ALL SAINTS'

November 2025

All Saints' Welcomes Everyone



Re-membering

I have discovered as I've got older, that my memory isn't always an accurate record of events or conversations. Sometimes things can be forgotten, misremembered or remembered differently and that can be a source of dislocation and pain.

As we enter the early days of November, we enter a month full of memories. We remember the Saints of God; we remember all Souls, the faithful departed; we recall in love those who have gone before us to be with God in glory: and we remember those who have served their country and given their lives in the name of war and for the cause of peace.

The word remember has its roots in Latin - re (again) and memor (being mindful of). Remembering isn't passive or wistful, but an active process. It is a conscious effort to retrieve information from the mind's storehouse and make it present to one's awareness once more.

November calls us to remember differently. These days call us to re-member - to bring a person or occasion from the past back into the present to allow life and love to shine brightly in our midst again and have that vision seared afresh on our memory. We are also called to remember together; corporately - when one person's memory fails, another holds in love, those events or people, so that can be treasured by others.

Memory- making and remembering are a form of storytelling as we weave our lives together as we live and love together. One of the privileges of being the Church is, in a sense, we carry together over many many years, the story and memory of the communities in which we are set and called to serve, and our call as faith communities is to share in that storytelling.

November reminds us as we celebrate All Saints and All Souls especially, that even when our memories fade and fail - and they do - that God holds us in mind, and God delights in us and never forgets us.

And when our remembering is imperfect, when we don't re-member and live differently based on the lives and experience of those gone before us. November offers us a different vision where God holds all in loving memory and shares a vision with us where Jesus Christ is Sovereign and the inverted values of Christ's Kingdom - where the meek inherit; where the poor are raised up; those mourning find comfort; where those who exercise mercy receive the same in turn; where those who make peace are welcomed as God's family; and where the persecuted are given keys to this realm - are held up, not as a motivational quote, but as a lifestyle choice we need to actively choose to live out each day.

I am still trying to improve my memory.

I am trying to remember.

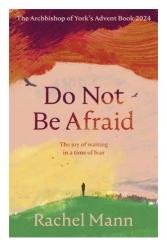
But I rejoice especially that in these days we are called to re-member together, that God not only holds us all in loving memory but invites us to make a better memory with each other as we seek to choose to live God's vision in the relationships, homes, streets, schools workplaces where God sets each of us.

Simon



ALL SAINTS CHURCH - Queens Road, Hertford, Hertfordshire SG13 8AY

Advent Study Course



Following on from the Prayer Course, Simon will be leading an Advent course. This will be based on "Do Not Be Afraid - The Joy of Waiting in a Time of Fear": The Archbishop of York's Advent Book 2024 written by Rachel Mann

Signup sheets will be available in church soon.

speaks of her own mental health struggles, and how much connecting with nature has helped her

The Green Watch talks follow the normal pattern of tea and coffee from 11:30, delicious soup and filled rolls for lunch from 12:00 and the talk at 1:00. We look forward to seeing you there.

All Saints' Church Hertford Community Christmas Tree Festival and Christmas Fair

22nd - 30th November





Kate Sheard, the Wilder Communities Officer with Herts and Middlesex Wild Life Trust will be sharing information on how to help local wildlife in our spaces.

She will be exploring the health and well-being benefits that nature provides, encouraging us to look at our own gardens as well as community spaces like schools, businesses or unused areas, and to consider different projects like building ponds or growing vegetables and flowers. Kate



All Saints' Church Hertford invites the congregation and the wider Hertford Community to join our 'Community Christmas Tree Festival'.

There is no charge, but donations always welcome.

The tree can be of any size, fresh, artificial or you can design and create your own (the more creative the better). They will be standing on boards across the pew ends, unless you specifically would like it to stand on the floor. Battery lights are welcome.

There will be prizes for the 'Best Dressed Tree', 'The Most Original Tree', which will be judged by Peter Ruffles and Dan, from 'I Love Hertford', and visitors to the festival will all have a chance to nominate their choice for the 'Public's Favourite' prize.

Dedicate your tree to a loved one, a friend or relate it to a good cause., or it can be sponsored by a business. You can use the tree to tell the community about your school, charity, business or club but no large advertising displays please. No larger than 1 x A4 plus leaflets.

Trees may be delivered on Friday 21st or Saturday 22nd November and collected on Dec 1st. Decorate your tree at home or in the Church.



For entry enquiries please contact Dorothy.toyn@outlook .com or use the QR code to access the booking form directly.

Closing date for entries Wednesday 19th November.

Entries are coming in, so please join us for this special community event at All Saints and get some publicity for your group. Entries from individuals and families welcome too!. It is a large Church to fill with Christmas Trees!

There will be an opening Reception at 7pm on Saturday 22nd November where everyone is welcome and the festival will be open daily over the week with refreshments and cake available. Please check exact times at www.allsaintshertford.org

There will be a **Christmas Fair** on **Saturday 29th November**, **11am to 3.30pm** with a raffle, tombola, (including a Chocolate one!) musical performances, produce, home-made cakes, handcrafted Christmas Wreaths and handicrafts, books and tabletop games.

Refreshments will be served all day, with lunch from 12 noon.

We are looking for donations for the fair – raffle, tombola, chocolate, produce, books and cakes to sell and for the Refreshments.

The festival will close with an Advent Carol Service on Sunday 30th November at 6.30pm.

All trees must be removed on Monday 1st December to clear the church and enable the various Christmas Carol Services to take place from Tuesday 2nd onwards.

This will be just the right time for you to use your tree at home for Christmas!

We look forward to you joining us for the festival! Dorothy Toyn

Advent Carol Service 2025

Our preparations for the arrival of our Lord at Christmas, start on Advent Sunday 30th November.



Our Advent Carol Service at 6.30pm will be based on the seven Advent Antiphons collectively known as "The Great O's" as each verse begins with 'O'. There's also a hidden acrostic that translates as 'I will come tomorrow'! https://christianheritagecentre.com/media/thegreat-os-the-advent-antiphons/

Bike & Hike 2025

This year, All Saints has managed to raise a brilliant £1,400 before Gift Aid for the Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire Historic Churches Trust at the Bike and Hike in September, which means that All Saints will benefit by £700 next year! (You can nominate a church of your choice to receive half of the money raised).

This year we had four participants – Martin Bird who walked, Kate Glover who cycled, James Toyn who sat in church signing bikers & hikers in, and me, who did a mixture of walking – plus Belle, the dog, and cycling.

Thank you to all who sponsored us and well done to Martin and James and especially to Kate who managed to raise around £625 which was amazing.

Dorothy Toyn

Leave those Leaves – They are wildlife gold!



Ideas from Oliver Fry of Surrey Wildlife Trust and John Stokes, director of trees at the Tree Council.

While leaf sprinkled lawns may look a mess to humans, to wildlife they are a vital source of nutrients and shelter:

- For an earthworm, a fallen leaf is a snack to be rolled up and pulled down whole into the ground
- For an elephant hawk-moth caterpillar, it is a roof under which to cocoon until spring
- For a tree, a leafy mulch is a sponge from which to sip during dry spells
- > For a hedgehog, a dry pile of leaves is a bed to roll around in and turn into a nest
- > A wet pile of leaves is ideal for frogs, toads and newts
- Scattered leaves create habitats for insects that birds can then prey on

When the frost arrives a thin layer of leaves provides insulation for insects to survive underneath, ensuring food for birds

"It might seem banal but it's quite important really. Everyone can do a little bit, and a little bit done by millions of people can make a difference to the state of our natural world." Oliver Fry

Falls prevention



FALLS PREVENTION CLASS

At Hartham Leisure Centre Fridays 11am - 11:45am

Join us for our Steady and Strong classes that are designed to help people over 60 to improve strength and balance, helping you to live independently for longer and avoid falls. Exercises are done both seated and standing, with chair support for those who require it.

For more info and to book please contact gillianpick@everyoneactive.com



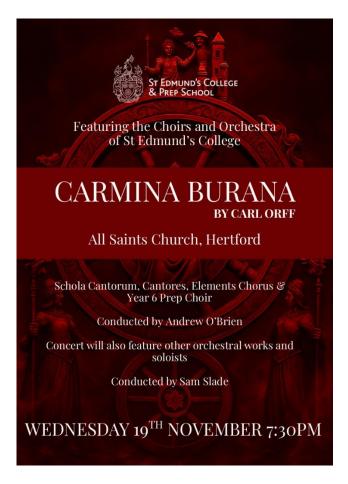
Falls prevention is especially important for those over 60, as aging can naturally lead to reduced balance, muscle strength, vision, and reaction time — all of which increase the risk of falling. Falls are one of the leading causes of injury and loss of independence in older adults.

These classes are designed to help by teaching safe movement techniques, improving strength and balance through targeted exercises, and offering practical advice on making the home environment safer. The aim is to support older adults in staying active, confident, and independent for as long as possible.

Soundbites



Concert



Light Pollution

Light pollution is another way in which we accelerate climate change. The good news is it that it is easy to fix, and the effects are instant.

Very few people stare into the universe on a nightly basis as, until very recently, all of humanity once did. This is due to stray light going into the night sky, striking air particles and creating skyglow. This obscures the universe above us.

Excessive and inconsiderate artificial lighting at night has a mental and physical effect on humans. Mentally we never experience the awe of the night sky anymore. Areas where people do have full visibility of the stars and milky way have higher happiness levels and lower cases of depression and anxiety. Our connection and relationship with the celestial bodies was a fundamental part of being human for hundreds of thousand or years, over the last 100 years that connection has been taken away.



{The Milky Way and several dark sky objects such as Orion and the Pleiades over Battlesteads Observatory in Northumberland. Image: Dr Martin Kitching}

Physically the effect of inconsiderate lighting at night, particularly using the wrong spectral distribution of light, will reduce our production of melatonin at night, disrupt our circadian rhythm and our sleep patterns. This increases the likelihood of many illnesses including breast cancer and prostate cancer.

The effects on the rest of the planet are more significant. Artificial lighting at night is a major contributor to the notable decline in insect populations, without which earth's ecosystem completely breaks down. Even if the wrong

lighting could run without any energy consumption whatsoever it would still destroy our planet through its impact on the surrounding ecology. Insects are negatively affected in different ways by different types of lighting.

It isn't just insects. Over two thirds of life on earth is nocturnal. When we go to sleep, over half the world wakes up and becomes active. Pollinators at night are necessary for plant and flower survival and to prepare plants, flowers and fruits for daytime pollination. Bats are affected in different ways depending on the spectral distribution of light and the specific species. Birds are affected as well as mammals, amphibians and aquatic life. These species all rely on moonlight and starlight to navigate and regulate so it is unsurprising that they are disrupted.

Although the scenario sounds bleak, any corrections are instant and organizations like DarkSky.org are creating opportunities for change. There are ways we can all help with the lighting around our homes and businesses:

- 1. Make sure the light is useful Do you really need that light and is it lighting what you want it to light in a comfortable way? Lights shouldn't be creating glare i.e. direct light going straight into our eyes. Glare means we have no way of adjusting to lower light levels and it often means we add more and more light into areas to compensate. The problem escalates.
- 2. Targeted Make sure no light goes up into the sky. Light going straight up is completely wasted and creates local skyglow. Light emitted horizontally, even slightly lower, will travel for hundreds of miles hitting air particles along the way and causing skyglow over huge areas. Insects, birds and bats also see those lights from hundreds of miles away. 'Dark sky compliant' lights are available but they still need to be implemented in the right way to work as a co-ordinated lighting scheme.
- 3. Low output don't use excessively bright lights. Without glare we can see in much lower light levels. Also, lighting a pathway brighter than necessary means we struggle to see our surroundings and our

- perception of safety in a space or place is reduced.
- 4. Warm light speaking in very general terms the warmer the light the better. A high percentage of insects and wildlife at night are more sensitive to the blue part of the spectrum. Removing this blue portion will make the light less disruptive. This is a general rule however and not so for all species. It still means the less light we use the better.
- 5. Sensor controlled sensors allow us to ensure the light is on only when we need it. Lights that are off create no disruption at all!

Simon Thorp, a lighting designer at LAPD Lighting, works on projects across the world, hence his awareness of the problem and the 'simplicity' of sorting it.

To raise awareness across the community he has created 'Dark Skies Hertford' together with Hertford Town Council. This is a community event to learn about light pollution but also to switch lights off and appreciate the night sky without local sky glow or glare. It happens at Castle Park, BEAM are a big part of the event too, hosting a film and talk. The third event will be on the 7th February 2026, hopefully some of you can come or join the switch off or consider participating.



We have contributions from Bayford Observatory, Hertford Astronomy Group, Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust, Herts Amphibians and Reptile Society, CPRE Countryside Charity, the university of Hertfordshire, BEAM, LAPD Lighting and local author Alice Hemming. Hope you can join in too!

https://darksky.org/ https://darksky.uk/ https://www.lapd.uk/

High Sheriff's Justice Service 16th November 11.15

To accommodate this special service the morning Parish Communion service will be said at 9.30 am.

Origins of the Justice Service



The High Sheriff's Justice Service is one of the highlights of Hertfordshire's ceremonial calendar when His Majesty's Judges are invited to attend a service of Matins. The Justice Service has evolved from the service held when a High Court judge

arrived on circuit for Assizes so one might pray for the judge to be blessed with wisdom and good judgement in his deliberations. Such services were held at All Saints' Church before the judge in the company of the High Sheriff processed to the Shire Hall where the Assize court was held.

At over 1,000 years old, the office of High Sheriff is the oldest secular office under the Crown. Sheriffs were originally responsible for the enforcement of law and order in each county, judging cases in monthly courts and acting as law enforcement officers.

In the 12th century, Henry II introduced the system of Itinerant Judges from which evolved the Assize Court system and in the middle of the 13th century the practice of Justices of the Peace sitting in Magistrates' Courts was introduced. It was a principal duty of the High Sheriff to look after High Court Judges while they were residing in the county.

In 1971 Crown Courts, sitting all year round, replaced the Assizes and Quarter Sessions.

The High Sheriff still retains a close interest in the work of the courts and supports all those involved in the administration of justice including organising this service which brings together, and gives thanks for, all who administer law and order in our county.

The Shrievalty of Hertfordshire

In the year 959 King Edgar is said to have established Hertford as the principal borough of the shire or county that bears its name. He appointed a 'Shire Reeve' to act, in effect, as the governor of the new county, holding in his name both civil and military power.

The duties of the office have evolved over time, but High Sheriffs are still appointed personally by the Monarch, on the advice of the Privy Council. The appointment of a High Sheriff is made each March by pricking individual names on a vellum scroll with an ancient bodkin, a traditional form of document security that is said to date back to the early Tudor period and King Henry VIII.



Supporting the Crown and the judiciary remain central elements of the High Sheriff role, whilst also lending support and encouragement to crime prevention agencies, the emergency services and to the charity and voluntary sector.

The office of High Sheriff is held for one year, beginning in April. The High Sheriff remains the Returning Officer for parliamentary elections for all county constituencies and has responsibility for proclaiming the accession of a new Sovereign.

The role is independent and non-political, which enables High Sheriffs to bring a wide variety of people together within the county.

In March the High Sheriff Awards take place. These are made possible by the High Sheriff's Fund which is administered by the Hertfordshire Community Foundation. Money from the collection at the service will go towards these awards which will enable championing and celebrating the work of many of our 3,000 charities who conduct vital work across Hertfordshire.

Nicholas Buxton High Sheriff of Hertfordshire 2025 – 2026



After 20 years in London working as an accountant and equities analyst, Nicholas returned home to the farm where he grew up near Ware in 2006. Caring for the natural landscape is important to Nicholas. As a farmer, he has overseen a move to more sympathetic farming practices, the re-introduction of

sheep, and an extensive restoration of the river Ash, one of Hertfordshire's prized chalk streams.

He supports many local charities, including Hertfordshire Community Foundation, the Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust and the Essex & Herts Air Ambulance.

Nicholas is married to Henrietta, and they have four grown-up sons. In his spare time, Nicholas sings in choirs, keeps pigs and turns wood bowls in his workshop.

Alongside his prime shrieval duty to support the police, the judiciary and the emergency services, Nicholas has chosen 'Nurture through Nature' as his theme for the year.

During his year of office, Nicholas is supporting the High Sheriff's Fund at Hertfordshire Community Foundation.

Parish Diary November 2025

Saturday 1st

9.30 am Morning Prayer

Sunday 2nd All Saints Sunday

10.00 am All Ages Together

Communion with Bishop

Jane

12.00 noon Lunch

6.30 pm Breathing Space - Hope

Monday 3rd

8.00 am Morning Prayer

10.30 am Service at Bentley House

5.00 pm Evening Prayer

7.30 pm Lectio Divina on Zoom

Tuesday 4th

8.00 am Morning Prayer10.00 am Small Saints5.00 pm Evening Prayer

Wednesday 5th

8.00 am Morning Prayer12.00 noon for 1.00 pm Soundbites:

Trio Celadon **5.00 pm** Evening Prayer

Thursday 6th

8.00 am Morning Prayer
9.15 for 9.30 Prayer Course
11.00 am Holy Communion
5.00 pm Evening Prayer
7.30 pm All Saints Art

Friday 7th

5.30 pm Choir Practices

Saturday 8th Saints & Martyrs of England

9.30 am Holy Communion11.30am Coffee Morning

12.00 noon Lunches

1.00 pm GreenWatch talk

Creating space for Nature – Kate Sheard

Sunday 9th Remembrance

10.50 am Service at War Memorial11.30 am Parade Service in Church6.00 pm Choral Communion

Monday 10th Leo the Great

8.00 am
8.30 am
10.00 am
10.30 am
Morgans Assembly
Service at Bentley House

5.00 pm7.30 pmEvening PrayerLectio Divina on Zoom

Tuesday 11th Martin of Tours

8.00 am Morning Prayer
9.00 am Holy Communion
10.00 am Small Saints
5.00 pm Evening Prayer

Wednesday 12th

8.00 am Morning Prayer12.00 noon for 1.00 pm Soundbites:

Courtyard Consort

5.00 pm Evening Prayer

Thursday 13th Charles Simeon

8.00 am Morning Prayer 9.15 for 9.30 Prayer Course 11.00 am Holy Communion 5.00 pm7.30 pmEvening PrayerAll Saints Art

Friday 14th

5.30 pm Choir Practices

Saturday 15th

9.00 am Work Party

9.30 am Holy Communion

2.30 pm Set up for Justice Service

Sunday 16th 2nd Sunday before Advent

9.30 am Parish Communion11.15 am High Sheriff's Justice Service

6.30 pm Choral Compline

Monday 17th Hugh of Lincoln

8.00 am Morning Prayer

10.30 am
12.00 noon
Holy Communion
5.00 pm
Evening Prayer
Lectio Diving on Zoom

Tuesday 18th Elizabeth

8.00 am Morning Prayer
10.00 am Small Saints
12.00 noon Holy Communion

1.45 pm Simon Balle yr 1 Church Visit

5.00 pm Evening Prayer

Wednesday 19th Hilda of Whitby

8.00 am Morning Prayer9.00 am Holy Communion12.00 noon for 1.00 pm Soundbites:

Joe MacDonald - Violin Simon Rowland-Jones - Viola Carys Underwood - Cello Archie Bonham - Piano

5.00 pm7.30 pmEvening PrayerConcert by St Edmund's

College

7.30 pm PCC

Thursday 20th Edmund

8.00 am Morning Prayer
9.15 for 9.30 Prayer Course
11.00 am Holy Communion
5.00 pm Evening Prayer
7.30 pm All Saints Art

Friday 21st

9.00 am onwards Xmas Tree set-up

5.30 pm Choir Practices

Saturday 22nd

9.00 am onwards Xmas Tree set-up9.30 am Morning Prayer

7.00 pm Reception for Xmas Tree

Festival

7.00 pm Herts Change Ringers

Sunday 23rd Christ the King

9.00am-5.00pm Xmas Tree Festival open

daily until Sunday 30th

10.00 am Parish Communion and

Service of Loving Remembrance

12.30 pm6.30 pmHoly BaptismChoral Evensong

Monday 24th

8.00 am Morning Prayer

10.30 am Service at Bentley House

5.00 pm Evening Prayer

7.30 pm Lectio Divina on Zoom

Tuesday 25th

8.00 am Morning Prayer10.00 am Small Saints5.00 pm Evening Prayer

Wednesday 26th

8.00 am
8.45 am
10.15 am
5.00 pm

Morning Prayer
R Hale Yr9 Assembly
Wheatcroft Assembly
Evening Prayer

Thursday 27th

8.00 am Morning Prayer
9.15 for 9.30 Prayer Course
11.00 am Holy Communion
5.00 pm Evening Prayer
7.30 pm All Saints Art

Friday 28th

5.30 pm Choir Practices

Saturday 29th

9.30 am Morning Prayer11.00 am-3.30pm Christmas Fair

Sunday 30th Advent Sunday

10.00 am6.30 pmParish CommunionAdvent Carol Service

DECEMBER Monday 1st

8.00 am Morning Prayer
9.00 am Xmas Tree clear down
10.00 am Morgans Assembly
10.30 am Service at Bentley House
5.00 pm Evening Prayer
7.30 pm Lectio Divina on Zoom

Tuesday 2nd

8.00 am Morning Prayer
10.00 am Small Saints
1.00pm H&WSMA rehearsal
5.00 pm Evening Prayer
7.30pm H&WSMA Service

Wednesday 3rd

8.00 am Morning Prayer
9.00 am Wheatcroft rehearsal
5.00 pm Evening Prayer
7.00 pm Wheatcroft Carol Service

Thursday 4th

8.00 am Morning Prayer 9.15 for 9.30 Prayer Course 11.00 am Holy Communion 5.00 pm Evening Prayer 7.30 pm All Saints Art

Friday 5th

9.00 am Organ Tuning5.30 pm Choir Practices

Saturday 6th

9.30 am Morning Prayer
TBC Possible Concert

Sunday 7th 2nd Sunday of Advent

10.00 am All Ages Together Communion6.30 pm Breathing Space – Sorry

Contact information

www.allsaintshertford.org

Vicar

Rev Simon Cutmore

07885 660653 vicar@allsaintshertford.org

Office

office@allsaintshertford.org

Full list of contacts

www.allsaintshertford.org/contacts.php