

## St Ippolyts Church, St Ippolyts, Nr Hitchin



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## Reflections

### The Bishop expects...

'The Bishop expects the Rural Dean to be well acquainted with each of the parishes in his/her deanery, and to assist the parochial and non-parochial clergy and ministers in their ministry by advice and encouragement, and particularly to encourage them in the corporate study of Christian doctrine and pastoral theology.'

This is the first of 14 instructions given to me by the Archdeacon when I met up with him last month. For your vicar, that's me, is to the next Rural Dean of Hitchin Deanery. This will be a privilege and a joy for me and so I would like you all to join me in my commissioning service which will take place during the service of Evensong on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> June at 6.30pm in St Mary's Church, Hitchin. It would be lovely to see you all there.

The work and role of the Rural Dean will take me out of the parishes on occasions, and if there are vacancies within the Deanery then there will be more work for me to do. But all of these opportunities and occasions will help us to realise we are part of the whole mission and ministry of God's church here in the diocese of St Albans, as well as within our three parishes.

So please be reassured I am still your Vicar, here for you in your joys and in your sorrows.

The months and years go by so quickly now, is that a sign I am of a certain age? If they go by quickly for us who are aged by time, I wonder how quickly do they go by for God who is beyond all time and age? Does God have time to enjoy long hot summer days and evenings like we do or hope to in every British 'Summer', when there must always be so much for God to do, just like we also find in our busy lives.

There is a line in a Psalm that reads 'For he gives to his beloved sleep', I find this reassuring when I feel like having a doze, but less reassuring when I have a restless night's sleep, perhaps I feel I am not God's beloved then! All us can be swept along with the tide of business, with work commitments and activity holidays and things to do and friends to keep in touch with etc etc. But all of us need to know we are made in the image of God and even God rested from work on the seventh day when the job of creation was done.

God is an example to us all as we look towards busy times and long summer days and holidays. Let us all follow in God's footsteps and rest a little, step aside from our business and 'watch the grass grow'. Adam and Eve heard the Lord God walking in the garden, if we stop for a rest maybe we will too.

Enjoy June as it bursts out all over our lovely Benefice, and may God give you, my beloved parishioners, sleep and time for refreshment.

With love

Reverend Ann -soon to be your Rural Dean as well as your Vicar!

## Past Reflections