

All Saints Alive

VICAR'S VIEWPOINT

A day in the life



Dear Friends,

I have now been here for a year and it will be good to celebrate that on All Saints Sunday! We all know that clergy only really work on a Sunday (?!?) but some may wonder how they fill in the rest of their time. So what does a day in the life of a Vicar here at All Saints look like?

6.50am and the Today programme switches on, waking us with more gloomy financial news. A cup of coffee and a bowl of cereal later, Doug sets off for Chelmsford Hospital.

7.30 Morning prayers, sometimes shared by a local head teacher. It's always a great beginning to the day, as somehow the Psalmist, despite writing almost 3,000 years ago, reflects our current concerns and hopes!

8.00 The computer is switched on, and there are 20 emails to sift through (but surely I only checked them last night). One has been sent through by the hard pressed parish administrator at 12.35am! (*Ed – only one???*).

9.00 Time to make those morning phone calls to check how people are; I hope that it's not too early! I then finish putting together a service for the next week and browse through the readings for Sunday, looking for inspiration and gazing out at the deer grazing in the vicarage garden.

10.25 Time for Abel Smith School's assembly. Today I dramatise the parable of the Prodigal Son. Perhaps those pig noises went a little too far, but the children seem to pick up the point that it's never too late to

recognise that a mistake has been made and turn round and say sorry and start again, especially with God.

11.00 I go visiting, taking communion to some of the housebound. How encouraging people can be, facing up to tremendous difficulties with such inner strength and hope. I walk out into the bright autumn sunshine praising God for their great inspiration.

12.30 It's the weekly soup and bread lunch with the team; Alan, Nick, Bill and Robert; ideas are shared and challenges mulled over and our friendship deepens through prayer together.

2.00pm Someone pops in for advice and a chat at the vicarage and when they leave I meet up with a new Mum and her baby to talk about a future baptism. Details are phoned through about a funeral.

5.00 Jon returns home (my son is a newly qualified teacher); he talks about the challenges of playground upsets and classroom management as we begin to cook dinner together, oniony hands picking up the phone to discuss the next day's service and use of microphones in church and then a call about coaches parking.

Doug returns home and we sit down to eat together, home made pizzas today with the thickest ever base! I prepare the papers for the evening meeting and check my emails.

7.30 As Mayor's Chaplain I open the council meeting with prayers. This time I include prayers for the financial situation, the

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environment and about our use of plastic bags, as Peter Ruffles is proposing that Herford become a plastic bag free zone! It's great to be able to have the opportunity to pray and get together to join church and community.

8.00 The church meeting has just begun and lots of great ideas for future projects at All Saints are being made. The people sitting around look rather tired. We must be careful that we don't do too much, but we're also aware that All Saints needs to grow, so.....

10.00 Home again, the news is switched on, Doug is attempting the very hard Sudoku puzzle from Sunday's papers.

It's been a good day, and I pray the Compline prayer:

"Keep me as the apple of your eye, hide me under the shadow of your wings. Save us O Lord, waking and guard us sleeping, that awake we may watch with Christ and asleep we may rest in peace."

Love, Jo

Situations Vacant

Baptism Co-ordinator(s)

To meet with young families and to take down the details needed to fill in the baptism book and certificate, to attend the baptism service, and if possible, keep in touch with the families to let them know about forthcoming services etc.

We have about 10 baptism services a year with about 15- 20 babies but we hope that this may grow.

Wedding Co-ordinator(s)

To meet couples and ensure that details are noted, not just for the registers but also all that they might like to have for their wedding service, bells choir, music. To attend the wedding and rehearsal, where possible, ensuring that the church side goes smoothly and to keep in touch with the couples.

We have 8 weddings next year and we hope that this may grow. We could even find ourselves at a wedding fair promoting church weddings and we may be able to arrange a wedding blessing service for all couples who attend church and have been married at All Saints!

Admin assistance

1. Jo would appreciate some regular help in reading/managing her papers, which is particularly time consuming for her given her eyesight difficulties. This could be done in a very flexible way. It would also save quite a bit of paper, electricity and unnecessary duplication.
2. At some times of year, autumn to Christmas being one, we produce a very large number of one-off booklets and publicity materials for services. Help in collating, folding, stapling and delivering these would be very valuable.

If you can help please let Jo or Martin know.

Last month's inside cover

At the last minute we discovered that the inside front cover of the magazine is pre-printed. Given the stark choice between delaying publication for at least two weeks or accepting an inconsistency, we chose to publish on time. Hopefully the inside cover of this edition does contain the new service pattern, and some other information of use to visitors. As a reminder, the new Sunday Morning pattern is now:

1 st Sunday	All the Family service
2 nd Sunday	Parish Communion
3 rd Sunday	Matins with Holy Communion
4 th Sunday	Parish Communion
5 th Sunday	Special service

Welcome Packs

There is a supply of these on the table by the kitchen at the west end of the church. Please do give one to any newcomer or take one for someone you wish to encourage to join us.