

## View from the pew

*Janet Bird*

We may still be in the depths of winter but, as the nights begin drawing out, we have much to look forward to at All Saints as well as looking back on the uplifting services of the last couple of months.

We are now in the season of Lent which to some means giving things up (chocolate, alcohol?) but which should really be a time for thinking more clearly about what our faith really means to us. We know that Jesus and the early disciples gave up everything to spread the Good News. Whilst we may feel that giving something up for Lent helps us to concentrate more fully on the sacrifice that Jesus made for us (as well as perhaps being good for our health!) we should also make sure that during Lent we make more time not only to study God's word but also to share it with others and think about ways in which we can serve God more actively.

We are coming up to our APCM on 19<sup>th</sup> April so perhaps this is a good time for you to consider whether you would like to serve on the PCC. If you would like to know more about what that would involve please feel free to speak to Jo, me or to Janet O. It is a very good way to keep abreast of what is going on at All Saints as well as having a say in where we are going in our Ministry to the people of the parish.

We have had some spectacular fund raising and social events over the last few years and it is important that we carry on with enthusiasm, not only raising funds but also sharing fellowship.

We are keen to increase the scope of the events and are always keen to hear new ideas. I have offered to hold an Afternoon Tea in our garden sometime during the summer and we will have several coffee mornings as well as the Plant sale in May but if you have heard of any ideas that have worked well elsewhere then please speak to Jo, Janet or myself.

Looking ahead, we are really pleased to learn that our Archbishop, Justin Welby, will be visiting the Diocese from 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> June. The programme for his visit has not yet been released but it is likely that there will be an opportunity to see him at some point - possibly by organising a coach to take us to a service or other event. We will keep you informed as soon as we know more.

Within the church building, I hope that you will soon see a difference in the lighting in the Memorial Chapel, the area around the Font and the Choir rehearsal area near the children's altar. We have now applied for the required faculty and are hopeful of starting the work very soon. This is being funded by a generous donation, which together with some money which we received from Hertford Town Council, will cover the whole cost of the works.

Other changes are still being discussed including moving some pews (for which another generous donation has been received) and on a less happy note we have been experiencing problems with the heating during February and it is looking as though at least one of our two boilers will need to be replaced before next winter. This is likely to use up much of what is currently held in our Fabric Fund and will make our need to enhance our fund raising efforts all the more vital, unless another kind benefactor (or two or three!) comes forward.

As you will know I step down from my role as churchwarden at the APCM and, just in case this is my last article, I would like to say what a privilege it has been to serve All Saints once more in this important post, but that I will still be very much involved both as Reader and in any other way that I am needed. Watch this space!!

With love

Janet B