



st JOHN'S

Parish Magazine
SPRING 2018

st JOHN'S

Living God's Love

*Spring 2018
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We are very grateful to those who write contributions and the many volunteers who distribute and deliver the magazines, come rain or shine, to everyone in the parish.

We welcome advertisements and are delighted to be able to provide full colour.

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All Age Services

Specially designed services that are suitable for all, with a mix of traditional and informal elements, a child friendly talk and communion service.

Upcoming Dates

Sun 11 March, 9.30am - Mothering Sunday

Think about mothers close, far and absent. Come along together as we give and receive flowers as a sign of love

Fri 30 March, 9.00am - Good Friday

Meeting on Southdown Green, opposite co-op and we tell the story as we walk up to St John's

Sun 1 April, 9.30am - Easter Day

Celebrate the great feast... joy, wonder and new life!

Sun 6 May, 9.00am - All Age

Theme yet to be decided

st JOHN'S
Living God's Love





Letter from the Vicarage by the Reverend Nicholas Anderson

In the first half of the 20th century (1881–1955), a French Jesuit priest, Fr. Teilhard de Chardin SJ, combined his theological, philosophical and scriptural studies with a growing interest in the structure of rocks and fossils (geology), the material aspects of the universe (palaeontology) and in the far distant origins, evolution and ultimate purpose and end of the universe (cosmology).

His written work combines religion, spirituality and science in a comprehensive, harmonious and dynamic whole. It portrays a deep spiritual vision of the interior unity, complexity, diversity and evolving consciousness of all creation and the whole universe with God. It portrays God as still actively involved in creating his universe and guiding all humanity forwards and upwards in ever evolving and deepening consciousness towards himself.

Chardin's comprehensive vision ('an impassioned vision of the earth') was birthed in the inhumanity of the First World War. Chardin refused a commission as an officer, which was his entitlement as a priest, and chose instead to serve as a stretcher-bearer with a mostly Muslim regiment. Within the vision that came out of that experience he likened the world-changing 'harnessing for God the energies of Love' with the ancient, world-changing discovery of fire. Both can radiate massive energy. The recognition of God's unconditional and eternal love would set the world on fire with a new, divine energy infusing the actions of men and women.

Chardin's evolutionary vision embraces the whole of creation, the whole of humanity and the whole human person – matter, mind and spirit. For Chardin, humanity is not a passive receptacle of evolutionary processes but an active participant in them. Were he alive today, he might add that human beings sometimes seriously damage nature and thwart its divine purpose by their sinful greed and ecological ignorance or indifference. Chardin sees evolution as a dynamic movement forwards and upwards to Christ, and the whole of creation as being in a continuing process of evolutionary creation in a dynamic process of becoming, of becoming again one-with-God.

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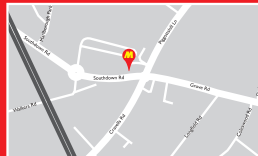
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Teilhard de Chardin's vision for the universe is full of hope. It is deeply embedded in the material world which he studied so carefully and in the God he served so faithfully. His knowledge of the Bible and his experience of the sacramental life of the Catholic Church were an integral part of that vision. Chardin's spirituality is one of full engagement with the world and joy in its materiality. At the incarnation materiality became the container of God among us. Chardin understands God to be fully, actively and eternally present in the world, in both its spiritual and material dimensions, in the 'innerness' and 'outerness' of things. Within that presence God is eternally transforming and redeeming creation.

Chardin understood matter as evolving into life and inner consciousness, and human life and inner consciousness into personal and universal 'at-one-ness' with Jesus the Christ – spiritual consciousness – the Omega point of evolving creation. For Chardin, inner consciousness becomes integrated thinking, the conscious layer of creation which spreads or evolves around the earth like its physical atmosphere and unites people. He terms this layer the 'noosphere' ('noos' is the ancient Greek word for 'mind'). Human consciousness enables the whole of creation to become aware of itself. This is not pantheism, a belief that God and the created universe are one and the same thing. It is a belief in God as soteriologically infusing the world with his divine presence. God is the ultimate reality underlying and supporting the whole of creation. For Teilhard de Chardin this is Christ: 'Omega, he towards whom all converges, is concurrently he from whom all radiates. Impossible to place him as a focus at the summit of the universe, without at the same time diffusing his presence in the intimate heart of the smallest movement of evolution.' (Chardin). When that complete convergence occurs, the Kingdom of God will have reached its full perfection on earth.

The whole of creation is permeated by the active presence of God, its creator, whose Holy Spirit ultimately guides the evolutionary process towards completeness in God, its original and continuing Creator. Chardin sees creation as it was poetically described by the poet Gerard Manley Hopkins: 'charged with the grandeur of God.' The great hope contained in Chardin's vision is that, while human sin draws humankind away from God, the resurrection of Jesus will eventually win-back all creation to God and restore the primal relationship of Creator and created, to the relationship intended by God at the first moment of creation; when God looked at what he had created 'He saw that it was good' (Genesis); 'for God so loved the world' (John 3:16).

For Chardin the expansion of the universe is not a geographical expansion into outer space but rather an expansion into an increasing range of hitherto unknown dimensions, from the current five dimensions of time, space-length, space-breadth, space-depth and the still not universally recognised spiritual dimension of the universe, to other, perhaps more complex, dimensions. Only the spiritual dimension, through the silence of contemplation, can 'learn' otherwise unknown truths, make one aware of God's inner presence throughout all creation and bring peace and healing to the soul. These dimensions govern the universe and the laws of nature. Christ is the essential unity holding together all creation in all its dimensions and complexity. He is at the heart of all matter, within what Chardin terms a 'divine milieu', a concept flowing from

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the vision of Jesus the Christ, as 'in him we live and move and have our being.' (Acts 17:28).

For Chardin, mature spirituality is full engagement with the world, not hiding from it. It is engagement with matter, not despising it as sinful but as infused with the very presence of God. Humankind evolved from matter and it is through the consciousness of humankind that the universe observes itself. Humanity is 'the axis and arrow of evolution' (Chardin). Spirit and matter, soul and body, are two dimensions of the one reality, two dimensions in harmonious relationship with each other, with others, with the whole of creation and with God. The spirit component infusing matter propels it towards ever greater integration and ever higher forms of consciousness towards the Christ of Easter Day.

*With kind regards,
Nicholas Anderson*

From the Churchwardens

Advent and Christmas now seem a long time ago. There was plenty to celebrate in our church and parish over this time: St John's was represented at the Southdown Lights-up celebrations; a morning of activities and prayers in church were held to mark the beginning of Advent; night prayer was said in the Lady Chapel on Monday to Saturday throughout Advent; an evening of beer and carols were held in The Engineer pub; the Junior Church entertained us with their Nativity Play at the all-age service in the middle of December; our service of nine lessons and carols was admirably led by our choir; and we had a large turnout for our annual Children's 'Walking to Bethlehem' nativity from the green in Southdown to St John's on Christmas Eve. Particular thanks are due to Tony, the landlord of *The Carpenter's Arms*, who provided very generous and much-needed refreshment in preparation for the walk up the hill! Our Christmas celebrations continued into January, with our all-age worship to mark the arrival of

the Magi at Epiphany.

We launched our new website before the end of the year. Please take the time to visit it at www.stjohnsharpenden.org.uk. This has been put together after a great deal of hard work by our communications team over the past months, presenting a refreshed and updated perspective of our life as a church and in our community. Our thanks go to all who have been involved in developing and maintaining our website.

With the exception of the second Sunday in Advent, where we woke up to heavy snowfall and impossible travel conditions (a hardy 'Arctic Roll' as opposed to an 'Electoral Roll' at the morning service), St John's Christmas services were well-attended by regular members of the congregation as well as seasonal visitors. It was lovely to see past parishioners returning to Harpenden over the Christmas period, and a great joy to share our celebrations with so many. We are grateful to everyone who contributed to our collections which, as always, were donated to Crisis. Thank you for your generosity.

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We are also especially grateful for the support the Churchwardens receive during this busy time and very little would have been possible without the help of so many. Our thanks go to Nicholas and the members of the ministerial team, to the Junior Church leaders, to Roger and the choir, to members of the Flower Guild who decorated the church so imaginatively over the season, to those who maintain the fabric of our church and gardens, and to our teams of servers, lift-givers, intercessors, lesson readers, sidesmen, cleaners and welcomers.

On Sunday 21 January we welcomed Neil Chitty, the Senior Pastor of Bethany Community Church, to speak to us at our morning service, and we hosted the annual Harpenden Churches Together service that same evening. With so much ecumenical activity occurring to celebrate the week of prayer for Christian Unity, we can't help but mention in passing that the St John's team retained their winners' position in

the annual Harpenden Interchurch quiz, a hugely enjoyable and competitive event, expertly coordinated by quizmaster Tony Gilbert of All Saints Church.

At the time of writing, Nicholas and a number of members of the congregation are in the Holy Land on a visit organised through Embrace, one of our chosen charities. Together with a group from Deddington in Oxfordshire, they are visiting many of the holy sites in the area. We look forward to hearing the reports of their special adventures.

And now we look forward to our preparations for our Easter celebrations. During Lent, at a time of inner reflection, we have a number of additional services and activities to choose from, details of which are found in this magazine and on our new website. Whatever you choose, you will always be welcome at St John's on the journey to Easter.

*Mary Jean Pritchard and James Hillman
Churchwardens*

Parish registers

Baptisms

Welcome to the family of God

29 October 2017

Bethany Rose Ellis

29 October 2017

Leila Hannah Durbidge

19 November 2017

Charlotte Gwendolyn
Macdonald

26 November 2017

Ruby Ann Fallon
Parcell-Jones

3 December 2017

Millicent Rose Bumford

28 January 2018

William Max Pearman and
Amelia Chloe Pearman

28 January 2018

Toby Theodore Johnson

Marriages

Joined by God

There were no weddings
in this period.

Funerals in Church

May they rest in peace

7 November 2017

Denys Farnill Horton

23 November 2017 Janet
Mary Saxby

11 December 2017

Herbert Ralph Henry
Russell (known as Ralph
Russell)

12 December 2017

Donald Gordon Turnbull

2 January 2018

Sheila Margaret Satchell

19 January 2018

Derek Alan Horder

22 January 2018

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Making space and telling stories

Lent seems to come at a strange time of year. After the long winter months it just doesn't feel right. We head into a season of fasting, slimming down and cutting back just as the days are getting longer and joys of spring emerge.

The word Lent is a version of the Old English word for the stretching daylight hours of spring: *Lencten*, *Lengthen*, *Length*, *Lent*. Counterintuitive as it is, springtime fast gives us a chance for new growth.

We often give things up for Lent, be they fatty, sugary or alcoholic. If you're taking this time of year as an opportunity to cut out bad habits, then good for you. But there is more life on offer than that.

The heart of Lent is about making space and telling stories.

The idea of 'making space' is there in a hundred spiritual traditions and we certainly seem to need it here in Harpenden, as we rush on commutes or school runs, or look after loved ones or try to keep up with ourselves. Sometimes we need to take a breath and realise that the world keeps spinning even when we don't. Giving up something makes a little space.

In this space we tell a story. The best

stories are the ones we enter into ourselves: those films we seem to inhabit and experience as if we're in them, or those books we can't put down. Somehow we get into the stories and the stories get into us. Much of the life of Christianity is about this and time itself is shaped around it. There is a yearly cycle of stories to tell; feasting and fasting around different tales. The story for the season of Lent? Jesus in the wilderness (Matthew 4:1-11). This forty-day season recalls his forty-day temptation.

This is an ancient tale of God on the edge of an identity crisis. Jesus tempted to take short cuts. He had just had the remarkable revelation that he was the beloved son of God. He retreated to the dangers of the desert and stripped away all the normal comforts of life, as if to get his head around it.

In this season of Lent, may we too get our heads around the deepest parts of ourselves. As we give up on some external comforts, may we find that beneath it all lies the beating heart of everything; that we are chosen and loved by God. And may that lead to new growth: a spring of life and joy in these lengthening days.

Project Phoenix: our new parish centre

After the busy Christmas period, things are gearing up again for the next stage in our journey towards the new parish centre. Following the PCC's endorsement, in October, of option A (the two-storey building), the next stage is to apply to the local council for planning permission and to begin the exciting task of fundraising. If

you feel you are able to help with either of these tasks, and would like to join a group of enthusiastic people working towards a common goal for the benefit of the local community, please do get in touch. We look forward to welcoming you aboard Project Phoenix.

Project Phoenix Steering Group

Journey through Lent



Thursday Lent

Soup lunches are
12 noon, every Thursday
from 22 February – 22 March
Simple lunch of vegetable soup,
bread, and a brief Lenten reflection.



Sunday Sermon reflections

Over coffee after each of the 9.30 am
Sunday services in Lent there will be
a discussion group to go deeper into
the teaching for this season.



Wednesday 14 February

9.30 am

Ash Wednesday Holy Communion
with imposition ashes.

8 pm

Ash Wednesday Service of the
Word with imposition of ashes.

Journey through Holy Week

Enter the profound and deeply
moving story of Holy Week as we
journey with Christ through the
drama, sacrifice and pain to the joys
and new life of Easter.



Sunday 25 March

8.00 am

Palm Sunday Parish Communion

9.30 am

Palm Sunday commemoration
of the Lord's entry into Jerusalem,
the passion story and
Parish Communion.

6.30 pm

Palm Sunday Service of Reflection



Monday 26 March

8 pm

Stations of the Cross. Walk the
story to Calvary with a guided
tour through the beautiful Turvey
Stations of the Cross.



Tuesday 27 March

8 pm

We join the Southdown
Methodists in their church.

Lent is from 14 February — 1 April.
Join us for any of the above



Wednesday 28 March

9.30 am

Holy Wednesday Communion

8 pm

Celtic night prayer



Thursday 29 March

11 am

Maundy Thursday — Chrism
Eucharist at St Albans Cathedral

8 pm

Maundy Thursday Communion of the Last Supper with foot washing and stripping of the altar, as we recall the remarkable events and stories of the last supper. Followed by a watch until midnight, entering into the drama of Gethsemane.



Friday 30 March

9.00 am

A joint all-age Good Friday service with Southdown Methodists beginning on the green opposite the Co-op. Followed by refreshments in St Johns

12 noon – 3 pm

The three hours

Six free-standing reflections of 20 minutes each — feel free to drop in and out. During the final hour we will celebrate the liturgy of Good Friday.



Saturday 31 March

8pm

Lighting of the Easter Candle and the liturgy of the Word. Series of readings telling the big story of God's involvement in the world.



Sun 1 April

8am

Easter Day Parish Communion

9.30am

Easter Day all-age Holy Communion

6.30pm

Evensong for Easter

Lent is from 14 February — 1 April.

Join us for any of the above

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Getting to know the congregation

An interview with Steve Whiting

Steve, you're a local Harpenden man, is that right?

Yes, I'm born and bred Harpenden. In fact, I haven't really moved out of Southdown or Grove Road for many, many years.

And what are your interests?

Socializing... which probably means pub and beer! I like cricket, non-league football and National Hunt horse racing. And I'm a big music fan.

What has your involvement in St John's been like?

It's been really good. We were undecided whether to have our children baptized because we didn't have a particularly good experience with a church wedding. But we came to St John's and from then on I've been sucked in really. That was 26 or 27 years ago and my involvement has just grown over the years.

So what do you do now in the church?

Well, as you get sucked in, you get more and more involved and you want to get more and more involved. I'm a member of the PCC; I do the distribution for the church magazine; I do church cleaning; I serve at the Wednesday Communion service, and I do the rota for that. I'm now involved in Little Acorns, and 'Tea at 3' as well, which is one of the most enjoyable things we do. I think the helpers gain as much out of it as the people who come – it's really good. It sounds a lot but it's all quite enjoyable; it's all the social things.

And you go to evening prayer as well, don't you?

Yes, I do. Evening prayer has suddenly become so important to me. It's a time to reflect, a time to be quiet after what can be a busy day. And you learn from it. I'm reading out loud; I'm learning a bit more about the Bible from it; I understand more about the Bible from it, and and on a comical note, it keeps me out the pub ... I can't really do evening prayer with five pints inside me! So a couple of us often have a quick drink after evening prayer.

What does it mean to you to be a Christian?

Everything really. I had some form of belief all my life really, but the involvement in St John's has strengthened that belief alongside the fellowship that you have with the people that you're worshipping with. Also, without belief and the fellowship of St John's, I wouldn't have coped with the loss of my wife, Helen, since the church gave me strength.



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Thou shalt not covet

We are all familiar with the Ten Commandments handed down to Moses on Mount Sinai, but I don't think you will be able to guess where I am going with this. No, not thy neighbour's ox or donkey... 'Thou shalt not covet....' thy curate's faith, nor thy vicar's, for that matter. It's not a direct quote, but I hope you will grant me a little literary licence. About six months ago I was certainly driven towards such 'sin' but, fortunately, am a little less guilty now.

Let me explain. My ministry as a LLLW pretty much coincided with the start of James's curacy here at St John's. My own faith and spiritual life had taken an enormous leap forwards and I found myself on the brink of the most exciting and thrilling time in my life. Other than finding my lovely husband and giving birth to my three wonderful children, nothing had ever given me greater joy than discovering that actually putting God at the centre of one's life brought riches and fulfilment previously unimagined. Such was (is) my happiness that it was impossible not to regret those decades which had been spent in what could be described as my 'Christian dormancy'. Seeing James embark on his chosen ministry at about a quarter of a century of years younger than I was, certainly caused a few pangs of regret, if not down and out jealousy. I confessed as much to Nicholas, but he reassured me that I was me, Emma, in the time and place that I found myself, with my past and history as it had been, and that was what I could offer to God to work with. I think I was absolved and gradually,

over time, I began to realise that I didn't need to overly regret being something of a late developer, in a spiritual sense.

Just after Christmas, when we had that spell of wintry weather and crisp, white snow fell, covering the ground for some days, I walked my dogs with my son through local woods. There is a little known circular walk and the path is indistinct at the best of times and was quite invisible with snow on the ground. Knowing him to be unfamiliar with the route, I asked if he could make out the path. His response stuck a chord with me at once, with a significance he certainly hadn't deliberately intended, "I am putting one foot in front of the other, and that's what a path is, isn't it?" Indeed, it is, and that is what Nicholas had explained to me. The path to finding faith, to allowing God into your life, of discipleship, however you want to describe it is not a compulsory one-way system, nor a board game with rigid rules nor a National Curriculum with a set and structured format but is as individual and varied as we are all unique people. There is no prescribed blue print that we have to follow in order to allow God into our lives. Our faith journeys will all be different with different starting points and different ways and means of expressing themselves, but God is ready to accept us as we are, at any time and at whatever stage of our journey we have got to. Through the grace and power of the Holy Spirit, God will find us and fill our hearts with his love if we open our hearts to him and seek to follow in the footsteps of Christ.

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individual paths of discipleship, with no right or wrong ways of journeying is both reassuring and liberating. It is never too late to re-evaluate where we have got to and how we want to proceed with the remainder of our lives. Our path is not predestined, we put one foot in front of the other, sometimes we double back and change the route we thought we were going to take. Sometimes unforeseen events occur requiring us to alter our planned course, maybe a fallen tree, an urgent phone call requiring a speedy return home, maybe a friend needing attention or perhaps an unexpected downpour. We change our path, whether through choice or necessity, and as a result we experience something new and our human life develops and expands.

I love the poetry of that great American poet Robert Frost, and his well-known poem 'The Road Not Taken' ends with the wonderful lines:

Two roads diverged in a wood, and I —
I took the one less travelled by
And that has made all the difference.

At each opening, or turning, in our individual paths of life and discipleship, we have choices and decisions to make. We may take a wrong turning, may even get terribly lost at times, but we will get back to the pathway if we keep God at the centre of

what we do and listen for his guidance. We are allowed to take the path less travelled; we have free will and our choice will make all the difference. It will cause us to grow in a particular direction and if that is along our faith journey it will be as exciting as it is unpredictable.

Wherever you maybe along your own unique path of discipleship, God knows and lovingly accepts your route and progress. He accepts all the baggage you might be carrying: the brokenness, the mistakes, the sins, the disbelief or uncertainty. He is ready to welcome you into his earthly and heavenly kingdom. Physically returning to church has transformed my pedestrian pathway into a super highway for a few miles. It has been the catalyst for my prayer habit which I have previously described, my heightened sense of belonging and a deepening of my belief. I shall no longer covet the long-established faith of another but continue joyfully along my own chosen pathway - be it the path less travelled or that well-worn by the footprints of those who have gone before –

Time past and time future
What might have been and what has been,
Point to one end, which is always present.'
(from *Burnt Norton* No 1. *Of Four Quartets*
by T.S. Eliot)

Emma Bresslaw

Thank you

Jesus Christ, in your life on earth you spoke and brought hope, comfort and renewal; you touched and brought love, peace, healing and wholeness. Come now and speak again, bringing your word of life to all who suffer or are hurting. Reach out to those who cry for help. For those in despair and turmoil, may your voice renew. For those in pain and sickness, may your hand restore.

Lord Jesus Christ, you came once and lived among us; you shall yet come again; but we ask you to come now and minister your grace, for your name's sake.

Taken from *Prayers for Healing* published by Kevin Mayhew Ltd, 2013.

St Luke's Cell meets monthly to pray for those in any kind of need, including the long-term sick.

Michael Hughes 01582 765576

MATTHEW TANT D.O.

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Living in between

I've been reflecting quite a bit over the last few months about what it is to live 'in between', as this is a dynamic that lies at heart of my continuing training for ordination and my work as a civil servant in the Office of Tax Simplification. (Yes, there really is such a thing: it's part of Her Majesty's Treasury).

At a national level, all of us in the UK are living and working 'in between' the triggering of Article 50 and becoming clear what Brexit is actually going to look like — and about how it may affect us and those we know.

On a more day to day basis, being 'in between' comes with the territory of my work in the Office of Tax Simplification (OTS). The OTS sits 'in between' government and the civil service on the one hand and the diverse world of businesses, representative bodies and the tax profession on the other, and offers advice to the government independently — fulfilling a unique role in the tax policy-making debate nationally. If you are wondering quite how that works, you'd be in good company. It's exactly what a member of a Parliamentary Select Committee asked last year when I, sitting alongside the OTS Tax Director, gave evidence to them. The answer I offered was that while the OTS is part of the Treasury it has an independent voice — the OTS has editorial control of what we say or publish.

And then, personally, I am myself 'in between' — as I continue my journey towards Ordination (which is planned for Sunday 1 July in St Albans Abbey). The period of training (which for me will have lasted just two years, part-time) is much

more than academic study, although it certainly involves that. It's at least as much about what people call 'formation', as I myself develop and am changed as a person — in ways that it's hard to pin down, but runs deeply into one's persona and sense of service.

Key to this formation, alongside continuing involvement at and support from St John's, has been encountering the diversity of the community of those training with me on the Eastern Regional Training Course. We come from different walks of life, and have a wide range of differing experience, backgrounds, and views on all manner of issues — across politics, doctrine, sexuality and anything else you care to mention.

Inevitably, the extent to which different people find such differences a delight or a struggle varies — but I think we all agree that this diversity of outlook has been key to our formation. I have found it humbling and insightful to train alongside women and men with such differing contributions to make, and have come to appreciate afresh that there's nothing like genuinely engaging with people with different perspectives to alter one's outlook.

That spirit of diversity and encounter with difference is also important to me at work in the OTS. We have a small but diverse staff — both with experience within government and, crucially, from a wide range of private sector backgrounds. This variety is vital in helping us appreciate the outlook of the many different stakeholders we engage with inside and outside government, and (hopefully) to formulate a rounded and balanced perspective.

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There's a creative tension at work as we listen hard to the user experience of the tax system, while conscious of the likely operational constraints from the perspective of government. As well as hearing and seeking to synthesise different views on policy, we have also to hold in mind the implications of the present political situation. We operate in the space between these things. Inevitably, that's ambiguous and sometimes a bit uncomfortable.

I feel that there is sometimes something comparable going on in relation to ministry too, whether ordained or lay, and whether formally labelled or not.

For all of us are looking to explore and discover more of what God has for us, and that involves standing in the ambiguous, creative, 'in between' spaces in our lives or those of others, seeking to be open to what the love of God can do. That, too, can sometimes be uncomfortable, but Jesus did say (John 15:2) that his Father prunes every branch that bears fruit, to make it bear more fruit. So, if we are to be open to the cutting edge of the new future God has for us, we probably need to be willing to take the risk of exploring a little too close for comfort from time to time.

David Halsey

Mothers' Union

2017 concluded as usual with our 'Bring and Share' supper — a veritable feast in good fellowship — and a quiz concerning 'old' money. Although we were probably not quite up to the standard of St John's victorious 'Churches Together' quiz team, we enjoyed it. Our December 'Corporate Communion' was followed by sherry and mince pies in the vicarage. We sincerely thank Nicholas and Anneke for their frequent hospitality during the year.

Ann Peters entertained us in January with her talk entitled 'Memories'. Our next

meeting will be our AGM chaired by Judy James, a diocesan trustee.

On Mothering Sunday we shall be raising funds by selling cakes and produce in the hall after the Parish Communion. Bring your loose change and partake of our goodies.

Our 2018 programme is interesting and exciting. You will find it on the notice boards in the church and hall. Please take a programme and join us at any time as a member or as a guest.

Julia Smith

Thank you

A renewed thank you everybody who collects and donates British and foreign stamps. Especial thanks to the person who donated the enormous bag in January. I collect them from the red box in the church porch and every so often I take them to the Embrace (BibleLands) office in Amersham. Experts are there to sort them for selling, and last year donations

to St John's helped the Stamp Fellowship to raise an overall total of £6895.48 for the Helen Keller School for the Visually Impaired, which helps children the likes of whom my husband and I saw years ago when we visited the Holy Land.

Further donations of used stamps are most gratefully received. (Ed)

Moirra Carrington



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Forthcoming events

March 2018

Friday 2 March		Women's World Day of Prayer
Friday 2 March	2.00 pm	Dorcas in the committee room
Sunday 4 March	4.00 pm	Faith & Light in the parish hall
Monday 5 March	8.00 pm	Fellowship & study group in the committee room
Wednesday 7 March	7.30 pm	Mothers' Union Branch Meeting in the committee room
Wednesday 7 March	8.15 pm	Standing committee in the vicarage
Friday 9 March	2.00 pm	Dorcas in the committee room
Sunday 11 March		Mothers' Union Mothering Sunday cake and produce stall after 9.30 am service in the parish hall.
Monday 12 March	8.00 pm	Fellowship & study group in the committee room
Friday 16 March	2.00 pm	Dorcas in the committee room
Sunday 18 March	12 noon – 5 pm	Charity song recital
Monday 19 March	8.00 pm	Fellowship & study group in the committee room
Thursday 22 March	8.15 pm	PCC Meeting in the committee room
Friday 23 March	3.00 pm	Tea at Three in the parish hall
Saturday 24 March	7.30 pm	Harpenden Choral Society concert in church

April 2018

Wednesday 4 April	7.30 pm	Mothers' Union Branch meeting in the committee room
Sunday 8 April	4.00 pm	Faith & Light in the parish hall
Tuesday 10 April	8.15 pm	Standing committee in the vicarage
Sunday 14 April	12.00 noon	Family baptism
Friday 27 April	3.00 pm	Tea at Three in the parish hall

Saturday 28 April	10.30 am	Coffee concert in church
Sunday 29 April		Annual parochial church meeting in church

May 2018

Wednesday 2 May	7.30 pm	Mothers' Union Branch meeting in the committee room
Thursday 3 May		The hall is used as a polling station all day for St Albans City & District Council Elections
Sunday 6 May	9.30 am	PCC Commissioned at 9.30 am service
Sunday 6 May	4.00 pm	Faith & Light in the parish hall
Tuesday 8 May	8.15 pm	Standing committee in the vicarage
Saturday 19 May	10.30 am	Coffee Concert in church
Tuesday 22 May	8.15 pm	PCC meeting in the vicarage
Friday 25 May	3.00 pm	Tea at Three in the parish hall

Junior Church

All welcome

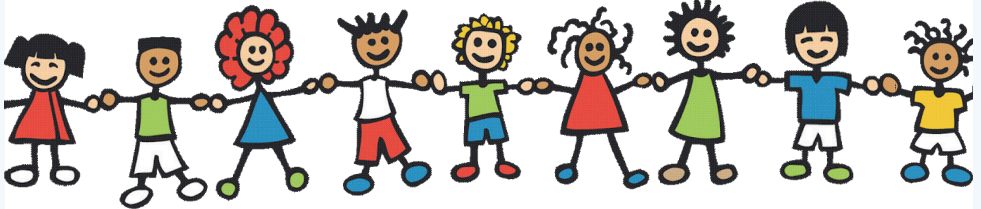
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PERMISSION TO OFFICIATE

Revd Mary Monk

Telephone 01582 462057

Revd Julia White

READERS

Lauryn Awbrey

David Halsey

David Nye

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WARDENS

James Hillman

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wardens@stjohnsharpenden.org.uk

Mary Jean Pritchard

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PARISH OFFICE

For enquiries, including marriages, baptisms, funerals and hall bookings, please contact the parish office open from 9.00 am to 1.00 pm Monday to Friday.

Telephone 01582 712776

parish.office@

stjohnsharpenden.org.uk

Lent and Easter services at St John's

25 March
Palm Sunday

9.30 am
Procession with Palms,
the Passion according to
St Matthew's Gospel
and Holy Communion

26 March
Holy Monday

8 pm
Stations of the Cross

27 March
Holy Tuesday

8 pm
Service at Southdown
Methodist Church

28 March
Holy Wednesday

9.30 am
Holy Communion
8 pm
Celtic night prayer

29 March
Maundy Thursday

11 am
Chrism Eucharist,
St Albans Cathedral

8.00 pm
The Lord's Supper and
the washing of feet

9.00 pm – midnight
The Watch

30 March April
Good Friday

9 am
Family Service
followed by coffee
and hot cross buns

12 noon – 3 pm
'The seven last words
from the Cross': the
traditional three hours
led by the Revd Julia White

31 March
Holy Saturday

9 pm
The Easter Vigil

1 April
Easter Sunday

8 am
Parish Communion

9.30 am
All-age Parish Communion

6.30 pm
Evensong

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