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Bengeio Parish Magazine and Community News



Summer is almost upon us which means that the oldest building in Hertford, St Leonard's church, will be open again for visitors to sample the ancient atmosphere with tea and cake on Sundays. Find out more about the programme of events including Art at St Leonard's on page 13.

John Howson writes about the ongoing problem of the Bengeio Rat Run on pages 6 and 7. There will be an opportunity for residents to contribute to the forthcoming consultation about suggested remedies.

Concerts come to Bengeio again this summer and have started with the very successful Concert for Ukraine last month with players from the City of London Sinfonia and Academy of St Martins in the Fields. There is a children's Magical Musical Tour in May and folk music at Holy Trinity church in June with more concerts planned at St Leonard's. Keep a watch on the Parish of Bengeio website for more information.

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: An appreciative audience for the successful Concert for Ukraine.

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Editorial Team

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Concert for Ukraine



Easter Monday at Holy Trinity church came alive with a musical journey across Europe from Britain ending in Ukraine. Fiona Bonds had gathered a group of thirteen mostly Herts-based string players from the City of London Sinfonia and the Academy of St Martins in the Fields. Fiona, who lives in Bengeo, is a viola player with those orchestras and wanted to arrange the concert to raise funds for Ukraine. She contacted her colleagues there and included three music students who had family links with the players.

In devising the programme, Fiona said, "I thought about music that reached out towards Ukraine which illustrated the rich cultural scene of Europe. The composers of pieces in the concert came from

the UK, France, Germany, Austria, Slovakia, Romania and Russia. The boundaries of countries in Europe may have changed constantly over time but there are no borders in music as the composers were all influenced by other countries' cultures."

Fiona had less than 6 weeks to organise the players, arrange the programme and rehearse in the run-up to the event. An appreciative full house of about 130 people attended and to date over £2,000 had been raised with more to come from advance tickets sales and donations. The musicians gladly gave their time for free, but if you would like to contribute, please go to the Disasters Emergency Committee Ukraine Appeal at www.justgiving.com/Fiona-Bonds2.

2nd Bengeo Scout group out and about in Bengeo

The Beavers visited Holy Trinity to complete their Faith Badge. They learnt about baptism and marriage and composed some prayers.

The Cubs did a house-to-house collection in Bengeo for the Food Bank in April.

The group is having a book stall and tombola at the Queen's Jubilee event on 2nd June in the Castle grounds. Do come and support us.



Bengeio Rat Run



The Bengeio Rat Run has been a perennial issue for as long as I have lived in Bengeio. In other words for over 30 years. However, I personally did not understand the problems associated with the rat run until I became involved in the Neighbourhood Plan and began listening to residents.

It soon became clear to me that the current situation is unsustainable and the rat run cannot be allowed to go on as at present.

Residents raised some very simple questions such as:

How can I get my children safely to school? Cars mount the pavement and have on occasion bumped into them?

My children cannot go out of the front door to go and play with the next door neighbour because it is simply not safe.

I cannot go to the coop to buy food because it is not safe to walk on the street.

It is no wonder that residents have been running an excellent, tough and hard hitting campaign to get things changed. The reason is simply one of public safety.

Hertfordshire County Council are well aware of the problem and the need to find a solution. However, as I will show there is no simple resolution.

During our consultations on the Neighbourhood Plan the option of Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) was regularly raised as a potential solution for the rat run. However, the problem with this is simply that it is impossible to police. One reason is simply that there is not the police capacity to chase up potential wrong-doers; a second reason is that it is almost impossible to prove that someone was not using the rat run for the purpose of visiting a local resident or one or other valid reasons.

Hertfordshire County Council have looked very

carefully at all the options using all sorts of tools and traffic flow monitoring. The following measures have been considered:

a) Width restrictions at entry points

The problem with this is that it does not actually stop people using the route. In order to be successful the restricted area would also need to allow vehicles to turn if they could not get through and there is not enough space for suitable turning points.

b) Chicanes and traffic priority

Again chicanes don't stop through journeys but could actually add to road safety concerns by slowing down traffic and causing queueing and also potentially aggravate anti social driving.

c) A one way traffic system

The main problem with one way systems is that they don't necessarily reduce the number of cars using a route. A one way system on Nelson Road and Wellington Street would increase northbound journey times but Hyde Street would still need to be two way. So while it may have some effect on the numbers of cars using the route – the overall effect would not be sufficient to address current concerns.

d) Clearer signs at entry points

While clearer signs would emphasise that the area is residential they would not actually stop vehicles from rat running.

e) Road closure at the top of Hyde Street

This would stop all traffic movement and improve walking and cycling opportunities, access to Bengeio would be restricted to either Beane Road or Bengeio street rather than both as at present.

So the conclusion of the County Council is that road closure is the only viable option to solve the issues of the rat run. But this closure will not happen without prior consultation. The area affected by any closure will be consulted and the results of that consultation will inform the County's decision. While many people will know that this happened once before and in 2008 a detailed study was carried out by the Council. The difference now is that there is a clear recognition that the existing access only system does not work and secondly the situation has become even more dangerous than it was.

While closing Hyde Street to through traffic would initially increase traffic using Bengeio Street and



Sacombe Road – there is evidence from other similar closures that over time the overall situation calms. I would say to readers who currently use the rat run that simple measures such as driving off peak and walking or cycling for shorter journeys can ensure that journey times are no longer than at present. The people that live on the rat run deserve better, and there is not a good reason why they should suffer as a result of the bad habits of some motorists many of whom frankly should not be using the route – which is after all access only.



The fact is that road closure is the only viable option to stop rat running in Wellington and Nelson Streets which is indeed the conclusion of Hertfordshire County Council.

As I mentioned there will be a consultation of affected residents so that if you feel strongly you will get a chance to have your say. But I urge everyone before reaching a conclusion to walk along to the top of Nelson Road at rush hour and stand and observe the traffic for 10 minutes. I think you will understand better why residents are in arms and something needs to be done. The public safety concerns become glaringly obvious as indeed is shown by the many photos and videos taken by residents.

If you are interested in knowing more you can find out more information on the Bengeio Living Streets Facebook page.

John Howson

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Courtyard Arts News

Open Exhibition

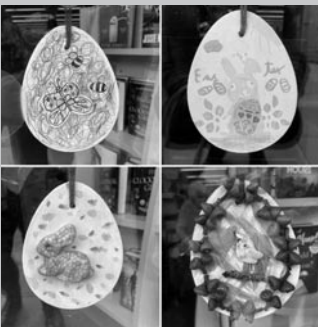


We have just opened our 15th Courtyard Open Exhibition. It was extra special because the last one was held back in 2019.

We had 106 submissions and 53 pieces were accepted by the judges. Works were mostly received

from Hertfordshire, but also from Bedfordshire and Buckinghamshire.

This year's winner and 7 commended artists were selected by 3 independent judges. The selection of work was diverse with a contemporary edge, whilst highlighting exceptional use of technique and creativity. Ken Ager was the winner with his piece Inside-Outside X, which is a 3D textile piece.



Easter Competition

In collaboration with Hertford Library, we held our 2nd Easter Egg Decorating competition. Open to all with a winner chosen in 4 age groups. Under 5s, 6–8 years, 9–13 years and 14–Adult.

All entries were hung in the window of Hertford Library with the winners chosen this year by Hertford Library Manager, Dave. Winners were: Maisie, aged 4 years; Zac, aged 8; Ethan, aged 11; and Barbara, Adult.

Exhibition: The Collection

by Work in Progress Textile Group

3rd – 28th May



Featuring personal collections of treasured items: loved pieces of china, glass, textiles, buckles and shells, to name a few. Other work features ideas 'collected' during the pandemic and reflects on the new vocabulary which

became a part of everyday life. Sustainability to be important, reflected in this work by the use of recycled fabrics where possible, demonstrating a contemporary approach to traditional techniques.

The Company of Players



Success at Hertford Theatre Week

Hertford's The Company of Players picked up three of the five awards at the 2022 Hertford Theatre Week.

Andy Lee's CoPs production of *The Hound of the Baskervilles* won the Festival, receiving the Mercury Challenge Cup as well as the Freston Salver – the Audience Appreciation Award where members of the audience who hold a weekly ticket vote for the play which they have enjoyed the most. Mel Powell's CoPs production of *Eventide* won The Roy Seammes Award for Stage Presentation. Both plays received fantastic assessments from adjudicator, Chris Jaeger MBE. The marks at the top were very close and all the marks were very high compared with some previous years.

Other nominations included Des Turner's performance in *Eventide* and Andy Lee's direction of *The Hound of the Baskervilles*. Chris Jaeger made the point that Hertford is pretty unique in not having specific best actor or director categories for adjudicators to award – although he did say that at a recent festival he had worked on had 22 awards for 11 plays was a bit too far the other way!

CoPs were happy to help out by putting in two productions as there were insufficient entries from other societies.

The next and last play of CoPs for this season is *When The Rain Stops Falling* by Andrew Bovell, directed by Laura Ilinca, 8th–16th June 2022. This is a drama that spans 4 generations over 80 years, starting in 1959 in London and ending in 2039 in Adelaide. Tickets are available on CoPs website www.cops.org.uk.

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Thursday	09:00am - 5:30pm
Friday	09:00am - 5:30pm
Saturday	10:00am - 5:00pm



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The Children's Society

Bring & Buy Coffee Morning

Saturday 18th June,
10am–12 noon at the home
of Carol and John Warren, 7 Russell Street.

This is always an enjoyable morning, there will be produce for sale and a raffle will be held. Please come and support the work of the Children's Society. Any donations of cakes will be most welcome.

Fundraising Afternoon Tea

Saturday 9th July, 3–5pm at 1 The Orchard, Bengoe.

Tickets will be available at £5 from Libby and Peter Shillito from the beginning of June. Hopefully we will be able to be in the garden but if wet we will be indoors. There will be a Bring & Buy stall and a raffle, also Peter's model railway will be on display for any enthusiasts.

This event proved to be very popular last year although our numbers had to be restricted, so please get your tickets and come along and support us.

Lifts can be arranged if required, for that and any other details please ring Libby on 01992 583979.

Libby Shillito

Community Garden update



Thanks to the wonderful Coffee Pot project our Bengoe Community Garden is a step closer.

The Bengoe Neighbourhood Plan identified a possible site for a Community Garden on the corner of Duncombe Road and Tower Street. We already have strong support for this from our local Councillors, and a planting plan drawn up by Mudlarks. We still have some administrative steps to finalise plus further consultation with near neighbours – and then our garden can start to take shape.

Councillor Ben Crystall has provided a substantial donation and The Coffee Pot kindly made the garden project the focus of their recently completed fundraising. In case you haven't already been to one of their sessions in the Church Hall, The Coffee Pot is there every Thursday morning offering very good coffee, delicious cakes, a welcoming atmosphere and all for only £3.

It's been a long haul and we still need to raise funds for those final touches – bird boxes, benches, a stick library for dogs – but hopefully we will soon see this site transformed from scrub to a pleasant small garden.

Veronica Fraser

Bengoe Community Garden Project Lead

Collections and Hobbies Show, Holy Trinity Church

Saturday 3rd and Sunday 4th September 2022

If you are thinking of participating in the Show this year do not delay in booking a table because space is limited and bookings are already being made. If you are hesitating whether to exhibit or not I will be happy to discuss the practicalities with you because we would like as many varied and interesting displays as possible and we will do our utmost to accommodate you.

Last year the exhibits ranged from small trinket boxes to classic cars!

Mary Crane

01992 314004

em.crane@virginmedia.com

4th Annual Pet Service at St Leonard's

4pm Sunday 3rd July

Our Lay Reader Bob Kelly will be taking the Pet Service in the company of his young dog Oskar.

Come and meet Dave and Gemma Wardell whose love of animals is clear for everyone to see. They have a particular skill in training dogs, from obedience to more sophisticated working dog skills. Both are serving police officers and Dave is a Police Dog Handler with our local Hertfordshire Constabulary.

Dave's last dog Finn was severely injured tackling an armed dangerous criminal which sadly meant early retirement for Finn. Regrettably his attacker received no suitable punishment for the injuries he inflicted on Finn. But Dave and Finn set about changing the law, with much public support, to protect other public service animals injured in the line of duty. 'Fabulous Finn' is bringing about change.

Dave and Gemma have nominated 'Re-homing Animal Telephone Service', or 'RATS' as they are known locally, as our Animal Charity for this year. The charity takes in stray dogs, cats and small mammals, cares for them and finds them new homes whenever they can. If you are looking to take in a stray animal or would like to help in anyway, please contact them at www.rats-animalrescue.co.uk.

Everyone is welcome to join us for this lovely Service with or without a pet. It would be good to see any teddies or other soft toys as well. Reg Newman and Duke his pony also hope to come along and refreshments will be available following the Service.

For any further details please contact me on **01992 583979**.

Libby Shillito

Bengeio Parish Handbells

Back in August 2020 I arranged to have Holy Trinity Church's set of handbells refurbished so that they could be used again. The pandemic scuppered my idea of starting a new team, but I am pleased to say that I can now offer the opportunity for people to learn the art of handbell ringing or brush up on dormant skills.

First of all, of course, I need to know who might like to come along for a try out, and when and where. It would make sense to start with a daytime slot, and/or offer an evening time if needed.

Please let me know if you are interested. No musical experience is needed, just the ability to count to 4. Music for 12 bells will be marked up in red and blue, indicating playing with your right or left hand.

I will leave a sheet in the church for you to sign up, including a preferred day and time or alternatively please contact me at the address below.

To whet your appetite, please see the poster regarding a concert that will be held at Ware Drill



Hall on June 18th. The East Anglian Regional Team is one of the best in the country and I think you will be astounded at the beautiful music played on 300 instruments.

I am offering 6 free tickets to the event, so let me know as soon as possible if you would like them.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Jackie Downs

Tel: 01992 584761 | Mob: 07534 434900
jacqueline.downs94@gmail.com

In memory of Morna Lane

Morna lived in Trinity Grove for much of her married life and brought up her five children there. Her house was next door to Joan Norris and you could often see her working in her garden when visiting Joan.

Morna took a language degree in London and worked in a language school before her marriage, and later at Longmores for many years. Her knowledge of five languages was impressive by any standards. This stood her in good stead when Holy Trinity church exchanged visits with our twin Italian parish of Cucurrano. They were very sorry to hear of her death and prayed for her in church on the following Sunday.

She loved travelling and was a very hospitable host to visitors from the towns twinned with Hertford. She had many other interests, notably music and singing, and she was an invaluable member of the church choir for many years. She came originally from Scotland from the Kingdom of Fife as she described it and she loved Scottish

Dancing, as those of us who attended her 90th birthday could testify!

Morna belonged to Hertford Choral Society, Scottish Dancing Society and play reading, Shakespeare, language and poetry groups. Her reading of Scottish poetry was always something to look forward to.

She was essentially a private person, but with a deep hinterland and great courage in the face of troubles. Her marriage to Eric Lane, late in life, gave them both much happiness to begin with and her innate strength and firm faith sustained her in the subsequent years of his illness. Her first husband, David Braybrook, was a bellringer at Holy Trinity for many years.

She will be sorely missed by her family and friends and Holy Trinity will miss her in the front row of the altos in the church choir. She was a very special member of the community of Bengeio and of the Parish church.

Margaret Greely

St Leonard's Church, Bengoe

Calendar of Events for 2022

Opening times for visitors – Sundays 5th June to 25th September.

From 2.30pm to 5.00pm. Teas from 2.30pm to 4.30pm.

QUIET TIME – every Tuesday evening at 8pm for one hour from 7th June.

June

Sunday 5th Start of Visitor Season and Teas
(last orders 4.30pm)

July

Sunday 3rd Annual Bengoe Pet Service at 4pm,
followed by refreshments

Saturday 9th *Concert:* Lutenist Sergio Bucheli in recital,
7.30pm

Saturday 16th Creative Open Weekend – 10am to 4pm

Sunday 17th Creative Open Weekend – 11am to 4pm

Tuesday 26th 'Celtic Service' followed by refreshments,
8pm

August

Sunday 7th Service of Praise with Hymns and Pimms,
6.30pm

August Concert to be arranged

September

Saturday 10th 9am to 5pm
'Aspects of St Leonard's' Exhibition
Heritage Open Day
Herts and Beds Historic Church Trust
'Bike and Hike'

Sunday 11th 11am to 5pm
'Aspects of St Leonard's' Exhibition
Heritage Open Day

Sunday 25th Harvest Festival Songs of Praise, 6.30pm
Followed by the Friends of St Leonard's
AGM

September Concert to be arranged

December

Saturday 17th 'A Christmas Wassail' with Folk Band
Magpie Lane, 7.30pm

Art at St Leonard's

This summer the Friends of St Leonard's are inviting you all to get your creative juices flowing at St Leonard's Church.

Children's activity 16th and 17th July

We are opening the church on Saturday 16th and Sunday 17th July when anyone can come and spend time inside the church and in the churchyard to get inspiration. We will hold a special activity for children that weekend because we want to see what they like about St Leonard's. Look out for posters and information on our website (www.stleonards.parishofbengeo.com) about our plans.

Aspects of St Leonard's Exhibition 10th and 11th September

Are you fascinated by the history of the oldest building in Hertford and do you wonder about the people who lived and worked here in times past? Is it a quiet spot to sit and think when life is busy? Do you bring your pet to the annual Pet Service and enjoy the noisy chaos? Do you look at the birds and butterflies in the churchyard? Whatever it is that is important to you, why don't you create a work that we could display at our Aspects of St Leonard's Exhibition in September. We don't mind what form it takes – a drawing or painting, a photograph or poem. We just want it to express what is important to you about the church.

Art Group access to St Leonard's

We hope you will feel inspired to visit and tell us what the church means to you. We have several art groups booked in to spend time at the church in May and June and we are really looking forward to seeing what they produce. If you are part of an arts group that would like to do this, please get in touch with Helen Fleming on 07910 822069 who can arrange access.

On Saturday 10th and Sunday 11th September our Aspects of St Leonard's exhibition will show the best of the entries we get.

Helen Fleming

CONCERT BOOKINGS: £15 (£10 FOSL members)
Contact Mary Crane on **01992 314003** or
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For latest information visit our website
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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.



Bengeo Primary School

In March we had two days supporting charities. We debated whether we should just focus on one, but decided that both needed our care and support.

On Wednesday 16th we all wore an item of blue or yellow to show our support for Ukraine and raised a staggering £1,550 for the Disaster Emergency Committee.

On Friday 18th, for Comic Relief, we all sported crazy hair, which was great fun and raised a wonderful £800.

We thank the whole school community for their support and generosity.

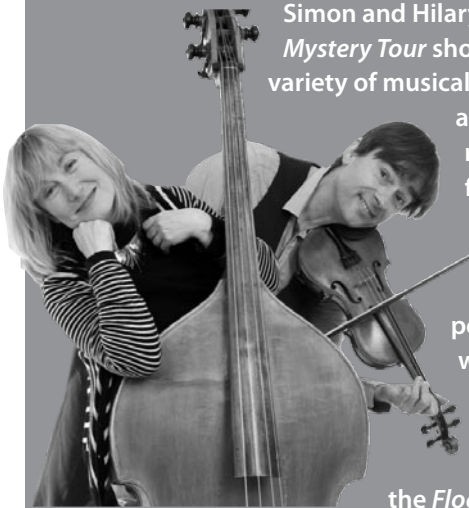


Folk Music at Holy Trinity Church

Holy Trinity is a superb live music venue. Discover your new folk favourites here this summer! Check out what's happening:

Sunday 22nd May, 3pm

Hilary James & Simon Mayor – Musical Mystery Tour Family Concert



Simon and Hilary's one hour *Musical Mystery Tour* show features a wide variety of musical instruments to see

and hear: the mandobass, guitar, fiddle, mandolin, banjo, Victorian bodiless fiddle, ukulele and percussion. Sing along with the *Parrot-Parrot* from *Hong-Hong-Kong-Kong* and twist your tongue around the *Flock of Fat Flamingoes!*

'At the end, you could see the little ones brimming over with enthusiasm for music, and a few of the parents ruing the day they gave up learning the violin.' (The Stage)

'Classics, original songs and tunes delivered with charm, wit and expert musicianship.' (BBC Website)

'Splendid musical fun.' (Daily Telegraph)

www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/hilary-james-simon-mayer-musical-mystery-tour-family-concert-tickets-293681749017

Saturday 18th June, 7.30pm

Oka Vanga



Versatile Folk/Americana duo blending visceral songs with a solid groove.

Oka Vanga are Angela Meyer and William Cox, an award-winning Folk/Americana duo.

Originally from South Africa, Angie met Londoner Will at an open mic night where

they found instant music synergy. With a hybrid of musical influences between them their debut album *Pilgrim* (2014) won them an instant fan base along with a FATEA award and an invitation to represent the UK at the International Madame Guitar Festival.

Their newly released third album, self-titled *'Oka Vanga'* is a bold vivid set of songs and instrumental tunes given to widespread critical acclaim.

'For the very best in folk roots/Americana look no further than Oka Vanga.' (Fatea)

'Folk roots captured perfectly.' (Maverick)

'Every track is completely captivating.' (Folk London Magazine)

'Wild, rich and unique.' (Folking.com)

www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/oka-vanga-versatile-folk-america-duo-in-concert-tickets-293691257457

Tickets £15, (U18s free)

Book via **Eventbrite** (click on the link) or **Pay on the Door** (cash or card)



Mill Mead Primary School

So many good things last term: the Travelling Book Fair was a great success and children and parents celebrated the end of Fair Trade Fortnight with a Bake sale. Any left-over cakes were donated to Beane River View. The whole school enjoyed dressing up as their favourite characters on World Book Day.

Nursery had a week's long celebration of books for World Book Day. Every day an adult shared their favourite book with the children and all the activities on offer were focussed around wonderful examples of children's literature.

Reception looked at what was beneath our feet and became explorers. They all made pancakes and had a Pancake Race on Shrove Tuesday.

Year 1 worked on a collage of a beach scene in Art and counting in Maths.

Year 2 carried out experiments on materials in Science and learned about inventors.

Year 3 have been reporters creating newspapers and doing research.

Year 4 have been investigating how Fair Trade helps families in Africa and they made models of their bodies in Science.

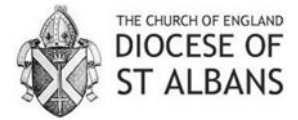
Year 5 learned about the Ancient Greeks and have started a seed experiment in Science to discover the effect of light on plants.

Year 6 taste-tested a range of novels for World Book Day and wrote snapshot reviews in the Book Café. They wrote newspaper articles with eye-catching headlines, dramatic details, fascinating facts and heart-wrenching quotes. They learned more about the natural world finding plants and minibeasts in the playground.





Tonwell School News



Tonwell St Mary's C of E Primary School have had a wonderful month. We have taken part in the Queen's Green Canopy initiative, had a science week and are looking forward to our Federation with Thundridge School.



The Queen's Green Canopy initiative is in honour of the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II in 2022. To increase and protect the native tree cover,

people are urged to create this 'special gift' for the Queen, to mark her 70 years on the throne.



Using trees kindly donated to the school by the Woodland trust, the older children at Tonwell School worked in teams to plant saplings (baby Dogwood trees). Early years children planted a crab-apple tree and called it LISA-TREE. The children had to dig a hole deep enough for the

roots, cover the roots with soil, put in a cane for support and cover it with a plastic sheet. We can't wait to see how tall the trees grow and to see the blossom in the Springtime.

To fit in with the theme of 'Growth' for science week, each class have planted their own seeds in our school allotment. Oak class have planted some



carrots, Pine class have planted some lettuce and Ash class have planted some tomatoes. We hope to make some lovely salads with our home grown ingredients. We also had a whole school assembly where we talked about what science is and what jobs involve science, we were surprised to learn that science is involved in being a beekeeper and a tree surgeon! Then we did a whole school experiment to find out what happens when we add menthos to Diet Coke, we found out that all

the gas sticks to the menthos and explodes out of the top!

We are very excited that on April 1st Tonwell St Mary's formally federated with Thundridge School. The two schools now have one overarching Governing Body and share an Executive Headteacher, Sarah Bridgman, who is Tonwell's current Head Teacher.

Both schools believe that a federation would allow the two schools to build on the increased collaboration that has taken place in recent months. Mrs Bridgman recently had the pleasure of taking a group of our Y5/6 girls to take part in the Hertford and Ware Sports Partnership tag rugby festival last week. They joined up with girls from Thundridge to make a mixed team. 'I was incredibly proud of their resilience in the challenging weather conditions. They played six games, improving each time and winning their last two matches! Giving our children broader opportunities and opportunities to meet other friends is a core part of us moving forward with the federation.'

To find out more about the fun activities we do at Tonwell St Mary's C of E Primary School please follow us on [instagram@tonwellstmarys](https://www.instagram.com/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



Duncombe School

An Independent Preparatory
School and Nursery

Little Learners, Big Dreams.

Team Duncombe

Teaching the Future

Little Learner

Future Foreign Correspondent



Search Duncombe School, Hertford

Treetops
Pre-School

COGNITA



SPRING TERM 2022



Duncombe School Celebrates RECORD-BREAKING

scholarships for Team Duncombe Year 6

Team Duncombe are celebrating the news that an amazing 15 scholarships were awarded to our current Year 6 cohort. Not only this, but all children who sat examinations for Independent Secondary Schools obtained a place at one or more of their preferred schools. This included a group of children being offered places at highly academically acclaimed schools including St Albans School, The Haberdashers' Aske's Boys' School and Brighton College.

We strongly believe that high academic standards are achieved through a diverse curriculum, specialist teaching and a vast number of opportunities. Our belief is that all of these enable independent and creative thinking, resulting in all-round academic excellence. This year's scholarships pay tribute to this belief with awards being offered across an array of areas and Duncombe having their NACE accreditation (The National Association for More Able Children in Education) upheld after our recent re-accreditation inspection.

The incredible 15 scholarships (5x Academic, 5x Sport, 3x Music, 1 x Art and an All-rounder) were all awarded by local prestigious Independent Secondary Schools, including Haileybury College, St Albans School, St Edmund's College and Bishop's Stortford College. This year, 7 scholarships in total were offered by Haileybury. Martin Collier, Master, Haileybury has previously said "We are always struck by how well Duncombe pupils are taught across the curriculum range of subjects, the result is bright, all rounded, engaged pupils."

Mr Phelan, when speaking about the successes said "At Duncombe School, we nurture our children's minds through an inspiring educational journey. These current achievements pay testament to these beliefs, the dedication of the staff and the exceptional hard work of the pupils".



Duncombe School

A Word from The Rectory

Oh God, help

From The Vicar, The Revd Robert Thompson



'Our prayers are with Ukraine.' 'Our heartfelt prayers are with the family right now.' 'My thoughts and prayers go out to her.' If every prayer meant became a prayer said then the lines to God must be pretty busy now. Even the intention to pray makes a difference – whether or not you believe God is listening, prayer never leaves

things unchanged. An offer of empathy, kindness, compassion or fellow feeling is good for us before it benefits anyone else. Maybe we should all be looking for somewhere to pray and someone to pray with?

Almost twenty years ago, my colleague David started a prayer group that met in church every Tuesday night. Over the years people have come and gone, but the group still meets. They have prayed through personal crises and national emergencies, through wars, government collapses, stock market crashes, environmental disaster and a global pandemic.

Were all their prayers answered? Clearly not. Was every request met? Not really. True, there were desperate prayers said for a baby who survived a horrific birth; there were also fervent prayers for a saintly member of the prayer group who didn't come through cancer. Did they give up praying after that? Of course not.

They still pray now. Lots. Twenty years of practice has made prayer a life habit – their reflex response to a screaming newspaper headline, or the siren of an ambulance hurtling down the road, or the rumble of a funeral hearse progressing up Bengo Street.

But none of them would claim to be experts or specialists. In its widest sense, prayer is a universal human activity, as elemental as breathing. For some

it springs from a yearning far deeper than simply needing to get stuff we want. We know (unless deluded) that we can never completely control our personal lives or events in the world. So we bridge the gap between what we do and what is done to us by longing, lamenting, despairing and hoping.

Prayer can sometimes feel like wishful thinking. But that's OK. Dreams are wishful thinking. World peace is wishful thinking. For things to be 'on earth as it is in heaven' is wishful thinking.

Perhaps that's why people say they will pray for someone: because it gives wings to hope, picking it up and giving us a place to take it. Abraham Lincoln said, 'I'm driven to my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I have somewhere else to go.' At its most basic, we utter prayers in the hope that there is something good underpinning all of life, something at the core of existence that can bring stability to our wobbly lives in a volatile world.

Bereavement Café

Drop in for tea, coffee and a chat

An informal, monthly drop-in for adults who want to meet, share experiences and chat with people who have also been through bereavement.

Hosted by friendly local people, set up by volunteers from Holy Trinity Church, Bengo

2021/2 Dates: Third Thursday of every month (except August):

16th September	20th January	19th May
21st October	17th February	16th June
18th November	17th March	21st July
16th December	21st April	

⌚ 6:30pm - 8pm

📍 The Secret Garden Café,
89 The Avenue,
Hertford SG14 3DU

For more information
please contact us via
Holy Trinity Church,
Bengo, Hertfordshire

@ info@parishofbengo.com

☎ 01992 413691

🌐 www.parishofbengo.com
/bereavementcafe.php

📱 @BengoBereavementCafe



Prayers don't have to be long or eloquent and require no more faith than we've already got. The novelist Anne Lamott taught me the three best prayers I know: Help, Thanks, Wow! Jesus himself said that shorter prayers are better. When the disciples asked him to pray, he gave them the Lord's Prayer, one of the pithiest mixes of poetry and practicality ever uttered.

So those who send out prayers need use only small words, but with great intentions. My suggestion?

Make them thankful, make them honest and be direct, and do it all with a confidence and hope that the prayers you say, whether offered from church pews or street corners, cathedral cloisters or breakfast tables, do not go out and come back void, but are heard by a God who is a very present help in times of trouble.

With my prayers,

Robert Thompson

Civic Service at Holy Trinity

Sunday 6th March was the occasion of the annual Civic Service at Holy Trinity church. This was when the Mayor and Corporation attended in full regalia of their office and were received by Rev Robert Thompson, who is currently Mayor's Chaplain.

The Mayor, Bob Deering, in his robe with chain and badge of office, was accompanied by Town Councillors and Aldermen. The Civic Service would

not be complete without the Sergeants at Mace, the Mace Bearer, Sword Bearer, Honour Bearer and Stave Bearers.

The Town Mace is the symbol of Royal Authority in Hertford, as the Sword is the symbol of Royal Justice. If you would like to know more about the history and symbolism of the Hertford regalia, go to www.hertford.gov.uk/the-mayor-of-hertford.



Parish Calendar MAY 2022

Sunday 1st May		Third Sunday of Easter	
9am		Holy Communion	
10am		Parish Communion	
Tuesday 3rd May			
8pm		Quiet time, Holy Trinity	
Wednesday 2nd May			
1.55pm		Bengeo Afternoon WI, Church Hall, Duncombe Road	
Thursday 5th May			
10am		Holy Communion, Holy Trinity	
10.30am		Coffee Pot Charity Cafe, Church Hall, Duncombe Road	
Sunday 8th May		Fourth Sunday of Easter	
9am		Holy Communion	
10am		Parish Communion	
Monday 9th May			
2pm–3.30pm		Bereavement Cafe at Mudlarks Garden Cafe, Hertford	
Tuesday 10th May			
8pm		Quiet time, Holy Trinity	
Wednesday 11th May			
10am		Community Craft Club, Church Hall, Duncombe Road	
Thursday 12th May			
10am		Holy Communion, Holy Trinity	
10.30am		Coffee Pot Charity Cafe, Church Hall, Duncombe Road	
Sunday 15th May		Fifth Sunday of Easter	
9am		Holy Communion	
10am		Parish Communion	
Tuesday 17th May			
8pm		Quiet time, Holy Trinity	
Thursday 19th May			
10am		Holy Communion, Holy Trinity	
10.30am		Coffee Pot Charity Cafe, Church Hall, Duncombe Road	
2pm–4pm		Bengeo Ladies Circle, Church Hall, Duncombe Road	
6.30pm–8pm		Bereavement Cafe at Secret Garden Cafe, Bengeo	
Sunday 22nd May		Sixth Sunday of Easter	
9am		Holy Communion	
10am		Parish Communion	
3pm		The Magical Mystery Tour: Family Musical Fun, Holy Trinity	
Monday 23rd May			
2pm–3.30pm		Bereavement Cafe at Mudlarks Garden Cafe, Hertford	
Tuesday 24th May			
8pm		Quiet time, Holy Trinity	
Thursday 26th May			
10am		Holy Communion, Holy Trinity	
10.30am		Coffee Pot Charity Cafe, Church Hall, Duncombe Road	
Sunday 29th May		Seventh Sunday of Easter	
9am		Holy Communion	
10am		Parish Communion	
Tuesday 31st May			
8pm		Quiet Time, Holy Trinity	

Parish Calendar JUNE 2022

Wednesday 1st June	
1.55pm	Bengeo Afternoon WI, Church Hall, Duncombe Road
Thursday 2nd June	
10am	Holy Communion, Holy Trinity
10.30am	Coffee Pot Charity Cafe, Church Hall, Duncombe Road
Sunday 5th June	
PENTECOST	
9am	Holy Communion
10am	Parish Communion
2.30pm–4.30pm	St Leonard's Church: Tea & Tour
Tuesday 7th June	
8pm	Quiet Time, St Leonard's
Wednesday 8th June	
10am	Community Craft Club, Church Hall, Duncombe Road
Thursday 9th June	
10am	Holy Communion, Holy Trinity
10.30am	Coffee Pot Charity Cafe, Church Hall, Duncombe Road
Sunday 12th June	
TRINITY SUNDAY	
9am	Holy Communion
10am	Parish Communion
2.30pm–4.30pm	St Leonard's Church: Tea & Tour
Tuesday 14th June	
8pm	Quiet Time, St Leonard's
Thursday 16th June	
10am	Holy Communion, Holy Trinity
10.30am	Coffee Pot Charity Cafe, Church Hall, Duncombe Road
6.30pm–8pm	Bereavement Cafe at Secret Garden Cafe, Bengeo
Sunday 19th June	
First Sunday after Trinity	
9am	Holy Communion
10am	Parish Communion
2.30pm–4.30pm	St Leonard's Church: Tea & Tour
Monday 20th June	
2pm–3.30pm	Bereavement Cafe at Mudlarks Garden Cafe, Hertford
Tuesday 21st June	
8pm	Quiet Time, St Leonard's
Thursday 23rd June	
10am	Holy Communion, Holy Trinity
10.30am	Coffee Pot Charity Cafe, Church Hall, Duncombe Road
Sunday 26th June	
Second Sunday after Trinity	
9am	Holy Communion
10am	Parish Communion
2.30pm–4.30pm	St Leonard's Church: Tea & Tour
Tuesday 28th June	
8pm	Quiet Time, St Leonard's
Thursday 30th June	
10am	Holy Communion, Holy Trinity
10.30am	Coffee Pot Charity Cafe, Church Hall, Duncombe Road

Parish Prayers

Daily Prayers for May

1. Fair Trade and fair remuneration for all food producers
2. The Avenue
3. Staff and residents at Bentley House, Hertford
4. Mission Aviation Fellowship, Kenya
5. HMP Littlehey, Huntingdon
6. Christian Aid Ukrainian crisis assistance
7. Local sports teams
8. Our 9am Sunday Service
9. The Dell
10. Hospital Chaplaincy Service
11. Mission Aviation Fellowship
12. HMP Liverpool
13. Africa Mercy Hospital Ship
14. Future Hope Hertford
15. Christian Aid Head Office and Trustees
16. The Drive
17. Christian Aid in Africa
18. Mission Aviation Fellowship Head Office in Folkestone
19. HMP Long Lartin, Evesham
20. Christian Aid Climate Change Lobby
21. Christian Aid Fundraising
22. Our 10am Sunday Service
23. Local Farmers and land use
24. The Garden Cottage (to the north of Bengoe Parish)
25. Refugees and Immigrants
26. The Ascension
27. Lincoln Cathedral
28. All Seeking Baptism
29. Those seeking Confirmation
30. The Orchard
31. Christian Churches in The Lebanon

Daily Prayers for June

1. The Bible Society
2. The Queen
3. The Commonwealth
4. The World Wide Anglican Communion
5. The Holy Spirit in Holy Trinity Bengoe
6. The Orchard, Tonwell
7. The Samaritans office in Ware
8. Christian Churches in Poland
9. HMP Low Newton, Durham
10. The Hertford and Ware Foodbank
11. The Barnabas Fund for persecuted Christians
12. Holy Trinity Church, Bengoe
13. The Vineyard (near St Leonard's Church)
14. Hospice Chaplains
15. Christian Churches in Kenya
16. The Holy Communion
17. Town Council
18. Friends of St Leonard's
19. Our Fathers
20. The Stiles, Sacombe Road
21. Christian Churches in Russia
22. The Diocese of St Albans
23. HMP Lowdham Grange, Nottingham
24. Liverpool Cathedral
25. Street Pastors in Hertford and Ware
26. Christians in Parliament
27. Waterford Wick, Sacombe Road
28. Staff and Residents of Beane River View
29. Christian Churches in Turkey
30. HMP Maidstone, Kent

Register

7th March 2022 Funeral Dennis Clark

12th March 2022 Burial of Ashes Henry Voller

13th March 2022 Burial of Ashes Yvonne Robertson

5th April 2022 Funeral Morna Lane

Quiet Time

Tuesdays 8pm at Holy Trinity Church in May

Tuesdays 8pm at St Leonard's in June



Church Contacts

Team Vicar

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

Associate Priest

Fr. David Pepper
T: 07583 985266

Reader

Bob Kelly
T: 01763 274653

Churchwardens

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

Parochial Church Council

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

Director of Music and Organist

Dr Andrew Sentance

Assistant Organist

William Sarjeant

St Leonard's Church

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

Addresses

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

Local Contacts for Help and Advice

Bengeo Residents Support Network Against Coronavirus

Many volunteers from Bengoe 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

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

Back cover:

Spring over Bengoe, Barry Goodey, BG Drone Shots.

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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



Handbell Ringers of Great Britain

East Anglian Regional Team

Handbells in Concert

Musical Director Aidan Fozard



Saturday 7pm 18th June 2022
Ware Drill Hall, 17 Amwell End
Ware SG12 9HP

35 musicians and over 300 instruments

Enjoy arrangements of well known
tunes and original handbell music

Featuring guest soloists from the
Bedfordshire Woodwind Academy Flute Ensemble

Tickets available on the door:

Adults: £12

Concessions: £10

Juniors (under 18): Free

For further information visit
ear.hrgb.org.uk

Search for us on Facebook

Tel: 01992 584761

Mob: 07534 434900

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