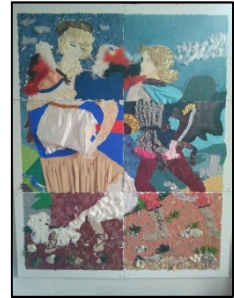


St Faiths Patronal Service

Friday 7th October saw St Faiths celebrate it's Patronal Service.

The service started with the Music Group playing a short introductory piece and a rousing processional hymn followed, during which the Choir, Team Clergy and the Hitchin Sea Cadets processed into church. The music for the service was provided by a combination of organ and the Music Group, who also played for two of the other hymns. The St Faiths choir sung a short anthem 'Sent by the Lord am I', which was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.

It was very unfortunate that the schools could not be with us this year as the dates clashed with another event, but Purwell School sent a collage they had made of 'Tobias and the Angel', originally drawn in the workshop of Andrea del Verrocchio between 1470 and 1480. This is an impressive piece of work and is made up of six large squares; each was made by a different group and then joined together. It has been hung in church for everyone to see and appreciate.



One of the highlights of the evening was a demonstration of the hornpipe performed by Hitchin Sea Cadets. This was accompanied by rousing music and was so enjoyed by the congregation that they burst into spontaneous applause as they marched off.

Another very enjoyable part of the service was the Sunday school presentation of 'Genesis in five minutes', well five minutes and a bit Andrew actually said. Andrew, Carolyn and Mary read a much condensed text as members of the Sunday school acted out the various parts with considerable professionalism.

Trish Bonnet from the Church of Our Lady Immaculate & St Andrews gave the address and spoke about Genesis in more depth, and how God had remained faithful to his people and not given up them.

After prayers every one joined in with another rousing and final hymn 'Mine eyes have seen the Glory' during which the Clergy, Choir and Sea Cadets processed out and after the service refreshments were served by a host of younger people. The period after the service always provides a good opportunity for people to talk and catch up with news from around the parish, or to chat with those who have taken part in the service.

All the churches in the parish have their own style of Patronal Service, ranging from the traditional to Taizé. In recent years St Faiths has tried to involve schools and local groups in the service much more, partly to help to build bridges between the various groups and also that there is a fuller appreciation of all that goes on in our local Walsworth community.