

View from the pew

Janet Oldham

How quickly this year has flown by; nevertheless, it is lovely to see the striking Autumnal colours offset by garden flowers enjoying a last burst of colour before Winter sets in.

ACTIVE CHURCH

Derek Westwood and his band of merry men have been working hard on our behalf to deal with the numerous repairs and jobs involved in keeping a large building like our beautiful Church and the Church hall in good condition.

As the Town Councillors organised their own Litter Pick this autumn, we focused on tidying the Churchyard. We were able to clear sufficient weeds, brambles, ivy etc., to reveal seven graves long since lost to view. We gathered enough weeds to fill a large skip.

Improving the sightlines in the Churchyard is a big job and to enable the Town Council's gardening team to stay on top of it, we are planning regular tidying sessions but are also mindful of the needs of the wildlife that visit it. We would really value people both from our Church family and the wider community volunteering to join one of the forthcoming sessions and it is a good way to keep fit! Our next session will be Saturday 28 November.

An extra big thank you is due to the members of **Green Watch from Hertford Fire Station** who, as part of a training exercise, very kindly removed brambles and other weeds that had attached themselves to the tower walls.

SPIRITUAL CHURCH

We started October with our wonderful **Harvest Thanksgiving Service** led by Jo and a big thank you to all who very generously contributed to the Bishop's Appeal or to the collection for the Food Bank.

Hertfordshire Regiment's Association Service to lay up their Standard. Although this day

must have been tinged with sadness for many of the old comrades, there was also much pride and it was lovely to see the members of the Regiment's Association form a guard of honour for their distinguished guests, including the Lord Lieutenant who read a message from the Queen.

It was also good to see so many people coming to pay tribute to the contribution this wonderful band of men have given to the Regiment and the town of Hertford. Those present witnessed a truly historic occasion as the President of the Association presented the Standard of the Hertfordshire Regiment to Jo, as Vicar, for safe keeping in All Saints forevermore. It can now be viewed in the Memorial Chapel.

The Service ended with the choir giving a moving rendition of *Eternal Rest* by Whitbourn, before the National Anthem and, as the dignitaries filed out into the sunshine, the Hertfordshire Regimental Music Band played *The Young May Moon*.

CREATIVE CHURCH

Our Harvest Supper and Quiz was a great success and thank you to all who contributed to the supper and of course to the Toyns for their amazing quiz.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

Our **Patronal Festival** will be on **1 November** at 10am and Messy Church will be meeting for a short session at 4pm before enjoying Fireworks. The day will end with Choral Evensong at 6.30pm in Church.

Remembrance Sunday on 8 November we will join others in the town to stand at the War Memorial to remember and give thanks for those brave souls who "*for our tomorrow gave their today*". This will be followed, as usual, by a service in All Saints beginning at 11.30am.

Our annual **Memorial Service** will be held on **Sunday 22 November at 10am.** If you

All Saints Alive

would like a loved one remembered, Martin has put letters and forms at the back of Church for you to fill in and return to him. This is a particularly moving service and will be led by Jo and Ginni. Coffee/tea and cakes will be served afterwards at the back of Church.

On Sunday **29 November** we hold our **Candlelit Advent Service at 6.30pm**, followed by mulled wine and mince pies, so make a note in your diaries of the date at this is a particularly lovely service to start our period of Advent.

Love, Janet.