Countdown to 21st century Parish Giving Scheme has started!

From 1st February, the Parish Giving Scheme will save time and improve giving for individual donors, PCC treasurers and churches - a win-win-win! For the individual, giving by direct debit, covered by the Direct Debit guarantee, is simpler and more efficient than envelopes and offers the chance of built-in uplifts for inflation, if so wished. For the treasurer, it means money flowing into the church with tax already reclaimed at no cost to the church and with time saved for the Treasurer, within ten working days of the gift. For the church it means steadier cashflow, a likely increase in the amount received based on the pilots and more efficient and secure administration. The simplification that the scheme brings to church finances is squarely at the heart of the Church of England’s Reform and Renewal programme, which is taking the church forward across the nation.

Generous, tax efficient and consistent giving is also a key ingredient in the success of Living God’s Love 2020, so the introduction of the Parish Giving Scheme in St Albans Diocese is doubly timely.

What does the scheme do?
The Parish Giving Scheme allows all who currently give by standing order, envelopes or cash on the offering plate to plan and manage their giving through Direct Debit. It’s easy to set up and manage. All the PCC needs to do is pass a resolution to start the Scheme and show leadership through its members joining and encouraging others to join too. The diocese covers the administrative cost so it is free at point of delivery to churches. The Parish Giving Scheme – a joint venture charitable company, owned by the charity and the participating diocese – does all the work. See http://www.stalbans.anglican.org/ministry/parish-giving-scheme/

Does it work?
For the last four months, seven parishes in the diocese have been undertaking a pre-launch trial to see how the system works for them…. Two of the participants in the trial have offered the following responses so far:

“So easy to do, very straight forward and even without running a stewardship programme alongside, has resulted in a 6% increase in giving and one donor checked their tax capacity and realised that they could gift aid whereas previously they had not been doing so.”

Peter Scott, Treasurer, St Martin’s Bedford

“The process is very well designed and has been extremely easy to get people signed up, there have been no complaints and there are a number of additional people waiting to join the scheme. I am very keen to get further packs distributed as soon as possible.”

Alison Woodhams, Treasurer, St Lawrence Bovingdon.

Often, the introduction of the PGS is accompanied by a stewardship campaign in the parish or by a personal review of giving and this is recommended as good stewardship practice nationally. The average weekly gift per planned giver is £10.77 nationally and £11.48 in St Albans Diocese (2013 figures). The January 2016 national average weekly gift for parishes in the Parish Giving Scheme is significantly higher, at £19.37 and although it is early days, the St Albans figure is well above the this, which is very encouraging news.

One of the pre-launch parishes undertook a stewardship campaign simultaneously and has seen a roughly 30% increase in planned giving and 10 new regular planned givers. Their vicar commented he was “very gratified by its success,” and highlighted the following as helpful steps: “Great templates from ‘Giving in Grace’, adapted to local circumstances….The ‘Thank you’ sent out several months earlier prepared the ground… Good preparation of the PCC…Clear messages in Treasurer’s presentation and in the leaflet…An emphasis on gratitude to God ….A 5 week campaign with focussed preaching…A definite conclusion at Harvest Festival.”

More details about Mission Resourcing can be found at: www.stalbans.anglican.org/ministry/christian-stewardship-and-giving/ or contact Chris Wainman mro@stalbans.anglican.org or Gabby Parikh, pdadmin@stalbans.anglican.org.
Monday mornings used to be delicate times! More often than not, at least between August and April, I had to tread carefully around Gill, my PA when I was Archdeacon of Leicester. A passionate Leicester City supporter, her optimism as she left the office on Friday, was so often shattered by Monday as Leicester lost yet again. Year after year she needed lots of TLC. Yet now in her retirement each day is a day of delight as she basks in the glory of Leicester matching Arsenal at the top of the Premier Division table for points.

It is a remarkable turnaround! All the more so given that Leicester are one of the lowest spenders in the transfer market of Premier Division sides (Arsenal have spent nearly five times as much over the last five seasons). Their two leading goal-scorers Jamie Vardy and Riyad Mahrez cost less than £2 million together, with Vardy coming from non-league Fleetwood Town.

I am no football pundit but a combination of an unprepossessing but inspirational manager, a culture that brings out the best in each person, a high team morale and the way that success breeds success is surely at the heart of this remarkable change of fortune. It is a salutary reminder that change is not usually about the amount of money we throw at the problem; or having the greatest stars available; or even the greatest strategy, but rather about inspiration, culture, team-work and confidence.

The Church of England is currently investing significant sums in leadership development. I am part of the first cohort of Bishops receiving training, whilst other groups have focused on Deans or those with potential for the future. Although the initial over-emphasis on MBA’s, secular leadership models and the image of the strong leader has been challenged and is being amended as the training develops, there is still a tendency to look for the right strategy or the right model of strong leadership, rather than focusing on leadership that inspires and encourages others to have the confidence to change and move forward.

It is no different in many other spheres of activity. ‘If only there was strong leadership’ is the call, but whether it is renewing a struggling school, or revitalising a depressed community, or building cohesive society or taking forward Living God’s Love 2020 they are rarely solved just by lashings of money and ever more elaborate strategies. Here in the church, as in football, and also, you quickly discover, in business as well, it is where there is inspiration, the right culture and confidence about the future that things change and persist for the better.

I’m glad that my former PA rejoices each day. I just hope that I can experience the same as Luton Town (the team I have now watched more than any other side) rise through the divisions!

Email: Bishopbedford@stalbans.anglican.org
This is the story of a turn-around of fortunes in one church in Totternhoe, Stanbridge and Tilsworth through some straight-talking and pub and press support. The Revd Helen Gardner noticed declining support for one of her three churches, All Saints Tilsworth, to the point where, one Sunday, she noticed that people attending services came from neighbouring villages but not from Tilsworth. She decided to address the situation with the congregation in a parish meeting. She explained that the available resources and clergy time had to be managed for the best provision of ministry in all three of her parishes. If no one from Tilsworth was worshipping at All Saints, then it might be time for the PCC to think about beginning the process for closing it. Helen had also noticed that there were too few people who were willing to work to keep the church running; there was only one Churchwarden, and there were three active members of the Parochial Church Council. This meant that too few people were doing too much work and were suffering exhaustion as a result. Despite support from the ‘Friends of Tilsworth Church’ at fundraising, the regular giving was decreasing and the church had paid bills out of declining reserves for the last few years. The result of the parish meeting was that community involvement with the church improved: a new service pattern means the church has a service at 10am every week, with regular attendance by people who live in the village. Additional supporters came forward to offer help. More are still needed and as a result of more services the giving has increased and the financial situation is improving. Among other positive changes, parishioners organised a nativity service for the children on in a Sunday Family Service and a children’s Christmas party was organised, funded by customers of the local pub, The Anchor, which included magician Peter Gardini and Father Christmas. One of Revd Helen’s parishioners, Verna Hay, approached The Anchor to ask to put a tin on the bar for donations for the children’s party, but in a strange twist to the tale, the tin was stolen. However, the generosity of the people of The Anchor had not been exhausted. Verna’s niece took a pint glass around one lunchtime when she waitressing in the pub, explained what had happened and collected £80 to make sure the children had their party. Helen was more than impressed. She said: "The community cohesion that is built by 'the pub at one end of the village and the church at the other end of the village' working together is cause for celebration. "While rural churches face many challenges common to community life in rural areas, our experience over the last few months has been that honestly facing challenges and seizing opportunities can enhance the contribution that the church makes to the community. "The church is its people, and the turn-around we have seen has only been possible because of the selfless contributions of those who love the church and want to see local worship and community life continue to co-exist and thrive." The press? They told the story just before Christmas, adding to the seasonal cheer with a story highly positive about the church. Fifty adults and twenty children attended the nativity service and the party went ahead. STOP PRESS: All Saints still needs a Treasurer. Please pray that they find one.
Carol’s Harvest Odyssey

Carol Chisnall, Church and Society Administrator is one of the people involved each year in researching possible projects from which Bishop Alan chooses one for his annual Harvest Appeal. The 2015 appeal, Building Hope, to build facilities for disabled schoolchildren in Rukungiri, Uganda, captured her imagination and led her to raise funds for her own ten day visit. She joined one of the teams helping to build the school taken to Uganda by our appeal partner, Mission Direct.

The two-day journey from Kampala to Rukungiri gave time for the 20-strong party to appreciate Uganda. This included a stop around the equator, where they noted the change in trajectory of water down a hole from clockwise to anticlockwise as the equator was crossed. Carol’s journal notes: “It’s a beautiful country, so green, so friendly. We’re journeying by minibus – bumpy roads, it gets uncomfortable, but it’s bonding amongst the team.”

Arriving at the building site in Rukungiri, schoolchildren greeted the team. Carol observed “One girl keenly fiddled with my watch and rings and so wanted to be hugged. We were shown around the building work and what had been achieved by teams from Mission Direct so far. By the lower building, I saw 2 boys sitting side by side – I recognised them both from photos shared at work – it was Moses and Shaderak. Tears filled my eyes.”

The next day would bring work, hard work in the warm Ugandan winter: “Feels a bit too much like a holiday so far,” the journal records. Over the next few days, Carol got down to collecting water, learning how to lay bricks and forming a human brick-chain. The work was getting done, but at the same time, there were opportunities for contact with the local building team, local groups such as the Mothers’ Union and most specially, the children. After an exhausting first day on the site, Carol was determined to maintain a positive attitude and also donned her ‘Building Hope’ polo shirt, which was immediately recognised. The suggestion of photographs with children and teachers was met with an enthusiastic yes.

“The Headteacher agreed we could visit the Deaf Children’s Unit, the Disabled Children’s classroom and also a more senior primary class where some disabled children were being taught alongside the mainstream children. It was wonderful and felt so purposeful, having read at home previously about the children’s stories and how much this opportunity for education was valued. Some lovely photos were taken, especially with Moses, as I sat alongside him at his desk in the classroom. These children are the ones for whom this particular Rukungiri project is being built!”
The Revd Tim Lomax is to be the next Director of Mission

The most striking thing about Tim’s previous experience is his involvement with mission from young adulthood, both before and after ordination. In the 1990s, when he was in his twenties, he was Youth and Children’s Project Leader in the Diocese of Lichfield. With a degree in music, he was lecturing on worship and mission and leading conferences on worship around the country before he was thirty. In his early thirties, when working as a teacher, he was called to ordained ministry and went to train at Ridley Hall, Cambridge in 2005. Currently in his first incumbery, he is leading a church to become more mission focussed, through creating fresh expressions as well as renewing existing Sunday congregations. In between achieving all that, he has authored several works including ‘Creating Missional Worship,’ and taken a Masters Degree in Theology, Mission and Ministry. In his new role, Tim hopes to establish new mission hubs and partnerships and renew the relationship between mission and worship.

Tim said: “I am eager to join the diocese as it moves forward with the Living God’s Love vision. As Director of Mission I am looking forward to joining with others in mission and evangelism and the proclamation of the good news of Jesus in every generation.”

Tim is married to Kate, also ordained. He says: “Kate and I are looking forward to returning to the diocese. She served her curacy in Luton and this was the diocese that sponsored my ordination training. We have quite a number of friends in the area and we’re looking forward to connecting with them and making many other new ones.”

New Diocesan Mothers’ Union President has plans

Kim Wilkinson very modestly describes herself as new to the Mothers’ Union after more than a decade as a member. Now, having taken on the role of Diocesan President she is keen to promote the Mothers’ Union as its diocesan figurehead and advocate. The primary purpose of the MU is to promote marriage and family life, something which Kim is very clear you don’t have to be a mother to take an interest in. “The Mother’s Union has 4m members in 84 countries. Here, it is our best kept secret.” she says. This is something she wants to change and she wants her trustees to come up with ideas to grow the 1400-strong membership of the MU in the Diocese. At the moment, you might not realise that helping with the church fete, or helping to run a mother and toddler group, or pram service, might just be some members of the Mothers Union.

Kim is well suited to her new role: for more than two decades she owned and ran a pre-school and nursery and turned her hand to whatever was required to keep it running.

The Mothers’ Unions celebrates its 140th year this year.

For details of Real Easter Egg stockists or to order direct, visit: www.realeasteregg.co.uk

Ethical Bishop

The Rt Revd Dr Christopher Herbert, our retired Bishop, has just been appointed Visiting Professor in Christian Ethics in the School of Medical Sciences at the University of Surrey. He says: “Naturally, I am absolutely thrilled; it is a great honour.”
One of St Albans’ own becomes Bishop of Newcastle

Christine Hardman, well known through her many years in St Albans Diocese and once one of the Church of England’s first women deacons, has become the Province of York’s first female diocesan bishop. She is now the Bishop of Newcastle.

Bishop Christine became a deaconess in 1984, a year before women were admitted to the order of deacons. She was ordained deacon in 1987 and served her curacy at St John’s Markyate. In 1994 she was priested and became Vicar of Holy Trinity and Christ the King, Stevenage, and also Rural Dean of Stevenage in 1999.

Having trained for ministry part-time on the St Albans Course, she was later a tutor on the St Albans Ministerial Training Scheme (as it then was known) and is the Church of England’s first diocesan bishop to have trained part-time. Under special arrangements (the Lords Spiritual (Women) Act 2015), for ten years there is to be preferment of women eligible to enter the House of Lords over men if they are qualified when a vacancy arises. Bishop Christine becomes the second woman to enter the House of Lords in this way.

Bishop Christine is one of the few women to have held almost all the ministerial offices open to women in the late 20th and early 21st century: she has been a deaconess, a deacon, a priest, a rural dean, an archdeacon and now a bishop. As a deaconess, she was not permitted to wear a clerical collar, but did wear a pectoral cross. When many deaconesses were ordained deacon they were in the habit of signifying their role in this way, but were told they could no longer do so, as they might look too much like a bishop! So Christine put her cross away…but not forever as 28 years later, it is her pectoral cross once again, and this time she really is a bishop!

Archdeacon Trevor to retire in late 2016

The Venerable Dr Trevor Jones, first Archdeacon of the Archdeaconry of Hertford, created in 1997, will retire on 31 August.

Dr Jones previously had a distinguished ministry in Hereford Diocese. He was Warden of the Bishop Mascall Centre, Ludlow, the Diocesan Education and Conference Centre and then a Team Rector, an Officiating Chaplain to the Military and a Prebendary of Hereford Cathedral.

In St Albans Diocese, he has advised the Council for Discipleship and Ministry as well as being Vice-Chair of the Eastern Region Ministry Course Council, and a Council Member of the Cambridge Theological Federation among other roles in theological education.

Alongside enthusiasm for ministry in rural areas, he has a passion for effective missional strategies. In 2014, he received a doctorate in Theology and Ministry (DThM) from Durham University, for his research project on ‘The role of the bishop and his staff team in the formation of strategy for missional ministry’. The project included four in-depth studies into the dioceses of Derby, Exeter, Ripon and Leeds and St Albans.

Paying tribute, Bishop Alan said: “By the time he retires, Trevor Jones will have served as Archdeacon for nearly 19 years – which is almost half of his ordained ministry. Rooted in prayer, he has carried out his duties with professionalism and with flair. Trevor has a great eye for detail, being an expert in ecclesiastical law, whilst also keeping the ‘big picture’ before us all. This was shown in his doctoral research on diocesan strategic plans. Trevor’s ministry has also been worked out with a deep concern for the pastoral care of those in the archdeaconry and many people are grateful for his compassion and support. He and his wife Sue will be greatly missed.”

Dr Jones said: “It is a great privilege to serve St Albans diocese and I will greatly miss many good colleagues, friends and the diverse communities here. But I can now begin to look forward to more time with family and friends, after retirement in the estuary village of Lympstone between Exeter and Exmouth where we shall live. Meanwhile, it will be business as usual with much to do, not least assisting and supporting parishes in vacancy!”

Dr Jones is married to Sue, formerly Head of Religious Studies at Bishop’s Hatfield Girls’ School.

It is intended that there will be a farewell in HERTFORD on 25th June, details to be confirmed at a later date.
**People around the Diocese**

**Clergy Appointments**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Madeleine Albert</th>
<th>presently Assistant Curate and Pioneer Minister at the Church of the Holy Spirit, Bretton and St Botolph’s, Longthorpe, to become Mission Minister in the benefice of Wilden with Colmworth and Ravensden.</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paul Boddam-Whetham</td>
<td>presently Assistant Curate (SSM) at Christ Church St Albans, is to become Rector in the benefice of Ducklington and Hardwick in Oxford Diocese.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Jacqueline Buck</th>
<th>presently Associate Minister (SSM) in the benefice of Goldington, is to become Rector of the benefice of Great Doddington and Wilby and Ecton, in Peterborough Diocese.</th>
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<tr>
<td>Penny Draper</td>
<td>presently Team Vicar (St Augustine) in Dunstable Team Ministry is to become Team Vicar at Oakdale in Poole in Salisbury Diocese.</td>
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<tr>
<td>John Hayton</td>
<td>presently Associate Minister (SSM) at St Michael's Church, St Albans, remains in the parish with Pto.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stephen Huckle</td>
<td>presently Vicar in the benefices of Kempston &amp; Biddenham is to retire to Lincolnshire.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nick Jones</td>
<td>presently Assistant Curate in the benefice of Frogmore, is to become Minister-In-Charge of the Drung Group of Parishes, Kilmore, Church of Ireland.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Valmor Pimenta</td>
<td>previously Curate (SSM) at All Souls, Harlesden has become Assistant Curate with special responsibility for St Martin’s Bedford.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thomas Plant</td>
<td>presently Assistant Curate in Berkhamsted Team Ministry has been appointed Team Vicar in the benefice of Old St Pancras, London Diocese.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reuben Preston</td>
<td>presently Vicar in the benefice of St Mary of Eton with St Augustine, Hackney Wick, is to become Rector of the benefice of Sharnbrook, Felmesham, Knotting with Souldrop.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stephen Rees</td>
<td>presently Vicar in the benefice of Little Heath, is to become Vicar of All Saints Church, Crowborough, in Chichester Diocese.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Susan Stilwell</td>
<td>presently has the title Curate-in-training (SSM) and is to become Associate Team Minister (SSM) in Bishop’s Hatfield Team Ministry.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scott Talbott</td>
<td>previously with Pto in the Diocese, has become Assistant Priest (SSM) in the benefice of Rickmansworth.</td>
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**New Year Honours**

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<tr>
<th>Knighthood</th>
<th>Mr William Robert FITTALL</th>
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<tr>
<td>Lately Secretary-General of the Archbishop’s Council and General Synod. For services to the Church of England.</td>
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<tr>
<th>CBE</th>
<th>His Honour Michael Findlay BAKER, QC DL</th>
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<tr>
<td>Lately Resident Judge, Crown Court, St Albans and Deputys Circuit Judge. For services to the Administration of Justice and to the community in Hertfordshire. Judge Baker is a member of the Diocesan Penal Affairs Group.</td>
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<tr>
<th>MBE</th>
<th>Mrs Marion Denise BROWN</th>
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<tr>
<td>For services to the community in Hertfordshire. Marion is a Magistrate, Chaired the Building Committee for the refurbishment of St Paul’s Church, St Albans and is also a governor at Verulam School, St Albans and a volunteer at Maple School, St Albans.</td>
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<tr>
<th>BEM</th>
<th>Mr Robin Basil WOODD</th>
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<td>For services to the community in Hemel Hempstead particularly through the Samaritans and St. Mary’s Church, (Hemel Hempstead).</td>
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**Other Appointments**

| Area Dean & Assistant Area Dean of Barnet | The Revd James Mustard will be taking on the role of Area Dean of Barnet when the Revd Mike Burns stands down at the end of January. The Revd Tim Seago will be taking on the role of Assistant Area Dean, which has become vacant with the appointment of James. |

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<tr>
<th>Benefice of Hitchin and St Paul's Walden Team Ministry</th>
<th>The above benefice comes into existence on the 1st February 2016 by virtue of a Pastoral Scheme. The following appointments result:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Elizabeth Bunker, Team Vicar (SSM)</td>
<td>Melanie Crowley, Team Vicar.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fiorenza Gibbs, Associate Priest (SSM)</td>
<td>Jennifer McQuaid, Assistant Curate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Jane Mainwaring, Team Vicar</td>
<td>Hilary Oakley, Associate Priest (SSM)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jennifer McQuaid, Team Vicar</td>
<td>Canon Michael Roden, Team Rector</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ian Todd, Team Vicar.</td>
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**Pastoral Scheme**

**Count Your Blessings Lent 2016**

Enjoy Count Your Blessings this Lent to reflect each day on the blessings in your life and join us in giving thanks.

Visit: Christianaid.org.uk/Lent
Email: orders@christian-aid.org
Phone: 0870 078 7788
St Andrews Church, Kimbolton Road, Bedford MK40 2PF. Award winning musicians Peter Moore (trombone) and Joseph Middleton (piano) will perform a selection of duets on Saturday 30th January at 7.30pm. Tickets £10, (concs) £8, students (16-21) £4 and U16s (with fee paying adult) free. Details from www.standrewsbedford.org or 01234 216881 or musa@standrewsbedford.org.

St Owen’s Church, Bromham, MK43 8LL. Concord Singers with Music to warm the Heart on Saturday 6th February 2016 at 7.30pm. Adults £10; u16 £3 - includes light refreshments. For Tickets/Reservations call 01234 825454 mornings 01234 826551 evenings. Proceeds to Friends of St Owen’s, in support of St Owen’s Building fund.

St Peters Church, Benington. Snowdrop Recitals - A series of concerts on Sunday February 14th, 21st, 28th and March 6th from 2.30 to 3.15pm. Free admission with retiring collection in aid of church. Lunches & Teas served in Parish Hall and Lordship Gardens open. Further details to follow at www.beningtonlordship.co.uk/events/snowdrops.

The Church of the Holy Cross Marsh Farm Luton LU3 3RT. Concert in aid of Sight Concern at 7pm on Saturday February 20th is by Luton Male Voice Choir and tickets are £5 each. For more information or tickets contact David on 07944 422098.

St Peter’s Church St Albans. Concert by St Albans Chamber Choir performing Duruflè’s Requiem by candlelight on Saturday 6th March at 7.30pm. Tickets £14 and £1 for children and fulltime students from 07570 454744 or tickets@stalbanschamberchoir.org.uk or www.stalbanschamberchoir.org.uk.

St Peter’s Church Berkhampsted. Bridgewater Sinfonia concert featuring the works of Parry, Grieg and Rachmaninov with soloist Yuki Kondo. Saturday 12th March at 7.30pm, Tickets £16, £15 in advance, U18s free. Tel 01442 873205 or visit www.bridgewater-sinfonia.org.uk.

Holy Trinity Church, Leverstock Green, HP3 8LP. A Wedding Festival will be held 12th-14th February, displaying two centuries of historic wedding dresses, and photos of the community’s weddings at the church. On Sat 13th at 5pm there will be a talk on the gowns and wedding customs, and on Sun 14th at 3pm a service of Thanksgiving for Marriage, followed by celebratory refreshments! All welcome. Adults £3, children free. Open Friday 12th 10am-5pm, Saturday 13th 10am-5pm, Sunday 14th 12noon-3pm. Details from www.beneficeoflangelei.org.uk or 07815 135131.

WOMEN’S WORLD DAY of PRAYER. Service written by the Christian Women of Cuba. This year’s date is Friday 4th March and the theme is: ‘Receive Children. Receive me’. We are aware of the following church services within the diocese:

St Leonard’s, Sandridge 10.30am
St Mary’s, Cardington 10.30am
St Paul’s, Luton 11am
St John’s, Bourne End 1pm
St Hugh & St John, Stevenage 2pm
St Peter & St Paul, Flitwick 7.30pm
All Saint’s, Harpenden 7.45pm

For further information or to register your church service visit: www.wwdp.org.uk

St Mary’s Church Ashwell. Flea Market on Saturday 19th March from 9.30am-1pm. All sorts of items for sale at bargain prices. Free entry, tea & coffee available.

St Albans Cathedral is hosting the RSCM Area Choirs Festival on Saturday 16th April. Rehearsals begins at 2pm with the service starting at 5pm. For full details about regional rehearsals and bookings visit: www.rscm-stalbans.org.uk/?page_id=2025.

St Mary’s Church, Kinsbourne Green and 9th Harpenden Scouts will be running Kinsbourne Common Fete on Saturday 23rd April (12 noon - 3pm).

St Paul’s Church, Hatfield Road, St Albans. Jo Moody & Team Training Days Youth Event and Healing Service taking place over February 11th-13th 2016. For more information about the different events see the December bundle notice posters or visit www.stpauls-stalbans.org/jo-moody.

The Very Revd Dr Jeffrey John is coming to BELIEF to speak on:

Saturday 20th February
10am-1pm
at St Andrews Church
Kimbolton Road
Bedford MK40 2Pf
(Refreshments included).

Cost is £10 per person, payable on the day.
To book please call 01234 330314 or email believe@standrewsbedford.org

Equipping God’s People
Lay Leaders of Worship Course
A two-part course enables parishes across the Diocese to discern the gifts of lay people as local Lay Leaders of Worship (LLWs) and provides agreed training for them, on completion of which they receive a letter of permission from the Bishop recognising them as Lay Leaders of Worship in their parish church.

Saturdays 16th April and 21st May 2016
Venue: Holywell Lodge, St Albans
There will be another pair of courses later in the year at another venue, (see bundle notices).
More information and application forms for this scheme at: www.stalbans.anglican.org/ministry/lay-leaders-worship.
Contact: Gabby 01727 818141 pdadmin@stalbans.anglican.org.