

Concerts & Drama

St James the Apostle, Bushey
Saturday Recital series - all start at 12 noon and last for 45 minutes. Coffee and home made cakes from 11am, and light lunches available after the performance.
14th July - Johanna Rohrig, (Violin),
21st July - Christine Bennett (Soprano),
28th July - James Bale (organ),
4th August - Harrow Apollo Male Choir,
11th August - Yoon-Seok Shin (piano),
18th August - David Prive (organ) and
25th August - Stephen King (organ).

All Saints, Houghton Conquest
'Out and About' with Bedford Sinfonia Baroque Players and Cantamus Chamber choir on **Sunday 8th July** 3.00pm. Directed by Jan Kaznovski and Henry Yann. Join us for a delightful afternoon of music followed by tea and cakes. Programme includes Vivaldi's Four Seasons, Handel's Dixit Dominus and Kuhnau's (arr. by Bach) Der Gerechte Kommt um (The Righteous Perish) Tickets at the door.

Elstow Abbey, Church End, Elstow MK42 9XT. Shakespeare's Twelfth Night performed by The Castle Theatre Company (Durham University) in the Cloisters of Elstow Abbey on **Monday 9th July** at 7pm. Tickets £12.50 available on the night. Gate opens at 6pm. Bring a picnic and chair, Light refreshments will be served. In church if inclement weather.

St Andrews Church, Church Street, Langford, Beds. Concert by Infinity Jazz with Sarah & Debbie Marchant.
Saturday 14th July 2018 at 7 pm. Tickets £10 in advance, please contact Sheila Vidler - 01462 701750.

St Albans Cathedral 'Elijah' by Mendelssohn performed by St Albans Bach Choir and St Albans Cathedral Choir, St Albans Abbey Girls Choir and the Abbey Singers with Sinfonia Verdi.
Saturday 14th July at 7.30pm. For details visit www.stalbenscathedral.org/whatson/music/

Open Days & Festivals

The Hospice of St Francis, Berkhamsted. 'Art @ the Heart' Art exhibition, live music, childrens art and activities, picnic and much more!
Saturday 7th - Sunday 8th July, 10-4pm. Spring Garden Lane, HP4 3GW.
St Lawrence Church Ardeley. Do come and join us on **8th July, 5th August & 2nd September** for cream teas. 2.30pm - 5pm. Homemade scones & cakes. We look forward to welcoming you to our pretty village with its beautiful 13th century church. 6 miles east of Stevenage (A1) and 4.5 miles west of Buntingford (A10). sat navs: SG2 7AG. Details from Wendy Waygood 01438 861260.

St Mary's Church Carlton. Art & Craft Exhibition and Sale on **Saturday 14th July** (10-5pm) and **Sunday 15th July** (12noon-4pm) in Carlton Village Hall. Entrance £1, refreshments available. Further information/entry forms from Sue Brown 01234 720442.

St Augustine's Church, Broxbourne, EN10 7AU Summer Fair **Saturday 14th July**, 12 noon - 5pm. Stalls - Bric a Brac, Toys, Books, Gifts, Cakes and more. Children's activities all afternoon. Lunch from 12 noon, Cream Teas from 2:30pm. Music in the church by talented musicians 2pm, and Salvation Army Band 3pm. Children's story times. 4:30pm singing with the Parish Choir.

Special Services

All Saints Church, Shaftesbury Road, Luton. Service to celebrate the arrival of the Empire Windrush migration from the Caribbean and the contribution of the Windrush generation to this country.
Saturday 7 July at 3pm.

St Paul's Church, Bedford. 10-10.45 am **Wednesday 11th July**, Singalong for pre-school children with their carers. Details 01234 266839.

Talks & Courses

Theology and the Tour de France
Date: Saturday 7th July, 10.30am-3.30pm. Price: £25
The Tour de France is so much more than watching 172 lycra-clad men cycling over 2000 miles in just over 3 weeks. Once you understand the tactics, the different aims, the fact that the riders ride as a team, that the result will be decided by a few seconds, you realise the ultimate drama that is the Tour de France. This study day will enable you to do that, also reflecting on the theological aspects of the struggle: no event glorifies vicarious suffering so vividly, or self-sacrifice for others so nobly, or the spiritual nature of the quest or pilgrimage so revealingly.

Praying With Your Eyes
Date: Saturday 28 July, from 4pm. Price: £10

Ian Knowles, Principal of the Bethlehem Icon Centre, joins us for a special evening which starts with evensong in the glorious setting of the Cathedral, sung by the Trinitati Cathedral Singers, and is followed by a talk exploring icons and prayer.
Venue: St Albans Cathedral (for evensong), followed by Chapter Room, The Deanery at 5pm (for talk).
www.stalbenscathedral.org/whatson for more details.

Open Learning Course: Discover Christian Living (part 1). Letters of Paul.

An Open Learning Course from the GOLD Project in Preston, south of Hitchin. We start on **Wednesday 3rd October** at 10am (finishing at 11.30am) and meet fortnightly during the Autumn. The course book is designed to be accessible even if you have no previous theological study as well as to encourage you to engage with the Bible at a deeper level. Find out more from Meta Reeves (tutor) 01462-456567 or meta.reeves1@gmail.com or www.goldproject.org.

Forty-four new ministers:

20 priests, 18 Deacons and 6 Readers

The large harvest of new ministers this summer is a cause of great rejoicing for the diocese. The Readers' licensing also sparked a debate in social media and on the pages of *The Guardian*, which published the photograph on the right asking: "Are Church of England's dabbling deacons and jumping bishops a leap too far?" They included coverage of increasingly eye-catching photographs of ordinations and licensings and gave an account of both the opprobrium, and more often, approval that these images get. The diocese is quoted: "Licensings and ordinations are serious occasions, but they are very joyful ones." Over the last weekend of June, 20 priests and 18 deacons were ordained on a blisteringly hot summer's day, but the joy of that occasion was also abundantly evident.

See p4 for more stories and photos of the ordinations. Full listings of ordinands and photos are at www.stalbens.anglican.org/licensed-and-ordained-this-summer/



SIX new Readers were licensed in June. Their licensing brought, as Bishop Michael put it, one of the readings in the licensing service to life. The reading was, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers few. Here were new labourers going to being in the Lord's harvest wherever that harvest was to be found, he said. From the stories of two of the new Readers interviewed during the service, that meant to a wide variety of places.

Catherine Sanderson, licensed to St Mary's Goldington, had visited a 'Seeking the Way' course and found that it was helping her to seek direction - not just towards ministry in the church, lay or ordained - but for the whole of her life. It crystallised her calling to Reader Ministry and also led her to leave her job in teaching and go to work in the NHS as a counsellor.

Kevin Shaw, licensed to Christ Church Chorleywood, was on the point of retiring from the Royal Navy, which he described as always a good place in which to be carrying the gospel to others. He has recently led the Northwood HQ, the UK's principal military headquarters site is home to 5 operational HQs. The Joint Forces Command HQ, including Permanent Joint Headquarters and the Joint Forces HQ, the Commander Naval Forces North and Headquarters of the Commander in Chief Fleet. Kevin remains in contact with a variety of people and organisations nationally and internationally, where he hopes to be an ambassador of Christ.

Among those admitted this year was one Reader under 30, David Martin, who is licensed to the Radlett Team Ministry.



Let's shower blessings on other parts of the world

After three weeks of hot weather those of us with long memories are thinking back to 1976. It was a year when we had uninterrupted sun from May to September.

The English hoteliers loved it as record numbers of holiday makers stayed in the UK and flocked to coastal resorts. Then, as now, many gardeners were desperate as plants wilted. I have already lost about a dozen shrubs in my garden here in St Albans and I am waiting anxiously to hear if we are going to have a hose pipe ban. Even just a few weeks without rain reminds us how dependent we are upon nature.

As I write this, I am about to go to General Synod in York where we will be debating motions on the environment and climate change. The first motion proposes that the churches should disinvest from companies focused on thermal coal mining and the production of oil from oil sands and instead use our investing power to support the development of low carbon alternatives.

The second motion, brought by the Diocese of London, proposes ways that every part of the Church of England can reduce its CO2 emissions over the coming years to mitigate the effects of climate change.

I hope both of these motions will not only be passed but that the debates will energise us to play our part in combatting climate change.

Here in the West we take it for granted that we will always have enough to eat and drink, but that is not the case in other parts of the world. For example, parts of Malawi suffer from long periods of drought and occasional torrential downpours which cause flash floods, both of which ruin crops and leave the local people without food. This is why my Harvest Appeal for 2018 is going to help people in Southern Malawi by providing pigeon peas and training people in how to grow and harvest them. These little peas have very deep roots which protect them from drought and keep them secure when the floods arrive.

Even just a few weeks without rain reminds us how dependent we are upon nature

A by-product is that these peas put nitrogen back into the soil and after harvest the foliage can be used to create a nutrient-rich mulch or to feed livestock.

I hope that many of our churches, schools and chaplaincies will join in with me this year in supporting the 2018 Harvest Appeal to support people who find themselves at much greater risk than we are due to the vagaries of the weather.



Rt Revd Alan Smith
Bishop of St Albans

+ Alan St Albans

bishop@stalbans.anglican.org

'Give Peas a Chance' is on: www.harvestappeal.org



Clergy Appointments

Madeleine Albert, presently Mission Priest (Mission Minister) in the benefice of Wilden, Colmworth and Ravensden has resigned.

Canon Richard Andrews, presently Team Rector in Dunsiable Team Ministry is to become Canon for Liturgy at Derby Cathedral.

Paul Bennett, presently Rector in the benefice of Letchworth is to retire in July, seeking PTO in the diocese.

Graham Buckle, presently Priest-in-Charge of Castle Bytham with Creeton, and Minister-in-Charge of North Witham and South Witham, in Lincoln Diocese, is to become Priest-in-Charge in Riversmeet benefice.

Kaushal David, presently Assistant Curate in Training (Incumbent) in the benefice of Totterhoe, Stanbridge and Tisworth, is to become Priest-in-Charge of the same.

Elizabeth Bunker, presently Team Vicar (SSM) in Hitchin and St Paul's Walden Team Ministry is to retire in October seeking PTO in the diocese.

Canon Grant Fellows, presently Team Rector in the Ouzel Valley Team Ministry, is to retire in November.

Daniel Foot, presently Assistant Curate in Training in the benefice of Sandy, is to become Rector of St Martin's Church Guernsey, in Canterbury Diocese.

Helen King, presently Assistant Curate in the Aldenham, Radlett and Shenley Charge in the benefice of Winkleigh, Ashreigney, Broadwoodkelly and Brushford, Exeter Diocese.

Liz Lavelle, presently Assistant Curate (SSM) in the benefice of Welwyn Garden City, has now become Assistant Curate (stipendiary) in the same benefice.

Penelope (Penny) Nash, presently Team Vicar with special responsibility for Holy Trinity Potton End within Berkhamsted Team Ministry, is to become Chaplain at Wycombe Abbey Girls School in Oxford Diocese.

Simon Richardson, presently Vicar in

Ordinand wins Welwyn Oscar



L to R: The Revd David Murchin, Kirsty Wainwright, Paul Wainwright, Kathryn Alford (also an ordinand)

Third-year Ordinand Kirsty Wainwright won an award at the 'Welwyn Oscars' in June. Every year as part of the Welwyn Festival there is a black-tie event in the Church in which awards are presented, Oscar-style, to best village pub, shop, restaurant etc.

The Revd David Murchin, Rector of Welwyn said: "The festival runs it really well, and it is a great celebration of village life and sells out immediately. Anyway my task every year is to give the final award for outstanding contribution to the village – unlike other awards this isn't voted for, but is decided by the festival committee. I am sworn to secrecy. So I was absolutely delighted this year to get the benefice of Glencraig in the diocese of Down and Dromore, Church of Ireland, to become Vicar of the Church of the Transfiguration, Kempston.

Tim Robb, presently Priest-in-Charge and Training Incumbent in the benefice of Wilden, Colmworth and Ravensden has resigned, but remains Vicar of the Eaton Socon Benefice.

Gareth (Gaz) Tracey presently Vicar of St Mark's Church Colney Heath is to become Senior Network Leader of

up on stage and announce that Kirsty Wainwright had won it!"

As well as being an Ordinand, Kirsty helps run the family bakery business, Katie's Bakery, and specialises in celebration cakes. The bakery suffered a devastating fire in 2017 and the community rallied round to help. St Mary's Church offered use of their kitchen and other local businesses offered the use of ovens so that the business could continue. There was other support too. David concludes: "This was one of the nicest things I've had to do, and thoroughly deserved by Kirsty, she and the bakery have been so much a valued part of village life."

Transform North West.

Catherine Wilson, presently Assistant Curate in the benefice of Biddenden and Smarden, in Canterbury Diocese, is to become Vicar in the benefice of Bromham with Oakley and Stagdsden.

Diocesan Appointments

Philip Bryson, presently Assistant Curate at St Paul's Bedford, has been appointed at Lay Ministry Officer.

Waterways Chaplains: 'on the towpaths because Christ walked the earth'



This large group, drawn from the 70 - strong network of Waterways Chaplains, was recently welcomed to a special service at the Chapel Royal, Tower of London, focusing on this growing national movement which started here.

Pam Rhodes, of Songs of Praise fame, gave an engaging address highlighting how 'Waterways Chaplains walk the towpaths because Christ walked the Earth.' Her awareness of ministry to the waterways is informed by her experience of close family members being liveaboard boaters and she noted the necessity of practical neighbourliness and how assumptions can never be made about people's personal circumstances.

Pam stressed how some people gladly 'run to the waterways' because of the attractive life they appear to offer, while others may be running to them because of what they need to leave behind. She commented on the high numbers of single older men living aboard boats, many of whom risk isolation as health breaks down and age encroaches.

A notable celebrity narrowboat owner who just happened to be sharing in worship agreed to join the Chaplains' photograph afterwards. Actor David Suchet has owned four narrowboats and is about to embark on a search for number five:

Among those in the photograph are local chaplains, some with spouses, in alphabetical order, Amanda Alchorn, Anthea Cannell, Mark Chester, Mike Newman, Lorraine Newman, Deborah Nouwen, Delbert Sandiford (Chair of Trustees), Des Scott, Suzie Taylor and Richard Stroud. Two million or so people who live and work on and around our rivers and canals.'

Waterways Experiences recognised with Queen's Award



Waterways Experiences of Hemel Hempstead, (WEExp), successor to the dissolved Reach Out Trust's canal boat project has been granted The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service for its work introducing the disadvantaged to the joys of boating on the Grand Union Canal.

Cllr Bob Mclean, former Mayor of Dacorum, who nominated the charity, said: "We were stunned, by the enthusiasm of the volunteer base and impressed by the focus upon making available a unique experience for disabled and disadvantaged groups across the Borough and beyond. It was that focus which so impressed us both. The entire team should be congratulated on this fantastic achievement."

Paul Bennett, Chair of Trustees said: "We are very proud to have been granted this prestigious award, the highest one given to UK volunteer groups. It recognises the outstanding work done by our volunteers over more than three years. Waterways Experiences was formed and is run by volunteers with no paid employees. More than 170 volunteers come from all walks of life and together rise to a huge range of different challenges associated with operating three large boats, two of which are quite elderly. Together they ensure that the boats are properly maintained with sufficient crew to deliver the hugely popular trips and that the essential training, finance, admin and communications functions run effectively."

Volunteers are rewarded by wonderful feedback from clients. One grateful parent wrote after her son's experience aboard a Waterways Experiences residential trip: "I cannot speak highly enough of all the volunteers that help on the trips (and with all the administration that is involved). To give up this amount of time to help individuals and their families is unbelievable. To give children/ young adults with additional needs such rich experiences and friendship is fantastic. I feel so lucky that we have become part of this wonderful group and I cannot thank them enough for what they have given Joe and my family."

Luton's Windrush Service evokes laughter, lament, thanksgiving ... and hope

Well over 300 people gathered at All Saints Church, Luton, to celebrate 70 years since the arrival of the SS 'Empire Windrush', bringing around 500 Caribbean immigrants to start new lives in the UK, and to help rebuild the 'Mother Land' after the 2nd World War. This was the beginning of the 'Windrush Generation', bringing labour and skills into Britain's industry, transport systems, and National Health Service. Caribbean food, music, sporting and artistic talents have contributed much to the multicultural Britain we know today.

The Windrush Generation frequently faced racism, prejudice and a clear message to go home. Sadly, the Church was often silent, and even complicit. Attended by the Bishop of Bedford, whose message was one of lament for the errors of the past, the Windrush celebration sought to recognise the resilience and resourcefulness of the Caribbean community, lament the lack of welcome experienced, and celebrate their undoubted contributions to the UK. Through personal reflections, music, poetry



more photos: <https://flic.kr/s/ah-smoGWaZt>

and laughter, the joyful gathering pledged that we must all move forwards together.

'Vicars in Labs' Explores Parapsychology

Do people really have premonitions of the future? Can we make contact with the dead? If so, is there any scientific evidence for such things? These were some of the questions that a group of us from St Albans Diocese were thinking about earlier this week.

Over the last 18 months, St Albans Diocese's 'Take Your Vicar to the Lab' project has given clergy and other church leaders the opportunity to visit laboratories. Recently, eleven of us were able to visit the department of Parapsychology at the University of Northampton as the guest of Prof Chris Roe and his colleagues.

In his research, Chris is scientifically measuring effects that are sometimes labelled as "paranormal". Among his examples was an experiment into telepathy. One participant sits in a quiet, darkened room while a colleague watches a short video elsewhere in the building. The person watching the film has to transmit the image to the person sitting in the dark. Intriguingly, experiments such as this do give "statistically significant" results. In other words, there seems to be something: an unknown which Chris calls not the "X" of algebra but "psi". However, rather disappointingly, when we tried out one of the experiments ourselves, there was no evidence at all of anything unusual.



L to R Prof Chris Roe, The Revd Jacqueline Curtis
The Revd Bernard Minton

Nevertheless, it was an astonishing, fascinating day which we all thoroughly enjoyed. But in the end, it left us with as many questions as answers. How might we relate these supposedly paranormal experiences to Christian belief? After all, surely God is at work in ways that science has yet to fully understand.

The Revd Canon Dr Tim Bull

New Deacons' tales

David Sheppard went to church as a child. As a teenager he attended a youth group led by the poet and singer/songwriter Revd Malcolm Guite, now a friend of thirty years, who came to his ordination. Malcolm's recollection of him was that he was the one who asked a lot of questions. Skip a few decades, and David is ordained at St Albans Cathedral, the story of those intervening decades is most interesting.

David says that as a teenager and an adult he was "definitely an atheist," although he adds, "but I took my son to church at Christmas and Easter." His son joined the church choir and David faithfully went to services where his son sang.

He found himself drawn to aspects of the services, especially the prayers of penitence. He had no antipathy towards the church but would only go when his son was singing, which was fine until he found himself wanting to go to other services. David eventually found and confessed his faith in God, but worried that regular worshippers would ask him what he was doing in church when his son wasn't singing. This fear proved unfounded but took some time to overcome. David, who had a career as a teacher, believes God intended him to be an atheist for those years. "God was behind the hedge," he says, with feeling. David is serving his title at St Mary's Church, Ware.



Kate McFarlane (left, below) always said to herself that she wouldn't leave the Roman Catholic church just to be ordained. She had felt a strong sense of God's call in her life since the age of 11, though this was at that time not necessarily a call to ordained ministry.

At that young age, she lost her grandmother, with whom she lived. She describes her powerful sense at that time of sitting in church and feeling held and loved by God. She describes this as her call.

Many years later, the call had matured into a vocation as a lay chaplain and mentor at a secondary school in Cambridge, St Bede's, an interchurch school as well as a spell in Justice and Peace work, "trying to make good news for the poor a reality," she says.

A house move to Amphill, Beds, brought a search for a new church and the nearest church to where they lived which they found nourishing and nurturing turned out to be Anglican.

By now, in a career break with very young family, the sense of vocation to ordination began to grow. It was, by God's grace, now entirely natural to seek ordination in the Anglican church. Kate says her ordination for her is about making that sense of being held and loved by God real for others.

Kate is serving her title in Marston Morteyne, Beds.



95% of young 14-25 women would like to be confident. Can our churches help?

Growing the faith of children and young people

The focus of a significant strand of work with children and young people is on gender identity and body image. It is something that affects boys and girls, young men and young women in different ways.

According to recent research, 60% of girls opt-out of everyday activities because of how they think they look. Around half of adolescent boys are unhappy with their bodies.

If these statistics disclose a problem, then the discovery in the most recent research that lack of confidence is almost universally experienced among the 14-25 year-old young women surveyed, discloses a bigger one.

Diocesan Youth Officer, Dean Pusey, counsels against one-size solutions: "We need to hear from all kinds of contexts and voices about local contexts and experiences. Then we can decide if there is something pastorally that the church can do for those young people. We need also to ask the question whether there is more we can do to alleviate a lack of confidence, especially in young women."

Dean believes that these solutions will be local and right for particular contexts, not 'one size fits all.' "Lack of confidence is the presenting problem, but the solutions will address underlying experiences," he says.

Margaret Pritchard Houston, Children's Work Enabler, adds: "Churches have a valuable role to play in the lives of pre-teens and teens, in being a place where they are accepted and loved not for their appearance or social media popularity or academic achievement, but simply because of who they are. To build confidence in young people, church communities need to love and value the young people in their midst, reminding them through word and action that they are beloved children of God, no matter what."

Safeguarding questionnaire: help requested
Dr Craig Harper from Nottingham Trent University, along with colleagues from the Church of England, is conducting some research on how members of various communities make sense of allegations of abuse. The research hopes to establish some of the factors that may affect people's willingness to believe allegations of abuse in various settings. By taking part in this research, which we believe is the first of its kind in the UK, the Church stands to gain much-needed knowledge about the processes by which members of our community make these decisions. This knowledge will help us to better serve and protect the

children and adults we are responsible for. Dr Harper says: "This is important research, and we would like to ask you to consider taking part. The research involves completing an online questionnaire, which should take approximately 10 minutes. It is completely confidential and you have the right to withdraw at any point. If you would like to take part, please click on the link below which will take you to further information about the research, and to the questionnaire itself."

The survey can be completed at: https://ntuppsychology.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_40a57hQR0wwHFT

Recent research has revealed some of the key aspirations among young women, aged 14-25 and they are contained within a new book, **The Girl De-Construction Project**. For the research, conducted with just over 1000 women, bestselling author Rachel Gardner, asked them to complete three sentences: "The kind of girl I'm not is... The kind of girl I am is... The kind of girl I want to be is..."

The results led to some interesting themes around how the women surveyed feel about their identity and aspirations. More than 95% of the answers to question 3 included the word 'confident' – which led Rachel to begin to explore a book that addressed what it would look like for a young woman to confidently embrace her sexual, emotional, spiritual and influential self.

The Girl De-construction Project is for Christian women of all ages, confident or questioning gender norms, who want to experience their femininity as a powerful identity that they can define and re-define as they grow as disciples. Published in hardback, £12.99, Hodder & Stoughton.

Rachel Gardner is President of the Girls' Brigade and founder of the Romance Academy Project – a healthy relationships course for young people which was launched on the back of a BBC2 TV documentary she starred in called 'No Sex Please We're Teenagers'. She leads the national team at Youthscape, in Luton.

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