

# All Saints Alive

## VICAR'S VIEWPOINT

### ***Are our lives fulfilled - or merely filled?***

Dear friends,

There is so much going on, so much to do, so much to achieve, we seem to be busy all the time and if we are not that busy we often feel guilty. It has become quite the ethos in workplaces to stay there for longer and longer hours, we spend ages in our cars getting to places, our mobile phones are clamped to our ears lest we miss a vital call and the Blackberry means that we can be at work 24-7!

Even though we may have all sorts of time-saving and labour-saving devices and even eat fast foods, we still have no spare time! Crammed lives, with so much to do but are all these things that we do truly necessary? Even when we've retired or we're at home or on holiday, our lives are still very full.

If we stop and think about it, what is ultimately of most value for us, which of the things that we do now would we still do? On our list of our "to do" things there might be something that we have always wanted to do like visit a special place, spend time with relatives or friends, enjoying their company and telling them of our love for them. Finally, we would want to think about the lives that we had led and our relationship with God, spending valuable time in prayer and meditation, thinking about our relationship with what is of eternal importance.

Before we've voted, sorted out our desks, tidied up the house, and attempted to do all the things on our "To Do" list, let's just stop and refocus, as our faith in God beckons us. The Bishop of Reading, Stephen Cottrell, wrote a splendid short book called; "Do nothing to change your Life". Stephen certainly believes in achievement, but at the centre of our activities where need to be



times of stillness with God which can transform the whole of our existence.

So let's STOP and pause in this month with its longest days and we will have the chance to discover who we are and enter into a closer relationship with God.

As Psalm 62 says:

*For God alone my soul waits in silence,  
for my hope is from him.  
He alone is my rock and my salvation,  
my fortress; I shall not be shaken.  
On God rests my deliverance and my honour;  
my mighty rock, my refuge is in God.  
Trust in him at all times.*

Love,  
Jo

## 8.00 Holy Communion

It has become apparent that at St Andrew's and All Saints we are meeting every week for Holy Communion at 8.00am on Sunday mornings and our attendance figures are quite low.

We have launched a consultation with the valued members of the congregations within the Team Ministry, about possible ways forward as it is costly to keep two large churches heated, maintained and staffed.

We have put forward some possible ideas. Our aim in all of these solutions is not to lose people but to build up our fellowship and use resources wisely.

1. That we try to grow the congregation at each of the churches by each one

of us encouraging others to join us and that we give ourselves until Lent 2010 to double our numbers.

2. That we invite, by letter, those who are bereaved, whose loved one's anniversary falls that week, to join us and remember the person by name in the prayers and have an opportunity to light candles after the service.
3. To worship together every week at St Andrew's
4. To worship together every week at All Saint's
5. To worship together alternating between the churches:

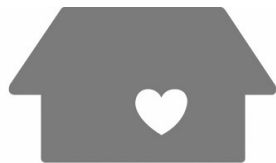
1<sup>st</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> at All Saints (there is a Family Service on the first Sunday) and 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> at St Andrew's - there is a Family Service on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to discuss this in person or have other suggestions. (Tel: 584 899). Love, Jo

## **Cheese and Wine Evening**

**Keech Cottage Children's Hospice  
Tuesday June 9<sup>th</sup> – 8.00pm at All Saints.**

Come and learn more about the work of the hospice that we are supporting at the Festival of Music & Flowers in October and about the children they support. Please join us for an illustrated talk, drinks and canapés. Free entry, but please let Dorothy Toyn know if you are coming so we can cater accordingly.



## **Keech Cottage Children's Hospice**

The children's hospice service supports families from across Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and Milton Keynes who are caring for a child or young person diagnosed with a life-limiting condition. These children have a wide variety of conditions. Some may live only a few months whilst others will live for a number of years. Almost all will die before reaching adulthood.

Although families are offered support during sad times, the aim is help families make the most of the precious time they have left with their child. While many of the children will have only a short life, they all still have plenty of living to do.

Please contact Dorothy on: Tel 589781 or Dorothy.toyn@ntlworld.com

## **Isabel Hospice**

The Isabel Hospice Head Office has moved from Griffin House in Welwyn Garden City to 61 Bridge Road East, Welwyn Garden City, Herts AL7 1JR. The new telephone number is 01707 382500. The In-Patient Unit and Day Hospice have not moved.

### **Sat 13 Jun 2009 18:30 - 23:55 Sunset & Stars Walk**

If you would like to take part in our FIRST EVER evening walk in aid of Isabel Hospice, please contact Fundraising on 01707 382500. The 9 mile walk will start from St Margaretsbury Sports and Social Club near Ware, meet at 6.30p.m. Tickets cost £15, children over 12 £10. We are looking for walkers, marshalls and sponsors.

### **Sun 14 Jun 2009 14:00 - 17:00 Open Garden**

The garden of Roxford House, Hertingfordbury will be open in aid of Isabel Hospice.

### **All Saints' Church**

warmly invite you to the  
**ANNUAL PARISH  
Bar-b-que  
Sunday June 28<sup>th</sup> at 12 .30  
on St John's Hall field**



*Please note the EARLIER  
date....*

**N.B. - R.S.V.P. Required via the  
Churchwardens  
Or Sign the list at the back of the Church.  
No RSVP = No Food !!!**

Donations for the cost of the food will be requested on the day