

View from the Pew

Janet Bird

It seems hard to believe that yet another year has gone past so quickly and here we are in 2014. As usual we have lots to look back on and be thankful for, and lots to look forward to.

December was a truly uplifting month which began with the hugely successful Christmas Tree Festival, for which many thanks to everyone and especially to Dorothy and Wendell for having the vision and determination to make it happen. This was followed by many wonderful services which took place in our church and we were to welcome so many people into All Saints to enjoy a rich variety of services. It is always a pleasure to welcome children and their parents to share in the joy of the Christmas Story and it was good to see the church full for school services and the Deanery carol service as well as our own Crib and Christingle services. Special thanks to all who served as sides-people and vergers, helping to extend the customary All Saints welcome.

Our own services were outstanding ranging from the beautiful peace of the Advent, Christmas and Epiphany Carol services to the lively Crib service and the amazing puppets at our Epiphany family service. (I believe Christmas Day was pretty special too but I was busy elsewhere!) Very many thanks to Jo and Ginni for their leadership and preaching, to the other members of the Ministry team and to Martin, Mary, James and all the choir members for the consistently high quality of the music and for the amount of time that they all give both at rehearsals and services.

The Christmas Tree Festival was a success in so many ways, not least of all financially, but we can't rest on our laurels and I would ask to you continue to support the many events which we are planning for the year ahead.

On Friday 21st February Colin and I are holding a Victorian Soiree at home with

readings and music from Ann-Marie Parker and her friends, followed by supper. We are not selling tickets but invitations are now available and we would ask you to reserve a place if you would like to come as numbers will have to be limited. Donations will be gratefully accepted on the night in aid of All Saints and a charity of Ann-Marie's choosing and there will also be a raffle and prizes for the best dressed Victorian lady and gentleman should you choose to dress up!

On Saturday 8th March we will be holding our first Coffee morning of the year in church from 10-12 and would be grateful for offers of help to man stalls and provide cakes and produce for the cake stall and for refreshments, as well as the usual books, bric a brac and other items to sell. Later in March we will be holding a March Madness evening and more details will be available soon.

Easter is rather late this year so Lent lunches will not begin until Ash Wednesday on 5th March. All Saints will be in charge of the lunch on 16th April, with help from our friends at Stapleford, and would value your support. Once again the lunches will be held at the Quaker Meeting House, and all money raised will go to Christian Aid. Hertford and District Churches Together are also planning a number of Lent talks under the banner of "Do you have a heart for Hertford?" These will be presented mainly by local speakers at the Methodist Church on Mondays during Lent at 8pm. Please see details on page 2 of this magazine or speak to me, especially if you would like to go but would need a lift.

Finally, thanks to you all for your continued support of all that is happening here at All Saints, and welcome to all those who have recently joined us in our Christian witness as we worship our Risen Lord here at All Saints.

Love
Janet B