

All Saints Alive

ARCHBISHOP'S VIEWPOINT

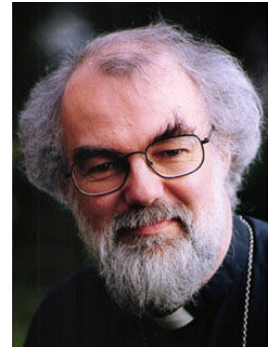
The victory is won

'In all these things we have complete victory through him who loved us'
(Romans 8.37)

As we look at a world in which violence and suffering seem to increase daily, the words of Scripture that promise 'victory' may feel hard to believe. Japan still suffers from the terrible effects of the great earthquake and tsunami, and the risk of nuclear catastrophe has not disappeared. Bigotry and bloodshed have claimed the lives of Christians in many countries, not least in the tragic assassination of Shahbaz Bhatti in Pakistan, and in the continuing 'cleansing' of Christian populations from Iraq. Unrest in North Africa bears heavily on the lives of ordinary people and their families, while oppressive rulers cling to their power. And elsewhere in Africa, civil wars and pandemic disease destroy the lives and security of millions, especially children.

Yet, St Paul says not that we can hope for victory but that we have it already. From what we know of Paul's life and the world he lived in, it cannot have been easier in his day than it is ours to believe such a claim. But what the Apostle is saying is that there can be no doubt about the final purpose of God in the world, and so no doubt of the final outcome of history for those who trust God. There is no simple formula that will stop the sufferings of the present being appalling and inexplicable. There is only the confidence that what has happened in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus declares a truth that no power can conquer and no circumstances can frustrate.

God has, from all eternity, loved us: and, when we realise that fact, nothing else can finally shape our minds and hearts. We are anchored in that love: it does not protect us from harm, or from hard decisions, or from emotional turmoil and profound grief, or anger at the pain of the world. It simply



assures us that there is finally no contest between God's love and the forces of disintegration in the world and in the human spirit. When this unqualified love is denied and abused, even when it is pushed away with the utmost arbitrary violence, it proves itself indestructible. The Crucified is raised to life.

Two things—at least—follow. First, if God's love is like this, no one can ever be seen as falling outside its scope. No human person is ever less than the object of eternal self-giving attention and delight. And that dictates how we see each and every person, those who seem to have no human hope, those who do all they can to reject God and God's truth, those who understand little or nothing of God's ways. It is because of this conviction that the oppression or suffering of any person is so deeply painful and outrageous for the believer, who cries out to God for grace and mercy to transform such situations.

Second, if the deepest truth is always this committed and indestructible love, then even the smallest act of service or compassion is worthwhile, a way of being in contact with the truth. It may seem to make little difference, it may not guarantee success as we usually understand it, but it becomes part of the current of truth flowing eternally against the lies and injustices of a world in which our own interest or safety takes precedence over everything. We witness, even when we cannot be sure of persuading or changing. How clearly this comes out in the courage of those Christian minorities who continue their worship and service in the face of daily threats and attack; and how powerful a testimony this is to the reality of the resurrection of the Son of God.

The victory is won: however terrible the conflict in the present moment, the truth of God is not in danger of defeat. That is what

we have been given as the ground of our trust and hope, and that is what we must show in our reverence to human dignity in every person at every stage of life, and in our willingness to do those small acts of humanity and pity and nurture that bring no reward but testify to the character of our God as it has been shown to us once and for all in the Cross and Resurrection of the Lord.

May his Spirit renew in us that reverence and that willingness as we seek to serve all who today and tomorrow carry the burden of pain and injustice; and may God's Kingdom come, with healing for all.

I wish you every blessing and joy in the Easter season and in all that lies ahead.

+ Rowan Cantuar

View from the pew

Months seem to go so quickly - it doesn't seem more than 2 weeks ago that I was last writing 'View from the Pew'.

Easter is well behind us. First can I give a big thank you to all who decorated the church – Flower Guild members - it was truly amazing on Easter Day. In addition a big vote of thanks goes to Archdeacon Trevor for the way he led all the services from Palm Sunday through to Easter Day. On Saturday evening at the Vigil your churchwarden very nearly set light to himself trying to light the Easter candle from a small fire outside the west door due to the strength of the wind !!!!

Jo's sabbatical seems to be going so quickly that she has now returned from her trip to northern India and the Social and Outreach committee have arrangements for **her return tea on Sunday 12 June** well in hand – **please come along and welcome her back at 4pm in St. John's Hall.**

For those of you who are eagle eyed you will have noticed that the Christian Aid Walk and Christian Aid week were separated by a week this year which is more than your churchwarden noticed!!! Thank you to all who undertook the walk and suffered the pain on Sunday and may be even Tuesday and Wednesday – also all those who have

delivered and collected envelopes – your efforts are very much appreciated.

July 3rd is going to be a big day for All Saints as it is Elliot's Ordination in the morning at 11.15am in St. Albans Abbey – if you would like to attend then please contact me - we may be able to offer transport. In my time here we have not had the luxury of a curate so life is going to be exciting and those of you who have met Elliot will know this already.

We will have the opportunity to welcome him to the parish in the afternoon as we are holding **our barbeque at 4pm – please order your tickets for this and come along and give him a big welcome.** After it has finished then come along to **Choral Communion at 6.30pm** where he will be taking part – may even be preaching !!!

When Jo returns from her sabbatical one of the first issues that needs to be addressed is trying to find another churchwarden, so I would be grateful if you could remember this is in your prayers and if you have any ideas please let me know.

Love,

Andrew

Requiem for Rev Dr Colin Weale

On Saturday, 2nd July, there will be a memorial service in the form of a requiem for Colin at 8pm in Holy Trinity church. This will mark what would have been the 60th anniversary of his ordination at Petertide in Brecon cathedral.

We hope that Colin's family will be represented and that all those who remember him with affection and are free on that date can join us on this special occasion.

You can read the full obituary published in Eastern Daily Press at http://www.edp24.co.uk/news/obituaries/colin_weale_vicar_and_medieval_church_history_n_1_863536

Transform

Dear Friends,
I am writing to inform you of a new ministry for young people in Hertford. 'Transform' is a monthly Youth Worship Event that will begin in June. It is a time for young people to come together to explore who God is through worship, music, prayer, teaching and learning.

We hope that Transform will reach young people from all denominations and also those that don't attend church. It is intended to give young people courage and strength to live their lives for God and to help them grow in their relationship with Him. Transform is aimed at 11-18 year olds from Hertford and the surrounding areas.

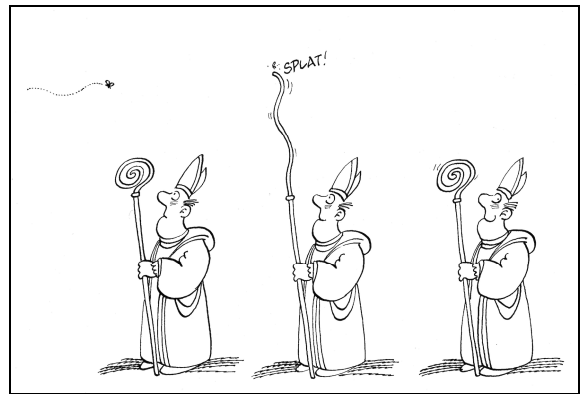
Rather than being connected to a particular denomination or fellowship, Transform is a ministry that is supported by the Churches and Christian organisations in Hertford. Each event will be sponsored by an organisation, which will provide and serve refreshments for the young people at the end of the evening.

Look out for flyers and posters advertising our events. The first Transform is on Sunday, 5th June at 7pm. If you would like further information, please contact Steve Weston by emailing transform.hertford@gmail.com



We would value your prayers as this new ministry gets up and running.
With love and thanks,

Steve Weston (On behalf of the Transform Team)



Hertford Team Calendar of Events

June

- 2nd Charity Café – Holy Trinity, Bengoe
- 4th Coffee Morning – St Andrew's
- 9th St Andrews University Madrigal Group Concert – St Leonards, Bengoe 7.30 pm (01992 440116 for tickets)
- 16th Charity Café – Holy Trinity, Bengoe
- 25th Mara Rianda Talk – St Andrew's
- Summer Fete – Holy Trinity, Bengoe

July

- 2nd Coffee Morning – St Andrew's
- 3rd Elliot James' Ordination Service – St Albans Cathedral 11.15 am
- Barbecue – All Saints 4pm
- 17th Team Community Afternoon – Hertford Castle

August

- 6th Coffee Morning with Flower Demonstration – Holy Trinity, Bengoe

September

- 10th Bike 'n Hike
- 24th Coffee Morning – All Saints

October

- 1st Harvest Happening – All Saints
- 15th Osiligi Maasai Warriors 7pm – All Saints
- 22nd Exploring Spirituality Day led by Dean Jeffrey John
- "In the beginning was the Word"

November

- 19th Barn Dance – All Saints
- 26th Team Advent Quiet Day

December

- 3rd Christmas Bazaar – All Saints