

# All Saints Newsletter



## AT A GLANCE



### Clifford - LEJOG 2023

Feature pages  
3,4,5,6 & 7



### Threads of Creation

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## The Rambling Rector



Dear Friends,

August is often a quiet time in the church, but not so this year. Clifford Owen was cycling from Land's End to John O'Groats in 17 days at the age of 80, and meanwhile six people were getting themselves ready for Confirmation. So, I spent August delighting in conversation with the six and sharing in the joy of Clifford's progress from one end of the

country to the other.

Back in February, sensing that the time was right, we contacted Dagmar, Bishop of Huntingdon to ask if she would come to Hartford to conduct a service of Confirmation, and the date of Sunday 1st October was agreed (not realising at the time that would be 50 years since Clifford's ordination as deacon). We then prayed for the Confirmation candidates, as yet unknown.

Meanwhile, the Lord was moving in the hearts of six people, three in Hartford and three in Houghton and Wyton, and conversations about faith, prayer, Christian living and worship were happening, leading these individuals to come together as a group.

Three of those people began meeting in June, then becoming four and finally six. It has been life-giving and encouraging, a joy and strength to be part of those individual

and group conversations. We began by talking about who we are, the significant moments in our lives, our experiences of God, our experiences of love and life, and our questions and our praying.

We went on to think about the beatitudes and their meaning to us; about the seven deadly sins and the seven virtues and the gifts of the Holy Spirit. We studied the creed, sharing our belief and our questions; we thought about the elements of prayer; and we imagined ourselves into scenes from the gospel narrative and the presence of Christ.

As we got closer to the date of the Confirmation we went through the service together and we were all moved by the meaningfulness of this central part of the service ...

*The bishop addresses each candidate by name and says,*  
 “N, God has called you by name and made you his own.”  
*She anoints the candidate with oil (symbolising healing and coming into the kingdom of God),*  
*lays her hands upon the candidate and says,*  
 “Confirm O Lord your servant N with your Holy Spirit. **Amen**”  
*and the congregation prays,*  
 “Defend, O Lord, these your servants with your heavenly grace,  
 that they may continue yours forever,  
 and daily increase in your Holy Spirit more and more  
 until they come to your everlasting kingdom. Amen”

*The Bishop then reminds the candidates, and us all, that,*  
 “You share, with all members of the church, the privilege of praying to our Father, through his Son Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit.” and invites us to pray.

God bless all those being confirmed at this time, those to be confirmed in the future and all of us who are reminded of our Confirmation.

With love and prayers, Geoff

## GLANCING BACK



**Cream Teas**  
**Raised £557.00**



**Art Exhibition**  
**Raised £580.00**



**Clifford's Cycle Ride**  
**Raised £3501.00**

## FEATURE PAGE



**D Day**



**A Civic Send Off**

### LEJOG 2023

So, my fourth, and almost certainly my last, cycle journey from Lands End to John O Groats is over. How did it feel? I was 52 years old when I first rode JOGLE in 1995 and felt no problems physically. But this time I was on my limit. I had no energy left at the end of each day and I only managed to complete the journey by collapsing asleep at 9 pm!

However, the good news was that the old long distance stamina was still there, and I never realised that 80 year old bodies could get fit again! But my strength on hills had noticeably declined and I was definitely the snail in the sandwich between two fit daughters! The deal was that one of the girls would always 'watch my back'.

## FEATURE PAGE



Le Jog - The Map



Kendal - The Half Way Point



Lands End - the Starting Line

## FEATURE PAGE



**The Three LEJOG Cyclists**

All of my four End to End journeys have been different. I describe them as a kaleidoscope of memories. One passes through so many different villages and towns that you seem to participate in their life for a few minutes. One often felt: 'Wow, I could live in this place'. Inevitably there were places that one couldn't get through fast enough! But a kaleidoscope of memories is probably accurate. Seeing a sign 'hill 18%' outside Chulmleigh in Devon, the descent into and ascent of Boscastle, Cornwall, the 'Road Closed to all vehicles, cyclists and pedestrians' outside Bristol (screams!), the joy of the wide good old A38 towards Gloucester, waving to a friend waiting by Elgar's statue in Worcester, ignoring the Road Closed sign on the A41 in Shropshire and having a trunk road to ourselves for 6 miles(!), the lady throwing a £10 at us as we approached Penrith, passing a quiet Culloden Field outside Inverness, and thinking of the Jacobite's last battle in 1746, sitting with Dutch passengers off a visiting cruise liner at Invergordon, the red squirrels running in front of us in the Highlands, the uniquely beautiful beige sand at Brora and Golspie on the Moray Coast.

## FEATURE PAGE

You have time to take in these glimpses on a bike. But inevitably one had to remain focused on the crucial business of keeping in the cycle tracks; thanking motorists whom you had held up. There was also the constant business of navigation. I had the maps on the handlebars; the girls had their mobile phones with the cycle routes. We never stopped for lunch. We used supermarkets to buy the day's supplies and stopped for a few minutes several times to eat and drink along the way. My daughters insisted that Dad had his 15 minute siesta; so we found a suitable stretch of grass each day for my nap!



Arrived - John O'Groats

Most importantly I sensed the prayer back up that was coming from Hartford church. Your prayers for our safety were answered abundantly. 98% of motorists seemed to be aware that cyclists needed a wide berth, but we were shouted at a few times from irate drivers. The girls occasionally returned fire, but I couldn't hear them anyway! ... and miraculously all three bikes made it without a puncture!

## FEATURE PAGE



**Civic Welcome Home**

I do have to say a big thank you to Hartford for their enormous support for our LEJOG ride. In the 35 years I have been doing sponsored rides for charity, including the four London Marathons (my running days are over by the way!) I have never experienced this level of interest before. So, God bless you all and thanks again.

**Clifford**



## The Hartford Chronicles

Hartford Chronicles - keeping you in touch with Church Life and all the social events for the next three months.

Hartford Chronicles - October 2023.

Summer is over, autumn is here and Christmas is on its way. This morning when I was shopping, to my surprise I found Christmas cakes, puddings and mince pies on the shelves with an abundance of Christmas biscuits and sweets. The sun was shining and it was such a lovely warm day and quite hard to believe that Christmas is 14 weeks away. I do love our autumn mornings with the mist and then the sun breaks through and there is still a little warmth in the sun.

We have had a wonderful summer of events here at All Saints Hartford. The Art Exhibition was held earlier than usual this year. Many visitors enjoyed the magnificent display of paintings produced by many artists. A good number of paintings were sold and the usual tea, coffee and cake was enjoyed. From this event we moved on to our two Cream Teas. These are always so popular, delicious scones with cream and jam or, depending on which way you put it on your scone, jam and cream. In the summer I really upset some natives of Fowey, Cornwall by putting my cream on first. I was told that is the Devon way and we do not do that here in Cornwall. I was at my grandson's sports day and I am not sure I will be invited next year!

We had Clifford's absolutely amazing cycle ride from Lands End to John O'Groats raising a great sum of money for church funds. Our church website was kept buzzing with us all following Clifford's journey each day. I will leave you to read Clifford's article which is an absolute delight. At the time of writing this Clifford has raised £3,501. What an achievement. Clifford is donating the money to our church funds. Clifford will be celebrating his 50 years of ministry this year. At



our service of confirmation we will also be acknowledging Clifford's service to the church. Later in the year or early spring we are hoping to arrange "An Evening with Clifford Owen" where Clifford will talk to us about the events on his cycle ride.

As we walk up the path to come into church have you noticed that the lovely Rowan Tree has not survived? We planted the tree to commemorate the late Queens Jubilee. Sadly the tree has been poisoned, the leaves are withered and the tree has died. We are not the only church to suffer from someone having a dislike for church gardens. The tree will be replaced in the late autumn, we have been in touch with the Town Council who have very kindly said they will arrange and plant the replacement tree for which we are very grateful.

We are all very much looking forward to the Christmas Fayre. There will be many stalls, Crafty Saints have been working very hard and have lots to sell along with all the other usual stalls and refreshments. It promises to be a very busy Fayre and light lunches will be available. The date for your diary is Saturday 18th November. Not to be missed.

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> December at 1.30pm we are having a return visit from the A Cappella Singers, "Enchanting." Last year the concert was an outstanding success and many people asked if we could do it again. So always trying to please, we are doing it again. Last year the church was full and the singing just amazing. Entry to the concert is free. We do hope you will put this in your diary as another date to remember.

Until next time,

Keep Safe, Best Wishes,

Pam Fearon PCC Secretary.



## October 2023 Money Matters

### Money Matters

**Summary for the period 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023:**

**Income: £44,226**

**Expenditure: £41,626**

**Surplus: £2,601**

**General Funds: £11,327**

Based on the results for the year to date we are now expecting to balance our books this year or report a small surplus. When the budget for 2023 was approved by the PCC last November we expected a deficit of £5,641.

There are two things which have caused this remarkable improvement. The first reason is the receipt of £4,000 from two legacies: one bequeathed by the late Pauline Bath and the other by the late Joan Walton. Another legacy is due to be received from the late Marjorie Patzer and at this stage we don't know how much we will receive.

The second reason is from Fundraising which is significantly higher than budgeted as Clifford's LEJOG cycle ride has far exceeded expectations. At the time of writing this the sum including Gift Aid had reached £3,501. **LEJOG** was Clifford's way of celebrating his 80th birthday and his 50th anniversary of ministry in the Church of England. We are very grateful to Clifford for donating all the sponsorship money raised to All Saints Parish Church Hartford.

The church is not immune from the impact of the cost-of-living crisis. The rate of inflation is beginning to fall, but the inflationary increases of the last eighteen months are now embedded into prices. We had hoped the cost of energy would be much lower in 2024, however the reduction may not be as much as we anticipated due to the level of standing charges which are not capped for businesses.

We have a sound financial position and have a great deal to be thankful to God for.

**The Church receives no grants or financial support from the Diocese or anywhere else – all our income is raised locally by Direct Giving or from Other Income.**

**Paul Fearon**

**Churchwarden and Treasurer**

## **Legacies – All Saints Parish Church Hartford**

This year we have been blessed by the receipt of two legacies with a third one still to come.

These generous gifts help us to continue to grow our Church and transform its future use, both for worship and serving our local community.

We have been blessed over the years with legacies from friends and members of the congregation of All Saints Parish Church Hartford who have included a gift in their wills. We welcome all legacies however large or small, and we promise to use these gifts to make a difference to parish life.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) place the legacies we receive in the Church Enhancement Fund, unless the will specifies that the gift is to be used for some other purpose.

The Church of England encourages people to make a Will and you might like to consider including a gift in your will for All Saints Parish Church Hartford. A gift in your will can be an expression of your gratitude and thanksgiving towards God.

# All Saints Special Events

## October

**Sunday 1st October** 11am Confirmation Service with Bishop Dagmar

**Sunday 8th October** 11am Harvest Festival Service followed by  
Harvest Lunch at 12.30pm ( by pre-booked tickets only)

**Wednesday 18th October** 7pm Service of Healing and Wholeness

## November

**Thursday 2nd November** 7pm All Souls' Day Service

**Wednesday 15th November** 7pm Service of Healing and Wholeness

**Saturday 18th November** 11am - 3pm Christmas Fayre

## December

**Saturday 2nd December** 1.30pm Enchanting Concert

**Sunday 17th December** 4pm Carol Service

**Wednesday 20th December** 7pm Service of Healing and Wholeness

**Sunday 24th December** 4pm Nativity Service

**Sunday 24th December** 11.30pm Midnight Communion Service

**Monday 25th December** 11am Christmas Day Communion Service

## Regular Events

**Crafty Saints** 10 am - 12 noon - Every Monday

**Afternoon Tea & Chat** 2 pm - 4 pm - Every 1st and 3rd Monday

## Regular Services

### 1st Sunday of the Month

11.00 am - Holy communion

6.00 pm - Evening Prayer

### 2nd Sunday of the Month

8.30 am - Holy Communion

11.00 am - All Age Worship

### 3rd Sunday of the Month

11.00 am - All Age Communion

### 3rd Wednesday of the Month

7.00 pm - Service of Healing and Wholeness

### 4th Sunday of the Month

8.30 am - Holy Communion

11.00 am - Morning Worship

### 5th Sunday of the Month

11.00 am - Songs of Praise

## History Snippets



### Table Tomb

The large table tomb commemorating Henry Thomas Barratt, a solicitor who died in 1841, can be found in the churchyard close to the river wall south of the chancel.

According to P. C. M. Dickenson in his 1944 book it has one of the best and longest epitaphs in the country. There is a newspaper cutting in the files of Sidney Inskip Ladds, to be found in the Norris Museum, St Ives from the 1930's. It contains a letter from 'The Times' and the full inscription.

M Stephenson transcribed the inscription in his **HARTFORD (All Saints) HUNTINGDONSHIRE Monumental Inscriptions 1707 – 1999** which reads:

Sacred/ to the memory/ of/ HENRY THOMAS BARRATT/ of the town of Huntingdon solicitor/ born 30th April 1798/ died 18th June 1841/ Unknown to fame, nor wishing to be known/ Yet sleeps beneath this monumental stone/ No common man; and ne'er was record set/ O'er one more worth an honest heart's regret:/ Above each sordid aim, each selfish fear/ Warm to a few, to all the world sincere/ Paying no homage to the seeming great/ But prizing genuine worth in every state/ With taste unerring. Skilful to descry/ The sterling gold and cast the tinsel by/ No merit owing save what bore the test/ Of truth which sparkled in his ready jest/ In life's meridian years too early lost/ The friends who knowing best deplore him most/ Have raised this tomb and scenes he lov'd to trace/ To mark their old companion's resting place/

This information was collected and collated by John Craven in 1999. Files of historic information are in the northwest corner of the church nave or on the church website select 'The Church' then 'History'.

## Cream Teas

The two Cream Teas again attracted many people to them for a very enjoyable afternoon of happy conversation and a lovely Cream Tea. In July we competed with The Ladies Final at Wimbledon and some inclement weather. In August it was nonstop from 2pm to 4pm and all the tables were full throughout the afternoon.

Thank you to everyone who baked the scones, helped to serve at the tables in the church and the church room, and who kept the kitchen running smoothly. Thank you especially to Pam Clark and Sue Craven for organising them. The two Cream Teas raised £557 for church funds.



## Art Exhibition 2023

It seems a long time ago now but our art group's latest exhibition took place over the first weekend of July. It was lovely sociable time with many people visiting the church to view the paintings and enjoy refreshments in our church room.

There were over 100 pictures on display, watercolours, oils, pastels, pencil drawings and prints as well as a few photographs. The quality on display was very high and we pride ourselves on being affordable with something for every budget.

The amount raised from sales, raffle of paintings and percentage of sales was £580 and very encouraging as well as being a welcome bonus to our church funds.

The artists, nearly all local, were available throughout the weekend to chat to visitors and three new members were recruited so the group has grown in strength and will continue to meet. It is always quite a lot of work for us all but there is a great feeling of satisfaction to know your work will be enjoyed in other people's homes.

Pam Clark



## Threads Through Creation – Jacqui Parkinson

### *Threads through Creation.*

On June 26<sup>th</sup> some of the Crafty Saints and friends took the FACT bus to Ely Cathedral to see the amazing work by Jacqui Parkinson, a textile artist. Inspired by the first pages of the Bible Jacqui has created twelve huge panels with her interpretation in textiles of the Creation Story.

I do not think words can do justice to what was displayed. The whole project took nearly three years and was her second work on such a scale. I am not a sewer in any way and could only be in awe of the skill and imagination that went into each panel to bring to life the story we know so well. With over eight million stitches and miles of black thread, the panels open in a beautiful way the wonderful work of God. There were lovely touches of humour and a message to us of inclusivity for all humankind and all animals.

Mary said” I was spellbound by the work and thought that has gone into creating such a beautiful and awe-inspiring exhibition which was enhanced by the setting of Ely Cathedral.

Having been involved in sewing and patchwork and quilting I was fascinated to learn that Jacqui had used old, well used, and darned cotton sheets as the basis of the panels because ' a bed sheet represents the fabric which wraps around us at birth, and encloses each of us at death'.

There is a great deal of symbolism in these panels and this was just one of them.

It was wonderful to be able to get really close to the panels to be able to see all the work that had gone into them and to be able to see the darns and patches of the original cotton sheets under the dyes and silks. A truly amazing experience!”

Lesley said “What struck me was how she portrayed the Trinity which she had difficulty with but wanted it included in most of the panels. Needing it to be abstract Jacqui finally decided on a spiral to depict God because that expands out from a central point to indicate so much more and is eternal. Then what colours to use? Jacqui thought of the three primary colours to represent The Father, Son and Holy Spirit twisting them around each other. This became too messy so after more experimenting decided on the colours of the rainbow with four colours in the central spire and the last one blue as the everlasting colour.

My favourite panel is The Fallen Angel. although it is the darkest of the lot. The way it was designed fascinated me, especially the central figure which was created by taking a photo of a woman with her arms extended straight above her head. It was enlarged to fit the panel and altered appropriately with such details as the feet and hands appear tied so he cannot break his fall or land on his feet. also, the wings are at an angle to show he is out of control of his flight. Very clever and very powerful.

In an interview with The Church Times in 2016, Jacqui said when she was a teenager she was searching for love. One day she heard a man saying that Jesus loved her and if she wanted to she could say “yes “to the invitation; so, she did, not thinking it was very important. When she told her father what she had done he said “not to worry love, it won’t last long” but the love of Jesus is the most important thing in her life. I wonder if she hadn’t heard those words her life may have been so much different and perhaps we would have been deprived of her wonderful gift and this exhibition?





## Hello everyone

Our summer term ended with the second set of children taking their Royal Academy Ballet Exams. Thankfully the day was cooler than in June and went without a hitch, I am not sure who was more nervous, the parents or the children! (I think we can guess.). Then the hard work really began with help from Patrick, Haleema we finally managed to figure out how to upload, convert and send the films off to the Royal Academy. Many hours later we finally pressed the button on the computer and as we held our breath, the films flew off to the Royal Academy! All we had to do now is wait!



**Pre Primary In Dance**





**Grade One**



The first week of my summer holiday was spent enjoying time with my people from

my adult classes. Part of what I wanted to do when I opened the dancing school, was to be able to have social events where we could all enjoy spending some time together. Covid put pay to that for a while, but this summer we more than made up for it with some lovely outings. Not everyone could come, but for those that could, we had a lovely time.



**Wednesday Silver Swans Ballet Group - Madingley Hall**



**Thursday Morning Silver Swans Ballet Group -  
Coffee and The Old Bridge Hotel**



**Thursday Evening Adult Tap Class -  
Dinner at The King of The Belgiums**



**Friday Morning Silver Ballet and Tap Group  
Afternoon Tea at The Willows**

And so after a final week of preparing for September and various compulsory professional development courses, I flew off to Spain to join Vic for a month's break. As it was so hot, we drove North for a tour of Galicia and here I am pictured in Santiago de Compostela in the park after a tour of the Cathedral, the exact moment the Royal Ballet Exam results came in! I am delighted to say they all passed, but until we have our prize giving event, the children don't know their marks.

Once more I would like to thank the many members of the Church who help and support me so I can run my classes here.

And here we are, back in the Autumn term, funny that one of the music pieces I chose for this term was Autumn Leaves! Keep dancing everyone!

Amanda

