

ALL SAINTS'



ALIVE

All Saints' Welcomes Everyone



VICAR'S VIEWPOINT

Living and flourishing in the 'New Normal'

Dear friends,

Here we are in Church, some of us have been back to work, some of us have returned to school and others never stopped going to work; some may have managed to have a holiday and others may well still feel that they need to stay at home.

We have all had to cope with these new restrictions and to be honest, it just does not feel comfortable. We may have thought that somehow by this time we may be able to give one another a hug, sit closely together and throw away our facemasks. New outbreaks or spikes can and will occur.

So what can we do, how are we to live? In the Bible we read about people having to cope with new normal, taken into captivity, travelling through the desert in Exodus, the Exile in Babylon and Jesus facing death on the cross and the apostles travelling to far shores as itinerant preachers.

It was not easy then and it's not easy now.
How can we sing songs in a strange land?
How can we cope let alone feel joy?

When we go back to these stories we can see how the faith of the people of God has sustained them through hard times, giving them hope, strengthening their resolve, inspiring in them a new sense of purpose. This faith was powerful as they held on to the scriptures, prayers, rituals and ethics which maintained their identity as individuals and as a group and helped them to feel the constant presence of God.

Keeping faith in new, unexpected and adverse times is not easy, but it gives us continuity in life as we realise through prayer and worship that God's ways are so much

greater than our human ways, and we live in a changing, uncertain world but God's plan and mission is eternal.

The crisis brought about by the spread of the virus means that we need to look afresh at our own lives and at the mission and ministry of the church. Our confidence that we are all in God's hands now and for ever is so basic to the Christian faith but it is something which many people have not come across in a meaningful way. Because living with and rejoicing in the love of God is normal for God's people, and however wretched the current situation may seem – very much so – we can share our confidence with others by the way we care for our neighbours in Christ and continue with renewed hope and firm confidence in the eternal love and salvation of God.

The new normal is a wake-up call to be faithful and to prayerfully seek the Lord's leading into caring and sharing in this time of change.

Love, Jo

Worship and getting together at All Saints.

We are gathering for worship in Church every Sunday at 10.00am and every Thursday at 11.00am. You are very welcome to join us. There is no need to book but because of the need to ensure that we are virus free we do ask that you let us know your name and phone no when you come into church, sanitise your hands and wear a face mask. There will also be an 8.00 am Holy Communion service on the first Sunday of every month. More information, guidelines and links to Risk Assessment etc can be found at <https://www.allsaintshertford.org/copen.php>.

If you are not able to join us in the building, we are posting worship materials on our

website at <https://www.allsaintshertford.org/worship.php> where you will find a short video with the Gospel reading, a Reflection and Prayers led by members of All Saints, links to the National Service and that from St Alban's Cathedral plus links to further worship resources.

Links to previous weeks' materials are also available at <https://www.allsaintshertford.org/priorworship.php> All our services are also available on our YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/user/allsaintshertford/videos>.

Equally, you are welcome to join our lovely extended team family, St Andrews Hertford, who have services together on Zoom on Sundays at 10.30 am and Wednesday at 10.30. Please contact Jo on vicar@allsaintshertford.org and she will send you the access code.

Produce Stall

Proceeds from the Produce Stall run by Fiona Earle are going in support for those affected by the recent explosion in Beirut. £350 has already been sent and Fiona plans to continue to direct funds to the Lebanon for a while longer. Do please support the stall, and hence those in such dire need.

APCM 2020

Our Annual General meeting had to be postponed to October this year and will be held on October 11th after the 10.00 am service.

We won't have any verbal reports, all of the reports can be found on our website at <https://www.allsaintshertford.org/apcm.php> or if you would like a printed copy of these reports please let me know.

At this meeting we look at the past year and also elect churchwardens and parochial church council members.

Nominations are now open and forms are available in church and on our website at <https://www.allsaintshertford.org/apcm.php>. If nominating someone do please get their consent – and signature on the form.

We look at the past year and think about the year ahead. Here is my report.

Vicar's Report 2020

2019 was a busy and successful year for All Saints. Our attendance numbers have grown, particularly those for evening services. It been lovely hearing the voices of children having fun in the Church on Monday afternoons at Hot Choc stop, leading our Family Services, learning together on the Easter Journey and having fun at Messy Church.

Families joined us on our Eco Churchyard walks and at the major festivals and at the very successful Starry Christmas Event. Our elderly kept lithe and supple at the Get up and Go and wholeheartedly joined in the worship at the end of HertsWise and at Bentley House.

We had nine of our new members confirmed by Bishop Michael four of whom were also married in church this year. We have run Bible Studies, joined in the Lent Challenge and ran a new course based on the television series Broken, started new reflections using choral music, *Heavenly Harmonies*, and opened our church daily for the Thy Kingdom Come Novena of Prayer.

Some of us were able to attend the Church Growth conference in Swanwick, inspiring us to think creatively about reaching new people, and the new quarterly Craft Church meant that young and old were brought together making some amazing things. Our church building was enhanced by the cleaning of the Reredos, the swift boxes and we began to raise money to maintain our bells. All of our Church activities wrapped around by our worship together, prayer, pastoral care and music.

My thanks for making all this possible go to Colin, Julia, Janet, Martin, Kay, Wendell, Nerine, Brian, Dave, the working party, Dorothy, Richard, Shanti, David, the Choir, Mary, Ann, Chris and the Soundbites Team, The PCC, Megan, The Flower club, Andrew, Don & Rosemary, Martin, Linda, Rosie, Luella and Mario, Leon, Rosemary, Renee, The Events Team, The Cleaning Team, The Servers and Sacristy Team, The Sidespeople, The

Welcomers, The Messy Church Team, Coffee makers, Bellringers, The Mothers' Union, everyone working with young people, Lesson Readers and Intercessors, Vergers, the Pastoral Care Group, the Easter Journey Team, and the Gardening Team, Hot Choc Team, HertWise Dementia Group, Art Group, Fellowship Group, Doug and all of you.

Looking forward

At All Saints, since March, we have been engaged in new ways of ministry, pastoral care and outreach. We've seen people caring for one another on a deeper level. We've seen people making phone lists and calling one another, praying for one another, and then serving others by shopping for those who had to stay at home. We haven't been able to shop so much, visit places or go away on holiday and so we have become used to consuming less. We have realised that we can make do with less and found contentment in the simpler things of life.

Wouldn't it be amazing if we didn't go back to a consumer-driven world? Ecologically, if we are to live more sustainably, then we need to. What about our faith as well? Christianity sometimes used to feel like rather like customers lining up outside a supermarket or shop, about to load a basket with their personal choices and preferences. Wouldn't it be great if we no longer acted as consumers of religious goods and services but instead we grow in our discipleship seeing ourselves as the co-labourers in proclaiming the Gospel?

1Peter 4:10 says, *"As each one has received a special gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God."*

The church has not been able to gather in ways that we used to enjoy and love but the lack of gathering has actually helped us to look at other areas in the life of the church beyond the building. I've heard a lot more people talk about those in trouble, pain and the marginalized. There's a fresh perspective on the "least of these." We've seen the devastation in our nursing homes, the elderly, the sick, and people with compromised immune systems. And, we've seen heroes like those who helped and served and heard

stories of first responders and healthcare workers sacrificing greatly.

As we look forward, how can we continue to focus on and develop what we have seen emerge? Returning to normal after such a devastating time would be nothing short of missing one of the most vital opportunities of our time. We have the chance to be better and do better. Let us go and do it!

Love, Jo

Finance

It costs over £2000 per week to maintain All Saints Church. We do not get any central church funding and rely entirely on people giving as generously as they can to cover this cost, which covers the pay of the clergy, keeping the church building maintained and comfortable and supporting our charitable work in the community.

Although social distancing limits the use of our buildings, the work of All Saints carries on. Jo is still here, leading our ministry in new and demanding ways. We are producing digital worship materials and offering practical support to those who need it. Our costs continue nonetheless, and our income has been severely impacted by not being able to use our church for community events.

Gifts

You can give via our [give.net](https://www.give.net/20304956) page which includes the option to gift aid your support <https://www.give.net/20304956>.

You can donate by text – just text ASH followed by an amount to 70085 and your gift will come straight to us.

Alternatively, you can make a transfer directly to our bank account, All Saints Hertford Parochial Church Council, sort code 60-10-39, account number 07001126.

Our Stewardship Officer, Julia Gough can provide a standing order to those who wish to give this way regularly.

You can even send a cheque to Julia Gough, 72 Brickendon Lane, Hertford, Herts. SG13 8HY

Music in the 'New Normal'

We were delighted when the Government finally gave permission for our choir to restart work in mid-August – albeit with many (sensible) restrictions.

Since then a small group have worked together to devise a workable plan, the necessary Risk Assessment and to gain the necessary approvals. Our thanks go to them in general and Dorothy & Richard Toyn in particular for many hours to arrive at something that is both safe and workable.

For the moment, we will be separating at distance of 2 metres - a new and challenging way of working, and one that may restrict how many singers we can 'field' each week.

We recently received a bequest specifically to support the work of the choir. We have been able to use some of this to acquire a box organ at very modest cost.

The primary use of such organs is in providing discreet, gentle support to soloists and small groups – particularly valuable in the current circumstances, but also something that creates all kinds of opportunities for worship in the future as well as adding another string to our musical 'offer' to the town, concert organisers and music lovers.



The organ was built in 1983 by Gary Crewe for Justin Sillman Organs. Its initial purpose was to be shown at the Exhibition of Small Organs at the 1983 International Organ Festival in St Alban's Cathedral in order to secure work for the firm. For this reason, it has a high quality

of workmanship, cabinetry, pipework and finishing.

We are still trying to track its journey over the years before it was acquired by Peter de Vile, the Organ Builder who looks after our 'Father' Willis, earlier this year. Peter has fully refurbished it as a 'lock-down' project so it is 'as new'.

For the technically minded, the key action is a simple back-fall tracker action, which is very sensitive and it has three stops: Stopped Diapason 8', Chimney Flute 4' and Fifteenth 2'.

It was first used on Sunday 6th September and will feature regularly in future.

Regular Weekly Services

Sunday

8.00 Holy Communion (BCP) 1st Sunday

10.00 Family Service with music on 1st Sunday

Family Eucharist with music on 2nd-5th Sundays

10.30 Zoom Communion service from St Andrews

19.00 Zoom Compline from St Andrews

Tuesday

10.00 Zoom Coffee & Chat with Nerine Chalmers

Wednesday

10.30 Zoom Holy Communion from St Andrews

20.00 Zoom Meditation from St Andrews

Thursdays

11.00 Holy Communion (in Nave)

Fridays 18.30 - 21.00

Choir Practices

Contact information

www.allsaintshertford.org    AllSaintsHertf

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