

All Saints Alive

VICAR'S VIEWPOINT



Hope for all

Easter is a time for celebration.

Our belief that there is hope for everyone through Christ's message and his saving action is what makes our faith a cause for rejoicing in this troubled world. Jesus' message of love and forgiveness has been shown fully through his self-offering, and we can be certain that living God's love is the authentic way of life to which we are called. On Easter morning God's saving power raised Jesus from death, the first of the new humanity to which we are called through faith and baptism.

Easter is truly a joyful feast. It has been described as the "spring of souls". This suggests a freshness of spirit, like the new life of springtime after the rigours of winter. It could also be taken to suggest "sprung from prison", i.e. released, since the resurrection of Jesus, who bore our sins to the cross, means freedom from sin and its death-dealing consequences.

Christians were originally called people of 'The Way' when they realised and accepted after the resurrection appearances that 'Jesus is Lord': this phrase became the first creedal statement and though short it changes everything. All of life was lived in the light of the resurrection, and every week the apostles and members of the early church marked and celebrated joyfully the death and resurrection of Jesus.

At Easter there would be a special celebration of the Eucharist, 'Thanksgiving', at cockcrow when Christ's resurrection was proclaimed loudly! This festival celebrated both the Passion and resurrection of Christ

in one day from night into day. By 160AD, according to Tertullian (one of the early Christian writers), the liturgy included the baptism of those who wished to be Christians. By the time of Constantine, the first Christian Emperor in the 4th century, *Pascha* began to be celebrated over a Holy Week.

I have always felt that baptism is integral to Easter Day, involving, as it does, going into the deep water and rising to new life – dying to sin and rising to righteousness. This is also why we re-affirm our baptismal vows and promises, making it a very significant occasion for all Christians.

This year the reality of being baptised into the new life of Christ will be made very clear as we have the baptism of Arien, my grandson, at the main service on Easter Day. I am so pleased that this event, which is one of great meaning for our own family, can be shared widely within the whole family of the Church of All Saints, which is so important to us. In doing so, I hope that it will put us all in mind of our own baptism into faith just as the service will celebrate God's gift of new life.

I wish you a Joyful Easter.

Love, Jo

All Saints Finances

**The good news and
the chilly challenge of the broken boiler.**

Thank you very much to all our church members and supporters for great generosity and responsibility in giving. Many of you increased your giving and the

overall giving went up last year. Every pound promised, every donation given and every legacy makes a great deal of difference, enabling All Saints' to flourish and our ministry and mission to continue.

2014 had the warmest winter since records began so our heating bill was £5,500 less than we budgeted for. This enabled us to break even on General Funds and to put £5,000 into the Fabric Fund so that we now have £21,000.

In January and February 2015 two things happened; firstly it suddenly got colder, so that our heating bills went back up and then one of our two boilers and the pump that pushes the hot water around the church both failed and could not be repaired.

As a consequence we have had to spend over £11,000 on a new boiler and replacing the pump. As the other boiler is the same age (22 years old) as the one that failed we can expect to have to spend another £9,000 later this year to replace it.

What this means is that we are likely to end the year with little or no Fabric Fund! Anything else that goes wrong will put us in a tough position. We really need financial help to pay for the boilers so that we don't end up without reserves for essential maintenance.

Could you please give a special donation at Eastertide so that we can buy the boiler? A generous donation to All Saints' would enable us to achieve this without dipping into our fabric fund. This will help All Saints' to continue to be the welcoming, sacred space of worship and ministry that it needs to be.

Please make cheques payable to All Saints' Church, Hertford. Cash donations also accepted!

We will value any amount you feel able to give, but how great it would be if 20 people gave £1,000 or 200 gave £100 we would raise the total in no time at all! Fabric Fund envelopes will be available in church,

or donations can be sent/given to the Vicar. All donations will be offered at the altar on Sunday 17th May (10.00am Family Eucharist).

New Bishop of Hertford



The Revd Canon Dr Michael Beasley has been named as the next Bishop of Hertford, in succession to the Rt Revd Paul Bayes, who is now Bishop of Liverpool.

Canon Beasley is at present Director of Mission in the Diocese of Oxford.

The announcement was made by 10 Downing Street on the 5th March 2015, and in a press conference hosted by the Mayor of Stevenage, Cllr Sherma Batson MBE, in the Council Chamber at Daneshill House. Canon Beasley will live near Stevenage, in Knebworth, when he takes up his post later in the year.

Canon Beasley has been Director of Mission in the Diocese of Oxford for the last five years. This follows a career in the scientific world, which for over a decade combined priestly ministry and epidemiology, the study of the patterns, causes, and effects of health and disease conditions in defined populations.

He said: "I am delighted to be coming to St Albans to join in all that's already taking place here to grow the Church in spiritual depth, outreach to the community and numbers.

"Sad though I am to leave Oxford Diocese I'm very much looking forward to getting to know the people of Hertfordshire."