

All Saints Deficit

Colin Bird, our treasurer, has calculated that we will have a shortfall of £6,000 by the end of this year and this is a rather timely reminder as we are currently renewing our stewardship pledges. If everyone could give an additional £60 by the end of the year that would mean that we would comfortably pay all our bills. However, if we really want to grow as a Church we do need to continue to give as generously as we can otherwise there is a danger that we will decline and our Church fabric, mostly maintained at the moment by volunteers, will fall into disrepair.

We do hope that you will be able to complete our talents forms as a way for us to ensure that we can share the various aspects of Church life around and we hope that you can complete these by November 6th. Thank you very much.

In the meantime we do have:

Situations Vacant

We are looking for a **Hall Manager** for St John's Hall to take over the bookings and overall managing of St John's Hall. We have two paid cleaners for weekdays and weekends. Gavin our current weekday cleaner who lives nearby is happy to act as the Hall caretaker to open up and show around and lock up. The cleaning materials are ordered by Renee, our domestic bursar, so the post of Hall Manager is not too onerous and we also have a Hall treasurer and Derek currently looks after maintenance.

At the moment Viviane still manages the hall from a distance in Oxford and this shows that this post can be done by someone who is a good administrator with a computer and a phone. It may be that someone you know would like to have a voluntary job so do mention this to them. St John's is a vital part of our outreach in the community and can enable us to maintain the fabric of the Church with part of its revenue.

Please contact Jo for further details and informal chat on 584899.

Joanna Angwin, recently assisted by Viviane Robinson, has been **cleaning Church Brass** and maintaining the beauty of All Saints but Joanna would like to step down from this task. If you would like to take this on, possibly with a friend, it can be very rewarding and a very valuable part of working at All Saints. Please contact Jo on 584 899. We are really grateful to Joanna Angwin for doing this task so lovingly over the years for All Saints Church.

Hertford Team News

The Team Curate, **Revd Elliot James**, left the Church of England Ministry last month to begin a new life in New Zealand. Our thoughts and prayers are with him and for Nina, his wife.

At our Team Council we decided that it would be good to take the opportunity to worship regularly together and so each month we will designate a service in the Team as our Team service and we do hope that you will join us.

November 20th 6.30pm A service of Wholeness and Healing at All Saints. We can receive the laying on of hands for ourselves, those we love or an area of the world that we are concerned about.

December 4th 3.30pm A service of Evensong escaping to the lovely country Church of Holy Trinity, Hertford Heath .

We do hope that you will be able to join us as begin Advent at our **Team Quiet Day on Saturday November 26th** (for more details and to book your place please call Alan Stewart on 01992 582726)

Prayers for every day in Advent. Alan is also devising a short time of prayer that we can all join in at 8.00am and 8.00pm everyday of Advent so that we reconnect ourselves with God's love and feel connected as the Team as the body of Christ. This time of prayer and reflection can be used quietly as we travel to work, in our homes and to begin our Church

meetings. Look out for these prayer cards which will be available in all our Churches at the end of the month.

This year we will be giving out **Christmas Stars** to everyone who comes to our Christmas services. This will be an attractive Christmas tree hanging with a prayer printed on it to be said on Christmas Day. This is part of our witness to our community reconnecting Christmas with the Gospel and will of course be in addition to our Christmas Service publicity. *If anyone would like to pay for these stars we envisage that they will not cost much more than about £50 for each of our churches.*

November

- 3rd Charity Cafe – Holy Trinity, Bengo
- 6th St Leonard's Day service with speaker
3.30 pm – St Leonard's
- 17th Charity Cafe – Holy Trinity, Bengo
- 19th Quiz Night – All Saints
- 26th Team Advent Quiet Day

December

- 1st Charity Cafe – Holy Trinity, Bengo
- 3rd Christmas Bazaar – All Saints
- 15th Charity Cafe – Holy Trinity, Bengo
- 15th & 16th Candlelit Christmas Carol Services
7.30 pm – St Leonard's

View from the Pew

Thank you all very much for replying to the consultation letter that has been circulated about the removal of the pews and the improvement of the lighting. There have been about 50 responses and they are being analysed the moment.

It is with the greatest possible regret that Jo announced earlier this month about Elliot having tendered his resignation. The circumstances behind this are very sad and I would be grateful if you would keep him and Nina in your prayers.

Those of you who were in church on 16 October will have heard the four short stories that were read about stewardship together

with Jo's sermon. Whilst there may be some small saving in expenditure due to not having a curate, the finances up to the end of September were poor, with a substantial deficit being forecast for the end of year. This is the very worst possible time to be asking you to consider giving a little extra each week, or Jo's suggestion of an extra £60 by the end of the year, which I guess is probably going to be very challenging for most of you. I would ask that you pray about this in the coming weeks and let the Lord guide you in your response.

Equally as important I believe are the talents you have, that may be able to help All Saints. We have got a lot of new worshippers since the last time we had a stewardship campaign and we would very much like to hear about skills you may have that could further God's work in All Saints Parish, so please do not be modest in your replies to this. Please talk to me or Janet if you are unsure about how to respond.

It would be helpful if you could return your responses by 9 November. One minor point when you respond on the sheet about skills is if you could tick the boxes for any categories that you currently undertake as well as any new ones you are willing to undertake, that would be helpful. One task that was unfortunately left off the talents sheet was a request for somebody who has sewing and needlework skills, as from time to time we have garments and the like needing small repairs.

You will see elsewhere that the **Christmas Bazaar on Saturday December 3** (10am – 2pm) has been moved from the Church to **St. John's Hall**, this is so we do not have any time constraints due to a wedding, but also lunches will be provided, **we would very much appreciate your support for this event** as a really good result could considerably alleviate the money issues mentioned earlier – please pass this message to all who you come in contact with. **The Young People's Dancing Group** who usually practise at this time will be giving us a demonstration of what they have learnt during the morning.

Love, Andrew