

DAGNALL STREET BAPTIST CHURCH AND CROSS STREET CENTRE ST ALBANS



MAGAZINE

FEBRUARY 2026

Free

Minister: Mark Welch

Church Secretary: Chris Penn

Finance Deacon: Trevor Oakley

Property: Ray Saunders

Site Manager and Caretaker: David Hobbs

Cross Street: 01727 846891

Bookings: bookings@dsbc.org.uk

Charity Registration Number: 1127791

FREE CHURCH SERVICES
St Albans Cathedral

This service is celebrated monthly on the first Wednesday of every month at 11am with our Free Church Chaplain and other ministers.

For further information:
Contact: Rev Simon Carver
simoncarver@btinternet.com

More details in the magazine

FEBRUARY SERVICES

1st February	Rev Mark Welch Sermon on the Mount Communion
8th February	All Age Family Service Be bold, be strong
15th February	Rev Mark Welch Sermon on the Mount
22nd February	Rev Mark Welch Sermon on the Mount



Dear Friends

Do you sometimes feel secretly like an outsider? Are you fearful of rejection? Sometimes past experiences of rejection from religious groups can leave a long shadow, blocking out the light of the Son from our lives.

Judaism in the first century was a religion that placed great emphasis on being ritually clean. If you were ill or disabled or different from the norm in some way, you would probably be counted as ritually unclean and would be rejected, excluded and counted as lost to God.

Jesus' great revolution in the history of religion was rejecting the idea of ritual purity as a necessary prerequisite for salvation. Jesus placed Judaism, a religion of rigid ritual purity laws that acted like a fence to keep so many people outside of God's love, with a religion of empathy, radical compassion and inclusiveness made possible by his saving death on the cross.

On one occasion Jesus was surrounded by densely packed crowds of people and a woman, who had suffered from severe bleeding for twelve years (and spent a fortune on doctors' fees without being healed), crept up behind Jesus and secretly touched his robe.

Why the secrecy? Because she, as an unclean, rejected woman, was afraid that Jesus would be angry, as by touching his garment, she would also make him ritually unclean.

But the reverse happened. Her hidden act of faith meant that Jesus healed her. Jesus' holiness could not be cancelled by contact with a disease or illness, and the woman could feel in her body that she had been healed.

Jesus felt the power go out of him and asked, "Who touched me?". The woman was terrified because she expected Jesus to reject her as the Jewish religious leaders would have done,

because of the belief that contact with her had defiled him.

But Jesus wanted to see who had such incredible faith that they had been healed by him without his knowledge.

His words spoken to the woman as she fearfully confessed what she had done reveal how wonderful and deep the love of God is for all his children.

“Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace.”

“Daughter”, what more loving acceptance could there be than this? If you doubt that God loves you, remember you are a son or daughter of God.

Our job is to receive that acceptance and love for ourselves and then to pass it on to anyone who feels like an unworthy outsider. Yes, we call people to faith and repentance, but always from a starting place of acceptance, welcome and love.

May God assure you of his love for you and fill you with his peace.

With much love!

Mark





PASTORAL TEAM

The members of the Pastoral Team are always happy to make appointments to visit, talk or pray with you. This can take place in your home, at Cross Street or at our homes at your convenience and at mutually convenient times.

Martin Taylor (07787 555730), Marjorie Jones (01727 422930), Jill Potter (07779 797928), Liz Blight (07884 431051) and Alison Ashmore (01727 867335), are active members of the Pastoral Team.

The team hope you will notify them of anybody who you think may be ill, lonely or who needs help.

Mark Welch

PASTORAL NEWS

The year does seem to have started with a few hazards. Some of these have been caused by the weather and a few people have fallen on the ice. Others have fallen too, but at home, which isn't always the safe place we imagine. Young or old we do have to be aware in the home of things that can trip us up, in more ways than one.

Richard Humber had a nasty fall indoors but he is now up and about and recovering.

The other major hazard seems to have been flu with a heavy cold or cough. Both Ruth Sayers and Roslyn Prowse are now recovering but we also remember Roger who is having a procedure next week.

There are quite a few with ongoing concerns in our fellowship, so please pray for:

Olly Branch and family, Velma, Tom and family, Krisztina Schreiner, Jenny Johnson, Jane Swain, Val Urban and Veronica Willans.

Also those who can no longer attend church:

Bill and Elizabeth Allen, John and Sandra Carpenter, Brenda and Jack Passmore.

I expect many of us also try to keep an eye on vulnerable neighbours. We also pray especially for those who are without family.

Psalm 19

The heaven declare the glory of God.

***The skies proclaim the work of his hands,
Day after day they pour forth speech, night after night
they display knowledge.
There is no speech or language where their voice is not
heard.
Their voice goes into the earth, their words to the end of
the earth.***

Marjorie



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

First an apology, Last month when I said there were no birthdays in December, that was incorrect.

Happy Birthday to Bill Tromans on December 3rd!

19th February—Chris Penn

May the New Year bring Optimism, Peace, Quietude,

***Rejoicing, Serenity, Tranquility,
Understanding, Vitality and Wisdom.***

***Let the spirit of Xmas abide in the coming Year
To inspire you in noble Zeal.***

Part of a Christmas Alphabet from 'Prayers of Comfort and Words of Wisdom', an Anthology by Holmes's Chapel Support Group of St Luke's Hospice in Winsford.

Wishing all those with a birthday in this new year a
Very Happy Birthday!

Linda



Birthday scheme



Be a blessing on
your birthday.
Transform a life.

Join your church's Birthday Scheme today to change lives with BMS World Mission. Go to www.bmsworldmission.org/birthday to find out how your birthday can make a difference.

Your Birthday Scheme Co-ordinator is:

LINDA WILLIAMS

Photo: Each year, gifts to the Birthday Scheme save lives at Guinebor II Hospital in Chad.

The Baptist Missionary Society: registered in England and Wales as a charity number 1174364 and a company limited by guarantee number 10349659.

February 2026

DAGNALL STREET BAPTIST CHURCH ST ALBANS, AL3 5EE



TODDLERS

Wednesday mornings at 9.45 am

(Maximum limit of 30 Adults)

£2 donation per family; Refreshments provided

**Meeting every Wednesday during term-time
in the Lower Hall**

Entrance via the church car park

No meeting on Wednesday 18th February, as this is half-term week.

**All are welcome to any of our services and activities.
Please come along and join us**



**Our Cross Street Café is open for everyone
Wednesday – Saturday, 10am – 2pm**

Serving a range of drinks, meals and delicious cakes

Dagnall Street Baptist Church and Cross Street Centre Magazine
DAGNALL STREET BAPTIST CHURCH
ST ALBANS, AL3 5EE



ALL AGE FAMILY WORSHIP

Come and join us on

Sunday, 8th February
10.30 am

‘BE BOLD, BE STRONG’

All are welcome to any of our services and activities
Do just come along, we would love to see you
There are activities, crafts and games for
children at all our
services



Our Cross Street Café is open for everyone
Wednesday – Saturday, 10am – 2pm

Serving a range of drinks, meals and delicious cakes

DAGNALL STREET BAPTIST CHURCH
ST ALBANS, AL3 5EE



Who Let the Dads Out (WLTD0)

Meets on the Second Saturday of each month

**£2 donation per family; Refreshments provided
For Dads, Grandads, Uncles etc..**

Taking place in the Lower Hall

Entrance via the church car park

**THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON
Saturday, 14th February
10-11.15am**

**All are welcome to any of our services and activities.
Please come along and join us**



**Our Cross Street Café is open for everyone
Wednesday – Saturday, 10am – 2pm**

Serving a range of drinks, meals and delicious cakes



THE ALPHA COURSE

Week One	13th January	Is there more to life than this?
Week Two	20th January	Who is Jesus?
Week Three	27th January	Why did Jesus die?
Week Four	3rd February	How can we have faith?
Week Five	10th February	Why and how do I pray?
HALF TERM BREAK	17th February	
Week Six	24th February	Why and how should I read the Bible?
Week Seven	3rd March	Why and how should I tell others?
MARK ON RESIDENTIAL	10th March	
SATURDAY ALPHA DAY	14th March	Who is the Holy Spirit? What does the Holy Spirit do? How can I be filled with the Spirit?
Week Eight	17th March	How can I resist evil?
Week Nine	24th March	Does God heal today?
Week Ten	31st March	What about the Church
SATURDAY ALPHA DAY	4th April	Why and how does God Guide us?



**ST. ALBANS
CATHEDRAL**

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

7th January 2025

The Reverend Simon Carver,
Free Church Ecumenical Chaplain,
St Albans Cathedral.

*Please note this service will include a celebration
of the Lord's Supper, to which all Christian
believers are invited.*

4th February 2025

Maggie Dodd,
Anna Chaplain, St Albans.

4th March 2025

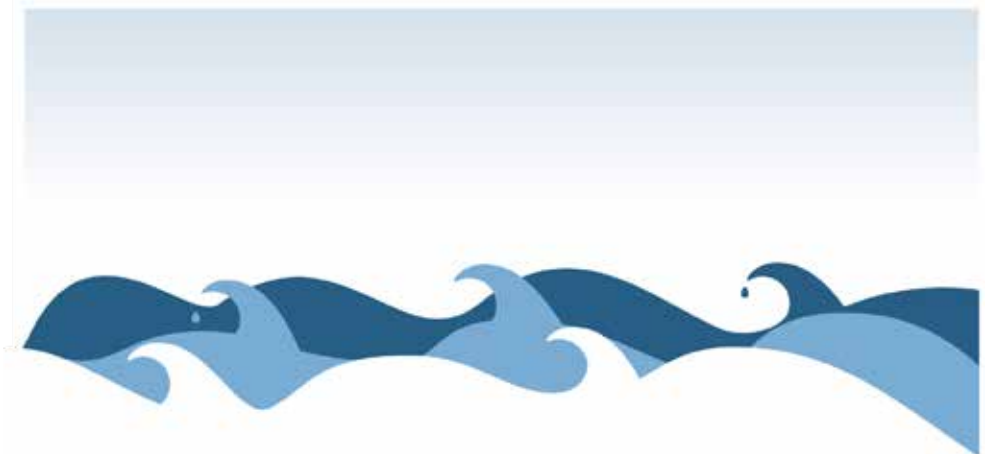
The Reverend Mary Moody
Regional Minister, Central Baptist Association.

Free Church Ecumenical Chaplain: Reverend Simon Carver,
Email: simoncarver@btinternet.com

For Nothing is Fixed

***For nothing is fixed
forever, forever, forever,
it is not fixed;
the earth is always shifting,
the light ia always changing,
the sea does not cease to grind down rock.
Generations do not cease to be born,
and we are responsible to them
because we are the only witnesses they have.
The sea rises the light falls,
lovers cling to each other,
and children cling to us.
The moment we cease to hold each other,
the moment we break faith with one another,
the sea engulfs us and the light goes out.***

JAMES BALDWIN



February 2026

FOODBANK

Can you add one extra thing to your weekly shop?

There is even more need for food bank donations in the St Albans area. All DSBC food donations are now sent to the St Albans and District Foodbank run by the Trussel Trust Charity whose depot is in Redbourn, who also collect from the Foodbank baskets placed in many of the local supermarkets and the Town Hall and the Verulamium museums.

You can now access the shopping list needs on a free app called 'Bank the food', however, it seems that the most urgent needs are:

LONG LIFE JUICE
LONG LIFE MILK
MULTI SURFACE CLEANER
LUNCH BOX SNACKS
TINNED CUSTARD
TUNNED FRUIT
TINNED MEAT

If you want to see the full list but cannot get the app speak to me.

If we just add one item to our shopping list we can bring it with us on a Sunday and I can ensure it is taken to a collection point.

Many thanks

Diane





Tools With A Mission

TWAM is a charity which DSBC has supported for very many years, both through planned mission giving and with our various tool collection activities.

Sadly, we no longer organise our annual tool collection event or make regular grants to TWAM through our planned mission giving, such is the effect of the ageing process and the need to tighten our purse strings!

However, we do still support TWAM by passing on donations of tools we receive to Marshalswick Baptist Free Church, who are able to store them and arrange for delivery to depots in Ipswich or Rugby.

TWAM's latest newsletter explains the process:

“We are a Christian Charity that collects donated useable tools, re-furbishes them, sorts them into trade kits and ships them to the developing world for livelihood creation.” (Countries in receipt of tools are Uganda, Zambia, Tanzania, Malawi and Zimbabwe together with Burundi, one of the world's poorest countries, where TWAM's first container was sent earlier this year.)

“We support local people, meeting local needs with life-transforming skills training projects. We supply tools to equip training centres and to give to trainees when they graduate. With this support we see long-term sustainable livelihoods created.”

They go on to say costs are kept very low, but they still need a lot

of support. Every toolkit sent changes lives and provides hope. Those who receive a toolkit receive the dignity of being able to provide a livelihood for themselves and their families. Each year over 18,000 tools are collected, sorted and packaged by loyal teams of volunteers, but the spiraling cost of shipping means that a further £15,000 is required in order to achieve the goal of sending 25 containers this year.

For more information just google TWAM.



Chris Penn





BMS World Mission holds a Day of Prayer each year and **Sunday 1st February** is the day set aside this year. But the prayer points can be used at any time in order to stand with BMS in prayer for our world.

This year we'll be exploring four themes from Jesus' prayer in John 17, as he prays for his Church to be united, protected, holy and sent into the world. We will look at the ways Jesus' prayer is being answered today and reflect on how we can pray and work with Jesus and join in with his great commission to us.

1. Unity of the Global Church: John 17: 11-21

Prayer focus: Ardi Wiriadinata, The Asia Pacific Baptist Federation

As we pray for unity in the global Church, we pray for unity for the Federation's 65 member nations and BMS partner worker Ardi Wiriadinata as he co-ordinates their outreach work across many nations.

2. Protection for the persecuted Church: John 17: 15

Prayer Focus: Barnabas Hembron, Bangladesh Baptist Church Sangha

As we pray for protection for the persecuted Church, we pray for protection for Barnabas Hembron, who is Mission Co-ordinator at Bangladesh Baptist Church Sangha in Dhaka, and for all Christian churches across Bangladesh.

3. Sanctification of the Church: John 17: 16-17

Prayer Focus: Wissam Nasrallah, Thimar in Lebanon

As we pray for Jesus' followers to be set apart and sanctified, we pray for the work of Wissam Nasrallah, President of the Arab Baptist Theological Seminary (ABTS) as part of Thimar (formerly known as LSESD), and his team, as they demonstrate God's love to the Lebanese people, Syrian refugees and across the Middle East and North Africa.

4. Sending of the Church: John 17: 18

Prayer Focus: Baja from Indonesia sent to JLH, Uganda with BMS People Pool

As we pray for Christians to be sent like Jesus, we pray for Baja, one of the experts who offer their time and skills through the BMS people pool exchange program, sharing their wisdom with brothers and sisters in other parts of the world.

Day of Prayer video message

In this seven-minute video, Kwame Adzam, BMS' Heart for the Gospel Lead, opens up the themes with a message based on Jesus' prayer in John 17 and shares examples of how he is seeing that prayer answered in the world today.

Go to:- www.bmswm.org/dop26resources

One of the most practical ways you can support the ongoing work of BMS is through prayer. The **BMS Prayer Guide**, is packed full of prayer requests for each day of the year and you can receive a printed copy free of charge with **Engage**, the BMS World Mission magazine at: <https://www.bmsworldmission.org/get-involved/pray/prayer-guide/>

MISSION NEWS

Christian Aid: Thankyou to everyone who contributed towards Christian Aid's Christmas appeal. The appeal "No Crib for a Bed" will support the many desperate families facing unimaginable hardship following decades of conflict and political instability in Democratic Republic of Congo. Your Christmas Day Service gifts together with the Christmas Post box contributions in lieu of postage amounted to £454.25.

Christmas Gift Service: Thankyou to everyone who donated so many gifts and toys for the children of St Albans & Hertsmere Women's Refuge during our Nativity and Gift Service on 14th December. This was the 11th consecutive year we have supported the Refuge in this way, and 194 individual gifts were donated. After the service all the gifts were bagged up and Natasha & Lauren from SAHWR came along to collect them. They were delighted and very appreciative of the generosity of everyone who contributed and are already looking forward to meeting us next Christmas! Recently I received a letter addressed to all at Dagnall Street from Natasha expressing heartfelt thanks for your kindness and generosity. The letter is reproduced elsewhere in the magazine and I'm sure you'll agree that although it is a small task, it is so very important. Christmas is less than a year away and it's never too soon to start toy shopping!

Church Mission Partners: We received acknowledgements from our BMS Church Partner Judy Cook in Thailand and also from the Vokuhl family, who are now seconded to Interserve in Nepal, for the Christmas gift vouchers sent to them on behalf of the DSBC fellowship.

Judy Cook said: *"Thank you so much for the amazon gift card - it is such a thoughtful and generous gift. I trust all is well with you there. Here we are generally doing well though cough and cold season seems to have crept up again. I trust you had a good fellowship and worship over Christmas. With Love, Judy"*

Pippa Vokuhl said: *“Hi Chris - thank you so very, very much for blessing us with this, it was really incredibly generous. We love to rent videos from Amazon prime for family film nights so this will keep us going for a long while! Please do pass on our grateful thanks to all at Dagnall Street for this and all your support - it really does mean so much to us. With our love to you all, Pippa.”*

Unlock: Unlock is a small charity established in 1972 to equip Christians in inner city and outer housing estates to be more effective as they share the gospel of Jesus Christ in their own areas. They employ between four and eight paid staff including a network of workers placed in inner city locations across the UK. The charity is overseen by its National Council and like many charities, particularly small ones, has faced financial challenges since the pandemic.

For many years sponsorship of around £25K from the annual London Walks provided over 50% of their annual income. But during the pandemic, although they organised ‘virtual walks’, sponsorship fell dramatically. Last year’s walk however, took place with 419 walkers, and sponsorship reached £24.6K. Like many churches who take part, we tend to encourage supporters to sponsor us as a group. Last year our group sponsorship was £390, so that’s the bar we hope to beat this year!

Plans are well advanced for the 43rd London walk which will take place on **Saturday 18th April**, in North London. The 2026 Unlock walk will be a hilly one as we visit Hampstead and Kilburn, with the opportunity for those who wish to explore the open spaces and views from Hampstead Heath, one of the highest points in London. Kilburn lies on ancient (pre-Roman) Watling Street which is now the modern A5, and has a very inner-city feel to it, with large Irish, Afro-Caribbean and Middle Eastern communities. Hampstead is a famously leafy suburb, with West Hampstead and Froggnal somewhere in between.

The area is well served by train and bus services, including Lon

don Overground's Mildmay Line. The route and church visits are still to be finalised, but as ever there is a fascinating mixture, each with its own story of God's work to tell.

Dagnall Street folk have supported Unlock Walks from the beginning, and I've no doubt we will support this year's as well and maybe even increase the sponsorship of last year. A challenge and date for your diaries!

Chris Penn

I have been unable to download Judy Cooks prayer letter this month as it hasn't been sent as a pdf. I'll try and sort it out for next month. You can access it on the BMS website.

Glynis





Baptist Union Prayer Diary February 2026

1 February: Join with BMS World Mission on Sunday 1 February to spend a day praying for their work and for God's name to be known across the world. www.bmsworldmission.org/day-of-prayer

8 February: The material for Racial Justice Sunday this year focuses on 'Love Your Neighbour' - exploring what it really means to love our neighbour, especially given the current narratives of hostility, fear, suspicion and hatred of the 'other'. www.ctbi.org.uk/racialjusticesunday

15 February: This week we pray for the Northern Baptist Association, committed to equipping and enabling churches, missional communities and ministers to thrive in their local context. www.thenba.org.uk

22 February: Please pray for wisdom for the members of the BUGB Trustee Board who meet this week to reflect on the strategic direction of our Union, and to further the work of the key priorities and projects for Baptists Together. www.baptist.org.uk/governance





ILLUMINATE

ILLUMINATE CATHEDRAL
28TH FEB 2026
TICKETS LIVE -
WWW.ILLUMINATEYOUTH.CO.UK



February 2026



**RESOURCE
GROW
CELEBRATE**

FOR DETAILS SEE JANET MOVERY-PEERS



***SNOWDROPS AT
THE BISHOPS GARDEN
ABBEY MILL LANE, ST ALBANS***

Visit the gardens to see the snowdrops on

***14-15 February
21-22 February
Weather permitting
2-4pm each day***

Entrance fee £5 (donated to charity)

The Patent Robo-Lambkin



Christmas is a season
To make the children smile
A time for cards and carols
And presents in a pile

But sometimes it's a struggle
To know just what to do
Tradition, innovation
To find that balance too

The patent robo-lambkin
Is sure to give a lift
To any festive season
She has that special gift

She's gently reassuring
With her woolly coat
It's comforting and warming
And on her you will dote

Her built in AI powers
Will sense just how you feel
The special electronics
Send pulses to each wheel

She makes a range of noises
And follows you about
She soon becomes your shadow
Of that there is no doubt

She plays a festive soundtrack
To everyone you meet
And if she's switched to silent
She gives a doleful bleat



She even serves refreshments
On a built-in tray
And if you pull a lever
She quickly clears away

The patent robo-lambkin
Still needs a tweak or two
At times she throws up errors
The algorithm's new

There's still a bit of clanking
From muscles on her jaw
And sometimes when you leave
her
She puddles on the floor

Just like a real lambkin
She eats all she can see
She'll shred your wrapping paper
And then start upon your tree

She'll graze upon your carpets
And run into your chair
She may need special cleaning
By where her wiring's bare [crash]

Perhaps the Robo-lambkin
Is not the one you need
To make your Christmas special
And to be blest indeed

We celebrate another lamb
Redeemer, Lord and King
The Christ child in a manger
If homage we would bring

Emmanuel God with us
When to his way we keep
He'll also be our shepherd
If we will be his sheep

He offers us salvation
The way to God made known
Eternal restoration
There at the Father's throne

Megan Thompson 2025



Pancake Day Word Scramble

Unscramble the Pancake Day themed words and join them to the pictures on the right. We've done the first one for you!

napacke

pancake

nap

blow

uprys

gruas

sgeg

orulf

kilm

pilf

melon

turbet

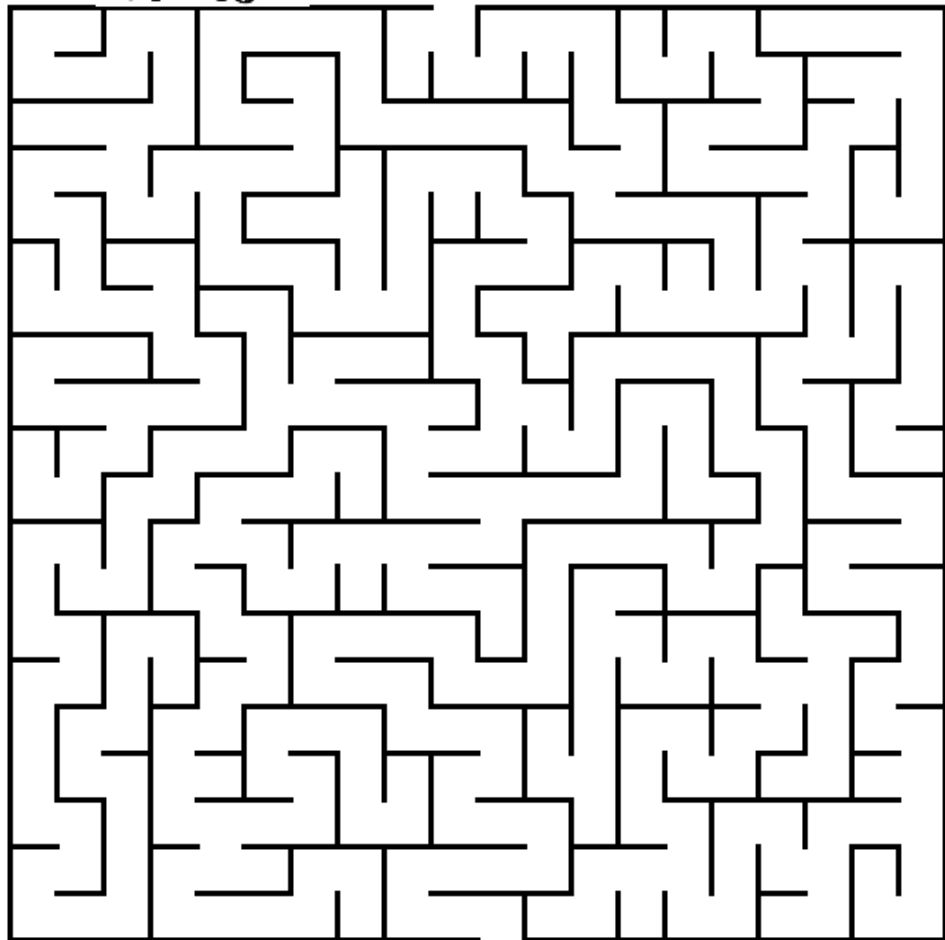
nopso



Hedgehogs in Love



Can you help these two little hedgehogs find their way through the maze to each other?
Start at the top or the bottom...





Valentine's day Sudoku

Every row, column and mini-grid must contain the letters L O V E B I R D S. Don't guess - use logic

		R		B		V		
	D	L	E		V	B	S	
			O		I			
R		B		V		E		D
		D		E		O		
O		E		L		I		R
			V		R			
	B	S	L		E	D	R	
		I		D		L		

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES



Let's remind ourselves of the items we can undertake as a church.

Food Bank

A list of items we can give to support this are listed in the church magazine.

Any items can be taken to the Town Hall (11am to 5pm, please check times)

TWAM -Tools with A Mission.

Any items of hand and machine tools to support people in overseas countries to help them be self-sufficient. Any tool items can be taken to Marshalswick Baptist Free Church, Sherwood Ave. St Albans, on any Thursday afternoon.

TWAM leaflets are in the leaflet rack in the Centre, or if you require further details contact me.

Emmaus; who recycle old furniture as well as supporting people who are homeless.

Used Postage Stamps for local charity. Please leave in the box on the link table

Due to circumstances, I will no longer be attending Car Boot sales, so any items can be taken to your local Charity shop of choice.

We can all play our part with environmental issues in protecting God's planet.

Recycling you can undertake at home:

Recycle Paper - Cardboard Tin – Glass and Plastic with the council waste collection.

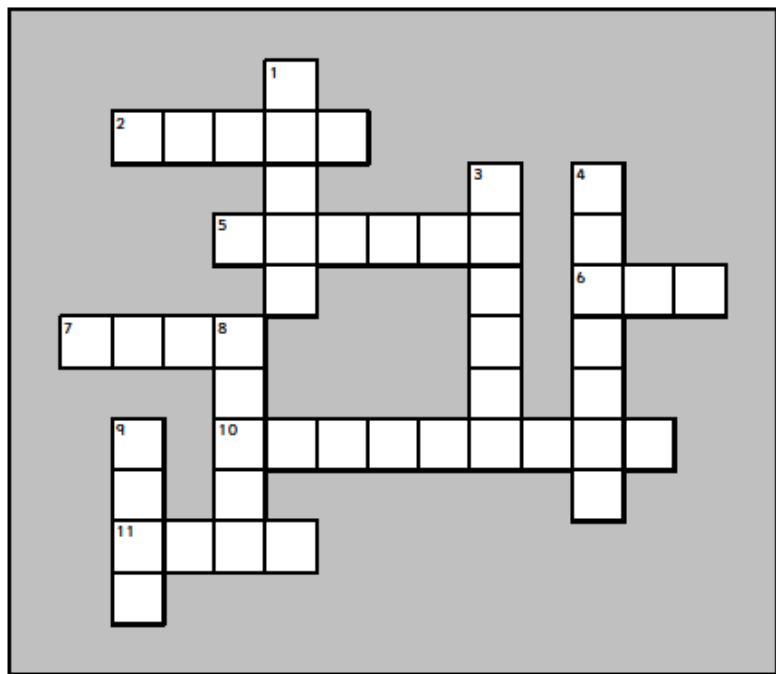
Recycle food waste and plants in a compost bin, if you can.

Many thanks in anticipation

Trevor Oakley



Pancake Day Crossword

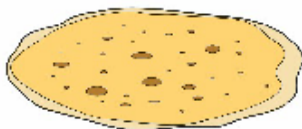


Across

2. Pancake ingredient ground in a mill.
5. Uncooked pancake mix is known as _____.
6. Ingredient you need to crack.
7. You mix the ingredients in this.
10. In some parts of the world Shrove Tuesday is celebrated with a carnival called _____.
11. Pancake Day marks the start of this fast.

Down

1. Sprinkle this on your pancakes to sweeten them.
3. You cook a pancake in this type of pan.
4. Pancake Day is sometimes called Shrove _____.
8. Squeeze the juice of this fruit on to your pancakes.
9. Pancake ingredient that comes from cows.





PHOTOGRAPHY

You may have noticed bright yellow signs placed in areas of the church and Cross St café. These are a reminder to us all that any photos taken on our premises are for personal use only and **must not** to be shared on social media or in any form of publicity, **unless** permission has been granted by those being photographed, or in the case of children, by their parents or carers.

There are consent forms available if needed.

For further information please contact:

LINDA ROBERTS on 01727 858869 or FRANK IDDIOLS on 07939 287785 (both responsible for Safeguarding) or CHRIS PENN on 07770 334339 (Church Secretary)

Thank you.

Scrabble Club



DSBC Scrabble Club is on the ***first and third*** Tuesday of the month from ***14:30 to 16:30***.

Tuesday 3rd and 17th February

All are welcome.

So come along to the Cross Street Centre and give it a try.

Speak to me for further information.

Colin Owen

February 2026

Table Tennis – Snooker – Pool and other Indoor Games



Every Monday at;
Dagnall Street Baptist Church, St. Albans
In the Lower Hall from 10.30am till 12.30pm

*Come along and join us for a time of
Fun and Fellowship*

All are Welcome

Contact: Trevor Oakley

Thank You

For supporting us at
SAHWR, your
generosity is
appreciated.

From all at SAHWR,
we wish you a lovely
Christmas and a
Happy New Year

www.SAHWR.org.uk

February 2026

SAHWR

St Albans and Hertsmere Women's Refuge
Specialist Domestic Abuse Services
PO Box 178, St Albans, Hertfordshire, AL4 0ZE
Email: info@sahwr.org.uk
Website: www.sahwr.org.uk
Tel: 0300 124 5095



Dear Chris and all the parishioners at Dagnall Street Baptist church,

On behalf of all the women and children who spent Christmas with us at St Albans and Hertsmere Women's Refuge, we would like to extend our heartfelt thanks for your kindness and generosity.

For many of the families in our care, this Christmas marked a time of transition a move towards safety, stability, and hope. Your donations helped create a warm and caring environment during what could otherwise have been a very difficult period. The gifts, toilet-ries, and thoughtful items you provided brought comfort, dignity, and moments of genuine happiness to both women and children.

One mother shared how meaningful it was to see her child smile again, while another woman spoke of how receiving something chosen with care reminded her that she is not alone and that people truly care.

Your support gave families the chance to experience joy, reassurance, and a sense of normality at a time when it was needed most. These acts of kindness will be remembered long after the festive season has passed.

Thank you for helping us remind the women and children we support that they are valued, supported, and deserving of brighter days ahead.

We wish you a happy, healthy, and hopeful New Year.

With sincere gratitude,
Staff & the Women and Children of St Albans & Hertsmere Women's Refuge

THE SCRATCH NATIVITY

Here are some photographs to remind you of the wonderful Nativity we held in December. Especially impressive was the Nativity Oompah Band. And who new that one of the wise men played the tuba!



February 2026



FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE CHURCH

As we all know our household bills are rising and the cost of heating and lighting the church is no different to the energy costs at home. Our church relies on raising its own income. Some of this comes from hiring out our rooms, but the majority comes from congregational giving. There are various ways in which this can be done. There is a plate by the door of the church for cash and offering envelopes.

We now also have a contactless offering device which accepts card or phone payments of specific amounts and this is also by the main church doors on Sundays. These donations are completely anonymous.



We are happy to receive bank transfers and standing orders and the details are below:

Deacons of Dagnall Street Baptist Church
60-18-11
42087783

If you decide to make an offering in this way, it is helpful if you are able to email our Finance Manager, Liz Blight, lizblight@gmail.com, so that she can connect up the entry on our bank statement.

Thank you for your generosity!

The Deacons



‘Share St Albans’ is a ‘library of things’ where we lend DIY, garden, kitchen, party items or something for your home. Set up for St Albans and district to borrow not buy. Whether you want to loan a gazebo or DIY equipment we are here to share and reduce our collective environmental footprint and have a collaborative community.

By borrowing something for a small fee you can save yourself money, save on space needed for storage and help to save the planet.

Locations:

The Green House, 46 London Road, AL1 1NG
Sandridge Parish Council Car Park, The Ridgeway AL4 9TU

Please log onto the site to see opening times at these locations



THE HARE

***In the black furrow of a field,
I saw an old witch-hare this night,
And she cocked a lissome ear
And she eyed the moon so bright,
And she nibbled of the green;
and whispered “wh-s-st! witch-hare,”
Away like a ghostie o’er the field/
She fled, and left the moonlight there.***

Walter de la Mare



***THE NEXT DATE FOR COPY FOR THE
MAGAZINE WILL BE THURSDAY,
12th February, 2026***

I have been reading a very interesting book 'Normal Women' by Philippa Gregory. It is a factual history of women since Anglo-Saxon times and how conditions have changed for normal women. It's full of fascinating facts about women. In Anglo-Saxon times we were revered and mostly on equal terms with men in the hierarchy and in business. Then William the Conqueror and the French court changed all that. I was interested to read that in the 17th century women were famous bare knuckle pugilists and most of the revolts were initiated and led by women. Also during the Crusades there were bands of women who were also part of the Crusade. There is hardly any mention of women in the Magna Carta or on the Bayeux Tapestry and history seems to ignore the very clever women who initiated technology and learning.

I also watched a very interesting programme about Julian of Norwich. She was an anchoress in the 14th century and lived in one room attached to a church for 30 years. But she wrote a book called 'Divine Love' which could have been classed as heretical but never was. She wrote it in old English so the lower classes had a chance of reading it. She was very unusual because it was believed that her status would not have led to her being able to read and write. She apparently taught herself. Her original manuscript has disappeared, but copies were made. Her famous motto from the book is 'Sin is inevitable, but all shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well'. Her cell can still be visited (it has been rebuilt as the church was bombed during the war) at St Julian's Church, Norwich.

Glynis

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What, When and Where February 2026

The church is open for services at 10.30am each Sunday. There are activities, games and crafts for children during every service on a Sunday.

After service coffee is served in the Cross Street Centre.

Church in the Café, none during February.

Tea Chat and Prayer. The next meeting to be announced..

Scrabble Club is held on the first and third Tuesday of each month, 3rd and 17th February, 2.30-4.30pm.

Toddlers is held every Wednesday during school term time from 9.45—11.15am. There will be no meeting on Wednesday, 18th February as this is half-term week.

Who Let the Dad's Out . Meetings are held on the second Saturday of each month. The next meeting will be on Saturday 14th February, 10-11.15am.

Monday table tennis/games club is held in the Lower Hall from 10.30am

The fourth Tuesday of each month the Prayer and Share Group meet in the Cross Street Centre at 7.30pm.

First Saturday of the month Prayer Hour at 10am in Cross Street.

The Cross Street Café opens weekly from Wednesday to Saturday, 10am to 2pm.

Newsletter by email, weekly.

You can view this magazine in colour on our website.
<https://www.dsbc.org.uk/>

Carnegie Museum of Art