



***CHURCHES  
together in  
ST ALBANS***

**Summer 2018 Edition!**

Welcome to the Summer Edition of the newsletter of Churches Together in St Albans.

A word from our Convener, Peter Berners-Lee

“After many years without a convener, I suggested at the AGM that we might be marginally better off having me as a convener than having none at all, and this proposal was carried! So a little about me: I was raised as a liberal Anglican by two wonderful parents. I sang in a fairly high church choir and the school chapel choir. I lapsed but came to faith suddenly in 1983, remembering the words of an anthem I had sung as a choir boy. Since then I have known God’s loving presence through thick and thin. I was loved and nurtured at All Souls Langham Place and still regard that time very fondly as an image of how a church should be. I was led into the Catholic Church and received in 1985. It was not an easy move as the church I was leaving was so good! Since then I met and married the lovely Krystyna and we have three children, the youngest of whom, Anna, is thirteen. I took a distance learning degree in theology so as to help introduce Alpha into the Catholic church, a project which Krystyna and I gave up normal work for, for a time. I now work full time in software development.

I am very involved in the parish and in particular Krystyna and I run a kid’s choir that leads the worship on Sunday mornings. I am frequently in awe at the way that God is at work in other churches and sometimes struggle not to be too critical of the Roman Catholic church. Churches Together exists to deepen communion and further united witness. I do not believe that it is practical that everything that is done for the Kingdom be done ecumenically. Neither do I believe that every ecumenical activity must come under Churches Together, but we are here to serve and we have a great opportunity to make a difference.

We recently celebrated the feast of the Visitation. I was struck by how Mary, having just conceived Jesus the messiah, didn’t think of herself but rushed off to see Elizabeth. Elizabeth greeted her as the Mother of her Lord and so we have the first meeting of two people who acknowledge Jesus as Lord – the first church meeting! They met for the joy of sharing the good news of what God has done, and to be of practical help to each other. When I meet with other churches there is a joy, and a lightness of spirit. We often find fresh ideas and practical ways of helping each other. A convener is someone who draws people together, and with God’s help and your prayers I shall delight in doing just that!”

This newsletter has been produced by Joanna Field of St Julian’s and Sally Martin of St Peter’s. Between newsletters, Gill Elliott of Trinity URC circulates bulletins with news of forthcoming CTSA events and ‘billboards’ with other events.

## **St Albans Winter Beds Project**

From January to March 2018, the Winter Beds Project (Severe Weather Emergency Protocol - SWEP) offered its first bed spaces. The idea came from the City Centre Churches in 2015 and developed jointly with the Open Door project through public meetings and research into the most suitable model.

The Winter Beds are made available on those nights when the temperature is expected to dip beneath zero degrees centigrade and when the five emergency beds at the Open Door project in Bricket Wood Road are full. The Winter Beds project provides five further beds at Trinity United Reformed Church. The first guests were received in January 2018.

The volunteers received training and a Project Manager organised rotas and supported the volunteers through this first season. Volunteers sign up to be 'on call' on a rota basis for those nights when St Albans Council declares a SWEP night. Guests needing the beds are referred on to the project by staff at Open Door. Volunteers work in twos and there are three shifts per overnight session covering the evening, nighttime and breakfast/clear up slots.

Over the three months that the Winter Beds Project ran at the start of this year, a total of 59 overnight beds were used. For next Winter 2018-19, the Project will run from November to March inclusive.

New volunteers are very welcome, as are donations. For more information, please contact:.

**winterbedsproject@opendoorstalbans.org**

### **St Albans and District Talking Newspaper**

The Talking Newspaper is a weekly audio programme sent out free of charge to those with limited vision to help them stay in touch with local news and events. If you, or somebody you know, would be interested in the FREE service, contact 'Listener Liaison' at SADTN for more information: [info@sadtn.org.uk](mailto:info@sadtn.org.uk)

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## **Sleeping in the Abbey**

At the CTSA Forum in June, we had a presentation by Mike Elliott: about the finding, during the excavation works for the new Welcome Centre at the Abbey, of the remains of John of Wheathampstead, Abbot John from c1390 to 1465.

Abbot John was one of 40 Abbots of St Albans between the founding of the Abbey in the 8<sup>th</sup> Century and its dissolution in 16<sup>th</sup> Century. Abbot John had been the only one of the 40 whose site of burial had not been accounted for until now. His remains were found near the presbytery and transept and would have been within the 15th Century Abbey building. His identity was confirmed by the finding in the coffin of 3 papal seals, buried with him. The papal seals corresponded with the 3 Papal Bulli (dispensations granted by the Pope) which the Abbot was known to have received from Pope Martin V when he visited the papal court. The brick lining of the coffin showed his status.

It is understood that there will be a ceremony to re-inter the Abbot when the building work is completed and the Welcome Centre opens.

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### **CTSA Diary –Ecumenical events coming up in the Autumn/Winter**

September

Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2018

Prayer Walk. A friendly and prayerful afternoon walk around some of the churches of St Albans

October

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2018

Autumn Forum on the subject of 'Vatican II and You. The impact of Vatican II on Christians'

November

24–15 November 2018 tbc

24 Hours of Prayer (see item)

December

Christmas Card writing (cards for inmates of HMP The Mount)

15<sup>th</sup> December 2018 tbc

Carol singing in St Albans Town Centre, raising money for the Winter Beds Project.

For more information, see the CTSA website, <https://ctstalbans.org.uk>



THE CATHEDRAL AND  
ABBEY CHURCH OF  
SAINT ALBAN

### **Ecumenical Chaplaincy at St Albans Abbey**

**There are several weekday services which occur once a month:**

<b>1st Wednesday</b>	<b>11.00am</b>	<b>Free Church Service</b>
<b>2nd Wednesday Communion</b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Mothers Union Corporate</b>
<b>3rd Wednesday</b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Teddy Bear Service</b>
<b>Last Tuesday German)</b>	<b>7.00pm</b>	<b>Lutheran Service (in</b>
<b>Monthly on a Tuesday</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Orthodox Service</b>

**You are invited to attend a Free Church Service in the Lady Chapel on the following Wednesdays at 11.00am**

**1st August 2018**

**The Very Reverend Dr Jeffrey John**  
Dean,  
St Albans Cathedral.

**12th September 2018**

**The Reverend Colin Pye,**  
Regional Minister,  
Central Baptist Association.

**3rd October 2018**

**The Reverend Canon Kevin Walton,**  
Canon Chancellor,  
St Albans Cathedral.

**7th November 2018**

**The Reverend Simon Manley-Cooper**  
Honorary Chaplain, (Staff & Volunteers)  
St Albans Cathedral.

**5th December 2018**

**The Reverend Abi Thompson,**  
Sub Dean, St Albans Cathedral



Sunday 16th September 2018

## PRAYER WALK

2.00 p.m. START Prayer at St Alban and St Stephen

2.05 p.m. Prayer at Trinity URC

2.15 p.m. Prayer at Marlborough Road Methodist Church

2.30 p.m. Prayer at Salvation Army

3.00 p.m. Prayer at St Peter's Garden of Hope

3.30 p.m. Prayer at Dagnall St Baptist Church

4.15 p.m. Prayer at St Michael's Church with refreshments in the Parish Centre

5.00 p.m. Walk to St Albans Abbey

5.30 p.m. St Albans Cathedral  
Prayer at the Shrine of St Albans

6.30 p.m. You are invited to join Evensong in the Abbey Quire

## Mike McElroy

It is with profound sadness that I have to report that Michael McElroy passed away on May 8th after his cancer took a major turn for the worst. I was surprised and grateful when, despite being ill, Mike agreed to be our CTSA treasurer at the January AGM. It is with great regret that he was taken away so soon. Mike and Pam were an marvellous inter-church family, bringing new perspectives and life to the churches they attended. I discovered Mike late as a friend I wished I had met years earlier. Mike was a man of great integrity, strength, courage and gentleness. His heart was so firmly in the right place and his intellect always at the service of the Lord and humanity. Our prayers are with his wife Pam and daughter Sue, whose lives shine with the same light that we received from Mike. A Requiem Eucharist at St Mary's on Sunday 3rd June was followed by a funeral in the Lady Chapel at the Abbey on Monday. Both were deep and moving, glorifying God and drawing us all closer together in the family of God. Mike leaves behind his wife Pam who is on the Enabling Group and his daughter Susan. I miss you Mike, we all do. Rest in Peace.

Peter Berners-Lee

### Introducing 24 Hours of Prayer

#### What is 24 Hours of Prayer?

For the first time this Autumn, CTSA will be co-ordinating 24 hours of prayer across participating churches in St Albans and District. Prayer is one of the acts of faith that all our churches (and, indeed, many diverse faiths) share. The 24 hours will be made up of different voices in different places, but there will be a continuous thread of prayer from start to finish. No gaps and no interruptions. The prayer will pass, relay-style, from one person to the next. The idea of continuous prayer, handed on from one person to the next, is one that has been practised by numerous communities globally, sometimes for a day or a week, sometimes longer, and can be focused around a particular need or endeavour.

#### How will the event work?

The idea is that individuals in our St Albans and District CTSA area will sign up to prayer for 30 minutes, choosing an unallocated start time from the full list of times within the 24-hour period. The full list will be co-ordinated in advance centrally. At the end of their 30 minutes of prayer the participant will hand over to someone else, very possibly in a different location, so there is no actual meeting. This person will pick up the 'baton' and pray in turn for 30 minutes. Some churches may be able to be open over the 24-hour period, or individuals may choose to pray from another location, including from their own home.

There will be suggested themes, a prayer with which to start and another with which to hand over to the next named person.

It is planned that there will be a shared breakfast at one of our local churches, on a Saturday in November, with which to launch the 24 hours. Participants and supporters will be invited if they would like to join this. The full day will conclude on the Sunday morning. For some participants, this may link into a Sunday morning act of worship in their own or another church.

## The Women's World Day of Prayer (now The World Day of Prayer)

The World Day of Prayer first began in the 1920s and came to Britain in 1932. It later became known as the Women's World Day of Prayer. Each year a particular country takes responsibility for developing a service and service books are produced in all the relevant languages for the participating countries. Last year it was the women of Suriname who wrote the service with the title "All God's Creation is Very Good!". As the title suggests the theme was the environment and sustainability.

For many years now, St. Albans has held three services to mark the day, on the first Friday in March. A morning and evening service have been held at St. Leonard's Church, Sandridge and likewise in one of the churches in the South of St. Albans. Also, a service organised by the St. Albans 'Branch' on behalf of churches city-wide has been held in the afternoon. This was initially in the Lady Chapel at the Cathedral and Abbey Church of St. Albans, and in more recent years at Dagnall Street Baptist Church.

After a National Consultation of the various Branches of the Women's World Day of Prayer it was agreed that, in line with most of the rest of the World, the day in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland will now be known as WORLD DAY OF PRAYER – A WOMEN-LED, GLOBAL, ECUMENICAL MOVEMENT.

In 2017, various members of the Branch Committee stood down from their long-held roles. In 2018, for continuity while decisions were being made about the future of the service, a daytime service was organised at St. Stephen's Church, Watling Street. The plans for 2019 have not yet been finalised but it is hoped that the service will continue and will be duly advertised in the Churches next year.

The World Day of Prayer has always been inclusive, and not only for women to attend. Hopefully now, with the change in name, we can expect a broader spectrum of attendees, including some who objected strongly to the former title.

I have attended the services for some years now. Often, I have gone dragging my feet, but have always come away glad to have gone. The services are uplifting and carefully devised and help me to be much more aware of the world-wide congregation of Christians of which we are all a part. Knowing that as the sun rises in the first place it appears on earth on that day, all the way round the world it is greeted with a wave of prayer encircling the earth, until it sets in the very last place that night, is incredibly inspiring.

Please consider going to one of the services next year, and if you would be willing to join a group discussing the service arrangements (with no obligation to take part in the service or organising it), please contact me.

Joanna Field

Welcome!

Churches Together in St Albans and District is pleased to welcome the Revd John Hardaker who has recently been inducted as Minister of Sacrament and Word for Bricket Wood, Chiswell Green, Homewood and Trinity St Albans United Reformed Churches.

## PRAYER ROTA

Date	Church
29th July	The Kings Community
5th August	SS Alban & Stephen
12th August	South St Albans Churches
19th August	Park St Baptist
26th August	St Michael's
2nd Sept	Seventh Day Adventist
9th Sept	Homewood Road URC
16th Sept	CTSA Prayer Walk
23rd Sept	St Pauls
30th Sept	Luthran Congregation at the Cathedral
7th October	CT in Hertfordshire
14th October	London Colney Baptist
21st October	St Mary's Childwick Green
28th October	St Peter's
4th November	Society of Friends
11th Nov	Hatfield Road Methodists
18th Nov	St Albans Pentecostal Assembly of God
25th Nov	Marshalswick Mass Centre
2nd Dec	St Saviours
9th Dec	City Church
16th Dec	Chiswell Green URC
23rd Dec	New Testament Church of God
30th December	St Stephen's