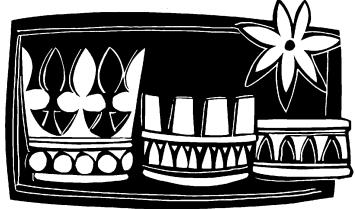


**Notices Jan/Feb2026****Safeguarding is important here - your children under 18 remain your responsibility at all times**

A new year has begun. During this year, too, all the paths from east to west, from morning until evening, lead on and on as far as the eye can see, through the deserts of life, with all its changes. But these paths can be turned into the blessed pilgrimage to the absolute, the journey to God. Set out, my heart, take up the journey ! The star shines. You can't take much with you on the journey. And you will lose much on the way. Let it go. Gold of love, incense of yearning, myrrh of suffering – these you certainly have with you. He shall accept them. And we shall find him.

Karl Rahner, The Great Church Year

**Thanks**

- To all those who helped clean and decorate the church for Christmas and all those who took part in the services
- to Susan Mwapara for a donation towards general funds
- We have received a thank you from Keech Hospice for the gift of toys from the Toy Service

Say a prayer for me. Have you seen our prayer box, on the left as you come into church. Please encourage your friends and neighbours to use it to ask for prayer. It is very confidential

75 club

November's lucky winner was Rosemary Mahon

December's lucky winner was Graham Spicer

It's time to renew. For a one off payment of £15.00 you get entered in our monthly prize draw; that's 12 chances to win £50 for a single payment. The draw runs from 1st January to 31st December. Please talk to Philip Mahan or Geoff Clark to buy your ticket.

Easy fundraising - <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/>

If you shop on line, you could raise money for our church if you're not doing it for anyone else. Download the app, sign up with your email and shop through the Easyfundraising site. No cost to you - dosh for us! Search for St Hugh And St John's Church

Covenant service. 11th January

This years' Joint service with High St Methodist and All Saints' is at All Saints, Pin Green at 10.30am. After the service there is a bring and share meal. We have been asked to provide desserts - please sign up and take your dessert with you and hand it in before the service starts.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Churches Together in Stevenage

18 Jan - Opening service, 5pm @ Longmeadow Church, SG2.8LT.

19 Jan - Bible study, 8pm @ St Hugh & St John, Chells, SG2 OHL

20 Jan - Midday prayers, 12noon @ High Street Methodist Church, SG1 3LS

21 Jan - Prayer time, 7.30pm @-Gt Ashby Community Church, SG1 6NH

22 Jan - Prayer for the world, 2pm @St Nicholas Church, Rectory Lane, SG1 4DA

24 Jan - Prayer for the persecuted, 12:30pm @St Nicholas Church, Rectory Lane, SG1 4DA (led by Shalom)

25 Jan - Evening worship, 6pm @St Hugh & St John, Chells, SG2 0HL

MAD soup lunch.

Saturday 14th February. Suggested donation £5. This is a good event to invite your friends to!

LENT begins. Ash Wednesday - 18th February. 10.00am and 8.00pm

"Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return". Ashes represent humility, mortality, and repentance; a public mark of our turning again to God, seeking mercy, forgiveness and help.

Quiz night. Saturday 28th February. 7.15pm for a 7.30pm start.

Bring your own drinks and snacks. Cost: £6 per person.. Come as a team of six or come on your own

Easter Journey. Monday 2 March - Friday 6th March. Put the dates in your diary.

SAFEGUARDING

If you have a safeguarding concern you can phone or email Catherine Smith our Safeguarding officer directly (t. 07597 765 261 or safeguardingsthughstjohn@gmail.com), or fill out a safeguarding referral form. Forms are in the First Aid cupboard in the kitchen and once filled out should be put in a sealed envelope and given to a member of the safeguarding team. In their absence, the envelope can be given to Chandy Perera, Clare Farthing, Ruth Jermy or David Belton who will pass the envelope on unopened. The information in the envelope is confidential and will only be shared according to safeguarding guidelines .

More about money

Thanks to all who give so generously to church. In the current economic climate we have to maximise our giving. If you buy 'stuff' for church and want it to be a gift, please claim for it as an expense and then give it back to us as a donation. We can then claim the gift aid which means your 'gift' has a third added to it at no extra cost to you. If you don't pay tax, put your donation in the loose change collection and we can claim the gift aid that way. It also means church has a better picture of how much church really costs.

January

Lodge Farm assemblies

- 11th Joint Covenant service. NO 10am service here. See above
- 18th We welcome The Rev Zdzislu Henzel at 8.45am and Yvonne Johnson at 10an
- 25th 6pm. Churches Together in Stevenage Week of Prayer for Christian Unity - here.

February

Lodge Farm assemblies

- 8th We welcome Rebecca Pauling from Herts Young Homeless to speak - one of the MAD charities
- 10th MAD meeting
Deanery Synod
- 14th MAD soup lunch
- 18th Ash Wednesday
- 28th Quiz night

March

- 2-6 Easter Journey.
- 8th We welcome David Smith to talk about Fairtrade

Every week:

Sunday	8.45am Morning worship. 10.00am Morning worship
Monday	11.00am. Bible study - meets at church 8.00pm Bible friendship group.- meets at church and on zoom
Tuesday	9.15am Chells Little Stars.
Wednesday	12-1.00pm Safe space - tea, coffee, cheese sandwiches, cuppa soup 8.00pm Night prayer on zoom https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87979205257 Meeting ID: 879 7920 5257
Thursday	11.00am Quiet communion 12-1.00pm Safe space - tea, coffee, cheese sandwiches, cuppa soup

Prayers for:

- the fragile peace between Israel and Palestine, the civil war in Sudan which threatens to overspill into South Sudan and the humanitarian crisis happening in South Sudan, those abducted in Nigeria, Ukraine
- In all the rhetoric about immigration help us to see the image of God in others and those who would appropriate the cross for their own ends. The rise of anti-semitism
- For all who work to protect the environment.
- the emergency services
- For the appointment process for a new Bishop of St Albans. For Sarah Mullally, the new Archbishop of Canterbury
- Lodge Farm, Camps Hill, Lonsdale, Marriots, Nobel staff and students at the beginning of a new term
- For those experience abuse of any kind - sexual, psychological, physical, emotional and domestic. Thank God for our safeguarding team: Catherine Smith, Caroline Mahan, Sue Spicer
- for us as we continue to think about our Mission Action Plan - what are the practical things we want to be included
- those who have asked for healing and wholeness:
- the family and friends of those who have died recently, Philip Squires and those whose years mind falls this month