

View from the pew

Colin Bird

We are now 10 months into the year and have the financial results for the 9 months to 30 September. As your Treasurer, I now estimate that we are likely to have a deficit for the year of around £7,000. This is better than the budgeted deficit of £9,000, but it still means we are not paying our way. We have launched a plea for special donations on All Saints Day – see Jo's article on page 2.

Those of you who heard me speak at the APCM and who have followed the various articles in the magazine from March through to September will know that we are heavily reliant on too few people making sizeable donations. In addition our Fabric Fund is now only around £13,000 which is not sufficient money to pay for any material works to church fabric. Our Organ Fund, at £5,000 is woefully short of what is needed to keep the organ in good repair.

As I outlined earlier in the year we have joined HeartEdge with a view to harnessing the experience of the networked churches to help us decide how to move All Saints forward in a sustainable way. We have recognised that it is no longer possible to maintain our plant (i.e. mainly our buildings) just by increasing the giving of the congregation. We have the largest community space in the area and need to make sure it is used effectively for the community, not just for worship and concerts.

Over the course of the summer, the PCC has discussed the first phase of our involvement with the HeartEdge group, which is to produce a report outlining the present position of All Saints – our experience, our assets and challenges. This has been based on the output from the open meeting held in April and has now been submitted to the HeartEdge Group. You can read this at

<http://www.allsaintshertford.org/reports/PCC/HeartEdge171013.pdf>

The next step is to arrange consultations with them so that we can work on the way

forward for our church. It is imperative that we agree this over the next year or so, so that we can put All Saints on a sustainable basis for the future.

On a less strategic note, Harvest was a great success! We had nearly 150 people to our main Harvest service, and over 30 of these were children. This was followed by a terrific Harvest lunch when 60 parishioners enjoyed roast beef and turkey with all the trimmings and great deserts. The considerable quantity of food donated was taken to the foodbank which needs it as it has now lost the regular pick-ups from Waitrose.

The big event for November is the Christmas Bazaar on the 25th. This is our major fundraiser for the year. Please support this by getting involved with the stalls and on the day.

Yours in Christ,
Colin Bird



Mozart
Requiem

McDowall
Magnificat

HC
Hertford
Choral
Society

Saturday 11 November 2017
7:30 All Saints' Church, Hertford SG13 8AY

Katy Hill *soprano*
Clare McCaldin *mezzo*
Jeremy Budd *tenor*
Alex Ashworth *bass*

London Mozart Players
Derek Harrison *conductor*

TICKETS £16 reserved, £10 unreserved, £4 children/students under 25.
Email: tickets@hertfordchoral.org.uk. Phone: 07936 719498.
Online: www.ticketsource.co.uk
Further details: www.hertfordchoral.org.uk

Registered Charity No. 276620