

Email your events to: [comms@stalbens.anglican.org](mailto:comms@stalbens.anglican.org)

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

### Concerts & Drama

**Holy Child & St. Joseph Church, Midland Road, Bedford, RSCM**  
Instrumental Workshop on **Wednesday 2nd May** 7.30pm-9.30pm run by Miles Quick. He will be looking at styles and techniques to help unite congregations and musicians in worship. Instrumentalists and singers equally welcome. Fee £6 booking forms at [www.rscm-stalbens.co.uk](http://www.rscm-stalbens.co.uk) or from Revd James Reveley vicar@standrewsbedford.org 01234 354234.

**St. Mary's Ashwell Music Festival**  
Highlights include: **Friday 11th May** 6pm - Widdershins Puppet Theatre - a free event; **Saturday 12th May** 8pm - Motown Tribute Act - Mission Blue; **Thursday 17th May** 7pm - Young Musicians' Concert; **Friday 18th May** 8pm - Darius Brubeck Quartet; **Saturday 19th May** 8pm - An Evening with Ben Goldscheider, Horn & Piano recital; **Sunday 20th May** 6pm - Fesal Evensong. Visit [www.ashwellmusicfestival.org](http://www.ashwellmusicfestival.org) for details.

**St. Andrew's Church, Kimbolton Road, Bedford, MK40 2PE.** O Duol Oliver Cox and Owen Gunnell perform their exciting take on rhythm and percussion performance, a concert you won't want to miss! **On Saturday 2nd June** at 7.30pm. Tickets from [www.standrewsbedford.org/concerts](http://www.standrewsbedford.org/concerts) or 01234 216881

**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 Albans Cathedral Concerts:

'The Sea Symphony' by Vaughan Williams and other works by Finzi, Mendelssohn and Sumsion performed by Hertford Choral Society and Chameleon Arts Orchestra. **Saturday 9th June** at 7.30pm.

'Elijah' by Mendelssohn performed by St Albans Bach Choir and other

SeeRound Online Events May 2018

Cathedral Choirs with Sinfonia Verdi. **Saturday 14th July** at 7.30pm. Visit [www.stalbenscathedral.org/whats-on/music/](http://www.stalbenscathedral.org/whats-on/music/)

**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](http://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 [bwparishoffice@btinternet.com](mailto:bwparishoffice@btinternet.com).

### Open Days & Festivals

**St. Peter's Church, Lilley** are holding a Festival of Flowers on **Saturday 5th May** and **Monday 7th May**, 10.30am to 4.30pm and on **Sunday 6th May**, 11am to 4.30pm. The theme this year is "When I Grow Up". Admissions £2.50 (children free). Refreshments available in the Village Hall.

**St Clement Turford.** Flower Festival **Fri - Mon, 25th - 28th May** (Spring Bank Holiday weekend) open daily 10-4pm (Sun from 12 noon) Refreshments available throughout - Light Lunches. Grand Draw. **Monday 28th** at 2pm - The Padwicks Comedy Duo, Tickets £5. Festival closes on the Monday at 4pm. Festival Thanksgivng. Festival entry free, car parking free. For tickets or information contact Gill 07721 086062.



**Saturday 23 June 2018**

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## Two ordinands, four feet, sixty miles!



Vanessa Hadley-Spencer and Kirsty Borthwick (above) are two of St Albans Diocese's ordinands in training, studying at Westcott House, Cambridge.

With laudable loyalty they decided to attend the Easter Monday Pilgrimage. With some courage and not a little style, they decided they would walk, as pilgrims must have for centuries.

Setting off on Good Friday after the meditation at a Cambridge church (St Bene't's) they arrived in St Albans on Monday morning, in good time for the pilgrimage to begin.

Bishop Alan rewarded them with 'Real Easter Eggs,' for having walked the furthest to get to the pilgrimage.

With some of the most inclement weather for the Easter Monday Pilgrimage for some years, pilgrimage picnics

took place inside the cathedral, not in the Abbey Orchard. Many others had made long pilgrimages in cold and rain and altogether around 900 people had come to celebrate the Resurrection. One young pilgrim had walked in the rain from Bromham that morning. Some pilgrims were attending for the first time, in the case of the group from the University of Hertfordshire, with their Chaplain, the Revd Fiona Souter. They walked in close company with a group from some Hatfield churches.

It was also the Sub-Dean of the Cathedral's first pilgrimage and she had agreed to preach.

The poor weather did not diminish pilgrims enthusiasm for loudly singing out in celebration of our risen Lord.

More photos at: [www.flickr.com/gp/arunkat/P6P8W5](http://www.flickr.com/gp/arunkat/P6P8W5)



[www.stalbens.anglican.org/news/seeround](http://www.stalbens.anglican.org/news/seeround)

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SeeRound Online May 18/4

## Good News for the Local?

Christians often speak about 'Good News'. The word Gospel comes from the old English meaning 'good tidings'. We speak about reaching out to people with 'the Good News'.

A challenge we face is that when we talk about spreading the 'Good News' we can end up speaking, or being heard, in a whole range of ways. More positively we can mean 'helping people come to faith' or 'enabling people to know God loves them'. Rather less so we can be heard as 'wanting people to come to church' to 'the church needs our money for its funds'. Yet speak to a person on the street about what they think 'Good News' actually means and they're quite unlikely to relate those words to church at all. Getting the lottery numbers right, health in the family or being in work are likely to come much higher up people's lists.

This presents us with a problem. For if Christian faith doesn't mean 'Good News' in people's own terms, and for every part of life, it's hardly likely to recommend itself to them. If 'Good News' is only about Sundays - the spiritual, otherworldly bits of our lives - and not about what happens Monday to Saturday then it's hard to see how that tallies with the offer of 'life in all its fullness' about which Jesus spoke.

Thinking about these things led me to be fascinated by this year's Lenten observance undertaken by people at St Mary Magdalene, Offley, near to Hitchin. All of us know that keeping rural communities going is hard these days. Pubs and post offices shut. Keeping businesses going is challenging. Some villages can feel little more than dormitories. In response to this, people in Offley decided to celebrate 'Local for Lent'. The initiative was the idea of Offley's Rector, Terrance Bell. Record cards were given out at church and delivered around the village. Every time those taking part in 'Local for Lent' used a local shop or business, they received a stamp on their card. The list of local concerns taking part was impressive - the hairdresser, the butcher, the pubs, the shop, even the Chinese take-away. And of course, you didn't have to be a church member to take part. At the end of Lent, prizes were given for those who'd used local services most. Local for Lent was a highly practical, down to earth way of showing that the local church was good for the local community in its own terms - all of us want our local businesses to thrive so that the life of our communities can be sustained. Local



Rt Revd Michael Beasley  
Bishop of Hertford

to have contact in such a way as to make the gospel intriguing, challenging and appealing? 'Local for Lent' was a highly imaginative approach to answering this question. Might you try something like this in your community?

+ Michael Hertford.

bishop@hertford@stalbans.anglican.org



The Revd Terrance Bell with parishioners and participants

## Clergy Appointments

**Patrick Moriarty**, presently Assistant Curate (SSM) on the benefice of East Barnet is to become Assistant Curate (SSM) in the benefice of St Stephen, St Albans.

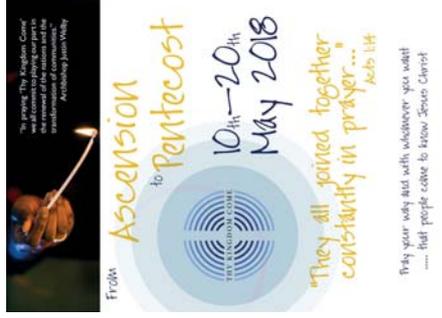
**Valmor Pimenta**, presently Associate Minister - Assistant Curate with Responsibility for St Martin's Bedford has now been appointed Vicar (0.5) of St Martin, Bedford. In an interim post for 2 years.

## Ordination

Adrian Smith was ordained deacon on Sunday 18th March during a service at St Luke's Church Watford where he will serve his title.

## Thy Kingdom Come is coming!

Download this new leaflet about Thy Kingdom Come and join in this global wave of prayer for people to come to know Jesus Christ. <https://www.stalbanscathedral.org/TKC-leaflet-2018.4-spreads.pdf>



## Meet the new Church Growth Officer

The Mission Department has a new recruit in the form of **Revd Kate Peacock**, who has just taken up the post of Church Growth Officer in the Diocese, with a specific remit to work in St Albans Archdeaconry. Kate says, 'I am delighted to have taken up this new role, and look forward to working with parishes to assist them in their mission and with the implementation of their Mission Action Plans. To work with colleagues as they seek to grow the church spiritually and numerically, with the funding to resource their work, is hugely exciting and a privilege to see. In all our churches we see a passion to grow the Kingdom for the glory of God, and to be part of that work is deeply fulfilling for me. Having just come from 5 rural parishes in the North East of this diocese I know the challenges of ministry and I hope God will use me in this new way to bring people to Christ and further the mission of His church.'

Kate's work will sit alongside the Reaching New People Team and they will work in close relationship with each other; with Kate's work being focussed on inherited or traditional forms of church and the Reaching New People team being focussed on Fresh Expressions and new forms of church. We very much hope and pray that running this team, along with the expertise in children and youth ministry offered by Margaret and Dean, will help all churches in their mission and further the Kingdom of God.



## 117 Years' Service!

The congregation at St Leonard's Church, Sandridge, has congratulated bellringer Trevor Hawkins on 50 years of ringing the bells at the historic village church.

Trevor, who has also played the organ at St Leonard's since 1951, was congratulated at Sunday's morning service. In recognition, Trevor, who is 88, was awarded life membership of the Hertford County Association of Change Ringers. Associate Minister Rev Peter Crumpler said: "Trevor is well known in Sandridge and further afield both for his bellringing and for playing the organ. He makes a major contribution towards the life of St Leonard's and is much loved and respected. As Trevor and many other men and women can testify, bellringing is a great way to keep fit, learn a new skill and make friends. Churches across the area

are keen to welcome new or returning ringers of all ages."

### Eight centuries on, St Mary's Standon is still being adapted to reach out



It's not a problem that most churches have, but a raked church floor rising from west door to altar meant for St Mary's Church, Standon, that there were eight steep stone chancel steps (with no handrail) to negotiate to get to the toilet. Those days have now gone.

St Mary's is a processional church, rising all the way from the west to the east, with the 8 steps up to the chancel and another 5 to the sanctuary.

The latest of the many later additions to the building have just been completed after 14 years, including years occupied with obtaining the necessary permissions for works to a Grade 1 Listed building.

Among the changes now made was the removal of the north aisle pews to make way for coffee tables and chairs and for the fitting of a small kitchen and disabled access toilet in the north west corner, (ending that long journey uphill), still leaving space for chairs to be added to restore the seating capacity for times such as Remembrance and Christmas.

Additionally, the Lady Chapel in the north east corner of the nave has been restored; with chairs arranged around the table to provide an intimate space or private prayer and a venue for the mid-week communion service. The new nave platform opens up the front of the church, and creates a focal point for services plus the ability to plug in equipment, from projector to keyboard, without trailing wires across the tiles. and the west doors are centrally placed.

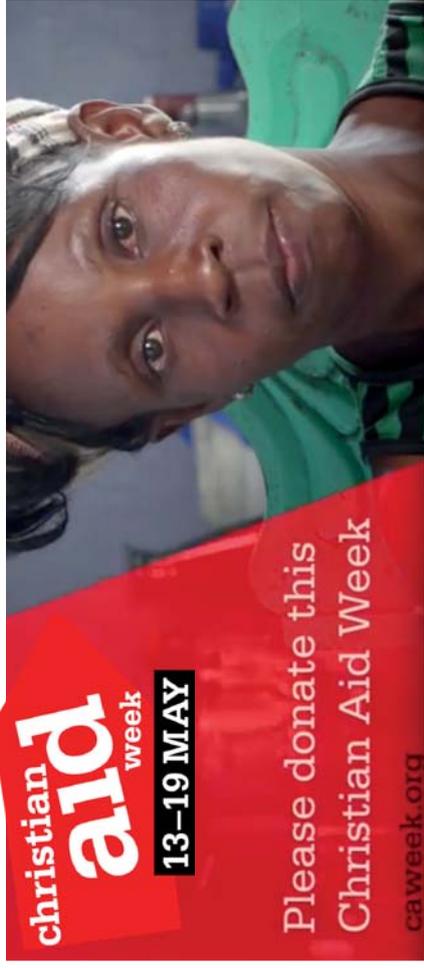
Glass doors have now been added at the west end, so that when the big wooden doors are open there is a view right up the central aisle (with its new red carpet) and then up the steps to the high altar at the east end. The eye is drawn to the cross in the distance.

The building is Saxon (and probably contains the original Saxon font) plus many later additions. A very unusual part of its history is that in the twelfth century it was bequeathed to the Knights of St John, aka The Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem, whose present day successors are responsible, among other things, for the St John Ambulance. A sloping interior has been associated with churches connected to the Order of St John.

A 12th century building has not stopped Standon or the other churches in the united benefice at The Mundens and at Sacombe from offering worship in many different forms and reaching out to new people. There are Common Worship Services of the Word, CW Holy Communion and informal Family Services in rotation. A combined choir leads Choral Evensong monthly. Each Sunday afternoon the local school hosts 'St Mary's at the School', a contemporary service with worship songs and interactive talk, and Messy Church activities for children. At the same time there is a free, faith based village youth 6 club (the YVC) for children in year 6 and above. This is a beautiful, lively and welcoming church.

*This article was adapted with thanks from Jill Beardwood's article in 'The Window', the magazine of All Saints Hockerill. Local information in the original article courtesy of Caroline Franks.*

### Christian Aid Week to spotlight Haiti's internally displaced



This year, Christian Aid Week, 13-19 May, tells the stories of displaced people in Haiti following Hurricane Matthew in 2016, to spotlight the suffering, vulnerability and indignity common in the experience of those living in poverty.

Marcelin, a Haitian farmer, lost his home and livelihood when Hurricane Matthew hit Haiti in September 2016. 'I lost pigs, goats, everything in the house. I have nothing left,' he says. His words emphatically demonstrate the vulnerability of his position after the Hurricane: 'If another hurricane comes, we'd just die,' he says.

He now lives in an old concrete shower block, a 2m x 2m space he shares with his teenage daughters. There are no windows or doors, and the only furniture is a single bed that the girls sleep on.

Marcelin has shown incredible resilience in the face of such hardships and is working hard to raise his children alone. He needs a disaster-proof home.

Every day he gets up at dawn to work the land but he's struggling to support his family. The changing weather frequently destroys the food he grows and his family often go hungry.

He can no longer afford to send all his children to school and is unable to save any money for a new home.

Christian Aid is well-placed to help him and others in Haiti: of the 700 houses they built after the 2010 earthquake, just one needed to be repaired after Hurricane Matthew.

Christian Aid week will help him with donations raised in house to house collections, from events such as Christian Aid Big Brekkies and through prayer.

This year, Christian Aid Week falls during Thy Kingdom Come, the season of prayer for new disciples between Ascension and Pentecost. Archbishop Justin has written the forward to this year's Daily Devotional for Christian Aid Week to take in all ten days of Thy Kingdom Come, with the focus on making new disciples: "Each day, your reflections, prayers and responses will focus on our calling to proclaim the Good News," says Archbishop Justin.

There is a video with another Haiti story here: <https://bit.ly/2FmiAem> and a children's video here: <https://bit.ly/2I24ceg>

Christian Aid Week information can be found here: [www.christianaid.org.uk/christian-aid-week](http://www.christianaid.org.uk/christian-aid-week) and resources are here: [www.christianaid.org.uk/christian-aid-week/resources](http://www.christianaid.org.uk/christian-aid-week/resources)

### Buntingford Deanery pulls together to empower women and girls

Churches and groups within Buntingford Deanery have collaborated together to raise a really significant amount, £5000, for a Christian Aid project empowering women and girls in El Salvador through improving education about sexual and reproductive health. The EU will top that up to £20,000.

### Community Foundation urges Clergy Trustees: "Unlock dormant funds"

Following a quick trawl through the Charities Commission database it is heartening to see that many Clergy in the St Albans Diocese hold Trusteeships. Trustees play a key role in supporting the charitable sector but unfortunately not all Trusts and Foundations are reaching their full potential.

With over 3,500 registered charities operating in Hertfordshire alone it is little wonder that over time some Trusts and Foundations become dormant, inactive or ineffective. They may have been in existence for many years but their original purpose is now outdated. Sometimes the purpose has been fulfilled or ceased to exist or the beneficiaries many no longer exist. Managing such funds can place undue pressure on Trustees or the fund may be too small to make a significant difference.



Helen Gray, Foundation Director  
Hertfordshire Community Foundation  
E: helen.gray@hertsctf.org.uk  
W: www.hertsctf.org.uk

If this sounds familiar help is at hand. Hertfordshire Community Foundation (HCF) is a local charity which specialises in distributing grants to small grass root organisations who work to tackle need and deprivation across the county. With 30 years of local knowledge and experience of grant-making HCF is uniquely placed to offer other Trusts and Foundations a tailor-made grant making service. To date HCF has distributed in excess of £13 million to over 2,500 groups and organisations helping support a wide range of issues including domestic abuse, child poverty, homelessness, mental health and community inclusion.

HCF regularly turns down strong applications for support as demand for grants simply outstrips fund availability. Unlocking dormant funds, on any scale, could potentially improve the lives of more people living in need and deprivation in our county.

If you are a Trustee or know of a Trust or Foundation which could benefit from some impartial advice please contact HCF.

### How did #LiveLent 2018 help people on the journey to Easter?

This year's Church of England Lent campaign, #LiveLent, was a six-week discipleship journey through the Gospel of John, exploring what it means to be a Christian witness from Ash Wednesday to Easter Day.

The campaign had an overall targeted reach of 3.54 million across the Church of England's social media channels on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram

More than 35,000 copies of the printed booklets sold  
More than 16,500 signed up to receive by text and email

A #LiveLent Android and iOS app downloaded over 11,000 times

Short explainer videos for Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Day to explain the significance of each – watched 164,045 times  
Good Friday and Easter Day video prayers – seen more than 300,000 times

The new A Church Near You website played a key part in this year's #LiveLent campaign. There was a 27% uplift



in time spent on the site and 12% increase in page views in comparison to Lent 2017. The bounce rate (the number of people leaving the site after only visiting one page) dropped by 21%, which is a fantastic result.

Local church groups used the digital materials in a variety of ways, including WhatsApp study groups, and sharing the daily email reflections.

Some 78% per cent found the reflections very helpful or extremely helpful in bringing them closer to God and supporting their Christian faith.

One of the major innovations this year was to make the reflections available in different formats and lengths for print, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, email and text messages. There's been a positive response to splitting content up by platform.

Read more, including comments left online and which posts did best, at: <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/comment-and-features/live-lent-2018-let-your-light-shine>

### Fairtrade Sugar supplied to Luton Foodbank



A campaign run in partnership between the Fairtrade Luton Steering Group and Luton Council of Faiths (LCoF) has successfully raised £1000 in order to purchase Fairtrade sugar for the Luton Foodbank, which supports many of the neediest families in Luton. Launched during Fairtrade Fortnight 2018, the project was supported by a number of Luton's faith communities, who kindly raised funds to buy sugar, one of the most in-demand food items for the thousands of food parcels the foodbank supplies each year.

A special presentation of the sugar took place at the Luton Foodbank after Easter, with representatives from some of the faith communities that fundraised also in attendance. David Jonathan, Director of Grassroots, said: "We offer our sincere thanks to everyone who has kindly donated towards this campaign, and all others who continue to support the work that the Luton Foodbank does in other ways" said Thakor Morarji, a board member at the Luton Foodbank, adding "Buying Fairtrade sugar does not only help farmers and

producers around the world but is also helping our own community, right here, in our town".

Maqsood Anwar from the Madina Mosque in Bury Park, which greatly supported the campaign added "it was a huge privilege to be able to support this important project and the amazing work that the Luton Foodbank does in helping to feed those that are most in need in Luton".

For more information about the work of the Luton Foodbank, how you can donate food or if you feel you are also in need of assistance, please visit [www.lutonfoodbank.org.uk](http://www.lutonfoodbank.org.uk) for more details.

Since 2004, the Fairtrade Luton Steering Group has consisted of a group of volunteers from across Luton's diverse communities who campaign for ethical and fair trade. This work has been won them many plaudits, including the Most Outstanding Achievement award from the Fairtrade Foundation, and led to Luton being officially named a Fairtrade Town in 2011.

For more details, please contact GRASSROOTS at [grassroots@btconnect.com](mailto:grassroots@btconnect.com) or Tel: 01582 416946.