

# Views from the pew

Janet Oldham & Janet Bird

*As this edition is for two months it only seemed fair that we should have the chance to see things through two pairs of eyes ....Ed.*

By the time you read this, the Posy Festival will be literally just around the corner, so if you haven't already offered help, please do so. Even an hour will be most appreciated by those running stalls on the Saturday or serving refreshments on all three days. For those of you who have a particular interest in the WWI memorabilia, your help as a steward would be most gratefully accepted, to ensure that the display is well supervised and indeed your knowledge will add to the occasion.

Last, but not least, there is just about time, if you hurry, to buy your posy base and decorate it, or if you prefer, the flower team will do the job for you. However, you must contact Dorothy or Fiona in the next day or two. The Prayer Tree will also be on display, so if you wish to have someone remembered please be sure to add your request to the tree. These will be read out at various times throughout the Festival.

## **MUSIC**

Those of us who attended Choral Evensong on 25 May were able to enjoy a real treat when our choir, boosted up to 40 by people who enjoy singing, provided a wonderful musical accompaniment to the service which was matched by James making the amazing Willis organ sing too! Well done to all involved.

## **FAVOURITE HYMNS**

A reminder that our choir will be taking a well-earned break in August and this is your opportunity to select a favourite hymn for the congregation to sing during that month.

We will make sure that this year's selection will all have familiar tunes, so make sure you let us know your choice now.

## **MESSY CHURCH**

Oh dear! Where did the beautiful Alliums, planted earlier, disappear to? Apart from two who bloomed valiantly the remainder have disappeared, possibly having made a favourite meal or two for the local squirrels. Anyway, we will be planting again in the Autumn, so any suitable flower bulbs you may have to spare, please remember Messy Church children, who would love to restock their flower bed.

## **ACTIVE CHURCH**

In this year of the Centenary of the Great War and our own Posy Festival, it would be really good if we could enhance our lovely Church by tidying the flower beds. The combination of rain and sun has really brought out the weeds. Six people sparing an hour will enable the job to be done, so please volunteer and sign up on the notice at the back of the Church.

## **SPIRITUAL CHURCH**

The Team service for Ascension Day held at Holy Trinity, Hertford Heath was led by Nick Sharpe and assisted by our own Vicar Jo. Other team clergy with members of their congregation also attended. The choir of All Saints led the singing and it was lovely to hear their voices resonate so clearly in the more intimate surroundings of Holy Trinity.

The Family Service this month was well attended and the children and grownups alike listened and watched how a "grumpy old man" aka Malcolm Hollow learned, with Ginni's guidance, to trust in God on his route to Heaven. A very good visual aid to reinforce the message that we must all trust in God as we make our own way, both spiritually and physically, along life's path.

## **LITTER PICK**

Advance notice that we will meet on Saturday 13 September, at 9.20am in the

Churchyard for a Litter Pick session between 9.30am – 11.30am. There will be more information next time.

For those of you going away for the holiday, have a lovely refreshing break and those of us staying at home will, hopefully, continue to enjoy the sunny days the beginning of June brought us.

*Love, Janet O*

My own view from the pew during June has been somewhat different as we have been away on holiday for two weeks. In fact whilst on holiday we only managed to attend one Sunday service as we spent the second Sunday travelling through France. However on both Sundays I could draw comparisons with the ministry of our Lord Jesus as the first church was right on the edge of a lake (admittedly it was Lake Como in Italy rather than Galilee!) and then our journey on the second Sunday took us through the French vineyards of Burgundy and Champagne. There we were constantly aware of just how much work goes into caring for the vines and just how difficult it is to cope with the vagaries of the weather which can drastically affect the production of the world famous wines.

The church on Lake Como was somewhat smaller than All Saints but very ornate and welcoming. The congregation of English speaking residents and holiday makers enjoyed the very same liturgy and readings which were being used here and, although there was only an organist and no choir, the congregation did their best to sing the hymns with enthusiasm and joy in our Risen Lord.

The priest and his wife, whose home is in Perth, Australia, were spending five months of their retirement ministering to the small English speaking community around Lake Como. My most enduring memory of the whole service was when, during his sermon, the priest described the Holy Spirit as being like dynamite! Rather than the all-pervasive wind which has often been my perception of the Holy Spirit, the idea of an explosive and earth shattering presence, which

affects everything around it and is impossible to ignore, was a real eye opener and I haven't been able to stop thinking about it ever since.

Being by a lake gave us several excuses to take boat trips and, just as our Lord escaped from the pressures of everyday life by going out on a boat to get away from the crowds, so we were able to enjoy a time of peace and relaxation away from the usual responsibilities of our normal life here in Hertford

Whilst we were away we were so sad to hear of the death of Colin, husband of our wonderful curate Ginni. We gave thanks for the fact that he was able to be present at her amazingly special ordination service, held here in All Saints in May. We hope that she and all Colin's family will gain comfort from the love of God and the love of the family of All Saints, Hertford.

As you will all know the next big event coming up at All Saints is the Posy Festival which will be running on 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> July. This has been masterminded by Dorothy Toyn and Wendell Newbold, with help and encouragement from many other All Saints folk; it would be wonderful to see large numbers of local people enjoying the weekend and supporting the work of All Saints. If you have time available and would like to help please speak to Dorothy and, if you are planning to come to the barbecue on Sunday, please let me know as soon as possible (or sign the list at the back of the church) as I need to know numbers by 6<sup>th</sup> July to enable me to order food .

Finally, as the holiday season is upon us, may I wish all those of you who are lucky enough to be going away a happy and relaxing holiday. To those who are unable to have a holiday this year may you at least be able to enjoy some rest and relaxation as you enjoy the many delights of this town of Hertford and the wonders of God's creation which are displayed at their best in the summer sunshine.

*Love, Janet B*