

## ALL SAINTS'



## ALIVE

All Saints' Welcomes Everyone



## Summertime

Dear friends,

June was a very warm month, and summertime is finally upon us, hurrah. Enjoy. The English weather will doubtless bring some variations as ever, such as the thunderstorms happening as I write this, but it's definitely warmer. And we need the rain too.

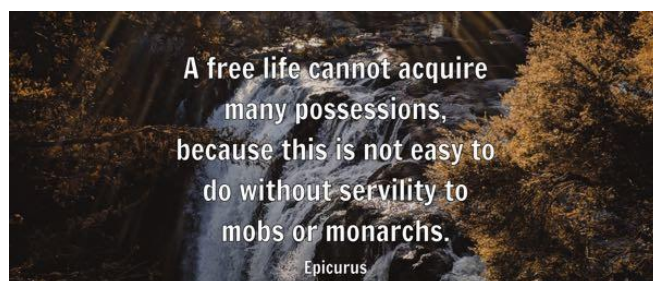
George Gershwin wrote the song "Summertime" for the musical Porgy and Bess, and we may well hear it suggesting that "the living is easy....". It seems to summon up all we hope for in summer, a relaxed and delightful time. I hope it is that for us all, but the song is an idealised picture which is soon undermined by a story taking place in a deprived community where Porgy ends up sadly wondering where his Bess has gone.

Jesus is very realistic about the way the world is, living cannot always be easy. He says "*Do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today*" (Matthew 6.34). And he lived in a hot country! Yes, there are troubles, they are unavoidable, but worrying won't help. Knowing and relying on God is so much more valuable.

The Sermon on the Mount is very clear about expecting an easy life in this world, and it contradicts all the advertisements which suggest that if you buy and/or consume certain products or gamble or subscribe to their services you will live a better life. Jesus says "*Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth....for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also*" (Matthew 6.19/21).

This isn't spoilsport "faith", it's realistic belief. The way the world is, if we put all our faith in obtaining material goods we are – at best – going to be rather disappointed. They will become material gods. That can make us focus on things which will not ultimately bring

us well-being. In the end, it can feel like one has been clutching at straws, finding short-term answers to life's questions and pressures, when we can find a way of life which is in harmony with other people and with God.



I was shocked to hear that there are so many people in our land who are using antidepressants, some of them (around two million) for long periods of over six months. Summertime or not, living is not easy all the time for any of us, but in an unequal world with a constant diet of bad news about so many areas of life, it is understandable that people will need support.

Our faith is here to help us feel a firm foundation of God's love, and to know that living in harmony with our Creator and Redeemer gives us the assurance of acceptance and forgiveness. That's not an easy life either, but it gives us hope and purpose, for our lives are aligned with God's will, and that is for longer than summertime, it is life eternal.

Love, Jo

## September Newsletter

Due to holidays, the September edition will be published during w/c 4<sup>th</sup> September.

## Hymns in August

Do you have a favourite hymn you'd like us to sing in August? If so, please add it to the list at the back of church by Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> July and we will do our best to fit it in.

## Bishops' Harvest Appeal Cracking Food Poverty Together



This year's Harvest Appeal supports **Mission Direct** in their work in Kumi, Uganda, by providing materially poor families with chickens. These give them a sustainable and low cost food source, and also provides them with a new income stream because they can sell some of their eggs and new chicks that hatch.

Their first hatchlings are returned to the project so that another family can benefit. Depending on how much money is raised, some funds might also support other food poverty projects, like planting orchards for schools to supplement the diets of their pupils.

<https://www.stalbansdiocese.org/parishsupport/growing-community/harvest-appeal-2023/>

### Coffee Morning 9<sup>th</sup> Sept

We will be holding our usual Coffee Morning to coincide with the annual Bike 'n Hike and hope to have the Tower open too (it's a great

money spinner). More information will be circulated nearer the time.

### Years Mind

We have been including Years Mind in our weekly prayers for a while now. The list of names is mostly taken from entries in the Memorial Book. If you would like to add to the list, please let Martin (P) or Jo know.

### Friends of All Saints Coffee Morning

The Friends of All Saints held a successful Coffee Morning in church on the 17<sup>th</sup> June, to hear from Tina Banks about her recent trip to Ukraine to deliver a second hand ambulance to near the front line. The ambulance, laden with humanitarian aid, had already been taken to Poland, and she drove it, alone, from there across Ukraine to the eastern border to Kostiantynivka, 27 km from the front line, a distance of about 1000 miles. She was driving on unknown roads, following a Ukrainian in a van (who spoke no English), with no Sat Nav, weaving around potholes, much of it in driving rain, and some of it in the dark..... Tina is tough! And brave.

When she arrived the following day (they stopped after midnight for a break, were off again at 5 am), they could hear the explosions of gunfire/rockets, and sometimes felt the earth shake beneath their feet.

Tina was taken to a so-called hospital. The real hospitals were all full. This was little more than a shed/house, with pallets for the wounded soldiers, on drips and being looked after by paramedics. They were profoundly grateful for cans of coke, Snickers and Bounty Bars – and shared everything between them. Tina was particularly impressed throughout by this immediate sharing of aid/gifts. This was a war zone, with all its horrors, yet the Ukrainians were all helping each other, caring for each other.

The soldiers are being eaten alive by mosquitoes in the trenches, so they desperately need anti-mosquito stuff, they need tinned food, toiletries, activated charcoal (to help stomach upsets), socks and

clean underpants. Also needed are sanitary products, nappies, power banks, generators and food for animals.

If anyone has surplus baby wool, Tina knows knitters who could knit it up for the Premature Baby Unit in Ukraine.

After Tina spoke, two Ukrainian ladies also spoke – expressing their gratitude to this country, and for all that we are doing to help. There were a number of Ukrainian ladies present, including two youngsters that I recognised from the Plant Sale. They now have an allotment and had bought plants from us at the Plant Sale last year.

The total raised at the Coffee Morning was £500, and this, together with earlier sales from the Produce Stall of £200, will sponsor the July lorry load of humanitarian aid going to Ukraine. In addition to this, a number of people generously sponsored individual pallets of aid etc., direct to ALFS.

A big thank-you to all who helped put on this event, at such short notice, all who helped on the day, and Wendell for producing and printing a poster advertising it at even shorter notice!

## **A Child in war-torn Britain**

*Mollie Day*

I was seven years old when I came to live in Hertford. My father worked for the County Council and had to work in the newly built County Hall in 1939. My two sisters did not come with me as Eileen was a nurse at Haymeads Hospital and Louie had a good job at a newsagent's shop. My mother hated living in Hertford – our house was not as good as the one in Bishop's Stortford – and the rent was considerably more 18/6 in Hertford against 12/6 in Stortford.

As soon as we arrived. I came regularly to All Saints to attend the Sunday School at 3.00 pm in church. We were taught about the rituals of the church, and I was confirmed there on 13<sup>th</sup> May 1948 after attending lessons for six weeks. I was always very happy at All Saints – the church was always packed on Sundays and Thursdays.

I attended Abel Smith Junior School with Anne-Marie Parker. We had to share our school with the Jewish orphanage school for boys. This meant that one week we went mornings and the next afternoons. There was a scarcity of paper and books and we spent a lot of time in the shelter when an air-raid occurred.

Food was rationed; we were allowed 1/2 meat ration per person per week. My mother taught me to go to the butchers on a Saturday and 'look hungry'. It always worked and I would get a small joint. We also had to depend on sausages. My Dad's work took him to local farms, so we were never short of eggs!

We had two of the orphanage boys billeted with us. One was very pleasant, but the other not. My father received an increased cheese ration because of the work he did. Sweets were also rationed – 2oz per week – we often bought children's cough pastilles to supplement this.

At Christmas we always had a Capon with a variety of vegetables. My mother was an excellent cook so we never went without. We were allowed to go to the British Restaurant once a week, which helped a lot. At school we were given 1/3 pint of milk each day, but there were no school dinners, so I walked home every day and then back to school.

There was no central heating – relying on an open coal fire for heat.

One night we saw a land mine in the beam of a searchlight, landing between Ware Road and Tamworth Street. Five people were killed that night. After that I slept in a bed in the pantry under the stairs for many months. (<https://www.hertsmemories.org.uk/content/herts-history/topics/world-war-two/battle-of-britain-exhibition/bombs-over-hert>)

My brother was in the Army (Essex Yeomanry) and it was always very special when he came home on leave. He married in All Saints in October 1944. It was very exciting; my sister Eileen and I were bridesmaids.

Overall, we were a very happy family and I had a wonderful childhood – I could not wish for more.



# Parish Diary July/August 2023

## Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> Fourth Sunday after Trinity

10.00 am All the Family Service  
6.30 pm Choral Communion

## Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup>

7.30 pm Concert by Rock Choir

## Thursday 6<sup>th</sup>

11.00 am Holy Communion  
4.00 pm Simon Balle event  
7.30 pm All Saints Art

## Friday 7<sup>th</sup>

5.30 pm Choir Practices in Church

## Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> Fifth Sunday after Trinity

10.00 am Parish Communion  
6.30 pm Choral Evensong

## Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup>

5.30 pm PCC

## Thursday 13<sup>th</sup>

11.00 am Holy Communion  
7.30 pm All Saints Art

## Friday 14<sup>th</sup>

5.30 pm Choir Practices in Church

## Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> (Swithun)

9.00 am Work Party

## Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> Sixth Sunday after Trinity

10.00 am Family Eucharist  
12.00 noon Holy Baptism  
6.30 pm Choral Compline

## Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> (Margaret of Antioch)

11.00 am Holy Communion  
7.30 pm All Saints Art

## Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> (Mary Magdalene)

3.00 pm Garden Party

## Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> Seventh Sunday after Trinity

10.00 am Parish Communion  
12.00 noon Holy Baptism  
6.30 pm Evensong (said)

## Thursday 27<sup>th</sup>

11.00 am Holy Communion

## Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> Eighth Sunday after Trinity

10.00 am Parish Communion  
6.30 pm Garden Evensong

## AUGUST Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup>

11.00 am Holy Communion

## Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> Transfiguration

10.00 am All the Family Service  
6.30 pm Parish Communion (said)

## Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> (Laurence)

11.00 am Holy Communion

## Saturday 12<sup>th</sup>

3.00 pm Wedding Blessing Elizabeth & George Ives

## Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> Tenth Sunday after Trinity

10.00 am Parish Communion

## Thursday 17<sup>th</sup>

11.00 am Holy Communion

## Saturday 19<sup>th</sup>

9.00 am Work Party (Hall hedges)

## Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> Eleventh Sunday after Trinity

10.00 am Family Eucharist

## Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> (Bartholomew)

11.00 am Holy Communion

## Saturday 26<sup>th</sup>

2.00pm Wedding of Mollie Day & Leon Ajao

## Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> Twelfth Sunday after Trinity

10.00 am Parish Communion

## Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> (Aidan)

11.00 am Holy Communion

## SEPTEMBER Friday 1<sup>st</sup>

5.30 pm Choir Practices in Church

## Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> (Martyrs of Papua New Guinea)

3.00 pm Wedding of Graham Stevens & Samantha Proehl

## Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity

10.00 am All the Family Service  
6.30 pm Choral Communion

## Thursday 7<sup>th</sup>

11.00 am Holy Communion  
7.30 pm All Saints Art

## Friday 8<sup>th</sup> (Birth of BVM)

5.30 pm Choir Practices in Church

## Saturday 9<sup>th</sup>

10.30 am Coffee Morning/Bike n Hike/Tower Opening

### Contact information

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