

**'Rooted and established in love'**

Ephesians 3:17

Dear Church Family,

We have had both the joy and the challenge of being members of this church for six years now. Thank you for your support and encouragement over the course of the last twelve months. We have been blessed to be part of the church family here and we give thanks for God's presence and power.

The Bible verse above came out of a prayer meeting early in the year when we felt God saying this was to be a year of growth, spiritually and relationally. Incidentally, this seems to be reflected also in numbers, but that was not what we heard; rather that we would be growing in love for one another and for God. There has been a maturing of us in our faith and Christian witness and service, in particular going deeper into God. This is part of the Diocesan strategy of Living God's Love. (<http://www.stalbans.anglican.org/faith/living-god-s-love>)

Cathy has served as warden for the last four years and we thank her for all her servant hearted involvement in church life. Please continue to pray for Madeleine and the appointment of a new warden and the new PCC now and in the future.

We also wish to thank Gemma, Amanda, Claire, Ben, Vicky, Tony, Jill, Anne, Pat and Margaret for their support and wisdom in ministry during the past year. We thank you also for all your involvement in the church in so many activities and ministries throughout the year.

**Some Highlights of the year:-**

- Church Weekend at Home
- Young people's Mission trip to Kosovo
- Greater local school connections, and Christmas and Easter Journeys
- Alpha and Lent courses
- Gemma's arrival
- Broken windows and all the associated adventures.
- New people and new opportunities.
- An encouraging direction in our finances.

**Some Challenges:-**

- Embracing new initiatives in worship as valuing and holding on to the good already established.
- Financial resourcing of our vision to be a Lighthouse for the Community
- Commitment to and development of our prayer life
- Taking forward our mission action plan ideas for the next year.
- What next for our youth ministry?

**With Love and Thanks, Simon and Louise**