babies*
2. Where to drink on the next planet (4, 3) *Mars Bar*
3. Eleven and Nine are this (5, 5) *After Eight*
4. Fasteners in Cinderella (7) *Buttons*
5. Sounds like a secret rumour (5) *Wispa*
6. They pull little Malcolm's leg (9) *Maltesers*
7. Byzantine Joy (7, 7) *Turkish Delight*
8. Reward or Premium (6) *Bounty*
9. Top grade Terrace (7, 6) *Quality Street*
10. Blended Ice Churn (8) *Crunchie*
11. Relating to Aircraft (4) *Aero*
12. Teddies meal in the woods (6) *Picnic*
13. Temperance stop maybe (5, 3) *Milky Bar*
14. Not flying cups! (6, 6) *Flying Saucers*

Birds

15. Does this one hold up the flower (5) *Stork*
16. Strong winds during the night (11) *Nightingale*
17. Fun in the air (7) *Skylark*
18. Crimson object from the toy box (3, 4) *Red Kite*
19. Sounds like the tin is full of holes (6) *Canary*
20. Blackberrying (9) *Brambling*
21. 0 (4) *Duck*
22. No note on the shepherd's stick (4) *Rook*
23. Out of breath? (6) *Puffin*
24. Famous train (7) *Mallard*
25. Sherwood outlaw without the headgear (5) *Robin*
26. Music on the beach (9) *Sandpiper*
27. Angry William (9) *Crossbill*
28. Robin's partner is confused (6) *Bantam*
29. Cowardly tool (6, 6) *Yellow Hammer*
30. Shade of green (4) *Teal*
31. The little cat stirs (9) *Kittiwake*

London Underground Stations

32. Flock watchers Flora (8, 4) *Shepherds Bush*
33. Make 'em sick (7, 5) *Turnham Green*
34. Cockney's upswept hair (4, 6) *High Barnet*
35. Tea party at the big house (6, 5) *Boston Manor*
36. Where a Frenchman met his end (8) *Waterloo*
37. Woof Woof (7) *Barking*
38. Heidi's House (5, 7) *Swiss Cottage*
39. A lucky number of Nuns (5, 7) *Seven Sisters*
40. Is this station falling down (6, 6) *London Bridge*
41. Babar and Windsor (8, 3, 6) *Elephant and Castle*
42. Gabriel (5) *Angel*
43. Car manufacturer (8) *Vauxhall*
44. A mound of dyslexic mosquitos (5, 4) *Gants Hill*
45. She was not amused (8) *Victoria*

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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.



Church Hall

Bengeo Church Hall, Duncombe Road, is open again for bookings for parties, group functions and committee meetings. The hall is suited to many activities.

It has a fully fitted kitchen with crockery, cutlery, oven, dishwasher and fridge. The hall area possesses a projector, screen and WiFi.

Speak to the bookings Secretary, Wendy Celia on **01992 589538** or download the Booking Form from the Bengeo Parish website www.parishofbengeo.com.



Welwyn Garden City Male Voice Choir are looking to recruit a conductor/ musical director.

The choir was established in 1935 and is an active choir with over 30 singing members. We sing locally in Hertfordshire and have raised funds for many charitable causes in the area. We have also performed further afield on tour in the UK and in Europe. Traditionally, we have given about ten concerts a year.

The choir has a wide ranging repertoire including well known pop numbers, songs from the shows, classical arrangements and traditional male voice classics including some in Welsh. We currently rehearse once a week on a Thursday evening in Welwyn Garden City.

The choir is now looking to recruit a conductor who can maintain our heritage and at the same time can lead the choir in new musical areas. There is an active organising team which allows the conductor to focus on musical leadership. It also has excellent support from other talented musicians who accompany the choir and contribute with some conducting support. The choir has traditionally provided some financial support for the conductor by way of an annual honorarium and would be happy to discuss financial arrangements.

In the first instance, please contact Martyn Voyle on **07768 237538**.

World Day of Prayer

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World Day of Prayer

Holy Trinity Church

New Road, Bengeo.

Friday 4th March 2022

10:30

Coffee and Cakes

Hertford and District Churches Together

All Welcome

**I know the plans
I have for you**

PREPARED BY THE CHRISTIAN WOMEN OF ENGLAND, WALES & NORTHERN IRELAND

Foodbank Report

Since our last report in November 2021, we have gone through the expected very busy period in the run up to Christmas, coping with an enormous amount of stock donated through the supermarkets and with the subsequent distribution of food parcels. As always, our amazing volunteers coped magnificently. Not surprisingly in 2020 food parcels were doubled from 2019 (2771 clients) and now we can see that this number only went down by 10% (2415 clients) in 2021. So far this year they remain steady. Excess stock and some catering-sized goods have been redistributed to other foodbanks, one operating a café; Homestart and a Women's Refuge Centre, amongst others. We are also glad to report that the Foodbank has been able to help several families in practical ways as well as with food supply and with fuel poverty in some cases.

The Foodbank is delighted to announce that it has resumed 'normal practice' by going back to opening its doors for clients to come in, have a drink and a chat and get some advice if needed. Eventually, we are hoping to have a 'direct line' to the Citizen's Advice Service available during these sessions for clients to save going through the normal, and not such direct channels. Things will be slightly different from a couple of years ago in that the parcels will be pre-packed and any adjustments made if necessary at the time. This will result in fewer volunteers being needed at each session and we will only be open three days a week, Monday, Wednesday and Friday. There is always the opportunity for clients to go to St Mary's Church in Ware on a Tuesday or Thursday. We have taken on a few extra volunteers recently to help with administration.

The Ware Branch of the Foodbank is still looking for permanent accommodation in Ware as an operational base. Ware is now as busy as Hertford and in the summer months when they cannot use the Ware Lido, it does put more pressure on the Hertford storage and operation.

It is good to report that Finances remain in a very healthy position.

Hertford and District Foodbank will be sad to lose the Revd Andrew Clark as Chair of the Trustees and Management Committee at the end of March as he moves back to Scotland. We are grateful for his



contribution over the last 3½ years especially taking on a Trussell Trust request for us to consider a 5-year Strategy Plan, which he has guided us through and we have achieved to a certain extent as far as we could.

Thank you to all churches for their continued practical and prayerful support.

Fran Spence

Secretary

2nd Bengoe Scouts busy in Hertford

The Cubs and Scouts marched to Parliament Square on Remembrance Sunday to show respect to those who gave their lives to secure our future. The Beavers also had a talk on the 11th November from an army colonel.

The Cubs won the Johnstone Cup by creating a pop-up scrapbook based on the 12 days of Christmas. The Johnstone cup is named after Laurie and Betty Johnstone from Hertford who devoted their lives to Scouting in the area.

A group from the Cubs also won the Night Hike which was held in the beautiful Panshanger Park. We would love to show you the photos but they were too dark!

We are still taking bookings for our hall. Please contact Barbara Kiln if you are interested on 01992 552562.



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NEEDED – the Hertford Disability Support Group is a charity run by volunteers to enrich the lives of mostly elderly, disabled people. We organise monthly socials, and varied outings during the summer.

Our members are thrilled to get out and about and working with them is most rewarding. All kinds of help – driving, cooking, planning, befriending and more – are needed.

Do please consider helping us. Contact Alison on 01992 584851.



Tonwell School News



This half term's Christian value is friendship and looking at bible verses, such as Proverbs 17 v17 'A friend loves at all times'. We will be exploring this theme in collective worship times. The junior children reflected on their friendships in RE last week making friendship flowers where each child wrote about others to explain what makes them a good friend.



For story telling week, children in Early Years and KS1 classes enjoyed a wonderful story telling workshop. The focus was on developing literacy skills, confidence and

wellbeing. The children were focused, listened carefully and engaged brilliantly in activities. We have invited the company back to do further workshops across the school for our Feeling Good week.

Our EYFS children enjoyed a walk around Tonwell focussing on developing their early geographical skills and getting to know our local area. They took photos and made their own maps!



The process of federation is well underway and we are very pleased to announce that the current Head Teacher at Tonwell School, Sarah Bridgman, will become the Executive Head Teacher looking after both Tonwell and Thundridge School from 1st April 2022. The two schools will have one overarching Governing Body which is still being chosen.



Coop 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



Mill Mead Primary School

We are pleased to announce that our Mill Mead's Ducklings Nursery applications are open for admission from September 2022 onwards. Take a look at our website for more information about our teacher-led provision for 3 and 4 year olds. Funded and private spaces available.

Here's a selection of the fantastic work that our pupils have been doing:

Nursery – our Superhero topic continued to include learning about people who help us – real life superheroes. We have also been taking part in the Great British School Bird Watch.

Reception – have been exploring Little Red Riding Hood and using their own creative ideas to get rid of the wolf! The children have also been learning about Chinese New Year, listening to *The Great Race* story, writing some Chinese symbols and making a dragon for a special dragon dance.

Year 1 – In RE we have been investigating fairness and have had some lovely discussions deciding whether things are fair or unfair. We are getting really confident in exploring subtraction in Maths.

Year 2 – we thought of key instructions and brainstormed ideas together to think of different ways we could trap a dragon safely. We used all our knowledge to then write clear and ordered instructions, including a list of things we would need.

Year 3 – we have really enjoyed learning about the Romans and went back in time to see what a day in the

life of a Roman child would be like. We took part in lessons that they would have had and even learned how to write our names in Latin.

Year 4 – We have been having lots of fun in Science over the last few weeks looking at liquids, solids and gases and carried out some fun experiments. One of those experiments involved discovering the weight of gas using fizzy drink. In PE we have been enjoying our various yoga poses.

Year 5 – We have written persuasive adverts to try a new Maya style hot chocolate and are now writing explanation texts in English. We can't wait for our visit from Mexicolore to finish

off our Maya topic. A big thank you to Debs from Manic Ceramics who came to talk to us for an RE unit on how local people decide how to help their community.

Year 6 – are continuing to work really hard on their performance of Julius Caesar. The performance date is looming and excitement is growing! The children are now fluent in Shakespeare, which never fails to impress us. In

Geography, we have been looking at how earthquakes are caused creating some amazing double-page spreads on the technical elements of earthquakes. We have a number of experts now!





Mill Mead on an eco-mission



Mill Mead's band of Eco Warriors are off to a flying start making our school a greener, cleaner place with an environment we can all be proud of.

Each eco-warrior has been busy discussing green initiatives with their classmates; setting out our school's commitments to the environment with our Eco Warriors Charter; tidying up the playground with our new litter-pick gear, and focusing on making Mill Mead's future more sustainable.

Each year group has two Eco Warriors, voted for by their classmates. They're here to listen to your eco-concerns – and to take action.

Mill Mead Eco Warriors Charter

-  We will never drop litter
-  We will dispose of waste carefully so that it doesn't pollute our environment
-  We will walk to school if possible
-  We will recycle - including food waste
-  We will turn out lights and screens when we leave the classroom
-  We won't pick wildflowers - and will plant new ones
-  We will look after wildlife, including our bug hotel
-  We will reuse school equipment
-  We will choose sustainable options when equipment needs to be replaced
-  We will spread the word and encourage our friends and families to be eco-friendly too





Duncombe School

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Duncombe School



A big hello from Team Duncombe! Here are some highlights from this term.

Year 4's assembly gave a reflection on Victorian Life. With excellent costumes, well-rehearsed lines and top-level performances, the children shared their learning about key Victorian figures including Queen Victoria herself, the scientist Charles Darwin, Crimean War nurse, Mary Seacole and circus entertainer and equestrian, Pablo Fanque. Whilst Year 1 looked at the theme of friendship and inclusion, based on the story 'Alien Tea on Planet Zum-Zee'. As ever they were well rehearsed and showed the excellent journey that they have all taken this academic year in growing confidence and skills.

At Duncombe English is more than just spelling and grammar, it's about the children discovering and enjoying all the creative ways that English can be brought to life. Back in the Autumn Term, children in Main School were tasked with creating a story for the character of a lonely hedgehog, who dreamt of being able to fly. Our littlest children in Treetops were given the task of sharing ideas for toys they would give their friends for Christmas and why. This term Mo O'Hara, Team Duncombe's Patron of Reading had the pleasure of announcing the 2021 winners of our annual Christmas Write.

All the children's entries across the school were magnificent and Mo was blown away by their enthusiasm. She shared with the children how the thoughts and development of their stories were excellent, and the use of vocabulary was phenomenal! Mo shared the winning entries by treating Team Duncombe to a live recital, something we all enjoyed. Next time you're having a quick cup of tea, feel free to enjoy the stories for yourself. You won't be disappointed! Links can be found on our social media channels.

We have some wonderful budding artists amongst us and we've recently been admiring their creative pieces. The whole school have been so impressed with their extraordinary work

that we have created a staircase gallery in Main School. This will enable us to not only celebrate and share their talent with all of Team Duncombe, but also the wider community.

February sees the celebration of Safer Internet Awareness Day 2022, a global campaign to promote the safe and responsible use of technology. The Upper School had a 'Thinking Bubble' storytelling adventure about internet safety. Our very own Señor Torres hosted assemblies with the support of our Digital Captains. Whilst Treetops welcomed Miss Cartwright for a story all about 'Once Upon a Time ONLINE'. Using the internet safely and positively is a key message that we promote at Duncombe.

We're thrilled to share not one, but two IAPS sporting wins this term. Our U11 netball team travelled all the way to Ipswich to compete in the Regional U11 Netball Competition. After playing multiple schools, including local rivals, a nail-biting final saw 'Team Duncombe' bring home the trophy! We are very proud of them all and can't wait to travel to Bournemouth in March for the Nationals. We also celebrated a Year 6 pupil winning the 50m Butterfly race at the IAPS Under 11 Regional Finals.

As we closed the first half of the term, we currently stand at 11 Scholarship Awards and with the leading number of offers for places of all Prep schools in the area. A phenomenal achievement by our children and staff and more good news, we're sure, is to come.

We look forward to sharing more tales of our adventures with you in the next edition.

Until then keep safe and well,

Team Duncombe

Follow us on social media to keep up to date with all our news and Open Morning information. If you would like to know more about Duncombe School and Treetops Pre-School, please visit our website at www.duncombe-school.co.uk for more details.

A Word from The Rectory

Lent Noir

From The Vicar, The Revd Robert Thompson



Lent approaches, and round about now your average local vicar will be busy choosing a suitably informative Lent Course to stimulate congregations into deeper reflection on their faith with a suitably improving course of study. Flicking through the courses on offer, it seems as if engagement with popular culture is

the vogue thing. One author offers a Lent Course on the themes of hope and redemption 'as seen in the hit film and musical *The Greatest Showman*.' Another is based on the Elton John movie *Rocketman*. Other authors claim that priceless pearls of wisdom are to be found in *Les Misérables*, *The King's Speech* or the Stephen Hawking biopic, *The Theory of Everything*. One optimistic vicar has published an entire Lent Course pairing the story of the saving death and glorious resurrection of Jesus Christ with their rather special choice of companion piece: the Disney movie *Mary Poppins Returns*.

Your faith, 'as seen on screen' seems to be the premise. Fair enough, I suppose. Most of us spend more time watching telly than we do reading books of stunning erudition, and for that earnest group of church-goers heading towards their local vicarage in hope of challenge and inspiration, the promptings of Elton John and Mary Poppins might well be a wise course to follow.

I wouldn't know. TV shows at Bengoe Rectory are of an altogether darker variety. It could be that I heard too many gothic fairy tales as a child, or it could be the recent pandemic gloom that's fuelled my taste for the grim and grisly; there's no obvious explanation for the list of TV shows in my 'Continue Watching' Netflix list right now. There's *Ozarks* – the cheerless tale of a financial adviser dragging his family to the Missouri Ozarks to launder money to appease a Mexican druglord; *Narcos Mexico* – the same kind of story pretty much, only from the

Mexican druglord's end of things – and, appropriate for someone involved in pastoral ministry, there's *The Sinner*, a police procedural show following a detective investigating disturbing crimes committed by unlikely culprits and the harrowing circumstances that motivated them.

Admittedly, this is hardly the kind of thing I'd serve up to church friends on a Lent Course before bible study and a light fork supper. But going on recent viewing figures there's certainly an appetite for it. According to Ofcom, at the beginning of the pandemic the most popular Netflix show in the UK was the documentary *Tiger King: Murder, Mayhem, and Madness*. By contrast, in 2019 and 2018 the most watched show was *Friends*.

I wonder if this is how we measure out our lives now: watching box sets of ever-increasing darkness. Death and violence sell, and makers of today's dramas know it. Once upon a time our Sunday

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16th December	21st April	

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🌐 www.parishofbengoe.com
/bereavementcafe.php

📘 @BengoeBereavementCafe



evenings would be filled with the TV glow of a soothing period drama – now we stumble to bed high on octane from a police car chase or giddy on a gangland killing.

Television drama is now in a kind of arms race, with each series trying to be bleaker and blacker than the last, with ever increasing body counts and more extreme ways of killing people. While the better shows portray the violence as necessary, it often just seems gratuitous. It's as though the makers fear they won't hold our attention unless they shock us every five minutes. Dark is the new black.

Except, of course, it isn't new. Dorothy Sayers once wrote, 'Death provides the mind with a greater fund of innocent enjoyment than any single subject,' and it was ever thus. The trouble is that if things get too dark no one can see anything. Most art forms need the chiaroscuro, the light and the shade, to connect. Real life – for all its suffering and trauma – is never one note, and the creators of the best shows recognize this. There has to be humour and humanity, some illumination, to see through all the dark.

What explains the fascination? Is it, as John's Gospel puts it, that 'People loved darkness rather than the light?' Or is it something else? While some watch for the violence, I think most watch hoping for an interesting plot, for justice to be done, and for the truth to be exposed. There's a need for conclusion in a narrative and moral sense. Most dramas – no matter how pretentiously noir – are looking for this resolution, this redemption, and are relying on our innate desire for it.

The most powerful stories may need darkness, but they also need light to be believable. This is as true of the gospels as it is of *Game of Thrones*, as any decent Lent study will show you. The gospel drama is bad news before it's good; at Easter, God gives his final word of hope and redemption, but not before he shows us Lent, Jesus' journey to the cross, through pain and suffering, violence and death.

Warning: this programme contains scenes that some viewers may find upsetting.

With my prayers,

Robert Thompson

FUTUREhope – Hertford and Ware

The new bus has been out every Friday in term time and since January we have had some really good quality nights. In Ware we have a small group that come on and stay for the whole duration of the session – this has been a really good opportunity to grow relationships with them and looking forward to seeing where that will take us. In Hertford there is lots of fun and chatting. We are excited for the future of this aspect of our work, especially as the nights get less cold!

Mentoring, as always, is keeping us busy but we are really seeing the positive impact this work has on young people. Just in January 56 mentoring sessions took place, 56 hours' investment in local young people. We are at the unfortunate stage of operating a waiting list. Therefore, we have a real need for more mentors to join our team. Mainly men, but women too. We are looking to run our volunteer training before Easter so please do ask your church members if they would be willing to

FUTURE|hope

meet with a young person, just for one hour a week. It will have such a big impact.

We have been busy with schools! We delivered our drug awareness session to every Year 10 student at Chauncy through their tutor groups. We received a grant from CAHMS to deliver sessions in the local schools (Chauncy, Presdales, Simon Balle, Sele School and Richard Hale) as part of their Feeling Good Week 2022 – the same week as Child Mental Health Awareness Week. The theme this year was 'Body Positivity' so we choose to run sessions based on body image and the impact of social media filters. Instant prints from the session are a great reminder about what was discussed.

We held a 'Handling Anger in the Family' course on Zoom in January and we plan to host another one in person in March. We are exploring new ways we can actively engage with and support parents of teenagers in the local area – watch this space!

Thank you again for your continued support.

Parish Calendar MARCH 2022

Tuesday 1st March	
8pm	Quiet Time
Wednesday 2nd March	
ASH WEDNESDAY	
Holy Communion 8pm (said)	
1.55pm	Bengeo Afternoon Wl, Church Hall, Duncombe Road
Thursday 3rd March	
10.30am	Coffee Pot Charity Café, Church Hall, Duncombe Road
Friday 4th March	
World Day of Prayer	
10.30am	Hertford and District Churches Together, Holy Trinity Church Prayers with coffee and cakes
Sunday 6th March	
FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT	
9am	Holy Communion
10am	Holy Communion
Tuesday 8th March	
8pm	QT plus Fellowship of Contemplative Prayer
Wednesday 9th March	
10am	Community Craft Club, Church Hall, Duncombe Road
Thursday 10th March	
10.30am	Coffee Pot Charity Café, Church Hall, Duncombe Road
Sunday 13th March	
SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT	
9am	Holy Communion
10am	Holy Communion
Tuesday 15th March	
8pm	QT plus The Samaritans
Thursday 17th March	
10.30am	Coffee Pot Charity Café, Church Hall, Duncombe Road
2pm	Bengeo Ladies' Circle, Church Hall, Duncombe Road
Sunday 20th March	
Third Sunday of Lent	
9am	Holy Communion
10am	Holy Communion
Tuesday 22nd March	
8pm	QT plus FUTUREHope, Hertford
Thursday 24th March	
10.30am	Coffee Pot Charity Café, Church Hall, Duncombe Road
Sunday 27th March	
Mothering Sunday	
9am	Holy Communion
10am	Holy Communion
Tuesday 29 March	
8pm	QT plus An exploration of Doubt
Thursday 31st March	
10.30am	Coffee Pot Charity Café, Church Hall, Duncombe Road

Parish Calendar APRIL 2022

Sunday 3rd April		FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT
9am	Holy Communion	
10am	Holy Communion	
Tuesday 5th April		
8pm	QT plus Learning to trust	
Thursday 7th April		
10.30am	Coffee Pot Charity Café, Church Hall, Duncombe Road	
1.55pm	Bengeo Afternoon WI, Church Hall, Duncombe Road	
Sunday 10th April		PALM SUNDAY
9am	Holy Communion	
10am	Parish Communion and Junior Church with blessing of palm crosses Dramatic reading of the Passion of Christ	
Monday 11th April		Monday in Holy Week
8pm	Holy Communion	
Tuesday 12 April		Tuesday in Holy Week
8pm	Holy Communion	
Wednesday 13th April		Wednesday in Holy Week
8pm	Holy Communion	
10am	Community Craft Club, Church Hall, Duncombe Road	
Thursday 14th April		Maundy Thursday
10am	Holy Communion	
10.30am	Coffee Pot Charity Café, Church Hall, Duncombe Road	
7pm	Prayer Supper in the Church Hall, Duncombe Road Commemorating the Last Supper through word and action	
Friday 15th April		Good Friday
12 noon–2pm	Prayer and meditation	
2pm	Good Friday Devotions	
Sunday 17th April		Easter Day
9am	Holy Communion	
10am	All Age Communion for Easter Day	
Thursday 21st April		
10.30am	Coffee Pot Charity Café, Church Hall, Duncombe Road	
2pm	Ladies' Circle, Church Hall, Duncombe Road	
Sunday 24th April		SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER
9am	Holy Communion	
10am	Holy Communion	
Tuesday 26th April		
8pm	Quiet Time	
Thursday 28th April		
	Coffee Pot Charity Café, Church Hall, Duncombe Road	
Saturday 30th April		
7.30pm	Tatcho Drum, Romany Gypsy Music Concert, Holy Trinity Church	

Parish Prayers

Daily Prayers for March

1. The Church in Wales
2. The Christian Churches in Russia
3. HMP Kirklevington, Stockton on Tees
4. World Day of Prayer
5. Christians in Sport
6. Hertford Town Council
7. Sidings Court
8. The Fellowship of Contemplative Prayer
9. Bengoe Craft Club
10. HMP Lancaster Farms, Lancaster
11. The United Reformed Church, Hertford
12. Street Pastors in Ware and Hertford
13. The Hospital Chaplaincy Service
14. The Commonwealth
15. The Samaritan's Office, Ware
16. Sturla Close
17. The Church in Ireland
18. HMP Leeds
19. Hertford and Ware Foodbank
20. Our 9am Sunday Service
21. St Leonard's Road
22. Future Hope Hertford
23. The Church in North Africa
24. HMP Leicester
25. Leicester Cathedral
26. Mission Aviation Fellowship
27. Our Mothers
28. St Leonard's Close
29. Our Doubts
30. The Christian Church in Madagascar
31. HMP Lewes, East Sussex

Daily Prayers for April

1. Age Concern
2. The Prison Fellowship
3. Our Churchyard maintenance
4. Temple Fields, Tonwell
5. Our Hopes for the future
6. The Anglican Communion
7. HMP Leyhill, Gloucestershire
8. Beane River View
9. Hertford Disabilities Support Group
10. Our 10am Family Service
11. Christian Aid
12. The Christian Police Association
13. The Christian Church in Lebanon
14. Amnesty International
15. Hertford and District Churches Together
16. Those who are Housebound
17. The Risen Lord Jesus Christ
18. Temple Lane, Tonwell
19. Those who provide home care in Bengoe
20. Christian Church in South Africa
21. HMP Lincoln
22. Clubs and societies we belong to
23. Young carers in Hertfordshire
24. Friends of St Leonard's
25. Temple Court
26. Gosselin House, Bengoe
27. The Christian Church in Bangladesh
28. HMP Lindholm, Doncaster
29. Lichfield Cathedral
30. The WRVS in Hertford

QT Plus

Tuesday Evenings in Lent 2022 – Holy Trinity Church New Road Bengoe at 8pm

Why not join us for a short 'time out' for listening and learning, an opportunity to 'reset' in a busy life.

8th March: Revd Robert Fletcher. Fellowship of Contemplative Prayer, a few tips and an insight into Contemplative Prayer.

15th March: Samaritans will share their experience of listening and looking out for the mental health of friends, family and work mates.

22nd March: FUTUREhope. Tim Simonds will share their work with mentoring young people and parent support groups.

29th March: An exploration of Doubt.

5th April: Learning to trust, moving on in Hope.



Church Contacts

Team Vicar

The Reverend Robert Thompson
The Rectory, Byde Street, Bengio, SG14 3BS
E: info@parishofbengeio.com
T: 01992 413691

Associate Priest

Fr. David Pepper
T: 07583 985266

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, Bengio, SG14 3JW

Local Contacts for Help and Advice

Bengeio Residents Support Network Against Coronavirus

Many volunteers from Bengio 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/bengeio.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

Information about local council services

www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/coronavirus

Domestic Abuse

www.sunflower.org

Hertfordshire Domestic Abuse Helpline

0808 808 8088

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

Financial Advice

Money Advice Unit

www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/benefits

Hertfordshire Citizens Advice Service

03444 111 444

National Debtline

www.nationaldebtline.org
0808 808 4000

Advice on avoiding scams

Sign up for scam alerts from trading standards
www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/updateme

Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline

0808 223 1133

If you are interested in volunteering
www.thvolunteering.org.uk

HertsHelp 0300 123 4044

Mental Health Advice and Support

Herts Mind Network

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

Emotional Support and Practical Help

www.hertshelp.net
info@hertshelp.net
HertsHelp: 0300 123 4044

Inner back page photographs:

Bridget's wild flowers and Michael's orchids, see the articles on pages 6 and 7.

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WELWYN • 01438 714686

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Wild Flowers and Orchids



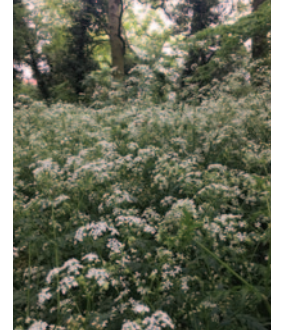
Bluebells



Bluebells and Wood Anemones



Bluebells



Cow Parsley



Cow Parsley



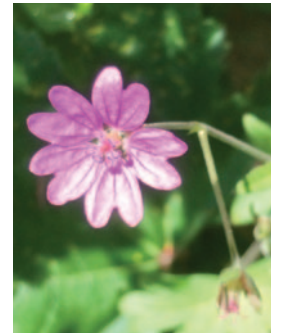
Cowslips



Daffodil



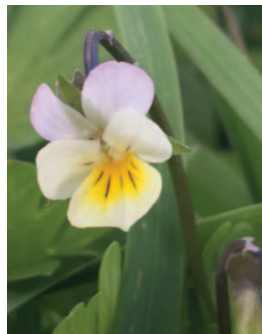
Dead Nettle



Dove's Foot Crane's Bill



False Oxlips



Field Pansy



Forget-me-nots



Ground Ivy



Lords and Ladies



Meadow Saxifrage



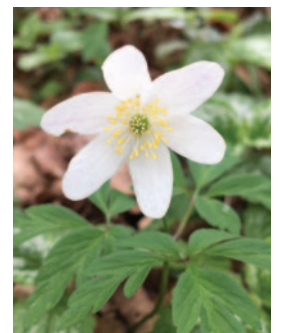
Primroses



White Dead Nettles



Wild Strawberry



Wood Anemone



Pleione Pink Pearl, hybrid



Sobralia fimbriata



Oncidium hastilabium



Phalaenopsis Manhattan, hybrid

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