

### Concerts & Drama

**Alban Arena, St Albans.** Love Classics concert by Adornamus Choir & Orchestra along with Chrysalis Community Choir is on **Saturday 1st July** at 7.30pm. Programme includes many popular love-themed songs, choruses and arias. Tickets £24, £20 and £16 from [www.adornamus.com](http://www.adornamus.com) or Arena box office 01727 844488.

**St Paul's Church, Letchworth.** Performance of 'Chosen' by Saltmine Trust Theatre Company on **Friday 14th July** at 7.30pm. 'Chosen' is the moving and inspiring story of Mary Sumner, the founder of the Mothers Union. Tickets (suggested donation of £5 per ticket) available from the church office, Clare Townsend and on the door. Details from 01462 637373 or Clare on 07951 677935 or see [www.saltminetrust.org.uk](http://www.saltminetrust.org.uk)

**St Nicholas' Church, Church Green Harpenden AL5 2TP.** 'St Hilda's Fete - A Drama by Harp Theatre' on **Saturday 15th July, 7pm.** What do you do when the foundations of everything you believe are shattered? Set in 1534, Lower Claydon village faces turmoil as religious convictions and personal loyalties are tested to the limit. (Outside performance in churchyard, in Church if wet). Tickets £8 from 07780 614171

**St Mary's the Virgin, Ware.** Major Fundraising Concert on **Saturday 15th July** at 7.30pm with the Abbey Gateway Orchestra and EHCCA singers. Music by Parry; Tallis; Bruchner, Rutter, Handel, V. Williams, Stanford Clarinet Concerto, Guilman's 1st Organ Symphony with Derek Harrison. Tickets for audience available on line at [www.abbeygateway.org](http://www.abbeygateway.org) or [celia.higson@talk21.com](mailto:celia.higson@talk21.com). £10 /£8 concs in advance before 30th June 2017. Standard price £12/£10 concessions.

**St Nicholas Church, Church Road, Barton Le Clay.** Parkside Singers of Ampthill perform A Summer Concert on **Saturday 22nd July** at 7.30pm in the church hall. Tickets £8 including programme and light refreshments, available from 01582 881473 or 01582 882350 or on the door.

**St Mary's Church, East Barnet EN4 8XD.** Spring into Summer Sunday Concert series. **23rd July** - Entfield Brass Band. Concerts at 3pm, tickets £5 including programme. Refreshments available. [www.smeb.org.uk](http://www.smeb.org.uk)

### Open Days & Festivals

**St Lawrence Church, ARDELEY.** Sat nav. SG2 7AG. Sunday Cream Teas with home made scones and cakes in picturesque village, dates **2nd July, 6th August & 3rd September.** 2.30pm - 5pm. Contact Wendy Waygood 01438 861260.

**St Albans Cathedral.** Matthew Parris 800 Exhibition. **Thursday 6th-Sunday 30th July.** For more details see [www.stalbenscathedral.org/whats-on/exhibitions/matthew-parris-800](http://www.stalbenscathedral.org/whats-on/exhibitions/matthew-parris-800)

**The Church of the Resurrection, Grovehill, Hemel Hempstead.**

Resurrection Fete in the Community Centre grounds **Saturday 8th July**, from 11am, opened by the Mayor of Dacorum and the Revelation Majorettes, with musical performances during the day including Neil Slanton and the Liberty Church Gospel Music worship band, BBQ, bouncy castle, games, crafts, Van, raffles and even the Vicars in the Stocks! **Thursday 13th** at 5pm, a concert by the Dacorum Community Choir in the Church - Tickets £5 on the door. **Saturday 15th** at 12.30pm Community 'Bring and Share' meal in the Community Centre Hall, a 40th year Celebration Service in the Church at 4pm, and at 6pm a Family Disco.

**St James the Great, Thortley** Festival Of Flowers and Music on the theme: "Rainbow Rhapsody" and Craft Fair **August Bank Holiday Weekend Saturday 26th - Monday 28th.** 12 noon - 5 pm. Admission Free. Refreshments and raffle tickets will be on sale throughout the Festival, Ploughman's lunches 12 noon - 2pm. Talk on History and Architecture of the St Bamabas Centre **Saturday and Sunday at 3pm.** Festival Evening Service **Sunday 6pm,** followed by tea & coffee.

### Advanced Notice

'Journey of the Magi' - A festive, witty and thoroughly Christmassy event for your church.

Spings Dance Company is now inviting churches to host a performance of Journey of the Magi, which will be available nationally from **18th Nov to 23rd December 2017.** This critically acclaimed production is set to be a joyful addition to the UK's family Christmas theatre scene for the 21st year running. With sparkle and songs to keep the kids engrossed, and plenty of in-jokes for the adults to enjoy, Journey of the Magi delights audiences of all ages. The show portrays the original Christmas story whilst drawing hilarious and poignant parallels with our own preparations for Christmas day. Further information can be found on the Spings Dance Company website [www.spingsdancecompany.org.uk](http://www.spingsdancecompany.org.uk) or by emailing [touring@spingsdancecompany.org.uk](mailto:touring@spingsdancecompany.org.uk) or call 07876 752910.

### Talks & Courses

#### St Albans Cathedral Summer School

Week-long courses in either Latin or New Testament Greek:

**Week 1:** 31st July-4th August (beginners) 10-4pm

**Week 2:** 7th-11th August (post-beginners) 10-4pm

**Week 3:** 14th - 18th August (intermediate) 10-4pm

Cost: £140 per wk, bursaries available. [www.stalbenscathedral.org/learning/study-centre/summer-schools](http://www.stalbenscathedral.org/learning/study-centre/summer-schools) or call 01727 890290. (See leaflet in ebundle).



#### Equipping God's People

#### New Course Programme

For course dates and bookings, see downloadable programme in the ebundle or visit: [www.stalbens.anglican.org/ministry/find-a-course/](http://www.stalbens.anglican.org/ministry/find-a-course/)

## Rejoicing as Strategic Funding Bid Succeeds!

# fresh expressions



Join the rejoicing at the news that St Albans Diocese will receive £1.75 million over five years from the Church Commissioners' Strategic Development Fund.

This is the full amount sought in the recent bid which was presented at Diocesan Synod in June and which comes to the DBF this month. The money is earmarked for making new disciples through 'Reaching New People in New Ways'. The aim is 8000 new disciples of Christ through enabling the development of 300 fresh expressions of church and 1200 lay leaders by 2028. These will be part of the mixed economy of traditional and new expressions of church that fresh expressions have always encouraged. The current position is that there are 150 Fresh Expressions in the diocese with potential to develop into mature disciple-making communities. The funding is a significant portion of the cost of achieving these goals. The diocese is also expected to contribute, in kind or in cash to the £3.61 million cost of the project over five years. Welcoming the funding, Bishop Alan said: "We are investing money, people, prayer, energy and love in our communities, so that we might reach new people in new ways. We are hugely encouraged by this support."

At the heart of the plans is funding for staff to support parishes in growing and in creating fresh expressions: a fresh expressions development officer in each archdeaconry, support for growing churches, communications support and an administrator. The diocese will contribute

substantially through diverting some existing staff time to achieving the aims and in other ways.

The figures sound huge, but represent more modest annual amounts. Were the whole contribution sought in cash, it would still represent around 6 cappuccinos a year for existing planned givers, a modest amount.

More important than the figures themselves is their implication. They are both a sign of commitment to investing in making new disciples, a call to everyone to get involved in whatever way they can and a once in a lifetime opportunity to participate in building the kingdom of God with leadership, support and investment.

At the end of five years, the vision for worship in every community every week could well have been achieved through new forms of church, leadership and ministry for those currently beyond the reach of church, with a particular focus on developing discipleship amongst children, families, teenagers and young adults.

In the first of a programme of projects, the diocese will develop existing and new fresh expressions of Church which intentionally grow disciples of Jesus Christ who are in turn committed to making new disciples and will equip and commission new lay leaders and lay and ordained pioneer ministers.

# Breaking the Cycle of Violence

In recent weeks we have witnessed three terrible atrocities on our streets. First, there was the attack on Westminster Bridge, when six people were killed, including PC Keith Palmer, and around fifty people were injured. Then on 22 May Salman Ramadan Abedi set off a bomb in the Manchester Arena, killing twenty-three adults and children and injuring a further 119 people. On 3 June eight people were killed around Borough Market in Southwark and forty-eight injured.

Her Majesty the Queen spoke for many people in the nation when she commented that it was "difficult to escape a very sombre national mood" as we have "witnessed a succession of terrible tragedies."

These mindless acts of violence remind us of the dreadful reality of evil, which has resulted in the murder of innocent people and the maiming of many others. In response to each attack, the police acted swiftly and exercised the power of the state to maintain law and order and protect the innocent (Romans 13. 1-7).

However, we need to ask "What can we do to help prevent further attacks?" and "What is our responsibility as Christians?"

Jesus was quite clear what he wanted his followers to do: "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbour and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax-collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect". (Matthew 5. 43-48)



Dr Alan Smith  
Bishop of St Albans

As Archbishop William Temple asked "What is the Christian method of correction? Not retribution, nor deterrent, nor even reformative punishment, but the conversion of the offender's heart and will by the readiness of his victim to suffer at his hands. That is the Christian way of meeting wrong-doing".

In the case of the three recent attacks, it is too late to engage with the perpetrators as they are all dead. However, in cases where it is possible, many people are now involved in the process known as restorative justice, where in certain circumstances the offender can meet the victim of their crime and understand the impact of their actions. One particular expression of restorative justice is the Sycamore Tree Course, which is run by the Prison Fellowship in more than forty prisons in the UK (for further information click on <https://goo.gl/ixAEib>).

But if we are not able to get involved in restorative justice, all of us can reach out to others and build bridges with them. For example, we know that the vast majority of people in the Muslim communities are as horrified as we are at these atrocities. Many of them are afraid to go out for fear of being verbally abused. How can we get to know people of other faiths and cultures and understand them better?

I hope that our churches will think about how we can be bridge builders as we strengthen our civic life in the communities across the Diocese of St Albans.

+ Alan St Albans

bishop@stalbens.anglican.org

## Clergy Appointments

**Graham Adamson**, presently Assistant Curate in Bushey benefice, is to become Vicar in Berkswich benefice in Lichfield diocese.

**Mary Fisher**, who was Assistant Curate at St Michael's Church, St Albans, has resigned.

**Anthony Giles**, presently Rector in the benefices of High Wych and Gilston w Eastwick and Rural Dean of Bishop's Stortford Deanery, is to retire seeking PTO in September.

**Dr Pippa Madgwick**, presently Associate Minister (SSM) at St Stephen's Church St Albans is to become Rector in the benefice of Rutland Water in Peterborough diocese.

**Linda Washington**, presently Interim Minister in the benefice of Harlington is also to become Priest-in-Charge (0.5) for Toddington and Chalgrave, and Associate Minister (SSM) at Westoning and Tingrith.

**Nigel Washington** presently Rector in the benefice of Westoning with Tingrith is also to become Associate Minister (SSM) at Toddington and Chalgrave.

## Obituaries

It is with sadness that we announce the deaths of **Charles Broster**, Reader Emeritus of Letchworth Garden City and **Dr Michael Tyers**, Reader Emeritus from Stevenage.

## Diocesan Appointments

**Ruth Carl** (right) has succeeded Lynne Griffiths as PA to Susan Pope, Diocesan Secretary. Ruth was Finance Department Supervisor at Astley Cooper School and Clerk to Governors in various schools.



## Petertide Ordinations

The following are due to be ordained at St Albans Cathedral on July 1st 2017. There will be photographs of the ordinands and deacons on the diocesan website after the event. The names are correct as at publication date.

<b>James Jo</b>	<b>Brown Burke</b>	Harpenden, St John's Luton, All Saints with St Peter	Deacon
<b>Grant Sarah</b>	<b>Fensome Forrest</b>	Broxbourne with Wormley Holy Trinity, Bishop's Stortford	Deacon
<b>Andy Gliddon</b>	<b>Hancock Sarah</b>	Luton, St Hugh, Lewsey St Francis, Luton	Deacon
<b>Jacob Dominic</b>	<b>Holroyd-Thomas</b>	Chorleywood, Christchurch	Deacon
<b>Jess McLaren</b>	<b>Patrick Moriarty</b>	St Mary, Welwyn Leagrave, St Luke's East Barnet	Deacon
<b>Nathan</b>	<b>Mulcock</b>	Stevenage, St Andrew & St George	Deacon
<b>Ann Kate</b>	<b>Poultney Scott</b>	St Martin's, Shenley Elstow Abbey (Elstow Team Ministry)	Deacon
<b>Ian Mark</b>	<b>Smith Smith</b>	Silsco, Pulloxhill and Flitton Frogmore, Holy Trinity	Deacon
<b>Russoff Terrence</b>	<b>Thomson Penny</b>	Chorleywood, Christchurch Bishop's Hatfield Team Ministry	Deacon
<b>Stephen Caroline</b>	<b>Tudway Wainman</b>	Flamstead and Markyate Street St Mary's, Hemel Hempstead	Deacon
<b>Ruth Ruth</b>	<b>Atkinson Barr</b>	Thorley St Thomas, Stopsley	Priest
<b>Max Kate</b>	<b>Bayliss Daymond</b>	Ouzel Valley Team Ministry St Helen, Wheathampstead	Priest
<b>Paolo Dan</b>	<b>Di Leo Drew</b>	St Margaret, Sreatley St Mary, Hitchin	Priest
<b>Andy Eugene</b>	<b>Gardner Hanshaw</b>	St Mary, Luton Chipping Barnet	Priest
<b>David Liz</b>	<b>Jones Lavelle</b>	All Saints Croxley Green St Francis of Assisi, Welwyn Garden City	Priest
<b>Theresa Caroline</b>	<b>Musiwacho Rolls</b>	St John the Baptist, Royston Christ Church, Ware	Priest
<b>Fiona Souter</b>	<b>Souter</b>	Stevenage, Holy Trinity with Christ the King	Priest
<b>Tim Simon</b>	<b>Vickers Vivian</b>	St Mary, Redbourn Berkhamsted Team Ministry	Priest
<b>Simon Woodmore</b>	<b>Woodmore</b>	Bovingdon	Priest

### From one mother to another

In Tanzania, one of the poorest countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, most people live in remote rural areas out in the bush. Very low standards of health education, lack of access to clinics, hospitals or healthcare professionals and extreme poverty mean that many babies are born in less than ideal conditions. The floor might be mud or dirty concrete and out in the bush, miles from a town, the only thing to cut the umbilical cord is a stone. The poorest mothers have very little for their babies or themselves and there is a high maternal and infant death rate after birth, mainly from infection, birth trauma and haemorrhaging. Quite a contrast from birth experiences in the UK.

St Mary's Ashwell Mothers' Union branch have responded to the need by committing to put together at least 35 Birthing Packs which will be passed on via an organisation called Go MAD (Go Make A Difference) community midwives to the very poorest women. The packs contain the absolute basics for a hygienic delivery and the immediate care of a mother and her baby. The bag is a nylon boot bag (like those for school rugby boots) and amongst the items laid out in

the image below there is a shower curtain to lay on the ground, baby soap, latex gloves, cord cutting kit, terry nappies and so on. The completed packs (inset) will be taken out in August to the Anglican Diocese of Musoma in Tanzania and all achieved in a very short, some would say miraculous, timescale.



Gaye Rowlands & Caroline Evens from Ashwell Mothers' Union.

### From one school to another



Rather than simply demolishing the former school buildings that were on the site of Silsoe School, the Diocese of St Albans' Estates Team has allowed a local charity - Home Leone - to remove many of the fixtures and fittings.

Home Leone are a Luton-based charity working in FreeTown, Sierra Leone. Their vision is of a nation free of slum living. The items from the school in Silsoe are being used for a new state of the art school in a new community. The equipment would not be available in Sierra Leone and will be ground breaking for education in the area. The container with the school parts arrived recently at the village in Destiny, Sierra Leone and was met with joy and excitement. For more information about Home Leone's work to build communities of hope with the poor, see [homeleone.org](http://homeleone.org).

### Hope in Film



Find out more at

[www.stalbins.anglican.org/hope](http://www.stalbins.anglican.org/hope)

'Together we are Giving Hope' is the first of a series of films produced for the Diocese by Mission and Communications working with a film production company, Wade Bros. The intention is that the three films will depict the variety and fullness of life across the diocese.

'Together' was premiered at the recent midweek conference, at which over 260 of our clergy were present, receiving a warm welcome. Many clergy said afterwards that they could see themselves using it in their churches.

'Together' is a two-minute film with a simple message: "With one vision, Living God's Love, through 400 churches, together we are giving hope."

The short film's aim is to help reinforce the sense of common purpose among people in the churches of the diocese as well as provide an attractive message which has the capacity to connect with people outside the church. At a time when hope appears to be lacking in the lives of many people, this should be just what they want

to hear. Creating this association in people's minds is an important step in building a relationship between them and the church.

A postcard (image shown above) is being produced to accompany the film which should encourage people to view it and find a church near them.

For churches wishing to show the film, it is available online and can be downloaded in several sizes so as to make it suitable for a wide range of venues.

"I've been overwhelmed by the positive feedback about this film. I hope this means that many people near to or far from the church will get to see it. This reception for 'Together we are giving hope' has itself strengthened my hope for the future. I hope it does that for you." Canon Tim Lomax.

View the film online at [stalbins.anglican.org/hope](http://stalbins.anglican.org/hope). Postcards will be available for distribution to churches shortly.

### Holy Land Pilgrims see sacred sites

During May, 42 people from across the Diocese of St Albans visited the Holy Land. Among them was Peter Crumpler, who wrote this moving reflection (below) for the St Albans Review.

The Pilgrimage, led by Archdeacon Paul and Canon Liz Hughes, visited Jerusalem, the Western Wall and Bethany, Masada and the Dead Sea, Bethlehem, Jericho and the Jordan Valley and Nazareth and the sites of Jesus's ministry around Galilee. The group shared the eucharist on the shores of the Lake, at Tabgha, beside the Church of the loaves and fishes. Canon Liz Hughes celebrated. Here is a selection of photographs of the trip taken by participants, for which, many thanks.

More photos can be seen at: <https://1drv.ms/f/s!AhcEHDqTjDoNiApye9XBFP67Y7X>



Sharing the Eucharist



Wadi Qelt monastery in the Valley of the Shadow of Death

### Discovering shared humanity on the Via Dolorosa

As part of a group from churches across St Albans diocese, we had traced the footsteps of Jesus around the ancient city. We were just beginning to explore the country places where Jesus grew up and began his preaching and healing. We were in a region with a long history of violence and war, with gun-carrying soldiers much in evidence, and the Israeli security wall a reminder of the tensions that persist.

And yet, the desperate news from home was a reminder of how we all share a common humanity.

Wherever we went, shocked Israelis, Arabs and fellow pilgrims from around the world expressed their sympathy at the attack in Manchester. People from all backgrounds asked if we were from the city or had relatives there. We were united in horror at the massacre.

As we toured a country that holds holy sites for Christianity, Judaism and Islam, we wondered at what perverted form of religion could lead to such an attack.

And as a Christian pilgrim standing where Jesus would have stood and seeing scenes he would have known, I prayed for peacemakers and for peace, and for the work to begin with me."



**The Revd Peter Crumpler, pictured above with others on the Via Dolorosa in Jerusalem, writes:** "When news broke of the terror attack in Manchester on 22nd May, I was midway through a Holy Land pilgrimage in Israel. We had left behind the bustle of Jerusalem and were now settled on the peaceful shores of Lake Galilee in the north of the country. A far cry from the horrific scenes unfolding back home.

### Vying with the Vicar for who calls the tune



Parishioners at a Hertford Church have come up with a novel fund-raising idea – by banning the vicar's choice of hymns. But it's all in a good cause. The Vicar of Bengoe, Revd Robert Thompson explained, 'Some parishioners were telling me that they were getting so fed up with singing some of the hymns I was choosing that they'd quite happily pay me not to. It sounded like a good deal to me!' Mr Thompson set up the fund-raising Hymn Blocker so that church goers could bid for their least favourite hymn to help raise funds to pay the church bills. Hymns now banned from Holy Trinity include 'Onward Christian Soldiers' and 'He's got the whole world in his hand', with

the most unpopular hymns crossed off the church's playlist for a whole year. Revd Thompson said, 'There have been one or two controversial choices. The axe was going to fall on popular classics like 'Amazing Grace' until one generous bidder stepped in to outbid the blocker and get it back on the hymn list.' All the hymn duelling came to a happy end with over £500 being raised for church funds, and parishioners were delighted with the outcome. Church Warden Graham Squires said, 'We're always trying to think up some new ways to keep the bills paid and this was a fun way to settle some financial differences and musical ones too!'

### Celebrating 210 years of priestly ministry



Every now and then, Bishop Alan celebrates the significant anniversaries of priestly ministry among the clergy. Here is one such occasion where 11 clergy marked 210 years of ministry between them.