

View from the pew

Janet Oldham

After a rather cloudy June and early July, it has been good to enjoy the sunshine of the last couple of weeks. The parched garden plants will be relieved that rain is now falling but, if the weather forecasters are correct, we will have further sunshine to enjoy this month. However you spent the holiday period, we hope you have all enjoyed a relaxing break and look forward to welcoming you back.

Vestry Roof

I am pleased to say that the successful contractor for the roof repair will start work on 12th September and the job should take 4 weeks. The Architect will work closely with the contractor to ensure that the work is done to the highest standard.

We are planning to clear the Vestry so that nothing can be damaged during the works. We will use the Meeting Room as a temporary Vestry/Store. During this period meetings will be held in the Memorial Chapel and Sunday coffee/tea etc will be served in the space at the west end of the South Aisle.

Anyone able/willing to help us move things after the Coffee Morning on Saturday 10th will be most welcome. Please let Colin or I know if you can join us.

Spiritual Church

Those lucky enough to be at the morning service on 7th August had a rare treat, when the choir from the Caribbean with connections to Belize gave the service a real lift. Special thanks are due to our own choir who had already started their annual leave. Nonetheless, they returned for the morning service and, from all accounts, it turned out to be a truly memorable service with some outstanding singing.

Several parishioners have commented on how much they have enjoyed Michael Stephens-Jones's organ playing during the choir break. I would also like to add my thanks to John Norris for a lovely gentle and

moving rendition of The Londonderry Air (Danny Boy) at the close of a recent evensong service.

It will be also good to welcome back our choir, refreshed from their various holidays, to lead us in our singing this month.

A reminder that from now the 8am Communion on the first Sunday of the month will be celebrated by Jo at St Andrews.

Our new Archdeacon the Revd Janet Mackenzie will have her Collation on 6 September and we look forward to welcoming her at All Saints in the not too distant future.

Active Church

Our splendid work party is continuing to work hard on our behalf to maintain All Saints and the St John's hall area.

By the time you read this they will have cut the hedge alongside St John's Hall. Other recent jobs include clearing the drains around the Hall and re-oiling the oak doors of All Saints and trimming the hedge around the Memorial Garden.

Special thanks are also due to Brian Dilley, Derek Westwood, with help from Iain Wilson, for their hard work in stripping, cleaning and re-varnishing the hall floor.

These wonderful people save All Saints a considerable amount of money over the years and it would be really great if others could volunteer to join them on some or all of the monthly work parties.

They meet at 9am on the third Saturday in the month and with a larger team they could cover even more jobs for our benefit, so please think seriously about joining this merry band of folk and maybe even learn a new skill or two at the same time.

You are guaranteed a warm welcome and a delicious cup of tea/coffee, together with scrumptious biscuits.

Dates for your Diaries

Sunday 4th September Don't forget to sign up on the board at the back of Church for our annual BBQ which will be held in St. John's Hall and grounds after the morning service.

Saturday 10th September We will have our Coffee morning and Tower opening which coincides with the Bike and Hike. As the Tower is hoped to be open from 10.00am until 2.00pm, we will also be serving light lunches from 12 noon.

Saturday 1st October The Harvest Festival supper will take place at 7pm in St. John's Hall, with a Toyn quiz to stimulate our grey cells!

Sunday 2nd October The Harvest Festival Family Service at 10.00am. Please bring gifts suitable for the Food Bank.

Sunday 30th October All Saints Sunday. Our usual festive morning service (10.00am), short Messy Church (4.00pm), Fireworks (5.30 pm) and Healing Service (6.30pm).

Finally, our big fund raiser this year will be the Wreath Festival which Dorothy Toyn is coordinating and it will take place over the weekend of **Friday 25th November, Saturday 26th November and Sunday 27th November.**

There will be an opportunity to learn how to make a wreath as well as enter your own wreath or alternatively sponsor someone else's wreath. There will also be lots of interesting information available about the history of wreaths. Plus a variety of stalls for you to buy some early Christmas presents. The Festival will conclude on Sunday with a lunch, (tickets to be purchased in advance – so we know how many to cater for).

The 6.30pm service on 27th will be our annual Advent Candlelit Carol Service, so make a note of this very special service, as it is one of the most moving services in the year and

very well worth attending. Mulled wine and mince pies will be served after this service.

Love Janet

'Life-giving Water'

The Bishop of St Albans' Harvest Appeal 2016:
Life-Giving Water

Transforming lives in rural Madagascar
by providing clean, safe water

Please make a real, long-term
difference this Harvest
by helping to bring safe
water, sanitation and hygiene
awareness to over 35,000 people
living in some of the poorest
communities in Madagascar.

Living God's Love
The Diocese of St Albans
www.harvestappeal.org

In support of
WaterAid

This year we are supporting WaterAid and bringing clean, safe water to rural communities in Madagascar.

For some in these rural situations, it is particularly dire – fewer than 1 in 5 families have access to safe water, and fewer than 1 in 10 have access to toilets. Without a safe water supply people often suffer diarrhoeal disease and, sadly, it is not unusual for a child to die.

A supply of clean, safe water will bring a transformed life, more crops can be grown for the family and some sold to bring an income, and children, relieved from the arduous daily task of collecting water, can attend school, gain a good education, and so discover new opportunities for their future.