

View from the Pew

Welcome to the April "View from the Pew" and as spring finally comes it is good to see the seeds of development that we have sown at All Saints over the last year begin to show signs of life. **Messy Church** seems to be beginning to blossom with several families coming each time and no shortage of volunteers to assist. Building a bridge between this activity and attending services is a very delicate one. Kath Oates has been making pictures with the children – The World, and a Rainbow and the children have been encouraged to come to church to see the picture on display. We hope all of you have noticed these bright pictures also!

The Choir had a successful recruitment afternoon in March and it has resulted in some new youngsters joining. Sam Hudson is assisting Martin with the training now and the band is also beginning to develop slowly which is great.

The teenagers – mostly Choir members - are now settling well into their monthly "**Discussion Group**" with Martin Bird. This is encouraging them to be able to discuss and explore spiritual and worldly issues – something this age group has not been able to do for some time at All Saints, so if they seem to be missing from the choir at times they are likely to be in some deep and interesting conversation in the Vicarage!

We are having another **Litter Pick** on April 2nd – venue to be announced. Councillor Dodd has confirmed that he will attend and also hopes that the Mayor will come along too. We shall need lots of help from members of the congregation for this event, particularly as there is likely to be some publicity for the Church, so please come and join us. It is a rewarding couple of hours and all equipment will be supplied. Please let Denise Dilley know if you are able to assist.

The **Big Church Spring Clean** will be on 16th April starting at 8.30 and finishing by 11.00 as there is a wedding around lunchtime. More hands make light work and there will be jobs

for all – just half an hour of your time will really help!! The spiders have been doing overtime with their web making so it would be good if we can get the church clean for Easter!



...er... the good news is the youth-group have made a great start by pressure-washing the west window...

Other future events include the **Christian Aid Walk** on May 7th. It starts from St John's Hall this year and Rosemary Bolton is organising All Saints' role that morning. The next **Coffee Morning and Plant sale** will be on 21st May.

We have again been asked if we are doing another Christmas Tree Festival or similar in 2012. If anyone is interested in being a part of such an event please talk to one of the Churchwardens.

At this time of year the most important events are the services coming up to Easter – Mothering Sunday, Palm Sunday and then the services of Holy Week. I always find the service on Maundy Thursday very moving with the drama of stripping the furnishings leaving the church stark and bare for Good Friday prior to "That glorious Easter Morn" when All Saints' looks its best as we celebrate the Resurrection. Full details of the services are in the **Easter cards** which are to be distributed around the Parish. Geoff Oates is co-ordinating the delivery rounds as he did at Christmas, so if you are able to deliver some please let him know. It is a good time to discover a road in the parish that you know little about!

Finally a reminder that the **Annual Parochial Church Meeting** will this year be on **Tuesday**

Evening, 5th April at 8:00 pm, as the Sundays in April are all too busy this year!

This is my final "View from the Pew" as I shall be standing down as Churchwarden at that meeting. I have served 3 years and Richard did 5 before me so we think 8 years of "The Toyms" is quite enough!

I would like to thank all of you for the encouragement and support that you have given me over these 3 years, especially during the time I was unwell. I have enjoyed my time as Churchwarden and have felt privileged to look after such a fine building.

Thank you to Andrew for being there with me for the last two years for your care and support. All Saints is in good hands and Richard and I will be taking a back seat to have a bit of a rest, but we will still be around!

With all good wishes and every blessing.
Love Dorothy

In Peace

13th January *Doris Moore (Burial of Ashes)*

17th February *Olive Bignell*

23rd February *Mavis Graham*

Holy Baptism

13th March *Isaac David Cooke*

Stewardship and Giving

I am writing to let all givers to All Saints, who are tax payers, know that as from 6th April 2011 the gift aid that we can claim will be 25p (20%) rather than 28p (22%) for every £1.

The reason for this is that the transitional relief introduced by the government in 2008 to compensate charities for the loss of Gift Aid income comes to an end on 5th April 2011. This will equate to a loss of income to All Saints of 3p in every £1. Together with an

increase in utilities and insurance costs etc this will have an obvious impact on our budget for the next financial year.

If you like to increase your giving to compensate for the shortfall **or** if you are new to the congregation and are considering regular giving to All Saints, please contact Malcolm and Judy Oughton, our Stewardship Officers, who will be pleased to give you further information. Their telephone number is 01992 586698.

May I take this opportunity to thank all contributors to All Saints (both tax payers and non-tax payers) for their generous and continuing support towards the upkeep of our church, which is very much appreciated.

Colin Bird
Treasurer

Nature Group

We are following February's talk about water voles with a visit to one of their "homes" in the Kings Meads area of Ware. Our walk will take place on **Saturday April 2nd** starting at **2.30pm** and will be led by Martin Ketcher of the Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust. We probably won't see any water voles in person, as they are rather secretive, but Martin will show us how to look for evidence of them and will also be showing us how to look for signs of the presence of mink, the water vole's main predator.

If you would like to join us, or would like more information, please contact me on 01992 535805, oates13@virginmedia.com, or Fiona Earle on 01992 462467.

Kath Oates

Mothers Union

Our next MU meeting is a Lent Meditation led by Janet Bird.

Please come and join us in the Church Meeting Room on **Tuesday 12th April at 8pm.**

As usual there is no charge, just turn up and you will be made very welcome. If you need a lift please contact me.

Hope to see you there.

Make a Mother's Day 2011

The Mothers' Union ethical gift leaflets for Mothering Sunday are at the back of Church for anyone who would like to pick one up. The gifts start from £3 and for only £3 for the "What a Relief" gift you can help pay for food, blankets, cooking utensils, mosquito nets or whatever is needed at the scene of a disaster.

Rosemary Bolton 01992 589535.

Lenten SoundBites

May I draw your attention to the *SoundBites* recital I shall be giving soon, consisting of eleven of the fourteen movements of Marcel Dupré's *Le Chemin de la Croix (The Way of the Cross)*.

This is one of the major works for organ of the 20th century, and originated in improvisations performed between readings of poems by Paul Claudel on the subject of the Stations of the Cross, given by the composer in Brussels in 1931. Soon after, he wrote them down in the form in which it was published. Because of its nature it does not fit well into the usual format of organ recitals and is not performed very often, though it is much admired.

It is powerful and challenging, utilising the full resources of a large organ to often overwhelming emotional effect, and it offers an original perspective on the events of our Lord's Passion; it therefore fits well into the pattern of the Church's year leading up to Holy Week.

The performance is on **April 13th at 13.00 hrs.** and will last about 50 minutes. Excellent light lunches and drinks are available from 12.00.

Do come!
Michael (Frith)

Easter Flowers

Flowers in church at Easter in memory of loved ones have always been special. Your donations are always appreciated and are a great help in making our church look its very best on Easter morning.

If you would like to make a donation this year Sue Gilford or the Churchwardens would be pleased to receive your gift by Sunday 9th April 2011.

We are always looking for new people to join our flower teams. If you are interested in joining in helping with weekly flowers in church or just at festivals or would like to know more do contact a flower club member or churchwarden.

The XMAS TREE CROSS will be decorated on Easter Day. Please remember to bring a flower on Easter Day Sunday 24th April 2010.

Gillian Harman
Secretary All Saints Flower Club

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 23rd 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

Christian Aid Walk 2011

This year's Christian Aid walk will be on Saturday 7th May and will be starting from St John's Hall – conveniently for us! As usual All Saints' is responsible for manning the initial checkpoint and I would really appreciate some help as usual.

As you probably know it is an early start but at least we finish at 9.30am and are then free for the rest of the day. We cannot run this checkpoint without helpers like you and Christian Aid is a well known and well respected charity that does a huge amount of good across the world.

Please contact me if you can help (unless I have managed to see you first!), either call me on 01992 589535 or 07889 589535 or email me on rosemary@arfg.co.uk

Thank you!

Rosemary

Christian Aid Week 2011

Christian Aid week this year is from 15th – 21st May. It is disconnected from the Christian Aid Walk which will take place earlier on 7 May.

I am hoping that all Church representatives will be available again this year to make their sterling effort but I will be looking for people willing to help with the street collection which will be on Wednesday 18th, Friday 20th and Saturday 21st May.

The Christian Aid Big Sing held at St Andrew's Church on 12 December last year was a big success. About 100 people enjoyed singing a variety of Christmas music. £200 was donated to Christian Aid

Jenny Aitken (St Andrews)

Plant Sale/Coffee Morning

On **Saturday 21st May** from **10am – 12 noon** there will be a Plant Sale and Coffee morning in and around the Church. If you are beginning to think about planting seeds, taking cuttings etc please spare a few plants to bring along to the sale. There will also be the usual stalls – coffee, cakes, books, bric-a-brac,, jigsaws etc so any contributions towards these will be greatly appreciated.



We shall need lots of help on the day with setting up, manning stalls etc., so if you can spare an hour or two to lend a hand please speak to Denise Dilley or Renee Booker. Please support us in this venture – all proceeds to Send A Cow, the current Junior Church project.

Community Day

Sunday 17th July 2011 2.30- 5.00pm
in the Castle grounds.

The Hertford Churches and Town Council working together to promote our local Community

There are so many exciting community, not-for-profit and voluntary organisations in Hertford and although they may well be widely advertised there is nothing quite like meeting the people involved face to face!

Rather like a University's Fresher's Fair, which introduces new students to all the societies and organisations that might interest them, the idea of this Community Day is to do just this and to develop networks and build up relationships.

We hope to have stalls for the

- Churches
- Sports clubs
- History societies
- U3A
- National Trust
- Charities
- Art societies
- Music groups

- Scouts
- Guides
- Toddler groups
- Drama Societies
- and many others.

All you need to do to join us is to let us know that you are interested, the name of your organisation and contact details and a brief description of what it is about.

Not only will this be an opportunity for you to let people know more about your voluntary organisation; it could be a time to recruit new members and it will also give you a chance to network with other groups.

Please contact Kay Povey-Richards 01992 587125 or kaypoveyrichards@fsmail.net

Church Maintenance

Our volunteers did over 120 hours during 2010, which is an excellent achievement, and managed to carry out some essential works including:-

- ✓ The usual removal of yew berry seeds from the gutters together with cleaning out the road gullies and blocked rainwater hoppers
- ✓ Remove, clean and reset wood blocks within the church.
- ✓ Repointing of stonework
- ✓ Repairs to lead flashing
- ✓ Treatment of Oak Doors
- ✓ Completed many of the works called for in the 2006 Quinquennial inspection
- ✓ Major work on St John's Hall & Annex - including repairs due to vandalism

It is fairly easy for me to find the work and make notes. What is not easy is to find the workers to do these tasks. We have been fortunate this year in getting some new and, dare I say, younger members - but I am sure if other people came forward we could keep them all happy.

We usually meet once a month on a Saturday (normally the third Saturday) from about 9 a.m. - 12.30 p.m. I do try to

remember to take along the tea and biscuits!

Dates and times are always noted on the boards in the back of the church and in the Vestry so keep an eye open and, at the same time, please contact me so that I can include you on the list of helpers and notify you personally if there are any changes to dates.

Dates in the rest of 2011:

16th April	14th May
18th June	16th July
20th August	17th September
15th October	19th November
17th December	

Derek Westwood Tel 01992 558071

Get ready for Maasai Warriors at All Saints!

We are delighted to announce that the OSILIGI MAASAI WARRIORS are coming on Saturday **15th October 2011 at 7pm**. Make sure you keep this date in your diary.

A Troupe of eight Maasai Warriors (6 men & 2 women who come from a small community some 30 miles South of Nairobi are on Tour in the UK. The purpose of the tours is to raise money for their families and their community. A charity has been established to bring fresh water and a new Maasai boarding school. There is a website www.osiligi.org where you can find more details.

All members of the Troupe are devout Christians. They are stunning performers, and thrill all audiences aged 5-95. They give outstanding educational performances for schools during then daytime and evening concerts in churches, cathedrals and theatres.

All audiences find their performances breathtaking and unforgettable.