

Bengeo Magazine

SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF BENGELO, CHAPMORE END AND TONWELL



St Leonard's Church, Bengoe Calendar of Events for 2023

OPENING TIMES FOR VISITORS –

Sundays 4th June to 24th September, from 2.30pm to 5.00pm

TEAS from 2.30pm to 4.30pm

QUIET TIME – every Tuesday evening at 8pm for one hour from 6th June

July

Sunday 2nd Annual Bengoe Pet Service at 4pm, followed by refreshments

Saturday 8th Children's Art Workshop in association with Courtyard Arts

Sunday 9th Concert: Mimram Singers at 3pm

Saturday 22nd Lutenist Sergio Bucheli in recital, 7.30pm

August

Saturday 5th Magpie Lane Folk Band traditional English music, 7.30pm

Sunday 6th Service of Praise with Hymns and Pimms, 6.30pm

September

Saturday 8th Viv McLean, solo piano recital
(Fundraising event at Holy Trinity Church)

Saturday 9th Heritage Open Day
Herts and Beds Historic Church Trust 'Bike and Hike'

Sunday 10th Heritage Open Day

Sunday 24th Harvest Festival Songs of Praise, 6.30pm
Followed by the Friends of St Leonard's AGM

October

Saturday 29th Fiona Bonds Trout Quintet concert
(Fundraising event at Holy Trinity Church)

December

Friday 8th 'A Christmas Wassail' with Folk Band Magpie Lane, 7.30pm

Further information

Concert bookings: £15 (£10 FOSL members)

Email boxoffice@parishofbengeo.com

For latest information visit our website

stleonards.parishofbengeo.com



Bengeo Parish Magazine and Community News



Our colourful covers show how the community spirit of Bengeo came together with indoor and outdoor street parties and with the Yarnbombers' imaginative Post Box toppers to celebrate King Charles III Coronation.

In this issue we feature the new outlets and stalls bringing local produce and international street food to Bengeo. Together with events at our pubs and the Bengeo Club plus teas and concerts at St Leonard's there is so much going on to entertain us near to home.

Bridget tells us about the beautiful and useful Mallow plant that you can find locally in the summer months.

So do enjoy what is around us in Bengeo this summer.

The Editorial Team

The views expressed by the contributors are not necessarily those of the Editorial Team or the PCC. Whilst every care is taken, we cannot be responsible for the action of any of the contributors or advertisers in this magazine.

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Editorial Team

Items for the magazine should be sent to magazine@parishofbengeo.com

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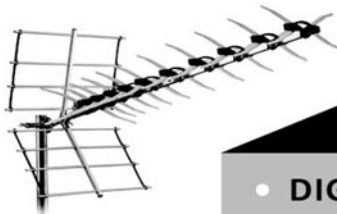


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What's on in Bengoe

White Lion News



We celebrated the coronation of our new King, King Charles III by hosting a tea party which we had to

move inside due to the typical British weather but everyone still had a fantastic time. We all had a delicious afternoon tea with music provided by the amazing DJ Stu.

Our summer sounds in the garden is back every Friday 7.30–9.30pm and Sunday afternoon 4–6pm unless stated otherwise.

We do have a deal on our famous fish and chips every Tuesday and Wednesday at only £5.95.

The Greyhound News

There is 'Gin and Nibbles' every Wednesday where you get a Thai starter and any Gin and mixer for £10. We also have a singer performing from 6–8pm out the front.

Quiz night runs from 7–9pm every 3rd Thursday of the month.



Bengeo Club

The Club's facilities are a licensed bar and patio, lawn bowls, snooker, pool, darts, gaming, BT Sport and music. There are a range of entertainment events throughout the year. Membership is open to all, £12 per year plus £20 joining fee.



Entertainment at the Club in July and August:

- 1st JULY: **Indigo Star**
- 8th JULY: **Mario**
- 29th JULY: **The Setbacks**
- 5th AUGUST: **Monitors**
- 19th AUGUST:

Caribbean Day

Bingo evenings: 15th, 22nd JULY; 12th and 26th AUGUST.

Lawn Bowls

Membership of the Bengoe Club and bowls membership required. Bengoe Club members can pay and play for £2.50 a session. Call Rob on **07871 438700** for more details.

The Club has a brand new Pétanque Piste complete with scoreboard. Members and guests can play with their own boules or the club's stock from opening hours to dusk 7 days a week. The piste fee is £2 for members.



Pop up Shops and Street Food in Bengoe

Outside the White Lion

Thirteen Artisan Bakery



On Wednesday mornings from 8–11am the Thirteen Artisan bakery offers a wonderful selection of freshly baked, handmade artisan sourdough loaves,

pastries and other baked goods using only the freshest, organic and local ingredients where possible.



VanPizza

This popular stall operates on Thursday and Saturday evenings between 5–9pm. You can order in advance by calling **07799 226515** from 4pm on Thursday

or Saturday. On those days you can also order on GoGetters if you prefer your pizza delivered. Cash only sales at the stall.



Get Toasted

On a Sunday morning the Get Toasted van serves coffee, cakes and delicious sourdough toasties from 9am–2pm.

Outside the Greyhound

Thai Street food

When the weather is fine, this stall is offering Thai food from 2–6pm on Sundays. Check on the **Greyhound@Bengeo** Facebook to see the dates.

Community Bakery at Vale House

43 Bakery is a newly opened community bakery in Port Vale. All profits from the bakery go to Future Living, a domestic abuse charity.

The bakery, which is located at Vale House, 43 Cowbridge, features a terrace where you

opportunities or to place an order in our shop, visit our **43bakery.co.uk**.

We are looking for a volunteer to make simple cakes at the bakery. This is a great opportunity for someone who has a passion for cake! Email **amy@livinghertford.co.uk** to register your interest or for more information.



can sit and enjoy a coffee in the sunshine. Sandra, who is CEO and Founder of Future Living said: "We really wanted to make the bakery for the people of Hertford. The space is a great way to get local people together and make a real difference within the community. We offer voluntary opportunities and will soon be offering bakery courses, which will be open to the public. The team have been delighted to meet so many local people, some of whom have already become regulars!"

43 Bakery is open Monday to Friday 7.30am–2.00pm.

For more information about the bakery, volunteer



International food comes to Bengoe



Walking along the residential streets of Bengoe you may not expect to find authentic regional food from around the globe, but week after week, loyal foodies line up in Port Vale outside StrEats, run by Tig Silvester, to collect their fresh and delicious takeaways.

Having quit his job in IT around five years ago to do Malaysian street food, when lockdown hit in 2020 he had around 80 events cancelled, but now, instead of taking his cooking to the people, the people come to him.

"I also had to cancel a vegan Korean buffet at Mudlarks but nearly everyone came to collect a takeaway from me instead," said Tig.

"Since I have travelled fairly extensively, I decided to do authentic takeaways every Friday and Saturday from a different country each week, which proved to be very successful," he added.

Tig tries to travel over Christmas each year in search of new recipes, and has been to Sri Lanka, Morocco, Spain, Vietnam, Cambodia and Thailand over the last couple of years.

"I cook authentic regional menus that you would usually have to travel miles to find."

Nationalities include Malaysian, Burmese, Cambodian, Caribbean, Punjabi, Bengali, Sri Lankan, Korean, Mauritian, Mexican, Persian, Moroccan, Sichuan, South African, Thai, Vietnamese.

With 1,500 followers on Facebook, StrEats has remained popular and now three years on from the initial lockdown takeaways, he's grown StrEats further to include street food events, parties, weddings and festivals too, alongside the weekend offerings in Bengoe.



He attends street food events locally, in wider Hertfordshire as well as further afield at various festivals. He is also rated 4.9 on Google

Reviews, just shy of a full five stars, again with every review heaping praise on top of his dedication to global cuisine and skill in producing delicious dishes.

Week after week he lists his menu on Facebook, with almost every post attracting heavy praise for the delicious food. "Thanks for doing what you do... see you next week" one comment says. Tig also trials new dishes and cuisines, seeking feedback from his loyal customers who line up to pick up their takeaways week after week. Hungry Bengoe residents are able to reserve slots to collect food from Tig, with a different cuisine offered on Friday and Saturday. He is able to cater to a wide variety of people, with vegan options on offer alongside chicken or fish dishes. Check StrEats Facebook to see what is on offer each week.

His takeaways also offer delicious value for money, with his typical Malaysian menu served in biodegradable boats with cutlery including:

- Rendang curry (with chicken or Tofu and vegetable)
- Roti Canai with potato curry and vegetable Dal
- Satay peanut sauce (chicken or Tofu and peppers)
- Kachumbar
- Chilli Sambal
- Nam prik hot sauce, coriander and peanuts

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On The Doorstep



The summer months are here and as the months have progressed there has been plenty of beautiful wildflowers to spot. Today I am going to concentrate on the Mallow. Locally you will be able to spot both the common mallow and musk mallow, both have wonderful showy, funnel-like flowers that range from 2cm to 5cm across.

The common mallow, like the musk mallow, has five petals. The common mallow is a purplish/pink colour with prominent dark pink veins coming from the centre. The musk mallow is a delicate pink that also has dark veins coming from the centre, but they are not so obvious and as the name suggests it has a musky smell. Both mallows can grow between 60cm to well over a metre in height and have hairy leaves and stems. The leaves of the common mallow are circular in shape with five shallow lobes, the musk mallow is similar, but the leaves are deeply lobed.

The common and musk mallows can be found growing on waste ground, grassland, roadsides and paths and are widespread throughout the UK. A good place to find both types of mallow is Waterford Heath, on the north side where the sculpture is.

The mallow plants come from the Malvaceae family, which includes cotton, okra and hibiscus, to name a few. The scientific name is *Malva Sylvestris* for the common mallow and *Malva Moschata* for the musk mallow. Mallows have various common names

including Billy Buttons, Mallich, Cheeses, and Cheese Mallow, cheese because the plant has cheese shaped fruits.

All of the mallow plant is edible, the leaves can be used in salads and there is evidence that the Romans may have cultivated it for eating and for the plant's medicinal purposes. It has anti-inflammatory properties and has been used for stomach and bladder problems, as well as a laxative, amongst other things. Indeed, the closely-related marsh mallow plant was where we originally got the sweets, marshmallows.

When the roots of the marsh mallow are boiled it produces a sticky glutenous liquid which the Egyptians used to add honey to, as early as 2000 BC.

Eventually, a confectioner in France in the 1800s made the marshmallow as we know it today and later the plant was substituted for gelatine. The plant is also mentioned in the Bible as an edible survival food: *Job 30:4 New King James Version*: 'Who pluck mallow by the bushes, And broom tree roots for their food.'

The mallow is said to symbolise romantic interest, healing, survival in rough conditions (possibly a reference to the Bible verse), as well as spiritual healing, peace and devoutness.

Shakespeare mentions the mallow flower, as does Alfred Lord Tennyson in the poem *The Brook*:

With many a curve my banks I fret
By many a field and fallow,
And many a fairy foreland set
With willow-weed and mallow.

The mallows are beautiful, particularly the musk mallow with its delicate pink petals, a real stunner and wild wonder.

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Bengeo Neighbourhood Plan



We have had a couple of busy months with the Neighbourhood Plan. We put in a report on the Cedar Close Weir Bypass earlier in the year. Last week we put in a response to the Hartham Common Action Plan 2023-28 Engagement Document. The 2023-28 plan is detailed, comprehensive and complex. It contains much to be welcomed and celebrated. For example, improvement to some of the paths and the promotion of health walks. A very detailed strategy on the management of woodlands; the creation of formal paddling points for safe entry into the Beane and access to the water's edge; re-wetting of the swimming pool, vegetation, and silt clearance.

We have suggested that all paths are evaluated for suitability of expanding the cycling network particularly the path from St Leonard's Church through The Warren to Port Hill.

We have also suggested improvements to woodland fringes and seeding with meadow grass and wildflower

mix to improve the suitability for wildlife. Woodland fringes are key areas for birds and other wildlife.

We have also endorsed a suggestion from Save Beane Marshes that areas of the Beane used for paddling should seek to be designated 'bathing water' status. A 'bathing water' is a coastal or inland water that attracts a large number of bathers. If a site is designated the Environment Agency must put plans in place to monitor and protect the bathing water. If this in place it puts more pressure on the Environment Agency to improve water quality for the benefit of both local people and local nature.

We have also suggested additional CCTV near the skate park to deter anti-social behaviour; better provision for teenagers and some parking slots in the Port Hill car park allocated to local businesses or residents. See the full text soon on the lovebengeo.org.uk website.

John Howson

BNAP Chair

Bengeo Community Garden

Some days it's quite hard to believe this garden is ever going to happen – but we shall overcome! Our last update reported a large amount of concrete just below a thin covering of soil. But how extensive was it? The only way to find out was to get digging again and the photo shows the result of our labours.

We're not sure what it once was – the base or roof of the air raid shelter, maybe, or the base of the warning siren? The good news for us was that the concrete area does not appear to cover the whole site so now several things have to happen. Firstly, we've only uncovered one section of the site and we need to know more about what might be on the substation side. Then we can replan the 'garden' accordingly and, hopefully, get a pathway created and maybe put a few bulbs in whilst looking forward to the main planting next Spring.



The underlying structure is likely to dictate what is planted. Sadly, lack of access to water means that raised beds are not feasible, so we are looking with Mudlarks at native plants that will cope – and look beautiful.

Meanwhile more digging is going to be needed so please check out our Facebook site, Bengeo Community Garden, for a call to dig to discover and map what lies beneath. We are calling it 'Digging for Bengeo'.

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Freeland Candlesticks for St Leonard's Church



Rosie Freeland and family are delighted to present two new candlesticks to St Leonard's Church, dedicated to the memory of much-loved husband and father, Tony Freeland. Tony loved both St Leonard's and Holy Trinity where he worshipped and participated in parish life for over 40 years.

Blacksmith Alan Freeman of Parndon Forge, Harlow, pictured with Rosie above, has helped design and craft these beautiful bespoke candlesticks to complement the Norman church interior; their curved base legs mimic the form of the altar and the hand-forged steel suits the character of the building beautifully.

Four tall candles on each candlestick, placed either side of the Norman arch, will provide an elegant backdrop to our future concerts – they might even add a welcome bit of warmth for congregations at Christmas carol services!

The copper dedication plates read, '*ANTHONY FREELAND 1943-2018 – REJOICED IN THE LIGHT.*' They will be formally dedicated at our Songs of Praise 'Hymns & Pimms' service on Sunday 6th August.

Annual Pet Blessing Service Sunday 2nd July at 4pm in St Leonard's Church

Do come and join us with or without pets. Our Lay Reader Bob Kelly with his dog Oskar will take the Service which will be followed by refreshments. We hope to have a Speaker from DOTS (Dogs on the



streets) who will tell us all about the Charity for which we are raising money

this year. This is always a delightful service for all ages. Any pets, dogs, cats, rabbits, guinea pigs, hamsters, gerbils, tortoises and of course, teddies, will be very welcome!

Any more details required please ring me on 01992 583979.

Libby Shillito



Coronation Celebration Tea Party

A big thank you to everyone who helped at or came to celebrate the

Coronation of King Charles III at the Church Hall back in May. There was a very patriotic feel to the afternoon: the hall was decorated with bunting and the tables all looked very festive. The delicious tea was provided by many helpers and there was bubbly to toast our new King. As well as spending an enjoyable afternoon we were able to raise £410 for Church funds.

Libby Shillito



The Children's Society

Afternoon Tea Saturday 10th June

Thank you so much to all our helpers at the annual fundraising Tea Party and to all those who braved the heatwave to join us. The waitresses did a sterling job to-ing and fro-ing across the garden between gazebos in the intense heat with glasses of prosecco, cups of tea and plates of sandwiches, scones and cakes all prepared and baked by dedicated supporters.

Together with the proceeds from the White Elephant and Raffle we are very pleased to say that we raised £1,050 for the invaluable work of the Children's Society.

This event would not be able to take place without all the help of friends, neighbours and family, their support is very much appreciated.

Libby Shillito

Children's Art Workshop

Working with Courtyard Arts, there will be a Children's Art Workshop on Saturday 8th July from 10.30am to 2.30pm. Children can try out a variety of different activities including collage and printing. It's a fun and free way to entertain families and be creative.

Why not help us decorate the church this year by colouring in our bunting flag – you can download it here www.stleonards.parishofbengeo.com/summer-bunting or print it from page 27.

Helen Fleming
Secretaryfriendsofstleonards@gmail.com

See the St Leonard's programme on page 2 for the concerts and other events.

Bengeo Scout troop flourishing again

After seventy fantastic years helping young people do more and be more, 2nd Bengeo Scouts almost folded in early 2022 when a lack of adult leaders made weekly meetings impossible to run. Not only did this jeopardise the future of scouts in Bengeo, but it also impacted the cubs whose only option to continue their Scouting journey was with troops outside the village.

Whilst new leaders were sought to keep 2nd Bengeo afloat the scouts temporarily dispersed to groups in Watton and Hertford. With the Watermill Lane-based troop on the brink of disbanding for good, a Facebook SOS to the local community found a new leadership team and 2nd Bengeo got a fresh start in October 2022.

Since reconvening the 2nd Bengeo have held cookouts, staged a panto, learned pioneering skills, and have worked on gaining badges in crafts, code-breaking and local history. In just four short months of being back together, the troop came 2nd in the district Ready Steady Cook Challenge. A summer camp is planned in July.

Marc Brocklesby, Scout Leader, said: "I was the only one left from the previous leader group and you need a team to provide a full programme for the Scouts. Our four adult volunteers have a range of events and activities planned. We will be welcoming a batch of new scouts coming up from cubs."

Susan Barber, Hertford Mayor at the time of their relaunch, met with 2nd Bengeo scouts to hear more about their journey and to congratulate them on continuing the long history of scouting in Bengeo.

More information on cubs and scouts is at www.scouts.org.uk. Bengeo scouts meet at 7.45pm every Wednesday in term time at the hut in Watermill Lane, Bengeo.

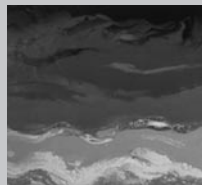
Contact Pauline Page for further information peapage@outlook.com.



Go with the Flow – Ruth Ward

29th June – 22nd July 2023

We are delighted to be hosting this 'pop-up' exhibition from local artist Ruth Ward.



Ruth will be showcasing her contemporary seascapes in our stables area. Her work is created using the fluid art technique.

Artist in Residence 2023

8th August – 2nd September 2023

Courtyard Arts is looking for recent Art and Design graduates/newly established artists who are looking to explore and develop their practice to apply for a one-month residency. To apply please complete the application form and supply details of your art practice, with images, a CV and your reasons for wanting this residency by Monday 26th June, 4pm.

For details visit Artist in Residence 2023.

Bengeo Open Gardens

Adrian and Donna Chamberlain are opening the garden at Bengeo Hall on the 12th August from 6–8pm for wine and cheese. There will be soft drinks for those who prefer it. John and Pam Thain are opening the garden at 1 Duncombe Road on 9th September from 2–4pm for tea and cakes. On a much smaller scale, Janet Guilbride is opening the garden at 28 Temple Fields, which is small but colourful, for wine and cheese on the 8th July from 6–8pm. There will be a small charge for entry which will be given to the Beane Restoration Association.

Janet Guilbride

Adult Education Classes in Bengeo in September

All are welcome at the Parish Hall, Duncombe Road from 10.30am to 12.30pm on a Tuesday to hear eight sessions on 'Magic Realism: Art in 1920's Germany'. Rosanna Eckersley is our tutor (she has given excellent courses in Bengeo on the Pre-Raphaelites and French Impressionism).

Dates: 26th September to 28th November 2023 (no class 24th and 31st October). Cost: £40. Organisers: Hertford Adult Learning Group (HALG). Contact: 01992 589538.



Bengeo Primary School

Over the last few weeks, Year 2 have been learning to identify trees by looking at their leaves and discovering how old a tree is by counting their rings. They enjoyed visiting our Forest School and spent time looking at growing trees, guessing how old our trees are and also learnt about some of the oldest and largest trees in the world!



Year 1 have been role playing being in a Victorian classroom. 'Our teacher was very strict, and we had to follow all the class rules! We wrote letters with chalk and sat in rows.'



Reception classes watched their caterpillars eat, spin silk and grow into chrysalides, and then transform into beautiful butterflies. They let them fly away from their Reception garden.



Bengeo Primary School has a limited number of places in Reception for September 2023. Please call us on 01992 582765 for more information and to arrange to visit us.

Don't forget Bengeo Day on the 9th July!



Mill Mead Primary School



Ducklings have been concentrating on learning about plants and flowers, and created our own growing garden outside, inspired by the story *'The Extraordinary Gardener'*.

We have investigated how fruits start as seeds and become part of our healthy diet. Our whole school project on sustainability, linked into our learning on the impact of chopping down trees and affecting the wildlife.



Mice have been exploring oceans and have used this theme across all areas of learning to create a watercolour including the sea creatures. We

have also enjoyed several books linked to this topic including *the Snail and the Whale* and *Sharing a Shell*. These books helped us to talk about friendship and teamwork and we made friendship soup in PSHE with magical ingredients like helpfulness, kindness and turn taking.



Birds have been busy practising our sewing skills as we made our puppets based on the story *'Little Red Riding Hood'*. Keeping with the Arts, we became

composers as we created pieces of music based on a Superhero theme. We learned how important the role of a conductor was! We have been enjoying being outside in the sunshine for our PE lessons too.

Hedgehogs have proved themselves to be eco-warriors when we learnt all about 'sustainability' and have written some very informative and persuasive reports to get us all recycling more. They have tackled in maths, fractions and money and are now beginning to make sense of shapes and all their marvellous properties.



Squirrels have studied Maud Purdy to see how she created large, bright flowers against black backgrounds. We explored the school grounds to make texture

rubbings, and then carefully tore the paper into shapes, arranging it onto a black background (inspired by Maud Purdy!) and sticking it down.



Owls learned about food waste and food miles and were shocked at how much food is wasted and what that equated to in terms of cash! In Maths, we have looked at area

and perimeter; and used our knowledge of measures to solve all sorts of real-world problems relating to length, capacity and mass.



Foxes have been enjoying our class novel, *Holes*, and using its characters as inspiration to create their own flashback narratives.

They've also been enjoying learning all about crime and punishment past and present – including exploring some of the grislier elements of past punishments.



Choir

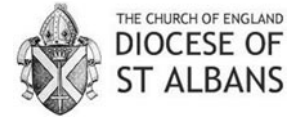
Twenty members of the Mill Mead choir had the amazing opportunity to sing at the Royal Albert Hall at the Hertfordshire Schools Gala. In those

fabulous surroundings, 1000 young people sang, danced and played their way through music, which ranged from pop music to sea shanties to film music.

It was an unforgettable experience for the choir, one they will not forget in a hurry. Well done, choir!



Tonwell School News



Tonwell St Mary's School were delighted to welcome some distinguished visitors in April after receiving a generous donation from 'Wooden Spoon' – the children's charity of rugby.

The Executive Headteacher and the governors felt their SEND equipment needed a bit of a boost and applied to the Wooden Spoon charity for funding.

Tonwell St Mary's were donated an amazing £11,000. Executive Headteacher Sarah Bridgman stated, "We were delighted with Wooden Spoon's generous donation. All of our children will benefit from the amazing resources that we have managed to purchase with the grant money." The school's sensory room was officially opened by Wooden Spoons' Honorary President, Ben Ransom. The event was also attended by other representatives of the charity, school governors, local Councillors and our vicar, Robert Thompson.

The Chair of Governors, Kathy Dunnett stated that, "It is fantastic that now the school has resources that support not only special needs children, but also many others with behaviour and mental health issues. Our sensory room has a very calming effect and because most of the resources are portable, they can be moved from class to class or even to our federation school, Thundridge."



The Wooden Spoon charity has Her Royal Highness Princess Anne as their patron.

To find out more about Tonwell St Mary's C of E Primary School please follow us on [instagram@tonwellstmarys](https://www.instagram.com/tonwellstmarys).

Tonwell St Mary's C of E Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs Sarah Bridgman

We are offering 30 hour places in our Nursery class.

We also have a Breakfast Club from 8am and After School Club until 5pm daily.

Visits are warmly welcomed.

Please speak to Mrs Moorehead on 01920 462894 between 8.30am and 12 noon to arrange a visit or email admin@tonwell.herts.sch.uk

Excellent in all areas.

ISI Inspection Report 2022

"Pupils relish the opportunity to learn in every lesson"
ISI June 2022



**BOOK A
TOUR**

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Search Duncombe, Hertford

Discover a Duncombe education



Learning is brought to life at Duncombe School for all our children aged 2-11 years through first-hand experiences and inspirational teaching methods.

A Duncombe education is built upon the firm foundations of inspiring and engaging lessons across the whole school, which contributes to the high academic standards achieved through a diverse curriculum, specialist teaching and a vast number of opportunities. All of these enable independent and creative thinking, resulting in all-round academic excellence.



What makes a Treetops Pre-School education so special?

- Consistently exceeding Early Years national scores
- Specialist teachers across a range of subjects, including Spanish, French, PE, Forest School and Music
- Themed curriculum
- Small classes
- Weekly visits to Duncombe School facilities, including Astro Court, Forest School, Library and Music Studio
- Part of the 15 free hours Government funding.
- 48 week wraparound care available



Why choose a Duncombe education?

- Specialist teachers delivering French, Spanish, ICT, Forest School, Science, Music and Physical Education.
- International technology collaborations
- Range of facilities including Astro Court, Forest School, Library and Music Studio
- Secondary style timetable in Upper School
- Dedicated preparation and support for Secondary School and scholarship applications
- A vast range of extra-curricular activities
- Outstanding pastoral care instilling confidence and determination
- Offering the most competitive Sibling Discount Scheme in Hertford with 48 week wraparound care available



Every child at Duncombe is treated as an individual, encouraged to develop strength of character and prepared for life beyond Duncombe with an open, confident and inquisitive mind.



A Word from The Rectory

Weather Report

From The Vicar, The Revd Robert Thompson



At Finningley Airshow in 1977 a large crowd gathered in great excitement to see the debut of the all-new English Electric Lightning fighter, only to be met with a cloud of disappointment. After a long wait and nothing happening, a groan went up when an announcement rang out

over the tannoy: 'The English Electric Lightning, our new all-weather jet fighter, will sadly not be flying today, owing to the fog.'

We British have long been used to these situations. We've seen trains cancelled due to leaves on the track or the wrong kind of snow; now it's 'sun outages' interfering with internet activity. Such apologies would be deemed unacceptable in countries with less temperate climates, but here in England the weather comes first, towering over our heads, raining down showers of seasonal excuses.

And most of the time, the weather gets away with it. No one ever seems to denounce its vagaries. And no one seems to want to. After all, our notoriously changeable weather has once sizeable benefit – it gives us something to talk about.

We can start great long conversations with complete strangers at bus stops or on railway platforms just by gazing at the clouds and debating their likely contents. It could be exceptionally mild for the time of year, or it might be a touch chilly. It may have been lovely when we got up this morning, but for some reason it might have clouded over after lunch. You never know, though, it could well clear up later this afternoon.

Conversations as fascinating as these give you instant permission for a stranger's attention, remarkably. Talk to them about God or religion or any matter of the heart and soul and you'll just watch them smile nervously and slowly tip-toe away from you. Believe me, I've tried.

'Hot isn't it?' So my parishioners have said for several summers now. Not that your average local vicar appears to be a suitable candidate for any sensible conversation on the weather, the clergy of the Church of England clearly being poorly prepared for the sizzling temperatures that appear to be routine of late.

Standing outside church in 30° heat one July afternoon, ready to lead a wedding in black woollen cassock, shirt, surplice, ceremonial stole and cope (as well as expected under-garb and accoutrements) I was reminded of the comment of a woman colleague of middling years who stoically ministered on, similarly robed, whilst suffering a hot flush. 'Lord,' she used to say, melting back into the vestry after Sunday service, waving the front of her chasuble up and down, 'you'd think they'd invent flaps for these things.'

Bereavement Café

Drop in for tea, coffee and a chat

An informal, twice-monthly drop-in for adults who want to meet, share experiences and chat with people who have also been through bereavement.

Hosted by friendly local people, set up by volunteers from Holy Trinity Church, Bengoe

2023 Dates: first Wednesday and third Thursday of every month

Thursday 19th January	Wednesday 5th April	Thursday 15th June
Wednesday 1st February	Thursday 20th April	Wednesday 5th July
Thursday 16th February	Wednesday 3rd May	Thursday 20th July
Wednesday 1st March	Thursday 18th May	
Thursday 16th March	Wednesday 7th June	

🕒 Weds 2.30pm - 4pm
Thurs 6.30pm - 8pm

📍 The Secret Garden Café,
89 The Avenue,
Hertford SG14 3DU

**For more information
please contact us via
Holy Trinity Church,
Bengoe, Hertfordshire**

✉️ info@parishofbengeo.com

☎️ 01992 413691

🌐 www.parishofbengeo.com/bereavementcafe.php

📘 @BengeoBereavementCafe



Such complaints were never heard from Jesus, of course. Sensible fellow, I have seen him in the pictures of William Hole that illustrated my Illustrated Children's Bible, suitably kitted out to meet prevailing conditions. So keen was the artist to demonstrate his in-depth knowledge of authentic contemporary costume that he has his bible characters modelling new outfits for every scene illustrated: long flowing robes down by the Sea of Galilee, stiff headdresses for a chill wind at the Sermon on the Mount.

There are very few bible scenes that ever describe the weather, but of course, it must have been there. Once upon a time, addressing a crowd, possibly on a Bank Holiday, Jesus squinted at the skies and said, 'When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, "It is going to rain"; and so it

happens. And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, "There will be scorching heat"; and it happens. You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?'

Jesus' words hit home amongst his countrymen who were always looking into the heavens for future portents and signs of their destiny. And as we read these words again, 2,000 years later and with the summer heat pouring on, we too look to the skies and wonder about climate change and uncertain times ahead.

Which poses serious questions, not so much on what we say about the weather, but on what it says about us.

With my prayers,

Robert Thompson

Food Bank News

We've moved!

We are delighted to say that we have secured new premises in Ware and have now moved from the Lido. Big thank you to Ware Council who have been a huge help throughout this process.

We can now be found at **The Garden Rooms, The Priory, High Street, Ware, SG12 9AL.**

End of Year Stats

Close to 3 million emergency food parcels were distributed by food banks in the Trussell Trust network in the past 12 months – the most parcels ever distributed by the network in a year.

Food banks in the Trussell Trust network saw the highest ever levels of need, even more than during the peak of the pandemic, as more people found their incomes did not cover the cost of essentials like heating and food. Between April 2022 and March 2023, the number of people that used a food bank for the first time was 760,000.

December 2022 was the busiest month on record for food banks in the Trussell Trust network, with a food parcel being distributed every 8 seconds.

The Hertford & District Foodbank supported 4301 individuals with food parcels including 1753 children. This was a huge 32% increase on the same period last year.



Emma Revie, Chief Executive Trussell Trust, says: "These new statistics are extremely concerning and show that an increasing number of people are left with no option but to turn to charitable, volunteer-run organisations to get by and this is not right. The staff and volunteers in our network are working tirelessly to ensure help continues to be available, but the current situation is not one they can solve alone.

For more details visit www.trusselltrust.org/news-and-blog/latest-stats/end-year-stats.

Thank you for your continued support

We want to thank everyone who has supported the Foodbank over the last year. The Foodbank can only run with the support of the community and our incredible volunteers. You have helped to make it possible for the Foodbank to run and we really appreciate the support you have previously given and continue to give.

Thank you

Parish Calendar JULY 2023

Sunday 2nd July		Fourth Sunday after Trinity	
9am	Holy Communion at Holy Trinity Church		
10am	Parish Communion at Holy Trinity Church		
4pm	Annual Bengoe Pet Blessing Service at St Leonard's Church, followed by refreshments		
Tuesday 4th July			
8pm	Quiet Time at St Leonard's Church: Prayer and Meditation		
Wednesday 5th July			
2pm	Bengoe Afternoon WI, Church Hall, Duncombe Road		
2.30-4pm	Bereavement Café at Secret Garden Café, Bengoe		
Thursday 6th July			
10am	Holy Communion (Traditional language)		
10.30am	Coffee Pot Charity Café, Church Hall, Duncombe Road		
Saturday 8th July			
10am-4pm	Creative Open Day at St Leonard's Church		
Sunday 9th July		Fifth Sunday after Trinity	
9am	Holy Communion at Holy Trinity Church		
10am	Parish Communion at Holy Trinity Church		
3pm	Mimram Singers Concert, St Leonard's		
Tuesday 11th July			
8pm	Quiet Time at St Leonard's Church: Prayer and Meditation		
Wednesday 12th July			
10am	Craft Club, Church Hall, Duncombe Road		
Thursday 13th July			
10am	Holy Communion (Traditional language)		
10.30am	Coffee Pot Charity Café, Church Hall, Duncombe Road		
Sunday 16th July		Sixth Sunday after Trinity	
9am	Holy Communion at Holy Trinity Church		
10am	Parish Communion at Holy Trinity Church		
2.30-5pm	St Leonard's Church: Tea and Tour		
Tuesday 18th July			
8pm	Quiet Time at St Leonard's Church: Prayer and Meditation		
Thursday 20th July			
10am	Holy Communion (Traditional language)		
6.30-8pm	Bereavement Café at Secret Garden Café, Bengoe		
Saturday 22nd July			
7.30pm	Concert at St Leonard's Church: Sergio Bucheli (lute)		
Sunday 23rd July		Seventh Sunday after Trinity	
9am	Holy Communion at Holy Trinity Church		
10am	Parish Communion at Holy Trinity Church		
2.30-5pm	St Leonard's Church: Tea and Tour		
Tuesday 25th July			
8pm	Quiet Time at St Leonard's Church: Prayer and Meditation		
Thursday 27th July			
10am	Holy Communion (Traditional language)		
10.30am	Coffee Pot Charity Café, Church Hall, Duncombe Road		
Sunday 30th July		Eighth Sunday after Trinity	
9am	Holy Communion at Holy Trinity Church		
10am	Parish Communion at Holy Trinity Church		
2.30-5pm	St Leonard's Church: Tea and Tour		

Parish Calendar AUGUST 2023

Tuesday 1st August	
8pm	Quiet Time at St Leonard’s Church: Prayer and Meditation
Wednesday 2nd August	
2pm	Bengeо Afternoon WI, Church Hall, Duncombe Road
Thursday 3rd August	
10am	Holy Communion (Traditional language)
10.30am	Coffee Pot Charity Café, Church Hall, Duncombe Road
Saturday 5th August	
7.30pm	Concert at St Leonard’s Church: Magpie Lane, Summer Folk Music
Sunday 6th August The Transfiguration of Our Lord	
9am	Holy Communion at Holy Trinity Church
10am	Parish Communion at Holy Trinity Church
2.30-5pm	St Leonard’s Church: Tea and Tour
6.30pm	Hymns and Pimms Songs of Praise Service at St Leonard’s Church
Tuesday 8th August	
8pm	Quiet Time at St Leonard’s Church: Prayer and Meditation
Wednesday 9th August	
10am	Craft Club, Church Hall, Duncombe Road
Thursday 10th August	
10am	Holy Communion (Traditional language)
10.30am	Coffee Pot Charity Café, Church Hall, Duncombe Road
Sunday 13th August Tenth Sunday after Trinity	
9am	Holy Communion at Holy Trinity Church
10am	Parish Communion at Holy Trinity Church
2.30-5pm	St Leonard’s Church: Tea and Tour
Tuesday 15th August	
8pm	Quiet Time at St Leonard’s Church: Prayer and Meditation
Thursday 17th August	
10am	Holy Communion (Traditional language)
10.30am	Coffee Pot Charity Café, Church Hall, Duncombe Road
Sunday 20th August Eleventh Sunday after Trinity	
9am	Holy Communion at Holy Trinity Church
10am	Parish Communion at Holy Trinity Church
2.30-5pm	St Leonard’s Church: Tea and Tour
Tuesday 22nd August	
8pm	Quiet Time at St Leonard’s Church: Prayer and Meditation
Thursday 24th August	
10.30am	Coffee Pot Charity Café, Church Hall, Duncombe Road
Sunday 27th August Twelfth Sunday after Trinity	
9am	Holy Communion at Holy Trinity Church
10am	Parish Communion at Holy Trinity Church
2.30-5pm	St Leonard’s Church: Tea and Tour
Tuesday 29th August	
8pm	Quiet Time at St Leonard’s Church: Prayer and Meditation
Thursday 31st August	
10.30am	Coffee Pot Charity Café, Church Hall, Duncombe Road

Parish Prayers

Daily Prayers for July

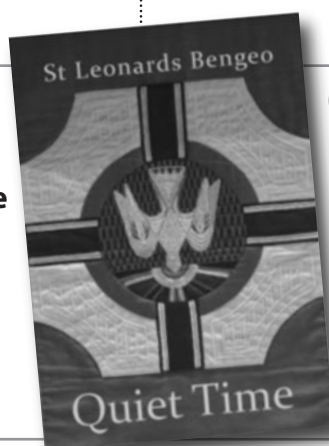
1. Local pubs, clubs and societies
2. Our Choir
3. Duncombe Road
4. Our Lent Charity, Young Minds
5. Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF), Head Office Folkestone
6. HMP Chelmsford, Essex
7. Street Pastors in Ware and Hertford
8. All Nations Christian College
9. Local Bell Ringers
10. Duncombe Close
11. Future Hope, Hertford
12. MAF work in Arnhem Land
13. HMP Coldingley, Surrey
14. Women in the Houses of Parliament
15. The 333 bus route in Bengeo, Hertford and Pinehurst
16. All who lead worship in Holy Trinity and St Leonard's
17. Eleanor Road
18. LBGQT leaders in churches
19. MAF in Papua New Guinea
20. HMP Cookham Wood, Kent
21. Our work in Beane River View
22. All who clean and maintain our churches and church hall
23. Those on the church coffee rota
24. Elton Road
25. Christian Police Association
26. MAF Area Managers and Team Leaders around the world
27. HMP Dartmoor, Devon
28. St Alban's Cathedral
29. Our friends
30. Friends of St Leonard's
31. Elton Court

Daily Prayers for August

1. Mudlarks Café and Allotment
2. Christian Churches in India
3. HMP Deerbolt, County Durham
4. Young Life – Southeast area groups
5. Christians in the popular media
6. The Transfiguration of Christ
7. Fanshawe Court
8. All who preach the Gospel message
9. The Mothers Union Head Office London
10. HMP Doncaster
11. Beach and City Missions
12. Premier Christian Radio
13. The Bengeo Coffee Pot
14. Fanshawe Street
15. Churches Together in Hertfordshire
16. Christians in North Korea
17. HMP Dovegate, Uttoxeter
18. Greenbelt Christian Arts Festival on Bank Holiday weekend
19. UCB Christian Radio
20. The Children's Society
21. Farquhar Street
22. Refugees awaiting Visas
23. Christians in Pakistan
24. HMP Downview, Surrey
25. St Edmundsbury Cathedral
26. Christian Aid
27. The Bereavement Café
28. Garratts Close
29. Christians in Nigeria
30. Christian Publishing
31. HMP Drake Hall, Staffordshire

Register

- 16th May Funeral **Barbara Kaye**
 19th May Burial of Ashes **Paul Melbourne**
 4th June Burial of Ashes **Jean Hembra**
 8th June Funeral **Janet Cunneen**
 18 June Baptism **Lillian Grace Stock**
 19th June Funeral **Josephine Portch**



Quiet Time

All are welcome to join in Quiet Time for prayer and meditation in the peaceful surroundings of St Leonard's Church in the summer months. These short sessions are on Tuesday evenings at 8pm on the 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th July and the 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th August.

Church Contacts

Team Vicar

The Reverend Robert Thompson
The Rectory, Byde Street, Bengeo, SG14 3BS
E: info@parishofbengeo.com
T: 01992 413691

Associate Priest

Fr. David Pepper
T: 07583 985266

Reader

Bob Kelly
T: 01763 274653

Churchwardens

Diana Howarth
T: 07711 571272
Graham Squires
T: 01992 553465

Parochial Church Council

Chairman: Rev Robert Thompson
Honorary Secretary: David Greely
T: 01920 412485

Director of Music and Organist

Dr Andrew Sentance

Assistant Organist

William Sarjeant

St Leonard's Church

Friends of St Leonard's
New Member Secretary: Sue Patterson

Addresses

Holy Trinity Church
New Road, Hertford SG14 3JJ
St Leonard's Church
St Leonard's Road, Bengeo, SG14 3JW

Local Contacts for Help and Advice

Bengeo Residents Support Network Against Coronavirus

Many volunteers from Bengeo and the vicinity are offering help and support to vulnerable neighbours. Ring **01992 230155**. Call if you need food or other items, information or just for a chat.

There is a Facebook group to get help or to volunteer: www.facebook.com/groups/bengeo.residents.against.coronavirus

Below are links to local services that Herts CC have sent out about the coronavirus assistance.

Medical and Health Advice

www.nhs.uk/coronavirus

Information about local council services

www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/coronavirus

Domestic Abuse

www.sunflower.org

Hertfordshire Domestic Abuse Helpline

0808 808 8088

[Freephone Monday to Friday, 9am–9pm
Saturday/Sunday 9am–4pm]

Financial Advice

Money Advice Unit

www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/benefits

Hertfordshire Citizens Advice Service

03444 111 444

National Debtline

www.nationaldebtline.org

0808 808 4000

Advice on avoiding scams

Sign up for scam alerts from trading standards
www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/updates

Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline

0808 223 1133

If you are interested in volunteering

www.thvolunteering.org.uk

HertsHelp 0300 123 4044

Mental Health Advice and Support

Herts Mind Network

www.hertsmindnetwork.org

020 3727 3600

0300 777 0707 [8am–7pm]

Nightline: 01923 256391

Emotional Support and Practical Help

www.hertshelp.net

info@hertshelp.net

HertsHelp: 0300 123 4044

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- WELWYN GARDEN CITY • 01707 390018
- WELWYN • 01438 714686
- HERTFORD • 01992 582052
- WARE • 01920 468551
- LETCHWORTH • 01462 684292
- HODDESDON • 01992 471709
- HARWOOD PARK • 01438 812515
- HARPENDEN • 01582 762570



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www.crematorium.co.uk

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