

In Peace



11th November *John Beecham*

Holy Baptism



Gabriella Tina Philpott

Ryan Edward Philpott

Freddie Thomas Edward Fisher

Lila Rose Higgs

Faye Elena McGill

Evan Terry West

Emily Joanne Booth

Emily Charlotte Abbots

Holy Matrimony



16th Octoberr *Paul James Elliot Townsend & Amanda Louise Goodhead*

6th November *Matthew Edward Robert Corker & Kirstie Jaclyn Travers*

View from the Churchwardens Pew

It seems hard to believe that Advent is already upon us and we are preparing for Christmas! Admittedly I have been thinking of Christmas somewhat earlier than I have ever done before but I am enjoying doing things in a slow and relaxed way for once rather than rushing around! I have enjoyed making numerous Christmas cakes which I hope will have sold at the Winter Bazaar to raise lots of money by the time you read this!

All Saints is recycling! I also have been busy making new candles from the remains of used ones in church. There was around 25lbs of wax retrieved from the candles over the year and this had been used to remould over 130 new candles of various shapes and sizes some of which will be used in church over Christmas and some have been sold to raise some money.

Sadly we are unable to use St John's Hall at the present time due to a burglary which took place on the night of Sunday / Monday 14th / 15th November. Thieves broke in and have stolen *all* the copper piping of the heating and plumbing systems, cutting it close to radiators, sinks and the water tanks and leaving an awful mess in their wake where the systems have drained onto the floor. It is very sad after the hard work that went into the decoration in the summer and it will take a few weeks to get sorted and re-plumbed and cleaned. It means we will lose around £1000 in bookings to say nothing of the cost of repair and increased insurance rates. If, by any chance, you saw any strange activity around the hall on Sunday night please let us know and report it to the local police. We hope it will be sorted out by mid December but it does depend on the damage found as the repairs are done

The Vestry refurbishment has now been completed and although it took longer than anticipated, I hope you will agree that it looks spick and span now. We hope it will no longer be the dumping ground for bits nobody is sure about, and it has been a voyage of exploration looking in the nooks

and crannies! We have found pictures of All Saints in varying degrees of dilapidation, old magazines, a list of who made each of the hassocks and where it should be in church, and various shoes, jumpers and jackets! I hope the Choir find it a more welcoming place to meet than they have for some years, and that we can keep it clean and tidy.

Christmas card time is here again and we have 3000 cards to distribute for the Parish which is done by volunteers. This year we would like to try to get more people to assist so if you live in the Parish – could you deliver some to your road? If you live outside the Parish could you deliver some and have a walk in a different part of town? We hope the cards will be available from the 2nd week in December and if you are able to assist please contact Geoff Oates who is co-ordinating this task - oates@globalnet.co.uk or Tel: 01992 535805.

Leaving Christmas cards in All Saints is an excellent way of distributing cards to friends but *please* sort your cards into alphabetical name order and sort them accordingly on the distribution table. Please don't just leave a pile of cards for others to sort! If you see some cards for a friend you are likely to see but who may not attend church every week, please feel free to take and deliver them! Some cards always get thrown away in the New Year when they have not been distributed so *please* check if there any for you whenever you come to church!

The Welcome Teams are now in place and if anyone is interested in taking part in this important task please speak to Andrew who is sorting the rota out, or myself and we can explain more.

During 2011 we are hoping to revamp and modernise the All Saints' website. Do we have any web designers out there who may be able to assist? If so please talk to Martin Penny – especially if you have experience of Content Management Systems such as Joomla or Drupal.

We have been trying to improve the communication between the various

committees, the PCC and the church in general in order to avoid double bookings in the Church itself and in the Meeting Room. If you are responsible for booking either of these for any reason, please check the diary in the Vestry or the on-line Church Calendar at www.allsainshertford.org.uk/parishdiary to check availability. Please contact Martin Penny to confirm your booking and it can then be put into the diaries. It is useful to note the dates of various meetings even if they are in not at the Church as this will aid general communication. Andrew and I can assist in this if needed.

We hope to see you at the various events and services in December – a time I always find very special at All Saints as we celebrate the birth of Jesus. Make sure you look at all the "Diary" page of this magazine for dates and times! Andrew and I would like to wish you every blessing for Christmas and a peaceful and happy New Year, and thank you to everyone who has done so much for All Saints throughout the year.

Love Dorothy



On the edge of the Chilterns

Saturday 2 October dawned dry even if somewhat cloudy. For this the bellringers were duly grateful since this was the day of the annual outing. This year we visited some of the villages to the north of Aylesbury, starting in Bierton, a most pleasant village rather spoiled by the busy main road running through its centre. The six bells here are rung from the centre of the Church, in the Chancel crossing. The bells are of some interest since they were founded by John Briant of Hertford (who cast the bells at St Andrews).

Moving on, we next rung at Hardwick, another very old ring of bells, where the tenor weight was advertised as 12 cwt, but which certainly felt as if it was much heavier. Another John Briant bell here which appears to have been cast much later than the other bells in the tower. One can only assume this was an augmentation project.

The next village was Whitchurch, which again includes a John Briant bell although it is interesting that Thomas Mears (of London, and whose foundry continues to operate today as the Whitechapel Bell Foundry) cast two bells at about the same time. After a welcome cup of tea (and doughnuts for some), on again to Quainton, scheduled to be the only 8 bell tower of the afternoon. Alas, despite reminders having been sent, we were unable to ring since the keyholder failed to arrive in time. Perhaps next year.

Quainton church is particularly notable for the statues in the Church, including a large one in the ringing room (we got into the ringing room, but the rope spider was padlocked – this was the key we did not have). The final tower of the day was North Marston, no John Briant bells here, but a relatively modern (1925) six founded by Mears & Stainbank (Whitechapel).

As always we had the great pleasure of the company of friends old and new and finished with a meal in *The Pilgrim* (formerly The Bell) in North Marston. Fortunately the dry weather had held while we were ringing, and rain only appeared during the journey home.

This year the organisation was in the hands of Jill Reeves and Andrew Case and we would like to thank them for all their efforts. Particular congratulations are due for finding five towers where ringing was from the ground floor.

We also thank the incumbents at the various churches we rang in as well as those fellow ringers who turned out to unlock doors and let us in.

Alastair Stracey

Considering exercise? Top ten reasons for joining the church choir:

10. Rehearsals are every Friday night. This means that for those few hours, you will significantly reduce your risk of contracting tendonitis from non-stop operation of a television remote control or computer mouse.

9. Because you wear a choir robe every Sunday, you are liberated from a task many of us find hard: what shall I wear today and have I really ironed it properly?

8. From your special vantage point every Sunday, in which you look out at the entire congregation from the choir stall, you will develop an interesting new perspective!

7. Sitting in full view of 100 or so people on a weekly basis makes it much less likely that you yourself will give in to a chronic lack of sleep, and much more likely that you will feel really alive and vibrant through singing.

6. If you think your singing in the shower sounds good now, just wait till you've been singing in the choir for a few weeks.

5. Singing in a choir is one of the few activities that does not require electronics, equipment or expensive instruments or even power tools. This could be good for the family budget in these days of recession and the young people are even paid!

4. For the fitness buffs, singing in the Choir is not only heart healthy, it is soul healthy. And there are no monthly membership fees, and it's a lot easier on the knees than jogging.

3. If you think you've done everything there is to do, and there are no great challenges left in life, try singing with the choir and staying in pitch and in time.

2. Choir rehearsal time is less than a football game, but is at least twice as satisfying as it is such a great feeling to work together as a team and make a fantastic sound.

And the number 1 reason why you should join the choir:

1. You are singing God's praises, the greatest feeling in the world