

All Saints Alive

VICAR'S VIEWPOINT

View from Little Amwell....

Dear friends,

Have you ever played that game when you try to make a sentence using the same word as many times in a row? No? Maybe it's only people with English degrees who waste their time in such trivial ways.

By the time you read this, I will be starting my sabbatical, which in my guilty moments, feels like I'm wasting my time on a grand scale.

Anyway, if you're still with me: there was a guy putting up a sign for a fish and chips shop. The owner complained that it was too tightly spaced. The signwriter hadn't left enough room between 'fish' and 'and' and 'and' and 'chips'. Can you do any better?¹

In January we all make New Year's resolutions. I've long since given up telling people what mine are, because of my terrible record in keeping them, but I think I'm beginning to find out why they never last.

I don't make space for them. I just cram them in between two 'ands.' Adding one more thing to the list of life is not a great recipe for success. Far better to take a step back and look at the list as a whole. Re-write it. Get rid of a few, change others, put them in a better order. I hope my sabbatical will give me time to do just that.

So here's one more thing for your To do list as we start 2010 – and please, don't just add it to the bottom of your list...

Take the wretched list, take a good few minutes of precious, uninterrupted time, and spread your list out before God. Discuss it



with him. You might even like to hand God a pen and let him re-write it for you. Let's face it, if you're anything like me, he can't do a worse job with it than I'm doing already.

Happy New Year!

Nick

Ideas for the Herford Team

We had a great Team Council Meeting in November and everyone shared their ideas about possible activities for the Team. Here are quite a few of them; let's see if we can put them into action soon.

- Advertising events across churches and encouraging people to come to other churches' events. Keeping each other in touch with what our Church projects are.
- A common diary of events will be kept by Kay Povey-Richards 01992 587125.
- A Christmas card from the team, rather than each individual church. A market stall at Christmas to advertise the Christmas events in the various churches.
- Holding a social event to get to know each other.
- Members of the Team Council and others could go on the Christian Aid Walk together.
- Holding a united service on the fifth Sunday evening.
- A visit to another Team Church during Lent – members of every congregation

¹ Nick's best offering is on page five

will be invited to go to another church in the team.

- Joint choir events in the summer.
- A joint courses/ evenings involving prayer and workshop, and possibly a guest speaker.
- A marriage enrichment course.
- Creating a database of people who have special skills ie marriage guidance, debt counselling etc. Practical guidelines ie helping a homeless person, giving advice if a marriage breaks down.
- A Team weekend away in 2011
- We would like to invite the BBC to feature our Team in a Songs of Praise programme

Each Church's PCC is going to discuss these ideas to see how some of them could be taken forward. This is your team and if you have any ideas about these and other possible projects please let me know.

Love Jo 01992 584 899

Bible Studies

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God"

This wonderful passage is heard many times at Christmas but what does it really mean? We will be exploring this passage from St John's gospel in two sessions of Bible Study:

Monday 11th January at 8.00 pm at Kay and Andrew Povey-Richard's home (4 Grange Close) or Thursday 14th January at 10.00 am in the Meeting Room before Communion

Monday 1st February 8.00 pm at Janet and Colin's home (140 North Road) or Thursday 4th February 10.00am in the meeting Room in Church.

I do hope that you will be able to join us for these really interesting and spiritually uplifting

studies, which are also times of great fun and fellowship.

After this, during Lent, we will be following the Bishops' new Bible Study Course. www.challenge2010.org

Prayers and Bears

One Mum and one toddler came to our last Prayers and Bears Service!

We have been wondering what we should do, it seems to be mainly about timing as being older Mums we had forgotten about the bliss of babies having an afternoon nap! We have decided to see whether it will work better for everyone in the morning now so

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Every first **Tuesday of the month at 10.30 starting on January 5th** in Church, we will hold Prayers and Bears, a service for babies and toddlers and their Mums, Dads, Grandparents and carers. Please let any families know about this lovely and relaxed service. Why not join us to see for yourself what goes on and if we found that there were enough leaders we could run it each week, which again may be better too, and certainly easier for everyone to remember when it is!

Songs, Bible Stories, Prayers, followed by activity, play and coffee.

