

# The Welwyn Magazine

with Woolmer Green



**King Charles III Coronation 6th May 2023**

**May 2023**

*60p*

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May 2023

## PUBLISHERS

St Mary's and St Michael's  
Churchwardens

## COVER

St Edward's Crown - first used 1661

## MAGAZINE ARTICLES

Send by 1st of preceding month.  
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## EDITORS' NOTES

**Please submit 'articles' by the 1st of the month preceding publication.** We aim to publish reports and articles that will be of interest to our local community. If you would like to suggest a theme or article please email: [magazine@welwyn.org.uk](mailto:magazine@welwyn.org.uk)

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# The Rector's Letter



Dear Friends

Just after every Easter for the past decade, I have cycled from Welwyn to our home in North Norfolk. It was the first long distance ride I ever attempted, and now I find it a useful 'season' opener, even if these days the rather flat route lacks a bit of challenge. Given planned trips to the Peak District and the Vosges mountains in the weeks following, I think that will soon be remedied.

This year I will be taking a slightly longer and different route. A new pilgrimage walking route has just been established from St Magnus the Martyr by London Bridge to the shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham in North Norfolk, so I am working out a cycling route to accompany the walking one.

In 1061 Lady Richeldis of Faverches had a vision of the family home of Mary and Joseph, and in the vision was commissioned to recreate the 'Holy House' as place of pilgrimage and prayer. It became one of the most popular sites of pilgrimage in Europe, until it was destroyed during the Dissolution. It was, however, revived in the 1930s and remains a popular sight of pilgrimage today. May is sometimes referred to as the 'month of Mary,' and the two big pilgrimages to Walsingham take place on its two bank holidays each year.

The site of the Holy House reminds us that Christianity – much like Judaism, is a 'domestic' religion centred around a family home. The home of Jesus was a normal

family home, with its joys, tensions and dramas, if the gospels are anything to go by, and our homes too can be places at the centre of our spiritual lives.

Walsingham may not be to everyone's taste as a pilgrim destination, but the idea of pilgrimage itself has recently come back into fashion. It is not wrong to say that it is a sort of holiday – if you read Chaucer you will realise that pilgrimages were by no means undertaken by the pious and upright – it is a holiday which includes a journey, a purpose and a destination. It can take many forms. To be honest it is my sort of holiday – I am not a great one for lying on a beach day after day, though I can understand that for some that it is the sort of holiday they need. This one will only take two days but I have been on much longer pilgrimages in the past.

If anyone is interested there is a guide book of the walking route, and my cycle route will be included on the website and the second edition of the guide book – but more than that, do think about journeys with a destination and a purpose – an obvious metaphor for life, and you do not need to be religious to undertake one.

Yours

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

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## Annual Quiz for Christian Aid

20th May at 7.00 pm

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Pay on the night - suggested donation £10+ per person  
(£15+ with fish & chips)

to reserve places and supper if required

Contact: [rector@welwyn.org.uk](mailto:rector@welwyn.org.uk)

### Welwyn Parish Council **Annual Parish Assembly**

10th May 2023

7.30 pm

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from Council on the past year,  
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### **The Welwyn Magazine with Woolmer Green**

We hope you enjoy reading  
the magazine each month.  
There are 10 issues per year.

The annual subscriptions  
are due for collection next  
month in June.

The price will once again  
remain at 60p per issue, but  
if anyone would like to make  
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Thank you



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# Can you help and Volunteer?

## Danesbury Fernery and the National Garden Scheme (NGS) opening

Danesbury Fernery has come a long way since 2015 when work started on the derelict plot. I doubt many of the volunteers who helped out in those early days envisaged opening under the 'National Garden Scheme' so soon, and maybe not ever!

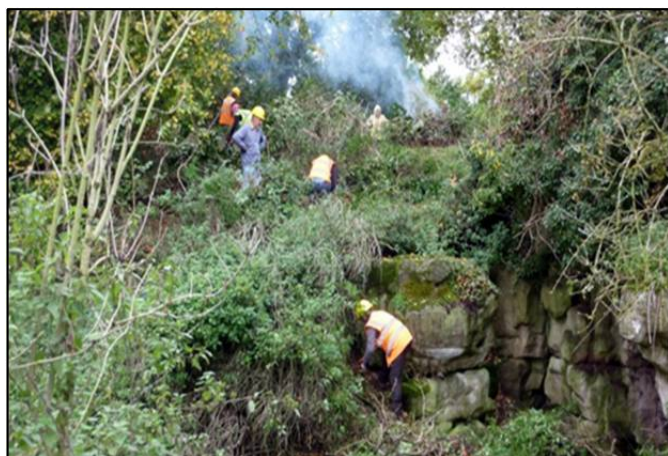
Two Charity led days will be held on **Thursday 8th June** and on **Saturday 10th June from 5.30pm to 8.30pm**.

We are expecting many non locals to venture here from far and wide to see this remarkable restored Victorian Fernery. The current volunteers will be

working hard to get the Fernery ready for the events and also helping out at the events too.

We would be very grateful if local people could also offer help by assisting our parking marshalls, drink sellers and plant sellers. If you can help in anyway please email:

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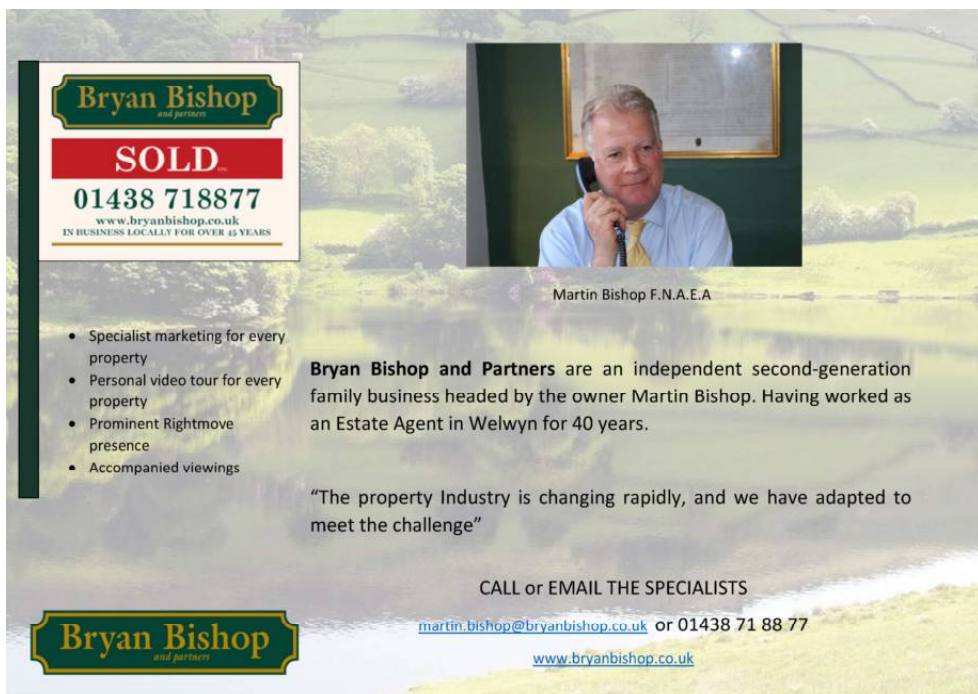


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## At the Big Breakfast

**Bacon, sausage, egg, tomato, baked beans, Judaism, Christianity and Islam..... quite some mix at 8am on a Saturday morning.**

The occasion was the 'Big Breakfast' on March 18<sup>th</sup>, formerly The Men's Breakfast, and the cooks (still all men, so chefs) were very busy cooking for some 40 plus early risers in Church House.

Despite being all-inclusive the attendees were mostly men. This was my first experience at this event. Unfortunately, no one told me until afterwards that I had been nominated to write this report on the talk! Fortunately I know the speaker, as you probably do, and he kindly gave me his notes afterwards. That speaker was the Revd David Munchin, so very little introduction was needed.

The first surprising fact we learnt was that the Abrahamic faiths (the three mentioned above) account for 60% of the world's population... so along with the other religions not touched upon (eg Hinduism, Buddhism etc) only a tiny minority of the world's population are atheists.

Up on the screen flashed a picture of a VW camper van circa 1960s – several of us were old enough to remember the hippy trail, off to Katmandu. (Had any of the grey-heads sitting there had

made that pilgrimage? None admitted it.) *'But now that route would be impossible'* said David. Why? The Iranian revolution put a stop to all that, the world is now a very different place.

It was interesting to discover the numbers too – after all our speaker is a mathematician, so while there are only a tiny number of Jews in the world today, 15 million, there are 2.5 billion Christians and 2 billion Muslims.

*[Afterwards I discovered how to put those numbers into perspective: go back one million seconds and you'll be in the middle of last week, go back one billion seconds and you'd be in 1992.]*

David took us on a whistle-stop tour through the history of all three religions, starting with Judaism, he explained why they no longer have Kings or any temple, but that what they have always had is their law, and what they have always wanted – and did not have since well before the time of Christ – was their own land, Israel. For thousands of years, Israel has been ruled by others. Finally, it became theirs again in 1947. However, most Jews do not live in Israel today, far more live in America. Due to the many years of diaspora and persecution, Jews had scattered throughout Europe and northern Africa. In contrast with other religious groups, Jews are an ethnic group, many are now secular but retain their cultural identity.

*continued on p11*




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## At the Big Breakfast *continued from p9*

Moving on to Christianity, again David took us through the many upheavals of the early church with splits that resulted in Eastern Orthodox churches and Copts splitting away from the Roman churches, then later on the Reformation... with Martin Luther nailing his reforms onto the door of the church in Wittenberg.

Did you think Henry VIII became an Anglican? Wrong! David explained that despite founding the Church of England, Henry VIII was named Defender of the Faith (that is the faith of the Catholic Church) by none other than the Pope; to this day all our Monarchs are also called by this title. So, Henry VIII lived and died as a Catholic; conversely John Wesley and Charles Wesley lived and died as Anglicans... despite being the fathers of Methodism.

And missionaries? Another surprise - they were banned by the East India Company. Why? Because many missionaries were only trying to alleviate the exploitation of colonialism. David admitted to having rather a soft spot for missionaries.

Time was moving on, David only had eight minutes left to introduce us to Islam. The founder, Mohammed lived from 570 to 632, and the Koran was revealed to him as the perfect word of God, the religion of Abraham. Muslims follow the Five Pillars: Creed, Prayer,

Almsgiving, Pilgrimage (to Mecca) and Fasting during Ramadan. Islam does not separate 'Church and Faith': their Law code of Hadith encompasses all of life. Their Empires called Caliphates were ruled by a Caliph (notably of Baghdad) but the last Caliphate ended when the Ottoman Empire was abolished in 1924 and the modern state of Turkey was founded.

Early on there was an argument over who would succeed Mohammed, the religion split into mainly Sunni and Shia. Today 85% of Muslims are Sunni, most others are Shia although there are many smaller denominations, like Sufis with their Whirling Dervishes, and Alawites – President Bashir of Syria is one.

So, three religions explained with knowledge and wit, David concluded with the fact that for most of their history Jews would rather live under Muslims than Christians and that not all religions are the same. Our beliefs vary but we can be tolerant and work together for common good. He told us about the case of the Archbishop who got into hot water over Sharia Law... but I'll leave you to discover this for yourself, as by popular demand, David will give this whole fascinating talk again to another group later this year.

As for that breakfast, I'll be back again for more, it was excellent.

*Vernonne Allan*

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**Regular readers will know that Hertfordshire Police deliver neighbourhood watch services via an email messaging system called "OWL".**

Residents who do not use email can receive a limited voice messaging service if they have a landline telephone number.

To provide this service efficiently for as many people as possible, **OWL** relies on a network of volunteers who help keep the database up to date, by noticing when their neighbours move in or out, and adjusting the records accordingly. These kind people are called "coordinators" and they each look after their own street, or part of the street if it is very long.

Currently there are a number of streets without a coordinator, and we would very much like to recruit some new volunteers. You could do this as part of **'The Big Help Out'** on Monday 8th May, or at any other time to suit yourself.

To find out if your own street needs coordinating, simply log into **OWL** and you will see the name of your Local Coordinator displayed under the "local" tab. If the name shown is a member of police staff, **and not a named private individual**, then you are without a

coordinator. Lower down on the same tab you will see one of us listed as Ward

Coordinator – simply click on the "send an email" icon to offer your services as a volunteer. We will be delighted to hear from you!

When logging into **OWL**, your username is your email address and, if you have forgotten your password, there is an option to create a new one on the login page.

Some of the streets without coordinators are:-

- \* School Lane, Welwyn
- \* Hall Gardens
- \* part of Hawbush Rise,
- \* Milk Churn Way (including the flats)
- \* a number of streets in the area to the west of the BP Nodeway garage
- \* and streets to the west of the B197 below Mardleywood.

All **OWL** members can help us in a small way by recommending **OWL** to their friends and neighbours, and by encouraging them to join using the link below. **OWL** is available throughout Hertfordshire. The more members we have, the safer we all are.



*John Mitchell and Valerie Richards*  
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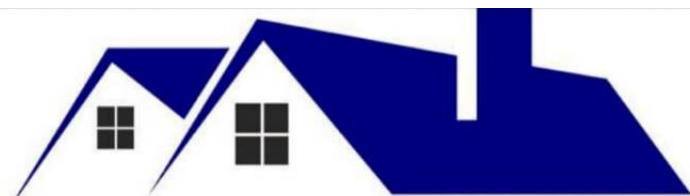
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# Notes from PCC meeting 20th March 2023

The minutes from the previous meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> January were approved and there were no matters arising.

**Finance:** The Treasurer's reports for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022 had been circulated in advance of the meeting. The Treasurer briefly ran through the various sections of her reports, the first being the year end results which showed a result similar to the previous year. The PCC approved the draft annual report and financial statement. It was agreed that the chairman should sign the final document and that it be commended to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in May.

Contracts have now been entered into with EoN Next for electricity supply at both churches on fixed tariffs commencing 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023. Estimates indicate that electricity and gas usage may cost £23,000 more in 2023 than in 2022. Steps will have to be taken to mitigate this increase. The idea of holding a specific 'gift day' to encourage donating was considered. Others called for an action plan to be drawn up for fund raising to pay for the increase in the running costs of St Mary's and St Michael's churches.

**Fabric:** At St Michael's church some roof tiles are spalling (flaking) and will need to be replaced. It would help to reduce this problem if the moss growing on the roof was removed but this would be quite expensive. Repairs and improvements to the organ at St Michael's have been completed.

At St Mary's Church House a replacement hot water urn for the kitchen is needed. It was agreed to proceed with the purchase and installation. It will be plumbed in to provide continuous boiling water and to avoid the need to fill it by hand.

The quinquennial inspection of St Mary's Church has taken place but the architect's report is awaited. It is thought that only maintenance matters will be reported and that no serious issues were found. A few problems with exterior lighting (flood and path) will be investigated and rectified.

There is now a small group to take care of the memorial garden and other garden spaces at St Mary's. A modest allowance was agreed with which to buy plants.

**Rector's Items:** The Rector reminded the meeting of the Mission Action Planning meeting scheduled for 25<sup>th</sup> March and asked for the support of the PCC.

St Mary's will host this year's ordinations on 2<sup>nd</sup> July. Bishop Jane of Hertford will conduct a service of ordination including Ryan and Christie Gilfeather. This service will be open to all members of the congregation plus friends and relatives of those being ordained. To allow for a large number of attendees the service will be live-streamed in to Church House. The following day Christie will lead her first mass at St Michael's.

A school governor is sought for St Mary's since Chris Lund has stepped down after many years in the role.

*continued on p17*





*John Spinks*

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## Notes from the PCC meeting *continued from p15*

A new Head has been engaged for Welwyn St Mary's school. Stuart Whiteland will take the reins in September 2023.

**Regular renewals:** The draft APCM booklet was approved by the PCC and will shortly be finalised before being printed, circulated and uploaded to St Mary's and St Michael's website.

**Deanery Synod:** Veronique Allan and Colin Hull extolled the virtues of the interesting speakers and topics covered at the Deanery Synod meetings that take place three times a year.

**Safeguarding:** Nothing was reported.

**Health and safety:** No issues had been reported, but Stuart Jenkin was asked to report to the Parish Council the uneven paving in the pathway around the church.

**Any other business:** John Burnapp reported that he had attended a course on communion by extension and is now authorised to lead a communion service using previously reserved and blessed

sacrament. This was given the approval of the PCC and the Rector. He was duly congratulated.

**Support for the elderly project:** Crystal Lam reported that there had been encouraging support from the various agencies that she had contacted to speak or offer advice in her 'Support for the elderly' project. Crystal is writing an article for this magazine on the subject and is intending to reserve a stall at this year's Welwyn Festival Street Market. Dependent upon the interest shown through feedback, Crystal will hire the library for guest speakers from the agencies to give a talk, inviting members of the congregation and interested local residents.

**Christian Aid:** Veronique Allan encouraged the PCC to take part, or sponsor a participant, in a swimming event taking place during 14-20<sup>th</sup> May to raise funds for 'Christian Aid'. The Rector suggested an 'Ironman triathlon' Anyone?

*David Hughes*

## Jessie the Rectory Dog

So I know you all read this column before Master's (who can blame you, it's superior wit, literacy and insight are all too obvious), but you might like to cast your eyes over his to understand my beef this month. He is off again, on a lovely journey, winding his way up the Lea Valley from the centre of London, through Herts, Essex, Cambridgeshire, Suffolk and Norfolk – full of scenery, culture, sniffs and food opportunities. But of course he

is going by bicycle! This is really annoying. I will indeed be undertaking the same journey .... by car, with the usual fairly token walks around random woods or fields. He'll be outdoors for 180 plus miles..... with a bit of running around I might rack up a dozen! Serves him right if it snows.

**Jess**





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# The Tragedy of Smallford Pits

Smallford is a village between Hatfield and St Albans, actually on the old railway line (the first man to live in my house was the first stationmaster at Smallford!!).

The pond/lake there is well known in the fishing community as having some of the best carp fishing in the area and the fishing lake is consequently extremely well cared for.

However, there is another pond there which is designated, and therefore, protected as a wildlife site. Until recently this area was very special due to the large number of dragonflies breeding there, some being very rare species.



*Photographs courtesy Herts Advertiser*

And then..... someone decided to bring in a digger, dig out the pond and fill it with petrol or diesel (which for some reason they needed to dispose of). There was an outcry, *'This is illegal! This is an SSSI – a site of special scientific interest.'* The Environment agency were informed as was the Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust, and the police attended... but the Crown Prosecution Service refused to do anything. How could this be?

Steve Brooks, our speaker, lives close by. He is a member of the Life Sciences Team at the Natural History Museum in London and we are delighted to

have him (see details below) tell us about this tragedy.

Will this be a *'Who done it'* evening... ?

**Wednesday 24th May 2023**  
**8.00 pm at Welwyn Civic Centre**  
**£4 entry, children free**

**Judith Watson**

*Welwyn Natural History Society*  
contact: [welwynnhs@gmail.com](mailto:welwynnhs@gmail.com)

or 07884 946565

*visit our website and Facebook pages*

# Christian Aid Week 14-20th May 2023

## Soaring costs are affecting people here and around the world.

Families in Malawi are paying the price of this global crisis.

The impact of the recent Cyclone Freddy in Malawi has been devastating. Floods have washed away crops, over 500,000 people have been displaced and hundreds have lost their lives.

Food, fuel, fertiliser and school fees have doubled in price in the last 12 months. And hard-working farmers are seeing their harvests fail as the climate crisis brings increasingly erratic weather.

This **Christian Aid** week, we celebrate how our partners in Malawi are helping farmers transform their livelihoods using the humble but mighty pigeon pea: a drought-resistant, soil-revitalising, high-protein, low-cost, delicious crop.

**Christian Aid** week is at its most powerful when a disaster happens. Through you, we will be there long after the flood waters recede, helping families build back.

Your gifts this **Christian Aid** week could help farmers in Malawi plant better seeds, secure a fairer price for the crops, and build happier futures for their children.

**Donate to Christian Aid** at: [welwyn.org.uk](http://welwyn.org.uk)

**Sponsor our swimmers challenge**, see [welwyn.org.uk](http://welwyn.org.uk) and on p21.

Come to the annual **Christian Aid Quiz** on 20th May at 7pm in St Mary's Church House:

- \* Bring a table of 6 or join a table,
- \* Optional fish and chip supper
- \* Raffle
- \* Pay on the night - suggested donation £10+ per person (£15+ with fish & chips)

to reserve places and supper if required contact: [rector@welwyn.org.uk](mailto:rector@welwyn.org.uk)



*Family in Malawi helped by CA project.*

*Esther Saizi, 54, joined her local 'pigeon pea' programme run by Christian Aid partner, Nandolo Farmers Association, in 2019. By selling her peas as part of a cooperative she was able to earn much more for her crops. 'I was able to sell the pigeon peas at a better price with a better market,' she explains. 'It provided financial stability.' With her peas, Esther can bake delicious bread, support her daughter's dreams, and send her beloved grandchildren to nursery.*



### Will you swim for 'Christian Aid'?

*Jo Fozzard, Sarah-Jane Hingorani, Stuart Jenkin, Christie Gilfeather and Vernonne Allan* are and we would love other swimmers to do the same. We plan to swim for '**Christian Aid**' during the week of 14th – 20th May

**Set your own goal**

**Swim in your own time at your favourite pool**

**Collect sponsors**

For further information, please email  
***vernonneallan@gmail.com*** to register your interest.

*Vernonne Allan*

## Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

**Thank you!** to my three friends who made such delicious soup.

**Thank you!** to the furniture movers and the two ladies who laid the tables and made the room look so attractive.

**Thank you!** to all who came, drank our soup and made it such a happy occasion, donating generously to '**Christian Aid**' at the same time.

We raised £416.90 which includes gift aid of £69.00 This makes a wonderful start to our fund raising over the next couple of months to replace the house to house collection. '**Christian Aid**' works tirelessly on our behalf to serve people in need and

is experiencing an enormous shortfall now that the huge effort put into collecting during '**Christian Aid**' week no longer takes place. I am sure many of you are secretly pleased not to be pounding the streets, so please support our replacement opportunities for giving.

You will find details in the churches and in this magazine, of athletic souls who have volunteered to do a sponsored swim, and of one foolish lady who plans to have a wild dip at your expense., and why not come along to the Christian Aid Quiz on Saturday May 20<sup>th</sup>? **A Big Thank you to you all.**

*Sue Keach*

# Furniture Friends



## Furniture Friends

Furniture Friends is an All Saints Datchworth Church and Community project. We collect donations of good quality furniture and household items that are no longer wanted or needed. We do not charge for collections. We then resupply these essential items free of charge to families and individuals facing challenging circumstances. We only supply via requests from Social Services.

This scheme is a practical way of showing God's love to our local communities. Furniture Friends deliver to people of any faith or none. The places we deliver to are small, and sometimes difficult to access. We can only take small furniture e.g a double bed or a two seater settee.

Furniture Friends is run entirely by volunteers. Our running expenses are about £3,500 a year. This pays for the van and our designated mobile phone and some essential items that we have to buy.

### Our team of volunteers



A few testimonials (more on our website):  
*"Hello 'Furniture Friends'. What life savers you are. I was stressing about how to help this lovely Ukrainian woman furnish the empty flat she just got. You have offered so much for her. I am thrilled and I know she will be as well. Herts Welcomes Refugees.*

*"In so many ways 'Furniture Friends' have been a life saver for a young mum. They have delivered bedroom and lounge furniture and changed the lives of this family. This may sound easy but they have all gone out of their way to help either through the organising process or pure muscle power! An awesome charity with awesome volunteers. I cannot thank you enough." HCC Social Worker.*

*"I just wanted to let you know what a difference you have made to our families. I visited my client today and for the first time in 4 years the children were dressed and clean, the house was tidy and organized. Your help and donations have given this family a new direction and a sense of pride in their home which has had a huge impact on the children and their wellbeing." Senior Social Worker*

**The need is overwhelming, how can you help?** We are desperately short of drivers/deliverers. (Currently collecting/delivering over 100 items a month and cannot keep up with demand). Could you donate?

We desperately need small tables/ small chairs/ wardrobes/ single beds/ bedding/ mattresses etc.

**FF mobile number: 07599 396111**

Please look at our web site:

**[www.datchworth.com/organisations/furniturefriends](http://www.datchworth.com/organisations/furniturefriends)**

Or talk to us:

**Stephen & Catherine Jupp (organisers)**  
**07812 567302 / 07811 255311**

# Friends of Danesbury and QVM Hospital

The Friends have always been very well supported by the Welwyn community. The success of the charity is down to their recognition of the benefits brought to so many lives through the work of both **Danesbury Neurological Centre** and **Queen Victoria Memorial Hospital**, together with the wider health services in the county.

Following the refurbishment of the QVM Hospital this month we have donated a microwave and toaster to make it easier to help provide snacks for patients and visitors when required.

The refurbishment of the Danesbury Shop has been completed. We hope you are all enjoying the new look, although the displays of goods for sale is still a "work in progress". We thank all our patrons and faithful donators for our continued success.

This month of May celebrates the



Coronation of King Charles III and Queen Consort. Here at Danesbury and QVM Hospital, the Friends have funded food and decorations for the patients and their visitors to help celebrate on Coronation Day. We have funded a flag for the hospital which will be flying high on this very special day. For those of you who will be watching the Coronation, we wish you happy viewing. *Friends of Danesbury & QVM*

## Memories of Queen Elizabeth II - Coronation June 1953

I was there! Well, not actually in Westminster Abbey, but as one of a group of eight lads and lasses who had spent the night in The Mall to get a really splendid view of the Royal Procession. Having taken the last train to Waterloo the previous evening, we walked to Westminster Bridge and through Admiralty Arch to The Mall to find a good viewpoint. After quite a noisy night among an ever-growing crowd, we watched the early arrival of the Guards who were to line both sides of the road. After several hours of intermittent rain, we could hear the distant sound of military bands and the increasing excitement of the crowd near Buckingham Palace. Then, at last, the moment everyone had been

waiting for, the mounted bands and the sight of the golden coach with a smiling Princess who would return later as our smiling Queen. Then, to round off the day, everyone walked in a very orderly fashion to assemble as near as possible to Buckingham Palace to see the Queen and the Royal Family waving from the famous balcony to a cheering crowd during a fly-past by the RAF.

*Peter Branchflower*

**Others have memories of huddling together with their families and friends at home, even nurses in hospitals, watching the Coronation on small black and white television sets. Probably no different this time around only the TVs will be in colour!**



# Vivat Rex Carolus III

... or if you are not a Latin buff, God Save His Majesty King Charles III.



Preparations for the 40<sup>th</sup> coronation of a reigning monarch, together with the Queen Consort, are well underway. Coronations have taken place at Westminster Abbey since 1066. This place of worship is a 'Royal Peculiar' belonging to the monarch and administered by the Royal Household rather than a Church of England bishop.

Although much smaller than Queen Elizabeth II's Coronation in 1953, the important rituals remain the same. The Coronation Regalia symbolise the service and responsibilities of the Monarch. The most important and sacred is the St Edward's Crown which was first used in 1661. It weighs nearly 5lb and is only used to crown the Monarch. The King will leave the Abbey after the Coronation wearing the Imperial State Crown of 1937, which is also used for state and ceremonial occasions. Queen Camilla

will wear Queen Mary's Crown, which has been adjusted to include the Cullinan III, IV and V diamonds.

The crowning, by the Archbishop of Canterbury, will take place using the Coronation Chair first used by King Edward I in 1274, placed on the stunning Cosmati mosaic pavement facing the high altar. The chair is normally on display in the Abbey, complete with graffiti, resulting from Westminster schoolboys and visitors carving their names onto it in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. Queen Camilla will also be crowned by the Archbishop.

Other elements of the regalia used during the ceremony include the Sword of Temporal Justice, signifying the Monarch's role as Head of the Armed Forces, the Sword of Spiritual Justice, signifying his role as Defender of the Faith and the Sword of Mercy or curtana,



## Vivat Rex Carolus III *continued from p24*

which has a blunted tip, symbolising his mercy. Two maces are the ceremonial emblems of authority which are carried before the Sovereign at ceremonial events, together with the Sword of State.

Two sceptres will be used; the Sovereign's Sceptre with Cross represents temporal power and comprises a gold rod with heart-shaped structure containing the Cullinan I diamond. The Sovereign's Sceptre with Dove is traditionally known as the Rod of Equity and Mercy representing his spiritual role.

The Orb, made of gold and adorned with a cross and jewels represents the Sovereign's power and symbolises the Christian world. The Sovereign's Ring is composed of a sapphire with ruby cross which has been set in diamonds, and the Consort's Ring is a ruby in a gold setting. There are also spurs and Armills (bracelets).

The Chrim oil which will be used to anoint their Majesties has been created using olives harvested from groves on the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem. It was pressed just outside Bethlehem using essential oils and consecrated in March this year at a special ceremony at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem. It will be contained in a gold Ampulla which is cast in the form of an eagle in outspread wings.

The King and Queen have chosen to invite community volunteers and key workers as part of the 2,000 strong congregation instead of many who might have considered themselves 'entitled' to attend. The music will undoubtedly be

spectacular and the pomp and pageantry magnificent, as it always is. They will travel from Buckingham Palace to arrive at Westminster Abbey at 11 am on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May in the Diamond Jubilee State Coach, drawn by six Windsor greys. Built in 2012 this coach has modern amenities such as air-conditioning, shock absorbers and electric windows.

Their Majesties will return to Buckingham Palace in the Gold State Coach which has been used at every Coronation since 1831. Drawn by eight Windsor greys it will travel at walking pace due to its four-tonne weight and seven metre length. Described as 'horribly uncomfortable' by Her Late Majesty it is nevertheless very impressive and features painted panels on the exterior of Roman gods and goddesses.

From 26th May onwards the Coronation Regalia will be back in the Tower of London where it normally resides under armed guard. These sacred and priceless artifacts will form part of a new display sharing the history of the Crown Jewels in Coronation year.

In Welwyn there will be a Community Street Party on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May in the Codicote Rd, between the church and roundabout.

*Jane Carr*



# The new war memorial at Ayot St Peter!

**Recent visitors to our churchyard will have noticed that our war memorial is transformed!**



It had deteriorated badly over the years, becoming discoloured by algae, and some of the large stones had been broken by frost and weathering.

Our civil parish was lucky enough to receive a grant from central government's UK Shared Prosperity Fund, which we decided to spend on restoring the war memorial. The whole structure has been cleaned, bringing it back to the beautiful cream colour that villagers chose over a hundred years ago. The stone masons replaced three huge broken base stones with new slabs weighing 90 kg each (just over 14 stones for those who prefer imperial weights).

Our war memorial is unusual as the names are listed in order of rank, which was specifically forbidden by the authorities after the First World War – the instruction was for names to be written alphabetically, regardless of rank. We speculate this was perhaps because the most senior person recorded is Commander George Douglas Jephson, the son of a popular

former Rector, and his name is first on the list.

We were also fortunate to receive a grant from one of our local councillors, Sunny Thusu, to repair a broken memorial. Originally, this grave marker was a stone cross, but the structure became unsafe some years ago, and had to be laid flat to prevent accidents. Over time, grass grew over the cross and it almost disappeared into the ground. The plot looked very sad but is now happily restored.

Churches and other burial authorities only have a duty to ensure their burial site is safe, but it is the responsibility of relatives to maintain and repair family graves. This particular memorial is for Laura and William Meech, who died in 1921 and 1938, and their son, William James Meech, who died in 1968. Laura and William Meech also had two daughters, Ellen and Hilda. Ellen married William Dimmock but had no children. Therefore, there are no descendants of this family to maintain their grave and we felt they were a special case. Some local people will remember the Meech and Dimmock families.

On Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May the church will be decorated with a patriotic theme to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III. Why not join us at 11.15am for our celebratory Matins service?

*Valerie Richards*

## **Retirement of Bishop Alan Winton former Rector of St Mary's 1998 - 2009**

The 2023 Chrism Eucharist at Norwich Cathedral provided an appropriate and grand setting for Alan Winton's last Service before retirement as Bishop of Thetford. Thetford has particular importance historically as it was the centre of the Diocese before it was transferred to Norwich in the 12<sup>th</sup> century.

The Cathedral, built between 1096 and 1145 with walls rendered in flint and mortar, is set in large grounds encompassing a very large Cathedral Close and housing Norwich School where members of the Choir are educated. Its Cloisters are second only to Salisbury in size as is its Spire built on a Norman Tower. There is a great sense of space and history which is continued into the Building with its long narrow Nave and high Roof structure. The Chrism Service is held annually to bless and distribute to the Diocesan Clergy the Oils used in the Church for anointing. Oil to anoint the Sick, the Baptised and the Confirmed and Ordained. Alan chose this Service as his last in the Diocese as it has particular meaning for him in his Ministry. I was Churchwarden in the latter half of Alan's ministry here at St Mary's and we worked together on the building of New Church House and the Ground Source Heat Pumping system, in what seemed at the time to be a very bold venture, and indeed now also, in retrospect!! So, I was very pleased to be able to go to Norwich and mark his retirement, taking with me the best wishes of so many who remember his time at St Mary's. I recall his last Service at St Mary's and the very considerable respect and affection a crowded congregation showed for him and Pippa.

I met Alan before the Chrism Service quite by accident as we were both walking down the same aisle. He seems to have changed little, the same distinctive voice and sense of humour. I was able to assure him that Church House is being well used as we planned and that Saturday morning prayers, originally for the success of the project, continues as prayers for the Parish. Alan and Pippa are moving to Worcester and he will no doubt serve as a retired Bishop at the great Cathedral there. There is also the River Severn with its ancient population of swans and the County Cricket ground nearby which I am sure will give him great pleasure on sunny summer days.

In his sermon, Alan spoke as ever with great clarity and movingly about commitment and service and the practicalities of offering love, service and hospitality and connecting with individual people in the light of what they really are, as opposed to how we might judge them. He spoke of the influence of the Gospels on his life and the guidance they give on how Jesus saw people and how he sought them out. Towards the end of the Service the Bishop of Norwich expressed the gratitude of the Diocese firstly to Pippa for her own ministry in the Diocese, her work and help with people and her support for Alan. The Bishop spoke of the extent of Alan's contribution over the last 14 years, highlighting his work with schools and young people, his support for Ordinands and his care with individual people. These were I sensed heartfelt tributes and thanks.

A memorable occasion and I felt privileged to be there.

*John Swift*

# News from Woolmer Green Parish Council

## Funding for the Village Hall

The Parish Council Chairman, Andy Gribble, was delighted to accept a cheque for £5,000 from the Mayor of Welwyn Hatfield Councillor Barbara Fitzsimon, and Leader of Welwyn Hatfield Council Councillor Tony Kingsbury. This was part of Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council's successful bid to the *UK Shared Prosperity Fund*. The funding will go towards much needed upgrading of the Village Hall heating system.



## Community Litter Pick

As part of the Great British Spring Clean campaign, Councillor Rob Horton organised another community litter pick on Sunday 26 March. It was a very wet Sunday morning but, despite that, we had a number of local volunteers as well as some of the other Parish Councillors and the Clerk who arrived to tackle the litter in the village. The Parish Council is very grateful to everyone who helped to collect 12 refuse sacks of litter in a couple of hours. The Litter Pickers were rewarded with a free hot drink at the Farmers' Market and here are a few of the group drying out at the Hall with a cup of tea after a good morning's work. Thank you to everyone who took part!



**Sarah Hall**

Woolmer Green Parish Council  
sarah.hall@woolmergreenpc.org.uk

**Woolmer Green  
Dates for the diary**

**Wheels on Woolmer Green**

Back for another year – Bank Holiday Monday 1st May from 10am – the free village car show at the Village Hall with a collection for good causes.

**Village Day**

Sunday 4th June from 12 noon at the Village Hall – stalls, displays and lots to see and do.

**New for 2023 – Woollyfest**

Saturday 3rd June doors open at 4.00 pm, music from 5pm. This will be an evening of live music at the Village Hall with 4 main bands and a support act and a bar from the Red Lion pub.

Tickets available from the Red Lion – numbers are limited so tickets should be purchased in advance.

***‘Bring and Buy’ Plant Sale  
and  
Coffee Morning  
Saturday 20th May 2023  
from 10.00 am until 12 noon  
St Michael’s Church, Woolmer Green***

*If you are dividing plants this spring please pot up and label some spares for us to sell. Also any spare bedding plants and vegetables would be greatly appreciated.*

**Contact: Sue Keach 01438 716657 or Chris Allday 01438 716859**

# Coping with Dementia - FREE Event

WHDA

Welwyn Hatfield  
Dementia Action Alliance

with the support of  
Welwyn Parish Council



Working to become  
**Dementia  
Friendly**  
2023



**18th May 2023 at 7- 9pm**

**Welwyn Civic Centre, Prospect Place, Welwyn AL6 9EN**

**Do you have a close relative, friend or neighbour who is  
living with dementia?**

**Are you a carer for someone living with dementia?**

**Are you a business or individual who would like to  
have a better understanding of the condition,  
its impact and how you can help?**

This FREE event is an opportunity to:

- Learn more about the condition, meet others with similar experiences and ask questions of the experts including the **Alzheimer's Society** and **Admiral Nurses**.
- Hear a carer's experience of living with dementia.
- Find out more about **Dementia Friendly Communities** and actions in the Welwyn Hatfield Borough.
- Find out more about services and support available from Welwyn Hatfield Dementia Action Alliance Partners including **Herts Ability, Herts Independent Living, Herts Sports & Physical Activity Partnership, Bluebird Care, Trading Standards & more.**

**Book a ticket:**

This is a free event but to manage numbers please book a ticket using the link:

**<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/coping-with-dementia-tickets-61104779357>**



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## An Ode to Hatfield House - Mardley Heath WI

This month Gary Fisher brought his knowledge of Hatfield House to us all  
His journey through time kept us enthralled  
The house itself was built in Burgundian style  
Where guests could enjoy the beauty and rest awhile  
No defensive qualities, just a building so fine  
With towers that were decorative and a knot garden design  
It became a house for Henry VIII's offspring  
Keeping them free from the ill health which London may bring  
When Henry died Edward passed Hatfield to his sister Elizabeth as a gift  
But Mary could not heal their rift  
So Elizabeth spent time in London's Tower  
But returned to Hatfield where she sat in her bower  
Elizabeth heard about her accession to the throne  
Whilst living at Hatfield all on her own  
In 1607 Robert Cecil rebuilt the palace he had just acquired  
Demolished much of it but kept the stables he required  
Despite a fire in 1835 the house survived  
But sadly the Dowager Marchioness died

A young Charles Dickens reported on this and couldn't resist  
Using this experience when writing Oliver Twist  
The Cecil family have done much through the ages  
To build, revitalise and regenerate the house through all its stages  
And to the 7<sup>th</sup> Marquis of Salisbury in residence now  
We are delighted to bask in the history that the house will allow  
So good readers we had an interesting evening which we enjoyed  
Thank you Gary we couldn't have been better employed!  
Whether it's a talk, an activity, or music to hear  
You will find that it's absolutely clear  
Mardley Heath WI is about camaraderie and fun  
And that's what WI is about when all's said and done!  
*Most meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month at 7:30 pm at the Oaklands Primary School, Gt North Road, Welwyn.*  
*For any additional information, please contact our Secretary by e-mail: [secretary.mhwi@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.mhwi@gmail.com)*  
*New members and visitors are always welcome.*  
**Brenda Bigland CBE**

**Support your local market!**

14<sup>th</sup> May 2023  
10.00 am – 1.30 pm  
Civic Centre, Welwyn





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## The Origins of Oaklands School and Mardley Heath WI



Mardley Heath Women's Institute was formed in November 1956. The meetings were held at the Nursery School (at that time opposite the North Star Hotel) and later at the Methodist Hall in Canonsfield Road.

In 1960 three members of the committee, Mrs M Moore, Mrs Hood (both have now left the area) and Mrs Louie Gane decided it was time that a school was built at Mardley Heath. The need for the school was justified by the difficulty for young children with their parents travelling by bus to and from Welwyn. Buses were infrequent, overcrowded and there were also strikes at that time. Welwyn School was very overcrowded. Some classes had over 40 children.

A census was taken by the Women's Institute covering the whole district of Mardley Heath and Oaklands to assess the numbers of children likely to take advantage of a school at Mardley Heath. This Census proved beyond all doubt that a school was needed.

Welwyn Parish Council agreed to meet a deputation from Mardley Heath W.I. representing parents. In May 1960, Mrs Connie Hood and Mrs Louie Gane attended the meeting and put their case very convincingly. Subsequently a piece of land was purchased for the school at its present site, with a promise that the Women's Institute and other local organisations could hold their meetings there.

Oaklands School was eventually opened in 1966 with the understanding that Mardley Heath Women's Institute could move to the school for its meetings etc.



Finally, in 1972 following a written ballot paper, Mardley Heath Women's Institute moved to Oaklands School, complete with storage shed and were made very welcome by the Headmaster at that time.

***Compiled by the late Mrs Louie Gane, Oaklands Rise, Welwyn, in April 1991.***

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lifestyle will not impinge on your blood and thus adversely affect its recipient.

For example, if you have travelled recently to an area of the world where malaria is endemic or if you might have come into contact with the zika virus you will be asked to wait before you make a donation.

You can make an appointment with a mobile donor unit which visits your area. There are sessions in Welwyn Garden City, Knebworth, Stevenage and Hertford or go to a permanent donor centre, the nearest of which is in Luton. I go to Luton because I find it easy to select a time and date which suits me. The mobile units are not available every day. The excellent website for giving blood allows you to sign up as a new donor and book appointments. It explains everything you need to know about becoming a blood donor or about resuming donations after a break:

**[www.blood.co.uk](http://www.blood.co.uk)**

Once you have donated, you will receive an email or text thanking you for your donation and you will also receive a message letting you know where your blood has been sent, once it has been processed. I particularly look forward to that message – I love knowing where my blood has gone. Could you be a hero? It is really easy and, if saving lives is not motivation enough, they do truly excellent snacks and biscuits!

**Rita McNeill**

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# Welwyn Parish Council



**I am writing this at the end of March when we are enjoying the spring flowers**

**in Welwyn Parish. Thank you to all who have them in their gardens and to those who plant the bulbs on private/public land. I am sure, like me, they make you feel cheerful.**

This will be my last article for the Welwyn Magazine. I have decided to stand down as Chairman as I feel it will be good for the Council and the Community to have a new Chairman with new ideas and a fresh perspective.

My article this month will reflect some of what has happened during my time as Chairman together with ideas we have for the future.

Looking back to when I took on the role of Chair, we were just thinking of developing a Neighbourhood Plan. This has proved to be a long process, but following consultation evenings with residents and businesses together with afternoon drop-in sessions, the full draft plan is almost ready. Shortly it will have to be reviewed by Full Council and an informal dialogue has to be arranged with WHBC Planners. The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group has worked very hard to get to this stage. Councillor Bill Morris has led at every step of the

way and we are very grateful for his work, guidance, advice and organisation throughout the process. We will keep you informed of our next steps.

In 2020 the Community Engagement Committee started investigating the possibility of a community orchard/nature reserve on the area of land owned by the Council between the lower tennis courts and Whitehill. Three years on this has been established and after a lot of hard work by volunteers we now have an attractive Whitehill Wildflower Meadow. We recently made the entrance to the Meadow safer with a less steep slope together with a handrail. We have benches, bins, including one for dog waste, and an information notice board. Thank you to our volunteers who have transformed this area. If you would like to help in the Meadow please contact the Parish Office:

***office@welwynpc.org.uk***

**or on: 01438 716667**

In the last few years the entrance to the Civic Centre has been transformed with a refurbishment of the foyer. The dark cabinets have been removed, the quilt displayed in a new frame and new outside lamps erected. More recently we have put a defibrillator on the outside wall which means most areas of the Parish now have what could be life saving devices. In 2021 we had a new barrier installed and two Electric Car Chargers. As I write this we are discussing, with the Borough Council, the installation of

*continued on p40*

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## Welwyn Parish Council *continued from p38*

more chargers in the village.

During the pandemic, Highways installed planters along the village High Street. Not everyone agreed with this decision but they were to help with social distancing and also to slow the speed of vehicles to 20mph. We still have the planters with the 20mph signs on them and many residents feel that they have indeed helped with, not only the speed of traffic, but also the 'rat race' through the village at busy times. Welwyn Parish Council has now agreed to extend the contract for the next twelve months with 'Making Life Beautiful' who maintain the planters.

On 10<sup>th</sup> May we will be holding our Annual Parish Assembly and are hoping that you will be able to join us. We cannot assume that we represent the interests of all residents without consulting them. These meetings provide a valuable opportunity for local people to identify features of the Parish that need improving or are worth protecting. They stimulate discussion and inform decision making. The council should not make decisions in isolation and we are fortunate to work with members of the Welwyn Planning and Amenities Group (WPAG), the Welwyn Allotment Association and local individuals who are invited to attend some of our meetings. We appreciate their input and ideas.

The Fernery is now a popular area of the Parish. Due to the hard work of many volunteers it is now a beautiful area in all seasons. It is so popular that there are

plans to extend the Heritage Trail to the Fernery and also to Singlers Marsh. For those of you who have not walked along the Heritage Trail I encourage you to do so especially as an activity with children.

One year ago the Council decided to hold a 'Craft and Farmers' Market' at the Civic Centre on the second Sunday of the month. The idea came from our clerk, Caroline, who organises it, sources the stall holders and also sells tea, coffee and cakes which she and her mother have baked. Please come and support this venture as it is good to buy produce and crafts from local people.

I have not got room to write about everything that has happened in the Parish over the last few years. Please let us know if you have any ideas for improving where we live. Personally, I think we are very lucky to live in Welwyn Parish and I hope you enjoy being here as much as I do.

Look after yourselves and others.

**Marj Otty**

*Chairman, Welwyn Parish Council*

If you wish to contact the Council, our office on Lockleys Drive is:

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The talks will cover a variety of conflicts and the first talk will take place on:

**Thursday 4th May 2023**

**at 7.30 pm**

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and thereafter on the 3rd

Thursday of each month

Booking is required for organisational and capacity reasons, entry and seating cannot be guaranteed without booking a ticket for each person attending.

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We are busy organising a selection of eminent historians, authors and speakers for the future. Any suggestions gratefully received. You may wish to add the following dates to your diary in readiness:

### 2023:

15 June  
20 July  
17 August  
21 September  
19 October  
16 November  
21 December

### 2024:

18 January  
15 February  
21 March  
18 April . . . . .

Our talks will be confirmed by email. More detail and future talks as they are confirmed, will be listed at:

**[www.hertsatwar.co.uk/events](http://www.hertsatwar.co.uk/events)** together with details of the venue and a printable map etc. They will also be listed in the next Newsletter and on our Facebook and Twitter pages.

We look forward to seeing you again throughout the year.

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## Parish Registers

### St Mary's Welwyn

#### Funeral Service

2nd March

Raymond (Ray) Alfred Holloway



### Ayot St Peter's

#### Funeral Service

29th March

David Frederic Kalbza (burial)

18th March

Susan Janet Pearson (burial of ashes only)

### Harwood Park

30th March

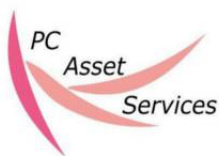
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Sunday	8.00 am	Holy Communion
Sunday	9.30 am	Parish Communion / Junior Church
Sunday	6.30 pm	Evensong (2nd, 4th and 5th Sundays)
Wednesday	9.00 am	Morning Prayer
Wednesday	9.30 am	Holy Communion
Saturday	9.00 am	Parish Prayers

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Sunday	11.15 am
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2nd Sunday	Family Service
3rd Sunday	All Age Eucharist
5th Sunday	Morning Prayer

## **AYOT ST PETER** [www.ayotstpeter.com](http://www.ayotstpeter.com)

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3rd Sunday	11.15 am	Family Service: ( <i>Common Worship, NRSV Bible</i> )
4th Sunday	11.15 am	Parish Communion: ( <i>Common Worship, NRSV Bible</i> )

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Wednesday	8.00 pm	Bible Study (except 3rd Wednesday)

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# Meditation

## Hymns as Prayers

Sharing in the progression of services through Easter week means we arrive on Easter Day with a deeper understanding and joy. We walk with Jesus and each year sing from Palm Sunday to Easter Day:

Palm Sunday	<i>'Hosanna to the son of David'</i>
Maundy Thursday	<i>'My God My God, look upon me; why hast thou forsaken me'</i>
Good Friday	<i>'Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by'</i>
Easter Saturday	<i>'This joyful Eastertide'</i>
Easter Sunday	<i>'Hallelujah'</i>

The music we sing is both beautiful and emotional, often prayerful or a declaration of faith. It stirs us to God deep within our souls as we cheer, cry out in anguish and rejoice.

The set of hymns we sang on Maundy Thursday this year were particularly beautiful and some of my favourites. They speak of the deep mysteries of our faith and help us to empathise and experience for ourselves the emotions and truths we believe. They are beautifully worded prayers in their own right:

*'Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and in fear and trembling stand...'*

*'O thou who at the Eucharist did pray that all thy church might be for ever one...'*

*'Of the glorious body telling, O my tongue its mysteries sing...'*

Think of the hymns as prayers, indeed use them as prayers, and you will gain a new appreciation for words and music.

Bless O Lord us thy servants who minister in thy temple. Grant that what we sing with our lips, we may believe in our hearts, and believing in our hearts, show forth in our lives. Amen.

**Stephen Jupp**