

St Ippolyts Church, St Ippolyts, Nr Hitchin



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Reflections

Upon my computer desk I have a tube of cream labelled 'Gardeners Nail & Cuticle Therapy', a peculiar place to have it you might say, however the reason I put it there in the first place was to spoil myself while I was waiting for the blessed computer to warm up. I had thought to myself 'apply some cream every time the computer is switched on and I will have lovely hands and nails - no problem!'

Unfortunately there are problems, one is that other duties call when the computer is warming up. 'I'll just go and make a cup of coffee', 'I've just enough time to post a letter', or open my post box, or 'let's see what's in the diary this week, oh no' And so the months go by and my tube of cream is still there looking at me every day. It's not upset if I never use it, it just sits there ready for the next time I choose to spoil myself.

We can all find excuses for not doing something and on the whole the excuses are acceptable and seem reasonable. However in much the same way that my hands would go if I never used any of my handcream, so our lives become hardened if we never use the anointing oil of gladness that God gives us through his church and the sacraments.

Over the course of this year we have seen the sacrament of marriage and the sacrament of baptism administered in our churches to several who have chosen to make promises and belong, to each other and to the church. Week by week you, my lovely parishioners, come and receive the sacrament of Holy Communion, some on Sundays and some on Wednesdays.

The sacrament of Holy Communion is there for you, some find in the prayers and the sacrament a kind of therapy, an offer from one whom Mary Magdalene 'supposed to be the gardener'. Unlike my tube of hand cream, this therapy of prayer and sacrament will never run out, always there for us, just like the church really.

Our churches are always there for all of us, the buildings just sit there ready for the next time we choose to spoil ourselves and enter in for that chosen sacrament and therapy.

My tube of handcream reminds me I should be spoiling myself, it also reminds me I have things about myself which I need help to overcome, - the rough and tumble that life throws.

Next time you pass our churches, which are always open and ready for you to use, spoil yourself, enter into that sacred space, receive the oil of gladness from that most excellent gardener, he who created us in the first place. Who knows, together we may smooth out and calm the rough and tumble, and be more gentle with each other and the world.

So, excuse me while I just practise what I've just

Have a gentle September,

Reverend Ann

Past Reflections