



St Hilda's School
HARPENDEN
Caring, Curious & Confident

NEWSLETTER

Friday 15th December 2023 No. 132

*'Look heavenward and speak the word aloud. Peace.
We look at our world and speak the word aloud. Peace.
We look at each other, then into ourselves,
and we say without shyness or apology or hesitation:
Peace, My Brother. Peace, My Sister. Peace, My Soul.'*
Dr. Maya Angelou



Dear Parents,

It was wonderful to welcome so many of you to the High Street Methodist Church this morning. It was a celebration of the highest standard of music making but, most of all, a service to mark this key moment in the Christian calendar and a fitting conclusion to the Autumn term. The girls all did splendidly. One of my favourite moments in the service was hearing the reading of 'A Peace Poem' by Dr Maya Angelou, a section of which is published here. In the midst of so much suffering and strife this time of the year should be, first and foremost, a moment to reflect on what is wrong in our troubled world and how we can work together to achieve genuine peace and goodwill. Every year, as I write to you on this occasion, I have reflected on other things that have happened in the year under review which seem to point to this being a forlorn wish. My prayer, as we end 2023, is that there will be renewed optimism that this will and can be a reality in the future year that will soon stretch before us. It is at points like this that we appreciate the warmth and kindness known in our school community, that we can share in helping each other, and I would thank you all for the support that you have shown me over the past twelve months. I also trust that the spirit of St Hilda's will continue to shine through in all our actions and endeavours, chiefly for our pupils, but also for families and staff alike. Whatever your circumstances, I wish you each a very Happy Christmas.

Staff News

We are sorry to bid farewell to Mrs Smith today, who has supported in Breakfast and After School Care over the past year. We wish her every happiness for the future. In the Spring Term, we look forward to welcoming Mrs Balaceanu, who will join the EYFS team as an additional Practitioner. We will also welcome Mrs Salyani, who will be our new School Administrator in the Office. She will be working alongside Mrs Madden for the first couple of weeks next term.

Communications

After various reviews and feedback from parents and staff, we will be announcing some changes to communications in the New Year. This is aimed at ensuring that email and calendar information remains as accurate and efficient as possible. There will be a weekly comms email from the Office, which is designed to minimise other email traffic. Further details will be announced after Christmas.

Thank you

Various thanks are due to you all for the generosity you have shown in recent weeks. The poppy collection this year raised £261, and a certificate of appreciation was received from The Rotary Club for the amazing collection of shoeboxes that were donated for needy children and young people. The following was received from Noel Nicholas, who organises the scheme: *'Thank you once again for supporting us in this our 23rd year of "doing" shoeboxes which, without your continuing support, we could not do at all. In filling 114 boxes St Hilda's made a huge contribution to this year's shoebox drive. With many thanks to you all and a very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.'*



FOSH Bazaar

What a wonderful Bazaar we enjoyed a few weeks ago! It was a thoroughly enjoyable occasion and it seemed that everyone had a good time, from face painting to visiting Santa and the games room, and of course the new attraction to some parents, 'Bar Humbug'. Clearly a popular new venture! My very grateful thanks to Dominic Hutt, Tammie Modi and Sophie Forsyth who masterminded the day, along with the army of volunteers who did some a great job, including the Form V parents who ran the café so smoothly. Thank you everyone.

Concerts and performances

Mention must be made of the three super performances that have taken place in the past two weeks. From the EYFS concert, the Junior Production of Sparkle and the Senior Winter Concert, the children have been hard at work and did a really memorable job in entertaining everyone.

Football Success

It was so exciting to meet the girls' football team returning triumphant from the inaugural Girls' U11 ISA tournament at the end of November. A nail-biting final match came down to penalties, with St Hilda's winning 2-1. It is wonderful to see football going from strength to strength at the school. I have been especially impressed by the Form VI girls who, as well as participating in the club on Friday after school, have been running their own club at breaktimes. Well done, girls.



Form IV enjoyed a super trip to the Science Museum last week, taking in a workshop and visiting the galleries on space.

Attendance

Thank you to everyone for your cooperation in achieving full attendance for your child this term. There has been a noticeable decline in absence requests. Any attendance issues will be addressed by form teachers at the start next term. Our aim is to achieve full attendance for all.

With my warm regards

Dan Sayers

Headmaster





Certificate of Appreciation

Rotary in Harpenden thanks the students, teaching staff and parents of

St Hilda's School

for contributing **114** of the **731** Rotary Shoeboxes filled in 2023.
The boxes have been delivered to Central and Eastern Europe under the

ROTARY SHOEBOX SCHEME

(www.rotaryshoebox.org)

for the enjoyment of disadvantaged children and elderly people.

For your efforts we thank you most sincerely. With your help we have delivered **20,881** Rotary Shoeboxes since 2001.

*Although the cost of each box we provided this year rose to £3, the generous support of parents and individuals generated a surplus of **£310**, which you kindly agreed we should spend on providing text books, about 125, for schoolchildren in Malawi.*

December 2023



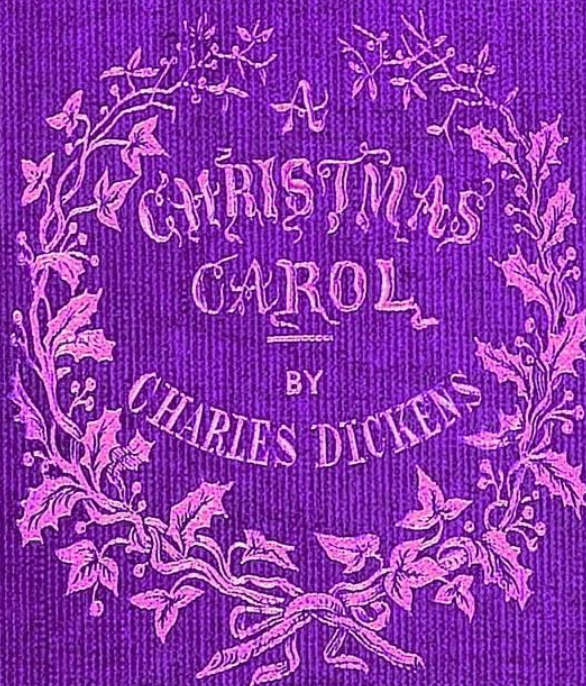
For Rotary in Harpenden

Hugh Lawrence, President

SATURDAY 16 DECEMBER 7PM

ST LEONARDS CHURCH

A CANDLE-LIT READING OF



**THIS CHRISTMASTIME,
COME AND BE ENCHANTED BY A MUCH-LOVED
ATMOSPHERIC TALE OF GREED AND GHOSTS,
RUIN AND REDEMPTION, HEARTLESSNESS AND HOPE.**

**READ BY CLIVE HAYWARD, WITH INCIDENTAL MUSIC
FROM DAVID BEAMAN AND CLAIRE HAYWARD,
THERE IS NO BETTER WAY TO REDISCOVER
THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS.**



MINIMUM RECOMMENDED AGE: 9+

TICKETS FROM £5 - £20, CALL 07577 530825





BeatZ Dance Academy Christmas Dance Day

Friday 22nd December 2023

Time: 10:00am-3:00pm

Venue: Skyswood School, Chandlers Road, AL4 9RS

Boys and girls welcome of ages 4-12 years, No experience needed.

Children learn 2 different and fun dance routines in the day.

Play games, Competitions, workshops and more.

DANCE SHOW AT 3PM

To Book email Cassi on

cassi_beatz@hotmail.co.uk / call: 07815 666 748

LIMITED SPACES AVAILABLE, FIRST COME FIRST SERVE

Children must come with a packed lunch, snacks & water bottle





The Hertfordshire Garden Centre

Join us for an
**Apple Punch or
Mulled Wine** whilst
you choose your
perfect tree
(warm Ribena
for the kids)

Available from 27th November

Open until 6pm in Dec Mon-Sat until Christmas Eve

Visit the
Rose Garden Café
for festive treats,
Christmas themed
lunch and
Afternoon Tea

01582 792255

**The Hertfordshire Garden Centre
Redding Lane, Redbourn, AL3 7PS**

