

All Saints Alive

VICAR'S VIEWPOINT

Spring Catalogue?

Dear Friends,

"The world is charged
with the grandeur of God.
It will flame out like shining from shook foil"
Gerard Manley Hopkins

Can we see signs of God's glory in our world? March is a month when we can do this as we see and experience new beginnings: signs of spring in the bulbs, buds, birdsong and longer days. Spring catalogues are in the shops whether they contain seeds, furniture or clothes.

We can use these signs to help us in our attention to life. If we truly pay attention then we can see that in God's world there is love and an invitation to us all and this love engenders a spirit of wonder. On the other hand, if we close our minds this can lead to fear which in turn breeds anger and mistrust. Fear will squash wonder and misuse attention to impose itself. Love frees us to wonder and to be open.

When Copernicus in *De Revolutionibus Orbium Coelestium* suggested that the earth was not the centre of the universe, but in fact revolved around the sun, the religious establishment of the time reacted in fear and denounced the work, delaying important scientific progress for many decades.

We can live open and loving lives because we are reminded in the Gospel that life and in all its abundance is ours. In a world that seems to have lost its way, let us be attentive and realise that Jesus is the Way, and where there seems to be a culture of confusion, let us remind ourselves that Jesus is the Truth, and in a world that seems to marginalise the



old and frail we need to recall that Jesus offers Life in all its fullness.

At this time of year when some are looking at seed catalogues or even beginning to grow them in warmth we are reminded of Jesus' parable of the sower and super-abundance of the seed that was flung around..

Let us look around our world for the signs of the glory of God, let us open ourselves up and be open to the love of God in our lives, seeing him in others and this Lent resolve to use the Bible as our 'Spring Catalogue' to enable us to grow closer to the pattern that Jesus shows us.

Love, Jo

View from the Pew

It hardly seems that Christmas was more than 6 weeks ago. As I write this the snow and ice is melting rapidly and Ash Wednesday is only just 4 days away - where has all the time gone? Meetings continue apace.

In stark contrast we think of Lent, a time for penitence and reflection. Have you signed up to join one of the Lent courses being run by churches together in Hertford? It is not too late. Please see Jo or myself if you are interested.

In the last few weeks there has been a lot of planning undertaken particularly by the Social and Outreach committee for events in the next few months and these are listed below.

We have also established a **Pastoral Care Group**. Its members look out for people that normally sit close to them and take note if

anyone has not been seen recently and then check it out with Jo or the Wardens so that a phone call or visit can be made if appropriate. Your help in this would be very much appreciated so that we all care for one another. It will meet about every 3 months to review all those who are sick and house bound.

The next **Coffee Morning is to be held on 3 March 10am to 12pm** in church and will follow the usual format. If you have 'as good as new' items which could be sold then please place them at the back of church in one of the pews.

Tony James has very kindly agreed to step in and help with St. John's Hall bookings (in addition to his role as Treasurer) now that Viviane has given it up. However there is still **an urgent need** to find somebody who can undertake this relatively simple job, so please consider if you would be willing give a little time for this. It would be very helpful if you have email as this would make the job considerably easier.

If at any time of the year you have unwanted garden plants suitable to fill the borders around the church please talk to Janet Oldham as she would like to make use of them.

The welcome team has been expanding recently but we are still in need of more people who can spare a few minutes of their time just before and after the 10.00AM service. If you can help then please come and have a chat with me.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Seniors Tea party – Sunday 11 March 4pm
Church Spring Clean Saturday 24 March 9am
Annexe Clean Up– Saturday 21 April 9am – lunch may be provided – watch this space

Love, Andrew

Mystery Play for Hertford

In January a group of folk from the various churches met to discuss a possible Mystery Play for Hertford in the summer of 2013. Mystery Plays were first popularised during

the Middle Ages and tell the Biblical story from creation to resurrection. We are currently considering various possible scripts and have yet to decide on big questions such as possible venues and whether this should be an indoor or outdoor production. The play will only go ahead if we have enough people interested in getting involved. Specifically we desperately need a director and a producer.

If you are interested in helping, especially if you have experience in acting, lighting, costume, scenery etc then please come along to St Andrew's Hall (behind the church) on Wednesday 14th March at 8pm.

Alan Stewart
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Bible Study Groups 2012

'Transforming Life' from the Diocese of St Albans
www.livinggodsllove.org

MONDAY Hosts Ros and Graham Squires (01992553465), 78 Wellington St, Hertford. (Starting Mon 27th Feb - 8.00 pm) Leader David Cramphorn

TUESDAY Host Anthea Slate (01992421784), 149 Ware Rd, Hertford (Starting Tues 28th Feb - 7.30 pm) Leader tba

WEDNESDAY Host Helen Penrose (01992584371) 19 The Ridgeway, Sele Farm, Hertford Starting Wed 22nd Feb at 8.00 pm) Leader – Steve Turner

WEDNESDAY Host - Gerry Booker (01992303314), The Garden House, Churchfields, Hertford (Starting Wed 29th Feb at 7.30 pm) Leader - Geoff Oates

FRIDAY Host Alison Warn (01992584851), 52 Rib Vale, Bengoe, Hertford (Starting Fri 24th Feb at 10.30 am) Leader - Geoffrey Williams

FRIDAY Hosts Jane and Harold Chaplin (01992304606), 39 Port Hill, Hertford Starting Fri 24th Feb at 9.45 am) Leaders - Jane and Harold Chaplin