

WELCOME!

I am pleased to welcome everyone to St Andrew's, but in particular visitors and newcomers. Details of services are given at the back of the magazine. If you wish to know more about anything mentioned, please get in touch with the contact person named in the article or speak with me or one of the churchwardens. For contact details, see the page opposite.

The church is open during daylight hours, and there is a prayer space by the main door where there is an opportunity to post prayers on the prayer board and light a candle.

GOD-SOAKED

In the spirit of the Scouts' motto 'Be Prepared', I have provided my family with both my funeral playlist, and, should I ever fall into a coma, the music they are to play on repeat!

The latter consists of The Wedding Present's finest hour, debut album 'George Best'; a collection of noisy songs that became the soundtrack of my late teens. This timeless masterpiece never fails to make my body move and my heart soar. So, fingers crossed, it could just be the key to my waking up!

They say that we don't choose music, it chooses us. Music captures; gets beneath our skin; becomes part of us.

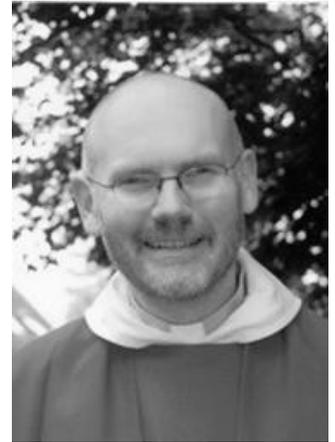
And that I think is how God works. God inhabits all living things. In the words of poet Elizabeth Browning 'earth is crammed with heaven and every common bush afire with God'.

That's breath-taking.

And if it's true, then it changes everything, because God isn't therefore somewhere out there, but somewhere in here, within me, within you, within all. And that should inspire in us the deepest reverence for all of life. It's what lies behind that ancient greeting Namaste - 'The Light/the God/the Christ in me, honours the Light/the God/the Christ in you'.

I, like many, sleepwalk through most of my life. The key to waking up lies in recapturing this beautiful, life-affirming, universal truth that all of life; you, me, we, they... are God-soaked.

Alan



REACHING NEW PEOPLE

St Albans Diocese are holding a Vision Day in Luton on **12th October** from 9am-2pm. This will be led by members of the Reaching New People team. At Belsey Bridge we looked at how we might reach new people in new ways through "fresh expressions of church". The Vision Day in Luton is a great opportunity to hear about what is already happening, discover what it means to be church in new and creative ways, and think further about how we could be involved! Nick Hoyle and Kath Oates are planning to go to the Vision Day. If you would like to join them please get in touch with them on 07708 580428 or oates13@virginmedia.com.

PLEASE NOTE THE CLOSING DATE FOR THE NOVEMBER MAGAZINE OF SUNDAY 20TH OCTOBER. Please send copy by e-mail to hertfordsta@aol.co.uk or post to Richard Taylor at 22 Highfield Road, Hertford SG13 8BH (Tel. 01992 302995).