

All Saints Alive

VICAR'S VIEWPOINT



Celebrating – a duty and a joy

Dear Friends,

The Celebrations just keep going on!

A few months ago we celebrated twenty years of Women in the Priesthood, a service for all the diocese, then there was the honour of becoming the First Woman Chair of the house of Clergy in the Diocese and the installation as an Honorary Canon and then our great celebration with Ginni's ordination actually taking place at All Saints'. It has been brilliant to celebrate these events at All Saints' as the church family.

One of the special moments that I will always cherish was Stan Mansfield, standing up after we had sung Happy Birthday (90th!) to him, and saying how wonderful and proud he was to be part of the family of All Saint's and how good it was to celebrate together. We all took great comfort from these words when he died, just a couple of days later, knowing that he had died feeling blessed and a happy man.

Jesus was often to be found at celebrations and meals as these were and are powerful expressions of community, welcome and friendship in every culture. This is why Jesus' company at celebrations and meals was so significant – they embody God's grace and enact God's mission. It is also inspiring to know that Jesus even ate with tax collectors and sinners, people who would not have been regarded as good and would have been shunned by society.

Jesus invites us to break bread in remembrance of him. Each time we

celebrate the Eucharist it is a giving thanks, a rejoicing and a celebration!

Life is more than parties and meals, of course, and we live with the reality of problems, suffering and death. and the Eucharist also brings all those vital aspects of our lives together as the Communion reflects Jesus' suffering and death and draws us to the hope of life in all its fullness, eternal life.

"Christ has died,
Christ has risen,
Christ will come again"

Love,
Jo

A Quarter for Jo

On Sunday 4 May before Choral Communion, the ringers successfully completed a quarter peal of 1,280 changes of Yorkshire Surprise Major. This was especially arranged and rung as a compliment to Jo Loveridge on being appointed as an Honorary Canon of St Albans Cathedral.

Ringers were David Kemp, Andrew Case, David Harris, Claire Nicholson (Conductor), Alastair Stracey, Roy Hornby, Andrew Reeve and Bjorn Bradstock.

Alastair Stracey

Installation of Canons

Thank you all very much for your support , good wishes and generosity to me when I was made an Honorary Canon at St

Alban's Cathedral on May 3rd. The service was inspiring with great music and the marvellous liturgy of Choral Evensong from the Book of Common Prayer.



My Mum was very pleased and somewhat emotional that all her reading of Bible stories to us as children and careful encouragement to attend church had paid off, with both her children being made Canon at the same time. *It may well be a first that brother and sister are made Canon at the same time in the same diocese.*

Michael commented that "my sister always used to pull faces at me in the choir to keep me in check, as she is three years older than me, when we were children and she may still do this in the cathedral as our stalls are facing one another!"



It was wonderful to have so many people from All Saints at the Cathedral with us at the service, and also from the wider Team and Clergy. The celebrations continued the

next day as Janet Bird and her Team cooked a fantastic Sunday roast for over 50 of us, including members of my family.

I am looking forward to sending off for my cassock with its red Canon's trim which you have very generously contributed to by raising over £500!

I am extremely grateful for all your prayerful support and generous giving at the time of this honour for me and for our Parish and Team.

Love,
Jo

The Alban Pilgrimage 21st June

Alban's story takes us right back to the beginning of the Christian faith in Britain, but it remains fresh and inspiring for Christians today.

It reminds us of the unbroken continuity of faith in Christ in this land for over 1700 years and sets before us a powerful example of courage, compassion, hospitality and generosity as Alban risks his life to welcome a persecuted stranger. It also reminds us that witnessing as a Christian always comes at a cost.

Alban is honoured as the first British martyr, and his grave (on which the Cathedral and Abbey Church of St Alban was built) quickly became a place of pilgrimage. For over 1700 years, people have journeyed to this place to remember Alban, to pray for peace and healing, and to seek God.

The Alban Pilgrimage is an opportunity to reconnect with that invigorating, enlivening, and transforming passion.

This special day begins with a procession through the city centre, where giant puppets will retell the story of Alban's martyrdom. It is not only a stunning spectacle; it is a profoundly moving experience.

<https://www.stalbanscathedral.org/whatson/the-alban-pilgrimage/>