Hertingfordbury

& The Five Greens

Parish News



Pet Service



Le Café Français

(Both at St Mary's this month - more details inside)

September 2024

Here with you - Here for you

Printed copies are available from St Mary's church & Four Rivers Coffee Café

PARISH OF ST. MARY'S, HERTINGFORDBURY www.hertingfordburystmary.org

Priest in Charge Reverend Alan Stewart - email: h.alanstewart1@gmail.com

Not Friday please unless very urgent 01992 582726

Assistant Priest Reverend Bill Church - email: churchwj@hotmail.com

01992 410469

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If you would like a printed copy of the Parish News delivered to you, please contact Philip Juniper above



Naming Fear

As I write, angry mobs have been gathering in towns across the country, demonstrating outside mosques, damaging hotels housing refugees, and clashing violently with police. This was sparked, we're told, by misinformation on social media following the tragic death of three little girls in a Southport dance class; Bebe, Elsie and Alice.

Even after clarification that the killer was born and bred here in the UK and not linked to any extremist groups, the violent protests continue. It's clear that far-right groups have been able to tap into deep-seated anger among those who feel disenfranchised and frustrated by what they see as the failure of successive governments to limit immigration.

It's clear that these root causes of anger and fear need to be addressed at government level, but the work of peacemaking always begins at grassroots. What does that look like?

It looks like ordinary people turning up the morning after to clear the damage and rebuild the walls torn down as missiles. It looks like thousands gathered in vigil to blow bubbles like prayers into the sky. It looks like members of a mosque taking food to anti-Islamic protesters and cups of tea to police officers. It looks like an Imam hugging one of those protesters, crying, 'our hearts are broken too'.

This anger and fear cannot simply be addressed by legislation, prison and fines. It can only be met with understanding and compassion. And that's harder, much, much harder.

Perhaps this is a moment for us all to reflect on our own anger and prejudice; to ask for the courage not to suppress it but to own it and name it, because sometimes naming something can diffuse its power. And then to ask ourselves if there is anything we can do to address it. Can I speak to or speak up for someone I struggle to accept, or reach out with little acts of kindness. If I pray, I can pray that the all-inclusive love of God works its miracle within us all, beginning with me.

Alan

Registers

Wedding

20 July – Joe Nesbitt-Larking & Ida Ranzlov 31 August – Andrew David Kuhn & Bronwen Elizabeth Willoughby - Richards The Blessing of Robert & Jayne Taylor

Baptism – welcome into the family of the church 7 July – Florence Rose Riddle-Jones 14 July – Molly Isla Perry 11 August – Sebastian, Theodore & Barnaby Murcutt

29 July – A memorial service for **David Lloyd** was held at St Andrews. David was also a much loved member of the congregation at St Mary's attending often with Elizabeth



Baby Florence with Mum & Dad

Some Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 4th September - **Licensing of Rev Simon Cutmore**, 7.30pm at All Saints Hertford

Sunday 8th September – **Commissioning of all those who work with our children and young people and a welcome to Lindsey Betteridge, our new Children & Families Worker.** 10.30am at St Andrews

Tuesday 10th September – **The Romans Course.** A ten session Bible Society course exploring Paul's letter to the Romans. Held at St Mary's (see later for more details). Wednesday 11th September – **Mindfulness & Meditation** 7.30pm in St Andrews church & online

Saturday 14th September – **Bike n Hike** (see poster later)

Sunday 15th September – **Mayor of Hertford & member of the Town Council** will join us at the 9.15am service at St Mary's

Some more Dates for your Diary

Sunday 22nd September – **Pet Service** 3.00pm at St Mary's. A short service of thanksgiving for our pets and animals (see poster later)
Wednesday 25th September – **Mindfulness & Meditation** 7.30pm online only
Saturday 28th September – **Le Café Francais** 9.30 – 12 noon at St Mary's (see poster later)

Please note: Going forward Mindfulness & Meditation will now run only on the first and third Wednesdays of the month. The first Wednesday will be both in church and online.

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 & Young Church 9.15am on 2nd Sunday of the month



A Personal Prayer with Rev Alan

On the third Sunday of the month Rev Alan will again be available in the Cowper Chapel at St Mary's for personal prayer. This will be during communion at the 9.15am service and is for anyone who would value prayers of thanksgiving, healing or concern



This publication was kindly printed by St Andrew's church





Prayers of Love and Faith - Blessing of Same-Sex Couples

Following a unanimous vote by our PCC, St Mary's offers Prayers of Love and Faith for the blessing of same-sex couples.

At present this would happen within an existing service and we'd welcome the families and friends of the couple to attend the service as we celebrate the love and commitment of the couple.

On those Sundays when a blessing will take place, we will give advance notice to the congregation in our usual weekly email outlining the Sunday services.

If you would like to arrange this, please contact Rev Alan:

Email: <u>h.alanstewart1@gmail.com</u>

Call: 01992 582726

What are Prayers of Love and Faith?

The Prayers of Love and Faith are offered as resources in praying with and for a same-sex couple who love one another and who wish to give thanks for and mark that love in faith before God. To celebrate in God's presence the commitment two people have made to each other is an occasion for rejoicing. The texts are offered to express thanksgiving and hope, with prayer that those who are dedicating their life together to God may grow in faith, love and service as God's blessing rests upon them.

You'll find the Church of England page about Prayers of Love and Faith here: <u>Church of England: Prayers of Love and Faith</u>



The Romans Course

Tuesday evenings at St Mary's Hertingfordbury - September to November 2024

A ten-session Bible Society course exploring Paul's letter to the Romans. The course is created and presented by Andrew Ollerton, who will be familiar to those who took part in the recent Bible Course. It follows a similar pattern of video presentation and discussion.

What is the Romans Course?

The Romans Course is a ten-session programme which helps you study Paul's letter to the Romans. The course tackles ten big themes found in the book of Romans which are key to understanding the Christian faith:

- Gospel How can we become confident in our faith?
- Sin What's wrong with the world?
- Salvation What's so amazing about grace?
- Peace How can we find rest in a stressful world?
- Freedom How can we avoid negative cycles?
- Hope What has God promised?
- Mystery If God is sovereign, what is our role?
- **Devotion** How can we live full on for God?
- Community How can we live together in love?
- Mission How can we be ambitious with the gospel?

When and where

The Romans Course is running every Tuesday evening from 10th September through to 19th November (except 15th October) in the Brace Room at St Mary's Hertingfordbury. Tea and coffee is served from 7.45pm before the session starts at 8.00pm. We expect each session to finish at around 9.15pm.

How do I sign up?

To register for the course, or for more information, please get in touch with Kath Oates: kathoates2022@virginmedia.com

Please register with Kath by Thursday 5th September



The Friends of Hertingfordbury St Mary

Saturday 14 September **Sponsored Bike n' Hike** at St Mary's church (09.00-17.00)

Christopher Maunder Taylor 07860 228294 (see poster for more details)

Saturday 28 September

Le Café Français at St Mary's Church (09.30 -12.00)

Helen Bishop 07746 694890

Don't worry if you couldn't get to Paris for the Olympics. Come to St Mary's and enjoy coffee and patisseries with friends and neighbours. Le Café Français will be serving plenty of favourites including éclair au chocolat, tarte au citron, gâteau au pommes and tarte à la frangipane! Don't miss the wonderful stalls selling brocante and lavender products. All are very welcome including non French speakers!

Saturday 16 November **Christmas Market** at St Mary's Church (10.00 -13.00) Helen Bishop 07746 694890

Friday 13 December

Welwyn Garden City Male Voice Choir St Mary's Church (19.30)

Kay Juniper 07776 340932

Becoming a Friend

The Friends of Hertingfordbury St Mary was granted charitable status just before Christmas (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.

Membership forms, with the FoHSM account details, are available inside the church by the south door should you like to become a Friend or make a donation. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like more information. Thank you for your support.

Helen Bishop thefobury@outlook.com 07746 694890

Le Café Français

Saturday 28th September 9.30-12.00pm



an opportunity to enjoy a coffee & pâtisseries with a Brocante market stall & more, an accordionist & raffle.

Dease come to support your local community



St.Mary's Church Hertingfordbury



a FOHSM charity event

Don't worry if you couldn't get to Paris for the Olympics. Come to St Mary's and enjoy coffee and patisseries with friends and neighbours. Le Café Français will be serving plenty of favourites including éclair au chocolat, tarte au citron, gâteau au pommes and tarte à la frangipane! Don't miss the wonderful stalls selling brocante and lavender products. All are very welcome including non French speakers



All Creatures Great & Small

A short service of thanksgiving for the pets & animals that have become part of the family







3pm, Sunday 22nd September at St Mary's Hertingfordbury Everyone and all pets very welcome



On the subject of pets we've had the pleasure recently of one of our congregation, Sally, coming to church with Judy, a black labrador puppy who is in training to be a Guide Dog. Sally will be her "Puppy Raiser" for 14 months, guiding her through training, socialisation, the introduction of new environments and experiences while providing a loving home. It was Judy's first visit to a church and experiencing an organ playing and our singing! She was brilliant and so well behaved, as was Sally! Well done Sally, Alastair & Ollie and we look forward to welcoming Judy again to St Mary's.

Alan & Art

'40 Days' - Alan Stewart an exhibition of drawings

St Mary's Church Hertingfordbury Friday 26th July 7-9pm (with bar) and Saturday 27th 10am -2pm.









10% Proceeds go to the Friends of St Mary's





Rev Alan had a very successful and enjoyable exhibition of his art, or more specifically his drawings, at St Mary's recently. The Friday evening was spent with family, friends and the local community. Open to all, a glass of wine with canapes was enjoyed as we studied the wide range of drawings. The following day again people could drop in to appreciate his work in the lovely tranquil setting of St Marys

So what is it about you and Art Alan?

Well Alan has always drawn pictures. When his mum owned a fish and chip shop, he'd draw endlessly on the paper she served the fish and chips in. He then did a Foundation Course at Belfast Art College in 1987.

It was then a toss-up between doing fine art and fashion and he chose fashion thinking it would have better employment prospects. So he studied Fashion and Textiles at Central St Martin's College of Art in London.

He's since exhibited his work at London School of Theology, St Saviour's Church in Knightsbridge and St Mary's Hertingfordbury!

Alan works in most media but enjoys charcoal, pastel and ink the best and has now transformed one of the rooms at the Rectory into a studio.

During the exhibition Alan sold over 40 pieces and several prints which consisted of charcoal drawings of animals, abstract pieces and a few semi-abstract portraits and landscapes.

But why 40 Days?

"During Lent this year, I set myself the goal of creating a drawing every day, hence the title of the exhibition '40 Days'. I wanted to loosen up my style of drawing which had become tight and controlled and to experiment with abstract art. However I often return to Biblical themes. Something comes alive in me when I make art" explained Alan.

Thank you Alan.



Eco Church: Caring for God's Earth

Help us to respond faithfully to the climate and nature crises

Latest Update

A small group of church members*, met for the first time on 18 July in the churchyard to discuss A Rocha's Eco Church project and how to take it forward at St Mary's. We looked at three of the five topics: *Worship and Teaching, Land* and *Buildings.* We identified a few actions in each to explore for the next meeting. The report of this meeting then went to the PCC.

Worship & Teaching

We agreed to introduce *Environment Sunday* on 6 October, as this falls in the period of Creationtide, which is the season for celebrating God's Creation. It was also suggested that intercessors could be encouraged to pray regularly for the Environment.

A couple of other projects were proposed, including small group study focusing on environmental questions and reconvening the Soulful walk group.

Land

There was a lot of scope to encourage wildlife in the churchyard. It was suggested that bird and bat boxes and other habitats could be installed about the churchyard and possibly on the church, subject to regulations! There could also be surveys undertaken of different types of wildlife in the churchyard to raise awareness of what's there. Other ideas included adding a small pond or wetland area to encourage wildlife in the churchyard, subject to a suitable location being found. Developing a garden area around the sedilia. It was stressed that it would be important to explain the intentions of any project to make sure that they were understood.

Another project to link in with Creationtide and the town council's Ecofest, was to develop a reflective tree/nature trail around the churchyard, including appropriate meditations.

Buildings

Quite a number of questions were raised about our practice at the moment in different areas and whether it could be made more environmentally friendly. The use of LED bulbs, recycling, use of eco friendly cleaning products and collecting rainwater for

Eco Church: Caring for God's Earth

watering the churchyard were discussed. It was agreed to find out more about the possibility of carrying out an energy audit and alternatives to the gas boiler heating system once it reached the end of its life.

We all agreed that it had been a very useful first meeting and looked forward to the next one.

Do get in touch, or have a chat if you would like to be involved! – Rachel Carter

*Rachel, Juliet, Alistair, Geoff, Nick from St Andrew's and Alan

In our churchyard

As we said earlier, we have been looking at the range of wild nature in the churchyard and created a page on the website to post pictures of what we have seen for everyone to appreciate. We continue this month with two examples below of wildlife visitors that were photographed in our churchyard





Muntjac

Fox

Also much work goes on to maintain the churchyard and this is an example just to the left of the front west wing doors.

The Yew tree has been cut back both for it's own good and to expose once again the Truman family tomb in all it's glory. Benjamin Truman was the famous brewer born in 1699 whose Black Eagle Brewery in Stepney made black porter beer and him a fortune!





Talking of our churchyard

We are always looking for new volunteers to help cut the grass. It takes place twice a month on a Saturday morning hopefully now to coincide with the weddings at St Marys of which we have 11 this year! In fact one of our helpers was married here recently and he and his two best men helped cut the grass on the morning of the wedding! Please let David Gorton know if you can help and you also get a picnic lunch!



Church Flower Rota - September



1st Wedding (2) - 8th Sue Payne 15th Jean Skinner - 22nd Wedding (2) 29th Alison Robinson



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

Above from L-R: Sue Payne, Jean Skinner, Sue Parsell, Sharron Maxwell, Alison Robinson & Penny Duce



Lindsey Betteridge – Children & Families Worker

Dear St Andrew's & St Mary's Community,

I am honoured to introduce myself as your new Children and Families Worker. My name is Lindsey Betteridge and I am thrilled to embark on this journey with all of you. My mother, older family and friends still use my first name which is Elaine, but I prefer my middle name, Lindsey. On that note our grandchildren call us Pip and Pop so you may hear that too.

I have lived in Hertford for 45 years having been a student at Balls Park College where I met my husband Mark. We celebrated our ruby wedding anniversary last year and are blessed with 3 wonderful children and 4 treasured grandchildren.

I love walking and exploring nature, which gives me time for reflection and renewal. This is usually with Pudsey our dog around our beautiful Parish (we actually live in Birch Green); however, we are also passionate about our walking holidays in Devon and Cornwall.

I find peace and satisfaction in our garden and love teaching our grandchildren all the about the flora and fauna we find there. I admit to leaving the hard graft to my lovely hubby! I truly enjoy cooking when it brings family and friends together, especially combined with my favourite 70's music and a dance around the table!

I look forward to getting to know each of you and serving our community with love and dedication.

Warm regards, Lindsey



Summer Fun Day in July was brilliant. Good weather and plenty of families turned up to enjoy the fun and games and the delicious cream teas.

So as well as the infamous teddy bear zip wire there was a safari trail, welly tossing (could be in the LA Olympics I think!), rocket making and firing and many other great side games to keep everyone occupied. As always great thanks to all those who attended and especially those who organised and made it such a special day









Contact

Christopher Maunder-Taylor 07860 228294

for further details and sponsorship packs



Saturday 14 September 2024 9am to 5pm



Have fun cycling, walking or otherwise visiting interesting church and chapel buildings while raising funds for your favourite church or chapel.

The Bike 'n Hike raises money through sponsorship and half the money you raise will go to the church of your choice and the rest to the Beds and Herts Historic Churches Trust for grants for the repair of church buildings of any age.







Autumn Litter Pick - Saturday 12th October 9.30am

If you would like to join us to help with the next litter pick around Hertingfordbury and the Five Greens, please contact Sarah Sullivan at sullivanpipers@icloud.com. We will provide equipment, hi-viz, gloves and allocate a route, and there will be refreshments afterwards, kindly provide by The White Horse, Hertingfordbury.

Sarah Sullivan & Ray Green









OPALS Event at SELE Farm Community Centre, on Tuesday 3rd September

An OPALS (Older Persons Activity Learning and Safety) event is taking place on Tuesday 3rd September at 10.00am at SELE Farm Community Centre, 25 Perrett Gardens, Hertford, SG14 2LW.

The aim of the OPALS event is to provide quality information, advice and help available within the local community on a wide range of services available to reduce vulnerability of our senior citizens, to provide reassurance, safe and wellbeing support and reduce loneliness.

If you feel that you know someone who would benefit from the event, then please pass this message on to them.

All event guests will be seated and served refreshments and a FREE hot meal, representatives from a variety of agencies will give advice and the services they offer.

It is a sociable event, and a great opportunity to meet other residents in the local area.

Agencies not giving talks will have stalls that you can visit, to get advice, collect some safety related information and freebies.

The event lasts around 4 hours, please arrive on time to ensure you do not miss out on the speakers or freebies on offer. "Act of Kindness" bags will be handed out at the end of the event.

The event is targeted to our elderly citizens, if you would like to attend, please contact Terry Morris, on 07740 670 642 or email: terry.morris@hertfordshire.gov.uk with names and contact information, spaces are limited so if you don't want to miss out then please reserve a space quickly.



Caroline Peat
(Hertfordshire Constabulary, Community Engagement Administrator,
Community Safety)



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.

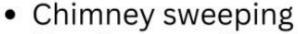
Upcoming lectures

26 September – **Breughel, the Seasons and the World** by Gavin Plumley 24 October - Les Trois Grandes Dames of Impressionism by Sarah Burles 28 November – The Ox and the Ass: Silent Watchers at the Crib by Hilary Guise (preceded by AGM & followed by the Winter Lunch)

For more information please go to our website www.theartssocietyeastherts.org.uk Registered Charity no 281752 Member Society of The Arts Society

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Waggoners Square Dance Club All sessions at St Joseph's in the Park School Hall Hertingfordbury

INTERESTED IN TRYING SOMETHING NEW?

Want to have fun, exercise, make friends? Come and try a "taster session" Hoedown. No need to prebook

HARVEST HOEDOWN on Monday 7th October 7.30 – 10pm (£5)

Square Dancing is fun and easy to learn. No previous dancing experience is necessary. Singles and couples welcome. Wear comfortable shoes. Low impact exercise, "walk" the moves in time to the beat to a range of music with movements cued by the Caller. Interested throughout the year? Please contact Penny & Bob Warner - 01920 465276 For further details see www.waggonerssquaredanceclub.com

e-mail: waggonerssdc@gmail.com



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Four Rivers Coffee Shop open in Birch Green – now open Thursdays!

The Birch Green café is now open Thursday to Sunday. You can buy to drink in or to take away. For more information visit fourriverscoffee.co.uk



Four Rivers Coffee Company in Birch Green

Opening hours

Thursday & Friday 8am to 4pm Saturday & Sunday 9am to 2pm Fourriverscoffee.co.uk

Printed copies of the Parish News are now available from Four Rivers Café



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.

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.org.uk

Next Meeting

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

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

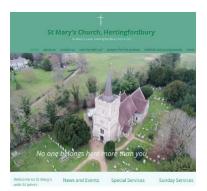




Volunteers needed to open/close St. Mary's

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

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.

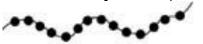
An application form is obtainable from Robin Bishop, the Chairman of Walter Wallinger's charity at robinhbishop@gmail.com

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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 <u>www.hertfordstandrews.co.uk</u>
or contact the church office 01992 504373 <u>standrew.hertford@btinternet.com</u>

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