

Email your events to: comms@stalbens.anglican.org

The Diocese of St Albans in Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire, Luton & Essex

Concerts & Drama

St. Thomas's Church, Stopsley
LU2 7UL, Luton Male Voice Choir
Charity Concert on **Saturday 10th June** at 7.30pm. Tickets £8 including refreshments. Raffle. Contact Clive Wheeler on 07804 733222 or cliverobert2001@yahoo.co.uk.

St. Peter's Church, Berkhamstead
Bridgewater Sinfonia concert on **Saturday 17th June** at 7.30pm. Programme includes works by Mendelssohn, Ravel and Tchaikovsky. Tickets £15 in advance, £16 on the door; U18s free. Available from Aitchisons, 154 High St Berkhamstead, from www.bridgewater-sinfonia.org.uk. Enquiries 01442 873205.

St Helen's Church, Wheathampstead
Chilren West Gallery Quire perform 'Tales from the Village', recreating sounds and scenes from 18th Century with music and readings. **Saturday 17th June** at 7.30pm. Interval refreshments and retiring collection. Further details from 01582 629516 www.cwvgq.co.uk

St. Michael's Church, Broadway
Letchworth SG6 3JJ, Orpheus Choir of North Hertfordshire Summer is Ioumen In' on **Saturday 24th June** at 7pm. Tickets £10 under 16's and over 65's £8 Proceeds to the 'Raise the Roof' Fund. Tickets available from: Tourist Information Centre, Station Road 01462 484868, David's Music, East Cheap 01462 686631, or the Parish Office 01462 684822.

St. Mary's Church, East Barnet EN4 8XD, Spring into Summer Sunday Concert series. **25th June** - Arborg Siring Quartet; **25th July** - Enfield Brass Band. Concerts at 3pm, tickets £5 including programme. Refreshments available. www.smeb.org.uk

Alban Arena, St Albans, Love Classics concert by Adoramus 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.adoramus.com or Arena box office 01727 844488.

St. Nicholas' Church, Church Green Harpenden AL5 2TP, 'St Hilda's Fete - A Drama by Harp Theatre' on **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 Barnabas Centre **Saturday and Sunday at 3pm**. Festival Evening Service **Sunday 6pm**, followed by tea & coffee.

Open Days & Festivals

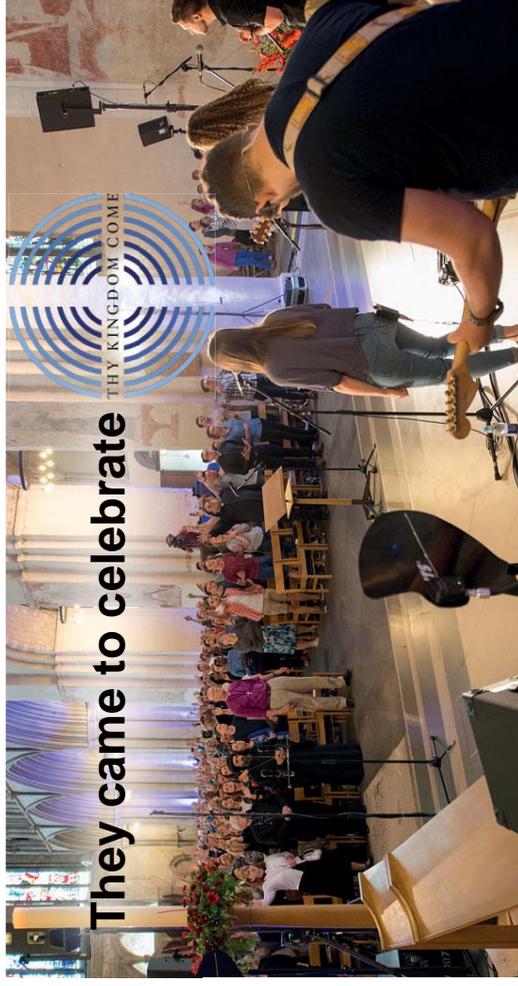
Whipsnade Tree Cathedral Service
led by the Revd Nicola Lenthal on **Sunday 11th June** at 3pm. Preacher The Ven. Janet Mackenzie. The Salvation Army Band and children of Kensworth and Studham Schools will also take part. Please bring chairs/rugs and a picnic tea or join us for tea afterwards. 01582 872406

St. Peter's Church, Benington, Nr. Stevenage: Annual Flower Festival - "Out of the Box" **Saturday & Sunday 24th-25th June** from noon to 5pm. Village Gardens open as well as Benington Lordship (extra charge). Lunches and teas available in the Village Hall and Hebing End as well as craft and produce stalls.

lekeford Open Gardens - Sunday, 25th June, 2017 from 12noon until 5pm. A chance to visit several beautiful gardens, including Hitchin Lavender, Pimms on the Lawn at Jennings Funeral Directors, and lunches and teas in the village hall. Free limousine available around the village. The church will be open. Admission £4 per person. Proceeds in aid of St. Katharine's New Building Fund and Room-for-All.

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 James the Great, Thorley
Festival of Flowers and Music on the theme: "Rainbow Rhapsody" and Craft

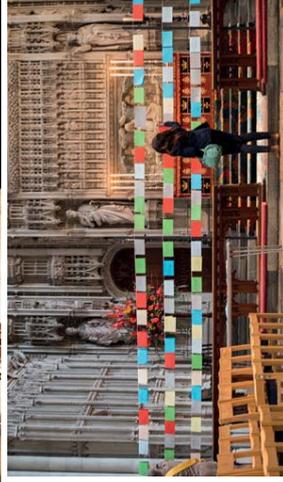


They came to celebrate

As Thy Kingdom Come began, Bishop Michael observed: "People are just quietly getting on with it and praying." The ten days between Ascension and Pentecost became focussed on prayer for new disciples.

All over the diocese, that is exactly what people did. Parishes opened prayer rooms, held prayer services, and prayed waves of unbroken prayer - some for 24 hours - and opened 'books of intentions.' Others walked between churches in the benefice, praying or stopping for prayer and refreshment, held prayer breakfasts or used knotted laces to pray for five friends at five, daily.

On Pentecost Sunday, as well as "quietly or not so quietly getting on with it" more than 1000 people from across the diocese came to St Albans Cathedral's celebration service. Worshipers from other denominations joined in, as did their leaders, among them Bishop Angaelos, Bishop of the Coptic Church in the UK and the Revd Dr David Chapman, Chair of the Beds, Herts and Essex Methodist District. The celebration was true to Thy Kingdom Come's values and purpose. It included twenty minutes when worshippers could pray in different ways: in small groups, in creative ways, writing prayers for a prayer wall before the high altar, silently in the Shrine of St Alban or before the sacrament. Two messages were preached - by the Revd Grace Seniamu, on doing less, more focussed on God's call and by Canon Mike Pilavachi, on being intentional in sharing faith and performing acts of random kindness.



The Diocese of St Albans in Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire, Luton & Barnet

Finding Hope

(This article reproduces the message given by Bishop Richard at the Luton Vigil for the victims of the Manchester bombing)

This is written in the immediate aftermath of the horrific bomb blast in Manchester, and the murder and maiming of so many people, especially the young. At times such as this most ask the question where is 'hope'? Amidst this reminder of the capacity of human beings for evil, hope seems elusive and absent.

Yet, without in any way diminishing the reality and awfulness of the suicide bombing, I believe we can see hope. It is the hope, expressed in so many ways, that our response must not be distracted into that fear that divides us from our neighbour, but rather we must continue to live our lives with generosity and love for others. The aim of terrorists is to diminish us, to make us fearful of one another. The way in which the people of Manchester have refused to be captive to fear overcomes this threat.

It is the hope of small acts of kindness. Those taxi drivers who took people home from the Arena free of charge. The Sikh Gurdwara that opened its doors and offered refreshment. Hotels and cafes that took people in. The homeless man who rushed to help. The professionalism and skill of the emergency services.

It is the hope expressed by vigils in Manchester and across the country (such as the one I participated in in Luton) where people of all faiths and none came together to

witness to those bonds of friendship and relationship that are the foundation of our resilience as a country. A sign of the strength of interfaith and community relations in this country, and the basis of a renewed commitment to work together for peace.

It is the hope of which St Paul writes in his letter to the Romans. His conviction that "neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:38f). The hope that is love; God's narrative for his creation. The massacre at the end of that Ariana Grande concert is narrative of hatred and evil. But that is never the story that endures. Rather it is God's story of love that always wins through; that divine love that always overcomes hate.

+ Richard Bedford



Richard Atkinson
Bishop of Bedford



The Diocese of St Albans in Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire, Luton & Barnet

Clergy Appointments

Arun Arora, presently holding Public Preacher's License in the diocese and Director of Communications for the National Institutions of the Church of England is to become Vicar of St Nicholas' Church, Durham.

James Faragher, presently Assistant Curate at St Paul's Church, St Albans is to become Priest-in-Charge in the Benefice of St Oswald with St Aldeate's churches, Coney Hill, Oxford diocese.

Michelle Grace, previously Curate in the benefice of St Oswald's, Oswestry and Rhydyroesau in Lichfield diocese, is to become Team Vicar in Tring Team (with special responsibility for St John's Aldbury).

Ben Lewis, presently Assistant Curate in Training in the benefice of Goldington, is to become Vicar of St Mark's Church Wellingborough, in Peterborough diocese.

Margaret Marshall, presently Rector in the Riversmeet benefice is to retire to Ely diocese.

Louise Moore, presently Associate Minister in the benefice of St Paul w. William, Letchworth and Chaplain at Garden House Hospice, is to become Team Rector (part-time) in the Sutton Team benefice and undertake Deanery Development work for St Helens (discipleship/leadership) (part-time) in Liverpool diocese.

Simon Moore, presently Vicar in the benefice of St Paul w. William, Letchworth, is to become Associate Rector (part-time) in the Sutton Team benefice and undertake Deanery Development work for St Helens (discipleship/leadership) (part-time) in Liverpool diocese.

Canon Carole Selby, presently Team Vicar with special responsibility for Goffs Oak, St James) Cheshunt Deanery & Diocesan Chaplain for the Deaf, is to retire in July.

Trevor Sharp, presently Assistant Curate in the benefice of St Mary-at-Hatton, Hatlow, in Chelmsford diocese,

is to become Vicar in the benefice of Norton.

Diocesan Appointments

Peter Crumpler has been appointed SSMs' Officer for the Archdeaconry of St Albans and continues as Associate Minister at St Leonard's Church Sandridge.

Dr Nicholas Gouling presently SSM with PIO in the diocese is to become Public Preacher and Diocesan Advisor Emeritus from Redbourn.

Reader Licensing



The Bishop of Hertford, Warden of Readers Admitted and Licensed ten Readers on 14th May, 2017 at StAlbans Cathedral. Admitted and Licensed:

Steven Farmer to Westoning with Tring
Joan Gilbert to St. Francis, Welwyn Garden City
Lynne Griffiths (see aside)

Martin Hannon to Letchworth St Paul w William

Dawn Jenkins to Hitchin and St Paul's Walden Team Ministry
Gillian Kern to Silsoe, Pulloxhill and Flitton

Katrina Nice to Baldock with Bygrave
Ros Squires to Hertford Team Ministry

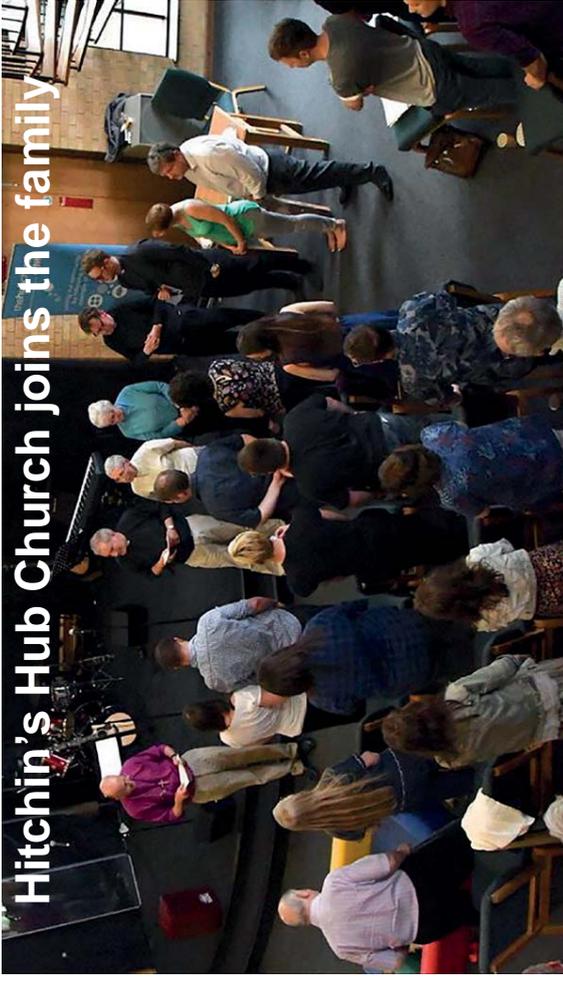
Sheena Wilson to Boxmoor

Licensed to this diocese:

Rosemary Bentley to St. Andrew, Biggleswade

Lynne Griffiths (pictured below). As well as being among the Readers licensed last month, Lynne, who is currently PA to the Diocesan Secretary, is also on the move. She leaves the diocesan office at the end of June after 19 years in various diocesan posts to become the Archdeacon of Hertford's secretary.
Lynne is licensed to Great Arnwell with St Margarets and Stanstead Abbots.





Hitchin's Hub Church joins the family

Members from Churches all around Hitchin Deanery gathered for the inauguration and recognition of The Hub Church as part of the Anglican family of Hitchin and the Diocese. During the service a Bishops' Mission Order was presented to The Hub Church by +Michael and signed by Revd Dan Drew, Canon Michael Roden and Rob Bryan, Chair of Trustees for The Hub Church.

A Bishop's Mission Order legally recognises a mission initiative that will lead to a new Christian community - a fresh expression of church. A Bishop's Mission Order is not needed for every fresh expression but will normally be helpful or required where a fresh expression in the Church of England operates across parish, deanery or diocesan boundaries or in parallel with existing church structures.

Dennis Yates RIP Former Diocesan Secretary

The Diocese of St Albans has learnt with sadness of the death of Dennis Yates. Dennis was Diocesan Secretary from 1966 until the end of 1989, when he retired.

Before coming to St Albans, he was Diocesan Secretary in Ripon Diocese following a period at the Church Commissioners. He was made a Lay Canon of St Albans Cathedral in 1977. He died on 23rd May, aged 87.

Following the interment of his ashes, a requiem Mass will be held for him at St Albans Cathedral on 10th July at 1.00pm. All are welcome.



Harvest Appeal Means Beans-ness in the Philli-beans



Launching the Bishop of St Albans Harvest Appeal for 2017 "Full of Beans" took pupils from three primary and one secondary school, a lot of baked beans and a world record attempt for baked-bean-eating run by USPG, (United Society Partners in the Gospel) whose work the appeal supports.

The appeal asks parishes and schools to support projects in the Philippines transforming their communities, turning lives and fortunes around.

The Harvest Appeal is focused initially on the farming villages of the Philippines Islands' Upper Tinglayan region. A project there run by the local Anglican church and USPG helps farmers to improve their lives by making the most of their assets – in this case their bean crop. Eventually, USPG wants to help all seven dioceses of the Episcopal Church of the Philippines.

With support and input from USPG, the local church shows care for its communities through encouraging them to look at ways of improving their lives based on valuing their circumstances. So the Tinglayan people were helped to see that the cooler, rainy climate in their region produced some of the highest quality beans in the country. They quickly saw that if they could sell more beans they would improve their circumstances and after analysing their production methods and adopting sun drying alone to preserve the beans, their improved crop is being sold as far afield as Baguio in the west and Manila in the south of the country, using local church networks.

The money has been paying for secondary education and for medical treatment – both otherwise out of the reach of the Tinglayan families – as well as supplementing the meagre diets of families. Today, the Upper Tinglayan communities are excited about the prospect of clearing more land to plant more bean crops, and working together to build self-sufficient communities.

Primary and secondary school pupils from Ponsbourne St Mary's, Dewhurst St Mary's, Holy Trinity CE VA Primary and St Mary's High schools learnt about the project directly from the Bishop of St Albans as well as from USPG and through 'Bean-Eating Challenges' and planting beans, in which the Bishop also took part.

Bishop Alan said: "Learning that the gifts you have been given, your surroundings and your opportunities can make a difference not just to yourself but to those you care for and to wider society as well is a valuable life-lesson. Seeing that lesson at work in the context of alleviating poverty makes it doubly valuable."

Bishop Michael, Jeremy Pearce (the diocese's World Development Adviser) and one of USPG's Directors attempted, but sadly failed to break the world record for bean-eating. This was overseen by the Guinness World Records and involved the eating of baked beans individually using a toothpick.

2016's Bishop's Harvest Appeal raised over £61,000 towards clean water and sanitation in the Bongalava district of Madagascar.

St Albans Diocese's Cricket Team's Success! ... Yours too?

Writing this the day after the football season for 2017 closes seems like the appropriate moment to mention cricket, especially as St Albans Diocese's team has had a recent win against Southwark Diocese. The Revd Adam Prior said: "The St. Albans Team is brilliantly captained by the humble Will Gibbs. Anyone who carries the Bishops licence, youth worker, Reader, Ordinand etc as well as those who work for Christian organisations within this Diocese is eligible to play. We play about 7-8 matches a season, three in the National Church Times Cup (London, Chelmsford and Southwark) and then about four friendlies verses various Village and Club sides around the Diocese. We have a squad of about 15 people, with nets in the Spring, but getting 11 players out in one go is always a challenge. We are always looking for players!"

For information on playing please email adamprior@oakchurchstevensage.org



Tournament raises pulse rates and funds for Christian Aid

Recently, St Mary the Virgin, East Barnet joined with three of its neighbouring churches (who happen to be in London Diocese) in an inter-church rounders match. This did local 'fellowship a power of good, at the same time raising the pulse-rates of local clergy and hundreds of pounds for Christian Aid.

St Mary's won! This was the second year in which the fixture had taken place and only the first year that St Mary's had taken part. Their team was led by Curate Fr Sam Korn. He said: "I never knew that Rounders was among the gifts in our parish, but we are always ready to put our talents to the service of the Church!"

The event took place in Oak Hill Park, East Barnet at the start of Christian Aid Week on Sunday 14 May and attracted hundreds of revellers from all four churches, cheering on their teams whilst enjoying a bring-and-share picnic in the glorious sunshine, concluding with prayers for Christian Aid Week, while raising funds to support refugees throughout the world.



What shape is ministry?

Mission Shaped Ministry is a course new to this diocese for anyone who wants to explore how to begin, sustain, and grow a Fresh Expression of Church.

It is hoped that it will help to create the 800 Fresh Expressions of Church and 1200 lay leaders in St Albans Diocese that are sought between now and 2028 as part of Living God's Love's strategic plan for growth.

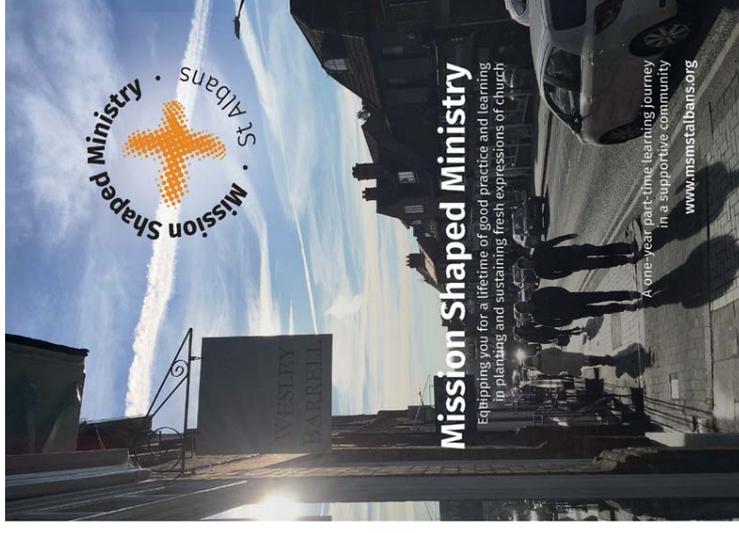
mism has been run all over the world and has proved successful at helping with objectives like ours. The course is run over the period of a year, over three Saturdays, six week-nights and one residential weekend.

It is a feature of the course that it is designed for busy Christians. Open to everybody across the diocese including our ecumenical partners, local and national teachers will offer reflection on local contexts and stories. The resources offered are in various learning styles and learning is supported by coaching, mentoring and in learning networks.

The course comes highly commended by both course participants and church leaders.

Leanne, a course participant in another part of the country said: "The greatest benefit of the course is its practical side and the chance to talk through issues relevant to your situation."

Former Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams commended the course early on, saying: "The next big step in taking forward Fresh Expressions of Church is making the right kind of training available in every part of the country. msm is making a major contribution here."



Annual Report published

The Diocese's Annual Report for 2016 is now available. The report is themed around the ten indicators of growth which parishes in the diocese have shown and which support three themes of Living God's Love, Going Deeper into God, Transforming Communities and Making New Disciples. Copies of the colour 36 page report are being distributed at present or are available from Holywell Lodge in person or by post.

The report can also be read online at: www.stalbens.anglican.org/diocese/boards-councils-committees/