

View from the pew

Helen Harvey-Wright

Some warm sunshine has done much to lighten our spirits. The church looked beautiful for the services on Easter Sunday with lovely arrangements of spring flowers much appreciated by the good number of people attending.

In years gone by, the Easter Offering was given to the vicar, something which no longer happens in Anglican churches.

However I'm sure it was thanks to the heartfelt appeal from our Vicar Jo that an amazing £9000 has been donated so far via the special Easter Gift envelopes to help with the repair of the vestry roof. Thank you so much for your generosity. Envelopes are still available in the pews if you missed the opportunity on Easter Day. Every donation is appreciated, be it small or large.

As you may be aware, we have applied for a grant, but the outcome will not be known until June. We are looking to apply for other grants for churches. In any case, work needs to commence, hopefully in July/August.

At our Annual Meeting, it was encouraging to read reports and to find that our church roll has increased. Our finances are in good order; the accounts are on public view at the back of the church.

Future Events

A Team Eucharist for **Ascension Day, Thursday 5 May** will be held at 8.00 p.m. at Holy Trinity, Bengoe.

During the week running up to **Pentecost**, 8-15 May, our Archbishops Justin and John have asked us to make special time for prayer. Details of the Hertford Team Ministry plans are on page 2.

On **Saturday 21 May**, it is our annual **Plant Sale and Coffee Morning** from 10.00 a.m. to 12 noon. Come along and buy good value

plants for your garden provided by the keen gardeners in our congregation.

Contributions of small cakes and raffle prizes will be welcome.

The **Civic Service** takes place on Sunday 22 May at 10.00 a.m. We will be welcoming the new Mayor of Hertford together with the Town Councillors. St John's Hall is reserved for the use of the Town Council before and after the service.

This is advance notice that the last Sunday morning for our amazing curate Ginni will be **Sunday 19 June**. Make a note in your diaries – we gave her (in her own words) a proper All Saints' welcome on her arrival. Of course we intend to give her a proper All Saints' farewell in St John's Hall after the service. We prayerfully wish her well in her new ministry as Vicar of the benefice of St. Ippolyts.

Growing Together

The PCC is developing a new way of working together. We now have timed agendas, and one main item on which to focus for discussion. We will be having an "Away Day" together on Saturday 8 October when we will continue to concentrate on how we work as a PCC. Please remember the PCC in your prayers.

We pray that our congregation will grow together as a worshipping community, and as part of the St Alban's Diocese vision of Living God's Love.

This is my final "View from the Pew". Thank you for your support and love this year; being churchwarden has been a rewarding if humbling experience.

I know you will support Colin as he takes over while still continuing his work as Church Treasurer.

Love, Helen