



Keeping in Touch Aug - Sept 2018



I am Archdeacon Janet and it was good to be with you for worship in July.

The Archdeacon's role is sometimes described as being the 'eyes of the Bishop,' taking news to them of something noteworthy at parish level as well as supporting clergy, chaplains and the people of the church. The role can be summed up as enabling the buildings to stand and the people to worship as Christian community. As the Archdeacon of Hertford I am responsible for the parishes east of the A1 within the Diocese of St Albans.

And so a little about me: I began my teaching career in Stevenage teaching at a comprehensive school. I then went to teach at a school for students with moderate learning difficulties. After 10 years in the town I went to a very specialist special school in Kempston where I was the Deputy Head and had a time as Acting Head. My education and training role continued in Luton Borough Council's Education Department where I was Primary Strategy Manager until I went to train for Ordination at Westcott House in Cambridge. Since being ordained, I have served in Sandy, Bedfordshire, and been a Vicar in a parish in Luton for 6 years, becoming Area Dean of Luton in 2012.

In the collation service sermon I talked of how our extravagant God has entrusted unimaginable riches to you and to me. As we share our ministry together we have the blessing of each other. We have the stories of Jesus and the witness of his death and resurrection. We have the examples of those who have shaped our lives over the years. By sharing these stories, by sharing these faithful examples, by praying together and working together and dreaming together, hopefully we will learn how to live a faithful life for today. A faithful life which is meaningful, relevant, and life giving, not just to ourselves, but to everyone we meet.



And so I invite you as you read, to take a moment to reflect on how you will follow God's call to participate in his work in your parish or school or chaplaincy, at work and school and at home, using the gifts he has given you so that together we may journey forward living God's love with generosity and joy, imagination and courage.

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At the service, we prayed this prayer – and I have prayed it every day since my collation – perhaps you'd like to pray it too, as we journey together:

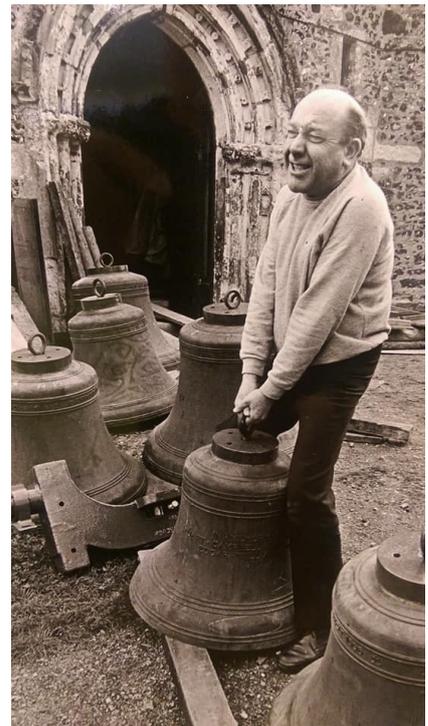
Tender God, as we step out afresh to live your love and serve Christ in the world, we ask that your guiding hand would hold us fast and lead us confidently through all that life has to offer. Bless us as we seek to make new disciples. Inspire us as we worship and ponder your word, so that we might go deeper into God. Encourage us so that our lives might transform our communities. Amen

With my prayers and good wishes

Archdeacon Janet

Rev John Morris 1925-2018

It is with great sadness we announce that a former Vicar at St Mary's, Canon John Morris died peacefully at home on July 14th. All the family including his wife Sue, children, grandchildren and great grandchildren will miss him greatly. John was born in 1925. He served his first curacy in St Michael's, St Albans and after two other posts moved to North Mymms in 1982 and was appointed an honorary Canon to St Albans Abbey in 1989, leaving North Mymms the year after. He also served as Rural Dean to Hatfield, 1983-1988. Parishioners and villagers alike will remember his deeply held belief and jovial manner indicated by this playful picture taken during bell tower work in the 1980's. May he rest in peace and rise in glory. The funeral took place at Market Overton Parish Church on Friday 27th July.



I am sure you will join me in sending our sincere condolences to Sue and family.

If you wish to make a donation to charity in John's memory the family are supporting Market Overton Parish Church restoration fund, the National Children's Home and Christian Aid. All donations may be made to the funeral directors E.M.Dorman 'Beechcroft' 69, High Street East, Uppingham, Rutland LE15 9PY. Please make cheques payable to the "E.M.Dorman Donations Account" and include a note stating in who's memory the donation is being made.



Sponsored Bike 'n Hike

BEDS AND HERTS HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST

Saturday 8 September 2018
10am to 6pm

The annual Bike 'n Hike offers the opportunity to raise money both for St Mary's Church and for the Beds. & Herts. Historic Churches Trust. Every £1 that we raise in sponsorship, 50p is returned to us. This makes the Bike 'n Hike a very effective way to raise funds for our church. All the organising is done for us; all we have to do is to take part! The other half of the sponsorship money goes to the Beds & Herts Historic Churches Trust which is distributed, in the form of grants, to local communities struggling to raise funds for vital repairs to their church buildings. Taking part involves being sponsored for either cycling or walking to visit other churches (you plan your own route). We also need "welcomers" between the hours of 10am and 6pm and welcomers can also be sponsored. Last year the Bike 'n Hike raised almost £100,000 for the churches and chapels of Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire. St Mary's can benefit from this fund raising event if you will help.

So what are you waiting for?

Enjoy a pleasant day cycling or walking to churches and chapels in our area, or welcoming our visitors, and at the same time boost our church's funds as well as those of the Trust. If you enjoy visiting churches and chapels, but are unable to take part as outlined above, you may wish to consider visiting then by car and use the Sponsorship Form to make a donation! You can use JustGiving to help you raise sponsorship money, along with the normal sponsor form. By encouraging the use of gift aid, you can further increase the funds available to the Trust.

Sponsor forms and further information available from Martin Wiggs
mwiggs@talktalk.net

Harvest Supper - 6th October

This year our Harvest Supper will be held on

Saturday 6th October 7.00pm

in St Michael's Room

Tickets will be on sale in September

Please contact

Sue Crawley 07944 099239

or Brenda Harris 01707 655355



