



Parish News

The magazine of Little Amwell,
Hertford Heath, Pinehurst, Foxholes East,
Hartham Place and Holy Trinity Church.



Online at

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/6119/news/123358/parish-news/>
Some **printed** copies are available early in the month at the back of the church

07783 435390
vicarsally@gmail.com

January 2026

THE VICAR'S BIT

The Vicarage
17 Barclay Close



“New Year, New You?” — Jesus Has a Gentler Take

Every January the world shouts, “*New year, new you!*” New diet, new habits, new personality by Tuesday. The gym is full, the cupboards are full of good intentions, and our phones keep reminding us how much better we could be if we just tried harder.

Jesus, interestingly, never says, “Pull yourself together and become someone else.” He doesn’t hand out a twelve-step plan or a colour-coded life chart. In fact, much of what he says sounds more like, “*Come as you are.*”

Jesus talks a lot about **newness**, but not the stressful kind. He speaks of *new wine needing new wineskins* (Luke 5:37–38). That’s his way of saying God is always doing something fresh, but it starts on the inside, not with a shiny makeover. You don’t pour new life into old, brittle containers. You let God gently reshape the heart.

Jesus also says, “*Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.*” Repent doesn’t mean “feel terrible forever.” It simply means **turn around**. Face a new direction. One small turn can change the whole journey.

And then there’s this lovely line: “*My yoke is easy and my burden is light.*” (Matthew 11:30) That’s not the slogan of someone demanding a dramatic reinvention. It’s an invitation to walk with him, one step at a time.

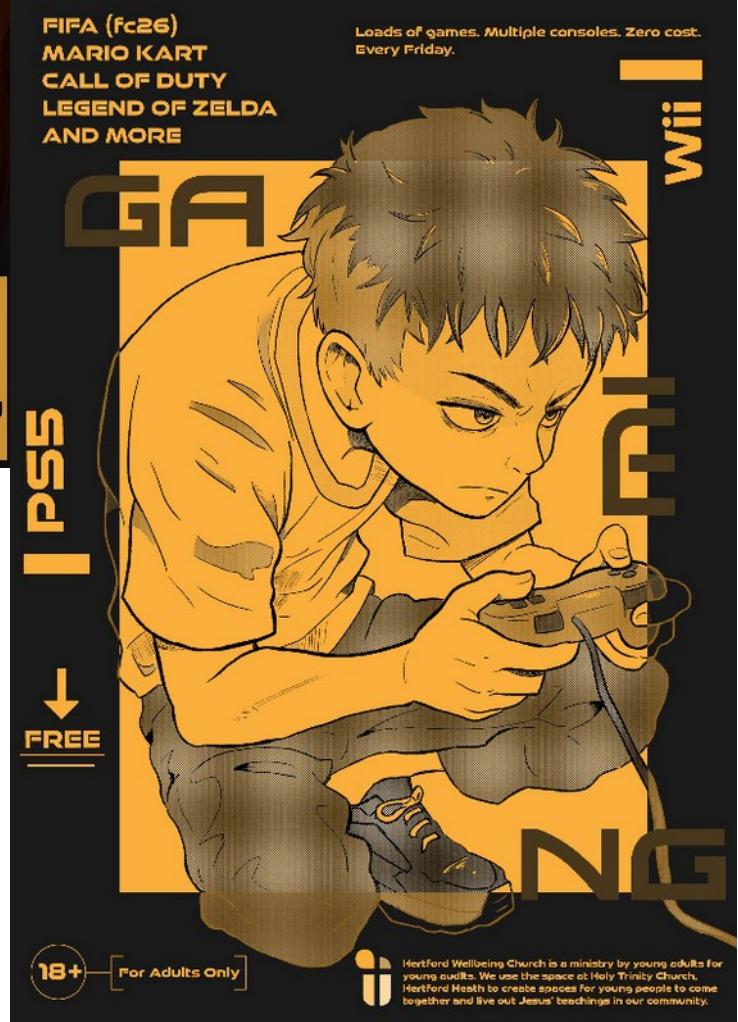
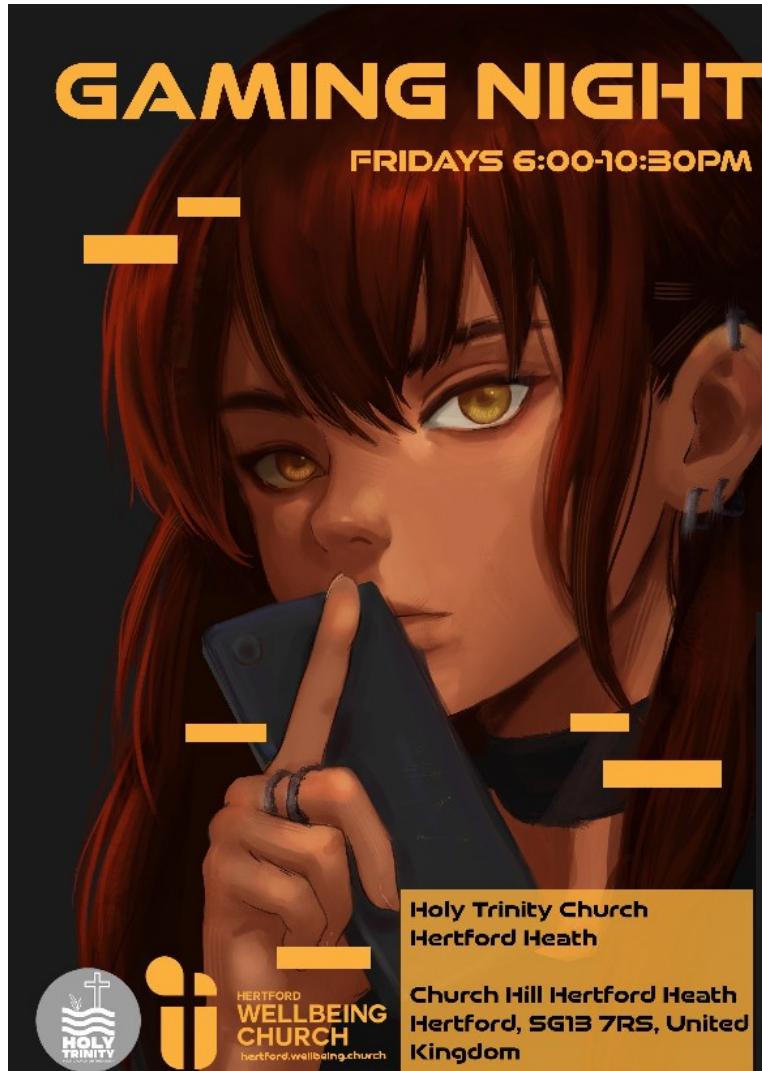
So perhaps the Christian version of “new year, new you” is more like **“new year, more grace.”** Less pressure. More prayer. Fewer guilt trips. Be kind to yourself. More trust that God isn’t waiting for an improved version of you -- he already loves the one who turned up today.

If your resolutions last all year, well done. If they last until mid-January, welcome to the human race. Either way, Jesus is not disappointed. And thankfully, he’s very patient with those of us who don’t move very fast.

Love and prayers

Sally x

Something new for 2026 at Holy Trinity Church, starting Friday 9 January, 6-10.30pm, Gaming Night for over 18's. Fifa, Mario Cart, Legend of Zelda, Call of Duty and much more. Come meet some new gamers, loads of games, multiple consoles. It's all **FREE**



Save the date

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY JAN-JUL 2026

17 February

Family Movie Morning

5 April

Easter Sunday

18 February

Ash Wednesday

5 April

Village Easter Egg Hunt

21 February

Families Pancake Party

23 May

Families Church Birthday Fun

15 March

Mother's Day Service

24 May

Pentecost

31 March

Family Movie Morning

26 May

Family Movie Morning

3 April

Good Friday

21 June

Father's Day Service

4 April

Easter Saturday Family Fun

12 July

Church Family Summer Picnic

EVERYONE WELCOME



Church Hill, Hertford Heath, Hertford SG13 7RS
Telephone 07783 435390 [✉ vicarsally@gmail.com](mailto:vicarsally@gmail.com)
[🌐 www.achurchnearyou.com/church/6119/](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/6119/)
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hhmissionroom@gmail.com

**The Mission Room, Vicarage Causeway,
Hertford Heath, SG13 7RT**

A photograph of the exterior of Holy Trinity Church, a traditional church with a green roof and a tall spire, set in a green, leafy environment. The church is surrounded by trees and a lawn. The text on the image is as follows:

Weddings at
HOLY TRINITY
YOUR CHURCH ON THE GREEN

Did you know it costs the same to get married at Holy Trinity Church as it does at a registry office or venue? We would love to have your wedding in our beautiful church on the village green. Contact us for more details, we look forward to hearing from you.

We love weddings at Holy Trinity!

Are you looking for somewhere to get married? How about our beautiful little church on the village green? Did you know that it costs the same to get married here as it does at a registry office or venue, and we have some wonderful pubs in the village to hold your reception at.

We also love marriage blessings, renewal of vows, and baptisms (christenings). Recently we even combined a wedding and baptism of their baby, a wonderful celebration!

If you are interested in a wedding, marriage blessing, renewal of vows, or baptism (christening), for yourself or your child we'd love to help, please contact our Vicar, Sally, for a chat about the how, what, when, where and why of these events at Holy Trinity.

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH CHURCHYARD REGULATIONS

Keeping our churchyard tidy and safe for all.

For most people churchyards are places of quiet contemplation and remembering. Our aim is to ensure that our churchyard should be both peaceful, kept tidy and mown for the benefit of everyone.

The churchyard around Holy Trinity Church, Hertford Heath is closed for burials (open for burial of ashes). The grounds are maintained by gardeners employed by Hertford Heath Parish Council (HHPC). Holy Trinity Parochial Church Council (HTPCC) works with HHPC in maintaining the safety and appearance of the churchyard.

Neither Hertford Heath Parish Council (HHPC) nor Holy Trinity Parochial Church Council (HTPCC) is responsible for maintaining memorials in the churchyard, the memorial stone/grave/tablet upkeep is the responsibility of the deceased's family. Checks are carried out from time to time to ensure that memorials have not become hazardous. If it appears that a memorial is in a dangerous condition, HTPCC may decide that it should be laid on the ground to avoid accidents.

Our churchyard is different from a civil (local authority) cemetery. In our churchyard the burial plots are not 'owned' by the family. In a Church of England churchyard, families own a memorial stone or tablet, but not the ground in which it is set. The plots remain part of the churchyard and as such are all subject to the Diocese of St Albans Churchyard Regulations.

Memorial stones and tablets can only be installed by a qualified funeral director or stone mason under the regulations laid out in the Diocese of St Albans Churchyard Regulations and via the faculty process. Our Churchwardens can help you with this, as can your Funeral Director.

Memorial Garden

In the Memorial Garden the regulations allow for a 12 inch/30cm square memorial tablet which should be laid flush with the ground, and which may incorporate a vase for flowers.

The only permitted items **on or around** a memorial tablet, in the Memorial Garden at Holy Trinity Churchyard are:

1. a stone/granite memorial vase. This should be placed **on** the memorial tablet. Please note plastic versions of these vases are **NOT permitted**.
2. **OR** one ceramic bowl of plants. The bowl should be no larger than 8 inches/20cm in diameter, and when containing plants should stand no higher than 12 inches/30cm – see photo. This should be placed on the memorial tablet.



3. **OR one** plastic vase, see photo. This should be placed above the memorial tablet



Please note that you can only choose one of these options, not all three.

These items are placed at your own risk. HTPCC, HHPC or the gardeners will not accept responsibility for any damage or breakages due to strimming the grass and keeping the area well maintained.

Loose flower vases and containers made of glass or plastic are not permitted because they are vulnerable to accidental damage which causes understandable distress to the family, and they can cause difficulties for mowing or strimming. Sometimes pieces of broken container can cause injury. We encourage people to have flowers in containers at home as a reminder of a loved one.

Graves, and memorial tablets in the Memorial Garden, need to be kept clear of obstructions so that the grass can be cut. Seasonal wreathes may be laid on any grave or memorial tablet but must be removed as soon as they appear to be dead. It should also be noted that free-standing features such as toys, pictures, mementos, statues, plastic/silk flowers, solar lights etc. are **NOT** allowed. Chippings, gravel, paving stones, or kerbs may **NOT** be placed on or around any grave or any area set aside for cremated remains in the churchyard. No trees, plants or shrubs may be planted anywhere in the churchyard. Wooden marker crosses are designed to mark a burial plot until a permanent memorial is added. They should then be removed and may be taken home by the family or disposed of by the funeral director or monumental mason.

HTPCC tidy the Churchyard on the last weekend of each month, and at their discretion, will remove any non-permitted items placed in the churchyard. They will be carefully placed by the side of the church for collection; retained for a three-month period, after that time they will be disposed of.

It is for our local community, that we preserve the atmosphere of tranquillity and natural, living landscape of our churchyard which itself offers the beauty of creation as a comfort to all who enter. Please help us to preserve this character, which has endured for many centuries, and which we have a duty to pass on to the next generation.

HTPCC are dedicated to maintaining the churchyard for the benefit of families and other visitors. These Regulations are intended to create and maintain a place of peace, dignity, and respect for the departed.

For a copy of the St Albans Diocese Churchyard Regulations please click this link

<https://www.stalbans.anglican.org/wp-content/uploads/Churchyard-Regulations-2020.pdf>

These Regulations are also displayed on the Holy Trinity Church website, in the Memorial Garden, on the Lych-gate at the entrance to the churchyard and in the porch of the Church.

If you have any questions about Holy Trinity Church churchyard or are hoping to have a burial of ashes in the churchyard, please contact our Vicar Sally on vicarsally@gmail.com, or Susanna Williams, our churchwarden, on susanna.williams@btinternet.com

Church Contact Information

Vicar The Revd Sally Dryden, The Vicarage, 17 Barclay Close
07783 435390
vicarsally@gmail.com

Churchwardens: Chris Trott 07747 765509
Susanna Williams 07831 506555
susanna.williams@btinternet.com

Website <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/6119/>

Facebook: Holy Trinity Hertford Heath

Instagram: holytrinityhh

Parish News Editor: Ian Williams 20 Vicarage Causeway SG13 7RT
07954 813320
ianrw@btinternet.com

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