

## Lent 2016



### Living God's Love

The 2016 diocesan Lent Challenge takes the themes from the Living God's Love prayer – the Diocesan Values for 2016-2020. This is part of the new Diocesan Vision – Living God's Love 2020.

More information on this at <http://www.stalbans.anglican.org/faith/living-god-s-love/> and on the challenge at <http://www.stalbans.anglican.org/faith/live-the-challenge/>

### Lent Groups

Last year I was asked by Hertford and District Churches Together to organise/plan discussion groups for Lent 2016.

I have looked at a variety of material and have finally chosen Faith and Doubt - 'People like us', compiled by the Rev Philip Williams. It focusses on five New Testament characters. I think group participants will readily identify with the very human figures of the series.

The course will start in the week after Ash Wednesday (that is, the week beginning Monday 15th February) which gives us five sessions leading up to Holy Week. Details of venues and times will be at the back of church in the next week or so.

*Janet Bird*

'Faith and Doubt' looks at five people in the New Testament who met Jesus and responded to his call to follow him.

The five are very different:

Mary Magdalene would probably have been a frightening person to meet when she was possessed by seven devils!

Nicodemus was an educated cultured teacher of the Jews, a man of some social standing.

Philip seems to have been a man who found Jesus' teaching difficult to grasp at times.

Peter – well, we all know something about Peter – the impulsive leader of the band of Apostles.

Thomas has come down through history to us as 'doubting Thomas'.

Very different people, and yet very like us in many ways. They struggled with their faith and doubts as indeed all of us do – if we are honest.

*Rev Philip Williams*