Four chances to see and hear the Archbishop of Canterbury

In the wide-ranging programme being organised for Archbishop Justin’s pastoral visit from 18th to 20th June, there will be four opportunities to see him and hear him at large, each with a slightly different focus and appeal to include a wide range of backgrounds, ages and church styles.

While here, Archbishop Justin will follow the busy programme being organised which will take him to a variety of locations in Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire. There he will give encouragement and support to a broad range of activities in our parishes schools and chaplaincies with the aim of furthering our ministry and mission in the diocese. Please pray for him before and during his visit to us.

On Thursday evening, Friday evening and Saturday there are four events which you are warmly invited to attend:

**Sustaining Ministry and Personal Faith - Thursday 18th at 7:15pm, St Albans**

On Thursday evening all are welcome at St Albans Cathedral to hear Archbishop Justin speak about ‘Sustaining Faith’, drawing on his experience of Benedictine spirituality and the tension between a busy life and the need to find time to go deeper into God. The event will have a suitably reflective climax as we leave the cathedral together in silence.

**Love ABC - Friday 19th at 7pm - Stevenage**

Stevenage Leisure Centre will host a unique event for the Archbishop to encounter a broad cross-section of people in the diocese in an informal, evangelistic event with contemporary worship. Soul Survivor will provide music, and there will be a chat-show format for the evening. A ‘milling area’ with activities will allow Archbishop Justin space to mingle at the start of the event. Aimed at younger people, all will nonetheless be welcome and you are encouraged to bring family and friends.

**Alban Pilgrimage - Saturday 20th at 11am, St Albans**

Not one but two Archbishops will attend the Alban Pilgrimage this year. Starting at St Peter’s Church and walking through the heart of a busy St Albans Saturday, Archbishop Justin will stop to address the crowds during the procession as well as preaching at the Eucharist. The Archbishop of Rouen, Mgr Jean-Charles Descubes, will preach at Evensong. Their presence together resonates with history: the Archbishops of Canterbury and Rouen were present 900 years ago in St Albans for the opening of the then ‘new’ Norman building, although there was a place of worship on the site for several centuries before that. For more details about the Alban Pilgrimage visit: www.stalbanscathedral.org/whatson/the-alban-pilgrimage/

**Teaching dialogue on world mission - Saturday 20th at 2:30 pm, St Albans**

Archbishop Justin will join Bishop Alan and Bishops from our link dioceses in the Caribbean to discuss issues around world mission facing the church today in different parts of the world.
Easter Monday Pilgrimage 2015

SeeRound Online April 2015/06

SeeRound Online April 2015/06
The Sunday after VE Day in May 1945 was a day on which leaders of all the main churches in Britain asked Christians to donate what they could to help reconstruct Europe. That day was the origin of Christian Aid – giving expression to the determination of British church leaders during World War 2 to build a different kind of world.

Astonishingly, more than £3 million in today’s money was raised that weekend. It was used to buy bicycles and boats so that pastors could minister to their people, to provide food and medical supplies so that refugees could rebuild their lives and to find teachers and equip schools so that lives could begin to return to normal.

Christian Aid week continues to raise significant sums of money seventy years later to help build a world beyond normal where there would better standards of living and opportunities for all. The church leaders had a vision where everyone would live in peace and harmony with others as good neighbours; and of a world without poverty. The agency to help build this vision was called Christian Reconstruction in Europe. It then became Inter-Church Aid and Refugee Service and now it is known as Christian Aid.

In the 1950s they helped found Voluntary Service Overseas and Christian Aid Week was established. It is the biggest act of Christian giving in Britain and Ireland which in 2014, thanks to the active support of an incredible 20,000 churches across the UK and Ireland, and tens of thousands of supporters, raised some £11m.

In the 1960s Christian Aid took the lead in setting up the Disasters Emergency Committee to ensure different relief agencies cooperated rather than competed during a crisis. In the 1970s it enabled 500,000 slum dwellers in Calcutta to have clean water, sanitation and primary education. In the 1980s it issued an emergency appeal for Ethiopia raising £1.35 million and campaigned to end apartheid in South Africa. In the 1990s it helped to establish the Fairtrade Foundation and successfully called for western governments to drop $130bn of debt owed by poor countries. In the 2000s it reached more than half a million people in need after the Indian Ocean tsunami and in the 2010s it has helped 953,500 Africans to adopt preventive health practices and get the medical treatment they need. All of this has been done through the dedication and generosity of Christian Aid supporters.

This year, people will have the chance to support some of the world’s poorest communities in Ethiopia, where drought is causing great suffering to women and families. When their husbands have to drive livestock further away to find pasture they are left with the task of making back-breaking journeys to collect firewood to sell. Even a couple of goats or a cow can make all the difference and can enable them to feed their families far better. Christian Aid is providing them with that chance. Bishop Alan has made a short video for Christian Aid week which tells the story. http://www.stalbans.anglican.org/diocese/bishop-st-albans-videos/

Christian Aid Week: 10-16 May. For more information visit www.caweek.org or contact
Adrian Whalley
Regional Coordinator – Hertfordshire
AWhalley@christian-aid.org
Tel: 07807 180071
Is Meriel Goore the oldest person in the diocese?

She is 101 and is a long-standing member of St Andrew’s Church Luton. Bishop Richard visited her shortly after she passed this momentous milestone.

Meriel was born in Ebbw Vale, South Wales, and was just a baby when her father went to fight in the first world war, though as a metallurgist, a reserved occupation he could have been spared that experience. One of her earliest memories is of a chance reunion with him, in the ‘very shiny high brown boots’ of the Welsh Horse Regiment, on a railway platform. It would be six years before she would see him again.

Her career path was set out before her: learn piano and dancing and become a teacher – the village school was where she gained the necessary qualifications.

She was “very fortunate” to obtain a post in an area where unemployment was 57%. “But there was a snag; if I married I could not teach, one income per household only. This also applied to nursing. A very close friend overcame this problem by moving to Luton where her husband found work and she continued her nursing. I was invited to join them.” This resulted in a career change.

In Luton she met her husband: “I was invited to join a club which walked in fine weather, in wet we met in a cottage in the middle of an orchard, lost for ever under houses in New Bedford Road. One evening I arrived at the cottage to hear a young man playing a Welsh air on the guitar; need I say more?”

The (39-45) war years were occupied with nursing an invalid mother-in-law, looking after a father-in-law and the birth of three babies. “Sadly my little daughter died and I also nursed a very ill husband for a year. Later when the boys were older, I returned to teaching.”

Meriel does not count her introduction to church a success. A trip to the cinema, where there was an usher selling sweets, left an impression. In church, the soft lights and organ-playing, like the pianist of the picture hall, caused a small voice to call out: “where is the boy with the sweets mama?” Later in service when the Vicar, resplendent in a lace edged surplice reached the pulpit, the same voice called out, “Why is that man wearing a pinafore?”

She continues: “I was eventually disciplined and took a very active part in the church. I am ashamed to confess I did lapse, not attending church for some time; with responsibilities it had been so easy to make excuses. Through a friend I became a member of St Andrew’s Church, where I have enjoyed the company of many friends and spent very happy hours.”
Synod hears how churches can help protect pollinators

The Government has recently launched a ‘National Pollinators Strategy’ which sets out a 10 year plan to help pollinating insects survive and thrive. It includes information on the current evidence, policy actions to support and protect the many pollinating insects which contribute to our food production and the diversity of our environment.

It also explains what research is planned to find out more about the current state of our pollinators and how we can protect them.

March’s Diocesan Synod heard from the Environment Group about how churches can help by providing:

- Food
- Shelter
- Nest sites

At least 1500 species of insects pollinate plants in the UK including bumble bees, the honey bee, solitary bees, hoverflies, wasps, flies, beetles, butterflies and moths. While honeybees normally live in hives managed by beekeepers, many other species live in the wild. Most require food in the form of pollen and nectar, and need a home for shelter and nest building. The number of insect pollinators is highest in the summer coinciding with peak plant growth and supplies of nectar and pollen.

As a result of the way the landscape has changed over the last 50 or more years, not all insect pollinators can readily find the food and shelter they need. The Call to Action seeks to address this, and shows that by taking a few simple actions, together we can meet Bees’ Needs.


Watch the video about beekeepers from All Saints Leighton Buzzard
https://youtu.be/AG1x8glW60

UPDATE: Bishop’s Harvest Appeal 2015

St Albans Diocese continues to work in partnership with the Diocese of Guyana, one of our overseas link dioceses, on a joint project which will strengthen our partnership. The project will offer an opportunity to people from the Diocese of St Albans to visit Guyana, meet people there and work together in practical action.

For a variety of reasons it has become clear that the timescale is likely to be somewhat slower than originally envisaged. This has meant that it is no longer possible to link the 2015 Bishop’s Harvest Appeal with the Guyana project. Although this is disappointing, we are committed to developing our partnership with Guyana and, indeed, with our other link dioceses in the Caribbean. We look forward to being able to confirm more details of the proposed project during the course of this year.

In the meantime we will shortly be announcing details of this year’s Harvest Appeal project. Incidentally, we are delighted that there will be the chance to support this project by joining an organised trip to take part in building work.
A second bite for listed roof repairs

Church roof repairs for listed buildings benefitted from £30 million of funding in the budget, with £25 million more to come in 2015-16.

Among nearly 400 grants between £10 and £100,000, there are four in this diocese, totalling more than £120,000. Roof leaks are the principal cause of decay in historic churches.

“The impact of this will be unparalleled, amounting to the largest number of church roof repairs carried out at any one time under a funding scheme. Rain water entering a building through damaged roofs and gutters can quickly damage the historic interiors that help to make these buildings so significant. Damage can rapidly accelerate, making a building unsound for use. Basic repairs are fundamental to preventing this happening, and the fund will make an immeasurable difference to those that receive grants. We are incredibly grateful to the Chancellor for having made provision for such an important scheme, and for extending it to another round, to give everyone a second chance to apply.”

The listed places of worship roof repair fund was oversubscribed when applications closed on 31 January and the second round of grants in 2015-16 is a response to this.

Janet Gough, Director of ChurchCare, expressed her thanks for the funding. She said:

“The impact of this will be unparalleled, amounting to the largest number of church roof repairs carried out at any one time under a funding scheme. Rain water entering a building through damaged roofs and gutters can quickly damage the historic interiors that help to make these buildings so significant. Damage can rapidly accelerate, making a building unsound for use. Basic repairs are fundamental to preventing this happening, and the fund will make an immeasurable difference to those that receive grants. We are incredibly grateful to the Chancellor for having made provision for such an important scheme, and for extending it to another round, to give everyone a second chance to apply.”

The second round, for the allocation of the remaining £25 million set aside for the scheme, is expected to open later in 2015. Both unsuccessful applicants under the initial scheme and new applicants will be able to apply, and ChurchCare will be providing support and guidance to those interested in applying. More information will be made available from the LPOW Roof Repair Fund and ChurchCare websites in due course. Other sources of funding continue to be available.

Recipients in the diocese are:
St Mary the Virgin Hitchin £35,100
Church of St Andrew, Little Berkhamsted £38,200
St Mary and St Paul Hemel Hempstead £23,000
St Mary Magdalene, Dunton £26,300

Ringing in the VE Day 70th Anniversary

The ringing of church bells has long been part of commemorating the moment in 1945 when peace broke out and brought an end to nearly six years of war and chaos across Europe. The Government would like to invite churches to contribute to the VE Day Anniversary events with a ringing of bells, where they are able and in a manner of their choosing. The proposal is that 11am on Saturday 9th May would be the single moment to do this. However it is recognised churches will have their own commitments that might not make it possible for all to deliver a ringing of bells at that precise moment. Therefore churches may wish to select another moment during the weekend of Friday 8th- Sunday 10th May to join in.
Clergy

George Cobb, Chaplaincy Team Leader in East & North Hertfordshire NHS Trust, left with PTO in the diocese.

Diego Galazino presently Assistant Curate in the benefice of St Ives & Halsetown in Truro Diocese is to become Priest-in-Charge in the benefice of Houghton Regis.

Dr Rob Marshall previously Team Rector in the benefice of East Ham, Chelmsford Diocese is to become Mission Priest (half time) with special responsibility for St John’s Digswell & Digswell Village Church LEP.

Andrew Thomas, previously a Curate (SSM) has now had a title change to Associate Minister at Holy Trinity Stevenage.

Obituary

Daphne Wales
Daphne died peacefully at Ashlyn’s Residential Home, Berkhamsted, aged 97. She was heavily involved in diocesan affairs for many years, and was initially the Bishop’s Council representative on the Board for Mission & Unity from 1975/6. She was Chair of the House of Laity between 1979-1985. Daphne remained on the Bishop’s Council until 1991/2 and on the Board for Mission & Unity until 1994/5. She was elected as the St Albans General Synod representative in the 1976 elections. She was Chairman of the Archbishops’ Council Board for Mission and Unity and wrote the foreword to the “Towards a Theology for Inter-Faith Dialogue” as Chairman, which went to the Lambeth Conference in 1988. A Service of Thanksgiving for Daphne’s life was held at St. Mary’s Church Watford on 17th April.

A new face in Abbey Gate House

Claire Godfrey (pictured above) is the new Administrative Secretary to the Bishop of St Albans. Rosamund Adlard has become PA to the Bishop of St Albans following the retirement of Mary Handford.

Dancing to the tune of £25,000

Ray & Claudia Ashley-Brown with their trophy

After only six dance lessons to learn the Paso Doble and Charleston, SeeRound Online’s Assistant Editor Claudia Ashley-Brown and her Hospice Chaplain husband Ray (who was Charlie Chaplin for the evening) beat 16 other couples to win the 2015 Hospice Strictly Learn Dancing final. The event is expected to raise £25,000 for the Hospice of St Francis in Berkhamsted, (which relies on donations for 80% of its £4.7million annual running costs), and is where Ray works as Chaplain.

The final dance off required the top three scoring couples to dance the Charleston to a piece of music none of them had heard before. “It was quite a challenge” said Claudia, “We were amazed to make it to the top three but when they said we’d won, we were flabbergasted - we’ve never won anything in our lives!” The trophy was awarded by Dr Ros Taylor MBE, who was the Hospice Director at the time of the competition in March, and has now been appointed as National Director of Hospice Care at Hospice UK.

Have you booked your place yet?
Concerts & Drama

St Lawrence Church, Abbots Langley
Spring Concert Series. All concerts begin at 11am with refreshments served from 10.30am. Tickets £5 on door, Children free. Saturday 2nd May – Tom Winpenny (St Albans Cathedral), Organ. Saturday 9th May – Southorn & Stratton Family (Abbots Langley), Voice and Saxophone. Saturday 16th May – Richard Pinel (St George’s Chapel, Windsor Castle), Organ. Saturday 23rd May – Peter Holder – (St Paul’s Cathedral, London), Organ. Saturday 30th May – Katherine Bunting (Abbots Langley), Soprano.

St Mary’s Church, Ashwell
62nd Ashwell Music Festival starts Thursday 7th May, for full details of all events visit www.ashwellmusicfestival.org. Box Office: 30 Angel’s Meadow, Ashwell 01462 742500.

RSCM Principles of Singing & Gospel Day in Maulden Village Hall, Bedfordshire. Saturday 9th May 10-4pm. Sessions with Deborah Miles Johnson (10-12.30pm) and Dawn Thomas Wallace (1.15-3.45pm) £6 per session or £10 for the whole day. For details visit www.rscm-stalbans.co.uk.

Holy Saviour Church, Radcliffe Rd, Hitchin, SG51QG. To celebrate the 150th Anniversary of Holy Saviour Church, members of choirs from Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire combine to sing Brahms Requiem on Sunday May 17th at 7pm, with Sally Ann Hayes – soprano, Simon Williams – baritone and Trevor Hughes - keyboard; conducted by Dr Douglas Angell’s Meadow, Ashwell 01462 742500.

St Michael and All Angels Church, Mildred Avenue, Watford. Animal Blessing Service. Sunday 31st May at 3pm. Preacher: Revd Prof Martin Henig, Vice President of the Anglican Society for the Welfare of Animals (ASWA). All animals and people welcome! If you have a timid animal, bring a photo for blessing instead. Light refreshments served after service.

St Mary the Virgin Church, Stevington, Bedford. Centenary Organ Concert on Saturday 30th May at 7.30pm. The organ (originally built in 1915) will be played by renowned organist and composer Paul Edwards. Tickets £8 (including light refreshments) will be available from Stevington Community Shop or see www.stevington.org.uk for details.

Holy Cross Church, Marsh Farm, Luton. Grand Organ Concert by Nicholas Martin (formerly of Turners Musical Merry-go-round) on Saturday 30th May at 7pm. He will be playing both his own and the Holy Cross organ. Tickets £8. Contact David on 07944 422098 for tickets and directions.

Open Days & Festivals

St Peter’s Church Lilley. Flower Festival “Travellers Tales” on Saturday 2nd, Sunday 3rd & Monday 4th May 10.30-5pm. Stalls and refreshments served all day. Entrance £2.

All Saints Harpenden Jubilee events. Ascension Day 50th Anniversary Deanery Evening Choral Eucharist Thursday 14th May 8pm. Also Flower Festival weekend Saturday 23rd-Monday 25th May (Sat. Mon 10-5pm, Sun 1-5pm) Cream Teas and refreshments available. Details from Revd Linda Williams 01582 713007.

St Andrew’s Church Cuffley Family Fun Day. Saturday 16th May from 10.30am. Includes Family Treasure Hunt, Barbeque, Teddy Bears picnic(under 5s) and disco (over 5s). Details from anne stokes email anncstocks@aol.com

St Albans Woodland Burial Trust Open Day, Keysoe MK44 2JP. You are invited to a special open day on Saturday 16th May 2pm-5pm at our woodland, set in 60 acres of beautiful countryside. The family, including dogs, are welcome and refreshments will be provided. Follow signs to The College Equestrian Centre. Details on: www.woodlandburialtrust.com.

Talks & Courses

The Hitchin Christian Centre, Bedford Rd, Hitchin, Herts SG5 1HF. Theology Cafe Evening event series continues on Tues 28th April - ‘Was Jesus Inclusive?’ Tues 26th May - ‘Is the God of the Old Testament genocidal?’ All events are free with refreshments and will take place at 7.30pm each evening. www.hcc.org.uk.

Belief Spring Course 2015 “Reading the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament) Today” Course runs for 5 sessions: Wednesday 13th May-10th June. at 8pm St Andrews Church Centre Kimbolton Rd. Bedford MK40 2PF For further information about each session visit www.beliefbeds.org Cost is £4 per session, payable on the day (inc. refreshments). 01234 330314 or email belief@standrewsbedford.org

Equipping God’s People Courses

www.stalbans.anglican.org/ ministry/find-a-course

Caring for God’s Earth - Growing Sustainable Communities Saturday 25 April 9:30am – 4.00pm St Albans Abbey, Holywell Hill, St Albans, AL1 1BY Churches have a presence in every community and are guardians of sacred building and sacred land - how can we become a prophetic voice in our local community? For more information or any questions, please contact Helen Hutchinson, environment@stalbans.anglican.org 01727 818148

Leading the Intercessions Saturday 25 April 9:30am – 1.00pm St Mary’s Church, NORTH MYMMS, AL9 7TN This course is designed to help anyone who is asked to lead the prayers of intercession. Whether you have been doing it for some time, are new to it or are thinking about it, it offers an opportunity for you to consider this key aspect of worship. Book in advance online. Cost: Free. Contact: Gabby 01727 818141 pdadmin@stalbans.anglican.org

Beliefs: Faith and Spirituality Nurturing the Soul, Increasing our Faith and Understanding of God’s Will for Our Lives. Tuesdays: 10-5pm, Mon 14-16th May, Thurs 17-19th May, Sat 21st & Wed 25th May. St Nicholas Church, Holywell Road, St Albans AL1 4PD. For further information call 01727 818141 pdadmin@stalbans.anglican.org

SeeRound Online Events April/May 2015/06  www.stalbans.anglican.org/news/seeround