

All Saints Alive

VICAR'S VIEWPOINT

A Warm Welcome?

Dear Friends,

How do we feel when we approach a new place? Sometimes we are so keen to make the right decision that we might have a good look around before going in.

When we are choosing a restaurant, we may look at the website, then go to look at the building, wonder about the ambiance and spend quite a lot of time considering the menu and all that is before we have even entered the restaurant! When we step inside, we take in the greeting and welcome, the feel of the place, the music, other people and where we might sit.



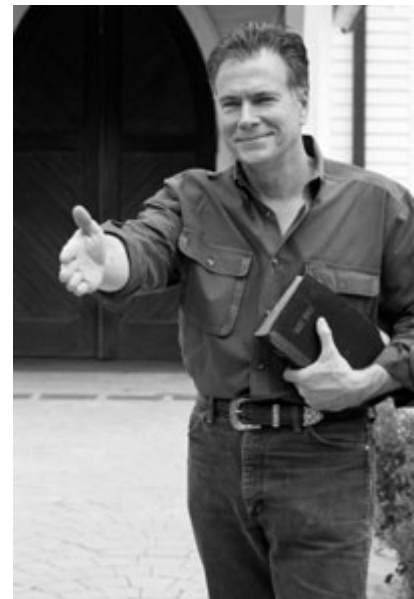
If we do all this before we go to a restaurant, which might be for only one occasion, then how much more might people consider the welcome and the atmosphere and what is on offer before entering into the Church, and of course, people may well be looking for a variety of things; life-changing experience, support, care, seeking faith and especially somewhere that they fit in.

All of us have a vital part to play in the welcome, atmosphere and care that the Church can give. Our faith, commitment and love of God should be reflected in all that we



say and do and challenge us out of our comfort zone.

In his ministry, Jesus spent a long time in prayer and teaching but above all he gave his love, care and compassion to all the people around him, especially the people who were often ignored by the rest of society. In Jesus Christ we see the human face of God and we see the love of God in action. How do we respond to that Love?



We know that when we want to find out more about something we learn about things in a variety of ways, so in the churches if we are to share our faith with others this needs to be considered when we think about mission.

We also know that Jesus went to where people were and did not merely sit around on a mountain top, waiting for others to join him! This may well require us to think outside the box looking at where we can have meaningful encounters with people, living out our faith in action at work, in our homes and in our communities.

When we do have visitors to our churches let us remember that in our own experience when we enter a room full of strangers who know each other and "know the system" how incredibly awkward we can feel and how wonderful it is when someone approaches us and helps put us at our ease. How about joining our welcome course, or even visiting a neighbouring church and experiencing the welcome or how about inviting a friend to a church event?

At the end of Mark's gospel it does not say "keep this wonderful good news of the gospel of God's love to yourselves" but rather it says "Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation" so let our faith be put into action and ensure a warm welcome for everyone.

Yours in Christ
Jo

June Events in the Team

- 5th Coffee Morning – St Andrews
- 5th Model Railway Show – All Saints
- 5th Colin Eldred Clarinet Concert
–St Andrews
- 12th Stalls & Teas for Hertford Fun Day
– St Andrews
- 19th Charity Fete – Holy Trinity, Bengeo



Everybody Welcome

the course where everybody helps their church to grow

The Hertford Team are running a welcome course, in five sessions on Wednesdays at 8.00pm. The leader is Janet Bird, lay reader at All Saints and host of Christmas Alone.

The course is designed to help us all to have a welcoming approach to the people who come into our churches. We will aim to

identify priorities for decision and change, accepting that the hospitality of our welcome is central to our Christian calling. The course also aims to help us look at welcoming as a strategy to encourage church growth.

The first four sessions are open to everyone and the fifth session is for those who have been invited to join the new welcoming teams.

The course will run for 5 weeks:

- 9th June St Andrews:
Making our Churches more visible
- 16th June All Saints:
Our premises, making them more inviting
- 23rd June Holy Trinity Hertford Heath:
A welcoming God and his welcoming people
- 30th June Holy Trinity Bengeo:
belonging to a Church Community
- 7th July St Mary Hertingfordbury:
Training a Welcoming Team

If you wish to take part please talk to Jo so that we have an idea of how many people to expect

