

All Saints Alive

VICAR'S VIEWPOINT

Go Slow!

Dear Friends,

It is amazing to have three months to think, reflect, study, visit and travel! I hope to make the most of my time and, you know me, I was tempted to cram as much into it as possible! However, I was advised firmly by the Diocese that this was not the point of a sabbatical! Time to slow down was strongly recommended, and that set me thinking about how rushed we tend to be. Something about the work ethic in today's society encourages us to fill our lives with busy-ness; at work, at home and in Church.

The natural rhythm of the Church's year should encourage us to slow down, and Lent is a particular season to do this. Lent is the time when we recall Jesus' journey towards the cross. This was not a hurried journey. When we read the gospels we see that he took time to teach, pray and reflect, helping his disciples and those who joined him to cast off the things from everyday life that lead to barriers between ourselves and God.

Jesus shows us that much of this is due to doing so many things (often to serve our own egos) that we don't notice God at work or where we really need to serve God.

In the parable of the Rich man and Lazarus, it is not so much that the Rich man ill-treats Lazarus the poor man, but the fact that the Rich Man is so caught up in his own life that he does not even notice poor Lazarus slowly starving at his gate. Jesus points out that the Pharisees are so busy keeping the rules of the law that they fail to see the point behind the law to serve God or their neighbour.

The parable of the Sower reminds us of all the weeds, stony ground and distractions that impede the seedlings growth.



Can we take time allowing a Bible verse to resonate in our lives every day by following the St Albans suggested daily text or can we pick up our Bibles and challenge ourselves to read one of the epistles over Lent? What about picking up a book from All Saints Library, found in the bookcase in the meeting room, which has some great books including *God Outside the Box* by Richard Harries.

There are plenty of Lent groups to choose from held on different times and days to suit everyone. Above all, enjoy the presence of God, stop, look and listen and see how he is at work all around in our lives in those around us and in the wider world.

A Celtic spiritual thought for Lent:

Enter this day knowing that God will lead you into understanding, of this world and your place in it, and his Word and its promises to you. Draw close to God and be His companion through this day.

See you all when I get back in June!

Love,
Jo

Women's World Day of Prayer

This year's service will be at the Baptist Church from 2:00 p.m on Friday 4th March.

The worship material has been prepared by the women of Chile. Its theme, 'How many loaves have you?', is appropriate as bread is eaten at every meal in Chile, and is very much part of everyday life.



The Hertford Team

Working Together to share God's Love

A Curate in the Hertford Team

We are delighted to announce that the Diocese have suggested that the Hertford Team would be an excellent place for a curate to serve their Title. Elliot James, currently studying at Westcott House, Cambridge and married to our very own Town Clerk, Nina Villa, will join the Team in July after his ordination. Elliot is 33, studied Theology at Lampeter University, has held various posts in the past, and most recently he has been a Verger at St Alban's Cathedral! Elliot, like Nina, is in the Royal Naval Reserve. He enjoys snowboarding, climbing and walking the dog.

Elliot will be ordained deacon on Sunday July 3rd in St Alban's Abbey. During his first year he will be serving mainly with Jo at All Saints in order to get a grounding in Hertford. He will be joining in with various projects and worship in all the Churches throughout the Team as appropriate, and he looks forward to getting to know you all.

Jo's Sabbatical

After 13 years in the ministry, Jo will be taking a sabbatical from March 9th to June 8th 2011. She will be researching what it is to live a God shaped life today, looking at other major world faiths, and travelling to Tibet, China, Nepal and Northern India. When in Hertford she will be reflecting on styles of preaching and welcome by visiting different churches around the St Alban's Diocese. The services at All Saints will be taken by clergy and Lay Readers from All Saints and the Team.

Team Diary

Don't forget to share your Church's events with Kay Povey-Richards, Jo's PA on 01992 587125, as we have agreed to advertise them in our magazines.

Here are a few of the events you have told us about in the next few months.

- March** 3rd Charity Café – Holy Trinity Bengo
 5th Coffee Morning – St Andrews
 Barn Dance – Holy Trinity, Bengo
 Massive Quiz at Sele School – St Andrews
- 9th Ash Wednesday service at 8pm at St Andrews Hertford or Holy Trinity Bengo**
- 17th Charity Café – Holy Trinity, Bengo
 19th Talk on All Saints Fire with Cheese & Wine – All Saints
- April** 2nd Coffee Morning – St Andrews
 Lunchtime Concert by Hertford & Ware Music School – St Andrews
 7th Charity Café – Holy Trinity, Bengo
 21st Charity Café – Holy Trinity, Bengo
- May** 5th Charity Café – Holy Trinity Bengo
 7th Coffee Morning – St Andrews
 Christian Aid Walk
 19th Charity Café – Holy Trinity, Bengo
 21st Coffee Morning / Plant Sale – All Saints
- June** 2nd Charity Café – Holy Trinity Bengo
2nd Team Ascension Day Service at 8pm at St Leonard's Bengo
 4th Coffee Morning – St Andrews
 16th Charity Café – Holy Trinity, Bengo
 18th Coffee Morning with Additional Stalls – All Saints
 Mara Rianda Talk – St Andrews
 25th Summer Fete – Holy Trinity, Bengo

Please join us for the Team services and don't forget to sign up for the great Lent Course this year; full details of the course and exact dates, times and locations are given below

Lent Bible Study Sessions

The weeks of Lent, (March 9th to April 24th) will again provide an opportunity for Hertford and District churches to share together in Bible study.

The text to be followed in 2011 is 'Rich Inheritance - Jesus' legacy of love', a York course written by Bishop Stephen Cottrell. It looks to be excellent and very challenging.

Details of the course can be found at www.yorkcourses.co.uk

Mondays at 8.00pm (starting 14th March)
 Janet Bird (host and part-leader)
 140 North Road, Hertford, SG14 2BZ
 Tel: 01992 587544
 Email: janet_l_bird@hotmail.com

Mondays at 8.00pm (starting 14th March)
 David Cramphorn (leader)
 Ros Squires (host)
 78 Wellington St, Hertford
 Tel: 01992 553465
 Email: ros@sqs.homedns.org

Tuesdays at 9.45am (starting 15th March)
 Jane and Harold Chaplin
 (leader/hosts)
 39 Port Hill, Hertford, SG14 3BH
 Tel : 01992 304606
 Email: ejane.chaplin@gmail.com

Wednesdays at 7.30 pm (starting 16th March)
 Mandi Relph (leader/host)
 32 Rushen Drive, Hertford Heath, SG13 7RB
 Tel.: 01992 503588
 Email: a.relph@herts.ac.uk

Wednesdays at 8.00 pm (starting 9th March)
 Julie Caddick (leader)
 David Penrose (host)
 19 The Ridgeway, Hertford SG14 2JE
 Tel: 01992 584371
 Email: david.penrose2@ntlworld.com

Fridays at 10.30 am (starting 11th March)
 Geoffrey Williams (leader)
 Alison Warn (host)
 52 Rib Vale, Bengeo, SG14 3LF
 Tel: 01992 584851
 Email: ali539020warn@waitrose.com

Fridays at 2.30 pm (starting 11th March)
 Derek Jones (leader/host)
 United Reformed Church,
 Cowbridge, Hertford.
 Tel: 01707 275065
 Email: derek@hatfieldurc.co.uk

For more information please contact Alison Warn (coordinator).
 Email: ali539020warn@waitrose.com
 52 Rib vale, Bengeo, Hertford, SG14 3LF
 01992 – 584851

Do you care about our environment?

Can you spare two hours to come along and join us on our third litter picking session from 9am – 11am on Saturday 2nd April? You can help to make a real difference to our town and get some fresh air and exercise at the same time.

We need as many people to come along as possible, and hope on this occasion to be joined by a member of the local Council who has expressed an interest in what we are trying to achieve. Please speak to Denise Dilley on 01992 587113 if you are interested in lending a hand and would like further details. We will supply, high viz jackets, protective gloves, sticks etc., so we do need to have an idea of numbers attending.



DIOCESE OF ST ALBANS



**The Rt Revd Paul Bayes, Bishop of Hertford
 is seeking a full-time
 Personal Assistant/Researcher
 to support and resource his ministry**

The postholder will be based at the Bishop's office in
 Knebworth, Herts

The successful candidate will provide administrative and secretarial support for the Bishop, and will also undertake general research to equip him for his public ministry both written and spoken. She or he will be efficient, organised, confidential and discreet and able to work independently in a quiet office

Starting salary £20,535

For further details please email
 bishophertford@stalbans.anglican.org
 Or write to: The Bishop of Hertford, Bishopswood, 3 Stobarts
 Close,
 Knebworth, Herts SG3 6ND

Potential candidates are welcome to telephone the present postholder, Mrs Pip Austin, for informal conversation about the post if they so wish
 01438 817260

Closing date: 18 March 2011
 Interviews: 8 April 2011

Appointment to this position is subject to satisfactory enhanced disclosure via the Criminal Records Bureau