

SEPTEMBER • OCTOBER 2021

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# Bengeio Parish Magazine and Community News



## Back to normal

Our contributors this time are showing that life is getting back to normal: a new school term, new pub openings, activities resuming in Bengeio and Harvest Festival time. Even so we are not forgetting those who supported us in lockdown. See Carrie Bone's article on the Hertford Rotary Award.

Though the evenings are drawing in there are opportunities for getting out and keeping busy – whether it is volunteering with the Scouts or Future Hope, joining a fitness session at the Church Hall or Bengeio Club, or just socialising again.

There are more ideas in the following pages, so read on...

### 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 photographs:  
**Late summer on Waterford Heath.**

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### Editorial Team

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

### Copy dates for 2021

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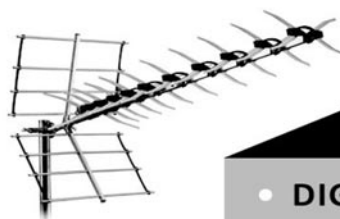


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# Our Bengoe Community Garden – on its way

Using the space on the corner of Tower Street and Duncombe Road as a community garden was endorsed as part of the Bengoe Neighbourhood Plan in the May referendum. The next step is making it happen! The overall aim is to create an attractive and welcoming community garden which will be similar to the larger one near St Leonard's Church. With the help of Mudlarks we plan to maximise the use of native, wildlife friendly plants, resulting in a garden that looks attractive for as much of the year as possible but isn't 'overtidy'.

The site is already rich in trees, most of which have been neglected for years, as well as an excess of ivy. Some pruning and clearance has taken place already and a plan for enhancing the space, to include a path and bench, is

in preparation. Inevitably, before we can actually enjoy sitting in the garden, there's quite a lot of work to be done before any digging and planting. Firstly, we need to resolve leasing arrangements and to reassure UK Powerworks that nothing we do will compromise the security of their adjacent site. We want the garden to look attractive for years and that means a plan for ongoing maintenance. We are also likely to approach local businesses and individuals who might donate, or build, a bench, birdbox, perimeter wall or be able to provide something from our 'shopping list' of shrubs and plants. These things will take time; meanwhile watch the space!

**Veronica Fraser**



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# Hertfood gets Rotary award for feeding Hertford

Amwell Rotary Club has awarded Debs Bonfield the Paul Harris Fellowship award for outstanding service to the community after providing families with fresh food. Debs was recommended for the award following the impact of her work in the community. Debs Bonfield, who owns Manic Ceramics in Port Vale, Hertford set up Hertfood with Annegret Scott in April 2020 after realising many local children were going without fresh food.

"The Rotary Club have been very generous to us in the form of donations," says Deb, who said it would have been wrong to turn the award down, despite reservations about feeling unworthy of the accolade.

Despite the grip of the pandemic and lockdowns loosening, there are still families in need of help in the community.

"Lots of families are still struggling as a result of the

pandemic, we will continue to help as long as our funds last. We are doing an extra 40 families with lunch packs over the holidays" she says. "At our height we were feeding 160 families a week, we are now looking after around 40 that are still trying to get back on their feet," she adds.

Despite it being mid-August, meetings for Christmas have started. Last year, Christmas hampers and gifts were given out also. As the summer holidays come to a close, with return to school on the horizon there is still work to be done.

"I will run Hertfood as long as our money lasts, I cannot walk away from our families. We are currently sourcing uniform for certain families, back to school is an expensive time!" she says.

Last year the scheme was given support by Hertford



## 2nd Bengoe Scout Group Needs You

Do you like the outdoor life, camping, and practical activities such as cooking growing plants and making things? We need your help to help the young people of Bengoe.

We have lots of boys and girls in our group, but need some new leaders. We have

Bags of activity materials were delivered to the youngsters and they did various craft activities, scavenger hunts and badge work. They attended virtual camps in the summer and at Christmas either camping in their gardens or in indoor homemade dens.

We do hope that some of you will be able to help us. Get in touch come to a meeting in September and see if it would be something you could do.

Please contact me if you can help.

I am Barbara Kiln the group Secretary.

My email is [BarbaraKiln54@gmail.com](mailto:BarbaraKiln54@gmail.com) or you can phone on 01992 552562.



Beavers aged 6 to 8, Cubs aged 8 to 10 and a half and Scouts aged ten and a half to 14 years. You could help once a week in the early evening. We are a very friendly group and full training is given.

Our group started in 1945 and we have been at our present headquarters in Watermill Lane since the middle of the 1960s. Over the last few years our building has been refurbished and is also available for hire. We are trying to develop it as a community hall. It has a nice lawn outside. Please contact me if you would like to hire it.

Due to the fantastic efforts of our leaders we ran a weekly programme throughout the pandemic and most of our members attended the virtual meetings.



Town Council with a £1,200 community grant in addition to boxes of food from Hertfordshire County Council when Operation Shield ended. Since March last year, more than £7,000 has been donated to the scheme, in addition to fresh food donations.

Currently a JustGiving page created by Annegret Scott 10 months ago is aiming to raise £15,000 and has met 89% of its target. You can donate here – [www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/hertfoood?utm\\_term=xPGy2yDW2](https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/hertfoood?utm_term=xPGy2yDW2).

## Bengeio horses to receive crowdfunding cash

A crowd funding appeal for rescue horses living in Bengeio has smashed its original target and continues to receive donations by the day.



The online JustGiving page set up by Colette Lloyd initially hoped to raise £100 to provide funds to help improve the conditions of where the horses are living in Bengeio, however that target was quickly surpassed. The plan at the site for this year includes clearing rub-bish, fixing fencing, laying concrete and providing a new feeding area for the horses.



The crowd raising appeal was given a boost after the JustGiving page was printed out and pinned to where the horses meet the path. Comments alongside given donations on the online donation page speak of the joy visiting the horses gives to all people of all ages of visitors, and from horse riders to visiting

children. During lockdown the horses become an enjoyable local place to visit for many on daily walks, and provided out of the house entertainment for children.

Phoenix, Storm, Fidget, and Lolly and are the four horses



**The Children's Society**

During July we were able to hold an Afternoon Tea and Bring and Buy in our garden, as this was

before Covid restrictions were lifted our numbers had to be limited. However, we were blessed with good weather and we had a socially distanced tea with waitress service under various gazebos.

Many thanks to everyone who provided the delicious cakes and scones for the tea and for bringing items for the Bring and Buy stall. We had cards for sale and a raffle and thanks to everyone's generosity we were able to raise £788 for the work of the Children's Society.

This was very pleasing as we were not able to fundraise last year.

An added interest were Pete's model railways in his shed, especially for small boys and even bigger ones!

We are so grateful to all our Helpers Sue selling raffle tickets, Kath and Carol running the Bring and Buy, the waitresses Brenda, Christina and Teresa, Mike for washing up and of course Mary and Sue making endless cups of tea and serving up the scones and cakes.

Many thanks to everyone who supported us in any way.

**A reminder** to all those who have house boxes we will be doing the annual count soon so if you would kindly let us have your box or arrange for us to collect it from you, we would be very grateful.

We will be having a **Christingle Service** this year on Advent Sunday 28th November at 4pm in Holy Trinity Church, a delightful Service to look forward to as well as raising more funds for vulnerable children.

Many thanks to all our Supporters.

*Best wishes*

**Libby and Peter Shillito**

living on the site, with the latter two being best friends. Fidget has been known to try and nibble passersby. Phoenix, the large white horse is reportedly the boss, while Storm, a smaller white horse is the more nervous of the herd.

To donate to the appeal, visit the website – [www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/bengeio-rescue-horses](https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/bengeio-rescue-horses).

**Carrie Bone**

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# Herts Lynx: a new 'on demand' bus service



One thing we can probably all agree on is the need for better bus services in and around Hertford. Unfortunately, with 90% of the county's routes run commercially by private companies, there is not a huge amount that the county council can do to force improvement on existing routes. Yet if you are a frustrated bus user in Bengeo, or ever use buses to travel further north to villages near Buntingford or Royston, then you should be interested to hear about a new kind of bus service set up by the county council and launching on Sunday 19th September.

Called Herts Lynx, it is a new 'on-demand' bus covering villages in North and East Herts, with its operation centred around Buntingford. The idea of Herts Lynx is to improve connections between rural areas and town centres, which is vital for those without cars who live in villages and hamlets across this area.

How does Herts Lynx work? Unlike a traditional bus there is no fixed route or timetable. Instead passengers can pick up the service and travel to any destination within the operating zone, or to and from any of the six key hubs (Stevenage, Hitchin, Letchworth, Baldock, Royston and Bishops Stortford) around the edge of that zone.

The service will cost slightly more than a normal bus, since it is a cross between a bus and a taxi – think of it as an "Uber bus", perhaps. And it may not solve everyone's journey challenges. But it should offer a significant advantage for large numbers of people who don't live near a regular bus service or who

travel to or from places that are not well served by public transport.

Sadly, Hertford is not within the zone served by Herts Lynx, but whether or not you intend to ride the new bus, we should all watch this development with interest: it could signal the future of public transport in many of our rural or semi-rural areas.

Here in Bengeo, for example, there have been campaigns in the past for new bus routes to serve local primary and secondary schools from nearby towns and villages but these would often involve multiple bus routes and have not been commercially viable using old-style services. Perhaps an on-demand-type service could provide a more cost-effective solution where conventional buses have failed?

This could even help solve bigger challenges. We all want to tackle climate change, see less road congestion, and reduce air and noise pollution from traffic. But to do all that we must find ways to attract car drivers out of their vehicles by offering something better. What we all need is public transport that is as convenient as a car but as easy, or even easier, to use (imagine – no need to worry about a parking space). If Herts Lynx fulfills its promise, perhaps some kind of on-demand bus service could end up as part of the solution? I'd be interested to hear your views.

**Cllr Ben Crystall**

**[ben.crystall@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:ben.crystall@hertfordshire.gov.uk)**

To find out more: **[www.intalink.org.uk/hertslynx](http://www.intalink.org.uk/hertslynx)**.



# What's on in Bengoe

## Bengeio Club

We are pretty much back to normal now: the Pilates groups are back to having face to face classes but still providing Zoom classes at the same time. Pilates Monday and Thursday mornings – J B Fitness – **07768 778390**; Marta Pilates – Tuesday evening and Friday morning **07833 145708**.

We have Bingo every Tuesday at 8pm and on alternate Saturdays with entertainment nights twice a month.

Next Entertainment night is 11th September with OMJ then Mario on the 25th September; 16th October Drop the Monkey; 30th October Radio Video.

The Garden Room has been completed (and can be hired with special conditions) and the patio has been extended making it a lovely place to go when the sun is shining. We have an upstairs room also available for hire.

We are accepting new members and it is currently only £25 to join (including joining fee) until the end of the year and then renewals are currently only £10 a year after that.

We are running Darts Evenings on Wednesdays and welcome new players all the time.

Congratulations to Bengoe Blinders our football team who had a great last season and have gone up two leagues.

## The Greyhound News

Gareth and Kate have finally announced that they are leaving The Greyhound. They say: "It is a lovely pub and we have really enjoyed our time here. The decision to leave has been very tough but unfortunately the COVID restrictions have made it very difficult for us to achieve what we set out to do. We are happy to hand the reins over to Adam and Karen from the White Lion Bengoe who will reopen at the end of August and will soon be offering Thai cuisine from the Greyhound kitchen."



We wish them all the very best and hope the Greyhound can now flourish as some form of normality resumes.

Karen says, "Adam and myself are delighted to announce that as of the 27th August we will be reopening the Greyhound Bengoe initially just for drinks with the addition of Thai cuisine from The Secret Thai Garden on the 23rd of September. We will also be offering a delivery and takeaway service.

Please check out our new Facebook page 'The Greyhound Bengoe' for details on opening times and how to book your table in the restaurant. So why not pop along to meet the team and enjoy a nice refreshing drink in our new outdoor seating area."

## What's on at the Church Hall



The newly refurbished Church Hall in Duncombe Road has resumed the varied programme of activities now that we can meet again.

There are sessions with the ever-popular fitness groups such as Keep Fit, Pilates, Bounce (trampolines), Tai Chi and Dance. The U3A is also running the Ukulele group again.

Social events include the Coffee Pot Charity Café on Thursday mornings, Bengoe Ladies' Circle, Women's Institute and Parish Lunches.

The WEA courses have been replaced by the independent Hertford Adult Learners Group, whose Autumn Course is on Cathedrals of Britain.

There is so much going on so get in quickly if you want to book an event such as a children's party. Contact the Bookings Secretary Wendy Celia on **01992 589538** or download the booking form from the website **www.parishofbengeio.com**. Wendy will also be able to put you in touch with the session providers.





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## The Lobster Pot Catering Company

### Bengeo Lunch

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

Coming together for food and fellowship is something that Bengeo Church does especially well, whether it's bread and wine on Sunday morning or a three-course meal for just £15 on a Monday afternoon. Come and join us. We are starting again on the 13th September and fortnightly thereafter. Book on **07887 543464**.



## Courtyard Arts

### Canvas 25 Exhibition

September sees Courtyard Arts celebrate its 25th anniversary and they're marking the occasion with

a special community exhibition of artwork created by their supporters. Supplying 25cm x 25cm blank canvasses, they encouraged their artistic community to get creative in any medium. The exhibition, Canvas 25, runs from the 7th September to the 2nd October. All canvasses will be available to purchase for just £40 each with profits from the show supporting the fundraising efforts of Courtyard Arts as well as their partner charity for this event, Mind in Mid Herts.

Pop into Courtyard to see this wonderful exhibition, we're sure there will be something to interest all tastes.

Don't forget classes in a variety of media resume on the 11th September. Look on the website for details [www.courtyardarts.org.uk](http://www.courtyardarts.org.uk).



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# Hertford and District Churches Together

## Hertford and District Food Bank Report June 2021

Since our last report in February 2021, client numbers have steadily fallen especially over the last few months but they still remain higher than pre-COVID numbers.

We are so grateful to our stalwart volunteers who continue to work so hard. The Hertford Foodbank operating from the URC is now open on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings and Ware Foodbank is open on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons at St Mary's Church, Ware. There may be different arrangements from September onwards.

The Ware Foodbank has no storage at the moment Plans are on-going to get a permanent storage and distribution centre established in the town. They are also taking on more volunteers including a new driver in the logistics team.

We continue to give a fresh food voucher to many of our clients and we are also delighted that we now are able to supply fresh food with each food parcel. This consists of bread, a butter spread, cheese, eggs and a bag of fruit. To enable this we have purchased a new fridge/freezer alongside the equipment we already had. Another welcome addition to how we can help certain clients, especially those who have been homeless or victims of abuse and have been moved into a Local Authority property sometimes without cooking facilities, is the provision of a 'starter pack' of a new toaster, kettle and slow cooker. (We are grateful to Albany Radio in Fore Street for donating 3 starter packs initially).

Another new venture is the inclusion in each Food parcel of a very professional and attractive A5 pack giving details of help agencies and contacts for those who may be going through

desperate and stressful situations. There are also details of a dedicated prayer phone-line that has been put into operation by the Foodbank. We thank one of our Management Committee Members, Viv Thornton for instigating and operating this.

Our finances continue to be very good especially with many donations being made through the Pandemic. We look to the future and are in good shape to continue the work we do and to be able to finance all the additional food and assistance we can offer those going through a time of crisis. Again we thank you for your support in prayer and in food donations.

**Fran Spence**



**Hertford and our  
Changing Climate**  
Saturday 25.09.2021

As churches we are united in awareness of climate change in our lives. We focus on the news from around the

world where we hear cries for help – floods, fires, droughts and storms are constantly in our thoughts and prayers.

We do what we can to help, in a variety of ways; now many of us are asking *what more can we do?*

Two weeks after the All Saints Church event 'Environment, Climate and Hope' on Saturday 11th September, 'Hertford and our Changing Climate' on Saturday 25th September will offer a host of answers to the question 'what more?' with stalls, expert speakers and displays. These events will be for everyone.

**FUTUREhope**  
Hertford&Ware

**As you may have noticed we have made a slight change to our name, we are now FUTUREhope – Hertford and Ware!**

### Outreach

The conversion of our new vehicle is nearly finished and should be ready by September for its first night out! We are grateful

to our outreach volunteers for sticking with us through this time. Meanwhile we have continued detached sessions, walking around chatting to young people who are out and about.

### Support

The mentoring programme has continued to be very busy. Since September, we have delivered 419 sessions and worked with 34 young people. We are very thankful for all our mentors who have continued to adapt to different situations/restrictions. Online, we completed a 'Teenage

Years' and a 'Handling Anger in the Family' parent course, and we are looking forward to running in-person courses in September.

### Education

After testing our pilot 'Resilience' course, we have gone on to deliver 4 more courses in 3 local schools. Feedback from young people and staff has been very positive. In addition, we ran a day of 'Drug and Alcohol Awareness' sessions at Presdales School with excellent feedback.

We are still in the process of taking ownership of Pioneer Hall, and the end is in sight! We are planning to host regular 'open nights' in the future, that will provide great opportunities for people to come and catch up with what we have been doing. New volunteer training as well as refresher training is taking place so if you or anyone you know might be interested in volunteering then please get in touch.

Thank you for your continued support; the support we get from the local community is so encouraging.

**All at FH**



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# Tonwell School News



Last term was unbelievably busy for all our children jam packed with events and activities that they have finally been able to enjoy.

To provide a challenge for some of our more able children from the juniors, they took part in Shakespeare drama workshops acting out scenes from popular plays and analysing language. This was lots of fun dressing up, whilst also learning about why Shakespeare is widely regarded as the greatest writer in the English language.

The scavenger hunt for the different flavour ice-creams was a great success and we managed to get the whole village involved with a local resident winning the prize!

Bastille Day is the common name given in English-speaking countries to the national day of France, which is celebrated on the 14th July each year. We decided to celebrate by having a French picnic eating pastries outside on the playground.

The older children also enjoyed giving the younger ones some French lessons getting them ready for when they will be learning it later on in the school.

On the afternoon of 15th July the children in Years 4–6 got to celebrate the Year 6s leaving by having a day out at the Edge Outdoors at Westmill Farm. They got to participate in two activities; orienteering, finding clues and working out the anagram at the end and rock climbing, climbing an 8.5 metre wall!

Getting back to a bit of normality I believe all the children thoroughly appreciated getting to have their Sports Day this year. They took part in loads of different events including Hockey Dribble, Javelin, a football knockout and track racing.



One of our parents who actually took these professional photographs for Sports Day made a comment which made us very proud as a school:

"It was an absolute pleasure to be there to witness all the children supporting each other. Everywhere I turned children were helping their less able peers and congratulating those who may have struggled. All the staff, children and parents should be very proud of the beautiful respectful and inclusive culture which is so evidently fostered at Tonwell."



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

**Headteacher: Mrs Sarah Bridgman**

We are offering 30 hour places in our Nursery class.

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

Visits are warmly welcomed.

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





# Bengeo Primary School

## Daily Mile

**BENGEO 2 TOKYO** – We have made it to Tokyo! Huge congratulations to all the pupils, staff and parents who have supported this fantastic achievement. Since September 2020 the whole school has been running during the school day and through Lockdown pupils continued to run, cycle, walk and scoot, logging their distances or times spent exercising and telling their teachers. In April our school was offered an inspirational talk by Olympic athlete Danielle Waterman who also led each class on a warm up before the whole school took part in 'England does the Daily Mile', a national project to encourage all primary schools to participate in a Daily Mile on 30th April.

In total we have travelled over 9000 miles as a school, reaching Lapland in time for Christmas, to complete our journey in time for the Olympic start date on the 23rd July. Here's the link if you want to view our journey: <https://triphappy.com/e/2178335>.

## Sports Days

All classes have now taken part in a sports morning/afternoon, apart from nursery, who have theirs planned for tomorrow. The children have enjoyed taking part in a round robin style mix of activities, working together in teams.

## Year 6 Trips

Unfortunately due to the pandemic, we had to cancel our Year 6 week long residential trip. However, we were able to book up the following trips as an alternative:

### Chessington World of Adventures

Juniper visit went ahead as planned on 25th June, and although we had to postpone this trip twice for Beech class having to isolate, eventually

getting there on the penultimate day of term, the children all had a fabulous time on the many thrilling attractions at Chessington.

### Cuffley Camp

At the beginning of July, luckily both classes were able to attend the 2 day camp at Cuffley, where they took part in climbing, archery and a camp fire amongst other activities. The

children appreciated the chance to sleep over and very much enjoyed the experience.

### Edge Activities Ltd

On the 16th of July both of our Year 6 classes went to Westmill Farm to take part in many exciting activities, including high wire, Segways, laser tag, air rifle and



mountain boarding. The day was non-stop and we were lucky with a beautiful sunny day.

Sadly, the end of the academic year saw the retirement of our Head Teacher, Julie Starkiss. Mrs Starkiss will be very much missed by staff, children and parents and

we wish her well as she starts a new chapter in her life. We are very pleased to be welcoming our new Head Teacher, Justine Page, in September.



# Mill Mead Primary School



**At the end of last term the classes had some fun days.**

## Reception

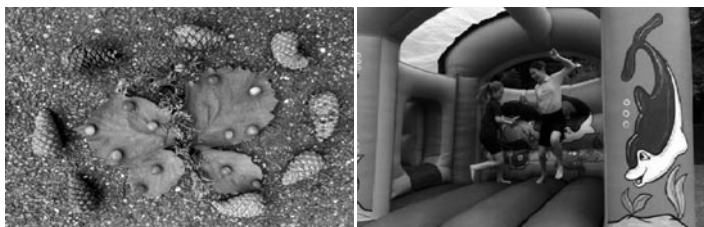
Reception enjoyed a very sunny afternoon celebrating their Tea Party and Sports Day. They shared their favourite memory from the past year in a colourful way and showed their amazing resilience by singing 'Get back up again'. After the show, the children all tried their best competing in the obstacle course and egg and spoon race. They made the Reception team very proud and did a fantastic job.

2M showed all their amazing resourcefulness and resilience during our 'Assembly and Sports Day' as the weather forced us to make alternative plans, but what a result! The whole class were brilliant during our assembly as they each spoke clearly, sharing many examples of their achievements and ending with the song, *Top Of The World*, a fitting tribute to all their accomplishments. Much fun was then had as we embraced an obstacle course, potato and spoon race, beanbag throwing and of course the 'space hopper' race.

## Year 1

This week year 1 have been writing some fantastic letters in English after reading the story meerkat mail. We went on a 'trip' to London where we embodied the character, and then wrote a postcard home telling our families about our travels. In RE we have enjoyed creating lotus flowers after learning about the story of the Buddha, and have continued on our creative journey in Art looking at Van Gogh's paintings and recreating them.

3J had the most fabulous time in Stibbington. On Monday afternoon, we split into groups for map reading and orienteering. First, we practised using 4 figure grid-references



and using compass points. Before long, we put these skills into action as we walked through Stibbington village. Following our maps, we went around the village finding different clues, using our map reading skills. Finally, our last clue led us to a church where we discovered the pirate's booty! In the evening, we had a great time playing games outside and deciding what to buy from the shop. On Tuesday, we had an environmental art morning. We collected a variety of leaves and arranged them into beautiful pictures, as inspired by Andy Goldsworthy. After that, we created leaves out of clay.

## Year 4

Year 4 had a fantastic trip to Stibbington last week. They enjoyed taking part in lots of different activities, including a workshop where they created natural artwork inspired by Andy Goldsworthy. They did a brilliant job! Year 4 also had a great Fun Day this week and they all loved the big bouncy slide.

## Year 5

Year 5 have been so busy the last couple of weeks. After an amazing trip to Aylmerton, they've finished fractions; written an emotive account in the role of the Highwayman's true love, Bess; improved their hockey skills; build some cam mechanisms; partook in some Hindu yoga and had a great day on the inflatables and watching a film for their marble jar treat. This is as well as continuing to learn all about the Tudor monarchs and some great rhythm work in music. They managed to fit so much in!

## Year 6

It's been a bitter-sweet few weeks in Year 6, coming to the end of term. On the one hand, we have been having fun, creating new memories and experiencing new things. The children have worked incredibly hard in the period leading up to their leavers' performance. If you were lucky enough to see it, you will know that the children pulled their production of *Matilda* off magnificently – we've had rave reviews! However, on the other hand, Year 6 had their final days at Mill Mead with Sports Day, the Leavers Assembly and the Year 6 Festival.

We are now looking forward to the new term.





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# Duncombe School



A big hello from Team Duncombe!

What a year! The world may have continued to be somewhat topsy-turvy, but Duncombe School, Treetops Pre-School and the education we provide to all our children from the ages of 2–11 years, remained the constant throughout.

The Summer Term saw the return of several of our annual events and excitingly, a few new ones. Some of the events we were delighted to be able to invite our parents to attend and it was great to see so many of them. Our parents play a huge part of our Team Duncombe community, and we have missed them being part of our daily school life, something we hope to be able to change from September.

All our children had a wonderful, energetic and very loud Sports Day and even though it rained (and rained all day!), it didn't matter as we used our 'Multi Sports Covered Astro' to host the event. The teamwork from our Treetops children and their space themed events, through to the sprinting relays with Upper School were a joy to watch. The joy of seeing the children together in their Houses supporting their fellow teammates through cheer, was wonderful, but the biggest cheers at the end of the day came from Woburn House on their double cup win for Lower and Upper School.

Our Year 6 children experienced an array of enrichment activities throughout the Summer Term, not only to reward them for all their hard work, but to help develop their strength of character and prepared them for life beyond Duncombe with an open, confident and inquisitive mind. From a trip to Lee Valley Water Park and our Financial Capability programme, to cycling proficiency, First Aid training and a birds of prey demonstration, they certainly had an enjoyable last term.

This year staff and parents also had the pleasure of watching our first 'Year 6 Showreel'. The show was completely produced and performed by the children. It included a variety of acts from magic and interpretative dance to digital music compositions and sketch shows. Alongside 'Speech Day', our official graduation for Year 6, it was a truly enjoyable event and

a lovely way to see how the children have blossomed in confidence and ability throughout their time at Duncombe.

At the time of writing this, we are already preparing for the start of the Autumn Term and looking forward to welcoming back all our children, staff and parents. As always, our wonderful teachers are planning how they will bring their lessons and classrooms to life, to ensure we continue to deliver the outstanding Duncombe education that we are all so proud to be part of.

September sees the return of our annual 'Global Be Well Day', an event where we join together with all the Cognita Schools around the world, to celebrate wellbeing.

When our Year 3 children return, they will all be issued with their own laptops, as we prepare them to embark on their digital learning journey.

We are also getting ready to welcome our new families into the Team Duncombe fold, where for the first time they will come on site to meet their teachers and see their classrooms ahead of the new term.

September will also see the return of our traditional Open Mornings, where we can invite families to come and visit us in person, discover a Duncombe education and how we bring learning to life through a variety of enrichment opportunities. Everyone is welcome and details of the event can be found on our website [www.duncombe-school.co.uk](http://www.duncombe-school.co.uk).

We look forward to sharing more tales of Team Duncombe's 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. If you would like to know more about Duncombe School and Treetops Pre-School or would like a meeting via Teams with our Headmaster, please visit our website at [www.duncombe-school.co.uk](http://www.duncombe-school.co.uk) for more details.



## A Word from The Rectory

From The Vicar, The Revd Robert Thompson

# In praise of teachers



My Aunt had a long and successful career as a primary school teacher in my home town of Derby. She had a big heart for all the children in her care over the years, including a boy called Nigel. There were times when little Nigel would come into school on a Monday morning all of a fluster. 'Mrs Hague, Mrs. Hague,' he'd say, 'Dad came home

from work on Saturday night and he just lay there on the sofa and wouldn't talk to us. And he was grumpy all Sunday too!'

Happily, my Aunt was always ready with a few good words to soothe little Nigel's furrowed brow – but then, when it came to Nigel's Monday morning mood, she always knew pretty much what to expect. Her weekend insight into Nigel's household was revealed at the flick of a switch, turning on the telly on a Saturday evening to check the local football results and the fortunes of Nottingham Forest. A Forest win would bode well for little Nigel Clough, and for his famous Dad, Brian.

Poor Nigel. A football manager himself now, of course, and still obligated to its fates and fortunes. Home life had taught him an early lesson – that even a famous father is no more at liberty over the shape of the future. But a good teacher – well, they can help with that. A teacher has influence. A good teacher shapes the character, calibre, and future of an individual. And that makes a teacher's job both an enormous responsibility, and one of the hardest jobs and most important jobs around.

In my mind, we don't honour teachers enough. We blame schools when they fail, which is rarely. We don't sing their praises when they succeed. The closure of schools during last year's lockdown produced an incalculable effect on the emotional and psychological well-being of thousands of

children; that schools remained open whilst ever they could was an indication of their absolute value to the nation. We need hospitals for when we are ill; but we need schools to make us fit for life.

The gospels agree. They recount the work of the world's greatest teacher. They mention Jesus' miracles, his supernatural powers, his return from death, his uncommon attentiveness and human warmth. The gospels tell us that Jesus touched and healed people, and they were amazed.

But of all the tasks to which Jesus directed himself, the most important was motivating hearts and minds, inspiring hope for his people's future, igniting their imagination on the life of the world and the life of God.

We don't know how well-educated Jesus himself was, and yet somehow, on the back of an educational career that lasted little more than a year, he filled the world with his teaching. God's grace to

## Bereavement Café

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18th November	17th March	21st July
16th December	21st April	

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/bereavementcafe.php

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us in Jesus is expressed as a pedagogical miracle. We call him, 'Lord.' We call him 'Christ.' We call him 'Son of God.' But it's interesting that the title Jesus preferred for himself was 'Rabbi.' It means 'Teacher.'

Teachers open our eyes to the world. They give us curiosity and confidence. They're the guardians of our social heritage, connecting us to our past and to our future. Teachers tell our children where we've come from, what ideals we fought for, and what we learned on the way. Our most important social institution is the school – and education is God's passion.

Which is why, as we follow this bumpy course out of the pandemic, I wish godspeed to all teachers. From

the first morning of the new academic year, through online lessons or face to face, teachers will be back at work, reaching out to touch hearts and minds, shaping our nation's future. Few of them will be listed amongst the world's movers and shakers, of course: that accolade is given to political and military leaders, celebrities and captains of industry, sportsmen, supermodels, and media personalities.

But they will come and go. In this needy world our future hope hangs on our children and on our God. So it's no wonder that when the world cries out in need to God, God sends a teacher.

*With my prayers,*

**Robert Thompson**



Bob, Libby and Peter welcoming pets and their owners.



Ready to start the service.

## Annual Pet Service

Fortunately, we were able to hold our Pet Service this year in St Leonard's Church back in July. Although having to book a place it was very well attended by people plus, we had about 20 dogs, a toy rabbit and for the first time a tortoise! (Photographs on the back cover).

Bob Kelly took the Service with the help of Anne Sentance who did an entertaining talk about Noah's Ark. Anne and husband Andrew also provided the music and were able to sing unlike the congregation who because of Covid restrictions just had to do the actions to the words. Diana Howarth and Libby Shillito both told how their dogs Pebbles and Polly had helped them so much during the Lockdowns as their daily walks were a must and as they were totally unaware of the Coronavirus, they were such a comfort during worrying times.

Many thanks to everyone who made this Service possible and to the cake makers and Mary and Sue who served the refreshments. Last but not least we were able to send a cheque for £228 to Guide Dogs for the Blind.

**Libby Shillito**



All distanced but together in spirit.



# Parish Calendar SEPTEMBER 2021

<b>Thursday 2nd September</b>	
10am	Holy Communion
10.30am	Coffee Pot Charity Café Church Hall, Duncombe Road
2–4pm	Ladies' Circle, Church Hall, Duncombe Road
<b>Saturday 4th September</b>	
10.30am–4.30pm	Collectors' Fayre, Holy Trinity Church
<b>Sunday 5th September</b>	
10.30am–4pm	Collectors' Fayre, Holy Trinity Church
<b>Sunday 5th September      <b>FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY</b></b>	
9am	Holy Communion, St Leonard's Church
10am	Parish Communion, St Leonard's Church
<b>Tuesday 7th September</b>	
8pm	Quiet Time
<b>Thursday 9th September</b>	
10am	Holy Communion
10.30am	Coffee Pot Charity Café Church Hall, Duncombe Road
<b>Saturday 11th September</b>	
9am–5pm	Bike and Hike and Heritage Open Day, St Leonard's Church
<b>Sunday 12th September</b>	
2.30–5pm	Heritage Open Day, St Leonard's Church
<b>Sunday 12th September      <b>FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY</b></b>	
9am	Holy Communion
10am	Parish Communion
<b>Monday 13th September</b>	
	Lobster Pot Parish Lunch, Church Hall, Duncombe Road
<b>Tuesday 14th September</b>	
8pm	Quiet Time
<b>Thursday 16th September</b>	
10am	Holy Communion
10.30am	Coffee Pot Charity Café Church Hall, Duncombe Road
6.30pm to 8pm	Bereavement Café, The Secret Garden, 89 The Avenue
<b>Sunday 19th September      <b>SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY</b></b>	
9am	Holy Communion
10am	Parish Communion
<b>Tuesday 21st September</b>	
8pm	Quiet Time
<b>Thursday 23rd September</b>	
10am	Holy Communion
10.30am	Coffee Pot Charity Café Church Hall, Duncombe Road
<b>Sunday 26th September      <b>SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY</b></b>	
9am	Holy Communion
10am	Parish Communion for Harvest
6.30pm	Harvest Festival Songs of Praise at St Leonard's Church followed by the Friends of St Leonard's AGM
<b>Monday 27th September</b>	
	Lobster Pot Parish Lunch, Church Hall, Duncombe Road
<b>Tuesday 28th September</b>	
8pm	Quiet Time
<b>Thursday 30th September</b>	
10am	Holy Communion
10.30am	Coffee Pot Charity Café Church Hall, Duncombe Road
St Leonard's Church is open on Sundays in September from 2.30pm to 5pm. Teas served from 2.30pm to 4.30pm.	

# Parish Calendar OCTOBER 2021

Sunday 3rd October		EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY	
9am	Holy Communion		
10am	Parish Communion		
Tuesday 5th October			
8pm	Quiet Time		
Thursday 7th October			
10am	Holy Communion		
10.30am	Coffee Pot Charity Café Church Hall, Duncombe Road		
2–4pm	Ladies’ Circle, Church Hall, Duncombe Road		
Sunday 10th October		NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY	
9am	Holy Communion		
10am	Parish Communion		
Monday 11th October			
	Lobster Pot Parish Lunch, Church Hall, Duncombe Road		
Tuesday 12th October			
8pm	Quiet Time		
Thursday 14th October			
10am	Holy Communion		
10.30am	Coffee Pot Charity Café Church Hall, Duncombe Road		
Sunday 17th October		TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY	
9am	Holy Communion		
10am	Parish Communion		
Tuesday 19th October			
8pm	Quiet Time		
Thursday 21st October			
10am	Holy Communion		
10.30am	Coffee Pot Charity Café Church Hall, Duncombe Road		
6.30–8pm	Bereavement Café, The Secret Garden, 89 The Avenue		
Sunday 24th October		BIBLE SUNDAY	
9am	Holy Communion		
10am	Parish Communion		
Monday 25th October			
	Lobster Pot Parish Lunch, Church Hall, Duncombe Road		
Tuesday 26th October			
8pm	Quiet Time		
Thursday 28th October			
10am	Holy Communion		
10.30am	Coffee Pot Charity Café Church Hall, Duncombe Road		
Sunday 31st October		ALL SAINTS’ SUNDAY	
9am	Holy Communion		
10am	Parish Communion		



# Parish Prayers

## Daily Prayers for September

1. Oxfam, Disaster Relief Agents
2. HMP Feltham, Young Offenders, London
3. Preparations for the Collectors' Fayre
4. Collectors' Fayre, Holy Trinity
5. St Leonard's, Season of Creation
6. Molewood Road
7. Coat of Hope walk to Glasgow
8. Afghan Refugees
9. HMP Ford, West Sussex
10. Christian Climate Action
11. Bike and Hike walkers and riders
12. The Church of England Environment Programme
13. Nelson Street
14. YCCN, Young Christian Climate Network
15. Aid workers in Haiti
16. HMP Forrest Bank, Manchester
17. Camino to COP Pilgrimage to Glasgow
18. Tearfund
19. Afternoon Tea in St Leonard's
20. New Road, Bengoe
21. Christian Aid Climate Change Lobby
22. Green Christians Group, Walking to Glasgow
23. HMP Foston Hall, Derbyshire
24. Exeter Cathedral
25. Local Clubs and Pubs
26. Volunteer hosts and welcome for pilgrims along the route to Glasgow
27. Oliver Court
28. The Church of Scotland
29. Traidcraft, fair traded goods and food
30. HMP Frankland, County Durham

## Daily Prayers for October

1. Tonwell St Mary's Church of England School
2. Head Teacher, Sarah Bridgman
3. The Governors of Tonwell School
4. Ware Road
5. Tonwell School teaching and support staff
6. Tonwell children and parents
7. HMP Sutton, Yorkshire
8. Bengoe Primary School
9. Head Teacher, Justine Page
10. Governors of Bengoe Primary School
11. The Avenue
12. Children and Parents at Bengoe Primary School
13. Teachers and support staff at Bengoe Primary School
14. HMP Garth, Lancashire
15. Duncombe School, Bengoe
16. Head teacher, Jeremy Phelan
17. Directors and managers of Cognita group
18. Warren Park Road
19. Children and parents at Duncombe School
20. Teaching and support staff at Duncombe School
21. HMP Gartree, Leicestershire
22. Mill Mead School, Bengoe
23. Head Teacher, Rachael Walsh
24. Governors of Mill Mead School
25. Port Vale
26. Children and parents at Mill Mead School
27. Governors of Mill Mead School
28. HMP Grendon and Springhill, Buckinghamshire
29. Gloucester Cathedral
30. Young Life, Hertford
31. The Food Bank, Hertford



**Harvest Festival  
Songs of Praise**  
**St Leonard's Church**  
**26th September, 6.30pm**  
*– all welcome*

# Church Contacts

## Team Vicar

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

## Associate Priest

Fr. David Pepper  
T: 01992 314012

## Reader

Bob Kelly  
T: 01763 274653

## Churchwardens

Diana Howarth  
T: 01992 587292  
Graham Squires  
T: 01992 553465

## Parochial Church Council

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

## Director of Music and Organist

Dr Andrew Sentance

## Assistant Organist

William Sarjeant

## St Leonard's Church

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

## Addresses

Holy Trinity Church  
New Road, Hertford SG14 3JJ  
St Leonard's Church  
St Leonard's Road, 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](https://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](https://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus)

## Information about local council services

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

## Domestic Abuse

[www.sunflower.org](https://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](https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/benefits)

### Hertfordshire Citizens Advice Service

03444 111 444

### National Debtline

[www.nationaldebtline.org](https://www.nationaldebtline.org)  
0808 808 4000

## Advice on avoiding scams

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

### Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline

0808 223 1133

If you are interested in volunteering  
[www.thvolunteering.org.uk](https://www.thvolunteering.org.uk)

HertsHelp 0300 123 4044

## Mental Health Advice and Support

### Herts Mind Network

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

## Emotional Support and Practical Help

[www.hertshelp.net](https://www.hertshelp.net)  
[info@hertshelp.net](mailto:info@hertshelp.net)  
HertsHelp: 0300 123 4044

*Back cover photograph: Pet Service at St Leonard's in July  
photos by Mike Howarth*



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WELWYN • 01438 714686

HERTFORD • 01992 582052

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



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

*Serving the local community for ten generations*





Give young people the skills they need to succeed in life and discover how being a part of the Scouting family can be as rewarding for you as it is for them.

Volunteering is easier than you think. With full support and free training, you can volunteer on a flexible basis.

- Inspire young people
- Become an active member of your community
- Meet new people and have fun!

We have opportunities in Hertford District:

- become a leader or helper (Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explorers)
- behind the scenes – help at local events; (e.g. swimming gala, night hike); keep badge records, drive a minibus, cook at camp.
- Hertford, **Bengeo**, Letty Green, Watton-at-Stone, Hertford Heath



qr link to our volunteering form

email: [join@hertfordscouts.org.uk](mailto:join@hertfordscouts.org.uk)

phone: 01992 248101

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