

All Saints Alive

VICAR'S VIEWPOINT



Walking together.....

Dear Friends,

You've heard of dog walkers, well now there is a people walker. Only in L.A! Chuck McCarthy walks humans for \$7 a mile around the streets and parks near his home, pioneering an alternative to dog walking that needs no leash - just an ability to walk, talk and particularly to listen. He was an unemployed actor and, at first, it was a bit of a joke. He wore a Tee shirt with "The People Walker" written roughly across it.

"Need motivation to walk?" and "scared to walk alone?" The answer seemed to be "yes" as hundreds have been in touch and many have walked with him and now he has recruited other walkers to help. Now the idea is spreading to other countries.

This news story reminded me of Jesus walking along with the disciples along the Emmaus Road. There they were, in need of motivation, frightened and in great need of a companion who would listen and help reflect. By walking alongside, listening to them and reflecting on their experiences Jesus helped the disciples to grow in understanding and deepen their faith.

Just as with those disciples at Emmaus, Christ walks alongside us. We have encountered him knowingly or more often unknowingly. We join in worship, pray, read the Bible and hear the Good News and encounter Christ.

Each of us has walked alongside someone who has helped us in our faith journey by their example and through their reflections. We, in turn, have opportunities to walk

alongside others, at work, at home and through all the connections that we have with other people, listening reflecting and helping to deepen other people's understanding and faith.

What is great about this is that it is so simple, and can be so worthwhile. You probably know that churches have a Mission Action Plan these days, to encourage us to find ways of sharing the gospel. It can lead to fresh expressions of church and various schemes to meet and support others, which is great. Yet this simple "togetherness" is something we can all do very naturally, meeting people where they are – and just caring and sharing, especially through listening to the other person.

Let Christ walk alongside us and let us walk alongside others so that we may grow together in God's Love.

Love,
Jo

Harvest Festival

Don't forget this Harvest Festival (10:00 am Sunday 2nd October) you are invited to bring food for the Food Bank and Money for the Bishop's Harvest Appeal which will enable communities in Madagascar to have clean, safe water. We will even have cakes made with Madagascar vanilla after the service!

We have a fun filled Quiz Night the evening before, don't forget to sign up! See the advertisement overleaf for more details.

7.30 Thursday October 20th Christ Church Ware

Meet with people from the Churches in the Deanery, hear the inspirational Bishop Michael talk about Living God's Love and worship together.

Places are limited so please sign up as soon as you can.

We're renewing and refreshing
Living God's Love
.... in response to what you told us!

COMING TO YOUR DEANERY

To celebrate and encourage mission in your community, a special event is being planned in your deanery and will include:

- ♦ A 'day & evening' visit from one of our Bishops.
- ♦ Worshipping together and encouraging each other.
- ♦ Looking at examples of mission and giving thanks to God.
- ♦ Renewing and inspiring a fresh vision for growth.

Hertford & Ware Deanery visit is planned for:

**Thursday
20th October 2016**

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND
DIOCESE OF ST ALBANS
Living God's Love

The Dean said, "This is wonderful news from the Heritage Lottery Fund. The Fund exists to make more people aware of the riches of our national heritage, and St Albans Cathedral deserves to be far better known as the oldest Christian site in Britain, with a uniquely long and rich history to tell.



"With this grant, and with the match funding that has so generously been given by trusts and by over a thousand individuals, we shall create a beautiful new welcome centre, a new centre for schoolchildren, a new exhibition area, and a new adult study centre and library. We shall be able to present the Cathedral's treasures in a much more attractive way, which includes illuminating the medieval wall paintings and rebuilding the ruined medieval shrine of St Amphibalus. Working with the City's own Museum project and visitor strategy, we shall make St Albans a first-choice destination for tourists and pilgrims alike."

The project will work with and complement the nearby development of the Town Hall Museum, also made possible by National Lottery players thanks to a grant of £2.8million from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Preparatory work will get underway in the autumn with the building works due to be completed by the summer of 2019. The programme of HLF funded activities will continue for several years.

The Cathedral is launching a special blog so people can keep up to date with the project as it develops. To sign up go to: albanbritainsfirstsaint.wordpress.com

Britain's First Saint

The transformational project, 'Britain's First Saint: Telling the Whole Story', at St Albans Cathedral will go ahead after the Heritage Lottery Fund awarded £3.87 million for the project. A further £3 million has been raised through the generosity of over 1000 donors.

The project will see significant new facilities at the cathedral, delivering a refreshed programme of events and activities for all ages, vastly improved visitor facilities with, for the first time, level access to the Cathedral, café, shop and toilets.