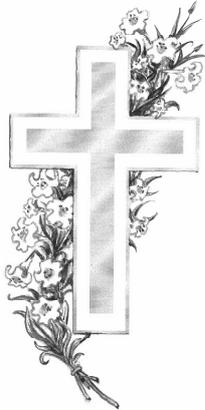


Eastertide at All Saints

Flowers on Easter Day



The CHRISTMAS TREE CROSS will be decorated on EASTER DAY during the Family Communion. It has been left bare in church throughout Lent to remind us of the journey to Easter.

Ash Wednesday	Bread and Stones remind us of the Temptation of Jesus
Lent 2	A Purple Cloth symbolizes the robe Jesus wore
Lent 3	A Crown of Thorns tells of the pain Jesus suffered
Mothering Sunday	A Chalice and Paten, Bread and Wine and an open Bible remind us God is the mother of His family, the church
Passion Sunday	Nails and a hammer tell of the brutal Reality of crucifixion
Palm Sunday	Palms greeted Jesus as he rode into Jerusalem
Maundy Thursday	A Towel and Bowl with which Jesus washed his disciples' feet
Good Friday	A bare cross with just a crown of thorns and cruel nails
Easter Sunday	Flowers represent the new life from the grave

Please remember to bring a flower to put in the Cross on Easter Day.

The Centenary of the bells

"The ancient and royal borough of Hertford once more possesses a church with a ring of ten bells second to none in the county."

This is the opening paragraph of an article in *The Bell News* of 4 May 1907.

The article goes on to describe how the new ring of 10 bells was opened on 17 April 1907 by the ringing of a full peal of Stedman Caters to celebrate a local wedding. A transcript of the original article is displayed in the Church.

Members of the band for the peal were specially invited by the Master of the Hertford College Youths.



One hundred years later, a further 53 peals have been rung on the bells. The next will be on Saturday 21 April 2007, when the current Master of the Hertford College Youths (John Kemp) has invited a band to mark the centenary by ringing a peal on the bells. This will start at 10.00 am, and will take around 3½ hours to complete.

Later issues of *The Bell News* carry a report of a group of London ringers visiting Hertford on 13 July 1907. The outing report contains the following sentence:

"It seems a pity that ringing is at such a low ebb in Hertford, with three good rings and many ringers in spite of the revival of the Hertford College Youths."

(The three rings of bells referred to are Holy Trinity Bengoe who now operate independently, St Andrews and All Saints.)

To some extent history is now repeating itself and ringing in Hertford is again at a low ebb. Our Tuesday practices are well attended, but only because we have a number of regular visitors from other churches in the area. Service ringing on Sunday is not so well supported, and we can only ring all 10 bells when ringers from other churches are able to help out.



Enclosed with this month's magazine is a copy of a leaflet produced by the Central Council of Church Bell ringers, and which describes some of the joys of bell ringing. We also hope to have representatives in the Church while the centenary peal is being rung – please drop in and find out more. Alternatively anybody is welcome to come and see what goes on during our Tuesday practice - no invitation needed, just turn up.

Alastair Stracey

The Vacancy

On Tuesday 6th March the short-listing meeting was held with the Bishop of Hertford, Archdeacon of Hertford, Rural Dean of Hertford and the Churchwardens.

The Bishop reported that there had been 9 enquiries in response to the adverts in the Church Times in February for the post at All Saints of Team Vicar, possibly Team Rector. In response to information requested 2 of the 9 applied for the post. One of the applicants

already had an application for a Cathedral post in progress, and a short time later was accepted for that post. The other was not judged suitable for the post.

We discussed with the Bishop, Archdeacon and Rural Dean the process that had taken place and the associated Advertisement, Summary and Parish Profile in order to see if amongst them whether any changes may be necessary. From a Parish Profile point of view, all three of them, indicated that they felt that it is an excellent document – welcoming, informative, shows the church is alive, etc. if any of them were searching for a new job then they would be attracted by it. Basically, all credit to the members of the PCC for an excellent document!

The Archdeacon then indicated that in preparing the advert and the summary he had extracted key information from the Parish Profile and they believed that both of them were good documents.

The Bishop indicated that he had been disappointed by the response to the advert, and felt that there hadn't been any problem with the advertisement process, but more than likely it was the timing that hadn't worked for us.

What happens next?

After some discussion, it was decided that the advertisement should be placed in the Church Times again after Easter, and in the intervening time, the Bishop and/or Archdeacon will search via appropriate 'agencies' within the church 'lists' where current incumbents are able to indicate that they are looking for a change in post, new challenges, etc. with tentative dates for interviews being set for 23-24th May.

Prior to closing the meeting, Bishop indicated that he is very keen in obtaining someone for the post at All Saint', but it has to be the right kind of person. He considers that we, the PCC, have risen to the challenges presented to us during this period without an incumbent, and we are managing to continue to keep the Christian witness at All Saints alive, and he commends us all for our efforts.