

Hertingfordbury & The Five Greens Parish News



“Nature is a Kind Teacher and a Friend”
(see Rev Alan’s letter)

May 2025

Here with you - Here for you

Printed copies are available from St Mary’s church

PARISH OF ST. MARY'S, HERTINGFORDBURY

www.hertingfordburystmary.org

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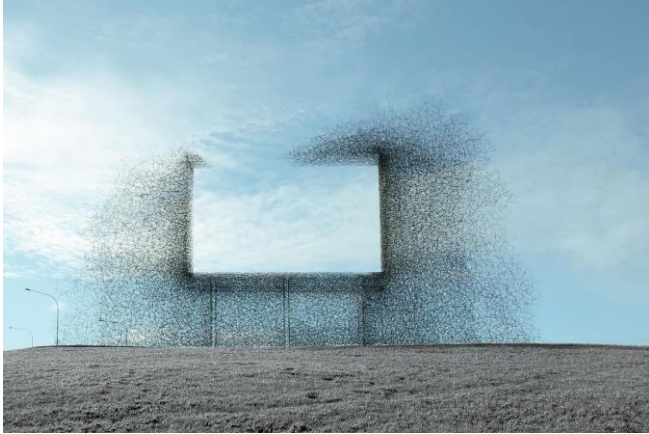
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Billboards of the Sky



Billboards are a common sight alongside many roads. Their function is of course to grab our attention in order to sell us things. By a highway on the Canadian/US border however, there is a billboard with a difference. It consists of thousands of steel rods which create an illusion of a ghostly billboard which frames, not a poster advertising fast food or the latest brand of deodorant, but the sky itself.

Created by a group of artists called Lead Pencil Studio, this billboard isn't trying to sell us anything. Instead, it's an invitation to look again at the beauty of the sky and the landscape we so often rush through.

It reminds me of that famous poem by William Henry Davies which ends with the lines 'A poor life this if, full of care, we have no time to stand and stare'.

Modern life is so full of distraction. Often, we are so preoccupied that we miss the miracles around us. The antidote, as this billboard reminds us, is to immerse ourselves, where possible, in the natural world.

The best way I know to recalibrate and reconnect is to get lost in nature. It's here I'm replenished. It's here I gain perspective and reassurance. It's here I'm reminded that I am part of something much, much bigger.

Nature is a kind teacher and friend. It's here we connect with our Source; with the Ground of our Being; with our soul and with whatever it is we call God.

So, where possible, go outside and let nature teach and befriend you. Contemplate. Let the seasons remind you that all things pass. Let the canopy of the sky cause your eyes and heart to lift. Let the forests enfold you and the oceans still you.

Rev Alan

Sunday Services at St Mary's

Sung Eucharist 9.15am every Sunday

Zoom Sunday Service at 10.30am (joining details from Robin Bishop)

All Age Service 9.15am on 2nd Sunday of the month (unless notified)

Registers

Baptism – Welcome into the Family of the Church

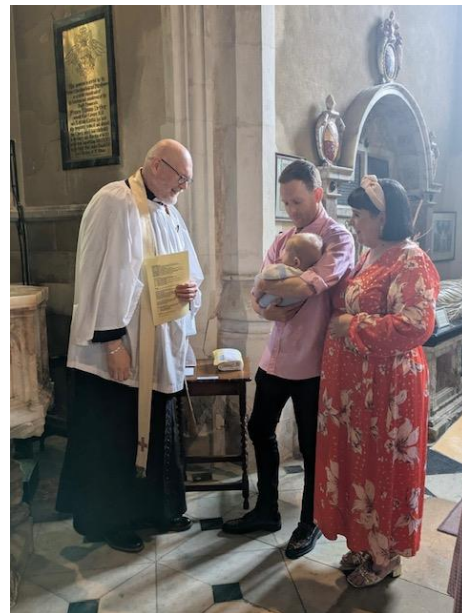
6 April – Obinna Vallen Okafor

6 April – Lydia Jean Bonell

13 April – Henry George Watts



Obinna being Baptised by Rev Alan & outside church with Mum and Dad



Henry being baptised by Rev Alan and being held by Mum & Dad

Some Dates for your Diary

Sunday 4th May – **Joint church Away Day** at All Nations College, Ware.

Monday 12th May – **Mindfulness on Sele** (10.30am at Sele Hub, Fleming Crescent)

Thursday 29th May – **Ascension Day Service** 8pm at St Andrew's

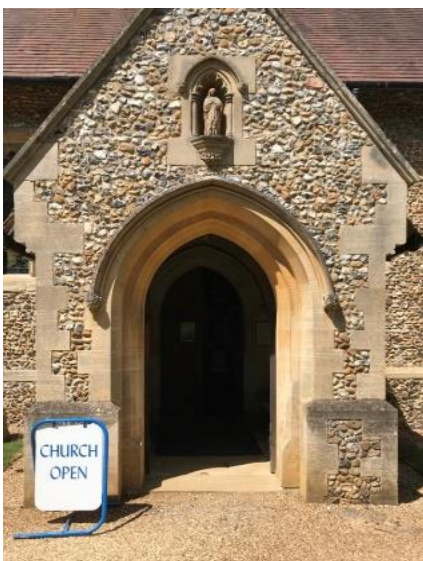
PLEASE NOTE THERE WILL BE NO 9.15am SERVICE AT ST MARY'S ON SUNDAY 4TH MAY DUE TO THE JOINT CHURCH AWAY DAY

Mothering Sunday at St Mary's

We had a very special Mothering Sunday All Age service at St Mary's with over 60 adults and children attending to acknowledge and celebrate all our mothers



Special posies were organised and put together by Sue Parsell and Virginia. Many thanks to them. They were beautiful and much appreciated by all. The church looked very special indeed



OPENING THE CHURCH – HELP NEEDED

We are very committed to St Mary's church being open during the day. To be there for our community. However we are very short of volunteers at the moment. Could you help? Even just opening in the mornings is very helpful. You would need to do a weekly stretch if possible. If you think you can help, please contact David Gorton 01992 551430 dgorton1@btinternet.com

Many thanks to those who have already responded



Easter & Holy Week at St Mary's

We had a wonderful Holy Week and Easter at St Mary's and also enjoyed the Holy Week evening services at St Andrew's. Many thanks to all those who attended and participated and of course all those who without their hard work it wouldn't happen. Here are some photos to enjoy and reflect on the true meaning of Easter and the Holy Week



Palm Sunday procession from the front gate into church through the west doors singing the hymn and carrying our palm crosses



The Last Hour – Singing the last hymn of the service around the bare cross with its' crown of thorns and nails and wood at the foot



The 5.30am Dawn Eucharist service on Easter Sunday was attended by just over 40 people from both churches. A very special service both outside and inside the church and followed by breakfast in the Brace Room. Thanks to all who attended but especially those who organised everything so early in the morning



The Easter Sunday All-Age Holy Communion service was attended by over 100 people including 20 children. Rev Alan gave an amusing but meaningful sermon based on some “well known” characters but this time made of stone so they had been in existence since time began and seen the whole “story.” Certainly the children were more aware of them than the adults! Everyone took flowers up to dress the bare cross and an Easter egg hunt took place in the churchyard for the younger ones. So a special day for everyone



BEDS & HERTS Historic Churches Trust

Bike 'n Hike 14th September 2024

The result of the 2024 Bike 'n Hike in aid of Beds and Herts Historic Churches Trust has been published. There are 21 areas within the Trust and our Parish is part of the Hertford Deanery, which comprises 37 Churches of which 18 participated in this annual event.



The Bike @n Hike is the most important fundraiser for the Trust and is key to enabling it to continue to give grants to Churches and Chapels for the care and repair of their buildings, which are so important to the lives of our towns and villages.

In the Hertford Deanery, 42 people were actively involved, amongst them 5 from St Mary's. As a whole the Trust raised £103,647.12 from the event, which exceeded the target of £100,000.00. The Hertford Deanery raised £9,878.76 and the contribution from St Mary's was £1,834.26 (including Gift Aid).

In the area covered by the Trust there were a total of 169 Churches taking part and a total of 465 people were actively involved.

The 2025 Bike 'n Hike will take place on 13th September 2025. Any participation, encouragement and/or support will be greatly appreciated. The Church Organiser for St Mary's is Christopher Maunder Taylor who will be very pleased to hear from you : 07860 228294 maunderc@aol.com.



This publication was kindly printed by St Andrew's church

WWW.CUCUMBERFIELDS.CO.UK/EVENTS



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SATURDAY 17TH MAY, 11.30 - 16.30

£110

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Guided Meditation Walk in Ancient Woodlands

Rooting into the calm of nature's embrace

Sound and Reiki Healing

To re-balance and renew

Delicious Seasonal Lunch

To nourish body and soul

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The Friends of Hertingfordbury St Mary

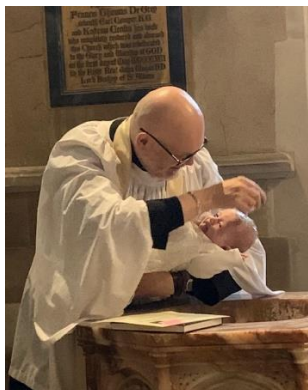
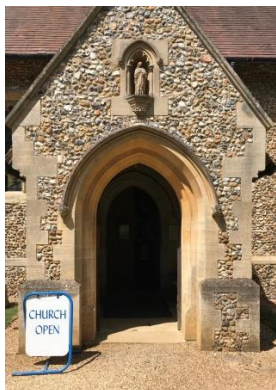
Events 2025

Saturday 12 July – Summer Fun Day at St Mary's with cream tea

Helping the Friends

The Friends of Hertingfordbury St Mary was granted charitable status in 2023 (Charity number 1206041).

The purpose of The Friends is to raise money for the restoration and preservation of the church building and churchyard. The funds are not for the day to day running of the church. That's the responsibility of the congregation. We should like to make sure that this beautiful church is here for future generations.



If you would like to make a donation there is a card reader at the back of the church on the wall by the South Door or please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for your support

Helen Bishop the fobury@outlook.com / 07746 694890

Sponsor a Hymn Book at St Mary's ?



Would you like to sponsor a hymn book? Dedicate it to the memory of someone special or a beloved pet. They would forever be in our church. St Mary's needs to renew it's hymn books in the near future.

More information to come.....

Welwyn Garden City Male Voice Choir in Concert at St Mary's

We once again welcomed back the Welwyn Garden City Male Voice Choir to St Mary's at the end of March. Their first major concert of 2025 in their 90th year. They love singing at St Mary's and we love having them! As well as their own programme they believe in encouraging young musicians and singers and wherever possible use their concerts to showcase young talent. At this concert they were joined by Soraia Jorge, a young student who played the violin and sang, both solo, during the first and second half of the concert



The choir in full flow and Soraia playing the violin solo

It is a marvellous way to raise funds for the church and we are so indebted to the performance and generosity of the choir and their supporters. Thank you to Kay for organising the evening with the choir and also many thanks to those who provide the food and refreshments for the choir and wine for the audience. These are always special evenings



Easter Church Clean

Many thanks to all the people who came and helped clean the church on the Saturday before Easter. Great team work and refreshments and the church looked lovely for the Easter services

**Spot the cleaner on the left!
She's very thorough!**

I'd be Proud to be a Donkey

We are continuing to highlight some of the very meaningful messages from our church sermons, not only by Revs Alan & Bill, but also by our inspiring team of Lay Readers of Worship. This month Lay Reader Geoff (partly edited) reflects on the events of Palm Sunday and Jesus entering Jerusalem on a donkey.



Palm Sunday

Whenever we have a bible reading with a good story to it, like Palm Sunday, I often like to ask myself where we might find ourselves among the characters we hear about. If this was a play, what part would be yours?

In one sense, for Palm Sunday we had already chosen our part. A procession into our church.

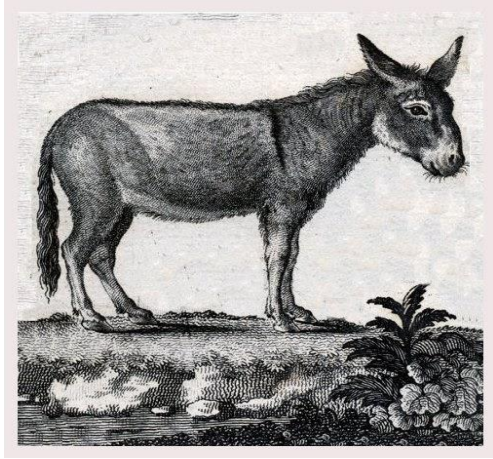
Just a bit of theatre, in an English village churchyard? Well, yes and why not? The whole of Palm Sunday was itself a stunning act of political theatre.

Jesus, usually so reticent about declaring who he is, goes public in typically Jewish fashion. He let's them proclaim him as the new King. A King riding on a donkey, promised by the prophet Zecharia 400 years before. The palm branches, a joyful procession to the Temple, the cloaks on the ground, the messages were clear.

But can we really claim a place in that crowd? We have read of only a short journey from Bethany to Jerusalem, 2 miles maybe. But for the crowd it is the culmination of a Passover pilgrimage. They are Galileans, northerners, they have already walked 90 miles or more to get to Bethany. It is the long walk of faithful pilgrimage and patience that earns them a place in that crowd. Have we done what it takes to earn our place on the stage?

Jesus, like his followers, knows he is an outsider. Galileans have a different dialect, suspect manners and questionable ethnic heritage. The Judean establishment views them with anxious suspicion. The Palm Sunday procession has a destination; the Temple. The embodiment in stone of Judea's faith and national identity. There will be rejection, and upheaval. If Jesus is the new cornerstone, building must begin again from the very foundations upwards. All that is there now, must first be brought down. Are we, the pilgrim crowd, ready for that challenge?

There's another crowd in Jerusalem already. We will meet them outside Governor Pilate's residence five days from now, the Pharisees who plead with the pilgrims to calm down and keep quiet. That crowd is not ready for the challenge, not ready for the radical renewal Jesus offers. They have not made the pilgrimage, and like most 'insiders' they are happy to defend their status quo. Let us take care that we do not find ourselves in that crowd when the chips are down.



The Donkey

But now on a lighter note let's go back to the character in the drama that didn't join us for our procession on Palm Sunday – the donkey!

It is perhaps unfortunate that to our modern, western and largely urban mind, donkeys are imagined as either cute, or ridiculous. Donkey rides are for children. They were once a staple of English seaside holidays – you'll still find them at some of the more retro resorts and at petting zoos around the country.

But to our eyes an adult riding a donkey looks clumsy and out of proportion, and of course donkeys – along with their near-cousins the mules – are proverbially stubborn and uncooperative. Not what you want when you are a Messiah needing to make a big entrance into your capital city.

But that is not what 1st Century Palestinian people saw. The donkey was the go-to working animal, the white van of its day, and the minibus. Hard working, reliable and cheap to run. Adaptable as a draft animal, a pack animal or even for passenger transport. In the rough, hilly environment of Judea and Galilee, it was also wonderfully sure-footed, because donkeys have the brilliant gift of a very wide field of vision; they are one of the few animals that can look ahead where they are going, and see their own back legs at the same time!

But donkeys, significantly, did not do war! Old Zechariah promises a king who comes in peace and humility. He contemptuously waves away the horses that draw the chariots of Kings and noblemen into battle. A King who is one of us, not one set above us.

Much of the world still uses donkeys. A few years back I encountered working donkeys, to my great amazement, in the streets of Cairo – pulling their carts in the morning rush hour, weaving amongst the motorised traffic. The motor vehicles – an incongruous mix of businessmen's Mercs, battered old pick-up trucks and cheap Asian cars – swerved, surged and braked chaotically through the congestion. In contrast the donkey carts skipped through the spaces with confident agility and complete disregard for traffic rules, and I pondered ruefully that I would probably have had a quicker, safer and less bumpy journey on a donkey cart than I did in my chauffeur-driven BMW!

Maybe that's another reason Jesus chose a donkey to get him to the Temple – an example to us. We are also called to carry Christ to where he needs to go - to the temple of our humanity in all its frailty, in all its need of restoration and reconstruction. He needs people who are used to covering the miles and carrying the burdens, reliably, unfussily, coping with the busy traffic of life however it confronts us, living humbly and peacefully, and bravely. He needs people with that divine gift of a wide field of vision that sees the wonders and needs of the world and the safe paths to travel through it. He needs people who can hold in one vision the often difficult reality of where we are now, and the beauty of we are called to be. If that's what a donkey can do, **I'd be proud to be a donkey – for Christ.**

Geoff Oates

Easter Experience at St Mary's

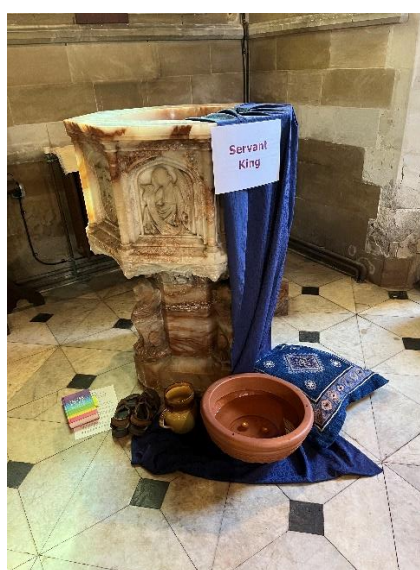
In the latter part of March our two churches welcomed local school children to "Experience Easter" in the church. At St Mary's we welcomed the pupils of Hertingfordbury Cowper School to give them the opportunity to hear the Easter story in an up-close and interactive way.

Thank you to all the wonderful volunteers from both churches who helped with supplying props, setting up, providing refreshments and storytelling. The Easter story really came alive for the 300 children from both schools

Below are some of the various stations that told the Easter story



(L-R) Resurrection, New Life – Alone, The Garden of Gethsemane - Remember Me, The Last Supper



(L-R) The Crucifixion, Sharing Our Sorrows – Servant King, Jesus washes the Disciples' feet – Easter biscuits! Thank you Hazel, Carol & Jenny



CHRISTIAN AID INTER-CHURCH QUIZ
Saturday 10th May
St Andrews Centre, St Andrew's Church

Doors open at 6.30 for a prompt 7pm start
Tickets £12.50 per person to include ploughman's supper.

Bring your own drinks and glasses.

Tables of 6 to 8 people. Numbers limited so first come, first served.
Tickets from Sue Mulligan 07913 666296 or suemulligan@ntlworld.com

All profits to Christian Aid
CHRISTIAN AID WEEK: 11-17 May

The advertisement features a background image of a tropical beach with large boulders and turquoise water. In the top left corner, the "travel counsellors" logo is displayed. On the right side, the text reads "Personal Travel Agent. Your holiday, made simple." followed by a paragraph describing the service. A circular portrait of Jo Harvey, a travel counsellor, is positioned in the lower-left quadrant. Below her name, her contact information is provided: "TRAVEL COUNSELLOR", "01992 880040", "jo.harvey@travelcounsellors.com", and "travelcounsellors.com/jo.harvey". A QR code is located at the bottom center, and the Trustpilot logo with a five-star rating is in the bottom right corner.

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'ROOTED IN JESUS, GROWING IN WISDOM,
OVERFLOWING WITH THANKFULNESS'
(COLOSSIANS 2:2)

Hertingfordbury Cowper C of E (VA) Primary School

News from Hertingfordbury Cowper

Our Advocates visit Mayfair Lodge Care Home

The children in our Advocate team are working towards their Archbishop's Young Leader's Award. They have to take the lead in ideas to help our community. With this, the children designed some Easter craft activities and spent a morning at Mayfair Lodge Care Home working alongside some of their residents to make these. The children also read some stories and sang some songs. It was a joy to watch the children working so well alongside the residents, and heartwarming to see the smiles on all their faces.



Hertfordshire Schools' Gala

On Sunday 23rd March, a group of Year 5 and Year 6 children took part in the Hertfordshire School's Gala at the Royal Albert Hall. The children joined a massed choir of primary and secondary school singers and performed alongside the Hertfordshire Schools' Symphony Orchestra and County Youth Choir. They sang many songs including 'When I Grow Up' from

Matilda, 'Make Your Own Kind of Music' by Cass Elliot, 'You're the Voice' by John Farnham. As always, the children made staff and parents feel extremely proud.



Year 4 Residential Trip to London

The sun was shining for the Year 4 visit to London and the children had a lot of fun exploring many sights. They had a tour and drama workshop at The Globe Theatre. This was followed by a River Thames boat cruise and a trip on the London Eye. We slept aboard the HMS Belfast which is docked on the River Thames. The children learnt about the history of the ship, enjoyed seeing the London sights lit up at night and also learnt how the alphabet can be represented in different maritime flags. The next day, we climbed the 206 steps up to the walkway of Tower Bridge above the River Thames, and the children bravely walked on the glass walkway.



Village Litter Pick

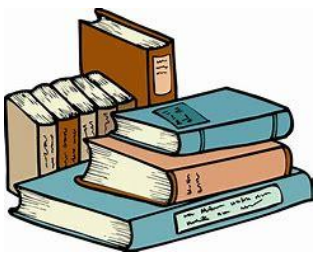
On a Saturday in early April, 33 volunteers gathered in 12 teams to carry out the spring litter pick around Hertingfordbury and the Five Greens. We were so lucky with the weather and it was a glorious sunny morning with light winds.

It was good to hear some teams reported less litter but the main routes were still pretty disgraceful. It is bemusing to see some of the extraordinary things some people feel they can abandon in the countryside. This time around the haul included a quantity of grey pipe, a large gas cylinder, a bed head, half tractor tyres and a bike frame.

Thanks to Paul Rochford who allows us to meet at the nursery and for the loan of a pick up truck and to the White Horse in Hertingfordbury whose friendly staff greeted the volunteers with refreshments after the event. Finally thanks again to our volunteers who have done a splendid job cleaning up the villages and countryside and leaving it looking so lovely without litter spoiling the views.



If you would like to join us at a future litter pick, please contact Sarah Sullivan sullivanpipers@icloud.com. - Sarah Sullivan & Ray Green



Recreation Ground Library

A library, containing books, both fiction and non-fiction, including a good children's section, DVD's and games has been set up in the tennis pavilion on the Hertingfordbury recreation ground.

This is a free resource for all Hertingfordbury residents. Access can be gained at any time by the use of keys that are kept in a key-safe at the pavilion. Should anyone have any books, DVD's, or games to donate to the library new stock is always welcome.

If you are interested in using this facility please contact Penny or Mick Barratt on 07715 378212 and they can provide you with the key safe access code



Step into Spring at Celtic Harmony Camp



May is a beautiful time to visit Celtic Harmony Camp, just outside Brickendon, where history and nature come together for a truly unique day out. Nestled in ancient woodland, our Iron Age village is full of exciting things to see and do this month – perfect for families, friends, or anyone looking for something a little different.

We're thrilled to announce the launch of our brand-new Brickendon Disc Golf course, now open and ready for players of all ages. Whether you're a beginner or looking for a fun outdoor challenge, it's a great way to explore the woods and enjoy the fresh air.



The ever-popular Woodland Bistro is open every weekend, serving up delicious focaccias, burgers, and sweet treats in a relaxed forest setting – ideal for a lunch stop during your visit. Reconnect as a family in the great outdoors with our Family Forest School, led by the wonderful Nathalie. Designed for children and their grown-ups, this session encourages playful exploration, outdoor learning, and shared discovery. From den building and nature trails to storytelling and sensory play, it's the perfect way to build confidence, spark curiosity, and enjoy quality time together in the woods.

There's always something new to discover at Celtic Harmony Camp, stay up-to-date with the latest events at <https://celticharmony.org/events/>.



Church Flower Rota - May

4th Sue Parsell - 11th Alison Robinson

18th Sue Payne - 25th Sharron Maxwell & Penny Duce



We are extremely grateful for the time, generosity and skill that the flower team give each week to make the church look so beautiful

Friends of Panshanger Park

Panshanger Park is a wonderful natural area within our wider community and so the Friends of Panshanger Park are sharing some of it's history - some of which will include the village and greens and some not.

Almeric Paget Massage Corps

This month Geoffrey Cordingley recalls Almeric Paget and his wife Pauline who spent time at Panshanger and who set up the Almeric Paget Massage Corps in the First World War which turned out to be a forerunner to modern physiotherapy that we know today.

Almeric Hugh Paget, (14/3/1861 – 22/9/1949), was born in London, the sixth and last son of Lord Alfred Paget. His grandfather had commanded the British Cavalry at the Battle of Waterloo.

After a brief spell working for Midland Railway he emigrated to the USA where he travelled around, establishing a cattle ranch in Iowa, was an estate agent in Minnesota, before joining his brother, Arthur, in New York. There he met and married the American heiress Pauline Payne Whitney in 1895.

The same year, the Pagets moved to England, ostensibly for Pauline's health, where initially they lived in Suffolk and had two daughters. Olive Cecilia and Dorothy Wyndham.

Paget was an accomplished yachtsman and he became MP for Cambridge in 1910, holding the seat until he relinquished it in 1917.

Almeric made a most important contribution to the War effort when he formed the Almeric Paget Massage Corps in August 1914. Pauline had suffered from diphtheria in 1894 and one of the reasons the couple moved to England was ostensibly for Pauline to be nearer European spas with easier travel to milder countries in the winter. She also gained significant relief from massage treatment.

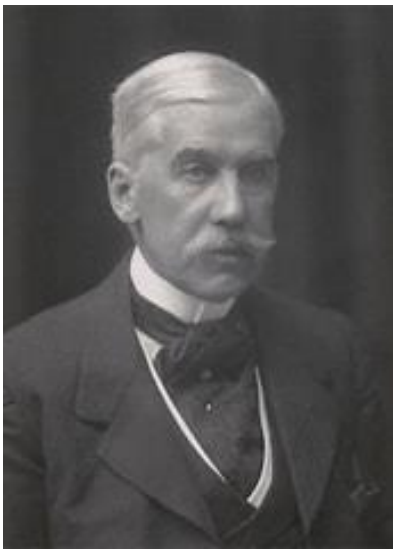
The Pagets agreed to cover the cost of the 50 fully trained masseurs in the Massage Corps who initially were based in British military hospitals. With the significant increase in the list of casualties, this number was quickly increased to 100. In March 1915 the Army Medical Service, announced that the Government would take over funding of the Corps and it would henceforth be known as Almeric Paget Military Massage Corps. Although the corps was named after Almeric, it's thought that Pauline was the driving force behind the massage efforts and possibly much of the original funding.

In 1914 the Pagets rented Panshanger for the summer – the Desboroughs being elsewhere, e.g. Taplow, London & abroad. Presumably it was now easier to let the house since the previous autumn Lady Desborough had organised a series of improvements which included central heating and new bathrooms; the drains and roof were redone, the bells electrified and five lawn tennis and one hard court laid. Richard Davenport-Hines in his book, *Ettie*, claims that the central heating was 'installed throughout' but I suspect he meant through the

Almeric Paget Massage Corps

Desborough's, visitors' and entertaining rooms. It's difficult to believe that Ettie, who was always careful with money, made much change to the service rooms such as the kitchen and the servants' quarters. It's believed that these improvements were funded by selling the small Raphael 'Madonna and child' for £70,000 (£6m today).

Pauline took a great and presumably protective interest in the women masseurs but unfortunately she died on 22nd November 1916. Interestingly her will stated that her fortune would be divided between her two daughters and they carried on funding work in massage. Pauline is buried with a memorial in St. Mary's Churchyard, Hertingfordbury.



(L-R) Almeric Paget – Pauline Paget memorial at St Mary's – Garden Party at Panshanger hosted by Pauline in July 1914

In January 1918, Paget became Lord Queenborough. Further massage centres were added to Army camps and at the end of the war there were 2,000 masseurs in the service. Men blinded in the war were also trained as masseurs.

Almeric Paget rented Panshanger again in 1918 for two years. Ironically the Desboroughs 'camped out' in the house whilst Ettie organised the cleaning of the house from January to March 1920 after this two year let, so, in spite of his support for massage, cleanliness does not seem to have been a priority for Almeric, or perhaps Ettie was just over fussy.

Almeric married Edith Starr Miller in 1921 and they lived at Camfield Place, Hatfield until they separated in 1932. Almeric died in September 1949 in Hatfield having made a considerable contribution to helping the recuperation of Great War soldiers and laying the foundations for modern physiotherapy.

Footnote: Their daughter, Dorothy Paget (21/2/1905 – 9/2/1960), was a well known racehorse owner and gambler who must have got her interest from her mother's Whitney family whose family were one of the most prominent thoroughbred horseracing and breeding families in America. She too is buried in St Mary's Hertingfordbury churchyard next to her mother's memorial.

MAKE A CHANGE

BECOME A COUNCILLOR

BECOMING A LOCAL COUNCILLOR

As a local councillor you can become a voice for your community and make real change. Local councillors are the champions of their community who invest time in local projects and issues to the benefit of residents and the neighbourhood.

Local councillor responsibilities fall into three main categories:

- Decision-making
- Monitoring
- Getting involved locally

Local councillors attend to local needs of residents, local groups and businesses, make decisions on local services, collaborate with district and borough councils to adhere to local needs, and progress vital projects to invest in the future of the community.

To find out more, get in touch

clerk@hertingfordbury-pc.gov.uk

We bring people together through a shared curiosity for the arts. We meet on the last Thursday of the month to hear arts related lectures in a comfortable, friendly atmosphere at the The Spotlight in Hoddesdon. We meet for coffee at 10am, followed by the lecture at 10.30. **Visitors are very welcome at the lectures for a small fee.** Contact Philip Juniper at kpjuniper@yahoo.co.uk for more information on joining

Upcoming lectures

29 May – **Thomas Heatherwick: A Modern Leonardo?**

26 June – **100th Anniversary of the Paris Exhibition**

25 September – **The Bloomsbury Group: The Art of Vanessa Bell**

For more information please go to our website

www.theartssocietyleastherts.org.uk

Registered Charity no 281752

Member Society of The Arts Society



SCOTTISH DANCING IN HERTFORD – 65 YEARS AND COUNTING!

Hello Hertingfordbury and The Greens!

Have you done the Dashing White Sergeant at a barn dance or the Eightsome Reel at a wedding? At South East Herts Scottish Country Dance Society (SEHSCDS) we do the same sort of dances, but with a bit more polish.

Scottish country dancing is a very social form of dance which relies on mutual co-operation. Following the patterns of the dance and dancing in time together is fun, exciting and highly satisfying. We are a friendly group of people and would be delighted to get to know you. So if you're interested in something fun, which helps you get fitter and make new friends, then come along and try Scottish Dancing for yourself. Complete beginners always welcome. First session free.

We meet on Tuesday evenings in term time at Sele Farm Community Centre, Hertford, SG14 2LW. Visit <https://www.rscdsherts.org/south-east-herts> or email us on sehscds@hotmail.com for more info.

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Hertingfordbury Parish Council

Chairman – Paul Rochford

Vice Chairman – Haidy Blake

Councillors – Niki Gordon, Roger Morris, Simon Bostock, Lesley Clark

Member of Parliament – Chris Hinchliff

County Councillor – Ken Crofton

District Councillor – Bob Deering

If you wish to contact the Parish Council please contact the Clerk

Clerk: Katie Eyre at clerk@hertingfordbury-pc.gov.uk

Council Meetings

Meetings are at Hertingfordbury Cowper School between 7pm – 9pm. Members of the public are welcome. Please see website for latest dates

The Annual Parish meeting will be held on Wednesday 14th May at 7pm at The Cowper Hall, Hertingfordbury Cowper Primary School, Birch Green, Hertford SG14 2LR

The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council will follow immediately after at 7:30pm Press and public are welcome to attend.

To report an issue with fly tipping, highway fault, overflowing rubbish, street lighting etc, please call East Herts District Council directly on 01279 655261 or go to <https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/faultreporting/>



Defibrillators

Please note that Defibrillators are housed on the outside walls of the.....

- Parish Room (The Brace Room) at St Mary's Church, Hertingfordbury
- Cowper School, Birch Green – outside the school gate



Church Cleaners

We really need people (men or women!) to join our church cleaning rota

It takes a couple of hours every few weeks. We want our beautiful church to always look its best

If you can help please contact Virginia on 01992 583560



Churchyard Volunteers Needed



Volunteers required for grass cutting

Between 9 - 12 noon on a Saturday, we are now trying to coordinate dates to coincide with our weddings at St Mary's

Reward is a picnic lunch and good company..... and a laugh!

Please contact David Gorton for more information and timings if you think you can help

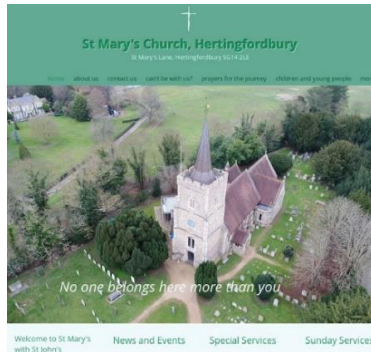


Volunteers needed to open/close St. Mary's



As part of St. Mary's commitment to be 'Here with you, Here for you' we are pleased that we have been able to keep the church open during the day. However, to do so requires volunteers to open and close the building every day. As a village if we want the church to be open – and I think we do - we need some new volunteers. It is not an onerous task.

Please give serious thought to joining the rota and speak to one of the Churchwardens. Thank you for considering this



www.hertingfordburystmary.org

The St Mary's website features all the church news including the latest digital Parish News in full colour

This website is a vital communication tool to be able to follow updates on the church. If you wish to contribute in any way please contact Rachel via e mail raich.carter@yahoo.co.uk



WhatsApp Groups

If you would like to be part of the **St Mary's Church WhatsApp Group** please contact David Gorton on 07544 702241

Hertingfordbury Village WhatsApp Group is a sociable community group. For more information please contact Mick Barratt

Brace Room

The Brace Room at St Mary's Church is available for hire for anybody in our community. This could be for meetings, exercise sessions or any other purpose. Includes excellent toilet and kitchen facilities. For more information contact David Gorton 01992 551430 or dgorton1@btinternet.com



Zoom Services

While we welcome you to services at St Mary's, Zoom services available for your worship

Please contact the church office if you'd like to be added to our mailing list and receive the service or meeting invitation details: standrew.hertford@btinternet.com or contact Robin Bishop to be added to the St Mary's distribution list

Twice monthly on Wednesday

Mindfulness & Meditation 7.30pm

Every Sunday

Service of the Word 10.30am

(Every 3rd Sunday will offer Communion)

Compline 7.00pm

Please note that a recording of the Reading, Sermon and Prayers from the Sunday morning service is now available on the St Mary's website

www.hertingfordburystmary.org



Mindfulness & Meditation

Explore the riches of Christian Meditation and how it fits with the practice and insights of Mindfulness

Each weekly session is free and lasts for about 45 minutes. We begin with some gentle exercises to help still the mind and then a guided meditation, followed by some silence. Beginners especially welcome!

Online by Zoom on the first and third Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm except for the first Wednesday which will also be in person at St Andrew's church

For further details and Zoom codes please see our website

www.hertfordstandrews.co.uk

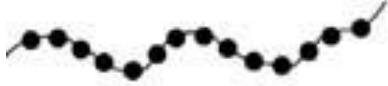
or contact the church office 01992 504373 standrew.hertford@btinternet.com

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WALTER WALLINGER CHARITY

Walter Wallinger died in 1709 leaving "Four hundred pounds for the placing of poor children of this Parish as Apprentices."

Times have moved on and the trustees of the charity now take the view that the income from the endowment should be used to give grants for educational purposes to people under 25 who have for at least two years lived, or been educated, within 'the ancient parish of Hertingfordbury' which today roughly means Hertingfordbury village and the five Greens and outlying houses.

Something of the order of £1500 is available annually. Typically grants are one-off payments not exceeding £450 for something that will help with the applicant's education in a broad sense, such as a musical instrument, specialist equipment, a field or other course. Grants are available to anyone in school, FE or Higher Education.

An application form is obtainable from Robin Bishop, the Chairman of Walter Wallinger's charity at robinhbishop@gmail.com



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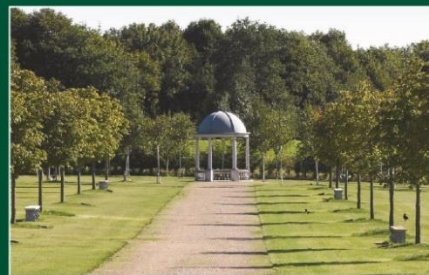
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