

View from the pew

Janet Bird

It does not seem possible that another year has almost gone and Christmas is nearly here again.

Although (just) In November, our Advent preparation starts with Parish Communion, followed by lunch with the Archdeacon and his visitor, Rev Lizbeth Tulloch a deacon from Belize, on Sunday 30 November. Lizbeth will our preacher that morning. This is a team event, please sign up on notice at the back of Church if you wish to come, as places are limited.

This is going to be a busy day as we are also having our Advent Carol Service at 6.30pm! It is a beautiful service enhanced by the Church being lit with candles. Please join us not least for mulled wine and mince pies afterwards.

As usual, All Saints is particularly busy during December; with not only our own services and events but also many other carol services, Christingles and concerts. This gives us a wonderful opportunity for outreach as we welcome so many different people to share our wonderful church as we journey through the reflective days of Advent towards the joyful festival of Christmas.

The month starts with our Winter Bazaar on Saturday 6th December in St John's Hall from 10am until 2pm. We are very grateful to the choirs of Abel Smith School and St Joseph's in the Park who will be singing for us during the morning. We are running our usual Prize Draw and have some amazing prizes, all of which have been donated so please encourage your friends to buy them, as well as buying them yourselves!!

To ensure the success of the Bazaar we need your support, both as customers and volunteers. If you have any articles, including books, bric-a-brac, jigsaws, raffle or tombola prizes that we can sell, please contact me or Janet O. Homemade cakes are always very popular so please get baking. There will be various Christmas

goods, many made by groups within the church and of course refreshments, including hot lunches. If you can spare any time to help it is not too late to offer.

On Sunday 7th December we will be holding our own Christingle, a lovely service for children and adults alike with the collection going to the Children's Society to support their work with underprivileged and socially disadvantaged children and families.

If you are available, please join us on Thursday, 11th December at 11.30 am (after Holy Communion) to tidy up the Church flowerbeds for Christmas. Please sign up on notice at the back of Church. Coffee and biscuits will be available for everyone.

We shall be holding our normal Christmas Service of Nine Lessons and Carols on Sunday 21st at 6.30 pm, our Christmas Eve Crib Service, Midnight Mass and then our Christmas Day celebration and we look forward to seeing you at these services as we celebrate together the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

We complete the Christmas cycle with the arrival of the Wise Men for the Epiphany Family Service on 4th January, Paryers, Bears and Breakfast on Tuesday 6th, the Epiphany Carol Service on 11th January and the Presentation in the Temple on Sunday 1st February. Truly something for everyone.

You can read elsewhere about various other services and study opportunities: the Bible Book Club; the re-launched Prayers, Bears AND Breakfast; our Team Service on 18th January with Bishop Alan (themes Going Deeper into God and Vocations) with Lunch and the Christian Unity Service on 25th January (more information on page 7).

In addition, we are already beginning to think of social events and have plans in place for a February Frolic on 7th February. Please make sure that you put the date in your diary.

We are now applying for a Faculty for the Memorial Chapel Relighting project and, hopefully, this will be completed in the first half of 2015, once the Faculty has been approved by the DAC.

Please remember in your prayers our Vicar Jo, our Team Curate Ginni, Readers Geoff and Janet and all others in the Ministry Team who will be leading our worship at this busy time. Also the members of our choir, Martin Penny our Director of Music, our Flower Club and all the many others who will be using their many talents to enrich and enhance the beauty and majesty of our worship during the Christmas season.

Janet and I would like to wish you, your families and friends a very happy Christmas and a joyous, healthy and peaceful New Year and we look forward to seeing you at one of the many Christmas Services

Love
Janet Bird

Call Waiting

The Church of England National Strategy for Young Vocations

12 November 2014

Dear Friend,

We are writing to you on behalf of the Young Vocations Strategy Group.

As you may know the Church of England has been working to promote and encourage more young vocations (18-30) to the priesthood.

Through the Call Waiting project (callwaiting.org.uk) we have developed a programme of events, networks, and diocesan teams to develop young vocations across the Church of England. This has brought great success with 24% of those going forward for training in 2014 being under 30, compared with 18% in 2011.

We are seeking to build on this success by freshening-up our website and publicity material. What we have learnt is that stories of young vocation are a very effective way of communicating that the Church is committed to supporting God's call to each one of us whenever that comes.

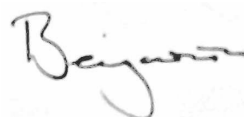
We wondered whether you, or one of your friends, might have some good stories to share: perhaps a young member of your community who has or is going forward for ordination; perhaps you have a vocations group; or programmes that encourage young people to explore where God is calling them in their life more broadly.

Tim Sledge adds: "*As Chairman of the Young Vocations Strategy Group and in the process of nurturing vocations young and older in the parish, it is clear that one of the many distinctive gifts of the churches within the network is that they are a fertile ground for vocations to ordained ministry.*"

Do please share your stories, but can I encourage us all to talk more openly and freely and enthusiastically about the ordained ministry – especially with the younger members of our congregations and networks."

If you can think of anything, or would like some more information about the national strategy on young vocations, please do contact either of us by any of the means listed above.

Yours sincerely,



The Rev'd Dr Benjamin Carter
(Member) on behalf of the Young Vocations
Strategy Group

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