

View from the pew

Janet Oldham

I am delighted that Helen Harvey Wright has agreed to share the duties of Churchwarden and I know we will be able to work really well together for the benefit of All Saints

At the beginning of May, we enjoyed the quarter peal of bells to mark the 70th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day, and a few days later All Saints helpers were busy at the start of the Christian Aid walk. We also had a talk by Adrian Whalley from Christian Aid, who told us how the money raised will be used.

Geoff Oates, ably assisted by some of the children, also gave us a very interesting potted history of how Messy Church have been able to help some poor families in Africa acquire their own cow. These gifts have greatly improved their lives and enabled them to help a neighbour, by passing on the first calf born to another family. To date Messy Church have been able to send money for 10 cows, which is a fantastic achievement.

SPIRITUAL CHURCH

May turned out to be a memorable month with our new Bishop of Hertford being ordained in Westminster Abbey on the 14th and Bishop Michael coming to All Saints with his delightful family on 17th to preach to a very full Church, including members of all the Team churches and beyond. Afterwards 60 people enjoyed one of Janet Bird's delicious roast dinners, so well done to everyone involved in ensuring All Saints provided not only a very warm welcome but also a very appetising lunch.

The other special event on 17th was that Bishop Michael was also able to commission our own Canon Jo Loveridge as Rural Dean, a very proud and special moment for Jo, I am sure, as well as for the wider family of All Saints.

On **Saturday 20 June** the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Rt Rev Justin Welby, will be visiting St. Albans Diocese and we are hoping to organise a coach, if there is enough demand, to take a group of parishioners to the Abbey to watch/or participate in the Pilgrimage for St Alban. It is a tradition to take a red rose to be laid on Alban's tomb when a pilgrim reaches that point. Please speak to Helen or myself and sign up on the sheet at the back of Church as soon as possible if you would like to go.

A warm welcome back to our own bubbly Rev Ginni Dear, hopefully refreshed after her break.

ACTIVE CHURCH

The mixture of rain and sunshine has enabled the weeds to gain an advantage, so it would be good if a few volunteers could weed a bed or two. It is probably easiest if you choose your own time for this - just let me know which flowerbed you would like to tackle.

The Plant and Coffee morning raised over £500, which will be split between Messy Church's chosen charity (Send a Cow) and All Saints. Many thanks to all who provided the plants etc., and thanks to everyone who bought them and helped us to raise this.

More dates to note in your diaries

Choral Evensong on 28th June will include the Licensing/Admission of Lay Readers in the diocese by Bishop Alan. It would be good if as many members of the congregation as possible were present to support them as they begin their ministry after a long period of study and training.

On **18th July** Colin and Janet Bird will host a Garden Party to raise funds for All Saints and the Ancient Charities of Hertford (the latter charity helps Hertford people who have financial needs to buy basics such as

All Saints Alive

furniture and carpets). Please sign up on the sheet at the back of Church.

Alzheimer's Society

Just to update you, I have now walked 120 of the 146 miles Shakespeare Walk and on behalf of the Society, many, many thanks to all those very generous people who sponsored me and have given me their sponsor monies. I have sent a cheque off to the Alzheimer's Society for £340. 00. The imminent arrival of my fifth grandchild means I have had to defer finishing the walk until July and I would like to take this opportunity to advise the rest of my sponsors, that I would like to collect the remaining sponsor money then.

Love Janet