

# View from the pew

*Janet Oldham*

By the time you are reading this we will have almost come to the end of January with its delightful St Nicholas Service and Epiphany Carol Service. Many of you will also have enjoyed the January Jolly social, with the excellent entertainment and delicious food.

A very big thank you to all the generous folk who gave up their time and/or donated food, to ensure that we were not only royally entertained but handsomely fed as well.

As an extra treat, you have a wonderful opportunity in February to listen to the concert given by the St Albans Cathedral Choir here in Church on **Saturday 6 February, commencing at 7pm.** Light refreshments will be served during the interval. This promises to be a real treat for all lovers of choral music.

## SPIRITUAL CHURCH

Jo will lead us in our Ash Wednesday Choral Communion at 8pm.

The **Easter Journey** for local schoolchildren will take place between Monday 21 March and Thursday 24 March. Speak to Andrew Povey Richards if you can help in any way with this very well worth activity. If you are not able to help on the actual days, perhaps you could help set up on Sunday 20 March (afternoon) and again on the afternoon of Thursday 24 March, to clear up, in readiness for the Easter Services.

## ACTIVE CHURCH

Our sterling band of merry men, aka the Work Party, have been busy again on our behalf re-laying some loose blocks in the Church's parquet flooring, amongst other essential maintenance work carried out on our behalf. We are, as always, very grateful to these volunteers whose hard work help to keep the costs of running such a large building down.

If you want to keep fit and have practical skills or would like to learn some new skills, why not come along on the third Saturday of every month at 9am to enjoy working with likeminded folk for a couple of hours? Coffee/Tea and scrumptious biscuits guaranteed!

The Churchyard and flowerbeds are in need of tidying up again so two dates for your diaries, **Saturday 27 February** 9.30 – 12 noon, general tidying in the Churchyard and on **Saturday 19 March 2pm – 4pm** tidying up the flowerbeds, ready for Easter. WD40, scrumptious biscuits and tea/coffee freely available on both occasions!

**Deep Clean on Saturday 20 February at 9am.** Please put this date into your diary and come along to help give the Church a really good Spring clean.

## CREATIVE CHURCH

Those knitters amongst you will no doubt have read the Mothers Union notice with an appeal for knitters to make some small figures for another travelling crib or two. The cribs are loaned out to the children attending Messy Church and then they bring them back to Church on Christmas Eve for the Crib Service. They have proved so successful in gently reminding the children of the true meaning of Christmas, that Messy Church leaders are keen to have more in time for 2016. If you can help, do ask Ann Stephens Jones for a pattern.

## ADVANCE NOTICE OF DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

**Saturday 5 March** 10 am – 12 noon - Coffee Morning

Sort out your bric a brac, bake a cake or just come along and browse the stalls then enjoy delicious refreshments and a chat with your friends.

**Saturday 21 May** 10 am – 12 noon. Plant Sale & Coffee Morning A great opportunity

## All Saints Alive

to stock your garden with excellent value plants, grown by our hardworking green fingered gardeners.

**Saturday 10 September** 10am – 12noon.  
Coffee Morning and Bike/ Hike – more information next time.

### MEMORIAL GARDEN – Advance notice

As those of you who visit this area will probably have noticed, the concrete skim covering the walls is crumbling in places and, as a result, the memorial plaques are working loose.

Before the wall deteriorates further we are hoping to have it covered with a dark oak coloured fascia board which has been approved by the Fabric Committee and which is guaranteed by the Manufacturer for 25 years. The material is a mixture of wood and plastic but resembles wood. The name plaques will be screwed to the top surface to ensure precious memorials are not lost.

We understand the concerns some of you may have with regard to the memorial plaque for your loved one, but rest assured that photographs have been taken to ensure that they can be replaced in exactly the same order as at present.

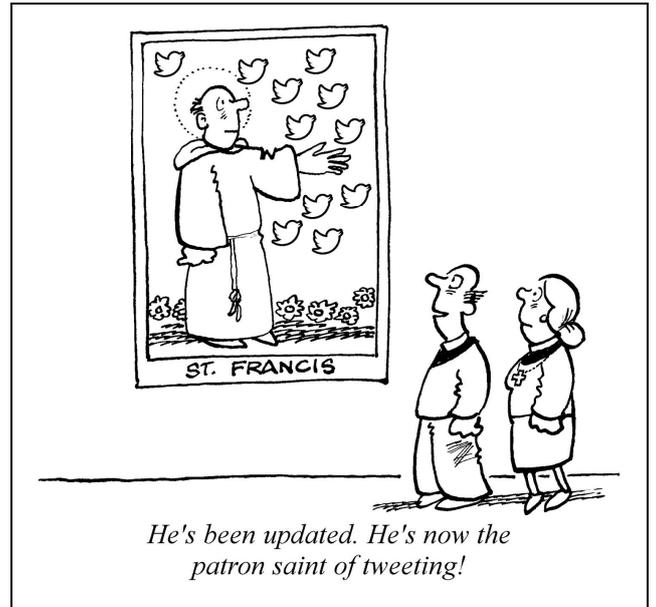
We believe the work described above will greatly enhance the appearance of this special Garden of Remembrance and, once the DAC has formally approved the Faculty, the work will commence. Anyone who has a particular concern please speak to me or Helen Harvey-Wright.

### NEW CHAIRS

Last, but not least, we are very pleased to advise that the Meeting Room now has a very smart set of comfortable lightweight chairs, which means the Memorial Chapel now has its full quota of chairs once more.

Our hardworking choir have also been provided with new chairs for their practise area.

Love, Janet



## Celebrating the Queen's 90th Birthday

The Queen has served the country and Commonwealth for more than 60 years. From 10-12 June 2016 her 90th birthday will be celebrated.

To mark the unique occasion, HOPE, Bible Society and the London Institute for Contemporary Christianity are publishing a 'very special', 64-page book focusing on the Queen's Christian faith as a tribute to her life of service.

The Servant Queen - and the King She Serves is a beautifully illustrated short book, which uses the Queen's own words to draw out the central role of her trust in Jesus Christ, offering an inspiring, multi-faceted insight into a life well-lived for others.

In her 2014 Christmas broadcast the Queen described Jesus Christ as 'an anchor in my life' and a 'role-model'. It is the most recent of many public references the Queen has made to her Christian faith.

Advance orders for The Servant Queen have already reached more than 60,000 with Anglican dioceses and denominations ordering copies to give away.