Archbishop Justin’s three-day visit to St Albans Diocese was widely described as busy, including by Archbishop Justin. He visited St Mary’s Church, Luton, the Mall and Luton Town Hall, Waterways Chaplaincy, St Albans Cathedral, St John’s Farley Hill, Manshead Upper School, Bedford Prison, Bunyan Meeting Church, Shuttleworth College, Stevenage’s Love Herts Youth event, a business breakfast, the Alban Pilgrimage and a discussion on world mission with some of our link dioceses. After 15 engagements in three days, he was still smiling.

Interviewed for BBC Three Counties Radio, he described his initial impression of the “huge diversity and enormous vigour,” in the diocese. He was deeply impressed, during his visit to Luton, to see how issues of diversity were being tackled as he put it: “head on,” with hospitality, with inclusion, with incredible vigour from all parts of the community. “I was hugely impressed. This is something I’ve just got to learn from.”

He spoke about deeply human moments, visiting the waterways chaplaincy and hearing the accounts of addicts helped by the Living Room’s care programmes for them and their families.

In Stevenage, at the Love Herts youth event, Archbishop Justin clearly enjoyed himself as well as giving the evening a serious dimension. “It was just fun, yet very Jesus centred. A number of people came to faith in Christ during the course of the evening, quite a significant number and that’s a wonderful thing. That’s the church, doing it’s stuff, with young people,” he said.

In his Presidential Address to Diocesan Synod, Bishop Alan said: “Taking him to so many places to see some of the work that is going on in every part of the diocese was both exciting and humbling. We received a high level of media interest and it is still possible, if you weren’t able to be present, to get a flavour of the visit by listening to the reports and the Archbishop’s talk from Thursday evening.”

See the front page of www.stalbans.anglican.org.
The Archbishop’s visit in pictures...

With Wenlock CofE Junior School Choir at St Mary’s Luton

In Luton Mall with Town Centre Chaplains

Meeting Christian and other faith leaders and civic dignitaries at Luton Town Hall

With Waterways Chaplains near Watford

At a supper for young people exploring a vocations

At breakfast with Pioneer Ministers at St Johns Farley Hill
In Bedford Prison

The Love Herts Youth event in Stevenage.

With Janice Feely MBE, Director of the Living Room

A selfie with ABC in Stevenage.

The Alban Pilgrimage

Bishops on smoothie cycles
The Bishop’s Harvest Appeal for 2015 will help people across Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire to connect with the needs of disabled children. The project will help the Anglican Church in Uganda to break new ground as it supports the work of the Diocese of Rukungiri to transform attitudes and provision for disabled children in Uganda, where having a disability is a serious disadvantage. Such children are often viewed as “without use” as sometimes they cannot assist their family with work in the fields or look after younger siblings at home.

In addition to providing classrooms for the disabled, there is also a need to provide accommodation as the population is spread widely across the countryside. As a result, children’s homes are many miles away from a school on dirt tracks with no public transport available for them to get to school each day.

The Diocese in Rukungiri is helping to change this mindset and a new facility specifically designed for disabled children is underway. This is exciting as it’s the only one in the district of Rukungiri.

This year’s appeal was launched in a Hertfordshire school and a Bedfordshire disabled sports club. Children in Key Stage 2 at Goff’s Oak enjoyed a special school assembly where Bishop Alan told them about the project, showed them a video of Moses, a boy in Rukungiri, Uganda, and interviewed Catherine Robinson, a young local athlete who is part of the Great Britain paracanoe squad and is on course to compete in the 2016 Paralympic Games. The Rev’d Carole Selby, who is a frequent visitor to the school, also attended. Her background as a PE teacher showed as she made a spectacular stage fall, re-enacting the parable of the Good Samaritan for the children and during the parachute games which the children took part in.

Wheelchair football players from DADDS, Dunstable and District Disabled Sports helped to launch the project in Bedfordshire with Bishop Richard, who explained the project to members of DADDS and then took part in a game of wheelchair football with seven of them.
Church invites people to talk about death and dying

Knebworth Parish is running a new Church of England initiative called “Gravetalk”. This helps people to talk about death, dying and funerals in small groups at “Café” situations in their local communities. It was recently launched nationally during Dying Awareness Week, after trials in selected Parishes around the country. Knebworth is one of the first parishes in the Diocese of St Albans to use the new material.

In the diocese during 2013, 4340 Church of England funerals were held, 31% of all funerals that took place that year, putting the church in touch with the 250,000 people estimated to attend them, showing the Church’s experience in dealing with people facing death and bereavement. The Church is also used to dealing with the big questions about life and death that are often triggered by such events. We can be alongside people as they explore their thinking, wherever that thinking takes them.

During the Gravetalk sessions, discussion is helped along by GraveTalk conversation cards to get started – 52 questions covering 5 key areas.

More information about the course and the issues surrounding death can be found at www.churchofenglandfunerals.org/gravetalk

The meetings are single sessions, lasting an hour, or longer, if needed. People would be welcome to attend a second session if this would help them. This happened when Gravetalk was trialled.

Knebworth Parish has already held two Gravetalk meetings, one in late June with 12 in a cafe and one in early July with 8 in a pub. Rector of Knebworth, Rev’d Jim Pye, said, “We publicised the meetings within the parish and also involved local media and this was reflected in those who came. Some came from Knebworth and others travelled up to 10 miles to come. People found it helpful, and one person who came to the first meeting brought five people to the second. Another meeting or two may follow in the autumn, perhaps at the local library.

He continued: “We are not very good at dealing with death in our society day. This is an excellent course which gives everyone the chance to talk about different areas associated with death in a relaxed way.”

Topics covered include:

- **Life**: What is important in your life? How would you like to be remembered?
- **Death**: What experiences of death have you had so far? What do you think death means?
- **Society**: How has our culture shaped our thinking about death?
- **Funerals**: What will happen when you die? Do you need to make any plans or choices now?
- **Grief**: What is the reality of loss and how do you experience it?
St Faith’s, Hexton, on the Herts/Beds border has had a very successful outcome to its fundraising from a source that is probably little used in St Albans Diocese: The National Churches Trust.
The recent Quinquennial Inspection showed that still more work was need on the roof of St Faith’s.
Their bid for funds to The National Churches Trust (NCT) has brought them a grant of £20,000.
The award is one of 36, totalling £607,000. Huw Edwards, Vice President of the NCT, said: “I’m delighted that the National Churches Trust has been able to provide a £20,000 grant to St Faith’s to help pay for the work to repair the failing Chancel roof and gutters and tackle the problem of damp within the building. This grant will help ensure that St Faith’s will continue to serve the community for many years to come.”
He continued: “The UK’s churches and chapels are a treasure trove of architecture, history and faith. But these buildings don’t belong to the past. They play a vital role in our present and future too, acting as places of worship, community centres or simply somewhere to go for quiet contemplation.”
There is no doubt that keeping churches and chapels wind and watertight and paying for modern facilities is far beyond the means of many congregations and St Faith’s is very grateful.
Tony Howells, Churchwarden and Treasurer of St Faith’s said: “That is why, we have, of course, thanked the National Churches Trust for their very generous grant. The total probable cost of the work is about £137,000 and we have already raised further bids to the Listed Place of Worship Roof Repair Scheme, the Beds and Herts Historic Churches Trust, the Garfield Weston Foundation, the Allchurches Trust and WREN, and others are in preparation. Our thanks are also due to our architect, Iain Frearson, and the DAC for all their help and advice.”
If you have a project that might benefit from the NCT’s help, see: http://www.nationalchurchestrust.org
ON THE MOVE
for
July 2015

The Diocese of St Albans in Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire, Luton & Barnet

Clergy

Patsy Critchley, Curate (SSM) in the benefice of Henlow & Langford has retired with PtO.

Jane Fox, Priest-in-charge in Harrold and Carlton with Chellington (LEP) is to retire in September.

Ruth Goatly, Associate Priest (SSM) at St Mary Marshalswick, St Albans is to become Associate Priest (SSM) at St Luke St Albans.

Diana Harpham, Assistant Curate (SSM) in the benefice of Bromham w Oakley and Stagsden is standing down from her role but retains PtO in the diocese.

Didier Jaquet, Assistant Curate in Training (SSM) in Tring Team Ministry has had a title change to Associate Minister (SSM) and remains in the same benefice.

Chrichton Limbert, Curate in Training in the Ouzel Valley Team Ministry is to become Vicar of Christ Church Southgate in the Diocese of London.

Paul Parks, presently Vicar in the benefice of Hoddesdon is to become Rector in the benefice of St Helen’s, Ore with St Barnabas, Hastings, in the Diocese of Chichester.

Derrick Peel, Vicar of St Mary Ware is to retire in October.

Ruth Pike, currently the Children’s Work Adviser for the Diocese is to become Rector of Barkway, Reed and Buckland with Barley.

Dr Joanna (Jo) Spreadbury, Vicar in the benefice of Abbots Langley is to become Canon Precentor at the Cathedral Church of Thomas of Canterbury in Portsmouth Diocese.

Linda Washington, has come to the end of her role as Assistant Chaplain - Bedford NHS Trust but remains as licenced clergy in the diocese.

Other Appointments

Assistant Area Dean of Barnet
The Revd James Mustard has taken on the role of Assistant Area Dean of Barnet from the beginning of July and the Revd Canon Richard Leslie will step down as he prepares for retirement.

The following Readers were Admitted and Licensed on 28th June 2015 at All Saints’ Church, Hertford, by the Bishop of St. Albans:

Laurelin Burge
Keith Callard
Kathryn Clough
Mark Creswell
Mark Eaton
Paul Evenett
Carol Hopper
Linda Oliver
Annette Playle
Rachel Quinlan
Allyson Scott
Margaret Stratton
Davis Thomas

The following was licensed to this diocese:

Kay Vernon

137 years of service!

At Millbrook Church’s APCM it was noted that two of their PCC members had served for a very long time. Overall 137 years - and still going! Peggy Greenhood, first took up the post at the age of 19 whilst still single, and has served continuously for seventy seven hears. Her friend and fellow Millbrook resident Doreen Shayler has served continuously for sixty years. A proud record and one that their Churchwarden Sir Timothy Clifford felt should be recognised. He and his wife invited the PCC to a coffee morning at their beautiful home, Ampthill Park House, with Peggy and Doreen (pictured above) as guests of honour. This took place on the 16th June and a good time was had by all. The weather was very kind and the two ladies were able to see round the house and gardens where, as pupils at Millbrook School many years ago they had had their sports day.

SeeRound Online On the move July 2015/08
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www.stalbans.anglican.org/news/seeround
Open Days & Festivals

St Mary’s Church, Graveley SG14 7LT. Village Open Gardens on Sunday 12th July 1pm-6pm. Teas and cakes will be available at Flint Barn, next to the church. Stalls including Bric-a-brac, books and plants. Admission £4 under 12s free.

St Katherine’s Church Ickleford. Family Fun Day & Treasure Hunt on Sunday 12th July on Upper Green/ Ickleford School Lawn. Treasure Hunt maps on sale at £2 from 11am-1pm. Family Fun Day (free entry) from 12pm-3pm. Face painting, bouncy castle, BBQ and refreshments, children’s games and entertainments and a toddler play area. Proceeds to St Katherine’s Room-for All.

St Lawrence Church, Ardeley SG2 7AH. Luscious Cream Teas on the first Sunday of the month of 2nd August and 6th September 2.30pm – 5pm. Pretty village with its beautiful 13th century church and thatched cottages round The Green. Proceeds in aid of St Lawrence church funds. For further information contact Wendy Waygood 01438 861260.

St James the Great, Thorley. Festival Of Flowers and Music on the theme “A Good Read”. August Bank Holiday Weekend. Craft Fair on Sat. Sun. Mon. 12 noon - 5pm. Talk on the History and Architecture of the St Barnabas Centre, Sun. Mon. 3pm Admission Free. Refreshments, plants, souvenirs and raffle tickets will be on sale throughout the Festival. Deanery Evening Service Sun. 6.00pm

Miscellaneous

‘Journey of the Magi’ – A festive, witty and thoroughly Christmassy event for your church.
Springs Dance Company is now inviting churches to host a performance of Journey of the Magi, which will be available nationally from 21st Nov to 22nd December 2015.
This critically acclaimed production is set to be a joyful addition to the UK’s family Christmas theatre scene for the 19th year running. With sparkle and songs to keep the kids engrossed, and plenty of in-jokes for the adults to enjoy, Journey of the Magi delights audiences of all ages. The show portrays the original Christmas story whilst drawing hilarious and poignant parallels with our own preparations for Christmas day. Further information can be found on the Springs Dance Company website by emailing Rebecca Bertram on touring@springsdancecompany.org.uk or call 07775 628 442.