

View from the Pew

Janet Bird

Looking back to my view from the pew for April last year I was celebrating the arrival of spring. However with the snow, rain and cold winds of the last weeks I think that spring will be a little later this year! However that doesn't mean that we have nothing to celebrate. At long last we have the Faculty and planning permission required to erect a new sign and notice boards in the Churchyard and at St John's Hall (hopefully before the old one falls down!) and we are hopeful that the work will be done by the end of April. Together with the recent resurfacing work in the churchyard this will hopefully considerably improve the appearance of the churchyard in keeping with the quality of the welcome that we are striving to extend to all who come into the church, whether as regular worshippers, occasional visitors or to attend our first rate Soundbites Concerts.

On Sunday 14th April we will be holding our Annual Parochial Church Meeting in St John's Hall, after our morning service. Please join us to hear more of what has been going on during the last year and also, for all who are members of the new electoral roll, to vote for members of the PCC (or even better to put yourself forward for membership) to ensure that the governance of our church remains in good order. We are also hoping to show a short DVD at the meeting about the work of Future Hope and their work within and around Hertford with young people from 11-19 making them aware of the dangers of drug and alcohol addiction. You may have seen their big purple bus which is used as a meeting place where young people are offered friendship, counseling and mentoring. Once the business of the meeting is completed you are invited to join in a Bring and Share lunch to give us time to share fellowship, which is such an important part of the life of our church.

On the Sunday before the APCM, 7th April, we are planning to hold another of our Tea and Thanksgiving afternoons. These are a

good opportunity for older members of the community to come together to enjoy an informative and entertaining talk and a substantial afternoon tea followed by a short time of Thanksgiving. This invitation goes out not only to members of the All Saints' congregation but also to others in the Parish who may not be regularly attending the church, particularly those who are living in sheltered housing or living alone. We will start at 4pm and Isabel Hurley will be joining us to show photographs of her Safari Holiday in Africa. It should be a very interesting afternoon and if you would like to come, or if you know of anybody who might like to come, please let me know so that we know how many scones to make! If you will need transport please phone me (01992 587544) and we will make sure that you are picked up and taken home.

There are various events planned for the rest of this year, and as you will hear from our Treasurer at the APCM we are budgeting for a deficit and do need to engage ourselves in serious fundraising, however what is most important is that we use such events as an opportunity for fellowship and outreach. Our recent Coffee Morning raised a very useful £300 and our next event will be the Coffee morning and plant sale on Saturday 18th May at 10am when the Junior Church will be selling plants.

Finally I would like to say a big thank you to Andrew for all that he has done for the church during the last 4 years. Being Churchwarden is a privilege but does carry considerable responsibilities and Andrew has always gone the extra mile to ensure that services run as smoothly as possible as well as working very hard behind the scenes. He has been very supportive of me as I have juggled the roles of churchwarden and Reader and I wish him every blessing in his forthcoming retirement, when hopefully he and Kay will have more time to spend together with Sarah and their grandchildren.