ALL SAINTS'



ALIVE

All Saints' Welcomes Everyone

Summer is a time to sit back and relax.



Perhaps take stock of what is going on in our lives. A chance to make plans or think about new interests.

I know that January is traditionally thought of as the time to make resolutions, but to me the academic year, beginning in September and ending in July, has always been far more important than the calendar year.

I find New Year's Eve quite a sad time, as we look back on the events of the last 12 months- often with regret or sadness about those we have lost or what we failed to do. September however always seems full of promise. Thoughts of hobbies we might take up to fill the long winter evenings. Memories of happy days starting in a new class at school (if like me you are lucky enough to have really enjoyed school) or time spent at University or in a first job, going out into the adult world for the first time.

As we make our way towards the end of this school year we realise just how busy life has been for the young people and their teachers. Exams are now over and despite having the long summer holiday to look forward to there is also the worry of the exam results coming out in August. For others perhaps there is the worry of going to a new school in September and leaving behind the friendships formed over the last 6 years or so.

Change isn't always welcome but it is an unavoidable part of life for us all. As I write this we are just a few days away from a General Election. Hopefully whatever party gains the majority in the next Parliament all MPs will recognize where changes need to be made and will work together to achieve positive outcomes.

Here, at All Saints, we have been going through a year of change following Jo's retirement and the resulting time of vacancy. I like to think that we have adapted well to the changes, with everybody working together to maintain worship and fellowship, thanks to support from enthusiastic local clergy and lay ministers as well as church members. Verity and I have been so grateful for your support and encouragement.



Now we are looking forward to a very positive change as we prepare to welcome Simon and Alex into the Parish in

September at the Licensing and Installation Service which will take place on Wednesday 4th September at 7.30pm. This promises to be a very special service and will be followed by refreshments at the back of the church and a chance to welcome Rev Simon Cutmore and his family into the family of All Saints.

Over the following weeks there will further opportunities for us all to get to know one another and I pray that we will all see this as an opportunity to endorse all that is good in the life of our church. It is also a chance to consider different and exciting ideas as to how we can grow our congregation, increase the numbers of young people coming to Christ and working within the Parish outside the church building to increase our service within the local our community and take the Good News of Jesus out into the wider world.

God bless us all and may we find time over the coming months for rest and refreshment and a chance to spend quiet time in prayer and meditation as we prepare for whatever challenges lie ahead in your own lives and in the life of our church and the world.

With love in Christ, Janet

GreenWatch

The next GreenWatch event will be on Saturday 13th July. As there is a Wedding Blessing in Church at 11.30 this event will be held in St John's Hall, just east of the church, in Churchfields. Christopher Benton will be talking about Spiders In Our Homes and Gardens at 1 pm.



Christopher writes I am trying to concentrate on the species found in Hertford churches and churchyards [including All Saints] and will use them to introduce the audience to some interesting spider biology.

I usually bring some live spiders along with me for the braver souls to have a closer look.

Coffee will be available from 11.30 am, and light lunches from 12 noon.

The talk is free and proceeds from refreshments will go to the church. We hope to have a Homemade Cakes Stall, and a Produce Stall as well.

Environment Climate Hope



Our All Saints environment day, Environment Climate Hope will be back on **September 21st.** This year we plan to emphasise the Hope aspect through the 3 main speakers and relevant stalls. More detail will be available as the programme is finalised.

Tying in with this, Hertford Town Council is looking at developing a programme for Hertford Eco Fest 2024 which will celebrate all things sustainable. The festival will be taking place from the 14th-29th of September during which time local organisations will be encouraged to run environment-focussed events and activities across Hertford. Hertford Eco Fest will also include a main event day held at Hertford Castle on Sunday 22nd 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 21st July and we will do our best to fit it in.

Bishop Alan's Open Garden



The Bishop of St Albans will be opening his garden every Sunday between Sunday 9 June and Sunday 11 August for people to come and look at the beautiful gardens and the summer display. Those who saw the snowdrops will have seen the potential that the garden had for the summer and will be delighted at the change a different season brings.

The two acres of garden is an oasis in central St Albans and visitors frequently comment on

the fact that they did not know the garden was here or how extensive it is.

Entrance is £5 per person (children free) and dogs on leads are welcome, there will also be plants for sale on some weekends.

All money raised is donated to the Beds and Herts Historic Churches Trust

Abbey Gate House, Abbey Mill Lane, St Albans AL3 4HS

Soundbites



The Autumn Season of Soundbites will commence on 25th September with a performance of Schubert's Piano Trio D,898, given by the Trio Kagura.

The season will run until Wednesday 27th November inclusive.



14 September 2024

As ever Dorothy and Martin (B) will be taking part and hope that some others might join them (and/or offer sponsorship). Half goes to the Herts & Beds Historic Church Trust and half to All Saints.

More at https://bedshertshct.org.uk/bike-n-hike/

Flowers at All Saints.

The flower arrangers at All Saints pride themselves on what we are able to achieve

and keep a variety of flowers in the Church, which are seen by our congregation and those who visit All Saints. We are really grateful to those who contribute to the cost of the flowers over the year for the various festivals, and for memorial flowers.

Flower costs have increased hugely over the past few years – Brexit, exceptionally hot summers and this year the cold spring. 'Shrinkology' is also affecting supermarket flowers with only four stems in a bunch now and not five. Most annoying, as I personally like five stems of a specific flower in an arrangement to balance it. We will just have to adapt!

One of the ways we have adapted to costs and lack of flower arrangers is to use silk flowers which are of a very high standard these days. However, I was horrified and upset to be at a flower event not long ago and we were discussing the flowers used in various local churches. I said we have used some silk ones, and the reply came back in earnest "Oh, you must be the church that uses plastic flowers!"

We do not use "plastic" flowers. Plastic reminds me of the flowers that were free with something like washing powder in the 60's – they were plastic and that ages me!! What we do use are silk flowers made of a high quality and more expensive than their real counterparts, and they last longer if looked after well. They look really good, and I have seen people looking at them and touching them to see if they are real or not! Some cathedrals that we have visited seem to be just using silk flowers now - I wonder if anyone complains to them!!

We have had very positive comments about our arrangements and hope to continue with what we do for a long time. New flower arrangers are always welcome and while we have had some queries outside the congregation, nothing comes to fruition. In the meantime, we will continue to do what we can and use both fresh and silk flowers as the situation demands.

Thank you all for your support and we look forward to our next big festival at Harvest!

Dorothy Toyn, Flower Club Leader

Parish Diary July/August 2024

Wednesday 3rd (Thomas)

7.30 pm Concert by Rock Choir

Thursday 4th

11.00 am Holy Communion

7.30 pm All Saints Art

Friday 5th

5.30 pm Choir Practices

Sunday 7th Sixth Sunday after Trinity

10.00 am All the Family Service **6.30 pm** Parish Communion

Monday 8th

12.00 noon Funeral of Alan Rawlinson

6.00 p.m. Awards Ceremony Simon Balle

School

Thursday 11th (Benedict)

11.00 am Morning Prayer

7.30 pm All Saints Art

Friday 12th

5.30 pm Choir Practices

Saturday 13th

11.30 am Coffee Morning in St John's Hall

11.30 am Wedding Blessing Mr & Mrs Higgins

12.00 noon onwards Light Lunches in St John's

Hall

1.00 pm GreenWatch talk in Hall: Spiders in

our homes and gardens -

Christopher Benton

Sunday 14th Seventh Sunday after Trinity

10.00 am Parish Communion

6.30 pm Choral Evensong

Thursday 18th (Elizabeth Ferard)

11.00 am Morning Prayer

7.30 pm All Saints Art

Friday 19th (Gregory)

5.30 pm Choir Practices

Saturday 20th (Margaret of Antioch)

9.00 am Work Party

Sunday 21st Eighth Sunday after Trinity

10.00 am Family Eucharist

6.30 pm Choral Compline

Thursday 25th (James)

11.00 am Morning Prayer

Sunday 28th Ninth Sunday after Trinity

10.00 am Parish Communion by extension

6.30 pm Evensong (Said)

AUGUST Saturday 3rd

12.00 noon Wedding Kausen/Jumbo

Sunday 4th Tenth Sunday after Trinity

10.00 am All the Family Service

Sunday 11th Eleventh Sunday after Trinity

10.00 am Morning Prayer

Saturday 17th

9.00 am Work Party

Sunday 18th Twelfth Sunday after Trinity

10.00 am Family Eucharist

12.00 noon Baptism Maisie Ablett

Sunday 25th Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity

10.00 am Parish Communion

1.00 pm Wedding Moss/Spyrou

SEPTEMBER Sunday 1st Sixth Sunday after

Trinity

10.00 am All the Family Service

6.30 pm Parish Communion

Monday 2nd (Martyrs of Papua New Guinea)

9.00 am Organ Tuning

Wednesday 4th (Birinus)

7.30 pm Licensing of Rev Simon Cutmore as

Priest-in-charge (incumbent Designate)

Contact information

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