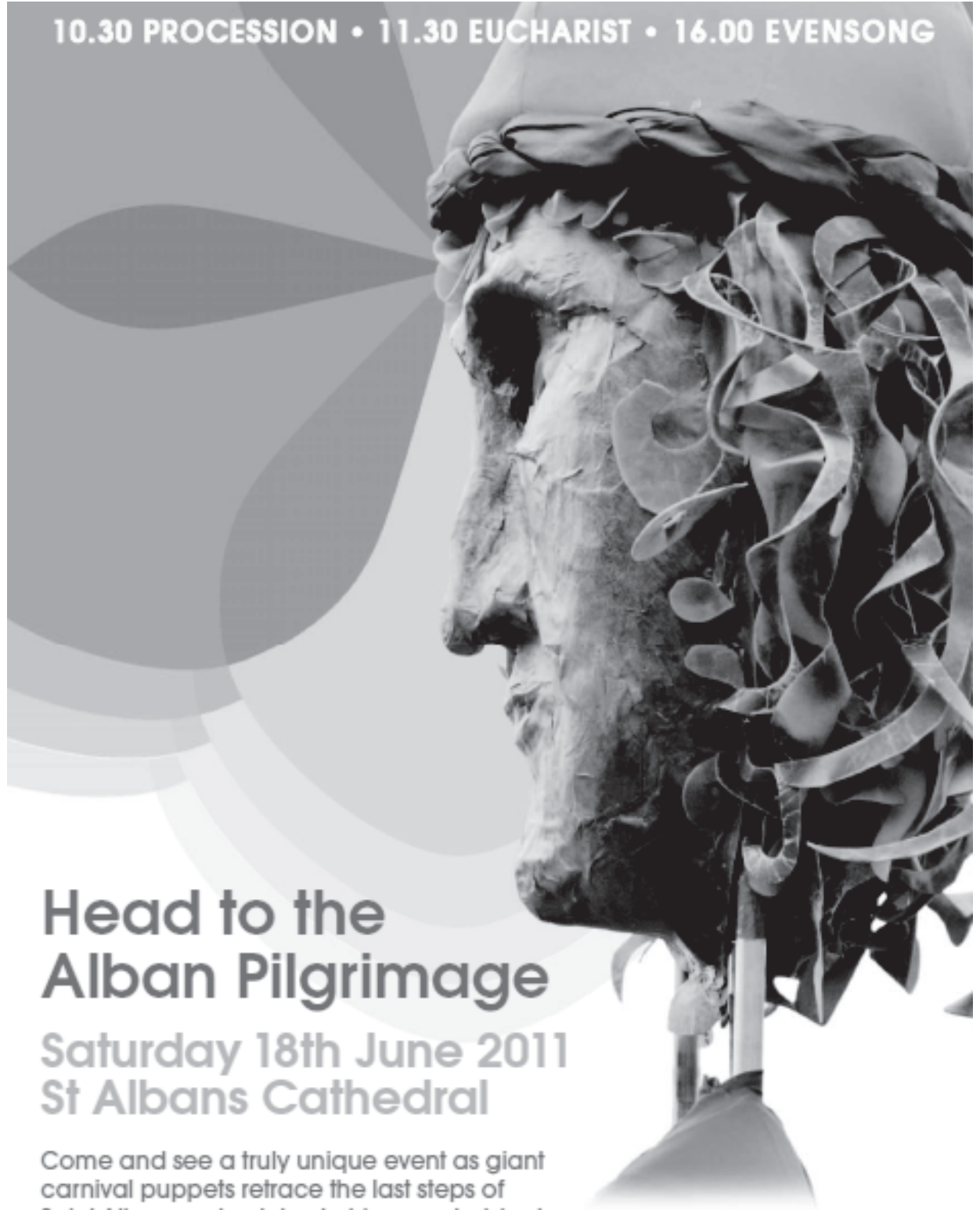


CHURCHES *together in* ST ALBANS



10.30 PROCESSION • 11.30 EUCHARIST • 16.00 EVENSONG



Head to the Alban Pilgrimage

Saturday 18th June 2011
St Albans Cathedral

Come and see a truly unique event as giant
carnival puppets retrace the last steps of
Saint Alban and celebrate his remarkable story.

Procession starts at 10.30 in Roman Verulamium.
Family activities all afternoon outside the Cathedral.

www.stalbanscathedral.org

The Alban
Pilgrimage

2011



This newsletter has been produced by Gill Elliott of Trinity United Reformed Church. If you have any comments or suggestions for articles, please send them to gill.elliott@ntlworld.com.

If you would like to join a team compiling and editing, copying and collating and finding articles and information for a CTSA newsletter, please contact Joanna Field at 763205 or email joannafield@virginmedia.com

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Community Cricket Match

CTSA Team vs Islamic Team

On: 12th June 2011
At: Verulam Park Pavilion
Time: 2.00pm



S.O.S.

I am looking to form a team of 11 players to play against the Islamic team on 12th July 2011. This is an inter-church group and I am looking for people who can play at club level or are very good. Anyone interested please could you contact Sue Devi on 01727 812862 or email: susandevi@onetel.com

Website: <http://.ctstalbans.org.uk>

Blog/Diary: <http://ctstalbans.wordpress.com>

Newsletters online: <http://ctstalbans.files.wordpress.com/newsletters>

Find us on FaceBook: <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=288601434890>

(or just search for CTSA)

ENABLING GROUP NEWS

The Enabling Group now consists of 6 members; Peter Berners-Lee (R.C.), Susan Devi (Methodist), Mike Elliott (Evangelical), Joanna Field (C. of E.) secretary/administrator, Frank Lane (C. of E.) and Mike Scorer (Methodist) treasurer. In the last year we have lost 2 regular participants, Guy Marshall (minutes secretary) and Joan Francis (newsletter editor), both of whom were C. of E. It has also been a while since we had a convener. For healthy debate and a good spread of fresh ideas it would be preferable to have some more people involved. If you feel you could spare 4 or so evenings a year to join the group, or have a suggestion of someone we could approach, any member of the committee would welcome your contacting them. Generally our discussions plan future Forums and meetings and consider other events we might spearhead. The Enabling Group also oversees events organised on behalf of CTSA. We are still looking for a convener, either lay church member or leader, and our next newsletter will include an outline of what the role might entail.

At our last Enabling Group meeting two keynote discussions took place. One on our response as CTSA to the opportunities and challenges set by the 2012 Olympics and the other with reference to information we feel able to circulate on behalf of CTSA to all the churches. In the first instance it was decided that, although we could see the merit of various initiatives already planned for 2012, we do not have the facilities or manpower to organise people joining in these initiatives or of starting any separate enterprise. We will, however, be organising a Community Sports Day with the aim of attracting other faith groups in the city to join with us. We will also gladly pass on information about various opportunities being offered, so please contact the secretary with information on what is planned by other agencies and groups. Also please remember that Bishop Alan Smith, the Bishop of St. Albans will be addressing CTSA on 'Opportunities offered by the 2012 Olympics' on 31st October (see diary information).

The second discussion was initiated by some information we had been asked to circulate being seen by some people as specific to a particular political perspective. Ultimately it was decided that information circulated should be generally of an ecumenical nature, i.e. organised by an ecumenical group or body for all denominations, or by a specific group or church as an ecumenical venture. However, there are various grey areas still to be discussed and over time these will continue to challenge our various conclusions.

Generally we would welcome input at any time as to what CTSA should be including in its calendar, issues we might address, and joint activities which might be relevant to the work of Ecumenism in the City which we might undertake. Always remembering that we may be limited by the number of people willing to come forward to help. However, unless we become more relevant to more people by the things we undertake, the number of people offering to help is unlikely to increase.

Let them look up and see no longer me, but only you, O Lord! Stay with me and then I will begin to shine as you do; so to shine as to be a light to others. The light, O Lord, will be all from you; none of it will be mine. It will be you shining on others through me.

Cardinal Newman.

ST ALBANS & DISTRICT BEREAVEMENT NETWORK

The Network has had a very busy year, supporting 125 adults and 90 children who have been bereaved and providing support and services for many more families and professionals caring for the bereaved.



At the beginning of the year we ran a very popular **Conference on 'Bereavement in School Communities'** which was funded by Herts CC Children, Schools and Families, and was our first county-wide initiative. We were delighted that the Bishop Christopher Foster was able to introduce the conference and 192 delegates attended. Feedback from the conference was extremely favourable and it was agreed that it had met a great need in school communities for information on this topic. We continue to support and advise many of the schools who attended the conference.

Our third **Annual Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving**, in collaboration with the Ecumenical Chaplaincy at the Abbey, took place on 21 November, addressed by Rev Anne Brown, Chair of the Methodist District of Beds, Essex and Herts, and attended by the Deputy Mayor of St Albans and the past Mayor of Harpenden. It was more popular than ever and the new dove release was very moving and well received. We estimate that over 1000 bereaved adults, children and families attended. 230 names were entered in the 2010 Annual Book of Remembrance, with many submitted for 2011. The Service has now become a regular event which is valued by our clients and by the bereaved in the wider community.

We initiated a new training course **'Introduction to Working with Bereaved Adults, Families, Children and Young People'**. 30 people attended the first course. many from local Children's Centres and the second course is planned for the near future. The training enables us to train our our volunteers but also to extend skills in working with bereaved people in to the local community. We are currently looking to recruit Visitors to work with bereaved adults in their homes and would like to hear from anyone who feels that they are interested in this work.

The news on funding is not so 'upbeat'. Both our streams of support from statutory funders have been disrupted. We are in discussion with both the Primary Care Trust and Herts CC Children, Schools and Families and are hopeful that some funding may be available in the future, but the situation is still uncertain. We are very fortunate to have been able to build up some modest financial reserves over the last two years, and we are starting our new financial year with enough cash reserves to cover our short term needs and we are doing everything in our power to investigate sources of funding and to encourage donations and fundraising efforts.

The limitations of our current premises are severely impacting on our ability to operate as effectively as we would like. To rent larger premises would be too expensive for the Network, even in an easier financial environment. Consequently, we have launched an appeal across the district to try and find a suitable premise that could be provided either at no cost or a subsidised rent.

Sadly, we said goodbye to Charis Harbidge, our Children's Co-ordinator who has moved out of the area. Charis has worked over the past six years to set up our Children's Service which has become highly regarded and envied in many parts of the county. The leaving party held for Charis last week was attended by 50 people who had worked with her and all agreed that Charis had 'made a difference' to the lives of hundreds of bereaved children and their families by her caring and dedicated approach to her work. Our children's work continues under the guidance of Viv Lawman, the Network Manager, who now leads the team of dedicated children's volunteers.

More information on our work, our popular fundraising events and ways in which you could help the Network can be found on our website: www.sabn.org.uk



St Albans & District Bereavement Network (SABN)

Volunteers Needed to Support Bereaved Children & Young People the St Albans District

SABN's work is valuable because it provides children and their carers with an opportunity to express very painful experiences within a 'safe' framework. Children find it hard to express their feelings in words alone and the lively programme of activities provides them with new ways to tell their story, explore their grief, and remember their special person in positive ways.

Our current team of volunteers comes from a wide variety of backgrounds and experience of working with children including, health professionals, teachers, nurses, counsellors, retired people, play and art therapists. They all have been trained by SABN and have volunteered their time and energy to help bereaved children and their parents and carers to come to terms with the death of a parent, sibling or other significant person such as a grandparent or family friend.

As our work with children within the district increases, we are looking for new volunteers who can offer help to continue this much needed work.

If you are interested in volunteering for SABN, or would like to discuss the role, please contact Viv Lawman on 01727 841914 or email admin@sabn.org.uk.

Our website: www.sabn.org.uk

Hitchin New Testament Greek & Biblical Hebrew Courses 2011/12

Starting

Mon 26th Sept 7.30 - 9.30 pm (Beginners Greek)
Thurs 29th Sept 11 am - 1 pm (Beginners Greek)
Thurs 29th Sept 7.30 - 9.30 pm (Advanced Greek)
Tues 27th Sept 7.30 - 9.30 pm (Beginners Hebrew)

For further details contact Dr Brendan Devitt at (01462) 621776 or Email: bwdevitt@readntgreek.com or visit the course website at: www.readntgreek.com

'I used to think that we went along paths. Now it seems I was wrong – the going itself is the path.'

C.S. Lewis

The Churches in South St. Albans

The South St. Albans churches of St. Stephen's, St. Bartholomew's, Chiswell Green U.R.C., and St. Julian's have been working together with various events and activities for more than 30 years. In those years various projects have been initiated with some still continuing and others having run their course. At one time in the past we tried to each host one event per year. St. Julian's held a service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, the U.R.C. hosted a Songs of Praise service, and we were all invited to the Easter Vigil at St. Bartholomew's. January eventually proved too difficult for many people to come to St. Julian's, and St. Stephens initiated their own Easter Vigil. Songs of Praise continues for now at Chiswell Green.

We often join together for Lent talks or groups, and also circulate a joint leaflet in local communities at Christmas and Easter, as far as possible, outlining the services at each church during the season. A thriving Youth Group ran for several years with youngsters coming along each Friday from all the churches, and for a while we each hosted a service on Sunday evening to which the other churches were invited.

Each Good Friday since the beginning we have held a Walk of Witness. Originally we would follow a given route, stopping at certain intervals for a short time of worship in the open. We followed the bearer of a large wooden Cross. In more recent years we walk the route but now go into each church for a short act of worship with the Witness being the walk between churches. An energetic organist cycles ahead of us to provide the music at each church.

Over the years we have had three trips to pilgrimage destinations; to Austria and on to Oberammergau for the passion plays, to Italy including Rome, and to the North East of England – the home of the Northern Celtic Saints. We have also been on a joint day trip to Liverpool visiting both Catholic and Anglican Cathedrals.

Each year St. Bartholomew's and St. Stephen's alternatively host a Christingle service, and every Friday they alternate in hosting morning prayers. More recently the Women's World Day of Prayer, an evening service for which is hosted by each of the four churches in turn, has come under the umbrella of the South St. Albans inter-church committee too.

All-in-all as time goes on some of what we do together changes whilst other things are constant. It is a case of 'to everything there is a season.....'. We are just beginning a time of looking again at our yearly activities to see where we go from here. But the one thing that remains throughout is the friendships we have built up over time. We have prayed together, studied together, witnessed and had leisure time together. Some of us have watched each others' children grow, marry, and have children of their own. All this treasured sharing in life is something of great value that defies the boundaries of denominations, and long may it continue!

Joanna Field

One World Week

23 – 30 October 2011

For many years events for One World Week were organised by Maureen Sporle and her committee. A few years ago the group stood down from this work and we appealed for others to come forward to form a new committee. This didn't happen and for a while the Enabling Group took the responsibility for organising some events and for collating information about what was happening in the city. Last year, due to the pressure of other events we were unable to continue this and there were no specific activities organised by us, and the same is likely in 2011.

If your church or any group you are involved in has any plans for One World Week we would be pleased to hear about them and to help publicise them. Also, if anyone feels strongly that they would like to help revive interest on behalf of CTSA, please would they contact a member of the Enabling Group.

Christian Aid Week

The Service

When I was asked to write about the annual Christian Aid service I imagined a glowing report. Instead my mind turned to the parable of the wedding banquet to which all were invited but nobody came. St Julian's were welcoming and the coffee was really good being the Nicaraguan coffee as in the DVD. The speaker from Christian Aid knew how to encourage, breaking down the task of overcoming poverty by reminding us that the more who worked the easier it became. The Reverend David Ridgeway guided us through the service and everything went smoothly, except, where was everyone? There are twenty churches that support Christian Aid but only seventeen people were present at the service which enables us all to remember that we are doing God's work.

If anyone has any ideas on how this can be improved on please let me know.

The Collection

The week's over, the counting is nearly finished so one more task just before you have a rest from Christian Aid for a while. I would like to get up to date with the needs of your church. So please let me know what you have got left over, never used or found totally unsuitable. If any of your collectors have told you about roads changes, new block of flats or even a new road being built, this too would be helpful to know.

Mike sends congratulations to St Peter's and the Baptist Church London Colney and also Homewood Road on the speed with which they have counted and banked their money and returned the paperwork to him. He received the paperwork from St Peter's & the Baptist Church on Tuesday (they collected outside Tesco on Saturday) and the paperwork from Homewood road on Wednesday. He says, 'I don't think I have ever had the paperwork returned so quickly.' Don't forget he also wants all those 'odd' monies that come in.

Having completed all the work needed for this year's house to house, Caroline has decided that her many talents will be put to a better purpose doing other work for Christian Aid. We are grateful for all the work she has done, but this does mean we really do need help on the committee. I'm sure the word committee is a stumbling block for many of you, but it needn't be. We only meet two/three times a year unless there is something special and most of the work can be done at your own pace and in your own way. Please do consider helping us either yourself or by letting us know of maybe a collector who has shown interest in the charity. It really is a case of many hands make light work.

Once again many thanks for enabling us all to raise money to enable those without to have hope in the future.

Valerie Chapman.

DIARY DATES 2011

- Saturday 11th June** St Albans Bereavement Network Strawberries and Bubbly Garden Party, 3 - 5 p.m. Tickets £10 from Chris at SABN: 01727 841914 or The Bereavement Network Office.
- Sunday 12th June** Interfaith Cricket Match at Verulam Park Pavilion, 2 p.m.
- Wednesday 22nd June** Summer Forum at St. Paul's Church, Hatfield Road, 8 p.m. 'The Growing Church' - news of building changes and their impact (including St. Paul's, St. Julian's and others).
- Saturday 2nd July** Community Sports Day. Details from Susan Devi susandevi@onetel.com
- Sunday 11th September** Prayer Walk around St Albans
A day for intercession with a walk of prayer around St Albans.
- Monday 31st October** Autumn Forum: Rt Revd Dr Alan Smith, The Bishop of St. Albans, Speaking on 'Opportunities offered to the Churches during the Olympics in 2012'. To be held at the Maryland Convent, a Mass Centre for SS Alban & Stephen, in Townsend Drive (approached from The Batchwood Drive end for easiest access)

Multicultural Fair at Trinity URC

Saturday June the 4th

From 10.30 am

Multicultural Fair at Trinity URC, Beaconsfield Road, St Albans.

Hands-on art and design

Bible Exhibition

Interfaith possibilities

Visual story-telling

Young People's stall run by young people

Big Society issues - case studies highlighting poverty, unemployment, immigration issues, homelessness, benefits etc

Resource materials to browse

Caribbean Food and drink.

Organised by the Thames North Advocates for Racial Justice and Multicultural Ministry



THE CATHEDRAL AND
ABBAY CHURCH OF
SAINT ALBAN

**You are invited to attend
a Free Church Service
in The Lady Chapel on:**

Wednesday 1st. June 2011 at 11 a.m.

Preacher: The Reverend John Steele, URC Minister for Knebworth
and Stevenage in the North Hertfordshire Group.

- At Noon join a Fellowship Lunch in the Abbey Café.

Wednesday 6th. July 2011 at 11 a.m.

Preacher: The Reverend Dawn Brown. Minister at Markyate
Baptist Church.

- At Noon join a Fellowship Lunch in the Abbey Café.

Wednesday 3rd. August 2011 at 11 a.m.

Preacher: The Reverend Dr. Martin Eggleton, Methodist Minister
in the Queensbury and Barnet Circuit

- At Noon join a Fellowship Lunch in the Abbey Café.

Notice of Special Services in the Cathedral:

Sunday 5th. June 2011 at 6-30p.m.

Taize Chants with time for prayer and reflection.

The Alban Pilgrimage - Saturday 18th. June 2011.

10.30 am. Pilgrimage Procession from Roman Verulamium

11.30 am. Festival Eucharist. Preacher: The Very Reverend June Osborne, Dean of Salisbury.

4 00 pm. Festival Evensong. Preacher: The Reverend Dr Leslie Griffiths, Superintendent of Wesley's
Chapel.

ALL ARE WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Reverend Peter Hudson Free Church Ecumenical Chaplain

Email: peter.hudson@uwclub.net Phone: St Albans: 812076

Regular ecumenical Services in the Abbey

The Free Church services take place on the first Wednesday of each month in the Lady Chapel
at 11.00 a.m.

The Roman Catholic Mass takes place every Friday at 12.00 midday in the Lady Chapel

The Lutheran Congregation will meet at the Cathedral in the Lady Chapel at 7.00 p.m.

on: June 28th, July 26th, August 30th, September 27th.

Orthodox services will be held in the Lady Chapel at 10 am on: June 7th, July 5th,
September 13th.

Churches Together in St Albans Prayer Cycle

Please join us in praying for a different church each week.

Please contact us if you would like to add to the prayer cycle.

June

5th Trinity URC, Beaconsfield Road

12th Park Street Baptist Church

19th Vineyard Christian Fellowship

26th St Julian's, Abbot's Avenue

July

3rd Quench Christian Bookshop

10th Living Waters Church

17th Bricket Wood URC, West Riding

24th The Salvation Army, Victoria Street

31st Christ Church, High Oaks.

August

7th Marshalswick Baptist Free Church

14th St Bartholomew's RC Church

21st St Julian's

28th St Leonard's, Sandridge

31st Ashley Hall Church.

September

4th St Luke's, Cell Barnes Lane

11th Cathedral and Abbey Church of St Alban

18th Marlborough Road Methodist Church

25th Dagnall Street Baptist Church

October

2nd St Mary's, Marshalswick

9th St Alban & St Stephen RC Church

16th The Maryland Convent and Marshalswick Mass Centre

23rd St Mary's, Chidwick Green

30th St Michael's

Website: <http://.ctstalbans.org.uk>

Blog/Diary: <http://ctstalbans.wordpress.com>

Newsletters online: <http://ctstalbans.files.wordpress.com/newsletters>