

# ST LAWRENCE CHURCH

Hatfield, including Duncroft, Dunsville,  
Hatfield Woodhouse and Lindholme



November 2025 50p

Church Officers	Local Information
<p><b>Vicar</b>    The Rev'd Chris Bishop Tel: 07946 118 230 Email: <a href="mailto:father.chris@outlook.com">father.chris@outlook.com</a></p> <p><i>The church is not a postal address but the postcode for SatNavs is DN7 6HN, what three words is caressed.ports.heartless</i></p> <p><b>Associate Priests</b>    The Rev'd Gill Salter <b>Curate</b>    The Rev'd Chris Wroot- <b>Priest with PTO</b>    The Rev'd Joyce Barker <b>Readers with PTO</b>    Beryl Adamson                                  Viv Stubbs</p> <p><b>Organist</b> Vernon Hoyle    tel: 07486 895608 <a href="mailto:vernonhoylemusic@yahoo.com">vernonhoylemusic@yahoo.com</a></p> <p><b>Youth, Children's and Families Worker</b> Rachel Ridler    tel: 07851 991286 <a href="mailto:rachel.ridler@centenaryproject.org.uk">rachel.ridler@centenaryproject.org.uk</a></p> <p><b>Parish Office</b>    tel: 01302 350591 email: <a href="mailto:hello@hatfieldstlawrencechurch.com">hello@hatfieldstlawrencechurch.com</a></p> <p><b>Church Wardens</b>    Terry Raper                                  tel: 07980 378475                                  Chrissy Grindle                                  tel: 07842 513695,                                  please text initially</p> <p><b>PCC Secretary</b>    Shaun Holt                                  email: <a href="mailto:shaunholt@gmail.com">shaunholt@gmail.com</a></p> <p><b>Electoral Roll Officer</b>    Glenys Mashford                                  tel. 01302 841852</p> <p><b>PCC Treasurer and Giving Director</b>                                  Julie <a href="mailto:treasurerhatfieldstlawrence@outlook.com">treasurerhatfieldstlawrence@outlook.com</a></p> <p><b>Chair and contact for all Social &amp; Fundraising events</b>    Sennette Wroot                                  email: <a href="mailto:sennette67@gmail.com">sennette67@gmail.com</a></p> <p><b>Housekeeper</b>    Freda Thubron                                  tel:</p> <p><b>Barn bookings</b>    Anne Render                                  tel: 07977 142001</p> <p><b>Safeguarding Officer</b>    Viv Stubbs                                  tel. 01302 846318</p>	<p><b>Childline</b>    tel. 0800 1111</p> <p><b>South Yorkshire Police</b>                                  Emergency 999 or 112                                  Non-emergency 101</p> <p><b>Hatfield Health Centre</b>                                  tel. 01302 897600</p> <p><b>Out of Hours Doctor</b>                                  tel.01302 761172</p> <p><b>Homestart</b>                                  tel. 01302 340856</p> <p><b>Family Lives</b>                                  tel: 08088 002222</p> <p><b>Bus help line</b>                                  tel: 01709 515151</p> <p><b>Travis St Lawrence C of E Primary School</b>                                  Lower School tel. 01302 840200                                  Upper School    tel. 842164</p> <p><b>Roman Catholic Priest</b>                                  Roman Catholic Priest:                                  Fr Joseph Okeke                                  tel: 01405 812248                                  Parish Mobile Phone:                                  07714 793120</p> <p><b>Methodist Minister</b>                                  Mrs Liz Worsley                                  Email: <a href="mailto:elizabethworsley17@gmail.com">elizabethworsley17@gmail.com</a>                                  tel:01302 210286, 077771 92212</p> <p><b>Weldricks Pharmacy Ash Hill Road</b>                                  tel : 01302 842799</p> <p><b>Funeral Directors</b> <b>Charles Carpenter Funeral Services</b>                                  tel. 01302 841679</p> <p><b>B A Wright &amp; Sons</b>                                  tel. 01302 841296                                  tel. 01302 880450</p> <p><b>Wade's Funeral Service</b>                                  tel. 01405 812966</p> <p><b>Magazine Editor</b>    Chrissy Grindle                                  <a href="mailto:maghatfieldchurch@gmail.com">maghatfieldchurch@gmail.com</a></p>

*It was a wonderful day in Church when Chris became our Vicar, and invited me to share his special day.*

*It was an extra honour to meet and be blessed by Bishop Leah.*

*Doreen and I would like to convey our thanks for all the kind thoughts, prayers and cards which I received to celebrate my 100th birthday.*

*We appreciate the lovely friends we have at St Lawrence Church.*

*Thank you once again. Lew.*

Hatfield St Lawrence  
Church invites you to...

# TREATS in the CHURCHYARD

FRIDAY 31ST OCT 4-6PM  
THE BRIDE'S DOOR

**A GREAT ALTERNATIVE TO HALLOWEEN ACTIVITIES**

Join us at the Bride's door to collect a sheet for our FREE light trail around the churchyard, sweets for the children and hot drinks for the adults.



# Mission in Motion: Embracing Change at St Lawrence

*From the Vicar*

At St Lawrence Hatfield, we are a church rooted in our beloved Anglican tradition. We are also a church called to mission! That means we're not here simply to preserve what has been, but to respond to what God is doing now and what He's calling us to next.

Mission is never static. It's dynamic, responsive, and often surprising. And as we seek to be faithful to that calling, one thing is certain: **things will change.**

## **Change Is Not a Threat. It's a Sign of Life**

Whether it's new people joining our congregation, fresh ideas emerging in ministry, or long-serving volunteers stepping back, change is part of the rhythm of a living church. It's not something to fear it's something to steward.

Healthy succession planning is one way we do that. It's not just about replacing roles; it's about preparing the ground for new growth, new leadership, and new expressions of mission.

## **Succession with Purpose**

Here's how we're learning to approach succession planning in a way that reflects our mission:

### **Mission First, Roles Second**

We don't start with the jobs, we start with purpose.

What is God calling us to do in this season?

Who is He raising up to help us do it?

### **Expecting Change, Planning Well**

We assume that every role in church will eventually change hands.

That's not a failure, it's a sign of health.

So we plan ahead, we look out for & encourage new leaders, and make space for fresh voices.

### **Welcoming New Energy**

When someone steps into a role, we don't expect them to do things exactly as before.

We invite them to bring their gifts, their ideas, and their perspective.  
That's how ministries stay alive.

### **Letting Go with Grace**

When someone steps down, we honour their service but we also release them with blessing.

No guilt, no pressure. Just gratitude and trust that God is still at work.

### **Building Teams, Not Silos**

We're moving toward sharing jobs as part of a team wherever possible. It's better for sustainability, better for creativity, and better for discipleship. It's not healthy to say "that's their job, they always do it!"

### **A Church That Moves**

St Lawrence is not a museum it's a mission outpost.

That means we'll always be adapting, always listening, always learning. Succession planning is part of that journey. It helps us stay nimble, faithful, and ready for what's next.

So let's keep asking:

**What is God doing in our church family?**

**Who is He calling?**

**And how can we make space for the next chapter?**

With hope and expectation,

*Fr Chris Bishop*

Vicar of Hatfield





# Arrangements for Baptism (Christening) and Weddings

St Lawrence would love to celebrate your special day with you and your family. The first step in arranging a Baptism or a Wedding is to attend one of our services. Please introduce yourself to Chris our Vicar, who will speak with you about the next steps.

These are joyful and life changing events! Both require making serious promises before God and some preparation will take place before a date can be set.

Another option for Parents is a 'Thanksgiving Service' rather than a Baptism. This is a great way to celebrate the gift of a child with family and friends for those who aren't quite sure about God, but would still like to thank Him for the gift of a new life! Thanksgiving Services can be booked directly with Chris our Vicar and don't require any preparation.

## Funerals

Barry Stanley Brownsword

Alfred William Askins

Rhoda Gertrude Hardwick



Chris our Parish Priest is very happy to be contacted directly by email or phone to arrange a convenient time for any of the following;

A conversation for spiritual guidance and advice

The Sacrament of Confession

House Blessings

Visiting parishioners, especially the sick

Ministry at the time of death (day or night)

# A real St Lawrence welcome!

Our church is busy, really busy! No-one comes to everything, hopefully all who read this magazine will be able to come to something sometimes, and **Treats in the Churchyard** 4-6 on 31st October counts as coming to church, even if you don't come through the door!

In each diocese -we're in Sheffield Diocese with Sheffield, Rotherham and Doncaster- numbers of visitors are counted for one month, and it happens to be October. As the Editor is writing this on 20th October 950 people have come through our doors, that's **an average of 47 each day!** 20 children and 27 adults. We've had some one-off events such as the Bishops coming, and Travis St Lawrence School coming into church for their harvest service, but most months we have one-off events so October is fairly average.

We are getting known for our hospitality. Recently we had wine and birthday cake when Bishop Leah came and we celebrated Lew Rhoades 100th birthday, then both Bishops came and we had cheese and crackers, more wine, and then we had a pie and peas harvest supper, **all in the same week!**

Our thanks go to all those who help in any way. Sennette organises wonderfully and with imagination, thank you Sennette, but she doesn't do *all* the work, we rely on people to set up, serve and wash up, move tables and chairs, welcome with a smile, make sure we have books or papers if necessary, make sure we have all the necessary in the loo, take teatowels home to wash, it's a big list, please add your own bit here!

I'm helping the church to grow by \_\_\_\_\_

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Oh! I forgot a VERY important job to do... and it's hidden in a way that all the above jobs aren't hidden... it's the basic keeping the church clean! Just five people do this, every two weeks a group of two or a group of three people come into church and spend a couple of hours vacuuming, dusting, polishing. Another person makes sure the brass is polished. They don't do it just when the Bishops come, they each do it every four weeks, **for me and for you**. Wouldn't it be wonderful if they only had to do it every **SIX** weeks... Would you be willing to join a third group? It only needs three people, at an average of 20 minutes a week... Please talk to Terry or Chrissy about it if you're willing, they promise you won't be cold, with no stairs to sweep, and no windows to polish!

# What's happening to assemblies in schools?

This line of thinking originated when I was listening to a friend who was over-joyed with their Open the Book experience! Rachel sent a photo so you must read her article too, this picture says that assemblies have certainly changed in the last 50+ years!



These wonderful people are taking Bible stories into our schools, are being ASKED to take them, you can see God (you'll never guess who God is here!) in this production of "The Rebellion" proclaiming to Adam and Eve in the beautiful garden! And we know it's not the West End or Broadway, these are not names up in neon, but there are children who listen and take part to the extent that they are delighted to see someone from Open the Book outside school see page 25, and they are hearing the same Bible stories that we hear from the front of church. Thank you to all those who are involved!

Current law (1998) requires all state-funded schools in England, Wales and Northern Ireland to hold daily acts of 'Collective Worship'. At present the situation is that "Government guidance in England and guidance in Wales states: 'It is open to a school to have acts of worship that are wholly of a broadly Christian character, acts of worship



that are broadly in the tradition of another religion, and acts of worship which contain elements drawn from a number of different faiths. [The law provides] that within each school term the majority of acts of worship must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character, but it is not necessary for every act of worship to be so.

In addition, sixth form pupils in England and Wales and parents on behalf of other pupils have the right to withdraw from Collective Worship, either in its entirety or from parts of it. A child can be removed for only the worship element of an assembly and then reintroduced for the remainder of the time.

Finally, the law on the subject of collective worship is not enforced, and not inspected by Ofsted in England.”

(This information is from <https://assembliesforall.org.uk/> which is a humanist organisation, but had the most succinct, and here neutral, information.)

**So the law says there should be a daily act of worship which should have a majority, that could be 51%, Christian element. The law is not enforced or inspected. There is a bill presently going through the House of Lords to repeal this so no act of any sort of worship has to be held.**

There is at present a Bill to amend the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 to make provision regarding assemblies at state schools without a designated religious character in England; to repeal the requirement for those schools to hold collective worship; and for connected purposes.

- Education (Assemblies) Bill originated in the House of Lords, Session 2024/26.
- Second reading - the general debate on all aspects of the bill - took place on 7 February. Last updated: 11 February 2025 at 18:37
- What happens next? Committee stage - the line by line examination of the bill - is yet to be scheduled.

Chrissy Grindle

**So pray that schools continue to request and enjoy Open the Book!**

## ***Wendy's wreath making***

Shhhh... but Christmas is coming...

...and we need numbers to arrange things in good time...

The lovely Wendy Larner is happy to help us make Christmas wreaths again, and we'll manage to have tea/coffee and nibbly biscuits too, of course! She quite wonderfully helps us all to turn out a masterpiece, and has been doing so for years. She provides absolutely everything, and will soon need to go and buy what we will need. So names on the list in church please, as soon as possible, by Sunday November 2nd at the very latest, and these names will be binding to pay. £20 for a cemetery wreath and £23 for a door—the ribbons make the difference in price.

**Wreath-making Wednesday November 19th starting at 11:20** This will go on probably for not less than two hours, so do bring a packed lunch if you'd like to.



Much-loved faces from 2018

Come along and join us on 29th November for coffee and a chat - and a piece of cake of course ☕ 🍵 🍰 🥧 🥞



**Thorne Rural**  
**Lions**

**COFFEE  
MORNING**



**Saturday 29th November**  
10am - 12 noon

**Refreshments, Raffle,  
Tombola, Various Stalls and  
plenty of cake!**



**HATFIELD LIBRARY**

[thornerurallions.org.uk](http://thornerurallions.org.uk) Registered charity number - 1178388

GEORGIADIKAOYLAS



## ***A special Sunday for making Christmas puddings!***

Well, yes, in a way! Each communion service has an after communion prayer, special to that Sunday or Holy Day in the church calendar.

The Sunday before Advent, this year on 23rd November, has a rousing after communion prayer!

*“Stir up, we beseech thee, O Lord, the wills of thy faithful people; that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may of thee be plenteously rewarded; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen”*

So you can see that it became Stir Up Sunday, and as it's conveniently five or six weeks before Christmas that was the day Christmas puddings were made!

If you MAKE your Christmas puddings please write to the Editor with the recipe and any traditions about who stirs it! And do you put silver charms in it, it used to be old six-penny pieces... 5p would work well now, you could always slide them into a shop-bought pudding! And a photo as well if possible please, to the Editor, not in the pudding... [maghatfieldchurch@gmail.com](mailto:maghatfieldchurch@gmail.com), or on paper to anyone at church. Looking forward to them!

The Editor would like to point out that she doesn't really need a sample of pudding, but it would be a nice gesture...



## **'ALL SOULS' Memorial Service for 2025**

This annual Service of Remembrance, for the families of those who have passed away during the year, will take place on **Sunday, 2<sup>nd</sup> November at 6:30pm**. Where funeral services/cremations were conducted by members of our Ministry Team, the next of kin will receive invitations. If you have attended services for lost loved ones at other establishments, but would wish to remember them on our Roll of Remembrance, please complete one of the cards available at the back of Church and hand it in to a Churchwarden at any time prior to the start of the Service.



## Street Prayer Project—November update

Hello everyone,

As part of my ministry in our community, I have started a Street Prayer Project. Each week, I will be praying for different streets in our mission area and delivering prayer cards to let residents know when their street will be included in our prayers. These cards will also have details of our church services for the week.

If you receive a card, please know that you and your neighbours are being lifted in prayer. If you have specific prayer requests, you are warmly invited to get in touch or join us for the service on the date mentioned.

If you see me out and about, please stop and say hello—I'd love to chat!

This month, we will be praying for the following streets:

Arlington Road	Lindholme Close
Russet Close	Windmill Close
Crimson Drive	Saxon Ave
Autumn Drive	Viking Way
Woodland Cres	Shield Close
Braeburn Drive	Courtland Grove
Roxbury Drive	Laxton Ave
Pippin Way	Albany Drive
Fallow Road	High Street Dunsville

May God bless our streets, our homes, and all who live here

The Rev'd Chris Wroot [Curate]

Hatfield Church

frchriswroot@gmail.com 07884 325366



# Dates for your diary

1st Saturday Lawrence's Place, a Community Café, in church 9-12.  
This month we have the Ultimate Pokemon Trading Card Swap!!

**4th Tuesday Garden Club, 19:30 Working Men's Club at Hatfield Woodhouse (every first Tuesday)**

6th Thursday Stainforth History Group 19:00 Stainforth Methodist Church (every first Thursday) John Hope, former Detective Superintendent, "Memories of Doncaster Borough police—the start of a Police Career"

**8th every second Saturday coffee afternoon 14:00-15:30 at Dunsville Methodist Church, Greens Road**

14th Friday Hatfield Woodhouse Methodist Chapel Charity Coffee Afternoons, Weston Park Fundraising Event 11-2 see page 17 for more details. They say "We can now accommodate dog walkers outside (our new table and chairs) and if it is raining in the back room " Thanks Julie!

**28th Friday 5-8 Tower Lights Switch on to include a Christmas Fayre! which will continue on—**

**29th Saturday 10-2, and Santa is coming to that one!**

## **And mark up for December**

6th Saturday Lawrence's Place 9-12

6th Saturday Advent Retreat see page 19, 1– 4:30 p.m.

12th Friday Markham Main Brass Band in church 7:30 p.m.

13th Saturday Family Christingle with a hot chocolate station!

21st Sunday at 4 p.m., "It's midnight in Bethlehem" Traditional Carol Service with mulled wine and mince pies

24th Sunday at 23:30 Midnight Communion

### Come and Sing

The next Come and Sing session will take place in church on Tuesday November 25th at 6.30 p.m. Music featured will include hymns for Advent. All are welcome. No regular commitment is expected.

**Vernon Hoyle**

**Join us for the  
ultimate Pokémon  
Trading Card Swap at  
Lawrence's Place  
Community Café this  
November!**



**Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> Nov  
Between 9am-12noon**

Swap cards and make new friends!

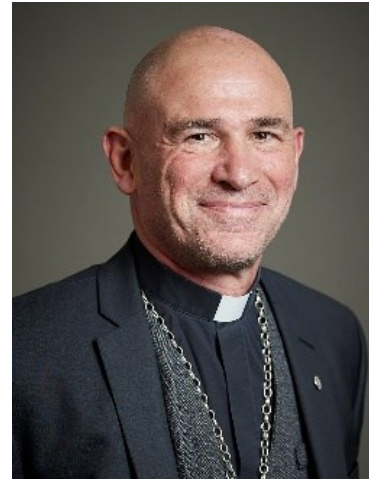


Lawrence's Place is a Community Café  
which meets EVERY first Saturday in the month,  
9-12 in the church!

# Meet your Bishops



Most Reverend Leah Vasey- Saunders  
Bishop of Doncaster



Most Reverend Pete Wilcox  
Bishop of Sheffield

On Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> October, St Lawrence played host to a twinned Deanery event (our Deanery, Snaith and Hatfield, and the churches in the Adwick Deanery)

It was a joyful and uplifting evening, where Bishop Leah spoke of her joy of music. She explained it was through being invited to join a church choir at university that God became a huge part of her life. She thanks God for the gift of her voice and the fact that she can use it to support her response to all life experiences, both positive and negative. To illustrate this, she introduced us to 4 of her 'go-to' songs.

Bishop Pete assured us that they hadn't liaised over what they were going to say, but it seemed God-led that his choice was Psalm 150, the greatest praise poem in the Bible. We are all exhorted to praise him with our voices, musical instruments and bodies through movement and dance. It was really comforting to hear that God is not looking for any sign of professionalism! Praise the Lord... Hallelujah.

The second part of the meeting was devoted to hearing from members of the churches across the two deaneries. The Rev'd. Chris Wroot, our curate, spoke of the different formats of worship held at St Laurences and also of our outreach into the community. We heard of the success of the Rainbow Café church at Stainforth St Mary's and also of the growth in Children's Ministry from a Centenary Project Worker in the Adwick deanery.

The overriding message from all the speakers was that they are seeing growth in our churches. That is the best news ever – that people are finding the love, joy and hope that Christ can bring into their lives.

**PRAISE THE LORD... HALLELUJAH.**

Glenys Mashford





Together at every step.

**Cancer changes everything. But so can you.**

# **DON'T MISS OUT!**

HATFIELD WOODHOUSE METHODIST CHURCH

**is raising money for Weston Park Cancer Charity by:**

holding a Charity event with Refreshments, Stalls, Tombola, Weston Park Stall and Raffle

**Come and join them!**

**When:** Friday 14th November 2025

**Where:** Hatfield Woodhouse Methodist Church, Main Street, Hatfield Woodhouse DN7 6NE

**Time:** 11am until 2pm

# **Assisted suicide law would make this a country that says ‘some lives are not worth living’ – Bishop of London**

*This article was written by Parish Pump, and issued before Bishop Sarah Mullaly was announced as the next Archbishop of Canterbury.*

The Bishop of London has warned peers in the House of Lords that legalising assisted suicide in England and Wales will "change society" by endorsing the idea that "some lives are not worth living".

Bishop Sarah Mullally, the former Chief Nursing Officer for England, was concerned about those who could face internal and subtle pressures to end their lives if assisted suicide were introduced – particularly in the absence of adequate palliative or social care, or out of fear of becoming a burden on their families.

"I understand the fear of many that they may be offered free assisted death before they are offered the care and equipment that they may live," she said.

As the Church of England's lead bishop for health and social care, the Bishop of London was speaking as the House of Lords debated the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill in late September.

The Private Member's Bill, brought by the MP Kim Leadbeater, completed its Third Reading in the Commons in June with a reduced majority of just 23 votes amid mounting concerns about its safety.

Bishop Sarah said it is right for peers now to scrutinise the Bill but argued that no amendments could ultimately make it entirely safe from the negative effects such as people being pressured to end their lives.

"I am deeply concerned that so many in this Parliament are not

heeding the voices of professional and representative bodies that are raising the alarm.”

She also rejected the central claim that the Bill would offer people choice at the end of their lives.

“A meaningful choice would see the measures in this Bill set alongside equally available, fully funded palliative and social care services,” she said. “Without the choice offered this choice is an illusion.”,

She spoke about her personal experience, including as a nurse, priest, and bishop, of spending time with people as they died and said the introduction of assisted dying within the health system would fundamentally alter the role of health professionals.

“To change the law is to change society,” she added. “If passed, this Bill will signal that we are a society that believes that some lives are not worth living.

“This Bill would become our State-endorsed position, and our NHS would be active in its delivery.”

“I believe in a God who’s very being is life, and in that gift we can discover meaning, dignity and innate worth, even if we are dying.

Nevertheless, the assisted dying bill has passed its second reading in the House of Lords, moving it another step closer to becoming law. The Bill now goes to a select committee for further scrutiny, with a deadline of reporting back to the House of Lords by 7<sup>th</sup> November, before it can move to the next stage.

## **The Friends of Hatfield Church Building Trust**

We received a welcome cheque from Recycling for Good Causes recently for £76.90 for all the scrap jewellery, old mobile phones, broken watches, used stamps and old foreign currency, etc you've donated so it's all definitely worth collecting, thank you.

We have been given lots of beautiful handmade glass jewellery; earrings, necklaces and a bracelet in many different styles and colours which will be on sale at our jewellery table at the Friends of Quarry Park Coffee Morning in Hatfield Community Library on Saturday 25th October.

We'll also have a table at Hatfield Community Library Christmas Fair on Friday 28th November in the afternoon and at the Church Christmas Fair on Saturday 29th November.

Don't forget if you're buying your Christmas shopping online to do it via [www.easyfundraising.org.uk/](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/) and by nominating The Friends we'll get free donations! If I buy online, I do 'click and collect' and it's usually free which saves me loads of time searching then queuing to pay. Shop smarter, not harder!

Information – You can become a 'Friend' for a minimum donation of £5 per year. These subscriptions are the backbone of our fundraising efforts with all funds raised going only to maintain, conserve and restore our wonderful Grade 1 Listed building and grounds. Anyone can join us. For more information and to pay Membership renewal fees please contact Jean Singleton, Eastby, Cuckoo Lane, Hatfield, Doncaster, DN7 6QE. Tel 01302 842363.

**Tina O'Hallloran**





## **An Advent Quiet Afternoon at St Lawrence Church, Hatfield on 6<sup>th</sup> December, 1pm, finishing at 4pm with Holy Communion from The Book of Common Prayer.**

As Christmas draws near, life often seems to speed up, lists to complete, preparations to make, and little time to pause. Yet Advent is a season that calls us to do the very opposite: to wait. Not with frustration or impatience, but with **hopeful expectation**, trusting in God's promises even when they are unseen.

Our Advent Quiet Afternoon, on the theme “**Waiting in Hope**,” offers a gentle space to step aside from the busyness of daily life and enter into stillness. It's an opportunity to rest in God's presence, to listen for His voice, and to prepare our hearts to welcome Christ afresh this Christmas.

There will be moments of silence, short reflections, and a number of simple prayer stations to explore at your own pace. Each station invites you to pause, pray, and reflect on what it means to wait with faith and hope.

As you arrive, you'll be given a small **prayer journal** to use throughout the afternoon, somewhere to write or draw your own prayers and thoughts as you journey through the space.

This isn't a time for busy activity, but a time to **breathe, be still, and meet with God**. However full your Advent diary may already be, why not make space for this time apart? You may just find that in the quiet, hope is renewed, and the true light of Advent begins to shine again. If you would like to book on please contact Rev Chris Wroot at

[frchriswroot@gmail.com](mailto:frchriswroot@gmail.com)

# October 100 Club and Vera's chatter

1st prize Anne Bennett

2nd prize James Stubbs

3rd prize Tim Sweed

Congratulations all of you, enjoy an unexpected treat. If we have not collected your subs yet do not worry I do not take anyone out of the draw until you tell me to, but expect a visit soon .

The topic for the first Café Church this month was prayer, we were all asked when and how we pray? The usual answers were quickly given, in Church, out walking in nature, in the garden, on a favourite quarry park seat, before sleep or first thing in the morning. My answer was a little different. I have a calendar on a hook next to our kettle so each morning as I wait for the kettle to boil for the first brew of the day I pray for whoever is on my calendar, this week it was the lovely Louise Boldrey -no age spoilers- and my friends Sue and Andy Geough celebrating their wedding anniversary. It is an excellent way to bring friends to mind in prayer although I will admit to a little reticence when it says pay tax bill and I have to pray for the staff at the tax office! Although to be fair hell would freeze over before I worked there, all those numbers and percentages are not my thing at all.

My other favourite time is when I am ironing. I can hear some of you groaning and I know several young people who do not even possess an iron! How do they cope? Do they put their clothes under the mattress like in the real olden days, OK... too many Catherine Cookson's read. I have very vivid memories of watching my gran Edith Morgan ironing with an old fashioned flat iron, heating it on the range (the sort you black leaded on a Saturday, not a posh modern one) spitting on the iron to make sure it was hot enough and then ironing away on the table which was protected by a thick Welsh blanket. My Auntie Hilda stopped Mam ironing when Mam melted Hilda's new nylon blouse, the height of fashion at the time which had taken a lot of saving for in the penny club.

So why do I pray when I am ironing? Well it's obvious really, I pray for whoever's garment it is, so when my children lived with us when they were having extensions built it was a blessing for me to have an opportunity to iron lots of prayers onto their clothes. Now I pray onto my husband's clothes and my own or the Church tea towels or whatever I lay my hands on, also of course as you flatten the creases out you send your cares away.

So ask Father Christmas for a calendar and an iron!

If you came to the Bishops' service which was a truly enlightening evening you will have heard a member of St Mary's Stainforth talk about their Rainbow service which is aimed at - although not exclusively for—the LGBT community, it was a very moving testimony. Now I understand that this is a very tricky subject but it did take me back to the days 25 years ago, when as a newly divorced woman some people in Hatfield Church were frankly horrible to me. The Rev'd John Sweed and Dr Waters stood by me and were the rocks I leant on until the storms passed. I would probably be a novice Christian still without their care and support. My point being that in 25 years from now will the Church of England still be in a furore on this subject or will we have remembered we are all made in God's image and he loves us unconditionally, as we are, warts and all. I am no theologian, and I know thousands of words have been written on this subject and will continue to be written but I find it hard to be judgemental of the individuals we know and love,

Just before I finish, a fond memory of Rev'd John from my daughter Katherine. She told the tale of John going on the school trip to Scarborough and him being the leader of mischief, some wellington boots and sea water was involved. I am sure he has his place in Heaven as a good and faithful servant who brought many of us to certainty in the Lord.

Bless you all,

Vera x

# Diary of a Youth, Children's and Families Worker

## DIARY OF A YOUTH, CHILDREN'S AND FAMILIES WORKER

Firstly I would like to say a big thank you to everyone who has stepped up and sponsored one of the places on the upcoming Youth Alpha Course at Ash Hill Academy. We have had 11 of the 30 places sponsored so far. If you'd like to donate, then place costs £10 which will pay for resources, snacks and the gift of a Bible for each young person taking part. You can pop it in an envelope marked "youth alpha" in the collection bowl or get in touch to make a bank transfer. I am really excited to see what God will do and am busy preparing some fun interactive questions to get the students interested when I visit the canteen each lunchtime next week (20<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> October). Do ask me how it's gone and pray for those signing up!

This month has been even more exciting for our Youth Group, as we have had our highest numbers ever, with 23 young people attending last Sunday. We have had 12 new members join this September, which has almost doubled our group from last year. We have started back with lots of fun activities such as fruit kebab making, pretzel making, just dance on the big screen and ultimate frisbee in the dark (yes we purchased a flashing light up frisbee just for the occasion!). But most importantly, we have started a new Bible Study series called "We are Different", where we are exploring why and how Christians are different to the world and what impact being a Christian should have on us too. Last week we looked at what happened when people encountered Jesus in the Bible, and many of them went away completely changed. Saul stopped being violent and persecuting Christians and instead got baptised and changed his name to Paul. The woman at the well went and told everyone she knew about Jesus, becoming the first evangelist! Those who were bleeding or blind were healed and their lives completely changed. And the men on the road to Emmaus were so excited that they ran all the way back to where they had come from! **Are we just as changed if we've encountered Jesus?** Have we turned from our old ways, stopped being violent, been healed or just become so excited that we want to share Jesus with others? I hope so!

This month I also heard news that our amazing Hatfield Heroes will be the Duncroft Coop Local Community Cause again this year. They loved having us so much a year ago that they chose us, and we're really looking forward to having them join us on litter picks and other activities out in the community. It means that the young people will get some funding too, which we use to subsidise trips and to buy hoodies for them all.

Our amazing new Open the Book team have been keeping me busy this



month too, as we've taken the story of "The Rebellion" and "The Flood" into local primary schools. Pauline, one of our amazing actor volunteers shared this lovely testimony of why we set up the team here in Hatfield, to build positive relationships with our children and community and to increase recognition of Bible stories:

***As I was walking my dogs this morning, a child says "hello, you're that lady who comes into school telling Bible stories". I replied, "yes I am! Have you told mummy about them?". He replied "yes I do!" I asked "Do you enjoy it?". He replied "Yes, I do!" with a big smile on his face. I wished him a good day and that I would see him soon.***

Finally, I am really excited for the next two Lawrence's Place Community Café sessions. There has been a lot of buzz around the Pokémon card swap table in November, as many of our children and "big children" collect and trade these. I am also hoping that our Hatfield Heroes will be there at December's café to run a "Christmas Gift Wrap Station". So if you have some gifts already purchased and would like for someone else to wrap them, please bring them along. This will be free but donations to our trip fund always appreciated!

Rachel Ridler – Youth, Children's and Families Worker  
[Rachel.ridler@centenaryproject.org.uk](mailto:Rachel.ridler@centenaryproject.org.uk)



The rather bemused older person who's turn it was to make the hot chocolate that evening says she had just discovered the joys of dipping a marshmallow into Nutella, and no-one was commenting! It's great being a volunteer!

Ask Rachel if you're interested, she could squeeze you in!



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### ***Joining in on Facebook!***

You can join Rev'd Gill or Rev'd Chris Wroot on Friday mornings at 8:30 for a short Morning Prayer— 10 minutes  
Go to the St Lawrence Hatfield page and try it out!



*Please ensure that copy for the magazine is with the editor by the 15th of each month, preferably in writing. This means that the magazine can be put together, printed and collated and in church by the last Sunday in each month, and to be delivered by the time of the first activities in the month.*

*Copy to*  
Chrissy Grindle, letter in church or to  
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*Thank you.*



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# Worship times

Each Monday to Thursday Morning Prayer at 9:15 in church

Each Friday Morning Prayer on Facebook 8:30

Each Wednesday 10.00 Holy Communion followed by Open Church from  
11.00 – 12.00 join us for coffee, chat, light a candle, quiet prayer.....

Each Thursday 15:00 Holy Communion Service Book of Common  
Prayer (BCP)

## Sunday 2nd November All Saints

10:00 Choral Communion

16:00 Café Church

6:30 p.m. "ALL SOULS" Memorial Service for 2025

## Sunday 9th November Remembrance Sunday

8:30 Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion

9:30 A non-Eucharistic All Age Service

## Sunday 16th November 2nd before Advent

10:00 Choral Communion

16:00 Café Church

## Sunday 23rd November Christ the King

8:30 BCP and Breakfast

10:00 Choral Communion



## Sunday 30th November Advent Sunday

10:00 Choral Communion, a Mission Area service when St Nicholas  
Thorne will join us!