

“Only Connect”

My priorities at All Saints Hertford

(A paper presented to, and endorsed by, the PCC in November)

Jo Loveridge

Only Connect and both be exalted ...

Howard's End EM Forster

Only connect: Here at All Saints we have the enviable opportunity to make connections between faith, work, business and life. I want to build on the current life of worship, pastoral care and mission providing leadership, vision and inspiration for growth. I will ensure that, by making connections through our worship, music, pastoral care, prayer and through nurture courses, I will enable and support every member ministry, young and old, equipping people for their life and faith journey, spiritually and intellectually.

As a priest I am called "to preach afresh the gospel" (the ordinal) and (BCP) "set forth thy true and lively word". The message needs to connect, resonate with people's lives at work, at home and in relationships. In my leadership and celebration in worship and Liturgy, I will build up the realization of the essential connections with our daily lives, and enrichment of the beauty of holiness. I would like to build up our social life so that there is opportunity to meet more informally continuing to explore the hospitality of the kingdom.

I would like to encourage a deeper participation and understanding of the liturgy by everyone and encourage participation by our young people as servers, acolytes, lesson readers and intercessors.

Children should be central to our family life at All Saints and I would like to start an after-school service for those who may find attending church on Sunday difficult.

I will continue to review worship, I would like to use a chasuble at the celebration of the Eucharist and wondered whether we may buy 3 of the seasons' colours purple, green and white and we might ask the Junior Church to create a Pentecost red one with a

collage of hand shapes representing the flames of the Spirit. I would like to see the crèche in church in the meeting room with suitable safe toys in the cupboard for them to play with and I would like to tidy up the meeting room too!

By setting up a Focus group of representative members of the congregation, including musicians, I would like us to look together to see how services can connect even more with people and especially those who attend less frequently. I have been thinking of having a short communion service at 2.15pm after Soundbites to reach out to those who can only join us on a Wednesday.

Just as people have a personal trainer, I might be said to be a spiritual trainer~enabling people to make vital connections in their lives, with the spiritual dimension built up, giving connectedness in all our lives, enabling each one of us to be grounded and rooted in God. I would like to build up our ministry team here in All Saints with a sharing of responsibility with Janet, Geoff and Gerry and others who may feel called, with each member contributing as appropriate to their work/life commitments.

I see the building of a Team Ministry here in Hertford as vital to the success of the church's ministry and mission here in the town. If we begin now, we can grow together, sharing resources and overcoming challenges.

We could have joint confirmation, marriage preparation and even baptism classes. We could develop a youth group or even a youth service. We would ensure that our elderly people in the various homes throughout Hertford are cared for spiritually.

All schools would have pastoral links with the churches. Communication would improve and confidence would return to the

churches.

Alan Stewart's exciting ideas for Art installation in Hertford in Lent 2008 could be even more smoothly managed and ultimately we would gain not only resources but time!

I would like to run an academically rigorous course on "*God Outside the Box*", facing up to some of the issues which confront faith.

As the new incumbent I have an ideal opportunity to make connections by introducing myself to the wider community. I will work to ensure that All Saints and the Team (as Rector) has a high profile in the area. I believe in making connections, networking, being involved in the local community, schools, working as a Team and as Churches Together and with those of other faiths and none. (This may mean that the amount of visiting that I personally can do may be less than Bill's legendary achievements in this area, however, I am a great believer in quality time!)

I would ensure that we would make the most of the wonderful resources, in terms of people, music, and buildings and seize the opportunities that we have in Hertford, whilst at the same time being a wise and sensible steward and manager, ensuring that we act in a realistic and sustainable manner, encouraging generosity and involvement.

Only connect.....

Dorothy Clements

Janet Bird

Dorothy to me was a formidable lady. When I first came to All Saints' about 20 years ago there were a large number of formidable ladies, who ran just about everything. As a much younger woman I was somewhat in awe of them all and most especially Dorothy – but I soon learnt to see beyond the façade to see the kind, loving, God-fearing person that she really was. She was a private, but very caring, person. She had very high standards and expected a lot, both of her self and of others.

She was a very artistic lady with many hobbies. We at All Saints knew of her love and great talent for flower arranging, but she also enjoyed pottery, calligraphy and all sorts of sewing and knitting and was an enthusiastic gardener for many years. She belonged to the RHS and the National Trust and was always keen to take or receive cuttings for her garden – it might be as well not to ask where some of these came from! She had an allotment and enjoyed the fruits of her labour, fitting this in whilst bringing up two lively sons.

She loved music and enthusiastically supported the All Saints choir – giving prizes to the youngsters to encourage them and receiving cards from them when they went away on the choir trip. Cards which she treasured. She enjoyed all sorts of music and Peter remembers the sight of her bouncing up and down at a Stefan Grappeli concert which he took her to to celebrate her 60th birthday.!

She also enjoyed travelling and made many friends on her coach trips around Europe.

She was however first and foremost a loving mother, grandmother and great grandmother who thought the world of her family and who was devastated by the early death of her eldest son – Richard. She always showed her sons love and patience, she gave freely of her time and passed on to them her love of literature. She had many friends at All Saints and was always at church on a Sunday and I still can't get used to her not being here.

It was my privilege to spend some time with her during the last year and to take communion to her at home.

Her son Peter describes her as a friend, supporter confidante, but above all this she was one of the nicest persons it has been my privilege to know, and I am certain that there are many people who would agree with that, and I will miss her terribly. I'm sure that all of us here today heartily endorse those sentiments.