

View from the pew

Colin Bird

I am privileged to serve a second term as Churchwarden here at All Saints. I would like to add my thanks to Helen Wright for serving so ably in 2015/16 and for enhancing our pastoral care, which I am sure, she will continue. I have agreed, subject to future elections, to serve for 3 years to ensure that we can re-establish the normal pattern of electing one new churchwarden every 2 years.

This has been a season of goodbyes. Ginni's last Sunday with us was on 19th June and we were able to give her a rousing send off to St Ippolyts at her farewell lunch. We are pleased to have seen her develop over her time with us and wish her every success in her new ministry.

Also, on 25th June we were proud to host the farewell service for our retiring Archdeacon of Hertford, Trevor Jones and to provide the refreshments for so many of his friends and colleagues. Trevor has always emphasised the importance of hospitality in growing the church, and it is this reputation that moved him to ask for the service to be here, rather than in the Cathedral.

Trevor is the first Archdeacon of Hertford and I have had the privilege of working with him in the Diocesan Board of Finance and a number of Committees of the board. He has often brought a caring pastoral approach to matters of finance and resourcing and I can imagine a lot of people in future wondering "what would Trevor have said?"

We wish him and Sue a very happy retirement in Devon when he leaves the Diocese in August. We look forward to welcoming the second Archdeacon of Hertford, Rev'd Janet MacKenzie in the autumn.

Finally our long serving Stewardship officers, Judy and Malcolm Oughton retire from office on 30 June. This is a role of the utmost importance in our Parish Life and they have served us well for many years. The position

has now been taken by Julia Gough and we welcome her to this enhanced role within All Saints.

On other service matters, we are the venue on 28th June for the Confirmation service to be led by Bishop Alan – we can be pleased that our church is being used extensively by the Diocese for services that bring others into our space. On 2nd July we are holding the special service to mark the 50th anniversary of the local Christian Aid walk. On the home front please mark in your diary the Garden Evensong on 31st July, to be held in the Vicarage Garden – an event which has become a tradition!

I would like to thank everyone who contributed to the Vestry Roof appeal. With Gift Aid (duly collected from HMRC thanks to Julia) the total raised was £18,215. Hopefully this will be enough to pay for the roof repairs but we won't know until we have tendered the work and see what appears when the old roof is taken off.

We will know whether we will be getting a grant from the Listed Places of Worship Roof Repair Fund shortly. We have applied for a faculty to do the work and tender documentation is being prepared by our newly appointed architect, Francesca Weal. We are hopeful of getting the work done before the autumn, but these processes seldom run smoothly, so watch this space!

Finally a couple of September dates for your diaries – on the 4th we have our annual BBQ and on 10th we have a coffee morning and the Bike n' Hike; the sponsorship for this is shared between us and the Historic Churches Trust.

Yours in faith

Colin