

View from the Pew

Janet Oldham

It is hard to believe that we are already heading towards March. Let us hope that the weather picture improves just as rapidly, especially for those suffering from the worst elements.

At our postponed Parish Lunch on 16th February, over 30 people sat down to enjoy a lovely roast dinner and a scrumptious array of puddings, prepared by our very own Delia Smith (Janet Bird) and helpers.

On 21st February, a large gathering of the wider family of All Saints enjoyed a delightful recitation of Victorian verse given by Ann Marie Parker and Friends, followed by a delicious supper. Very many thanks to Colin and Janet Bird for their generosity in hosting this fund raising evening.

REMEMBRANCE

In addition to our own Posy of Remembrance (details in February's magazine), there will be two opportunities to remember and commemorate the brave soldiers who valiantly fought to protect our country in the Great War.

On **4th August**, the centenary of the declaration of war with Germany, there will be a service at the Town's War Memorial.

On **14th September** there will be a civic service here in All Saints to remember all those who took part in the Great War and particularly the brave souls who made the ultimate sacrifice.

Last but not least, it was a privilege to know the late Stan Mansfield, a wonderful character who was such a loyal member of the family of All Saints. A lasting memory is of his beaming face as we sang Happy Birthday to him for his 90th just a week before he died.

MESSY CHURCH

This month's Messy Church session will be around the theme of Love, and the

children's activities will include the purpose of Lent, so look out for their "big picture" which is based on the theme God is Love.

When you are passing the East end of the Church, do stop to admire the bulbs planted by the children in the Autumn, as judging from the shoots coming through, there should be a lovely splash of colour for all to enjoy.

ACTIVE CHURCH

When I light-heartedly made reference to December 11th being a gardening day whatever the weather, little did I know that the rain would come down in torrents for virtually the whole of our 3 hours session! However, I must pay a warm tribute to Andrew P-R, who not only braved the elements, but who single-handedly wrestled the overgrown bushes into submission.

SPIRITUAL CHURCH

On 13th March we are hosting the Diocesan Celebration of the 20th anniversary of Women's ordination, details on page 2. We do hope many of you will be able to join us at this service.

Don't forget about the exciting project Ginni mentioned in last month's magazine about the Easter Journey. This is a project which will enlighten many children and enable them to understand about Jesus a little better. Speak to Ginni or email her on revginni@gmail.com to sign up, if you can help with storytelling, moving props etc.

Ash Wednesday will soon be with us (when we join with St Andrew's) and again Jo will guide and lead us in our preparation for Lent, through the sadness of Good Friday to the glorious celebration of Easter Day, when Jesus rose again from the dead. There is a wide variety of group sessions throughout Lent, as part of the Churches Together calendar, details on pages 1 & 2.

Love Janet O