

## ALL SAINTS'



## ALIVE

All Saints' Welcomes Everyone

VICAR'S VIEWPOINT  
***Still very much alive!***

Dear Friends,

I thought that it would be good to keep in touch regularly and let you know about news from All Saints as sometimes we can feel a bit out of touch when we can't meet.

**PCC**

We had our first PCC meeting of the new term this week on Zoom. It continues to feel very strange to meet up this way! Leon Ajao and Nerine Chalmers are our new Churchwardens and Julia Gough is our Deputy Warden; Colin Bird remains our Treasurer, Janet Bird is our new Lay Chair of the PCC, and Dorothy Toyn with Colin and Janet are our Deanery Synod Representatives; Andrew Belfield, Rosemary Bolton, Helen Briggs, Cheryl Massey, Janet Oldham, Martin Penny, Mary Penny, Andrew Povey-Richards, Ann Stephens-Jones, Verity Tranter, Brian Warburton and Wendell Newbold are our PCC members. The PCC elected a strong team of Janet Bird as Lay Chair, Colin Bird as Treasurer, Martin Penny as Administrator and Mary Penny as Secretary onto the Standing Committee to join Leon, Nerine and myself. Our new Safeguarding Officer is Andrew Povey-Richards.

**Finances**

We are grateful for the support of our regular members who have not only kept up with their giving, but in a number of cases have managed to increase it. Notwithstanding, we face a very difficult financial position and Colin told us that this year we will have to dig into our savings and that this really was not a sustainable position and warned us that we cannot continue to do this. As a PCC we agreed that we will have to put some strategic plans together to ensure a future for All Saints.

**Opening for private prayer**

We discussed the Risk Assessment that we need to have in place in order to open All Saints for private prayer on Thursdays 11.00-12.00 and for when we are allowed to worship together once again. Dorothy reminded us of the seriousness of the situation which she sees at first hand, exhorting us to always use the hand sanitiser, keep two metres apart, not to sit close to the ends of each pew and to always have 72 hours, if possible, between opening the church and services. This year due to the risk of infection, sadly, we cannot have a box for your Christmas cards.

**Kingdom  
Calling**

**The vocation, ministry  
and discipleship of the  
whole people of God**

**The Faith and Order Commission**

with a Foreword by Eve Poole  
and an Afterword by Stephen Cottrell



Safety and finance took up so much of our meeting we didn't have time to discuss a major issue for all churches which is to involve everyone in the mission and to celebrate everyone's special and individual ministry. We decided it would be great to have a study

group to look together at this, reflecting on Kingdom Calling, a recent report produced by the Church of England. We would love to have people join us on this group so please join us if you can. The document can be read on-line, yes it is a bit dry but the ideas are very exciting and challenging. <https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2020-10/Kingdom%20Calling%20Web%20Version.pdf> – not to be confused with a book of the same title by Amy Sherman published in 2011!

## Christmas 2020

As it seems that Christmas services will be very limited this year we are thinking about safe ways in which to make our churchyard a place of 'Comfort and Joy' along with whole of the Church of England as so many people walk though it so Nerine is working with us all and the schools to set up an Advent and Christmas Trail. You can read more about this in the next article. We need everyone to join in with this to make it a success so please get in touch with Nerine with ideas and offers of help.



The Bishops have been pictured with mixing bowls preparing for Stir up Sunday the 22<sup>nd</sup> November and I wondered whether it would be fun to have our own bake off and in the Zoom chat and coffee time after the service to show what we have baked over the weekend! It could be anything from master bakers to utter disasters! The next day Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> the bishops are encouraging us all to see if we can use this as a day of retreat and prayer, pretty impossible for those who need to work but perhaps they can set aside an hour in the evening to do this. More information at <https://www.stalbans.anglican.org/stir-up-sunday/>

Morning Prayer by Zoom led by Janet was a great success last week, do join us if you can. It is a lovely time praying through the psalms and Bible passages that we don't often get a chance to read. Afterwards we have a lovely chat and Nerine told us about the joy of having her new grandchild, Daniella.

The service is available on the Church of England website at [http://daily.commonworship.com/daily.cgi?today\\_mp=1&book=bcp](http://daily.commonworship.com/daily.cgi?today_mp=1&book=bcp) and/or you can download a free app from <https://www.chpublishing.co.uk/apps/time-to-pray>.

The service is Zoomed and can be joined at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88015708219> or call in using one of the numbers below 0203 051 2874, 0203 481 5237, 0203 481 5240, 0203 901 7895 or 0131 460 1196 using Meeting ID 880 1570 8219.

Remain strong in prayer, stay safe and let us keep in touch.

Love, Jo



With the current uncertainty over what December will bring, we would like to provide the people of Hertford with a space where they can experience some of the magic of the Christmas season, and visual reminders of what Advent and Christmas mean. The All Saints churchyard is a perfect place where family groups can wander freely without fear of being too close to others. The Church of England theme for Christmas and Advent this year is "Comfort and Joy".

After Jo's appeal in church, a group of us has been gathering ideas, and now we are appealing to families and friends of All Saints to commit to working on one of the following projects. If you do decide to be part of this, please let me know what you would like to do, and if you choose a specific tree, or a specific carol, let me know which one, to avoid duplication. Time is now very limited as

we would like to use the last weekend of November to put everything up.

**A. To choose a tree in the churchyard to decorate** with weatherproof decorations. Each tree would have a different theme, and the decorations will be in the shape of symbols that represent that theme.

Themes could be:

Peace, joy, comfort, hope, love, reconciliation, family love, light.

Examples of symbols are:

Hearts, stars, bells, angels, nativity, sheep, presents, candles, doves, rainbow colours.

Another idea is to use ceramic stars and put the names of key workers on each star: care assistant, nurse, doctor, pharmacist, physiotherapist, vicar, police officer, refuse collector, checkout assistant, shelf stacker, funeral director, teacher.....

**Possible materials:** clay, copper wire, fimo, ceramic, knitted, natural (twigs, pine cones).

[Baker Ross](#) is a very useful source for craft materials.

One family has already chosen a specific tree to decorate on the theme of family love.

Suggestions of good trees to choose are:

Come out of the main doors of the church and turn left away from the car park. There are several trees along the path that have easy to reach branches that are almost horizontal. Also those near the direct route across the front of the church. However any tree can be chosen.

**B. A Nativity scene in the North Porch,** preferably with life size figures, a manger and animals with appropriate lighting. If you have resources or ideas for any part of this, please let me know.

**C. Boards, 4 feet by 2 feet painted with a depiction of a carol.** Included on the board would be a QR code leading to a recording of the carol.

**D. A board with painted figures of Mary and Joseph,** with cut outs for faces so that children could be encouraged to stand behind them and have family members take photos.

**Solar lighting** is going to be a very important aspect of anything we do, so if you have ideas as to where these can be sourced, which varieties are most reliable and what would work best in the churchyard, please let me know that too.

Thank you very much.

Love, Nerine

**A prayer from Jo:**

Heavenly Father as we reflect on  
The Advent and Christmas story  
of hope and mystery,  
anticipation,  
preparation,  
a kingdom  
of this world and the next,  
and a king

appearing when we least expect.

Heaven touching earth,  
the footsteps of the divine  
walking dusty roads

and a people,  
searching for a Saviour,  
and walking past  
the stable.

Open eyes and hearts,  
that this can be

an Advent and Christmas of hope to the  
world.

Though Jesus Christ. Amen

## Worshipping together – apart

During the current lockdown we are having to worship apart. But there are ways of being together, both for those with the Internet and those without.



### Without the Internet

Each week we are producing a set of prayers, a short reflection and more that we can print out, along with the collects and readings and either deliver or post to you. If you would like us to do this, please contact

Jo (contact details on back page) and she will put you in touch with the team.

### With the Internet

We are posting a variety of local, diocesan and national resources on our website. These include links to a variety of 'live' services

You will find these at <https://www.allsaintshertford.org/worship.php>

Jo has started a daily blog with thoughts for reflection as 'Canon Jo Blogs' at <https://vicarallsaintshertford.blogspot.com/>

We are also regularly updating our Social Media posts on FaceBook, Twitter and Instagram using the handle AllSaintsHerff.

## The Promise of His Glory

Due to the Pandemic we are very unlikely to be able to run our full sequence of Carol Services over the Greater Christmas season (encompassing Advent, Christmas and Epiphany), though we do hope to be able to hold some special services.

As an alternative, especially for those unable to join us in person, we have planned a sequence covering the entire 'Winter' season from All Saints to Candlemas, using ideas from the Liturgical Commission's publication *The Promise of His Glory*. You can follow this at <https://www.allsaintshertford.org/PoHG.php>

## Wait and Hope

an online Advent retreat for families  
5th December @ 10:30 am - 12:30 pm



This is an Advent like no other, as we prepare for a Christmas like no other. Join us, and other families from around St Albans Diocese, for stories, activities, and more, to help us reflect on the themes of dealing with disappointment, waiting, and hoping. What

are you waiting for, in your life and in the world? How do we hold onto hope when things are tough? How does Jesus being born give us hope?

While we'll be spending time together on Zoom, there will also be chances to explore your house and neighbourhood, make stuff, and get moving – so whether you're good at sitting still or good at moving around, you're very welcome. And we'll be exploring faith with both our words and our senses. If you want to invite your extended family – grandparents in Scotland, cousins in Australia – to join you, you're very welcome to do that too; just send them the Zoom link, privately, once you've received it.

Families who sign up before November 20th will receive a box in the post with some materials to help them engage with the retreat.

More information at <https://www.stalbans.anglican.org/event/wait-and-hope-yac/>

### Regular Services during Lockdown

#### Sunday

10.00 Zoom Service from All Saints

19.00 Zoom Compline from St Andrews

#### Tuesday

11.00 Zoom Morning Prayer led by Janet Bird followed by Coffee & Chat with Nerine Chalmers

#### Wednesday

10.30 Zoom Holy Communion from St Andrews

20.00 Zoom Meditation from St Andrews

#### Thursdays

11.00 Private Prayer (in Nave)

### Contact information

[www.allsaintshertford.org](http://www.allsaintshertford.org) f: t: i: AllSaintsHerff

#### Vicar (and Team Rector of Hertford)

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