

View from the Pew

Janet Bird

By the time you read this the summer holidays will be almost over and our thoughts will be turning to autumn. We have had a very warm summer, I'm sure that some would say too warm and it has been an exciting time for us all during which we have been pleased to welcome Ginny Dear as our new Curate.

We celebrated Ginny's arrival at All Saints with a lovely family lunch following her ordination at St Albans Abbey and we were pleased to hear her preach her first sermon on 14th July after which we enjoyed our Bastille Day barbecue. Unusually we decided to eat in St John's Hall because the weather outside was just too hot (not like the usual worry of whether the rain will keep off until after the food is cooked!!) However despite that a good time was had by all and we raised £176.35 towards church funds.

As you are all aware we need to think very seriously about increasing the income of All Saints because we are at present heading for a deficit for the second year running. The greatest outlay that we have is in covering the cost of heating our beautiful building so that it is a welcoming place for worship. We are considering various ways in which the income can be increased and you will hear more from the Vicar but it is vital that whenever we organise a fund raising event as many people as possible are given the opportunity to attend.

Our next two events are our **Coffee Morning and mini Bazaar on Saturday 14th September** in Church from 10am until 12 noon and our **Harvest Supper and Quiz in St John's Hall at 7pm on Saturday 5th October**. Please put these dates in your diaries and tell all your friends and invite them to join us for either or both of these events.

For the Coffee Morning we need offers of cakes, raffle prizes and saleable items for the bric-a-brac and book stalls as well as people to man the stalls and help with refreshments so please speak to Jo, Janet

Oldham or myself if you are able to help in any way.

Several years ago we held an amazingly successful Christmas Tree Festival and the Social and Outreach Committee have recently decided to hold something similar in December this year. Since the decision was made everybody has hit the ground running and details are still being discussed. The event will take place over 3 days from Friday 6th December until Sunday 8th December. The plan is to raise money both for All Saints and also to support local charities.

We are planning to hold a Prize Draw and hope to have tickets available at the beginning of October. We would very much welcome offers of exciting prizes to encourage as many people as possible to buy tickets. You might like to get together with a few friends to give something between you or perhaps you have contacts who would be prepared to donate a prize. Whatever you might have in mind please speak to Dorothy Toyn or Janet or Colin Bird who will be arranging the draw, as soon as possible, as we will need to order the tickets within the next week or so.

Plans so far include musical interludes spread over the 3 days, refreshments and a mini All Saints' Bazaar in the Memorial Chapel and we will keep you up to date as soon as plans are finalised. This could be a wonderful weekend of fellowship and outreach as well as raising substantial funds for the church and increasing our support for charities. However it is going to need substantial support from everybody as we will need to keep the church fully staffed during the whole time that the festival is open.

Please can I ask you all to put the dates in your diary and to think of how much time you might be able to commit to helping run stalls, serving and providing refreshments and cakes, helping with the music or

stewarding what we hope will be large numbers of people around the church.

Teams are being set up to deal with various aspects of the festival and lists will be going up at the back of the church within the next few weeks so that you can sign up and let us know what time you might be able to commit. Obviously we don't expect you to commit yourself to being available for the whole 3 days but we will need to organise rotas to ensure that all areas are covered at all times.

We were considering holding an Auction of Promises during the autumn but have decided to defer this until next year so that we can concentrate our main efforts for this year on the Christmas Tree Festival. We have seen in the past just how successful All Saints can be at organising amazing events when we all work together, so let's make this Christmas Tree Festival yet another event which will really put our church on the map.

Love, Janet B

All Saints Art – Summer 2013

We have had a good summer term, with outdoor visits on several evenings, as well as sessions in our usual venue at the church meeting room. On some occasions we have been able to link in outdoor and indoor sessions.

On one evening we visited Waterford Church to see the wonderful Burne-Jones and Morris stained glass windows. We spent time sketching and photographing them to capture their unique designs. Then the following meeting, back at the church, we painted stained glass window designs.

Two visits were made to members' gardens. Firstly we visited Reg and Gillian's home and painted the poppies in their garden, at the point in the season where these were at their best. Secondly we visited John and Fiona Earle and painted and sketched in parts of their garden. The width and variety

of this allowed us to produce views of their cottage, the stables and beautiful trees. Thanks are due to these members for their hospitality. Our visits particularly benefited from the kind weather we have had most evenings.



We have continued throughout August with a smaller group, mainly because of holidays, but the evenings have been enjoyed by all who have come.

A new programme is being planned for the autumn term. We will as ever be painting in various media, while some evenings will allow members to choose what media they will use. The programme will also include two weeks making mosaics and two weeks working with 'straw' to make stars and cards for Christmas, with Nick Hoyle as our guide and inspiration.



If you are interested in joining us do contact either Nick Hoyle on (01992) 550336 or myself on (01992) 422042.

Gillian Harman, Coordinator, All Saints Art