

Concerts & Drama

St. Swithun's Church, Sandy. Concert with the Award-Winning Hitchin Band on **Saturday 9th June** at 7.30pm. In aid of The Leprosy Mission. Tickets £5 available in advance from Sandy Town Council Information Office or Colin Osborne (01767 682032) or on the door. Refreshments available in the interval.

St Paul's, Chipperfield. RSCM Event spreading the service across three churches: St Paul's Chipperfield, Holy Cross Saratt and St Lawrence Bowington, (start and end at Chipperfield). Further details and an online application form here: <http://www.rscm-stalbens.co.uk/?cat=4>. The fee payable for each of these events is £5 per participant. Music will be provided.

St Peter's Church, Berkhamsted. Celebration Concert by Bridgewater Sinfonia on **Saturday 16th June** at 7.30pm. Programme includes works by Bedrich Smetana, William Mathias, Aaron Copland and Jean Sibelius. Tickets £16/£15 in advance, under 18s free. 01442 873205 or reserve online www.bridgewater-sinfonia.org.uk.

St Laurence Church, Wormley. **Broxbourne** is holding a concert: A Summers Evening with the Three Valleys Male Voice Choir on **Saturday 23rd June** at 7.30. Tickets are £8 in advance and £10 on the door and include light refreshments. There will be a raffle also. For tickets contact Parish office on 01992 444117 email bparrishoffice@btinternet.com.

St Albans Church, Letchworth. **SG6 4DU.** Midsummer Concert in the Wilbury Hall, with The Garden City Singers. **Saturday 23rd June** doors open 7pm. Charity Raffle in aid of Jackie's Drop-In. Tickets £10 (inc. refreshments) from 01462 682642.

St Albans Cathedral. 'Elijah' by Mendelssohn performed by St Albans Bach Choir and other Cathedral Choirs with Sinfonia Verdi. **Saturday 14th July** at 7.30pm. Visit www.stalbenscathedral.org/whats-on/music/

Two Bedfordshire Churches 'Out and About' with Bedford Sinfonia Baroque Players and Cantamus Chamber choir **Sunday 1st July St James's Church, Blunham** 3.00 pm, **Sunday 8th July All Saints, Houghton Conquest** 3.00pm. Directed by Jan Kaznovski and Henry Vann. 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 Parish) Tickets at the door.

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.

Open Days & Festivals

Churches Together in Harpenden 'Cultivate' Arts Festival **Thursday 21st - Sunday 24th June.** Festival takes place over four days, at locations across the town, with exhibitions, concerts, art installations, plays, poetry readings, creative workshops and events for everyone to enjoy and get involved. A Trail Map is available. Details from: www.cultivate.me.uk

St. Andrew's Church, Kimbolton Road, Bedford. MK40 2PE. Exhibition entitled 'A Friendship in Stitch' displaying works created by designer Joan Freeman and embroiderer Clarissa Robinson. Includes beautiful altar frontals, chasubles and copes. **Friday 29th June - Sunday 1st July** 11am-4pm. Admission free.

St Paul's Church, Bedford MK40 1SQ Pole to Pole Exhibition of landscapes and wildlife photography **22-24 June** UK and worldwide photographs by Ursula Clare Franklin. Many for sale. 10am-4pm (Sunday 2-4pm) Admission £1. Children U16 free. **Also** 'Supper with Music' **Friday 22 June** 7 for 7.45pm (as part exhibition) music by Cantamus Chamber Choir. Tickets £25 from St Paul's church office Tel 01234 340163 admin@stpaulschurchbedford.org.uk.

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.

Talks & Courses

High Leigh Conference Centre USPG Conference 'All Things Are Possible' from **Monday 2nd - Wednesday 4th July**, or just **Tuesday Day Conference.** Discover how Anglicans in other countries are engaging with the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Free to students and ordinands. See leaflet in ebundle downloads, or visit www.uspg.org.uk/ conference.

Special Services

Whipsnade Tree Cathedral Service. This years service is on **Sunday 10th June** at 3pm and will mark the centenary since the end of WW1. The Bishop of St Albans will preach and the service will be supported by the Royal British Legion with the Salvation Army Band and the children of Kensworth and Sudham schools. All welcome, bring a rug or chair to sit on.

St Paul's Church, Bedford. 10-10.45 am **Wednesdays 13th June & 11th July.** Singalong for pre-school children with their carers. Details 01234 266839. **All Saints Church, Sharnesbury 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.

Not one, but two, straight from the Royal Wedding to Thy Kingdom Come



The Archbishop we knew about.... but the surprise arrival of Presiding Bishop Michael Curry with him caused additional excitement during the afternoon of the Thy Kingdom Come Beacon Celebration at St Albans Cathedral. Both came straight from the Royal Wedding and gave a series of interviews to media on the Abbey Orchard about 'The Wedding' and got in a few mentions of Thy Kingdom Come too. By the time the Archbishop's party arrived at around 5pm, Bishop Michael's sermon from the wedding was trending on Twitter and causing a sensation among a large number of people who had watched the wedding. In fact, when asked what had been the highlight of the wedding for him, Archbishop Justin said with a smile, pointing at Bishop Michael, "His sermon."

About 3,500 people from across Beds and Herts came to the celebration. Some arrived around 4pm, when the number of prayer stations available was boosted from the

ten open during the preceding nine days to nineteen, for the celebration, inside and outside the cathedral, adding to the festival atmosphere, enhanced by the warm weather.

Outside the west end of the cathedral there was a 'Creative Confessions' station, where there were large bean bags to punch and oversized teddies to cuddle, to aid the bringing of difficult experiences to God. There was also a sensory prayer station, with soft balls immersed in water, a chalk board for people to commit the names of five others for whom they were praying and an exam station with a large hamper into which those undergoing the season of summer exams could drop their prayers.

The Archbishop joined a number of GCSE and A level students there before the beginning of the celebration, prayed with them and blessed the prayer cards. And all this was before the celebration! **See pages 4-5 for a report on the celebration report and more photos).**

The Call to Teach

Recently I called into All Saints' Leighton Buzzard. As part of their participation in 'Thy Kingdom Come', the parish had created an interactive trail around the church. Developed in partnership with Pulford Lower School, one of our Diocese's 'Outstanding' schools, it focused on the church's year. I especially remember fishing with a magnetic rod for fish which carried the names of the Apostles, and a vibrant display of balloons along with a model flickering fire that was an expression of Pentecost. Not only were the whole of Pulford School going to follow the trail, it was also to welcome other schools from across the town.

It is just one example of the inspiring work that is being developed by partnership between parishes and their church schools. In the tiny village of Sutton, there is a Friday afternoon school service in church that not only involves the children but is also attended by many of their parents and carers. Last autumn, a Spirituality Day at both Wymington and Poddington schools, saw staff, governors and volunteers from the local churches involved in an exciting day of prayer activities. The Spring Newsletter of our Diocesan Board of Education includes news of an RE Day at St Michaels, Bishop's Stortford, a 'stained' glass window workshop at Welwyn St Mary's and a 'Trinity Day' at St John's, Radlett. There are also, of course, good examples of local churches working with community schools. Our focus is not just church schools, but the nurture and flourishing of all young people as precious in the sight of God.

On my visit to Leighton Buzzard, as elsewhere, I was very conscious of the crucial input of Christian teachers. Pulford Lower School is led by people of strong faith who both lead their school with Christian vision and inspiration, and also play a crucial role in the partnership with the parish. They are not alone. But that visit reminded me of the importance of encouraging Christian people to become teachers. It is a vital area of vocation where the opportunity to serve and witness to Jesus through the education of the young is so significant. Church schools are valued by so many parents,

"Is God calling you to teach?
Equally importantly, are we supporting those in our congregations who are teachers?
Are we praying for them?
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Rt Revd Richard Atkinson
Bishop of Bedford

especially for their ethos and Christian identity. For that to continue, we need Christian teachers and headteachers. Is God calling you to teach?

Equally importantly, are we supporting those in our congregations who are teachers? Are we praying for them? Are we highlighting their work? I remember reading this telling comment from a teacher: I teach Sunday school 45 minutes a week and they haul me up to the front of the church to pray for me. I teach in a school 45 hours a week and the church has never prayed for me. What do we need to do to celebrate those in our churches who teach? There is so much more we can do!

Thank you to those of you who teach. May God bless you.

+ Richard Bedford
bishopbedford@stalbans.anglican.org



Bishop Richard goes fishing at All Saints Luton Buzzard.

See p4 for more on Thy Kingdom Come

Clergy Appointments

James Isaacs presently Assistant Curate in the benefice of Hailsham in Chichester Diocese, is to become Rector in the benefice of Riseley with Bletsoe in September.

Jennifer (Jeni) McQuaid presently Assistant Curate in the benefice of Hitchin and St Paul's Walden Team Ministry is to become Vicar in the benefice of Letchworth, St Paul with William in September.

Canons Emeriti

Canon Lynne Fawns and **Canon Pauline Higham** have both been appointed Canon Emeritus.

Diocesan Appointments

Canon David Lawson has been appointed as Clergy Retirement Officer for the Archdeaconry of St Albans.

New Canons Appointed



During evensong on Saturday 5th May, the **Revd Nicola McIntosh** (right) and the **Revd Andrew Holford** (left) were appointed as Honorary Canons of the Cathedral and Abbey Church of St Alban by the Bishop of St Albans.

During the same service **Mrs Moira Dean**, (pictured in blue), was appointed Honorary Lay Canon of the Cathedral and Abbey Church of St Albans and Cathedral Warden.

Farewell to SIM Co-ordinator Clare Baynes

Revd Clare Baynes has stepped down as Co-ordinator of Support in Your Ministry (SIM) with effect from 19th May 2018 having filled the role for over 5 years. As a key member of the SIM Management Group, she has been responsible for matching Users with suitable Assistants, a role that she has carried out in strictest confidence and with a rare combination of sensitivity, practicality and efficiency. She has also been a source of immense



support and wisdom to many involved with SIM. With effect from the same date **Judy Salisbury**, who has been Clare's deputy for over two years, took over as SIM Co-ordinator. Anyone who would like support from SIM should contact her; details are on the SIM webpage: www.stalbans.anglican.org/ministry/support-in-your-ministry/.

STOP PRESS

New Safeguarding Resources
New safeguarding resources for parishes including Bible readings, prayers and suggested hymns, chosen in consultation with survivors, have been released by the Church of England. The resources and a blog by the Bishop of Stockport, the Rt Revd Libby Lane, can be found here: www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/news/towards-safer-church-liturgical-resources

New app to help beat modern slavery
A new phone app will help drivers join the fight against modern slavery at car washes. The Safe Car Wash App is available from 4th June for Apple and Android phones and has been produced by the Clewer Initiative. More: www.theclewerinitiative.org/safecarwash



Fixed Odds Betting Terminals: £2 maximum stake is 'right decision', says bishop

Bishop Alan has welcomed Government plans to limit the maximum stake on fixed-odds betting terminals (FOBTs) to £2.

He said the decision was an "essential" step in curbing the harm done by the machines, which he said have "taken advantage of the vulnerable for too long".

He thanked ministers for their action, announced on 17th May as part of a package of measures in response to a Government consultation.

Bishop Alan had previously written to all members of the General Synod, encouraging them to respond to the consultation with evidence of the consequences of these machines for their communities.

In February 2017, General Synod voted unanimously to support a £2 maximum stake on fixed-odds betting terminals, and powers for local authorities to control the numbers of these machines on high streets.

Bishop Alan said: "Fixed-odds betting terminals are a



scourge on high streets that have taken advantage of the vulnerable for too long.

"I am very glad the Government agrees that a £2 stake is an essential part of the solution.

"Of course, there is more work to be done, but the Government has made the right decision.

"I would like to thank the Prime Minister and her Government, particularly Minister Tracey Crouch MP and Secretary of State Matt Hancock MP for their admirable moral leadership."

Best new church building or extension and top repair sought

The National Churches Trust and the Ecclesiastical Architects and Surveyors Association (EASA) are looking for the best new church buildings and extensions, and top repair or conservation architecture.

King of Prussia Gold Medal

The judges for the King of Prussia Gold Medal Award for innovative church conservation or repair work in 2018 will include HRH The Duke of Gloucester KG GCMVO, Vice-President of the National Churches Trust, and Prince Nicholas von Preussen, Patron of EASA. Bob Allies, founder and partner of Allies and Morrison LLP, will be a special guest judge.

The Gold Medal was the gift of King Friedrich Wilhelm IV of Prussia in 1857 who was highly impressed with British Victorian church architecture. The architect(s) responsible for the winning project will receive the prestigious King of Prussia Gold Medal. The winning church or chapel will receive a £500 prize.

Presidents' Award

New church buildings can be entered for The Presidents' Award, given on behalf of the National Churches Trust's Joint Presidents, the Archbishops of Canterbury and

Young Architect or Surveyor of the Year

A Young Church Architect or Surveyor of the Year award will be awarded to an architect or surveyor under 40 or in the early stages of their career who has worked on a winning or shortlisted design entered for either award.

How to enter a project

The deadline for submitting projects is 13 July 2018. A shortlist will be announced in September. The winner will be announced at a ceremony in London on 1 November 2018.



Nominations for the two awards can be made by architects, chartered surveyors, churches and chapels, and anyone else with a passion for great church architecture.

Submitting a nomination can be done online by completing a simple form which can be found at: www.nationalchurchestrust.org/how-we-help/2018-architecture-awards

A day on the farm and an evening in church launches Bishop's Harvest Appeal: 'Give Peas a Chance'



Church Farm, Ardeley, and St Michael and all Angels Church, Borehamwood, hosted the 2018 Bishop of St Albans' Harvest Appeal launch.

The Appeal, called 'Give Peas a Chance,' is working with appeal partner Christian Aid to improve farming and the lives of farming communities in Malawi, through the growing of the hardy pigeon pea.

On a warm May afternoon, children from St Lawrence Primary, Ardeley, and St Nicholas CE Primary, Elstree, spent two hours being acquainted with what life on a farm in England is like, how to plant seeds and how to harvest a crop, in this case, rainbow chard, and what makes Church Farm, an ethical farm, different.

During a tour of the farm they also saw livestock kept on the farm and the different activities that take place on a modern, diversified farm, including an area for campers and caravans and other activities. A feature of farming practice at Church Farm is the growing of crops, such as chard, which put nutrients back into the ground as they grow. This is something they have in common with the

pigeon peas growers, although, as the children learnt, farming in Malawi is very different to the UK! Malawian farms are more like small-holdings, less mechanised, more labour intensive and of course, working in different climatic conditions.

Later in the day, at St Michael's Church, Borehamwood, Bishop Alan made a phone call to a Christian Aid worker in Malawi to find out first-hand what conditions were actually like in Malawi. The phone call was relayed to those present over a loudspeaker and that provided another sense of what a difference simply changing crops can make. With the improved value and reliability of pigeon peas, farmers' hands have also been strengthened to band together in co-operatives and negotiate better prices for their crops. The 2018 Bishop's Harvest Appeal is hoping to be an answer to the farmers' prayers.

Materials available on www.harvestappeal.org from 15 June.

Photos from the launch: <https://www.flickr.com/gp/arunkat/MM4kA3>



Ten days of prayer around the diocese and at the cathedral

Here are just some stories of the great variety of activities from around the diocese that took place from Ascension to Pentecost. We'd love to hear yours!

Across the diocese, churches offered significantly more opportunities for prayer. Many of these were local in focus, such as in **Potters Bar**, where churches remained open for the whole of one Sunday for people to come in to pray for the town.

At St Faith's in Hexton, the church is at the junction of two busy roads, so they divided the parish up street by street and gave people the name of a road to include in their prayers, in a plain brown envelope!

At **Elstow Abbey**, prayer within the abbey's cloisters centred on reflection on the Lord's prayer in a labyrinth. In the **Chellington Team**, there were 'Stations of the Resurrection' followed by a daily Eucharist.

In the **Sharnbrook Team**, they practised the Ignation Examen prayer at the end of each of the ten days.

The **Stodden Team** included lighting candles for those people in mind, as well as a mix of silent and said prayer

All Saints, Leighton Buzzard, introduced local schoolchildren to the Church's year through an interactive trail set up and run with the help of Pulford School. More than 500 children took part over four days. On display were eye-catching stations showing the colours of the Church's year and what they represent. The journey began with a giant Advent dream catcher and ended with Pentecost fire and balloons in the church's upper chapel. On the way there were dream clouds, water turned into wine, pancakes to eat, ashes to apply, a cross that changed words and prayer trees. Judging by the children's faces and comments from their teachers and escorts, they all had an enjoyable and informative time - even the ladies in the local sandwich shop had heard about what had been happening!



Reaching out in Hemel Hempstead



Photo: Rhys Lewis

The Revd Richard Howlett and parishioners from St Mary's and St Benedict's, two churches in the Langedale team, who gave prayer resources out at Apsley Station during Thy Kingdom Come

In the **Langedale Team**, Team Vicar Revd Richard Howlett said he had passed: "...a busy but happy few days as part of 'Thy Kingdom Come', adding: "...we can only hope more church members give it a try in the future. I am sure it will add a new dimension to their Christian faith."

Thy Kingdom Come began at St Mary's Apsley with an all night prayer vigili, leading on from Evening Prayer using the TKC 'Morning and Evening Prayer' booklets. One parishioner commented: "I was struck by how the church atmosphere changed with the still hours of the night, the wonderful dawn chorus and the first light of the rising sun. What I thought would be a long time - 3am - went quickly. I am glad we did it again this year, and it has made me want more"

On Monday (14/5), the Vicar and others were out at local shops, gathering prayer requests from passing shoppers. That evening near Apsley station, many prayer resources were given out to commuters and to nearby taxi drivers and station staff. A young professional photographer,

Blyth Lewis, was among those who were given resources. A few minutes later he came back and offered to take a photo (reproduced here, above). "I was intrigued to know who you people were" he commented "You all looked so happy."

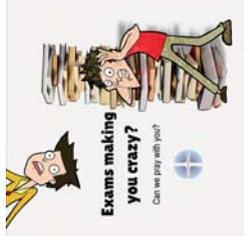
Tell us your Thy Kingdom Come story: comms@stalbans.anglican.org

Prayer for Exam Candidates



Among the prayer stations available at the Beacon Celebration was one offering prayer for teens' concerns which could be written on colourful cartoon cards to be collected in a hamper.

Archbishop Justin joined a gathering of about forty GCSE and A level students before the service began and prayed with them for the challenges they faced, before he blessed the cards in the hamper.



Three Great addresses



The Revd Hayley Young, Baptist Minister from Panshanger, preached an energetic and gripping sermon. She inspired and encouraged people to pray for those they love ... and those they don't love. Using as her text the story of the Arameans coming to capture Elisha, she spoke about how the prophet Elisha saw things from God's perspective and so was able to bring peace without the taking up of arms. He saw and was able to encourage his servant to see their enemy, arranged around them, through God's eyes, not his own.

"This story has all the elements of a great movie," she said. And Hayley was in a movie of her own, as the service was streamed live on Facebook, across the globe.

Photos of the celebration: <https://fflic.kr/raHskBwrd1f3>

