

View from the Pew

Janet Bird

It doesn't seem possible that when I wrote my last view from the pew we were still in the middle of the summer holidays. Now we are deeply ensconced in autumn, lots of mists and mellow fruitfulness, and our thoughts are turning rapidly to December and our Christmas tree festival, our Christmas services of worship and thanksgiving and for me especially the preparations for another Christmas Alone party at Sele School.

However, although we still have much to look forward to this year November is a time when we can stand back a little from what is to come and think of people and events that have passed and reflect on how they have affected our lives. We begin this time of reflection with our Patronal Festival on Sunday 3rd November, a very special service not only because we will be welcoming the Bishop of Hertford to All Saints once again but also because it will be a team service, organised this time by our friends from St Andrews Church. We who worship together in the name of All Saints should surely spend some time marvelling at the faith and example of all those who have gone before us on our Christian journey. You might like to read about the lives of Saints who have been associated with the Diocese of St Albans in a new book by our Bishop, Alan Smith, entitled *Saints and Pilgrims in the Diocese of St Albans*. A copy of this book should soon be available for you to look at in the church.

Our next opportunity for reflection will be on Sunday 10th November when we will be hosting the Remembrance Day service following the 11am service at the War Memorial in Parliament Square. This is a service at which we not only give thanks for the lives of all who have died as a result of war and conflict but also pray for peace in a world where the threat of terrorism is a constant enemy.

On Sunday 24th November at 10am we will be holding our annual Parish Communion and Memorial Service to remember especially all those who have died during the last year and any others whose memories we hold dear. If there are any names which you would like to be included please let me or Janet Oldham know so that they can be added to the list which I will read out during the service.

As November comes to an end we are preparing not only for Christmas but for the

season of Advent which leads up to Christmas. Advent is a time for us to examine our own preconceptions about God and how He is working in our own lives and for us to consider the ways in which we can make ourselves ready and open to receive Christ into all areas of our lives.

Finally I would like to look back on the successful events which we have held over the past few weeks over the Harvest period. On Saturday 5th October we held a most enjoyable Harvest Supper and Quiz night attended by about 70 members of All Saints and their guests who came to enjoy another of the Toyn Family Quiz Extravaganzas together with a tasty supper which included the most incredible number of puddings! Thanks to all who helped with the preparations and all who came to take part in an evening of fun and fellowship which amazingly enabled us to raise a total of £829 towards church funds.

The following day we held our Harvest Festival for which the church was magnificently decorated by the Flower Club members and at which the Choir sang beautifully.

Jo launched our Stewardship Campaign at the Family service (so important at a time when the costs of heating our church are climbing all the time) and the Christmas Tree Festival details and prize draw tickets were given out. I would like to thank you all in advance for the support which I know you are planning to give over the coming months to ensure that All Saints continues to be a shining beacon of faith in our community where all who enter can receive a warm welcome in Christ's name.

Love,
Janet

**Welwyn Garden City
Orchestra & Chorus**

Sunday, 3 November 2013, 7:00pm
The Tythe Barn, Tewin Bury Farm Hotel, AL6 0JB
Conductor: James Ross

Beethoven - Overture Coriolan

**Delius - La Calinda
Song Before Sunrise**

**Gluck - Dance of the Blessed Spirits
Dance of the Furies**

**Britten - Matinées Musicales
Soirées Musicales**

Debussy - Petite Suite

Tickets £14, students £8; includes a glass of wine/ juice.
Available online at www.wgcms.org.uk 01707 391224 or email tickets@wgcms.org.uk
Also from Hill & Co, Welwyn, or at the door - if any unsold.

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