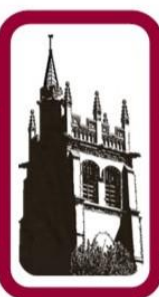


ALL SAINTS'



ALIVE

All Saints' Welcomes Everyone

**Farewell**

Dear friends,

Walking up through the park to the Abbey at St Albans recently, I noticed afresh the very different styles of architecture which form the glorious building today. From ancient times when there was a large group of monks, past the Reformation and Dissolution which thankfully did not destroy the abbey, through hard times when it was neglected, to its restoration and through to the brick extension from the last century to the recent (excellent) visitor centre.

I think that we often tend to think that churches are a given, and no change is necessary or desirable. If we love what we have, why would we change it? But the forces of history, of changes in society and culture, all make their mark and I felt something of that gradual development in looking at the very mixed facets of the Mother Church of our Diocese.

The period of time I have spent at All Saints has been multi-faceted, and there is a great deal that I am grateful for. At the same time, I know that adapting to the changes around us is difficult and challenging. I am so glad that we have modernized aspects of our worship to make it more accessible to a wide range of people, that we have continued to offer focused, relevant services, that we have our ecological focus on sustainability and a variety of music in our services and in Soundbites and even our jazz orchestra concerts! There remain concerns about reaching out in serving the community and in sharing the good news of Jesus more widely. And (like many other institutions) we have not yet fully recovered from the effects of covid which has changed people's perceptions of meeting others.

I feel that I need to take the step of retirement now, following the serious illness which led to a

major operation in February. In doing so I am very aware that we are all part of the ongoing history of All Saints, and of Hertford. But for all of us, it shouldn't be a matter of looking back at what is past but building on it and adapting our church and our lives of faith. The varied forms of building incorporated so clearly into the Abbey helped me realise afresh that each of us in turn makes our mark and we can look back thankfully for good things from the past but also, we rightly seek a way ahead, looking at how we are expressing the faith now and embracing the future in Christ's name.

In all that we do, Christ must be the firm foundation of our actions and attitudes (I am no longer talking about buildings here!), and with him we build a new future. It is amazing to think that the faithful actions of one person, Alban, centuries ago still resonate and inspire today but his legacy has been built on over the years and continues to be a source of inspiration today. What would Alban do? we may ask – he would respond faithfully now as he did in his own generation, amidst Roman repression and persecution, and would stand firm for the way of Jesus in living now, willing to put all he is into being a faithful witness. The issues we face now are different, but we cannot afford to stand aside and fail to stand up for Jesus' love and salvation in our needy world.

Love and prayers,
Jo

Sunday 1st October

It is a huge wrench to say goodbye to the Family of All Saints, the Church, the Team and Town. I have been privileged to serve here for 16 years.

I hope that you can join me in my last services at All Saints, Harvest Festival on October 1st followed by one of Janet Bird's famous roast lunches and Choral Communion at 6.30 pm.

Proposed Service pattern

Pre-pandemic we were running with a service pattern that gave the choir one Sunday evening a month 'off' to allow for family visits, household projects and more.

After some discussion about various options, and recognising that the 'team' is not as large as it was (or we would like it to be) we have decided on the following 'base' pattern:

Sunday	10.00 am	6.30 pm
1 st	All Age	Parish Communion with hymns (no choir)
2 nd & 4 th	Parish Communion	Choral Evensong
3 rd	Choral Communion or Family Eucharist	Compline
5 th	Parish Communion	Special service for the season

We had planned to start this in October, but Jo's departure has led us to delay this until November. Due to Carol Services in December and January the pattern will only be fully implemented in February 2024.

We hope that this will work for everyone and allow our hard-working choir some weekend time too.

Greenwatch

Our next Greenwatch event will be on Saturday 23rd September and will feature a

talk by Roy Woodward, our County Dragonfly Recorder.

There is an active group in Hertfordshire and you can find out more by visiting their FaceBook page at

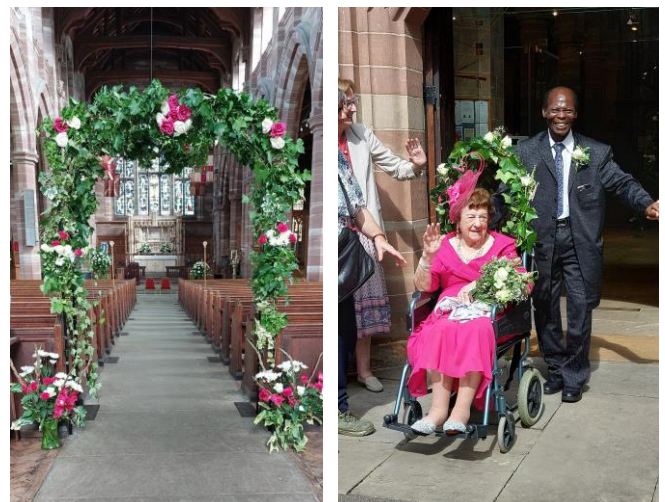
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/851974038345260/>

Soundbites

Our Soundbites season starts on Wednesday 27th September with a concert by the Maltings Sinfonia Wind Ensemble. Full details of this and concerts in October and beyond are on our website at <https://www.allsaintshertford.org/concerts.php#soundbites>

An Unforgettable Wedding.

We congratulate Leon Ajao and Mollie Day on their Marriage. The wedding took place at their own church of All Saints on 26th August and what a joyful ceremony it was. They met in All Saints, 13 years ago to the day.



Leon's Best Man was Colin Bird, and Mollie was presented by Geoffrey Rice. During the Signing of the Register, Evelyn Meakin played the classic "Unforgettable" on the Grand Piano by special request of the couple. And there were so many friends present for the great day, members of All Saints and others with past connections here.



fabulous cake.

The reception was a time to gather and reminisce, to toast the Bride and Groom, and to hear more of Mollie and Leon's story. Leon added some positive motivational ideas to his speech along with projected photos of so many lovely events from recent years.

The Marriage was an all-round exceptional event, not only because of the wonder of love being found in later years but because it was for two of our most committed church members. It was a delight to have such a special occasion, unforgettable indeed, and we wish Mollie and Leon great happiness for their future life together.

Musical Congregational Prayer

by Carol Penner

Thank you for the music all around us.
 Each morning we hear it from the moment
 we open our ears;
 the low notes of wind around the eaves,
 the whoosh of water as it comes from the
 tap,
 the glug glug as it drains,
 the throaty whistle of the boiling kettle,
 the metallic tap of the spoon against the

cup,
 the jazz percussion of our feet on the steps.
 The sounds of our day,
 so familiar we hardly pay attention.
 Thank you for the ability to hear.

Thank you for the sounds of life:
 the chatter of the squirrel,
 the deep purr of a cat,
 the sharp calls of a blue jay,
 the sound of someone we love laughing.
 Give us wisdom to enter this day with good
 sounds,
 tones and pitches and words that affirm,
 encourage, cherish,
 our sounds affecting the world in a positive
 way.

We pray for all who sing a sad song today;
 the grieving, the lonely, the lost.
 We pray especially for those who have lost
 their voice
 and feel silenced or oppressed.
 There are many singing freedom songs
 around our world,
 and so today we pray for the safety of these
 singers.
 Give their song the strength to convince and
 convert,
 the power to ward off war.
 There are too many war songs,
 we don't want to hear another one.

Thank you for your songs, love songs, which
 we are invited to sing.
 Thank you for all the parts you've made for
 the song;
 soprano, alto, tenor, bass.
 Thank you for the children's part and the
 senior's part,
 thank you for the youth part and the part for
 middle agers,
 thank you for the crazy baby descant
 that we all love to hear.

You are the Great Composer .
 We long to be composed each day in your
 image,
 singing your elegant score truly, clearly,
 following your rhythm by heart,
 finding our voice in your beautiful world.
 Hearing you in the music of life.
 This is our prayer.

Amen.

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Parish Diary September 2023

Friday 1st

5.30 pm Choir Practices in Church

Saturday 2nd (Martyrs of Papua New Guinea)

3.00 pm Wedding of Graham Stevens & Samantha Proehl

Sunday 3rd Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity

10.00 am All Age Service *Celebrating Music*

6.30 pm Parish Communion with hymns

Thursday 7th

11.00 am Holy Communion

7.30 pm All Saints Art

Friday 8th (Birth of BVM)

5.30 pm Choir Practices in Church

Saturday 9th

10.00 am Coffee Morning/Bike n Hike

Sunday 10th Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity

10.00 am Parish Communion

12.00 noon Holy Baptism

6.30 pm Choral Evensong

Thursday 14th (Holy Cross Day)

11.00 am Holy Communion

7.30 pm All Saints Art

Friday 15th (Cyprian)

5.30 pm Choir Practices in Church

Saturday 16th (Ninian)

9.00 am Work Party

Sunday 17th Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

10.00 am Family Eucharist

6.30 pm Choral Compline

Thursday 21st (Matthew)

11.00 am Holy Communion

1.30 pm Deanery Standing Committee

7.30 pm All Saints Art

7.30 pm PCC in Memorial Chapel

Friday 22nd

5.30 pm Choir Practices in Church

Saturday 23rd

11.30 am Coffee Morning

12.00 noon Light Lunches

1.00 pm Green Watch Talk *Dragonflies & Damselflies* Roy Woodward

Sunday 24th Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity

10.00 am Parish Communion

12.00 noon Holy Baptism

6.30 pm Choral Evensong

Monday 25th (Lancelot Andrewes)

1.30 pm Funeral of Joyce Pallant

Wednesday 27th (Vincent de Paul)

12.00 noon for 1.00 pm Soundbites:

Maltings Sinfonia Wind Ensemble

Thursday 28th

11.00 am Holy Communion

7.30 pm All Saints Art

Friday 29th (Michael and all Angels)

5.30 pm Choir Practices in Church

OCTOBER Sunday 1st Harvest/Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity

10.00 am All-Age Harvest Festival

12.30 pm Farewell lunch for Rev Jo & Rev Doug

6.30 pm Choral Communion

Wednesday 4th (Francis of Assisi)

12.00 noon for 1.00 pm Soundbites:

Alex Ashworth – *Baritone*

Christopher Benham - *Piano*

Thursday 5th

11.00 am Morning Prayer

7.30 pm All Saints Art

Friday 6th (William Tyndale)

10.00 am Morgans Harvest Festival

5.30 pm Choir Practices in Church

Contact information

www.allsaintshertford.org    AllSaintsHerf

Vicar

Rev Canon Jo Loveridge BA MTh AKC,
The Vicarage, Churchfields, Hertford SG13 8AE
vicar@allsaintshertford.org
01992 584899

Office office@allsaintshertford.org

Full list of contacts

<https://www.allsaintshertford.org/contacts.php>