

All Saints Newsletter



Rambling Rector

Dear friends,

I love the arrival of the house martins in Spring, and though there is a certain melancholy to it, I also enjoy their gathering together, swooping over the water and lining up on telegraph wires in the Autumn, before flying away to Africa. As it happens, I am inspired by two human Martins this month - Martin of Tours who lived in the fourth century and Martyn Percy a deep thinking and provocative theological writer of our time.

Martin of Tours is remembered on 11 November which we think of first as Armistice or Remembrance Day. I have heard it said that 11 November was chosen to mark the end of the First World War precisely because of the celebration of Martin of Tours. Martin was born in 316. He was a soldier in the Roman army and a Christian. He found that the two roles conflicted, and so he founded a monastery from which the Christian gospel was shared in the countryside. countryside.

AT A GLANCE



Art Exhibition

October 22nd 23rd



Christmas Fayre

November 20th

As with many great saints there is a particular legend associated with Martin. One day, as a soldier sitting powerfully astride his horse, he rode through the city gates, where a poor beggar was lying on the cold stone pavement. Martin observed the man, got off his horse, unsheathed his sword and cut his cloak in half, giving half to his fellow man and wrapping the other half around himself. He continued on his way to his business in the city. That night he had a vision in which Christ was wearing half of his cloak and saying to Martin, “You gave this to me.”

In his book ‘The Humble Church, renewing the body of Christ’ Martyn Percy writes a chapter entitled ‘Jesus and the self-emptying church’ and he quotes these words about humility from Justine Allain-Chapman...

‘Humility is the quality that... all mature Christians grow into; a quality where a deep sense of inner dignity and value is palpable to others and brings them solace, it is a fruit of the Spirit, sometimes translated as ‘gentleness’. It can be misunderstood as a false modesty, of doing yourself down, and as such can be quite manipulative, in refusing to allow others to express gratitude or admiration, for example. Humble people are grounded. They are secure in themselves and in touch with their own vulnerability as human beings but also fully aware of their strengths.’

*God all-powerful,
who called Martin from the armies of this world
to be a faithful soldier of Christ:
give us grace to follow him in his love and compassion for the needy,
and enable your church to claim for all people their inheritance as
children of God;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with
you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God now and for ever.*

With love and prayers

Geoff

GLANCING BACK



Cream Tea held on August 25th raised a total of £346



Organ concert with Richard Bower held on September 11th. A wonderful and informative evening.

See our feature page.

October 2021 Money Matters



After a very challenging year in 2020 when our income was significantly affected by the Covid pandemic we are gradually seeing it begin to recover during 2021.

In a normal year our income and expenditure are around £50,000. The income from Direct Giving is around £30,000.

To balance our books each year we are dependent upon our Indirect Income from Parochial Fees (Weddings and Funerals), Fundraising and Church Room Letting. The income from these is still well below a normal year when we would expect to receive around £20,000. In our forecast for this year, we expect to receive about £10,000, just half the normal level.

Due to lock down restrictions at the beginning of the year several funerals went straight to the Crematorium; four weddings have been held – half the usual number. We were pleased to start holding fundraising events again at the end of June so effectively lost half the year. Church Room Letting has started again at the beginning of August.

Here is a summary of the money received and spent from the beginning of January to the end of August:

Income: £43,110

Expenditure: £40,624

The income includes just over £9,000 from the Organ Fund and the expenditure includes the final payment of £9,000 in March for the restoration of the organ.

For the whole of 2021 we are expecting a deficit of £2,132.

A big 'thank you' to everyone who gives regularly to the Church.

Paul Fearon
Church Treasurer



The Hartford Chronicles

I have been asked to write about All Saints Hartford PCC. Hence the heading I have chosen.

Our PCC meets 6 times a year and these meetings are of various lengths. The longest, so far, that I have endured is 2hours 15minutes! Geoff our Rector who is Chairman of the PCC very kindly let us have a break of 10 minutes to stretch our legs, which was much appreciated. The PCC has 9 elected members plus the clergy and other office holders. I hope in what I write you will be inspired to come and join the PCC at some time soon.

Our Newsletter is being published quarterly so this copy will take us through to the end of December.

Our last PCC Meeting was held in September, we have one in November which will be the last one for this year. During the meeting many items are discussed, and minutes are taken. The Churchwardens Report, Treasurers Report and many items that need attention. We also plan dates for events to take place which are for fund raising. Most important of all we plan the dates for special festival services which take place in our Church.

On the agenda for our July PCC Meeting there was the item "Away Day". My mind went into overdrive, where was Geoff thinking we would be going. Maybe a nature reserve, stately home, gardens or even a trip to a coastal area. My mind was boggling with thoughts, would we need to book a coach? At the actual meeting all was revealed, we would be going to Houghton, in fact St. Mary's Centre where the PCC and members of our congregation would have a day together on discussing the future of our Church and how and what we would like to see happening. Also, how can we make these things come about. No coach to book just lunch to arrange. We really do hope that many of you will put your names down to come to

this special day. Geoff will give out more information and there will be a sheet in church to sign saying you are coming. Hope to see you there.

The rose bed at the side of the path leading to the Church is now being looked after by Derek and Glenys Colbert. They have taken this over from Peter and Carol King who feel unable to carry on with the job. Thank you, Peter and Carol, for all the effort you have put into keeping this area looking so pretty.

What a wonderful evening we had on Saturday 11th September. The Organ Recital was enjoyed by 54 people. The sound from our restored organ was wonderful. We were so lucky to have Richard Bower whose company did the magnificent restoration work for us delight the audience with his magical playing. With refreshments served at half time, we not only heard beautiful music but learnt about the rebuilding of our organ and its history. Thank you to all who helped make the evening so enjoyable.

We have two more events for your diaries, the Art Exhibition on 22nd to the 24th October, Friday 22nd is the Preview Evening which will include a talk by Vaughan Clark on Costa Rica. Vaughan will also be showing slides, a glass of wine is included in this evening event. On Saturday 23rd October, refreshments will be served during the day. Then our Christmas Fayre on 20th November. There will be 10 different stalls at the Fayre selling many items for Christmas and other occasions. We will have a cake stall, jam and preserves, craft, Christmas floral arrangements to name just a few. There will also be refreshments served at the Fayre and this year we are including sandwiches for a lite lunch. There will of course be the usual cake, coffee, and tea. We do hope you will come and support these events.

Until next time

Pam Fearon.

FEATURE PAGE

Organ Recital ... *A wonderful evening with Richard Bower*

Saturday the 11th September was a wonderful evening when we were able to celebrate the restoration of our Hill Organ and the successful Organ Appeal.

Richard Bower's depth of knowledge and infectious enthusiasm was felt and appreciated by everyone there. Richard is an accomplished organist and is Director of Music at St Nicholas, Dereham where he

plays an organ which was rebuilt by William Hill & Son in 1875.

To hear Richard, play the music he had selected for the evening's program enabled us to appreciate the range and versatility of the wonderful sound from our Hill Organ. It was special and then to hear the insights about the history of the organ and the story behind its recent restoration by Richard and his team was so informative and inspiring.

The interval gave the opportunity for good and happy conversation along with the refreshments which were universally enjoyed.

For those who were away or not able to come a recording of the Organ Recital has been posted on to the homepage of the website. Many of us who were there on the evening will also enjoy being reminded of what was a wonderful evening.

FEATURE PAGE

Organ Recital ... *A wonderful evening with Richard Bower*

A little History of our Organ

The organ was supplied by the London organ-builders, Hill & Son. It was ordered by the then Vicar, The Revd J. Ripley, who had received a quotation of £205 from Hill & Son on 19 November 1873; the instrument was probably installed early in 1874.

Hill & Son was one of the most eminent firms of English organ-builders during the Victorian period. The firm built many organs including for Westminster Abbey, King's College, Cambridge, and Birmingham Town Hall, as well as countless smaller instruments for churches and chapels at home and overseas.

Our organ was typical of Hill's small church instruments. It would have been constructed in the organ factory in Camden Town before being sent to Huntingdon by rail and then assembled in the church.

The organ originally stood at the west end of the church, where the choir vestry now is. About twenty years after its installation, it was moved to its current position on the north side of the chancel.

The organ has given good service for almost 150 years tending to suggest that the expenditure of £205 in 1873 was a good investment! After some 150 years of service, it had become tired and in need of some loving attention! Now that the organ restoration is complete it will enable our congregation and those who follow to enjoy many more years of music played on this church organ.

Paul Fearon

All Saints Diary

OCTOBER

October 2021

Friday evening 22nd -Talk on Wildlife of Costa Rica and art exhibition
preview evening 7.30
with refreshments. Tickets £5.00

Art Exhibition

Saturday 23rd 11.00 -4.00 pm

Sunday 12.00- 4.00 pm

Saturday 30th 11.00am

All Souls Service

All Saints Diary

NOVEMBER 2021

November 2021

Sunday 14th 11.00am

Remembrance Sunday

Saturday 20th November 2021 Christmas Fayre

Doors open 11am - 3pm

Raffle drawn 2.30pm

stalls:-

Refreshments - including light lunches

Raffle

Cakes

Preserves and jams

Books

Crafts

Cards

Flower arrangements,

Jigsaws

Good as New

All Saints Diary

DECEMBER 2021

December 2021

Sunday 19th 4.00pm Christmas Carol Service

Christmas Eve 4.00pm Nativity Service
11.30pm Midnight Mass

Christmas Day 11.00am Family Communion

Art and Craft Exhibition

All Saints Church Hartford

Preview Evening

Friday 22nd October @ 19:30pm

Talk on the Wildlife of Costa Rica - £5 including refreshments.

Exhibition and sales with refreshments

Saturday 23rd October 11:00 – 16:00

Sunday 24th October 12:00 – 16:00



Paintings, photographs , ceramics and needlework for sale.
In aid of church funds.



All Saints' Church, Hartford

Christmas Fayre 2021

*in All Saints' Church Hartford
and the Church Room*

Free admission

Raffle drawn @ 2.30pm

Stalls:-

Refreshments - including light lunches

Raffle

Cakes Preserves and jams

Books

Crafts Cards

Flower arrangements

Jigsaws

Good as New Stalls

Saturday 20th November 2021

Doors open 11.00 am - 3.00pm

All proceeds in aid of Church Funds

I was so very happy that classes could return to the Church Rooms. It has been an absolute delight to welcome back those happy smiling faces and meet new members. It made me laugh when a couple of little 5 year olds I had only met in the online classes, came running up the path squealing with delight, “Miss Mandy, you are real!” Everyone remarks about the beautiful setting and what a lovely friendly peaceful church it is. It is wonderful to see the Church sitting in the surroundings at different times of the day. I see the sun creeping over in the morning and hear the crows as they fly in to roost. The other night I had finished teaching with the sounds of laughter and

beautiful music in my mind, and as I left there was a slight mist, the moon lighting the river, shadows reflecting off the water and our lovely church settled so peacefully within it. My grateful thanks goes to everyone involved in the church for helping me to make this happen. How magical and how lucky I am to come to work in this wonderful place.

Amanda Smith



White Swan Dance Academy

Church Rooms, All Saints Hartford by the River



Back to live classes this September!

Ballet classes for Toddlers with Mummy 18 months - 2/12 years,
Children - 3-4 Years 5-6 Years 7-9 Years

Adult ballet, Adult tap, Ballet fitness,
Silver Swans Ballet and Silver tap



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