

View from the Pew

Janet Bird

As I write this there is snow on the ground and the scene outside is far more reminiscent of Christmas. However Christmas has been and gone and what a wonderful time we all had.

It was marvellous to welcome so many people to all the different services that were held over the Christmas period. In particular there were a large number of school services and the Deanery carol service as well as our own Crib and Christingle services, all of which were attended by large numbers of local children and their parents and grandparents.

It was good to see so many All Saints' members at these services, as sides-people and vergers, extending the customary All Saints' welcome.

We held many wonderfully inspiring services of our own over Advent and Christmas and Epiphany and our thanks must go to Jo for her leadership and preaching, to other members of the Ministry team and to Martin, Benedict and the choir for the consistently high quality of the music.

With Christmas just gone we now turn our thoughts to Easter, which is relatively early this year; Ash Wednesday is 13th February. As usual Lent lunches will be held at the Quaker Meeting House. A team from All Saints will be running this on Wednesday 27th March ; if you can help please let me know.

This year Hertford and District churches Together are planning a number of Lent talks under the banner of "Do you have a heart for Hertford?" These will be presented mainly by local speakers at the Methodist Church on Mondays during Lent at 8pm.

Please see details on page 4 or the poster at the back of the church, or speak to me, especially if you would like to go but would need a lift. The talks promise to be both interesting and challenging and it would be

good to see All Saints well represented at these Ecumenical events.

The Social Events and Outreach Committee met recently and have come up with a tentative list of events for the forthcoming year. By the time that you read this we will have hopefully enjoyed a January Jolly and will be looking forward to the Showstoppers Concert on Saturday 9th February. Tickets are £10 and money raised will go towards various restoration work and improvements to the church lighting which we hope to embark on over the next few months.

You will have seen notices displayed referring to Faculty applications for the removal of pews and for new signs and notice boards in the churchyard so we hopefully have a lot to look forward to.

On 2nd March we are planning to hold a coffee morning in the Church so if you have any unwanted Christmas presents or have read all your Christmas books this will be an opportunity to put them to good use. As usual refreshments will be served and there will be various stalls including cakes, books, bric a brac, a raffle and Aschiana. If you would like to run any other type of stall to help us raise money for the church please let me know.

Other dates to put in your diaries include the Women's World Day of Prayer at the URC on Friday 1st March at 2pm. The speaker will be Margaret Colville who often joins us at All Saints for Evensong and the title is " I was a stranger and you welcomed me" This is usually a very thought provoking service and is open to both women and men!!

Thanks to you all for your love and support of all that we do at All Saints and a belated Happy New Year to you all.

Love

Janet (Bird)