In about half of our twenty deaneries, one of our bishops has heard what the parishes are doing in their mission and have shared more about the diocese’s renewed for Living God’s Love. Every deanery is different! In Sharnbrook Bishop Alan met young people over pizza and peaches, in Berkhamsted deanery Bishop Michael enjoyed an evening celebration in the local brewery - beer and hymns were the order of the day, with rousing singing and an inspiring message from the bishop. In Stevenage Bishop Richard participated in ‘Tea and Company’, an initiative by St Peter’s to reach out into the community and provide an opportunity for building fellowship for all. In Ampthill and Shefford, there was a deanery choir. There was of course lots more on the ‘menu’ as people shared their experiences of mission and growth. More deanery events are coming up – don’t miss yours!

Goldmine! Now live!
If you have photos of your deanery day with the bishop – or of events in your parish - you can now upload them onto the Goldmine. You can also look at other photos and be inspired by what other parishes are doing - and inspire others with your good ideas! New Mission Action Plan resources are also available. The MAP summary form has been revised. (Please use this format when you upload your new or reviewed MAP.) Together we are Living God’s Love – more resources are downloadable, available at the deanery evenings or from Carol Chisnall (01727 818148, cchisnall@stalbans.anglican.org).
Bishop’s Letter

Adding Accent and Energy that helps us GROW

In September I took part in the GROW Mission Week that happened in the parishes of Mill End and Heronsgate with West Hyde in Rickmansworth Deanery. The mission resulted from a year’s worth of planning aimed at helping the churches to grow – in spiritual depth, impact on the local community and in numbers.

GROW involved a huge number of different church members who led and organised events, communicated what was happening, fed and hosted visitors, prayed for all that took place and much more. The week was led by a ‘home team,’ comprised of their Vicar, Simon Cutmore, Curate Jairo Nyaongo, the Readers of the parish and other lay leaders. In support was an ‘away team’ comprised of ‘missioners’ from around the world including curates, ordinands and a team vicar from St Albans, a Franciscan brother from Worcestershire, Bishop Philip Wright (pictured below with his wife) of our link diocese Belize and representatives from our Swedish link diocese Linköping. The week was packed with activity. Above all, most time was spent praying for the churches, their life and their growth. Upheld by this prayer we held a number of events designed to grow the churches’ outreach and links with people and organisations they were already in touch with – local schools and uniformed organisations, young mums and dad who’ve recently become associated with the churches, older people, friends and neighbours. During these gatherings we told those who came something of why we are followers of Christ and think that doing so is good news. Highlights included a Gospel magician speaking to a group of men who’d gathered at a local curry house (pictured below), a ‘messy mission extravaganza’ held for families at one of the schools in the parish (pictured opposite, top left), a ‘Seeing Salvation’ event with input from a Hertfordshire artist, an evening of games played in the pitch dark in a local park with scouts and guides (pictured opposite, top right), an inspiring talk given by evangelist J John given to conclude the whole week.

The mission wasn’t by any means designed to replace the churches’ existing programmes or even to fill gaps they thought might exist. Rather, the aim was to add accent and energy to what the churches were already doing. Our hope was that GROW would above all be an encouragement for the churches and their people, demonstrating once again that God is with us and for us, that we can have
confidence in the Gospel we follow and that our churches are good news for the world around us. We prayed throughout the week that God would exceed our expectations. God more than honoured our prayer. More people came to events than we’d hoped for or expected, people grew in faith and trust, many significant conversations took place that helped people grow in conviction and understanding. All this is being followed up by a series of activities that will take place in the parishes to help the gains of the week to be consolidated. So this autumn the churches are running the Alpha course and in the spring are running Start. And in the meantime, the churches’ leaders are speaking to those whose hearts were moved by God’s call to ask them the question “What next?” A wise person once said “Churches exist by mission as fire exists by burning” – that when we reach out to others in faith, hope and love we become the kind of people, the kind of church we’d like to be – right now and into the future. That was what we experienced as we took part in GROW.

Yours in Christ,

+ Michael Hertford.

bishophertford@stalbans.anglican.org

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**Fire Safety - 10 years on**

This October sees the tenth anniversary of the activation of the “Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005” which brought all church premises under fire safety legislation as ‘Places of Public Assembly’. This article is a brief reminder to all with responsibilities for church buildings of their obligations under the legislation. In particular there is a need for a ‘Fire Risk Assessment’ of buildings looking at the users of the building, the activities taking place, the risks present and the ways of minimising those risks harming users.

The DAC has a number of Advisory Leaflets (ALs) on fire safety matters which can be downloaded from the Diocesan website - www.stalbans.anglican.org/finance/dac-advice-leaflets. They are:

- **AL 33 - Fire Safety** (Full title: Fire Safety Legislation affecting Church Buildings and activities)
- **AL 6 - Fire Prevention in Churches and Church Halls**
- **AL 40 - Fire Alarm Systems - a short guide to fitting them in Churches and Church halls**
- **AL 26 - Petrol storage** (Guidance on the storage of petrol driven tools and the fuel for them.)
- **AL 41 - Sheds**
- **AL 42 - Rubbish Storage**

Also of relevance is **AL 39 Electrical Wiring and Testing**

The DAC has a specialist consultant on fire safety matters who, as the title suggests, can be consulted by parishes - contact via the DAC team.
Luton’s 20th Peace Walk was more than just a significant anniversary: drawing attention to the continuing work of different faiths and communities to walk together promoting a shared vision of a peaceful society seems all the more vital in a town which has seen some serious challenges to that vision in the last year, from those with extreme views.

Planning for this year’s Peace Walk started in January, bringing together the key faith leaders and engaging them with schools and communities. Eleven schools engaged with the Luton Council of Faiths programme. Over two thousand pupils benefitted especially in the school assemblies by discussions held in a BBC style show, on the Religious Education (RE) theme ‘what will make our town more respectful?’ This has been ground breaking initiative that we have had panels of local faith leaders to mainly demonstrate how they are working together for the common good, hence providing an alternative to the negative portrayal of our town and of religion as such by the media, focussing only on war and extremism. During the panel discussions, tough questions were asked by the pupils e.g. ‘When will religions Unite, why do you argue or fight? Do you always agree? Why are we different etc.

The most iconic activity was the creation of the ‘Breath of the Compassionate’ mosaic tile artwork made from scratch, led by Artist-Potter Moriam Grillo with a William Morris inspired theme. Children learnt about William Morris and brought inspired drawings to be printed on the tiles. The sessions cut across art, history, geography, maths and science showing to the children combining arts, culture and sciences into a beautiful piece of art. Nearly 5000 pieces were made with communities across town, who participated in this activity with great enjoyment towards the end of summer. Images at:

The Peace walk day was a showcase of these great community initiatives and many more, giving participants on the day, an opportunity to expand their horizon, by also visiting different places of worship that people would probably never had a chance to visit and ask questions about. Great hospitality was extended on the day at each place of worship, thus sharing cultures and blending into British traditions at All Saints Church, from unveiling the mosaic artwork in the newly developed Peace Garden and looking at community allotments, to letting one’s inner Robin Hood out in archery with local community coaches.
Reader raises over £9000 in 24 hours of rain, mist and sun

Cranfield Church Reader, Trevor Dimmock, 70, walked a heroic 66 miles in one day to benefit the church walls! The Thames Path Challenge makes the marathon seem a doodle and would give most of us a nightmare 24 hours. Trevor and his son Ben set off for the Thames Path Challenge from Putney Bridge at 9am on a Saturday morning in September, in drizzling rain. The rain continued all day until early evening but didn’t prevent them from enjoying the many London sights as they walked along the Thames Path at a steady 10 minutes per kilometre. Kew Gardens, Hampton Court Palace, Runnymede were among the many places of interest. As darkness fell the Thames mists began to form making it difficult to make out the route. The walk through Cookham graveyard at 3.30am on Sunday morning was particularly interesting. After a few essential rest stops, the final destination at Henley after 100k was reached in brilliant sunshine on the 11th at 9.48am. Trevor raised the amazing sum of £9,600 for St Peter & St Paul, Cranfield Church Restoration fund. If you should wish to support this amazing effort, the fund remains open for a few weeks, at www.charitychoice.co.uk search for St Peter & St Paul Church Cranfield.

Recently, I was talking to one of our parish priests who was telling me how his parish had been able to considerably increase the income from their church hall. It seemed such a brilliant yet simple idea that I thought others should know about it.

Many parishes do make full use of their halls and are grateful for the income it produces. But how many know whether they are charging the right amount? After all, every PCC is a charity and as a charity it is expected to charge a proper fee for the use of its asset. Of course, the PCC will want to use its discretion when charging other charities or groups associated with the church. But how many have actually assessed the proper market rate when deciding on a fair charge to commercial users?

My priest contact said they asked someone independently to tell them what the market rate was for their hall and were surprised not just at the amount, but also how relatively easy it then was to increase the rent charged to commercial users, albeit with some transitional provision.

So if you haven’t recently enquired about the rental value of your hall from an organisation such as Rumball Sedgwick, Diocesan Surveyor, or indeed of any other PCC asset, then you might be pleasantly surprised.  

David Nye, DBF Chair
School’s Harvest celebrations

Schools from all over the diocese celebrated Harvest in three services in St Albans Cathedral. Bishop Richard took two, speaking on the theme of onions as an image for harvest and faith, helping us to see the many layers of knowing God and even reminding us of the tears we might shed for the injustice that many in the world face hunger and starvation and for those for whom harvest is not a time of celebrating plenty but of mourning crop failure.

Know someone who’s just become a school Governor?

How to survive as a Governor in a church school

This new book (http://www.rpbooks.co.uk/products/1728/how-to-survive-as-a-governor-in-a-church-school) is a practical resource about what being a governor means today. It also reflects on the theological and spiritual roles and dimensions of the role of a school governor in a church school. Some historical background and key milestones in the development of church schools in both England and Wales provide useful context.

Sections on ‘Vision’ and ‘Mission’ both for governing bodies as a whole and for individual governors point readers towards theological reflection on the place of church schools and their governors and how that might be played out in a practical way.

Preparing for an inspection is covered with practical tips and hints about what inspectors might look for and the criteria that they apply during SIAMS statutory inspections. There is advice for dealing with challenging aspects of school governance, from collective worship to admissions and student and staff discipline.

How to survive as a school Governor ends with one of the most important aspects of life in a church school – Prayers and Praying Together. A selection of prayers, some familiar and some not so, include a prayer from the Jewish community and a prayer from the Muslim tradition reflecting the diverse nature of the communities that Church of England and Church in Wales schools serve.

Belinda Copson, Schools Support Officer (Governance) for St Albans Diocese has read a review copy. She says: “There is a good balance between addressing Christian vision and mission, and governance responsibilities and skills; and the book makes good connections between context and practice. Lots of case studies, action points, tips, ideas for personal reflection and so forth, in a very accessible format. I think any governor in a church school would find this a useful specialist resource to use alongside more generic publications.”
**Clergy Appointments**

**Canon Mark Dearnley** was formally instituted as the vicar of St Peter’s Church, St Albans in September. He has been a priest for 28 years, most recently at St Mary’s, Wendover.

**Ruth Goatly**, previously Associate Minister (SSM) at St Luke’s Church, St Albans, was been appointed Canon of Kagera, Tanzania in September. (Pictured below with Bishop Aaron).

**Jenny Gray**, previously Priest-in-charge in the benefices of Aston and Bramfield, Stapleford, Waterford & Watton at Stone has been appointed Rector (by virtue of a pastoral scheme) of the new benefice of Aston, Bramfield, Stapleford, Waterford & Watton at Stone.

**Richard Howlett**, presently vicar of St Mary’s Church Goldington is to become Team Vicar in Langelei Team Ministry with special responsibility for St Benedict, Bennett’s End & St Mary Apsley End.

**Eric Lomax** currently Priest-in-Charge in the Colsterworth Group of Parishes is to become Vicar in the benefice of Kempston & Biddenham.

**Paul Messam**, previously Priest-in-Charge at St James, Bulkington in Coventry Diocese, is to become Priest-in-Charge in Elstow Team Ministry (with specific responsibility for Elstow Abbey).

**Rachel Phillips**, presently Vicar of the benefice of Northaw & Cuffley and Rural Dean of Cheshunt, has been appointed Canon for Mission and Growth for Rochester Cathedral, in Rochester Diocese.

**David Price** has stepped down from his responsibilities as Associate Minister (SSM) in the Aldenham, Radlett & Shenley Team Ministry.

**Shaun Speller**, presently Assistant Curate in the benefice of Harpenden, is to become Vicar in the benefice of Henlow and Langford.

**Canon Peter Wadsworth**, presently Vicar of St Saviours Church, St Albans, is to retire to Yorkshire next year.

**Education Department**

**Mrs Véronique (Vicki) Barrière** has become General Schools Administrator (Director’s PA) and will be working 28 hours per week. She has recently been a project support officer for the Diocese of West Yorkshire and the Dales, and an Archdeacon’s PA.

**Laura Brooks-Payne** has become schools administrative assistant, working 15 hours per week during term-time. Laura has recently been the Resources Manager at Queenswood School.

**IME Officer**

**Dr James Webster**, currently Assistant Curate in the parish of Broxbourne with Wormley, has been appointed Vicar of St Paul’s Langlebury and Diocesan IME (Initial Ministerial Education) Officer.

**Rural Dean of Stevenage**

**Christopher Bunce**, has been appointed Rural Dean of Stevenage and continues as Rector of St Andrew & St George, Stevenage.

**Bishop’s Advisor for Hospital Chaplaincies**

Canon Martyn Trembath has been appointed Bishop’s Advisor for Hospital Chaplaincies in the Diocese of St Albans, taking over from Douglas Loveridge who retired earlier this year. Martyn continues as Lead Chaplain at Luton & Dunstable University Hospital.

**After 22 years service for the Diocese of St Albans, most within the Education Team, Eileen Bigg has retired. Pictured above (left) with Susan Pope, Eileen receives her farewell gifts from the diocesan office team at a lovely gathering comprising colleagues past and present. She was also bid farewell during the Schools Harvest Festival services. We wish her a happy retirement.**

**Canon Peter Wadsworth**, presently Vicar of St Saviours Church, St Albans, is to retire to Yorkshire next year.
Concerts & Drama

St Albans Cathedral – Hymnathon Sunday 9th October at 2pm. Come, sponsor and sing your favourite hymns! www.stalbanscathedral.org/whatson/music. Tickets £5 on door.

St. Mary's the Virgin, Church Street, Rickmansworth. Afternoon Tea Concert of French Melodies, including Fauré, Debussy and Massenet on Sunday 9th. October 3pm. Soprano, Guitar, Piano and Flute.

St Owen's Church, Bromham MK43 8LL A mesmerising music and dance performance by The Osilig Troupe of Maasai Warriors on Wednesday 19th October at 7.30pm. £10 adult Child £5 Booking essential call 01234 825454 (am) 826551 (eves).

St Helen’s Church, High Street, Wheathampstead AL4 8AA Noye’s Fludde by Benjamin Britten. Performances on Thursday 20th & Friday 21st at 7.30pm. Saturday 22nd October at 5pm and 7.30pm. Tickets £12, concs £10, Child £5. 01582 833581.

St Saviour’s Church, Sandpit Lane, St Albans AL1 4DF Radlett Choral Society Concert on Saturday 19th November, 7.30pm. Fauré - Requiem, J.S. Bach - Cantata 18, Alexander Flood - Born in Flight. With the Mariana Ensemble, Soprano: Sarah Gabriel, Bass: Samuel Evans. Tickets £12, accompanied children under 16 free.

Christ Church Chorleywood, WD3 5SG, Adoramus Singers & Ensemble present ‘Gloria’ - on Saturday 26th November at 7.30pm. Baroque classics featuring Gloria by Vivaldi, and works by Manfredini, Albinoni and JS Bach. Tickets £10 (£5 for U16s), from Christ Church office 01923 282149 and www.wegotickets.com/adoramus.

St Peter’s Church Berkhampsted, Bridgewater Sinfonia concert with Chiltem Chamber Choir and soloists on Saturday 26th November at 7.30pm. Programme: - Mozart - ‘Overture Le Nozze di Figaro’ & ‘Requiem’ and Schumann - ‘Konzertstücke’. Tickets £15 in adv. £16 on the door, U16s free. Details 01442 873205 www.bridgewater-sinfonia.org.uk.

Open Days & Festivals

Forthcoming Deanery Events for Renewing & Refreshing Living God’s Love

October
- Bishop’s Stortford - Tues 4th
- Dunstable - Tues 11th
- Bedford - Thurs 13th
- Hertford & Ware - Thurs 20th

November
- Buntingford - Thurs 3rd
- Hitchin - Mon 7th
- Wheathampstead - Mon 7th
- Rickmansworth - Mon 7th
- Watford - Weds 9th
- Biggleswade - Thurs 10th
- Hemel Hempstead - Weds 23rd

January
- St Albans - Thurs 19th
- Luton - Thurs 23rd.

www.stalbans.anglican.org/faith/living-god-s-love

St Peter’s Church, Arlesey. Arlesey Music & Arts Festival comprises 16 different events and 8 exhibitions. Items include art, jazz, dance and drama along with folk, organ, choral and classical music and much more. Events run from October 8th - 23rd. For full details visit www.arts.arlesey.org.uk.

All Saints Church Westbourne Road MK40 4LD Queens Park Faith Tour coordinated by BELIEF Bedford will take place on Saturday 22nd October starting at 9.45am. The tour includes All Saints Church, Guru Nanak Gurdwara (sikh) and Jamia Masjid Gulshan-E-Bagdad (muslim). All visitors are asked to respect the religious traditions. Tour is £10 per person inc refreshments payable on the day. Further details from belief@standrewsbedford.org.

St James the Great, Thorley. Autumn Craft Fair on Saturday 5th November 11.00am-3.30pm at the St Barnabas Centre, Thorley CM23 4BE. Lots of stalls inc gifts, art, jewellery, cards and much more. Refreshments & home-baking. Soup, bread & cheese lunches from 12. Win a Christmas cake.


St Mary’s Church, Carlton. Amazing Christmas Bazaar on Saturday 26th November 10am-1pm in Carlton Village Hall. Grand Draw at 12.30pm. Entry £1 for adults, children free.

Talks & Courses

Bedford School Library, de Parys Ave, Burnaby Rd gate. Tuesday 11 October at 7.30 pm. The ‘Mary Rose’ restored illustrated talk by Edward Towne, Official Mary Rose Trust lecturer. (Free to HA members (Historical Association-Bedford). Others welcome with a donation. Details 07989 837819/01234 266839.

Mission Action Planning Workshops starting 23rd November 9.30am-1pm Workshop covers:
- Exploring vision for mission
- Identifying mission opportunities & community engagement;
- Effective action & progress monitoring.

See MAP leaflet in bundle notices for all the 6 available dates and venues.

Contact: Kathryn McNamara pdadmin@stalbans.anglican.org 01727 818151

Equipping God’s People