

ALL SAINTS'



ALIVE

All Saints' Welcomes Everyone

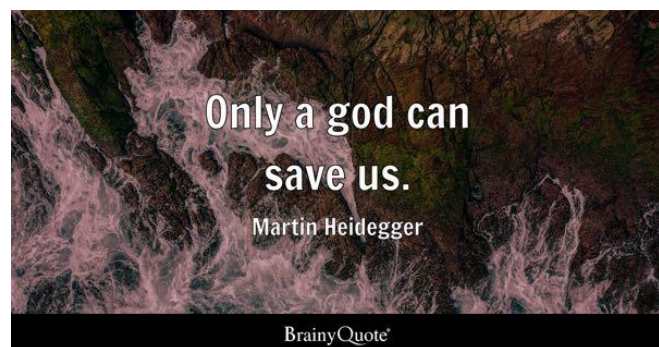
**'Only a God
can save us'**

I studied philosophy as a part of my theology degree in the early 1990s.

In honesty, I don't remember much of what my lecturer was trying to teach us. Amazingly, though, one quote does stick in my mind years later.

Martin Heidegger, the great German phenomenological and existential philosopher and accused Nazi sympathiser, was interviewed by the newspaper *Der Spiegel* in 1966. In a wide-ranging conversation (that was published posthumously), he spoke about life in Germany as the Nazis came to power and the pressures on life at that time. In the midst of political and personal turmoil and oppression, Heidegger acknowledged that changes in our circumstances could not be brought about, either by philosophising or thinking about why things are as they are, nor could any, '... purely human reflection and endeavour. Only a god can save us. The only possibility available to us is that by thinking and poetising we prepare a readiness for the appearance of a god...'

Only a god can save us.



The reason that quote has lived with me all these years is because in the midst of uncertainty, anxiety, and fear for the present

and future - Heidegger suggests that there is much that we can do to influence our lives, but no amount of thinking or acting will change ultimate outcomes. He suggested that philosophy, ethics, politics, science and indeed any other discipline that has pushed humanity forward will only ever get so far. To be liberated and our ultimate dreams of freedom, love and peace to be realised, requires the saving act of a god.

I asked some friends recently what the hallmarks or overriding emotions were this Advent, looking on into Christmas. Some talked about grief, others about extreme tiredness, others spoke of anxiety, some spoke of joy, and some spoke of hope or hoping for hope or hoping in Jesus, matched with waves of hopelessness in humanity.

Many of us might resonate with those hallmarks and emotions, too. With the ever-present reality of COVID and a new variant on the rise; crippling fuel price rises; the death of 27 people fleeing for their lives and the ongoing political posturing about immigration rather commitment to preventing any more needless deaths, with dire situations in Ethiopia and Afghanistan, and COP 26 unlikely in reality to have produced the outcomes that the whole world needed, it is no wonder we may feel pretty bleak.

Only a god can save us. In times like these, those words rise once more in my memory.

Around 2000 years ago, a man called Paul wrote a letter to a fledgling underground religious group. He encouraged the community to live distinctively, compassionately and faithfully as they sought to follow the teaching of The Way. There was a real expectation that the persecution that they were experiencing would soon be brought to an end as, in his own hand, Paul writes (in Aramaic) in 1 Corinthians 16:22 - '...marantha...', literally, '... O God come!'

Centuries later, as we pilgrim through this Advent, feeling all that we feel, I encourage you with me to keep your eyes focused on Christmas. Behind the glitz and soft-focus stable scenes is the story of a God who comes to save us from ourselves; born helpless and vulnerable as a newborn, yet living a life like ours, thus allowing the life of this God to seep into our lives and our stories, offering each of us the possibility of a different outcome.

As I write, I've just turned on the radio and heard Adele's single, 'Easy On Me.' In it she sings in the opening verse,

'... There ain't no gold in this river
That I've been washin' my hands in forever
I know there is hope in these waters
But I can't bring myself to swim
When I am drowning in this silence
Baby, let me in...'

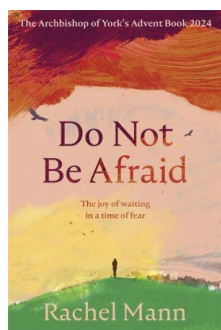
The song is about the cost of an ended relationship and a difficult childhood. Yet in the midst of the ordinariness, brokenness and hurt, there is a longing, a hoping for something to be different.

If you feel it too, come and rediscover with us the heart of Christmas. If the world feels heavy and the brokenness of life feels like it is taking its toll, come hear again the story at the heart of Christmas.

Because from the heart of Christmas flows the love of God - who loves this broken, imperfect world and it's people so much, that he comes amongst us, lives and walks and talks with us and reveals to us the depths of the saving love of his God and Father - a love which can transform our present and our future if we will let it in.

Simon

Advent Course



This is running in our #ThinkingThursdays slot 9.15 for 9.30. We are using Rachel Mann's Do not be Afraid - the Archbishop of York's 2024 Advent Book. Please speak to Simon if you'd like to join.

Travelling Cribs

We have travelling cribs available, suitable for all ages & would love them to visit your home until Christmas Eve. All sets include an Advent Calendar, books & activity sheets.



If you would like a crib, please contact Ann Stephens-Jones on 01992 447726 to arrange collection or delivery.

There will be some available at the SmAll Saints on Tuesday 2nd Dec and at the All-Age Eucharist on 7th December.

Amazing Advent-ure

Crib Service 24th Dec 4.00 pm



Join Rose and Sam on their hunt to find the true meaning of Christmas in their super special, surprising Advent calendar!

Carols at Bentley House

On Monday 22nd December at 10.30am, I would love to have a few of us go to Bentley House Nursing Home on Peggs Lane and sing carols and enjoy some time with the residents.

We would be together for a maximum of an hour. All singing abilities very welcome indeed! The only requisite is you come along dressed festively for the season!

If you are willing to join in, speak to Simon.

Prayer Course – my experience

Despite being a Christian all my life, I have not done any meaningful study on prayer since I was confirmed in my teens (many years ago) so I was a bit nervous about attending the course. I was unsure what to expect and what was expected of me and whether I would be able to contribute anything to group. However, I quickly forgot about these anxieties and found myself looking forward to my Thursday meetings.

Simon sent out the course resources before each meeting, which included what we would be discussing and several prayer tools (separate subjects related to the week's topic). At first, I was a bit overwhelmed thinking that I had to study all of it but the prayer tools can be studied later. In fact, I have made up a file so I can return to some in the future that I missed or did not feel ready for at the time.

There is a video to watch for each session followed by questions to discuss.

Personally, I gained so much from the group discussions. It made me understand that I was not unusual in my struggles with prayer and being a good Christian, I was able to see topics from someone else's perspective and give my own thoughts to others without fear of judgement or ridicule.

Having a week between sessions allows you to reflect on the topic and try any tools which help you to deepen your prayer and connection to God.

I am so pleased that I completed the prayer course and would highly recommend it to everyone- whether you are new to following Jesus or was born into a practicing Christian family, it can only help you be closer to God.

Deb Bowden

Courses offered at All Saints in 2025

Rev'd Canon Simon Cutmore has led several study groups over the course of 2025. The first was the Lent course.

The Prayer Course which focused on videos presented by Pete Greig was an 8 week journey through the Lord's Prayer, and the Advent Course will follow, taking us through to Christmas.

In November, we had 2 events at St Albans abbey, the first, the moving service when Simon was made a canon, and the second an evening pilgrimage at the Abbey. The Dean, The Very Rev'd Jo Kelly-Moore led a service of Night Prayer. This was taken from a New Zealand Prayer Book, and included an alternative Lord's Prayer, which was particularly apt since we were nearing the final sessions of the Prayer Course.

(Ed You can find it at <https://eppursimuov3.wordpress.com/2012/02/06/the-lords-prayer-alternate-version-from-the-new-zealand-anglican-prayer-book/>)

Other courses/groups

SmAll Saints will take a break after the session on Dec 9th, restarting on Jan 6th

Lectio Divina group will meet on Dec 1st and then take a break, restarting on Monday 11th January.

#ThinkingThursdays will restart on 8th January

New Years Day Walk

2pm from the Golden Griffin

Young and old and everyone in between are welcome to join St Andrews New Year's Day Walk. We will begin the walk at 2pm from the car park of the Golden Griffin (opposite The Sele School). We will head into Panshanger Park for a stroll along a circular route for about an hour.

Walkers will then be welcome to join one another for a drink at the Golden Griffin (please bring a means to pay). The pub car park is now managed by Euro Car Parks but it is possible to register for free parking as a customer of the pub. Head into the pub before the walk to register your car. If there is anything you want to ask, please call Richard on 07703 197707.

Wall Hangings and Banners at All Saints

Last year, when I told the Vicar that I had put a box of various colours of material into the meeting room, he asked if I had any ideas about some coloured banners for the pillars in Church... in liturgical colours....

I had a think, and using a wire background I had learned about at the old Hertford North Flower Club workshop years ago, I produced the green banners. These can have different items added to them to reflect the seasons. The purple, white, and red are more plain hangings, but there is still a way to attach things – eg the red ones recently had a poppy wreath and at Pentecost, a dove.

On **Saturday 10th January at 10 am**, in **Church**, I will have the coffee on and tea brewing, and it would be lovely to share your ideas about what can go onto these banners. It would be good to have people joining me doing this, but ideas are great too, that we can try to put into reality. It would be really good to have your input and I look forward to seeing you on January 10th (Just before the Greenwatch talk!)

Thank you.
Dorothy Toyn

Memorial Flowers at All Saints'

For many years Flower Club members at All Saints have enjoyed arranging flowers in the Memorial Chapel in memory of loved ones. Often around an anniversary or a birthday. They are generally placed near the 'Memorial Book', and if there is an entry in the Memorial Book, it will be opened on the appropriate page. This is usually done ready for the service which takes place in the Memorial Chapel on a Thursday morning.

Flowers can also be placed on the Reredos behind the Altar if wished. These would be done in readiness for the Sunday services.

Members of the congregation have often asked us to do these flowers or have signed the list at the back of the church. However, we realise that many people who have family links to All Saints may not live locally. In this 'electronic age' we are now happy to arrange flowers as requested for families living further afield.

You can contact the Flower Club using the e mail flowers@allsaintshertford.org and let us have the name of your loved one and the date you wish to have the flowers done. We would ask for a donation of a minimum of £15 which can be transferred to the Flower Club electronically, or a cheque sent. Details will be given as appropriate. We could send you back a picture of the flowers if you wish.

Dorothy Toyn

All Saints Community Christmas Tree Festival

When this Community Christmas Tree Festival was initially mentioned I was told it sounded like too much hard work, we needed to buy trees for people, how do we make money if they do not pay an entry fee, and one stark 'It won't work!'

Following all our leaflets dropped around the town, social media messages and word of

mouth we have 37 trees registered – every school in the parish - junior and senior, and The Sele School. Charity shops, various organisations from Hertford Rotary to the U3A Monday Keep Fit Group, and every organisation within All Saints as well as individuals celebrating a diverse range of things.

It was a joy to watch the trees being brought in, in a box in a wheelbarrow, to the fully decorated item, and the excitement of people getting them ready. The effort all the children had been to, to make '7's and 5's' for Morgans 75th anniversary, Bees of all sizes (Wheatcroft), specially made decorations (Abel Smith and Sele) little reindeers (Mini Morgans), a Cub scarf and Badges (3rd Hertford Cubs) and a lovely little golden hand as a star (Small Saints). Adults had fun too, using things from exercise equipment and a very elegant Fairy, dressed ready to jump off the tree to go for a jog! (U3A) From family photos to badminton shuttlecocks and train tickets – the variety and imagination have been amazing.

Best Dressed – Soundbites



Peter Ruffles and Dan Griffiths (I Love Hertford) have been in to judge the 'Best Dressed Tree' and the 'Most Original' and everyone is voting for their favourite tree – a difficult decision as they are all SO good. A huge thank you to all the organisations who have joined in and helped us to make it

happen. Thank you too, to all those at All Saints who have assisted us and to Simon who has encouraged us to 'think bold' to enable it to happen.

We are being asked if we are repeating it next year...? Well, it has been the easiest festival I have been involved with at All Saints over the years, so fingers crossed, yes, we will!

Dorothy Toyn

Most Original – James Toyn



Favourite Tree – Wheatcroft School



WALK THROUGH ALL SAINTS CHURCHYARD
WITH

DONATO CINICOLO

10 JANUARY 2026

Before and After the Green Watch Talk
11.00am and 2.00pm



Donato is a five time Hertfordshire hedge laying champion and learnt to lay hedges at a college in his home county more than 20 years ago. His family moved from southern Italy after World War II, a time of huge change for Britain's countryside. "We needed bigger

fields to produce more food and many hedges were removed. Also, hedges became neglected because so few men came back after the war and there wasn't the manpower to look after them." Some of the hedges Donato tackles are 50 or 60 years old. Sometimes you can only manage about eight metres of hedge in a day but usually it's 20 to 25 metres."

Last season, Donato completed 700 meters. Donato takes great pride in his work and looks forward to his trips to Norfolk.

Donato Says...

"You are only as good as your last job and if you produce poor work it follows you.

I always like the fact that my work is anonymous and when I look at old hedges I think that someone like me was doing what I do.

Once you've made a hedge you never look at them in the same way again. It's a life-transforming experience." The transformation of hedgerows at Penny Spot Farm has left David Harrison a happy man.

"They just look good and the laying keeps them under control which is much better than leaving them to grow and much, much better than a fence."



Queens Road, Hertford, Hertfordshire SG13 8AY
www.allsaintshertford.org

has recently gone to children in an orphanage in Romania.

ALLSAINTS HERTFORD All Saints Welcomes Everyone

Soundbites

A Term-Time Series of Concerts on Wednesday Lunch-Times
(Light Lunches served from 12noon for Concerts at 1.00pm)

NEW SEASON STARTS WEDNESDAY 21 JANUARY 2026

English Piano Trio

Jane Faulkner - Violin
Pal Banda - Cello
Timothy Ravenscroft - Piano

The English Piano Trio now celebrates over 30 years together. The Trio has performed regularly at major London venues, and toured abroad. The Trio has presented complete Haydn, Mozart and Beethoven programmes at London's South Bank.

From 2013 until 2020 the Trio gave regular performances in the recital room of Colston Hall, Bristol.

The Trio's recording of works by Sir Malcolm Arnold for the Naxos label, was part of a Gramophone Award winning series.

Music: To be Confirmed

Free Admission with Retiring Collection In Aid of All Saints' Church
Registered UK Charity No: 1134035.

ALL SAINTS CHURCH - Queens Road, Hertford, Hertfordshire SG13 8AY
www.allsaintshertford.org

Burns Night Supper 24th January 7 for 7.30



We are holding a Burns Night Supper in St John's Hall and we would love to welcome you to celebrate the chieftain of the puddin' race!

MENU:

Haggis, bashed neeps and tatties (vegetarian haggis available - mention at booking.)

Raspberries, cream and Scottish shortbread.

BYO drinks

£15 per person payable by 18/01/26 at the latest please

ALLSAINTS HERTFORD All Saints Welcomes Everyone

GREEN WATCH

A Series of **FREE** Talks on Environmental Themes

SATURDAY 11 JANUARY 2025 at 1.00pm

Coffee from 11.30am
Light Lunches from 12noon

GARDENING GREEN

By **ANNE GODFREY**
Owner of Daisy Roots Nursery, Hertford.

Background Piano Music: Mary and Martin Penny
• Fiona's Produce Stall

ALL SAINTS CHURCH - Queens Road, Hertford, Hertfordshire SG13 8AY
www.allsaintshertford.org

Wool for scarves

Thank you to all those who have brought wool to All Saints. It is greatly appreciated and has been used in making scarves which will be distributed to grateful recipients. A batch of jerseys and other knitted garments

Parish Diary December 2025

Monday 1st (St Andrew)

8.00 am Morning Prayer
9.00 am Holy Communion
9.30 am Christmas Tree Festival clear down
10.30 am Service at Bentley House
5.00 pm Evening Prayer
6.00 pm Rehearsal Ware Brass/Charity
7.30 pm Lectio Divina on Zoom

Tuesday 2nd

8.00 am Morning Prayer
10.00 am Small Saints
12 noon H&WSMA reh
3.00 pm Roof alarm service
5.00 pm Evening Prayer
7.30 pm Herts & Ware School Music Assoc service

Weds 3rd

8.00 am Morning Prayer
9.00 am Wheatcroft Setup
2.00 pm Home Communion Visits
5.00 pm Evening Prayer
7.00 pm Wheatcroft Carol Service

Thursday 4th

8.00 am Morning Prayer
9.15 for 9.30 am Advent discussion group
11.00 am Holy Communion
5.00 pm Evening Prayer

Friday 5th

8.00 am Organ Tuning
12.00 noon Funeral of Peter Fordham
2.00 pm External Organ Teaching
5.30 pm Choir Practices

Saturday 6th

9.30 am Morning Prayer

Sunday 7th 2nd Sunday of Advent

10.00 am All-age Eucharist
6.30 pm Breathing Space - a contemplative service for Advent

Monday 8th (Conception of BVM)

8.00 am Morning Prayer
10.00 am Set up for Charity Concert
10.30 am Service at Bentley House
5.00 pm Evening Prayer
6.00 pm Drinks reception
7.00 pm Charity concert in aid of Schoolreaders.org

Tuesday 9th

8.00 am Morning Prayer
10.00 am Small Saints
2.00 pm Abel Smith reh
5.00 pm Evening Prayer

Weds 10th

8.00 am Morning Prayer
9.00 am Abel Smith reh
9.15 am Xmas Workshop at Wheatcroft
10.15 am Wheatcroft Xmas Assembly
11.00 am Xmas Workshop at Wheatcroft
1.30 pm Abel Smith reh
5.00 pm Evening Prayer
6.30 pm Abel Smith event

Thursday 11th

8.00 am Morning Prayer
9.15 for 9.30 am Advent discussion group
11.00 am Holy Communion
12.00 noon R Hale set up
5.00 pm Evening Prayer
7.30 pm Concert by R Hale school

Friday 12th

1.30 pm Morgans School Christingle
5.30 pm Choir Practices

Saturday 13th

9.30 am Morning Prayer
5.00 pm Concert by HCS

Sunday 14th 3rd Sunday of Advent

10.00 am Parish Communion
2.00pm-5.00pm Open House at the Vicarage
6.30 pm Choral Evensong

Monday 15th

8.00 am Morning Prayer
9.00 am Simon Balle set up
10.30 am Service at Bentley House
5.00 pm Evening Prayer
7.00pm Simon Balle Carol Service

Tuesday 16th

8.00 am Morning Prayer
10.00 am Simon Balle Carol Service
5.00 pm Evening Prayer
6.00 pm Simon Balle Carol Service

Weds 17th

8.00 am Morning Prayer
10.00 am Simon Balle Carol Service
5.00 pm Evening Prayer

Thursday 18th

8.00 am Morning Prayer
9.15 for 9.30 am Advent discussion group
11.00 am Holy Communion
12.30 pm R Hale rehearsal
5.00 pm Evening Prayer

Friday 19th

9.30 am Richard Hale Founder's Day Service
5.30 pm Choir Practices

Saturday 20th

9.30 am Morning Prayer

Sunday 21st 4th Sunday of Advent

10.00 am Parish Communion
3.00 pm Rehearsals
6.30 pm Service of Lessons and Carols

Monday 22nd

8.00 am Morning Prayer
10.30 am Service at Bentley House
5.00 pm Evening Prayer
7.00 pm Sing at Isabel Hospice

Tuesday 23rd

8.00 am Morning Prayer
9.00 am Church decorations
5.00 pm Evening Prayer

Wednesday 24th Christmas Eve

8.00 am Morning Prayer
4.00 pm Crib Service
The Amazing Advent-ure
11.30 pm First Communion of Christmas

Thursday 25th Christmas Day

10.00 am Family Eucharist for Christmas Day
6.30 pm Evening Prayer

Friday 26th (Stephen)

9.30 am Holy Communion

Sunday 28th 1st Sunday of Christmas

10.00 am Holy Communion
6.30 pm No evening service

Monday 29th (Holy Innocents)

8.00 am Morning Prayer
9.30 am Holy Communion
5.00 pm Evening Prayer

Tuesday 30th

8.00 am Morning Prayer
5.00 pm Evening Prayer

Wednesday 31st

8.00 am Morning Prayer
5.00 pm Evening Prayer

Parish Diary January 2026

Thursday 1st (Naming & Circumcision of Jesus)

11.00 am Holy Communion
2.00 pm Walk with St Andrew's in Panshanger Park

Friday 2nd

5.30 pm Choir Practices

Epiphany Sunday 4th

10.00 am All-age Eucharist
6.30 pm Epiphany Carol Service

Monday 5th

8.00 am Morning Prayer
10.30 am Service at Bentley House
5.00 pm Evening Prayer

Tuesday 6th

8.00 am Morning Prayer
10.00 am Small Saints
5.00 pm Evening Prayer

Weds 7th

8.00 am Morning Prayer
2.00 pm Home Communion Visits
5.00 pm Evening Prayer

Thursday 8th

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

Friday 9th

5.30 pm Choir Practices

Saturday 10th

9.30 am Morning Prayer
10.00 am Meeting re banners
11.00 am Churchyard Walk
11.30 am Greenwatch Coffee
12.00 noon Light Lunches
1.00 pm Talk by Annie Godfrey: *Gardening Green*
2.00 pm Churchyard Walk

Sunday 11th Baptism of Christ

10.00 am Holy Communion
6.30 pm Choral Evensong

Monday 12th

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 13th

8.00 am Morning Prayer
10.00 am Small Saints

5.00 pm Evening Prayer

Weds 14th

8.00 am Morning Prayer
12.30 pm Ministry Team meeting
5.00 pm Evening Prayer

Thursday 15th

8.00 am Morning Prayer
9.15 for 9.30 Thinking Thursday
11.00 am Holy Communion
2.30 pm Safeguarding Core Group
5.00 pm Evening Prayer
7.30 pm All Saints Art

Friday 16th

5.30 pm Choir Practices

Saturday 17th (Anthony of Egypt)

9.00 onwards Work Party
9.30 am Holy Communion

Sunday 18th 2nd Sunday of Epiphany Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins

10.00 am Family Eucharist
6.30 pm Choral Compline

Monday 19th

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 20th

8.00 am Morning Prayer
10.00 am Small Saints
5.00 pm Evening Prayer

Weds 21st

8.00 am Morning Prayer
12.00 for 1.00 pm Soundbites English Piano Trio
5.00 pm Evening Prayer
7.30 pm PCC

Thursday 22nd

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

Friday 23rd

5.30 pm Choir Practices

Saturday 24th

9.30 am Morning Prayer
5.00 pm & 7.00 pm Concerts by Lumos
7.00 for 7.30 pm Burns Night in Hall

Sunday 25th Conversion of St Paul

10.00 am Parish Communion
3.00 pm Christian Unity Service location TBA

Monday 26th (Timothy & Titus)

8.00 am Morning Prayer
9.00 am Holy Communion
10.30 am Service at Bentley House
5.00 pm Evening Prayer
7.30 pm Lectio Divina on Zoom

Tuesday 27th

8.00 am Morning Prayer
10.00 am Small Saints
5.00 pm Evening Prayer

Weds 28th (Thomas Aquinas)

8.00 am Morning Prayer
9.00 am Holy Communion
10.15 am Wheatcroft Assembly
12.00 for 1.00 pm Soundbites Alexander Ardakov - Piano
5.00 pm Evening Prayer

Thursday 29th

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

Friday 30th

5.30 pm Choir Practices

Saturday 31st

9.30 am Morning Prayer

FEBRUARY

Sunday 1st Presentation of Christ in the Temple

10.00 am All-age Eucharist and Christingle
6.30 pm TBA

Contact information

www.allsaintshertford.org

   AllSaintsHertf

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www.allsaintshertford.org/contacts.php