

View from the Pew

Janet Bird

It really does seem as if spring is on its way. (Although it may well be snowing by the time you read this!!). I do think that gardens are at their best at this time of the year as everything begins to bloom and blossom filling the bleak winter spaces with colour and signs of new life. Sitting in our garden for a few moments of rest recently Colin commented that he thought it was supposed to be quiet in the country, but the birds were singing their hearts out and the cacophony of sound was almost overwhelming.

Spring, as we can see so clearly in the countryside around us, is the season of rebirth. As we make our way through the dark days of Lent which focus our minds on Christ's journey towards his cruel death on the Cross of Calvary the shops are full of Hot Cross Buns and Easter Eggs and we can't help but look forward to the glory of Easter Sunday when we will celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus from the dead. May we all be sure to use this season of Lent to look afresh at our own faith so that we will be ready for the rebirth which we are promised when by His death and resurrection Jesus saves us from our sins as we recommit ourselves to follow Him.

On Thursday March 13th All Saints was privileged to host the 20th Anniversary celebration of the ordination of women to the priesthood. It was great to see many women priests from around the diocese (as well as a number of men) including several who had waited a long time for the ordination of women and who were ordained close to retirement age, but despite the limitations of older age were determined to take part in the celebration. The service had been put together very prayerfully and the choir was magnificent with Hazel's beautiful solo being just one part of what was a truly inspiring display of the musical talent which we at All Saints are so blessed to enjoy on a regular basis. The refreshments and cakes were greatly appreciated by all and the service was truly

inspiring. Bishop Paul was, as usual, on sparkling form, despite only having just recovered from bronchitis and Ginni, who was dropped in at the deep end, played a magnificent part, making everybody there realise just how lucky we are to have her serving her curacy here at All Saints. One of the comments which I heard over and over again from those attending was what a warm welcome they had received from everybody at All Saints so I would like to say a huge thank you goes to everybody who helped in any way.

We have much to look forward to in the next couple of months. On 1st April, thanks to Ginni Dear and her team supported by the Bridge Builders Christian Trust in Stevenage we will be beginning our sessions of the Easter Journey, engaging with local schoolchildren in the church and giving them a better understanding of the true message of Easter.

On Wednesday 9th April, at 8pm we will be holding our Annual Parochial Church Meeting and I would urge you all to come along to keep up to date with what is going on at All Saints and to show your support for the Ministry team and the PCC. If you would like to be eligible to vote at the APCM you need to be sure that your name is on the Electoral Roll, so please speak either to Andrew Povey Richards, our Electoral Roll officer or to the churchwardens or the Vicar. I would also encourage you to consider whether God might be calling you to serve on the PCC

Over Easter you are warmly invited to join us for the journey from the Last Supper, through Calvary and beyond to the glorious resurrection on Easter Day. We will be holding services in church from Maundy Thursday to Easter Day and we will also be joining with the other local churches in Bircherley Green for the open air United Service of Witness on Good Friday at 10.30am.

May will be another busy month with the Christian Aid walk on 10th May followed by the door to door collection during Christian Aid week (please speak to Martin Bird if you are able to help deliver and collect envelopes). On 17th May we will be holding our Annual Plant Sale and Coffee Morning in and around the church, when all proceeds from the plants will go to the Junior Church project and proceeds from the Coffee Morning will go to the church. The following day we will be playing host to the Town Council and other local dignitaries at the Civic Service to welcome the next Mayor of Hertford following the installation on 15th May.

All Saints is a living church and there is much going on and much to look forward to in the weeks and months ahead. May we all feel the Holy Spirit at work in us as we support the ministry and outreach which is so important in taking the word of God out into the hearts and minds of the people of Hertford.

A very happy Easter to you all.
Janet Bird.

Spot the slips!

Real answers to school RE questions

1. In the first book of the bible, Guinness. God got tired of creating the world so he took the Sabbath off.

2. Adam and eve were created from an apple tree. Noah's wife was Joan of ark. Noah built and ark and the animals came on in pears.

3. Lots wife was a pillar of salt during the day, but a ball of fire during the night.

4. The Jews were a proud people and throughout history they had trouble with unsympathetic genitals.

5. Sampson was a strongman who let himself be led astray by a jezebel like Delilah.

6. Samson slayed the philistines with the axe of the apostles.

7 Moses led the Jews to the red sea! Where they made unleavened bread which is bread without any ingredients.

8, the Egyptians were all drowned in the dessert. Afterwards, Moses went up to mount cyanide to get the ten commandments

9. The first commandments was when eve told adam to eat the apple.

10. The seventh commandment is thou shalt not admit adultery.

11. Moses died before he ever reached canada then joshua led the hebrews in the battle of geritol.

12. The greatest miricle in the bible is when joshua told his son to stand still and he obeyed him.

13. David was a hebrew king who was skilled at playing the liar. He fought the finkelsteins, a race of people who lived in biblical times.

14. Solomon, one of davids sons, had 300 wives and 700 porcupines.

15. When mary heard she was the mother of jesus, she sang the magna carta.

16. When the three wise guys from the east side arrived they found jesus in the manager.

17. Jesus was born because mary had an immaculate contraption.

18. St. John the blacksmith dumped water on his head.

19. Jesus enunciated the golden rule, which says to do unto others before they do one to you. He also explained a man doth not live by sweat alone.

20. It was a miricle when jesus rose from the dead and managed to get the tombstone off the entrance.

21. The people who followed the lord were called the 12 decibels.

22. The epistels were the wives of the apostles.

23. One of the oppossums was st. Matthew who was also a taximan

24 st. Paul cavorted to christianity, he preached holy acrimony which is another name for marraige.

25. Christians have only one spouse. This is called monotony.