

All Saints Alive

PRIEST'S PERSPECTIVE

All called to be Saints

Dear Friends,

I am really looking forward to All Saints' Day. To celebrate the patronal festival in our church of All Saints' is an ideal time to begin my ministry in Hertford. All Saints' Day reminds us of all the saints from the past.

We may well have a particular saint whose faithful love of God inspires us. I value St Peter, who is shown in the Gospel as trying so hard to be faithful, yet he still has the potential to make mistakes - which lead to a growing in grace and a deepening faith. I'm hoping that you, too, are all saints, with all the striving and hoping which that suggests!

I believe that as God once called his people out of Egypt, from slavery to freedom, so he calls us today to strive to be his faithful and holy people. This is the challenging part, because it's all very easy to admire God's saints from afar, across the centuries, but we are called to live as saints now. We are not expected to be perfect. Most of the saints in the past were not particularly perfect either, but they committed themselves to seeking God's way in whatever situation they found themselves.

It is a very "down-to-earth" faith, for having our heads in the clouds in an effort to be somehow spiritual is not ultimately going to sustain us or serve God's purposes. Rather, we are called to be holy in the world, holy through the grace of God alone. So let us seek to be open to God's presence, in worship and daily life, and ready to show his love in action.

We can often find that it is our relationship with others that gets in the way of our



relationship with God. It is hard to experience God's love and forgiveness if we are unwilling to forgive and love afresh. We have to learn to let go of the things that hold us back, poor relationships, hurtful remarks and remember that we are all called as saints within the family of God, all loved equally by God.

Our worship is there to bring us back to the "beauty of holiness", and we can be inspired with fresh vision as we experience Christ's holy presence in prayer, in celebration, and in the feast of Holy Communion at which He invites and empowers us to be God's saints in this, our generation.

Yours in Christ,
Jo

Installation Service

The Churchwardens and PCC announce:

The Licensing and Installation of

The Reverend Jo Loveridge

as

*Priest-in-Charge of the Parish Church of
All Saints' with St John, Hertford*

by

The Right Reverend Christopher Foster,
Bishop of Hertford

and

The Venerable Trevor Jones,
Archdeacon of Hertford

on

Thursday 1st November at 8.00 pm

All Welcome!