

In Peace



26th February *Cecil John Taylor*

7th March *Katie Pratt*



Mothers' Union

Our March meeting was a Meditation for Lent on Tuesday 2nd March at 8pm in the Memorial Chapel, led by our vicar, Jo Loveridge.

On 7th April we will be hosting a table at the Mayor's Tea Party 2.00 – 6.00 p.m. Sele School.

Our April meeting will be on Tuesday 13th at 8 p.m. when Ann-Marie Parker will be asking *How well do you know Hertfordshire?* in a fascinating interactive evening.

Our Diocesan President, Susan Roberts and new Trustees will be commissioned by Bishop Christopher on 17th April 12.00 noon at St Catherine & St Paul, Hoddesdon.

Finally, our annual Deanery Coffee Morning will be held at 39 Fordwich Rise 10:30-12.00 noon on Tuesday 20th April.

Ann Stephens-Jones

View from the Churchwardens Pew!

We seem to be finally getting some slightly warmer weather and as I write this we look forward to Easter and all the events that this special time of year brings.

We have some lovely services planned. There is Choral Communion and Stripping of the Altars at 8pm on Maundy Thursday in preparation for Good Friday. On Friday the

Family Service starts at 9.30 in order to join Hertford Churches Together in Bircherley Green later in the morning. There is the moving Hour at the Foot of the Cross at 2.00pm, and on Saturday at 8.00pm there is the Easter Vigil Service or Service of Light. Personally I have found this to be a beautiful service, generally poorly attended, but to me it is like the Midnight Service on Christmas Eve, in that it is the beginning of the celebrations. Then of course we have the usual services on Easter Sunday and it is always good to see so many people there.

Why not come to one of the services that you have not attended before and see what else we have to offer at this special time of year? We look forward to welcoming you.

Meeting wise, we will have the March PCC meeting at the end of the month where we will look at the accounts for last year, prior to the Annual Parochial Church meeting in April so I am unable to report anything specific on that front. We are also looking at environmental issues and how we can "shrink our carbon footprint" - sounds interesting!

The following link takes you to the information on the Diocesan website. <http://www.stalbans.anglican.org/Mission/Environment/Shrinking-the-Footprint>

We had an excellent Spring Clean and clear out in early March but only 6 people attended so we were limited in what we could do. We did clear the tops of all the cupboards in the Meeting Room and the Kitchen Lobby, by tidying the cupboard contents so we could put things away. The left cupboard in the meeting room has some Flower Club bits, all the candles used at All Saints other than the Altar and Baptism ones, and those used by the Choir. The middle cupboard has 2 keyboards, and lots of things relating to coffee mornings and other fun days – tombola drum, games, table covers and things for sale including enough soft toys to open a shop! The right hand cupboard has the bits for the Art group and toys for children attending the crèche and the big white cuddly bear used

at "Prayers and Bears". Please do not put anything on the top of the cupboards as it looks very messy, and if it is an empty box – please dispose of it! Thanks for your help with this

Heating and our carbon footprint go together. Our gas bill at All Saints is giving Colin Bird serious cause for concern and so one of our challenges is what can we do to keep warmer AND decrease the bill? The winter has been the coldest for years and I think we have become very used to our cosy central heating - perhaps we just need to put on another extra layer coming to All Saints on cold days... It is a huge Victorian building to heat so we will be asking advice from the Diocese to see what we can do – if anything. Watch this space!

Finally don't forget the Annual Church meeting on April 18th. This is when the Parochial Church Council is elected. It would be good to have some new faces and ideas so please talk to us if you would like to find out more. We would like to thank all the members of the PCC who have worked very hard over the last year to move All Saints forward. We hope to see many of you re-elected, together with some new faces. The Annual meeting will be followed by lunch and a chance for everyone to chat – please join us.

Love Dorothy & Andrew

Easter Egg Competition

It's time to put on your thinking caps, get creative and come up with an eggstraordinary entry to our Easter Egg Competition, which is open to all ages!

Please hard-boil or blow any eggs that you will be using. Then design the most amazingly eggstravagant egg person or egg event or egg-themed scene for an eggciting entry!

You should then write the title of your entry on an accompanying card (by all means incorporating eggcruciatingly egggy puns!) together with your name, age (if

appropriate) and whether you are KS1, KS2, Secondary or Adult. Please bring your entries to the back of the church before 12.00 noon on Saturday 3rd April.

All the entries will be on display from Easter Sunday, when the winners will be announced during the 10.00 service. There are super prizes to be won – but taking part is the really fun bit, so we look forward to seeing lots of ingenious entries!

Kath Oates

Coffee Morning and Plant Sale



There will be a coffee morning with the usual stalls combined with a Plant Sale in the Church on **Saturday, 22nd May** from 10.00am until

12.00 noon. We shall need lots of bedding plants, cuttings, vegetable plants, produce etc. on the day, so if you are thinking of planting your seeds in the next week or two please plant a few extra, grow them on and pot them up for us to sell. We shall also need the usual books, jigsaws, bric-a-brac cakes and raffle prizes, so if you are Spring cleaning please don't throw away anything in good condition that we might be able to use on our stalls.

Proceeds from this sale will go to the Junior Church Send a Cow project.

For further information please contact:
Denise Dilley – 01992 587113 or
Renee Booker – 01992 303314

Catching up with the Banks!

On Sunday 21st March we welcomed back Steve and Stella Banks to All Saints. They were students at All Nations College in the 80's and assisted with the youth at All Saints'

between 1988 & 1989. They learned French, Steve went on to train as a pilot and they went to Chad in Africa to work with MAF – The Mission Aviation Fellowship. Several different roles followed and they are now preparing to use their computer and admin skills to support Bible translation in Chad with Wycliffe Bible Translation.



They gave a very interesting presentation about the work of Wycliffe. We take having a Bible to hand for granted but of the 6900 known languages in the world today, 2,200 do not have a single verse of scripture, and Wycliffe aim to have a translation programme started for every language that needs one by 2025. Find out more at wycliffe.org.uk.

We hope to keep in touch and we will let you know how things are going.

Keep Britain Tidy!

Has anyone failed to notice how bad the litter problem is becoming, both in Hertford and surrounding areas and across the country? It seems that wherever you go in this area you encounter discarded take-away containers, empty sandwich wrappers, beer cans and bottles, half eaten food etc. strewn over pavements, verges, hedgerows, parks and in the rivers.

We were shocked when driving along the A14 to Welwyn recently at the appalling amount of rubbish festooned along the hedgerows and grass verges. It felt as though we were driving through a landfill

site and this must be the impression we are giving visitors to our area.

We know that times have changed since our schooldays when we arrived home with our blazer pockets bulging with rubbish. At that time we were taught that even a sweet wrapper dropped on the pavement or in the school playground was a punishable offence incurring a session in detention, lines etc., and this was reinforced in the home, a lesson which stayed with us all our lives. What then has happened to these standards? Why is it now so commonplace to see people throwing their unwanted rubbish everywhere without a second thought? Obviously there is far more in the way of packaging, plastic bags etc. than in the past, and people do seem to eat on the run far more than they did in the days when family mealtimes were a way of life.

These thoughts made me realise that unless we start to change this behaviour, it will very soon become an accepted way of life. We can do little about the state of the economy or the increasing number of empty shops, but this a serious problem we can do something about. We all know that local Council budgets are very tight and that throwing more money at street cleaners is not really an option, or indeed the answer. It seems to me that we must stop the problem before it starts and educate children from an early age, instilling in them a healthy respect for our beautiful towns, cities and countryside. What happened to the "Keep Britain Tidy" campaign? Litter will encourage more litter, which in turn encourages vandalism and crime. The crocuses and daffodils on our roundabouts and verges will soon be in bloom and the hedgerows will be showing signs of Spring. Do we really want it all to disappear under swathes of rubbish, to say nothing of the harm this is doing to our wildlife. Can we really sit back and accept this as being something we can do nothing about?

"But what can we do", you might be saying to yourselves. Well, for a start, why not join me in writing to our local Councillors, M.P., schools etc, urging them to address this

problem as a matter of urgency. I have already contacted several such people and had some very favourable and encouraging replies. The more people who can support me in this venture, the more chance we have of changing things for the better. This is not a time for complacency, we must all take some active and urgent responsibility for doing our bit to respect and protect God's beautiful creation. Maybe an Easter renewal project? I will be pleased to talk to anyone who might be interested in supporting me with this.

Denise Dilley – 01992 587113

Pilgrimage to Taizé

Article by Mary Topley - part of the St Albans group in 2007 & 2009

Leaving the typical English Summer behind us, we made our way to Dover for the ferry crossing. This would take us to Calais and then it would be a further nine hour trip to our destination of Taizé in the South of France. Spirits were raised as old friends were reunited and new ones were being made. We were a group of varied ages and also had two families with young children who continued to bring laughter to the group throughout the week.

In the not too early hours of Sunday morning, fighting off the urge to fall back to sleep, we arrived at the Taizé community. As we stumbled off the coach memories of previous years came flooding back and expectations for the week ahead were high. We pitched our tents together and it became apparent that, out of the 4000 pilgrims that come to Taizé from all over the world, English groups were few, as snippets of German and Polish were heard from other pitches.

After a reasonable night's sleep we were able to start the day and Taizé routine proper. Each day in the Taizé community is centred on three half hour services at 8:30am, 12:30pm and 8:30pm. The services offer a chance for meditation, stillness and prayer and off course the beautiful Taizé chants. There are options for how to spend

the rest of the day; Bible study or helping with chores around the campsite and kitchens. Meals in Taizé are communal and everyone mucks in to help serve the 4000 pilgrims and to join in the task of washing up, which usually involves an international water fight!

The brothers of the community provide a Bible study for everyone after breakfast each day, this is always an engaging and rewarding hour. The afternoons are set aside for chores, workshops run by the brothers and meetings in small groups with people from around the world to discuss the mornings bible readings; this gives the opportunity to learn more about different countries and people's relationships with God. Evenings can be spent at the onsite cafe "Oyak", continuing conversations with new friends, joining the community singing, or simply personal reflection in the church.

The week at Taizé was eventful both spiritually and physically, with a member of our group injuring themselves whilst attempting some ninja moves! The experience that Taizé provides is unique because of the international aspect of it and the simplicity of community life that still manages to be conveyed despite the numbers of people. Everyone in our group got something out of the week, whether it was the opportunity to renew our connection with God, or simply enjoying the time out from the chaos of regular life.

Taizé 2010

We will travel by bus from St Albans leaving mid-afternoon on **Saturday 24th July and returning around 6am on Monday 1st August**. The pilgrimage is open to young adults between the ages of **15 and 29**. *You are welcome to bring your children and there is a special families' programme and camping area.* Costs will be around £175 (please ask for costs for families) which includes travel and all food. Accommodation is in tents, and for those who do not have their own tent there are big dormitory tents available. Group leaders are The Revd Philippa Segrave-Pride (philippa@segrave-pride.freeserve.co.uk)

and The Revd John Kiddle
(john.kiddle@stalbans.anglican.org)

For information, or to request a booking form, please contact:

The Revd Ysmena Pentelow on 01727 818151 or ysmenapentelow@tiscali.co.uk

Taizé at All Saints

For those who would like to experience this a little closer to home, we have a Taizé Service here at All Saints from time to time on the evening of the fourth Sunday. The next Service is later this month on Sunday 25th at 6.30 p.m. Do come and try it!

The forthcoming General Election

Letter from Bishop Alan

At the St Albans Diocesan Synod on Saturday 13th March, a resolution was passed which I commend to you for reflection and action:

This Synod

(i) believes that all church members have a responsibility to vote in the forthcoming General Election;

(ii) calls upon church members in the diocese to take the time to understand where their local candidates and their parties stand on key issues and to exercise their vote prayerfully and thoughtfully;

(iii) urges church members to pay particular attention, in deciding how to vote, to the candidates' and parties' proposals for:

a. alleviating poverty and social exclusion;

b. promoting sustainable living and protecting the poorest from bearing the brunt of adjustment to climate change; and

c. increasing development aid to poorer countries; and

(iv) requests the Bishop to issue a pastoral letter to parishes incorporating the substance of this motion and reflecting the issues raised in debating it.

This comes with very best wishes during this season of Lent

+ Alan St Albans

For those who wish to pursue this further, there are some helpful documents on the Churches Together website at <http://www.ctbi.org.uk/442/>

These include *Faith in Politics: Preparing Churches for the General Election 2010* and *General Election 2010 - A Theology* by Rt Revd Dr Laurie Green, Bishop of Bradwell.

FUTURE + HOPE

Fundraiser

£££

FutureHope needs volunteers to help us develop a fundraising strategy and organize fundraising activities. We'd love to hear from you if you are part of a local church, have fundraising experience of any kind and want the opportunity to get involved.

Please contact Mark or Jess by phone or email:
Phone: 01992 503333
Email: jess@future-hope.org.uk

We look forward to hearing from you!




www.future-hope.org.uk