

View from the pew

Helen Harvey-Wright

As we move into December, preparations for Christmas begin to take precedence. But we are actually in the season of Advent, a time of expectancy as we look for the coming of the Christ child. May we remember that in this busy month, Jesus Christ is at the very centre of our faith and all our planning.

REMEMBERING IN NOVEMBER

The first Sunday, was our **Patronal Festival**, a time for remembering all the saints including some of our personal favourites. It was joyously celebrated with fireworks after Messy Church and enjoyed by a very good number of children and parents.

Remembrance Sunday was well attended at the War Memorial, followed by the service in the church with Archdeacon Trevor leading the prayers and the Roman Catholic Auxiliary Bishop John of Westminster preaching. The lesson was read by our mayor Dr. Linda Radford; also in attendance were councillors and representatives of uniformed organisations. Thank you to all who helped, with special thanks to Dorothy Toyn and the Flower Guild. The beautiful flower arrangements were an expression of love and sacrifice.

The Annual Memorial Service gave time for people to remember loved ones no longer with us, but in God's closer keeping. It was a moving occasion as names were read aloud and the All Saints' family gave loving and prayerful support.

EVENTS IN DECEMBER

The **Winter Bazaar** will take place in St. Johns Hall on **Saturday 5 December** from 10.00am-2.00pm. Enough stalls, catering and entertainment are planned to provide something for everyone to enjoy. Please take another look at the publicity, and if you are able to give items or help we would be very grateful. Please return your Grand Draw ticket stubs and money to Colin Bird before the event if possible.

We are delighted local organisations and schools use our church for **Carol Services**. It is in almost constant use by local schools between Tuesday 8th and Friday 18th giving our team of vergers a lot of extra work. If you are able to offer help for just one afternoon or evening we would be delighted to hear from you. You also get to enjoy the contributions of the often talented children and young people

On Sunday 6th from 10.00am – 10.45am it is our **Family Service St Nicholas the Gift Bringer** when we look forward to welcoming children and people of all ages.

The **Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols** will be held at 6.30pm on Sunday 20th followed by drinks and nibbles. This is a beautiful, traditional candle lit service, when our choir give of their all. Please encourage your family, friends and neighbours to come along.

All the Christmas and Epiphany services are listed on the **All Saints' Christmas Card**. Every year Geoff Oates and his small team of helpers distribute this to homes and businesses in the parish. I am sure he would welcome help with this. People in the parish really appreciate receiving the card.

EVENTS IN 2016

The **Epiphany Carol Service** will be held on Sunday 10th January

Our regular **January Jolly** is being planned for Saturday 30th. More details to follow.

Even further ahead, we will be hosting a **concert by the Cathedral Choir** on Saturday 6th February at 7:00 pm. This is the first time they have sung at All Saints in many years so please do put this date in your diary.

Finally, may you know peace and joy as we celebrate the birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Love, Helen