Sleepout for Homeless People’s 20th year

St Albans Sleepout is twenty years old in December and it continues to draw people from all over the diocese prepared to spend an “evening out under the stars” raising money for charities supporting homeless people. Many of the people who take part come in groups from schools or youth groups and were not born when Sleepout started.

Each year, Sleepout adopts a number of charities working with homeless people to take part. People who wish to sleep out select a charity and raise sponsorship for it.

Last year, Sleepout supported a record nine charities and raised £45,100, a very good total compared to the £46,000 record. During its time, Sleepout has raised over £500,000.

Twenty years ago, the Ven Paul Hackwood was St Albans Diocese’s Social Responsibility Officer. See Round contacted him in his current role as Chair of the Church Urban Fund. He said: “The Sleepout came about because we were at what turned out to be the end of a very deep recession and the numbers of homeless people on the streets was on the increase. As I went around asking parishes what they wanted to do, they were looking for something practical where they could show some solidarity with the poor and so we came up with the idea of sleeping out at the Abbey.”

It was a success. The first Sleepout gathered 150 people, including 50 children and 30 teenagers. Paul continues: “It was a very cold night but fortunately there was no rain. We assembled our cardboard boxes and sleeping bags, those without cardboard set themselves up in the porches at the West end of the Cathedral. There was huge media coverage and one of the reporters from BBC Three Counties radio came and slept out with us. The Bishop of Hertford also came and spent the night out with us.”

He concludes: “The event was a success because it raised the issue of homelessness across the churches, raised a large sum of money which was shared among the homelessness projects across the diocese and allowed us to raise the profile of what the churches were doing with local politicians.

Sleepout has grown, now welcoming up to 400 people and in each year for the last four years, increasing the number of charities catered for.

Brian Peyton, Chair for the last fifteen years, said: “It’s really hard to believe that the Abbey Sleepout is about to celebrate its 20th anniversary this December. Remarkably it’s one of the happiest events I attend each year. It happens out of doors on a typically cold winter’s night in December! Many familiar faces return year after year and of course new ones appear. There is always a ‘buzz’ about the Abbey that suggests people are happy doing something important and worthwhile - raising the profile of homeless Charities, raising money to support the marvellous work they do and having just a taste of what it must be like to ‘sleep rough’. I do hope as many many people as possible will come and experience the event for themselves this December and make the 20th Sleepout the biggest and best yet.”

www.stalbans.anglican.org/faith/sleepout/
a) Which is the most deprived parish in our Diocese?

b) Which is the least deprived?

c) Which is most ethnically diverse?

d) Which has the smallest number of people with no qualifications?

e) Where would one find the lowest level of pensioner poverty?

Make a note of your answers, and then look at the correct answers at the end of this article. You may be surprised! I certainly assumed that the most deprived parish was somewhere else; except that when I saw the statistics, my eyes were opened to the low income, extensive social housing, low level of qualifications and more that the parish contains (which is not the same as where people who come to the church, in the main, reside). So it is with the information on every parish in our diocese that the 2011 Census has made available, and which, with regard to deprivation, has been collated by the Church Urban Fund.

Want to know the level of social housing in Hitchin, or the degree of ethnic diversity in Hoddesdon? The life expectancy of girls in Hertingfordbury or the percentage of working age poverty in Haynes? Turn to the Church Urban Fund ‘Poverty Look Up Tool’ and look for your parish http://www.cuf.org.uk/povertyinengland. And then ask yourself what is it saying?

Statistics are not universally loved! Disraeli’s ‘There are three kinds of lie: lies, damned lies, and statistics’ sums up well our suspicion. Whilst George Bernard Shaw reminds us to be cautious when he points out that ‘statistics show that of those who contract the habit of eating, very few survive’! However, statistics are tools that we can use to good effect.

Whether it is the social make-up of our parish, or the attendance on Sunday mornings, or the numbers of children we engage with in the week, the right data helps us to see more clearly what really is, rather than what we would like to see. Our misplaced perceptions; our denials on the one hand and our pessimism on the other; our lack of memory about trends – they are all challenged and we are asked to look again. It becomes the opportunity to celebrate growth or to seek to understand why numbers are falling off. It prompts us to look again and see the need that is on our doorstep or elsewhere within our diocese, and to ask what God is calling us to do in response. Appropriate use of data informs our prayer and widens our vision.

By foot it is eight miles from St John’s Church, Harpenden to All Saints’ Church, Bury Park in Luton. If you are a boy born in Harpenden your life expectancy is 83 years. The same boy born in Bury Park would only live to 72.

Now tell me that statistics don’t open our eyes; don’t challenge us about the health of our nation and its communities; don’t demand that in prayer we seek God’s guidance on how to act; don’t require us to live out God’s love in the world!

“Whether it is the social make-up of our parish, or the attendance on Sunday mornings, or the numbers of children we engage with in the week, the right data helps us to see more clearly what really is, rather than what we would like to see.”

http://www.cuf.org.uk/povertyinengland

| a) Which is the most deprived parish in our Diocese? |
| b) Which is the least deprived? |
| c) Which is most ethnically diverse? |
| d) Which has the smallest number of people with no qualifications? |
| e) Where would one find the lowest level of pensioner poverty? |

---

**SeeRound: Spotlight on Statistics**

The data yielded by the Census hasn’t just informed the CUF figures about deprivation. The Archbishops’ Council Statistics Unit has made Parish Spotlights available for every parish and they can be found on the diocesan website at www.stalbans.anglican.org/diocese/parish-spotlights/.

The invaluable information about marital status, car usage, work patterns (full- or part-time, unemployed, retired) appears alongside the deprivation information and parish data returned annually to the Archbishops’ Council. Parishes working out who they serve and how best to engage with them in their Mission Action Planning will find this invaluable.

The spotlight app incorporates the latest Census data and other recent data sets and reveals the marked inequality that exists in England.

**CUF’s Poverty App and Look-Up Tool**

CUF has also researched food banks and food poverty generally.

The research suggests that four out of five churches are currently supporting food banks in one way or another. The report also explores ways in which churches can do more to work alongside others to find long-term solutions to the causes of food poverty, for example by tackling high levels of personal debt.

Read the report at: http://www.cuf.org.uk/hungry-for-more
Marmalade a hit with Bishop and Treasurer
Preserve now ‘by appointment’

Mary Edwards has been making marmalade for more than thirty years, since she and her husband lived in Brookmans Park. They now live in Therfield, near Royston and worship at St Mary the Virgin. Mary’s marmalade has always carried a label saying Mary’s Marmalade, but now she has a brand new label to go on her jars, after Bishop Alan tasted her marmalade on a visit to Therfield. She is now Purveyor of Marmalade by appointment to the Bishop of St Albans, after he sampled her delicious marmalade.

Mary Edwards and her marmalade with Bishop Alan

Her jars now carry the Bishop’s crest and the Latin motto ‘Jentaculo Praestantisissimum’ which, although it is a mouthful to take in at breakfast alongside the toast, simply means ‘surpassingly good breakfast’. Mary’s King of Preserves is more than just a humble breakfast accompaniment, which allows Bishop Alan to like it in double measure. Mary has sold over 109 jars this year for the parish church and has raised more than £500 for the parish’s mission. Here he is pictured with her, when he collected a supply of marmalade when passing nearby.

Christian Aid steps up a gear in Beds and Herts

Christian Aid is not only a national aid agency, but also an intensively local charity, increasing its resourcing for supporters in St Albans Diocese.

International - Syria
Internationally, Christian Aid has welcomed the UK government’s decision against military intervention in Syria; saying that efforts must now focus on a political solution to the conflict. Christian Aid continues to provide emergency support to those affected by the conflict. The emergency appeal for Syria is enabling Christian Aid partners in Lebanon and Iraq to respond to the growing Syrian refugee crisis. Its ACT Alliance sister agency, International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC), is also providing support to people in desperate need inside Syria itself. More than 155,000 people have fled Syria to northern Iraq. Christian Aid is supporting Iraqi organisation REACH to provide essential items to 1,500 families around Sulaimaniya and Erbil in the north of Iraq. Hygiene kits containing first aid equipment, soap, shampoo, water purifiers and sanitary products are essential for enabling people to keep clean and healthy, and maintain a sense of personal dignity.


International - Christmas Resources
Christian Aid has provided Christmas resources for churches wanting to hold a collection this Christmas. www.christianaid.org.uk/christmas

Jam Jars - updated advice
The Great Jam-Jar Controversy of 2012 arose when the National Federation of Women’s Institutes and the Churches Legislation Advisory Service (CLAS), among others, concluded that the EU Framework Regulation on food contact materials appeared to prohibit the reuse of jam-jars for items such as jams and pickles offered for sale or awarded as prizes.

CLAS says: ‘The position of the Food Standards Agency appeared to be equivocal; however, after considerable media comment, the conclusion was reached that, whatever the EU law on the matter, no local authority would enforce it in the case of a church fête or charity summer fair – and there the matter rests. The Food Standards Agency itself has now published ‘Community and charity food provision - guidance on the application of EU food hygiene law’. The guidance offers two examples which will be of particular interest to members where the FSA suggests that food provision is unlikely to require registration. A one-off event such as a church or school fête, or a street party is deemed not to have ‘continuity’. However, organisers of large community events are advised to contact the local authority for practical advice. Where several large events might be organised within a year, especially with complex food safety controls, then a ‘degree of organisation’ could be involved. Daily small-scale provision of low-risk foods by community/charity volunteers is not deemed to have a ‘degree of organisation’ as it is low-risk and small-scale provision, however, does have continuity and registration would be required if complex food safety controls are required or high-risk foods were served or if food is served to vulnerable persons.”

St Albans Woodland Burial Trust
One of the only two consecrated woodland burial grounds in England

For the burial or interment of ashes, set in 60 acres in our consecrated woodland in Keysoe, Bedford.

The Administrator, St Mark’s Church Community Centre,
Calder Roe, Bedford. MK41 1UY
www.woodlandburialtrust.com
Tel/fax 01234 342613
office@woodlandburialtrust.com

E. Sargeant & Son
Funeral Directors

Family and local funeral directors of distinction, serving Maidenhead, Slough, Windsor and the surrounding areas since 1711.

Professional advice and guidance from our caring staff.
Monumental Masonry.
PrePaid Funeral Plans.

For personal assistance, 24 hours, please contact;
10-13 Colonnade, High Street, MAIDENHEAD 01628 707 708
40 Church Street, SLough 01753 580 081
81 St. Leonards Road, WINDSOR 01753 885 982

visit our website: www.sargeant.co.uk
Bedfordshire Organists’ Association Concert
to feature organist who can do the impossible

His name is Kevin Bowyer and he was born in Southend-on-Sea in January 1961 and studied with Christopher Bowers-Broadbent, David Sanger, Virginia Black and Paul Steinitz. In his early career he won first prizes in five international organ competitions and his 1987 world premiere of Kaikhosru Sorabji’s two hour solo Symphony for Organ, considered “impossible” ever since its publication in 1925, helped to cement his reputation as a player of contemporary music and music of extreme technical complexity. In June 2010 he premiered Sorabji’s Second Symphony for Organ (1929-32) in Glasgow and Amsterdam – at nearly 8 hours duration, the longest notated organ work of all.

At home Kevin has played solo and concerto concerts in most of the major venues and festivals. Tours abroad have taken him throughout Europe, North America, Australia and Japan. He has released a great number of solo CDs, many of which have won awards. These include many landmark recordings of contemporary music as well as the complete organ music of J S Bach (on 29 CDs) and music by Alkan, Brahms, Schumann, Reubke, Hindemith, Schoenberg, Messiaen, Alain, etc. Jonathan Weare, writing in MusicWeb International, described him as “one of the world’s hardest and most formidable virtuosos...” and Gramophone magazine described him as “unique.”

Kevin is a popular teacher and has lectured and given masterclasses in many countries. He is Organist to the University of Glasgow. Kevin’s article, Twentieth Century European Organ Music – A Toast, cast as a play set in a Cotswolds pub, in the Incorporated Association of Organists’ Millennium Book was described by one reviewer as “quite simply the best piece of writing on organ music that I have ever seen.”

WOBURN PARISH CHURCH
ORGAN CONCERT
by
KEVIN BOWYER
Organist to the University of Glasgow

Saturday 12th October 2013 at 3.00 pm
Programme:
Prelude and Fugue in C, BWV 545
J S Bach (1685-1750)
Toccata Medievale
Edouard Mignan (1884-1969)
Pastorale and Olympic Paean
Alan Gibbs (b. 1932)
Trois Préludes Hambourgeois
Guy Bovet (b. 1942)
Power of Life
Mons Leidvin Tåkle (b. 1942)
Sonata in C minor: The 94th Psalm
Julius Reubke (1834-1858)
Light refreshments will be served afterwards in the Crypt.
Donations

Other future local and national concerts are listed at www.organrecitals.com.

St Albans Cathedral Education Centre
Forthcoming Special Events
14th November:
Sixth Form Conference
18th – 22nd November:
Build a Church Outreach

Please call 01727 890212 or visit http://www.stalbanscathedral.org/education

MyPicturesRestored.com

RESTORE...
✓ Any picture
✓ Any size
✓ Faded
✓ Damaged
✓ Enhance
✓ Enlarge
✓ Print

Contact Tony: info@mypicturesrestored.com
Mobile: 07517.437.689
www.mypicturesrestored.com
A new way to share the Christmas Story

The Real Advent Calendar is a new and fun way for parents, grandparents and Godparents to share the Christmas story. Behind each of the 25 windows there is a Fairtrade chocolate star and a few words from the Christmas story. Behind the final window there is a 24-page Christmas story booklet to read, keep and enjoy.

As well as celebrating the true meaning of Christmas, the calendar makes a charity donation to The Children’s Society from every sale, raising money for some of the country’s most disadvantaged children. The calendar also supports the Christmas Starts with Christ campaign, which hopes to reverse the trend of Christ being written out of Christmas and runs from Advent Sunday (1st Dec) to Christmas day. On hearing that Tesco will be stocking it, Bishop Alan said: “This is the first time that a major supermarket has put the Christmas story so openly within their Christmas range. This allows people to read and see, for themselves, what Christmas is all about, a reminder that Christmas starts with Christ.” The Rt Revd Tim Thornton, Bishop of Truro and Chair of The Children’s Society’s Board of Trustees, said: “I encourage everyone to go and buy a Real Advent calendar this year. The proceeds will benefit The Children’s Society, which works directly with some of the most disadvantaged children in the country, ensuring that they are loved, valued and listened to.

The Real Advent Calendar is produced by the Meaningful Chocolate Company. Its founder, David Marshall, said: "We have worked hard to make the Real Advent Calendar a unique product. We hope anyone who wants to pass on the true meaning of Christmas will buy one for their families this Christmas. This year the Real Advent Calendar will be the UK’s only calendar to donate to charity, support Fairtrade and provide a copy of the Christmas story in the box. A donation of 10 pence from every sale will be made to The Children’s Society and we hope to raise over £25,000 to support their vital work.”

Earlier this year, the level of climate-warming greenhouse gases rose to 400 parts per million (ppm), a level not reached for more than 3 million years, a time when the Arctic was ice free. This level was reported from two ancient ice. The speed at which CO2 is rising – some 75 times faster than in pre-industrial times according to experts – unless it is checked could lead to the unimaginable displacement of millions of people fleeing extreme weather conditions including heat-waves and flooding and migrating across the globe in search of land.

The sea level was up to 40 metres higher than today and average global temperatures were 3 or 4c higher than we experience now. We know this from data including analysis of fossil air trapped in ancient ice. The speed at which CO2 is rising – some 75 times faster than in pre-industrial times according to experts – unless it is checked could lead to the unimaginable displacement of millions of people fleeing extreme weather conditions including heat-waves and flooding and migrating across the globe in search of land.

Bishop defends Hemel’s honour

Bishop Alan responded to a survey placing Hemel Hemstead on a list of ugly towns and Hatfield on the shortlist of Britain’s dullest towns. He said: “Public discourse is veering ever more towards the nasty and superficial. As a nation we are becoming obsessed with outward appearances.”

“It’s clear to me that the people who voted don’t really know the communities who live in Hemel or Hatfield, especially the many people with the numerous churches, charities and voluntary bodies there which make such a difference.”

“And not only that, but Hatfield is the home of an outstanding university and has the open spaces around historic Hatfield House.”

Angels wing their way to Worcester

Twin sisters of the Ramryge Angels - the Perspex sculptures which grace the stone niches in the Ramryge Chapel in St Albans Cathedral - are preparing for a journey, already exhibited in St George’s Chapel, Windsor, the second set of the sculptures, which depict stages of bereavement - Denial, Anger, Bargaining, Depression, Acceptance & Peace, by artist Claudia Brown will now be exhibited in Worcester Cathedral from 6th - 21st November. The Dean of St Albans commented, “The Ramryge Angels have been a welcome addition to the Cathedral and the Chapel in which they have been displayed since 2007. Many visitors over the last 4 years have been inspired and moved by their beauty and the way they illuminate the different stages of the bereavement process so effectively. I would encourage any cathedral to take up the opportunity to host them.”

Susie Arnold, responsible for exhibitions at Worcester Cathedral responded, “I would love to see them here, as our family had strong links with the Abbey – my grandfather being a key lay person there.” The current set of Angels will still be on display here in St Albans Cathedral.

Shrinking the footprint

New warnings about our warming globe - has a ‘green’ line been crossed?

Earlier this year, the level of climate-warming greenhouse gases rose to 400 parts per million (ppm), a level not reached for more than 3 million years, a time when the Arctic was ice free. This level was reported from two ancient ice. The speed at which CO2 is rising – some 75 times faster than in pre-industrial times according to experts – unless it is checked could lead to the unimaginable displacement of millions of people fleeing extreme weather conditions including heat-waves and flooding and migrating across the globe in search of land.

The sea level was up to 40 metres higher than today and average global temperatures were 3 or 4c higher than we experience now. We know this from data including analysis of fossil air trapped in ancient ice. The speed at which CO2 is rising – some 75 times faster than in pre-industrial times according to experts – unless it is checked could lead to the unimaginable displacement of millions of people fleeing extreme weather conditions including heat-waves and flooding and migrating across the globe in search of land.

The sea level was up to 40 metres higher than today and average global temperatures were 3 or 4c higher than we experience now. We know this from data including analysis of fossil air trapped in ancient ice. The speed at which CO2 is rising – some 75 times faster than in pre-industrial times according to experts – unless it is checked could lead to the unimaginable displacement of millions of people fleeing extreme weather conditions including heat-waves and flooding and migrating across the globe in search of land.

The sea level was up to 40 metres higher than today and average global temperatures were 3 or 4c higher than we experience now. We know this from data including analysis of fossil air trapped in ancient ice. The speed at which CO2 is rising – some 75 times faster than in pre-industrial times according to experts – unless it is checked could lead to the unimaginable displacement of millions of people fleeing extreme weather conditions including heat-waves and flooding and migrating across the globe in search of land.
On yet another glorious day at the end of the school holidays, more than a hundred people, aged from 8 to 80, from Wheathampstead, Herts, turned out in festive spirit to change a sad building site into a wonderful heritage statement facing those arriving in the village.

The community was devastated when The Swan, a Grade II listed pub in the centre of the village, was burnt to its rafters in late July. In response, St Helen's Parish Church has led a community-based project to paint a mural to cover the security hoardings which surround the site. The brainchild of the Rector, the Rev. Richard Banham, a dozen panels feature famous ‘Locals painted by Locals, for the Local’. They include ancient British warrior chief Cassivellaunus, Abbott John of Wheathampstead, John Bunyan.

On yet another glorious day at the end of the school holidays, more than a hundred people, aged from 8 to 80, from Wheathampstead, Herts, turned out in festive spirit to change a sad building site into a wonderful heritage statement facing those arriving in the village.

The tiny hamlet of Puttenham, Hertfordshire had probably never seen so many motorbikes at one time as when 35 arrived in convoy on The Thankful Villages Run motorcycle marathon. Visiting 51 villages in the UK, Puttenham was their only stop in St Albans Diocese and they rode right up to the doors of St Mary’s Church. Tring Rector, the Revd Huw Bellis was there to greet them with several parishioners. Puttenham is one of the Thankful Villages, having no war memorial. The clue to why they don’t is in the word ‘thankful’. These are the villages whose soldiers in the 1914-1918 war all returned safely and included in them are fourteen doubly thankful villages whose soldiers all returned safely from the Second World War as well. Fifteen Puttenham men went to fight between 1914 and 1918 and returned alive. Grateful as the villages are, many soldiers who did return had been scarred physically, mentally, or both by their horrific ordeal. Huw said: “We are thinking about the best place to put the plaque. At the crossroads where the whole village can appreciate it would be one possibility as we already have a Thankful Memorial in Church.”

“IT has made us think about putting up a World War Two Memorial, because there isn’t one.” Puttenham might have been a double - thankful village, losing no one in two world wars, had it not been for losing one son in 39-45.

The run raised over £50,000 for the Royal British Legion to help with its work of providing practical care, advice and support to serving soldiers inside the church. Puttenham and the members of the Armed Forces, veterans of all other fifty Thankful Villages will now be able to commemorate the centenary of the start of the First World War in just under a year’s time.

Hertfordshire’s Thankful Village recognised

Wheathampstead paints the town red (and blue, green, yellow...)
A new book will help all the people of The Diocese of St Albans understand better where we have come from, and therefore, where Living God’s love can take us.

The book is ‘Saints and Pilgrims,’ written by Bishop Alan with a foreword by Archbishop Justin, the Archbishop of Canterbury. Calling those featured ‘ordinary and extraordinary,’ the foreword says: “The centenary of the incorporation of the County of Bedfordshire into the Diocese of St Albans presents a good opportunity to pause and thank God for his faithfulness. The stories of ‘Saints and Pilgrims’ assembled here, invite us to think about how we can witness to God’s love and truth in our day, and how best we can pass on the baton of the faith to the next generation.”

Bishop Alan adds “It is good to honour the witness of outstanding Christians, but we need to remember that in the Bible the word ‘saint’ refers not to a spiritual elite, but to ordinary women and men like you and me. As the entries in this book reveal, none of us is perfect. We are all a strange mixture of goodness and godliness, muddled up with self-centredness and sinfulness. Holiness comes from the Holy Spirit working in and through us. We call certain people saints because we glimpse something of God in what they say or do.”

Starting with Alban himself, with his martyrdom in around the year 209, Saints & Pilgrims contains 366 short chapters (one for each day of the year) recounting the story of some of the Christian men and women who have shaped the Diocese. Among the ranks of the famous stand out Nicholas Breakspear, the only Englishman Pope; Matthew Paris, the medieval chronicler; John Bunyan, author of The Pilgrim’s Progress; Robert Runcie, Bishop of St Albans who became Archbishop of Canterbury; and Jennifer Worth, author of Call the Midwife.

But there are less-known people worthy of commemoration such as Juliana Berners, possibly the earliest woman author in the English language; Alfred Smith, the former Bishop of St Albans; and Dr James Cantlie who invented First Aid. In addition to monarchs, merchants, scientists and aristocrats, are commemorated ordinary people whose names and memory are cherished by the communities in which they lived and the people they served. Their lives too bear eloquent testimony to their Christian faith. Each entry contains a short biography, followed by a poem or extract written by the person or which relates to his or her life, and concludes with a prayer.

Bishop Alan will be signing copies of the book following the blessing of eight new Canons’ Stalls in St Albans Cathedral which takes place at 4pm on 19th October.

The eight new stalls are named after women who lived in Bedfordshire or Hertfordshire and whose lives have inspired others to become Christians: Christina of Markyate, Alice de Claremont (Founder of the Preceptory of Melchbourne), Juliana Berners (Priess of Sopwell), Sister Jane Preceptory of Melchbourne), Anna Thynne of God), Rohese De Vere (Founder of the Preceptory at Chicksands), Anna Thynne (A scientist from Haynes), Sister Agnes of Harold and Judith of Lens (Founder of Elstow Abbey). Each of the women features in ‘Saints and Pilgrims’.

The ‘Wicked Lady’ and George Bernard Shaw among others. Local artist Nick Schon, produced the artwork, and was on hand to brief and to oversee the start of ‘Painting Day’. Nick is best known as one of the two illustrators of the Oxford Reading Tree books featuring Biff, Chip and Kipper which are used by children all over the country as they learn to read.

Richard says: “We wanted something good to come out of this for our wonderful local community. And it has!”

Once The Swan is restored, and the hoardings removed and used as a resource around the village which has recently developed an excellent Heritage Trail.
Healing in this Holy Land

Could your church help bring the gift of healing to communities across the world this Christmas? Please order your resources to hold a Christian Aid collection as part of your celebrations.

‘He heals the broken-hearted, and binds up their wounds.’ Psalm 147:3

Order your Christmas resources online, by phoning 0870 078 7788 or by returning the form below.

cchristianaid.org.uk/christmas06

---

Your name __________________________
Church/group name ____________________
Address ________________________________
______________________________________
Town ________________________________
County ________________________________
Postcode __________________________

Please return this form to Christian Aid, PO Box 390, Grays, RM17 9DG.

---

Christian Aid will not pass your details on to any other organisation. If you already receive information from Christian Aid we will continue to send it unless you tell us otherwise by writing to us at PO Box 100, London, SE1 7RT. If you are new to Christian Aid, please tick here if you do not want to receive information from us.
**Open Days & Festivals**

**St Leonard’s Church Sandridge** - A Harvest of Miracles Flower Festival on Saturday 5th October 10am-6pm Flower Festival (entry free). Refreshments and craft stall. 8pm Musical Evening with JSV Jazz Group (Tickets £5 on the door). Saturday 6th October. Services 10am and 6pm, with Flower Festival open 11.15 - 5.30pm.

**St Mary’s Church, Ashwell** - The 14th Ashwell Book Weekend will be held on Saturday 5th October from 10am – 5pm and Sunday, 6th October from 2pm – 5pm. Entrance £1. Children under 16 free. Come and browse among the many hundreds of books, videos and DVDs at bargain prices. Details 01462 442238 / enquiries@ashwellbookweekend.org.uk

**St Andrew’s Church, Kimbolton Road, Bedford** - Wonderful range of Fairtrade and locally grown fair Christmas Spectacles. - 18th October (2 to 9pm), 19th October (10 to 4pm) and 20th October (11am to 11pm). Gift and hamper wrapping service. Admission £1. Call 01234 73644 for more information.

**St Andrew’s Church, Hertford** - A Pictorial Guide to Hertford by Peter Ruffies on Saturday 19th October 7pm-9pm. Tickets £10 (available from St Andrew’s Church, tourist information or 01992 584004) to include a glass of wine, musical interlude and refreshments.

**Great St Mary’s Church, Sawbridgeworth** - Grand Christmas Fair on Saturday 16th November, 10.30am – 4.00pm. On 30 High Quality Stalls, Food Hall, Raffle, Magnificent Prizes to be Won, Face Painting, Lucky Dip, Sweet Stall, Food served all day: Bacon Rolls, Hot Dogs, and Cakes. Tea, Coffee and Soft Drinks, all held in Church, Church House and the Parish Hall. Entrance 50p free for children.

**St Mary’s Church Carlton** - Will be holding a Victorian Bazaar on Saturday 30th November 11-3pm at the Village Hall. The Mod MK43 7LP. Fun and shopping for all the family. Lunches from 12noon, Grand Draw 2.30pm £100 first prize. Entrance £1 per adult, children free.

**St John’s Church, Luton** - Christmas Festival on Friday 8th December (7-9pm) with Pate & Plonk, Saturday 7th December 12noon-4pm. Light refreshments available. Enjoy this lovely village church at its best and help us choose the best decorated trees.

**WOMEN’S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER**

Preparation Day

St Thomas’ URC, Langley Road Watford
10am-2pm
Contact Irene Jasko 01923 240796
irene.jasko@moose.co.uk

Day

St James’ Church, Wokingham
WOMEN’S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER
10am-2pm
Contact Irene Jasko 01923 240796
irene.jasko@moose.co.uk

**Belief Autumn Series 2013**

Exploring our understanding of spirituality in human experience, with a focus on some of the arts.

- **October 2nd** Exploring Spirituality - What is it? (1pm) David Winwood
- **October 9th** - Spirituality in Art - Cass Hossain
- **October 16th** - Spirituality in Music - Paul Leddington Wright
- **October 23rd** - Spirituality in Poetry & Literature - Anne Atkins
- **October 30th** - Spirituality in Drama - Phil Summers

**St Mary’s Church, Bishops Stortford** - Announcing an Adventure Concert on Saturday 7th December at 7.30pm to be presented by St Augustine’s Chamber Choir Cambridge, Conductor Philip Mead & Organist Alexander Knight. In support of the Biggleswade Bells Appeal.

**Dioscean World Mission Festival**

**St Mary’s Luton, Church Street Luton LU1 3JF**

Saturday 5th October
9.30 – 13.40
Opening Worshippers (10.30am-11.15am) by Bishop Paul Bayes

Three churches sharing their experience of engaging with world mission:

- **St Luke’s Watford**
- **St Paul’s Letchworth, Christchurch St Albans**

Where in the world is mission today? Revd. Roy Porter Chair of International Mission Council

Three seminar choices, Displays by twenty Mission Agencies
Bring your own lunch, Drinks provided
Parking in Town Car Parks
Organised by the International Mission Council of St Albans Diocese
Further information from: Revd. Ray Porter 01480 211839 porterray@me.com
Revd. Noel McGreney 01525 237633 saggart@yagiant.com

**Diocesan World Mission Festival**

St Mary’s Luton, Church Street
Luton LU1 3JF

Saturday 5th October
9.30 – 13.40
Opening Worshippers (10.30am-11.15am) by Bishop Paul Bayes

Three churches sharing their experience of engaging with world mission:

- **St Luke’s Watford**
- **St Paul’s Letchworth, Christchurch St Albans**

Where in the world is mission today? Revd. Roy Porter Chair of International Mission Council

Three seminar choices, Displays by twenty Mission Agencies
Bring your own lunch, Drinks provided
Parking in Town Car Parks
Organised by the International Mission Council of St Albans Diocese
Further information from: Revd. Ray Porter 01480 211839 porterray@me.com
Revd. Noel McGreney 01525 237633 saggart@yagiant.com

**St James’s Church, Bushey** - Solemn Eucharist of Requiem to be held on Friday 1st November (Eve of All Souls’ Day). 7.30pm, to include the music of Gabriel Faure.

**St Owen’s Church Bromham, MK43 8HJ**

Concert by Fusion Choir - Songs from around the world, featuring gospel & pop classics, is on Saturday 9th November at 3pm. Tickets £5 adults, under 12s £1. Refreshments available. For information & tickets call 01234 825454 (am) or 01234 826551 (even).

**St Andrews Church, Biggleswade**

Announcing an Adventure Concert on Saturday 7th December at 7.30pm to be presented by St Augustine’s Chamber Choir Cambridge, Conductor Philip Mead & Organist Alexander Knight. In support of the Biggleswade Bells Appeal.

**Concerts & Drama**

**St Mary’s Church Chipperfield** - A concert of light orchestral music with choir to celebrate the 175th Anniversary of St Mary’s Church on Sunday 6th October, 7.30pm. Also Choral Evensong for Harvest Festival Sunday 13th October 6.30pm.

**St Mary’s Church, Ware** - Monday Lunchtime Concerts, which last about 40 minutes, starting at 12.30. (lunches available), are as follows. Monday 7th October - Pupils from Hatfield College. Details ring Mark or Kath on 01920 465976.

**St Peter’s Church, Berkhamsted** - Concerts by Bridgewater Sinfonia, Conductor, Adrian Davis at 7.30pm Saturday 12th October. Programme includes Beethoven, Ravel (with Florian Mitrea on piano) and Brahms. Saturday 23rd November concert includes works by Humperdinck, Schubert & Britten.

**St Andrew’s Church, Kimbolton Road, Bedford, MK40 2PF** Tel 01234 216881 Bring and Sing on Saturday 12th October 7.30pm. Four Handel Coronation Anthems and Two Purcell Anthems. Ian Smith – Conductor, Paul Edwards - Accompanist. Register at 1.45pm, rehearsal at 2.30pm before performing in the evening. Tea at 4 is available after the rehearsal. Scores are available in advance. Audience ticket prices are Adults £8, Concs £7, Students 16-21 £3, children free accompanied by an adult.

**St Mary’s Stapleford Hertford SG14 3NB**

Concerts by DUO ARMANDE with Claire Hawkes - Clarinet and Shula Oliver- Violin and Viola who perform by music of Beethoven, Mozart, Jacob, Mendelson and Levin. Sunday 12th October 7.30pm. Tickets at £10 and £9 available liable from 01992 500422 or by email georgesandel@georgesandel.plus.com.

**St Mary’s Church Mepplershall SG17 5NA**

Concert by Keith Bailey & his Jazzmen on Saturday 10th October at 7.30pm. Tickets £20 & £15, contact Trevor Thorley 01462 813357, or trevor.thorley1@btinternet.com.

**St John’s Church, Bury St Edmunds**

Solemn Eucharist of Requiem to be held on Friday 1st November (Eve of All Souls’ Day).
Pelagos helps you to retreat, find balance and make space in your daily life through:

- Individually Guided Retreats
- Ignatian Exercises (Retreat in Daily Life)
- Quiet Days
- Weeks of Accompanied Prayer
- Leaders for Residential Retreats
- Prayer Courses
- Themed Labyrinths
- Spiritual Direction, Training & Supervision
- and much more besides...

To find out more visit: www.pelagos.co.uk
call: 07581 675996 email: info@pelagos.co.uk

Pelagos provides fresh and imaginative ways of engaging with the spiritual journey and discovering the joy in living a more balanced life.
A NEW WAY TO SHARE THE CHRISTMAS STORY

THE ONLY CHARITY ADVENT CALENDAR WITH A FREE CHRISTMAS STORYBOOK

The Real Advent Calendar is a great way to share the real meaning of Christmas.

There’s a line of the Christmas story and a chocolate star behind each window. Behind the final window is a 24-page Christmas storybook.

A charitable donation is made to The Children’s Society and it’s Fairtrade.

Christmas Starts with Christ campaign

It might be difficult to believe but recent surveys show that knowledge of the Christmas story is fading.

Among 5-7 year olds, 36% don’t know whose birthday we celebrate at Christmas and 72% don’t know Jesus was born in Bethlehem. Among adults less than 12% know the full nativity story and 51% say that the birth of Jesus is irrelevant to their Christmas. This is a tipping point.

The Christmas Starts with Christ campaign hopes to reverse the trend by telling the Christmas story in new ways.

To support the campaign we have produced The Real Advent Calendar. The Real Advent Calendar is a new and fun way to share the Christmas story. Tesco have put the Christmas story at the centre of their range this year by stocking it. We hope you will buy one.

You can read more at www.realadvent.co.uk


Tesco is the only supermarket that will be stocking The Real Advent Calendar this year as it has ordered enough to offer a national church in-store collect and home delivery service. It has supplies in most stores. See below on how to get yours.

Tesco - individuals

From 7th October, individuals can pop in to virtually all Tesco stores and pick up smaller quantities, but supplies are limited. You can also order online for home delivery. See www.realadvent.co.uk/shop

Tesco - church, school bulk order

When you are ready to make a bulk order give your local Tesco a call to reserve your supply and pick up your calendars from the store or use its home delivery service. To find your local Tesco phone number calling 0800 505 555 and give your postcode or visit www.realadvent.co.uk/shop

Independent shops

Select independent retailers, Christian bookshops and some Cathedral resource centres also have limited supplies. Details can be seen on our Google map hunter at www.realadvent.co.uk/shop

Order by 7th November
Knitivity on a Mission 2013

Many people within the diocese will have seen and know the Knitivity figures from St Albans Cathedral. This unique nativity scene with metre-high, hand-knitted characters travels around local businesses and landmarks, helping to make the Christmas story accessible and fun. Every Christmas, churches up and down the land send travelling cribs from home to home and often include knitted figures – but these are rarely more than a few centimetres high.

All of the figures have been knitted by Ann Hudson, a Rainbow and Brownie leader for the Cathedrals’ packs. Ann has clocked up over 520 hours of knitting time and used over 6 kilos of wool! This year the Knitivity collection is offered out to churches within the diocese to use as a tool for mission. The obligation will be that the church involved uses the collection in schools for mission. The obligation will be that the church involved uses the collection in schools for mission.

The Cathedral will provide a “user pack” to go with the collection. This will provide their history, a model Press Release and guidance on how to use them as a tool for mission. We do ask that each “borrower” signs an agreement to take all reasonable care of the figures during transportation and display and makes a donation of £10 towards the maintenance of the collection.

The hosting slots are as follows:-

- 30th October to 8th November (am)
- 8th November (pm) to 18th November (am)
- 18th October (pm) to 28th November (am)
- 28th November (pm) to 9th December (am)

Those wishing to bid for the Knitivity collection please email: JuliaLow@sky.com by 16th October 2013.

Bishop’s rubbish day

Canon Charlie Royden’s invitation to Bishop Richard to spend a day exploring waste treatment in Bedfordshire was too good to miss! Not only was it an opportunity to catch up with contemporary recycling and waste disposal that is so important for our stewardship of God’s creation; it is an important issue for Bedfordshire where previously landfill has been so prevalent.

Guided by Charlie as portfolio holder for the Environment on Bedford Borough Council and Paul Place the Head of Environmental Services Bishop Richard tracked the rubbish from Bin Collection and the Household Waste Recycling Centre, to the Elstow Transfer Station, to the Material Recycling Facility in Milton Keynes. The missing piece was the Mechanical Biological Treatment facility at Frog Island on the Thames where the black bin refuse is taken. A photograph of this vast plant had to suffice.

Things have moved on a long way from the stream of lorries emptying their loads into the derelict brick pits of the county. Increasingly the waste is either recycled or re-used for other positive benefits such as the generation of power. Bishop Richard said following the visits, ‘It is very encouraging to see how seriously a Local Authority such as Bedford Borough is taking care of the environment especially through the treatment of waste. This is a spur to each one of us to do more to support recycling as part of our concern for God’s planet.’