There’s a buzz about this year’s Bishop’s Harvest Appeal...

The Bishop of Bedford took the Bishop’s Harvest Appeal to a new audience for this year’s Bedfordshire launch: offenders on Community Payback. About a dozen Bedfordshire younger offenders heard about the 2013 appeal, for Ethiopian bee-keepers, at St Botolph’s, Apsley Guise. Afterwards, they had a chance to inspect some bees kept by the Rector, the Revd Graham Bradshaw, and hear about the threats to the bee population across the world. As the Bishop of St Albans says in his introduction to the appeal: ‘Albert Einstein observed that if the bee disappeared off the face of the earth, humanity would only have four years left to live.’ So helping the bee in any part of the world is helping the whole of humanity.

The unusual audience took a keen interest in the struggle of Ethiopian farmers to modernise their equipment and methods for one of Ethiopia’s traditional farm products: honey. A project, run by Christian Aid with a local partner, Action For Development, provides Ethiopian bee-keepers with new hives and helps them to aggregate in co-operatives, improving the local productivity and profitability of their honey production many times over, at very low cost.

The presence of the offenders at the launch came about because St Botolph’s already has contact with the Community Payback scheme, as offenders have been clearing and maintaining the churchyard there in recent months. Their contact at St Botolph’s, John Marks, came up with the inspired idea of approaching the Bedford Probation Service to ask if they could be included in the launch, which they were happy to agree to.

Jacqui Layne, Community Payback Deputy Manager with Bedfordshire Probation Trust, said: “It’s always a pleasure to work with St Botolph’s. We have a fantastic relationship with them and it was a pleasure to be considered for an event such as this, a thought-provoking experience for everyone concerned.”

The Bishop of Bedford said: “This was a wonderful example of unashamedly not hiding our light under a bushel. We took the Harvest Appeal to a new audience, strengthened relationships with a group that the church is keen to build links with and had a great time together to boot. My thanks go to John Marks at St Botolph’s for his creativity in including the Community Payback group, the Bedfordshire Probation Service for their willing participation, the parish of St Botolph and their Rector for sharing his hobby with us and the Harvest Appeal team for a project which has the potential to do so much good for the people of Ethiopia and bees everywhere.”
Bishop writes... Tell me your story

Christians have so many great stories to tell of what God is doing! We have especially our own story of faith. How God is part of our life, inspiring, renewing, and changing who we are. So why do we so often fail to tell it?

So let’s tell our stories! Get over the reticence and the reserve! Tell of what God is doing in your life.

One of the joys of being a Bishop, I have discovered over the last year, is that people tell me about their journey of faith. Sometimes it is spontaneous as I meet them. Often it is before Confirmations as I read the letters that the candidates are invited to write to the Bishop outlining something of who they are and why they seek Confirmation. Some of these letters are detailed testimonies of faith. There are those whose previously unsatisfying priorities and lifestyle have been transformed and who now seek to follow the example of Christ in their daily lives. Others testify to how coming to faith has given meaning and purpose to their lives.

And then, contrary to the wisdom of the world and the shallow presumptions of commentators, there are a surprisingly large number for whom it has been an experience of tragedy or personal crisis that opened the door to faith. Far from destroying any possibility of belief, it has been a path that has led deeper into the grace and love of God. However whether it is the stories of those about to be confirmed, or those on a recent visitation day who reflected on how God had been present with them in the challenges of life, or simply those who tell me their faith journey over coffee, they are powerful stories that can inspire and encourage others; stories of faith that need to be told.

To my regret when I was young, the church communities I was part of were suspicious of ‘testimony’. It was what evangelicals did and therefore ‘we’ didn’t do it. It was somewhat un-British and went against our crafted reserve. In any case why would anyone be interested!

Thankfully, as in so many areas, I have learnt better!

Archbishop John Sentamu, who is in our prayers as he receives treatment for prostate cancer, has recently published John Sentamu’s Faith Stories. It is a compilation of twenty stories of faith changing lives today. Ranging from the widowed mother of two young boys and the former soldier whose fellow soldiers were killed, to those who have responded to God’s call to social justice or to communicating the good news of the gospel it is another example of the power of testimony to inspire. As the Archbishop writes: each of us has an incredible story to tell.

So let’s tell our stories! Get over the reticence and the reserve! Tell of what God is doing in your life. Not just the highs of faith but also the lows; the times of clarity and the occasions of doubt – tell it as it is for it will resonate with the searching and the seeking of others. We might all be surprised by the impact if, rather than worrying about how to speak of our faith, we just told the one story that we know by heart!

Don’t forget SeeRound when you tell your story! Ed.
Dunstable Priory was at the centre of a plan to create a diocese of Bedfordshire and Buckinghamshire with the Priory Church of St Peter as its cathedral, had it not fallen through in 1545, the Bishop of Bedford told the congregation gathered there on Pentecost morning. He was there to mark the Priory’s 800th anniversary, being celebrated as part of ‘Dunstable 800,’ a year of celebration centering on the Priory’s birthday, but also drawing attention to the great history of Dunstable at the heart of some of the biggest events of national history, including the granting of the annulment of the marriage of Henry VIII to Catherine of Aragon.

As one of the key events marking the anniversary, a shrine to St Fremund is being re-established in the Priory after a gap of several centuries. When the Priory was being built, permission to bring St Fremund’s bones to Dunstable was obtained from the King and the shrine became a focal point for prayer until the Reformation. The new shrine was made by schoolchildren from Weatherfield Academy and Beecroft Lower School. After being blessed at the uniquely named St Fremund’s Church in Dunstable, the shrine was carried to Ashton Middle School from where there was a procession to the Priory for the installation (see right). St Fremund is remembered for being a ninth century man of prayer, probably the son of King Offa, who obeyed the call to lead an army against the invading Danes. He led his men to victory and as he knelt on the battlefield to give thanks to God, a Dane struck his head with an axe and decapitated him. Legend has it that he picked up his head and walked away, finding a holy well where he washed his wounds before dying. He is remembered as a martyr and many miracles are attributed to him. More events at medievaldunstable.org.uk

Bishop Richard: “You are celebrating 800 years of witness: of the Holy Spirit - the spirit of love - moving in this place”

St Albans Mayor, Cllr Annie Brewster, took to the keyboard when she called in at her parish church of St Helen’s Wheathampstead. The new Mayor says, “It’s ironic that, while our City gets ready to host its renowned International Organ Festival, just a few minutes up the road my own busy, vibrant village church cannot find an organist to lead its Sunday services.” Following the retirement of St Helen’s long-standing organist, Roger Harrison, the church has found it impossible so far to replace him. Mayor’s Chaplain the Rev. Richard Banham, Rector of Wheathampstead adds, “We have a large congregation, excellent choir and very good Hill, Norman and Beard organ, and while Annie will make a terrific mayor she is not ever going to cut it as an organist! Can somebody else please help!”

Erratum: We apologise for error In June’s edition of See Round, on p2, where the Archbishop of Canterbury who crowned HM Queen Elizabeth II was wrongly named. It should of course have been The Most Revd Geoffrey Fisher.

Thought for the month
All this day, O Lord, let me touch as many lives as possible for thee; and every life I touch, do thou by thy spirit quicken, whether through the word I speak, the prayer I breathe, or the life I live.
Amen

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Changing offenders’ lives
Retired Circuit Judge and former Resident Judge at St Albans Crown Court, Michael Baker, told the Diocesan Penal Affairs Group about an innovative criminal justice scheme.

Ofenders who want to 'make a clean breast of their misdemeanours and have numbers of offences taken into account at their trials face an unfortunate conflict. Although confessing crimes leads to constructive relationships with prison and probation officers and is good for them, there is no incentive to confess to crimes when the consequence is also to increase the sentence to be served as a result. More constructive and trusting relationships with probation staff and others lead to lower levels of re-offending, so solving this conflict is potentially of great value.

The Choices and Consequences programme was devised to provide for offenders who wish to come clean and avoid the inevitable sentencing consequences. Instead, they are released on bail under a three year Community Order and the possibility of returning to court for a longer sentence to be imposed in the event of a breach or re-offending. The programme started in Hertfordshire in 2007 and in 2010 was extended to Bedfordshire and is working.

Police and Crime Commissioner urges co-operation between church and police for “good of the community”

Inclusion of hard to reach individuals and groups was among the key themes discussed at a meeting between Police and Crime Commissioner David Lloyd and the Bishop of Hertford. Commissioner Lloyd explained: "I had a very useful discussion with Bishop Paul about a range of issues, particularly mindful of the excellent links that the Church has with our communities. I believe there is tremendous scope for us to work even more closely together in the future by, for example, building closer links between faith groups and the police safer neighbourhood teams across the county.”

Bishop Paul responded: “I was delighted to meet Commissioner Lloyd and to find so much common ground. Local churches and faith communities aim to help all people to flourish and to fulfil their God-given potential. What matters to all of us is to establish safe, inclusive communities where diversity and conscience are respected. It’s good to work in partnership with Hertfordshire Constabulary and with our Police & Crime Commissioner as we walk along this road together.”

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To find out more, contact Glenda, Michelle, Frankie or Steve on 01752 225623 or email glenda@cornerstonevision.com.
Lost Churchyard Lichens found in Hertfordshire

The amount of bare undisturbed stone that churchyards in Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire provide is remarkable in an area of England where natural rock exposures are rare. It provides an important environment where lichens can thrive. Lichens are slow-growing organisms and churchyards provide the continuity that they require. The variety of shape, carving, inclination of surfaces and aspect of the church building and their memorials provides a large range of niches for colonisation. Wooden seats, notice boards and trees provide yet more habitat for specific species of lichen.

Over a third of the 2000 species of lichen that grow in Britain and Ireland occur in churchyards. About half are rare and seldom occur anywhere else, and many churchyards contain more than 100 species. A number of lichen surveys have been carried out in our churchyards over the last few months with some exciting results; here are a few.

Thanks in particular to Andrew Harris and Mark Powell for the many hours they have spent on their hands and knees in our churchyards.

Most exciting of all, at St Mary the Virgin, Great Wymondley there is a large colony of Lecania coerulescens which has not been recorded in Britain since the 19th century and was presumed extinct. It is listed on the Natural England website as one of England’s “lost species”. There are scattered records on similar habitat (crambly mortar) on the near Continent. The discovery has now been confirmed by a specialist referee and samples lodged at the Natural History Museum and the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh. This provides a very significant record for Hertfordshire and emphasises the important role that churches can play in protecting Britain’s biodiversity.

Vernucaria polyctistea on the boundary wall at All Saints, Little Munden is the first record of the species in Hertfordshire. In the churchyard of St Mary Magdalene, Barkway is Diploschistes scropusus, a species which is initially parasitic on other lichens, which is rather uncommon in the county.

At All Saints, Sandon a first county record for Hertfordshire of Protoparmelia oleaginis on the seat.

For photographs of lichens and more information about them see www.britishlichensoociety.org.uk. Any churches wanting a lichen survey should contact Judith Evans, at livingchurchyards@stalbans.anglican.org.

Jim May to retire

Jim May, originally from Essex, lived in the diocese long before he became Pastoral and Advisory Secretary, serving the Diocesan Advisory Committee, the Mission & Pastoral Committee and its sub-committees, and the Diocesan Board of Patronage.

Working as an IT manager for pharmaceutical company SmithKline Beecham, Jim had lived when single in Bishop’s Stortford and Hertford. When he married, he and his wife Sue chose Redbourn as a convenient place from which to commute to Welwyn Garden City and to visit Sue’s family. They soon settled at St Mary’s Church. In 2001, SmithKline merged with Glaxo and the new office location near Heathrow was a commute too far.

It was at about the time that St Mary’s was undergoing major works in which he took a keen interest as Chairman of The Friends. This and other experience of project management, his love of medieval architecture and his IT experience was useful background, but Jim admits that the DAC part of the job was a steep learning curve. Jim has taken a vast amount of satisfaction and pride in the enormous amount of casework that he and his team has steered through the DAC, all leading to improvements in many of our church buildings. He said: “The vast depth and breadth of technical and professional expertise of DAC members and freely available to parishes, is a fantastic resource. It enables the DAC to help parishes to develop imaginative plans and to clear the necessary hurdles with local authorities, English Heritage and other interested parties, which is not always straightforward. I pay tribute to each and every DAC member.”

SOME 4200 cases later, Jim has decided to retire, carrying with him many memories of his work and appreciation of the caring and genuine relationships at work and around the diocese that he’s built up. He will also particularly remember a few cases: St Faith, Hexton, where an almost derelict church was developed for additional community use through the late Anne Ashley-Cooper’s vision and determination, and St John the Baptist, Moggerhanger, with its shop and cafe, being two.

To hear the list of things that he and Sue are involved with in Redbourn where she is Churchwarden and he is Chair of the Ancillary Buildings Committee, among a myriad other things they both do, retire seems the wrong word. The Mays have also decided that their roots in Redbourn have grown so deep that they aren’t moving away: St Mary’s and Redbourn is as fortunate to be keeping Jim as the diocese was to have had him.

Welcoming hearing- and sight- impaired people to church

The next (part-time) National Adviser for Deaf Ministry is the Revd Canon Gill Behenna, Chaplain with the Deaf Community in the Diocese of Bristol. She will continue in this role alongside her new national responsibilities.

As National Adviser, Gill will support the Chaplains with Deaf people in the dioceses and also provide advice to bishops and diocesan staff on awareness of Deaf people in the life of the church and ways to encourage their contribution to mission and growth. She will be working with the Archbishop’s Council Committee for Ministry of and among Deaf and Disabled People. Gill’s appointment is very good news for the church at large as well as the Deaf church,” said the Venerable Julian Hubbard, Director of Ministry. “Her commitment to mission and her deep knowledge of the Deaf community are widely known. We look forward to working with her,”

Read the BCS Equality Group’s Access & Equality Guidelines: www.stalbans.anglican.org/faith/diversity/

John Kimberley writes:

“As an LLM in the Diocese of Oxford and previously a Reader in in the Diocese of St Albans, I have preached in a number of churches and been to many others, both for worship and to attend courses. I have noticed that although there is often a sound system and loop to help those with impaired hearing, the provision for those who have impaired vision is much worse and often non-existent. Some people go with one eye only and that eye has problems too, I really think that churches and those giving courses need to up their game so as not to exclude people with poor sight.

So, to be honest, there are some really simple things that help make things so much better.

• A few large print hymn books – it really helps and lets everyone join in.
• Reasonable sized (12pt/14pt) black type on white service sheets. Other colours can be very hard to see especially in poor light or if you are colour blind.
• Use a font like Gill Sans and don’t pack the lines too closely together. People with poor sight have trouble often keeping on the line they are reading. Fussy serif fonts are harder to read.
• Try and avoid too many books and service sheets. Most people are not circus jugglers. Finding the place in books is slower but keep them on A4 paper. Big A3 sheets can be very hard to see especially in poor light or if you are colour blind.
• Ask those people who need the large type on white service sheets. Other colours can be very hard to see especially in poor light or if you are colour blind.

• For course notes and hand-outs, ensure you do have larger print versions, but keep them on A4 paper. Big A3 sheets don’t really help. With poor sight the area of good vision can be small so you cannot see the entire big sheet in one go.

• Don’t cram everything in to save paper or keep the number of slides down. You will make it hard to many people to read.

• If you put the words up on a screen, the same points above apply. Avoid any coloured backgrounds or those with a picture behind the text. Those just make the words even harder to read. Black text of white background I find best, but white text on black can be good, but it depends on the light level in the room/church.

• For everyone of us who often struggle with our sight to get the most out of worship and a course and to feel we are noticed and valued.”
Nationwide search for the best modern church architecture

Is it in St Albans Diocese?

MARKING ANOTHER DIAMOND JUBILEE, THE NATIONAL CHURCHES TRUST CELEBRATES 60 YEARS THIS YEAR AND THE SEARCH IS ON TO FIND THE TOP 10 CHURCHES BUILT IN THE UNITED KINGDOM SINCE 1953. ST ALBANS Diocesan is richly blessed with buildings built in this period (43 - largely due to the New Town programme after World War 2), and we are taking this opportunity to celebrate them and maybe help them on their way in the competition.

You can nominate your favourite online at http://bit.ly/111YYrc or by emailing the name and address of the church, chapel or meeting house or extension to bestchurches@nationalchurchestrust.org.uk. before 31 July 2013.

Churches, chapels or meeting houses and significant extensions to them, opened for worship after 1 January 1953 and still open today are eligible.

The competition is a joint initiative from the National Churches Trust, the Ecclesiastical Architects and Surveyors Association and the Twentieth Century Society. Judges will be looking for creative architecture which imaginatively expresses Christian religious belief and practice of the past 60 years.

From the Top 10, a special ‘National Churches Trust Diamond Jubilee Architecture’ award will be presented to the three places of worship judged to be the best sacred spaces built in the last 60 years at a ceremony to be held at Lambeth Palace in November 2013.

The Top 10 churches competition is being held to mark the 60th anniversary of the National Churches Trust. Since 1953 the Trust has provided over 12,000 grants and loans worth £85 million to help fund the repair and modernisation of Christian places of worship.

The National Churches Trust works closely with local Church Trusts - in our case the Beds & Herts Historic Churches Trust, formed in 1991 to help churches and chapels throughout the two counties with grants for repair to their buildings.

As a nation we are rightly proud of our magnificent heritage of historic churches. But there are many which have been built in the last 60 years to meet the changing nature of religious life in this country. The competition seeks to discover the best examples of modern architecture and design which people catch a glimpse of when they visit a church and to help them on their way in the competition.

Claire Walker, Chief Executive of the National Churches Trust

St Luke, Watford

St Luke, Watford was founded as a daughter church of St Andrew’s and St George’s in 1954. It has been a busy church with a vibrant Sunday school. The building has a feeling of light, space and welcome, it is said. Consecrated in 1956 by the Bishop of St Albans, the Bishop of the Diocese of St Albans, the Right Reverend Michael Gresford-Jones, the church was built by Messrs Rattee and Kett of Cambridge at a cost of £120,000. The church was designed by Lord Mottistone, surveyor to the fabric of St Paul’s Cathedral. It is richly blessed with buildings built in this period (43 - largely due to the New Town programme after World War 2), and we are taking this opportunity to celebrate them and maybe help them on their way in the competition.

St Luke’s, Watford is currently the diocese’s newest building, opened in 2006.

Claire Walker, Chief Executive of the National Churches Trust

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of our magnificent heritage of
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wards.”

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wards.”

and of St Albans, the Rt. Revd. Michael Gresford-Jones, in
Advent Sunday, 27 November 1960, she had previously
ic of St Paul’s Cathedral, it was built by Messrs Rattee
relaxing arches and the stained glass window by Brian
when it was built next door. The campanile houses the
duce Museum has been located in the crypt since 1976.

St Barnabas Adeyfield was the first church in St Albans
Diocese built in the reign of
Queen Elizabeth II and she
laid its foundation stone in
July 1952, before she had
even been crowned.
It was the first church built in
the Hemel Hempstead new
town, announced in 1947.
The bright and colourful
interior warmly welcomes all
who enter. At the east end
is the Parish room which is
used as a vestry, youth room
and for other meetings at
other times.
At the west end, beneath the
balcony off the main seating
area separated by full height
glass divider and doors, is
the large reception area
(this is used as a creche
area so parents can see
and hear the services while
their children play) and the
Church Office. Upstairs and
adjacent to the balcony is
the Prayer Room offering a
peaceful setting for prayer
and contemplation.

St George’s was built in
1964. The 120ft concrete
spire is the landmark of a
church which arose out of
the community it serves, a
community which bought its
own building through faithful
stewardship in the 1960’s.
The Architect was Peter
Bosanquet. Building
began in August 1962
with J T Openshaw Ltd
of Letchworth as main
contractors. The eventual
cost was £46,000. The
foundation stone was laid
by the Bishop of Bedford,
on 27th April 1963.
On entering the main body
of the church the eye is
immediately drawn to the
dominant figure of the
ascending Christ over the
sanctuary, focussed with light
from the window above.
It was designed by Harry
Phillips of Leeds and is
made of fibreglass. It is
intended to express the
release of the Resurrection
and the Ascension.

King of Prussia Gold Medal and Presidents’ Award
The National Churches Trust and the Ecclesiastical Architects and Surveyors Association
are also inviting nominations for the King of Prussia Gold Medal for church repair and
conservation work and for the Presidents’ Award for innovative, high quality new church
architecture built in the last year. Nomination forms can be found on the websites of the
National Churches Trust and the Ecclesiastical Architects and Surveyors Association,
www.nationalchurchestrust.org and www.easanet.co.uk.

St Andrew and St George, Stevenage

St Andrew's and St George's is a 'cathedral-like' Grade 2 listed building; the largest parish church to have

provide a building that would provide community space: as well as the worship space, there is a complex of

Church Office. Upstairs and
adjacent to the balcony is
the Prayer Room offering a
peaceful setting for prayer
and contemplation.

at our centre in Dorchester and at
other retreat centres in the UK.
Our members also gather in local groups. For further details please contact
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Tel: (01305) 251396
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W: www.fellowshipofmeditation.org.uk
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on God, and to serve as channels through which the power
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Beds & Herts Historic Churches Trust.

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Hall, Barton-le-Cley
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e-mailing dac@stalbans.anglican.org. Coffee and tea
are provided at the St Albans Diocesan Advisory Committee and the
Diocesan Churches Trust.

Jesus said: I came to cast fire on the earth, and
would that it were already kindled!
Lk 12:49 (ESV)
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Event Listings

Concerts & Drama

St. Mary the Virgin & All Saints Potters Bar Lunchtime recitals starting 12.30pm and lasting 40 minutes. Light lunches available before and after recital. 2nd July - Katya Elman, percussion. 6th August - Anthony Gritten, Organ. 3rd September - Raescale, Flute & Guitar.

All Saints Hertford Soundbites, a selection of soups, rolls, sandwiches, cakes and hot drinks available from 10.00am. 1 hour 15 mins. Admission free, concert at 1.00 pm. Wednesday July 3rd Lucy Humphries – Trumpet. Wednesday July 10th Annett Busse – Piano. Autumn Series commences Wednesday 11th September.

St. Leonard’s Church, Bengeo, Hertford
The Mimram Singers will present ‘O Taste and See’, a programme of sacred music on Saturday July 6th at 7.30pm. Admission free. Retiring collection. Also Elisabeth Kemp will be holding a sale of materials for clothing and other textiles, threads and wools etc. from 10.00pm on Saturday July 27th. Also Simon Smith and String Ensemble will perform Mendelssohn’s Octet on Saturday 3rd August at 7.30pm. Tickets £10 (Friends of St.Leonard’s members £5), refreshments included. Reservations 01922 551766.

Hexton Summer Music Festival in aid of St. Faiths church and community centre. To be held in the walled garden at Hexton Manor and around the marquee – Jazz and Latin on Sunday 14th July, 12 noon until 4pm. Tickets £15 includes 2 course lunch. For tickets and further details please telephone Helena 01582 882144.

St Paul’s Chippingfield Summer Concert for Choir and orchestra including Mendelssohn Octet for Strings and Rutter Feel the Spirit. Sunday 14th July at 6.30pm. Admission free retiting collection.

St Mary the Virgin Ware Monday Lunchtime Concerts, which last about 40 minutes, starting at 12.30. (lunches available), are as follows. Monday 5th August - Sarah Oliver, cello. Monday 2nd September - Divertimento Wind Quartet. For further details ring Mark or Kath on 01920 465976.

Open Days & Festivals

St. Margaret’s Church, Crossways Lane, Ridge, EN6 3LH Church open on Sunday afternoons 2.30pm – 4.30pm until Sunday 6th October. Call in for a cup of tea.

St Mary’s, Maiden
The church will be open between 3pm and 5pm on Sunday 11th August afternoons during the summer. Come and enjoy tea and cakes while you look round. There are also good local walks. Visit www.straysmaitden.org

St Mary’s Church, Braughing. Each Sunday until 13th October we will be serving teas from 2.45 till 5.00pm in our Church hall to raise funds for the church. There will also be a country stall selling home produce. Please come and join us in our picturesque village for some delicious homemade cakes.

Elstow Abbey, Elstow MK42 9XT Castle Theatre Company performs ‘As You Like It’ open air on Monday 1st July 7pm (gates open 6pm). Tickets £10 (Children £5) Details & tickets from 01234 261477. Also Children’s Holiday Club ‘The Knight’s Quest’ Monday 29th July - Friday 2nd August 10am-noon followed by games on the green. Children aged 5+ welcome.

St. Mary’s Village Carnival, Edlesborough Green (LU2 2HS), Saturday 6 July, 12 – 5pm – Come and enjoy ‘Britain at its best’ - in a beautiful setting below the Chiltern Hills the village is run entirely by volunteers for the benefit of the local community. Decorated houses, procession 12.30 – 1.30pm, arena displays, over 100 stalls and attractions. Free parking, free admission, free displays.

St. Stephen’s Church, Watlington Street, St Albans. Summer Fair on Saturday 6th July 10.30am – 12noon followed by games on the green. Free admission, free refreshments.

St. Mary’s Church Fete at Keysoe Village Hall Saturday 6th July, from 3pm. Family fun event, stalls games, bric a brac, refreshments. Grand prize draw with super prizes and Kymbrook School performance. Round the day off with a Hog Roast, eating at 5pm. Book tickets before the day - tel. 01234376576 Donations for stalls happily accepted - tel 01234378878 for further information.

St Mary’s Apsley - HP3 9ST Summer Fair and Community Day Saturday 6th July 10.30am – 12noon. Passenger Carrying Minibus to railway station, tower open 11am-1pm, paraching teddies, photos of old Apsley and Nash Mills and St Mary’s today, as well as other entertainment. Come and join the fun!

St Lawrence Church Ardley Nr Stevenage SG17 5AH Treat yourself to a cream tea and homemade cakes in our village hall. Wander over the road and enjoy the peace and tranquility of our beautiful 13th century church. 7th July, 4th August and 1st September. 3pm - 5.30pm. Details contact Wendy Waygood 01438 861260.

St James’s Church, Bushey Flower Festival ‘Inspiration’s on Friday 12th & Saturday 13th July (10am-5pm), refreshments available all day at Church House and Rectory garden will be open. Also Summer Saturday Recitals Summer Recital: lasting 40-45 minutes. 13th July – Church Choir, 27th July – Emily Kyte (soprano) & Neil Kelley (piano), 3rd August – Stuart Brant (organ), 17th August – Christine Bennett (soprano).

St Andrew’s Church, Shortmead Street, Biggleswade, SG18 7AL. Friends of St Andrew’s Garden Party, Saturday 13th July at 2.30pm in the Church Grounds. Cream Teas, stalls, games, Sideshows. Admission Free.

 Stopsley Parish Church LU2 7UL Craft Fair on Saturday 13th July 10-4pm Refreshments, raffle and cake stall. Contact 01582 729194.

St Wthurn’s Church, Sandy. Summer Fete on Saturday, 13th July, from 10.30 in the Church Grounds. Cakes, toys, books, “bits’n’pieces”, games, face painting, refreshments and lots more. Also Flower Festival on theme of ‘In the Pink’ 13th/14th July - open Sat 10-6pm and Sunday 11.30-6pm. Cream Teas from 12noon on Sunday.

St Augustine’s Church Broxbourne Summer Fair on Sunday 20th July 10-4.30pm. Stalls, refreshments, exhibitions and photographs in church. Helping to celebrate 400th Anniversary of the New River.

St John the Baptist, Barnet, EN5 4BW The Towers Walk – New walk climbs for magnificent views of London, on Saturdays 20th July to 17th August 10.30am to 1pm. £2.50 adults and £1 children 6 years and over. Also free recitals every Saturday in July and August at 11am. www.barnetparishchurch.org.uk

St Albans Cathedral, Saturday 10th August 2013. “Come together to celebrate as we meet our Lord in word, prayer and sacrament”.

The Rt Revd Norman Bannks, Bishop of Richborough, invites us to join him to celebrate a ‘Festival of Faith’. These five events around the Richborough Episcopal Area coincide with the Year of Faith initiative launched in Rome for this year and comes to St Albans on 10th August. A festival Eucharist, at 12 noon, is followed by an opportunity to enjoy a picnic lunch in Bishop Norman’s garden nearby. There will also be an opportunity to engage with the Scriptures after lunch. Although the event will primarily be of interest to those of the catholic tradition, everyone is welcome to attend.

For further details please contact Fr Alasdair Coles: alasdaircoles@btinternet.com.

Friends of St James the Great, Thorley Festival Of Flowers And Music on the theme “The Celebration of Marriage”. August Bank Holiday Weekend. Sat 24th, Sun 25th, Mon 26th, 12.00 noon - 6pm. Also Craft Fair Sat. Sun. Mon. 12noon - 5pm. Admission Free. Refreshments, plants, souvenirs and raffle tickets will be on sale throughout the Festival.

St Ippolyts Church. Flower Festival in a lovely village church on Saturday, Sunday and Monday 24th, 25th and 26th August. Opening times are 11am - 5pm and the theme for the event is story and book titles. Entrance £2 (children free) with cakes and refreshments on sale. St Ippolyts can be located south of Hitchin off the Codicote Road.

St. Mary’s Church, Little Meadway, Near Hitchin. A Celebration Of Stines In Flowers Saturday, 24th August 11am-4pm, Sunday 25th, 12-4pm. Monday 26th, 11am-4pm. Entrance £2 for adults, children under 16, free. Refreshments served.

St Margaret’s Church, Sharpenhoe Road, Streteley LU3 3PS – 75th Anniversary of reopening of the church. Flower Festival, on 24th, 25th, 26th August – 10am to 5.30pm. 1.00am to 5.00pm on Sunday with cream teas. Organ music on Saturday and Songs of Praise on Sunday at 6.00pm. For further details ring 01585 616070.

All Saints, Clifton. Living Churchyard open evening at 8pm on Wednesday 31st July. All welcome to see the summer wild flowers and lichens, with experts on hand to identify the plants is run entirely by volunteers. More details from Judith Evans at livingchurchyards@stalbans.anglican.org.

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Andrew Coleby is like many priests who have taken up chaplaincies, diocesan posts, even higher office. Sooner or later many say they wish they could return to parish ministry.

The great conundrum that Andrew presents is that he is so full of enthusiasm for the work he has done here and the people he has done it with across the diocese, that the only reasonable conclusion is that this infectious enthusiasm is his default setting. The people of Shipston on Stour are indeed fortunate.

Andrew has been involved with the many groups of the Board for Church and Society which deal with the church’s engagement with society - from Race Equality to Rural Affairs, from Environment to Europe, these groups cover every facet of human activity.

Andrew speaks with the freedom of one who is leaving, but he was always prepared to be candid. “I have enormously enjoyed working at Holywell Lodge. It is the great secret of the diocese that at its heart is a vibrant Christian community, dying to help people.”

When he arrived, he keenly offered himself to preach where invited and has covered a fair bit of ground, saying, sometimes people just expected a priest offering some cover and got the Social Responsibility message into the bargain!

This slightly fifth-column approach is utterly in line with what Andrew believes about Social Responsibility: that every parish should engage with wider society if it can.

He thinks St Albans Diocese is “streets ahead of almost everyone else,” in how this work is supported: not just through Workplace Matters and hopes that will continue to be the case.

The most fun he recalls was off duty with the Hemel Deanery, with whom he has been connected, having an awayday at Holywell Lodge and breaking for an exotic (Asian) meal.

Anyone who has attended one of Andrew’s groups’ evening meetings will know that he is an accomplished and adventurous cook. For him, looking back, the Penal Affairs group has modelled what a BCS group should be. “They have tapped into a shared interest and now they are running with it.” The first ever national Penal Affairs conference is being planned in the diocese for 2014.

So what is drawing him away from all of this? He is, he says, excited about being part of a Christian community in a particular place.

There goes that infectious enthusiasm again.

The Revd Javaid Iqbal (centre) ia Radlett’s new Team Rector, coming to the diocese from the Diocese of Leicester, but his history is far more interesting than that simple fact suggests.

Originally brought up as a Roman Catholic in Pakistan, his first love as a youth was cricket.

But when he was invited to a local Anglican youth group, he quickly became so deeply involved that he forgot about sport for many years!

After helping to lead the group he became a Campus Crusade evangelist in Pakistan for two years! He helped establish a ministry among Asian Christians, in their own church, and was heavily involved in the diocesan inter-faith centre, chaired by Bishop Richard when he was Archdeacon of Leicester.

Javid was delighted to see Christians of other cultures finding room in the established church and bringing “a little piece of the rainbow of people in heaven, to earth.”

It was at that time that cricket returned to his life – he has three loves he says: God, family and cricket. I didn’t check with him in which order, but I suspect this one is correct!

On the move

Clergy Appointments

Elizabeth Inall, Priest-in-charge in the benefice of Milton Ernest, Pavenham & Thurleigh is to retire to Cheshire.

Ngozi Njoku, Curate in training in the benefice of Goldington, will become Incumbent of the Garrison, Slavin, Belleek and Kiltyclogher Group of Parishes in the diocese of Clogher, Ireland.

Dave Poulteney, Curate in training at St Hugh’s Church, Lewsey, has become Pioneer Minister and Associate Vicar in the benefice of Bushey.

Anthony Searle Curate in training at St Michael’s Church, Bishop’s Stortford is to become Assistant Chaplain at Oundle School in the diocese of Peterborough.

Andrew Stead, presently Chaplain of Aldenham School is to become a Residientary Canon of Lichfield Cathedral and Chaplain of Lichfield Cathedral School.

Senior Airport Chaplain appointed

The Rev Canon Liz Hughes is set to succeed the Rev Michael Banfield as Senior Chaplain at London Luton Airport, when Michael retires later this summer. Luton-based Liz already has nearly 20 years of maintaining and building pastoral and spiritual care within a chaplaincy context.

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