Potten End pupil makes Royal splash

A ten year old schoolboy from Potten End C of E Primary School, near Berkhamsted, Herts, has won a national Church school competition to design a logo for the Church of England’s celebrations in honour of Her Majesty the Queen’s 90th birthday.

The winner, Lucas Salinger, was picked from over 1000 entries. Lucas said: ‘I feel amazed that my design was chosen. I feel lost for words!’

Head teacher Andrew Morris said: ‘I am extremely proud that a member of my school has won the competition, out of so many entries. Lucas is a thoughtful and talented young man who thoroughly deserves recognition for his hard work on the logo. I so am pleased that Lucas has incorporated the cross design that hangs in our church in Potten End.’

David Morton, Director of Education for the Diocese of St Albans, added: ‘I am delighted that a pupil in one of our schools should produce such a colourful, attractive and apt logo for Her Majesty’s 90th birthday celebrations in churches all over the country. The logo speaks to me of the partnership between our schools and the churches of the Diocese of St Albans.’

The school, which has 199 pupils aged 4 to 11, as well as a nursery will be celebrating the Queen’s 90th by studying her life and having a ‘street style party’ to celebrate.

Official celebrations will take place in London between the 10th and 12th June including a thanksgiving service at St Paul’s Cathedral, a Birthday Parade on Horse Guards Parade and a street party in The Mall. It is envisaged that church events will be integrated into local community celebrations that take place that weekend.

The birthday celebration weekend offers churches the opportunity to share local stories from the last 90 years through exhibitions and oral histories, securing these memories for future generations. Special prayers have been written and approved by The Queen for services marking her birthday.

The Rt Hon Sir Tony Baldry, Chair of the Church Buildings Council, said: ‘It is wonderful that the visual marker that will unite these events has been designed by a young pupil at a Church school. Many churches have already begun making plans. We hope that our web hub on the ChurchCare website will be a source of inspiration and support in the lead up to June.’ See www.churchcare.co.uk/about-us/campaigns/our-campaigns/queen-s-90th-birthday

Prayers for the Queen’s 90th birthday, including graces, can be found at: www.churchofengland.org/media-centre/news/2016/02/prayers-for-hm-the-queen’s-90th-birthday-published.aspx
Bishop’s Letter

The Living God’s Love values writ large in a night shelter

During this year, across our diocese, we’re thinking together about how to take forward the next phase of our diocesan vision, ‘Living God’s Love,’ with its three strands of going deeper into God, transforming communities and making new disciples. What we do will be important. But just as much will be how we do it. It’s for that reason that we’re all encouraged to think about the values that come from the Living God’s Love prayer. They ask that we can live ‘with generosity and joy, imagination and courage’. When these values underlie our actions, what we do shines out as a beacon of God’s love, evidencing the life of God’s Kingdom breaking in all around us.

I saw the Living God’s Love values writ large earlier this week when I visited the night shelter that has been established by Holy Trinity Church in Bishop’s Stortford, working alongside Churches Together in that town. The shelter was the brainchild of Holy Trinity’s Vicar - Mandy Brown, local councillor - Norma Symonds and Lieutenant Megan Lowe of the Salvation Army. The shelter has been set up in Holy Trinity’s Church Hall where, each night between mid-December and mid-March, it is offering an evening meal and a safe, warm bed to up to 10 people. The shelter is staffed by volunteers, most of whom come from local churches. It has a kitchen, shower facilities, a washing machine and a tumble drier. The shelter’s equipment and running costs are provided by donations from people from around the town.

Living God’s Love speaks of transforming communities. The night shelter is certainly doing that. It offers warmth and safety to some of Bishop’s Stortford’s most vulnerable people. It counts among its visitors those who are homeless, people coming out of prison, people whose lives have fallen apart through addictions that have controlled them. It is certainly an exercise in imagination – few us would have contemplated that our church hall could be set up to serve such a purpose. As I’ve mentioned, the shelter runs through generosity – it wouldn’t work without its volunteers or those who have given money and equipment to enable it to run. Setting up the shelter was courageous – both in terms of facing down the people that opposed it and also on the part of volunteers being willing to open their lives to strangers who can sometimes be chaotic and challenging. But above all I’d say that the shelter was an experience of joy. When I went there this week, I’d expected to see a collection of facilities serving some particular needs.

What I’d not anticipated was experiencing the regard in which volunteers and visitors looked on each other as we shared supper. Our meal together was a recognition of the humanity, value and gift of each person present – an experience of joy that was deep and moving and strong. Through that regard and joy, the night shelter is changing lives. The ministry offered by both visitors and volunteers helps address the challenges confronting those who come through its doors. A number of visitors have been enabled to move into permanent accommodation. Other have been helped to free themselves of the bonds of addiction. Everyone present, whoever they are, has experienced God’s transforming presence in ways which are concrete, practical and meaningful – and marked by the values of generosity and joy, imagination and courage. The night shelter is inspiring. It is Living God’s Love and I thank God for it. (Read more about the night shelter on: www.hertsandessexobserver.co.uk/Reporter-spends-night-Holy-Trinity-Church-s-night/story-28800235-detail/story.htm)
The first Passion Play in Bedford for just over 30 years will be staged this Easter in the town centre. Before that, the play was occasional, but drew a good crowd to see the story of the last week of Jesus’ life on earth told.

This year, with the help of a local theatre company, ‘No Loss,’ a number of church leaders and Hope Bedford have joined forces to bring the story that unfolded on the streets of Jerusalem back to the streets of Bedford on Saturday 26th March, Easter Saturday. The play will take a short route through the centre of the town leaving from Church Square at 10:30 am, finishing in the Castle Quarter at about 12:30.

Phil Mardlin has written a new script which will retell the story of Jesus’ trials, crucifixion and resurrection in a fresh and direct way. Cally Lawrence, director of ‘No Loss’ says it will be told in the ‘here and now’ as if the events of Holy Week were happening in front of the audiences eyes. Anyone who wanders into the way of the performance and asks what it is will be told by raconteurs and retellers ‘they’ve just arrested Jesus!’ for example.

This promises to add to the immediacy. The script has been worked on very hard since the first, very detailed draft, and has been seen by the Steering Committee for the project, made up of local church leaders and Bedford Hope. There’s not much that they’ve changed, though, says Cally.

The play will have a cast of about 100 in acting roles as well as behind the scenes, making it a huge undertaking for the organisers and, as Cally points out, the costume makers.

There is only one professional actor in the production: James MacNaughton. Apart from Cally, a couple of fight, crucifixion and safety experts and a sound engineer everyone else is a volunteer. (It is frankly mind-boggling to think that someone can be an expert in staging crucifixions, or that you can link the two words ‘crucifixion and safety’ but I’m glad there are and that you can. Ed.)

There are church people and non-church people taking part and Cally wants the production to be accessible to anyone. “Even though the story is embedded in our culture, I want people to be able to experience what is going on afresh, she says, adding: “This is unlike any other project I have worked on in my 20 years in theatre. I am so excited to be working with such a wide range of people in my home town, I think the event is going to be very special because it is driven by the Bedford community and what they bring to the work.”

She hopes that it may once again be possible in future to stage the Passion Play every few years.

Be quick: you can be involved: performers, musicians and others still wanted. EMAIL: bedpp16@gmail.com
**Bedfordshire seeks young organists**

Bedfordshire Organists Association’s Young Organists Training Scheme will cover the cost of organ lessons for scholars accepted onto the scheme. The scheme will consider applications from those who have not yet received any keyboard tuition, but ideally applicants will have some keyboard ability. Young people accepted as scholars and aged between 10 and 21 will be eligible to receive 36 half hour lessons with accredited teachers over the course of a year.

Funding has been provided by the Williams Church Music Trust, Bedfordshire. Applications are open until July 2016 and the scheme is open to young people throughout Bedfordshire and in many parts of Hertfordshire too. There is more information on [www.bedfordshireorganists.org](http://www.bedfordshireorganists.org) or from Alan Childs, a.j.childs@btinternet.com or 01582 883420.

---

**Hymn Angels**

Churches struggling with finding musicians can also find help at hand from ‘Hymn Angels’ who will nurture budding musicians and support potential, but maybe diffident musicians to give them the confidence to sit at a church piano or organ and lead a congregation in vibrant and meaningful worship.

‘Hymn Angels’ meet individually with budding church musicians on a weekly basis working with their church’s hymn list three weeks in advance. Hymns are the sole purpose of the lesson.

The principals of ‘Hymn Angels’ Peter Shone and Olwen MacLeod said: “Playing at a public service can initially be a nerve-racking experience, which unfortunately mainly affects the fingers. Our programme works to build up confidence. Our ‘Hymn Angels’ are all qualified and experienced church musicians who play regularly at their local churches and understand the importance of quality and sincerity in worship.”

“We recommend easy hymns are set for services to start with and will provide feedback on the type of hymns relative to the pupil’s ability. We may also suggest that the pupil has a companion for part of the lesson prepared to sing the hymns with the player.

All this is done in the privacy of the pupil’s own home at an agreed time using Skype over the Internet to connect with their appointed ‘Hymn Angel’ for one-to-one lessons.”

Weekly lessons last 30 minutes.

Hymn Angels offers a free initial ‘taster session’ over Skype. If the person is happy to proceed there is a starter pack of three lessons for £30. Thereafter lessons are £15 each.

‘Hymn Angels’ are part of Your Space Music Lessons.

---

**Martin Luther said:** “Next to the Word of God, the noble art of music is the greatest treasure in the world,” so it is no wonder that music is important in the life of our churches. Two new programmes offer help to worship God with excellent music and a third shows how music can work as an aid to fundraising.

---

**Thomas Dilley** (right) is a young organist who recently won the St Albans Young Musician Competition’s Organ/Piano section. He is pictured with Professor Timothy Blinko, adjudicator.
The Diocese of St Albans in Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire, Luton & Barnet

SeeRound Online March 2016/02

News

Church music .../continued.

(www.yourspacemusiclessons.com) who are currently the leading specialist in providing one-to-one music lessons over the internet. As Education Authorities conduct their own successful trials in live lessons over the internet and our own pupils continue to make remarkable progress with their internet lessons, there is a growing confidence that we are leading a new revolution in ‘music lessons’ which brings opportunity for everyone to learn music wherever they are.”

Contact Hymn Angels via their website:
www.yourspacemusiclessons.com

Money from Music - Cello Pilgrimage

Finally, if your church wants to raise funds with a concert of top-quality musicianship, Orlando Jopling is a cellist who has used his skills to help churches raise money for their restoration or upkeep.

In over 100 recitals, he has raised more than £75,000 for churches.

‘Whatever happened to our glebe land?’

David Nye writes:

“People often ask about glebe land; who owns it and what happens to the income – our income say some. So here are the answers.

It all started in 1978 when the Endowments and Glebe Measure 1976 came into effect. This Measure transferred the ownership and management of glebe land from incumbents to the Diocesan Board of Finance (DBF). From 1978 onwards all income arising from glebe land has to be used towards the payment of stipends. So whereas before 1978 an incumbent could keep the rent from the glebe land in his parish and indeed, sell the land and use the proceeds to supplement his stipend, after that date, all income from glebe land is enjoyed by all parishes in the diocese because it reduces the amount of parish share requested from them. In this way, many parishes where there was no glebe land benefit from the land now held by the DBF and all clergy are paid the same stipend. Before the Measure came into effect some clergy who owned a lot of glebe land had incomes far in excess of those clergy who had little or no glebe land.

At the present time the DBF owns about 3,000 acres of farm land; there are 12 commercial units, 13 residential properties and about 100 other tenancies including garden and grazing agreements and paddocks. Proceeds from the sale of glebe land are reinvested either in more land and buildings or in quoted investments. The income generated from the glebe land comes to about £450,000pa before costs of management and annual investment income which is also used to pay stipends comes to about £750,000.

What about the future? The DBF is advised in the management of these holdings by Bidwells (chartered surveyors) and we have an ethical policy that is designed to grow the long term value of our assets whilst recognising that we need broadly to maintain the income generated. Importantly, we also need to be sensitive to the pastoral needs of our tenants, some of whom include the PCCs of our parishes and parishioners living near some of our churches. In all of this, we are guided and served by our most efficient team in Holywell Lodge.”
The Church of England has launched a central web resource covering weddings, funerals and christenings. The Church Support Hub, www.churchsupporthub.org, supports the occasional offices and is available now to help all clergy and lay people involved in these important ministries.

It was developed to offer research, free downloads, shared ideas and articles, plus commonly-asked questions about any aspect of ministry around the baptism of children, weddings and funerals.

Resources range from practical things like day-to-day forms and fees advice, to articles from colleagues across the Church of England that reflect on real, experienced ministry. Valuable, independent research into the occasional offices, commissioned by the Archbishop’s Council, is shared on the site, along with links to specially-produced printed resources, all of which have been tested in parishes.

These are designed to help churches build contacts through the occasional offices and keep in touch with them, ultimately supporting church growth. Many items can be customised with local church details before ordering via the partner website, The Church Print Hub: www.churchprinthub.org.

The Revd Canon Dr Sandra Millar, Head of Projects and Developments, Archbishops’ Council said: “In 2014 the Church carried out just under 1,000 weddings, over 2,000 baptisms, and almost 3,000 funerals every week of the year. Some 12% of births during 2014 were marked by a Church of England infant baptism or thanksgiving service, whilst 31% of deaths were marked by a Church of England funeral. These services are hugely important markers in life and I hope this Hub will offer churches support and encouragement to create the best experience possible for families.”

Special one day presentations are being given to dioceses across the country to share more about the importance of the occasional offices in reaching millions of visitors to church every year.

Canon Millar said: “We want this resource to be the centre point of expertise, experience and practical tips, so comments, ideas and articles from parishes are always welcome. It’s straightforward to send something - special forms on the site enable you send messages along with attachments.”

There are clear guidelines how to use logos, like those above, which can be downloaded. There are helpful leaflets to explain the various stationery items like prayer cards, bookmarks and so on that can be given out to interested parties. So why not go and explore?
Clergy Appointments

Sandra Beck, in Welwyn Team Ministry has had a change in title, from Associate Minister (SSM) (at Codicote) to Associate Minister (SSM).

Sharon Grenham-Thompson, presently Bedford HM Prison Managing Chaplain, is to become Team Vicar in the Watling Valley Partnership, Oxford Diocese.

Paul Seymour, presently Vicar at All Saints Pin Green, Stevenage is to become Team Vicar with special responsibility for Bishop’s Hatfield St Michael & All Angels and St John’s Lemsford.

Diocesan Appointments

Schools Team

Belinda Copson, also a Reader in the diocese, has been appointed as School Support Officer, working 15 hours per week. Belinda’s email address is bcopson@stalbans.anglican.org.

Ms Lizzie Jeanes and Miss Charlotte Johnson have together taken on the role of Joint Interim Deputy Director of Education. Both will be working 15 hrs pw wherever required. Lizzie can be reached on ljanes@stalbans.anglican.org and Charlotte on cjohnson@stalbans.anglican.org.

Youth and Childrens Team

Margaret Pritchard Houston joined the diocese in January as Children’s Mission Enabler. Margaret was previously Families Pastor at St George’s Church Campden Hill where she has overseen considerable growth in the number of children, young people and families attending church regularly. Margaret grew up in the USA where she went to school and university. Her email address is cme@stalbans.anglican.org.

I.T.

Neil Kelly was appointed Website and I.T. Support Officer at the beginning of February, having had a background in I.T. support for businesses and charities.

Further Honour

Marjorie Cotton – British Empire Medal

The Revd Hugh Symes-Thompson, Rector of Cranfield and Hulcote with Salford, writes: “Since 2002, when Marjorie arrived in Cranfield, she has been part of the church family. Whatever she has done she has done with all her heart and soul, motivated by her Christian faith and always seeking to help others. Apart from her major public contributions to the community, serving first as a GP, then writing regular articles for the Cranfield News, restoring the Village Hall and establishing ‘Hands across Cranfield’, she has also been at the heart of many Christian activities. Marjorie has sung happily with Sounds Familiar, served as our church PCC Secretary, promoted the ministry of healing and been a regular on the Flower rota! In every situation she has made friends by sharing her hopes and worries, her fears and joys so openly. Where others might hesitate she has never failed to step out in faith. Her friends have supported her, the Lord has enabled her, our community has seen the difference. We all rejoice with Marjorie in this award of the British Empire Medal; a fitting tribute to her time among us.”

Christina Rees: a CBE: and a new appointment

Christina Rees, who recently moved from the diocese after long and distinguished service to the church locally and nationally, received a CBE for services to the Church of England from HRH The Prince of Wales at an investiture at Buckingham Palace in February. A few days before the investiture, the Little Gidding Trust Ltd, in consultation with the Bishop of Ely, announced her appointment as Dean to work with them to realize an exciting new vision for the future of the Trust. With its historic links to Nicholas Ferrar, George Herbert and T. S. Eliot, Little Gidding will be developed as a centre for the study of Anglican spirituality and the arts. It will continue to host the annual T.S. Eliot Festival, Ferrar Day and Little Gidding Pilgrimage, as well as continue to welcome individuals and groups for weekends and retreats.

Christina said, “Little Gidding has an extraordinary history and has meant so much to so many people over nearly 400 years. I am incredibly excited to be involved with the development of a centre where Anglican spirituality can be explored. There is the potential for Little Gidding to play a huge role in the renewal and reform of the Church of England and to be of service to the wider Anglican Communion.”
St Peter’s Church Berkhamsted
Bridgewater Sinfonia concert featuring the works of Parry, Grieg and Rachmaninov with soloist Yuki Kondo. Saturday 12th March at 7.30pm. Tickets £16, £15 in advance, U18s free. Tel 01442 873205 or visit www.bridgewater-sinfonia.org.uk.

St Albans Cathedral, St Albans Bach Choir concert conducted by Andrew Lucas with Sinfonia Verdi. WA Mozart - Mass in C Minor and Gabriel Faure - Requiem. Saturday 12th March at 7.30pm. Tickets £30, £25, £18, £12. www.stalbanscathedral.org/whatson or call 01727 890290

St Katharine’s Church, Ickleford
Concert by the Orpheus Choir of North Herts, conducted by Anne-Marie Hetherington, on Saturday 12th March at 7pm. Tickets £9 (£6 for under-16s). Programme includes works by Vivaldi, Palestrina, Sullivan and more. Free glass of wine/soft drink. To reserve seats call 01462 433102.

St Mary’s Church Cardington, MK44 3SS
Choral Music for Lent and Passiontide with Cantamus Chamber Choir. Tuesday 15th March at 8pm. Lamentations of Jeremiah by Robert White plus anthems and motets from 5 centuries. Tickets at door £7.00.

Holy Trinity Church, Frogmore AL2 2JU
Concert by Camerata Chamber Orchestra on Saturday 19th March at 7.30pm Refreshments provided. Free entry, but a goodwill offering will be taken. Programme includes works by Handel, Vivaldi, Corelli and Haydn.

St Andrews Church, Kimbolton Road, Bedford MK40 2PF
Choral Music for Lent and Passiontide with Cantamus Chamber Choir. Palm Sunday 20th March at 6pm. Lamentations of Jeremiah by Robert White plus anthems and motets from 5 centuries. Also Albion Choir will perform British folk songs and more on Saturday 23rd April at 7.30pm. Tickets £10/concs £8. Students (16-21) £4 U16s accompanied by paying adult free. Tel 01234 216881 or email musa@standrewsbedford.org.

St James the Apostle, Bushey
Saturday Recital Series. 12 noon for 45 minutes. Cakes and coffee available beforehand and light lunches afterwards served at Church House. 2nd April - Russell Thompson (Piano) 9th April - Frederick Karlsson (Organ) 16th April - Yoon-Seok Shin (Piano), 23rd April - Pupils from the Purcell School. 30th April - Pupils from Aldenham School. www.busheyparish.org

St Michael’s Church, Bishop’s Stortford
Organ concert by Simon Johnson, Organist and Asst Director of Music at St Paul’s Cathedral. Saturday 16th April at 7.30pm. Includes music by JS Bach, Durufle Stanford and Vienne. Tickets £12 (U18s and Students £8) - by phone & email to eventbrite.co.uk. Includes free glass of prosecco at interval.

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

St Albans Cathedral
Spring Concerts and Drama:
Saturday 19th March at 7pm. Includes music by JS Bach, Durufle Stanford and Vienne. St James the Apostle, Bushey Recital Series. 12 noon for 45 minutes. Cakes and coffee available beforehand and light lunches afterwards served at Church House.

Courses/Conferences
Making sense of Science and Christian Faith
A 6 week BELIEF course
13/4 Science and Christianity: The myth of conflict
20/4 Beauty and awe in an evolving cosmos
27/4 What hope for the environment?
4/5 Genes, genetics and playing God
11/5 What makes you human?
18/5 God and an imperfect world
at St Andrews Church Centre Kimbolton Road Bedford MK40 2PF (Refreshments included).

Cost is £5 per session payable on the day. To book please call 01234 330314 or email belief@standrewsbedford.org

A new conference for Youth and Children’s Ministry
Friday 22nd April 5pm to Saturday 23rd April 3.30pm
Christ Church Baptist, Indigo Court, Welwyn Garden City AL7 1LG
Cost inc food & accommodation £40, Saturday only 9.30-3.30 - £25. See leaflet in the e-bundle notices for details.

Easter Monday evening at St Albans Cathedral, the BBC will be recording from 7pm-10pm.