

All Saints Newsletter



AT A GLANCE



**Interview with
Tony Humes
Feature Pages
3,4,5**



**Curates Corner
Pages 7 & 8**



**Local Radio
Pages 13 & 14**

The Rambling Rector



Dear Friends,

Why Pray ?

A good question for us to consider during Lent and thirty of us from our own church and from St Mary, Houghton with Wyton offered each other mutual encouragement as we met in the St Mary's Centre for Pete Greig's 'The Prayer Course'.

In the first video Pete reminded us that the disciples did not ask Jesus to teach them how to preach or how to build churches, but they did ask Our Lord to teach them to pray. They had observed a quality about His being that they associated with His devotion to prayer, and that was what they desired to learn and so be formed in likeness to Jesus.

The course sessions got us thinking about Adoration, Petition, Unanswered Prayer, Contemplation and more, in the context of the advice to 'keep it simple, keep it real, keep it up.'

Meanwhile the building which carries the name of Church and which witnesses to eight centuries of prayer and worship offered in our parish was experiencing renewal in the form of cleaning and limewashing.

The church building at Houghton was also being refreshed as the north aisle was extended and trenches dug in readiness for water to be supplied to a servery and a toilet and in anticipation of new heating and lighting.

Will, our archaeologist delighted in sharing the story to be read in the architecture of our buildings - how they are a witness to constancy and stability and also witness to change through time.

The work on the buildings disrupted our normal way of meeting to worship and pray and yet, far from being a problem, it has been a blessing to us. It has reminded us that our prayers and praises are not restricted to one place, and that when the faithful people of God gather to pray, then the Lord whose faithfulness is entire and promises true is always present.

I am reminded of these words written by William Cowper who lived in Huntingdon in the eighteenth century and who used to sit and contemplate beside the river outside All Saints Hartford.

Jesus, where'er thy people meet,
there they behold thy mercy seat;
where'er they seek thee thou art found,
and ev'ry place is hallowed ground

For thou, within no walls confined,
inhabitest the humble mind;
such ever bring thee when they come,
and, going, take thee to their home.

Here may we prove the power of prayer
to strengthen faith and sweeten care,
to teach our faint desires to rise,
and bring all heav'n before our eyes.

With love and prayer

Geoff

GLANCING BACK



Reflections from Cornwall Pages 9 & 10

FEATURE PAGE

BEHIND THE FACE
Avis Owen talks to Tony Humes



FEATURE PAGE

BEHIND THE FACE

Avis Owen talks to Tony Humes

Avis: Tony, how old were you when you began to play the piano and organ?

Tony: When I was eight years old I taught myself the early stages of playing hymns from the Ancient and Modern hymn book. We didn't have a piano at home, but when we visited my aunt and grandmother I was able to play on their piano. I remember entertaining my grandmother playing duets with my mother.

In my second year at Huntingdon Grammar School I began piano lessons with the school's peripatetic piano teacher (This meant that I was absent from a school lesson which I later had to catch up)

Avis: I realise that you were a keen student and quick to learn and so very soon were taking your first piano examination at grade 5, for which you were awarded a distinction. Of course you would have taken grade 5 General Musicianship examination also.

Tony: Yes I passed that too.

Avis: Did your family encourage you to play the piano/organ?

Tony: It really was Mr Kenneth Brown, the music teacher at Huntingdon Grammar school, who recognised that I had a musical gift and encouraged me. He was the organist and choirmaster at All Saints' Church, Huntingdon and chose pupils from the school to join the church choir twice a week. We had a very good training in Church music and enjoyed Choral Evensong and Sung Communion.

(Avis: Tony was very pleased to show me his well loved copies of the Chant settings in the New Cathedral Psalter & Psalms)

Avis: Mr Brown also prepared you for GCE 'O' and 'A' levels in Music. For the 'A' level you had to have another instrument and learnt to play the violin. It appears that your brothers did not like you practising the piano and violin, but you were undeterred. What attracted you to become a church organist?

Tony: Kenneth Brown was occasionally away doing other concerts and so he trained me as his understudy at All Saints. He knew that I was a good pianist and heard me play regularly for the school assembly. We had choir practise twice a week and two services on Sunday. When I was 33 Mr Brown died and so I became the church organist at All Saints, Huntingdon for the next 33 years . I inherited the combined role of choirmaster and organist.

Avis: What in your opinion are the qualities that make a good church organist?

Tony: I would say being able to lead and train the choir; being sensitive with the worship and able to listen to and work with the Vicar and members of the church; to enjoy music making.

FEATURE PAGE

Tony: Over the years one continues to be asked and enjoy playing the organ in many churches for weddings and funerals. The Hartford church organ was restored a few years ago and is pleasing to play, but unfortunately the swell pedal was removed which is a pity.

Avis: I know that you also love singing and some of us have heard you sing with the Tapestry singing group.

Tony: Yes that's right. I love singing and I also sing with the St Ives Choral Society and occasionally am asked like other choir members to sing a solo. I love choral works especially with an orchestra. I also accompany the Military Wives choir and have a small choir in Abbots Ripton.

Avis: With your musical experience, are you developing our choir?

Tony: At Hartford practices I am encouraging listening skills and diction. The focus is leading the congregation in worship.

Avis: Do you have a favourite composer of organ music?

Tony: I find it difficult to suggest one composer, but I think JS Bach. I like Baroque style and gentle organ music. I have sensitive hearing and do not like thundering and discordant music which is common in organ composers.

Avis: In the last 30 years church congregations have been introduced to new styles of hymns or songs. Do you have a favourite song writer?

Tony: A lot of the modern songs are written for a band of musicians who lead the worship. I think they can be difficult for congregations to sing. Graham Kendrick has written *Shine Jesus Shine* and *Makeway*, which are good for congregations. However he has written many songs which are for a guitarist and vocalist.

I like the new setting by Stuart Townsend of *The Lord's my Shepherd*. The Taize songs are good too, but not chorus' repeating themselves over and over again.

Avis: I have heard it said that contemporary songs draw in younger people into church. Has this been your experience?

Tony: This is a tricky question and I have no evidence that modern songs bring in younger people. It is about balance: some new songs with traditional ones suit most congregations. I think too many new and unknown hymns would upset older members.

Avis: Do you have any interests other than music?

I noticed in your porch way walking boots and cycling helmets. So it was no surprise to hear that you have been walking the Fells in the Lake and Peak District.

Tony: Two other hobbies are photography, though I admit I am not really a good photographer. Bird watching is another hobby and I'm learning to identify bird song too.

Avis: Thank you Tony. It's been good to talk.

Money Matters April 2025



Hi Everyone, this is to let you know who I am. I am Neil Pedlar and am taking over from Paul Fearon as the new treasurer at All Saints Church. I am the husband of Steph the Curate. We have been in the church since July 24. In my day job I am the director of Pedlar Upholstery in Godmanchester, where I work with my brother. I have been in the family business since I was 16 years old.

In this segment in the future, I will tell you about how our church finances are doing and anything else that I think you will be interested to know about the finances.

I look forward to keeping you updated.

Neil

Curate's Corner



Steph Pedlar talks about why prayer means so much to her

A few months ago, you may have read a bio of me when I joined the parish as the new Curate. Well, you will be pleased to know I am still here; have survived my first Christmas and now I am entering into my first Easter, and from this month will become a regular contributor to the newsletter in the Curate's corner.

It has been amazing getting to know people and spend time watching and learning what a fantastic group of people attend Hartford church. It is always an honour and a privilege to be able to walk alongside new people and learn from them,

gaining wisdom and listening to people's stories.

To give you a flavour of what I am writing about: a little joke to begin:

Who do mice pray to? *Cheesus*

In February I spent a lot of time pondering and praying about Lent, and how Jesus spent time in the wilderness. This time is special as we, as followers of Jesus, decide to give up food, or things that are precious to us or to spend days fasting, which allows us to spend more time in the presence of God, as we remember Jesus' 40 days in the wilderness as when he was tempted. This allows us to get spiritually ready for Easter.

Lent is important to me and this year that has not changed. On the run up to Easter we do a Lent course and this year Rev. Geoff and I decided to do the course on Prayer. I am passionate about prayer, so it was no surprise that we chose prayer to concentrate on. We are now in the middle of The Prayer Course. It is written and presented by Pete Greig a man who founded the 24/7 prayer movement.*

Prayer is so important, I don't know if I would be where I am without relying on prayer. People have prayed with me, for me and daily I pray many times a day and quite often most of the day. Some days are just little prayers, to help me get through the days. Each time I meet with someone I ask God to give me words for them, and guide me in my conversation, so I am working on behalf of God.

I have needed and still do need, people to pray for me, as life can be tough, overwhelming and hard at times, but through the power of prayer I know I can have the joy of God's spirit and know that I never walk alone. I hope that you can also find power in prayer.

Prayer is a conversation between us and God, and I love the simple children's song that says 'prayer is like a telephone for us to talk to Jesus, prayer is like a telephone for us to talk to God, prayer is like a telephone for us to talk to Jesus, pick it up and use it every day' (*Paul Crouch and David Mudie, 1991*).

Prayer really is a hotline to God. I can tell him anything and everything, as He already knows, so I am just having that conversation with him. Prayer helps me to survive each day and is integral to my life. I know Jesus wanted us to pray as he gave us the Lord's prayer. So, if you want to begin to pray and you don't know how, then start with the first line of the Lord's prayer 'Our Father in heaven, then tell him anything that you need to, he is ready and waiting.

I hope that this Lent and into the Easter season you can pray and know that the power of prayer is beyond anything we can fathom.

Happy Easter from me, Steph – at the Curate's Corner.

*24-7 Prayer is an international, interdenominational prayer movement, with a vision to revive the church and rewire the culture through non-stop night and day prayer.

We started in 1999, when a simple student-led prayer vigil went viral and groups all over the world joined in to pray. Now, over two decades later, thousands of communities have taken part in 24-7 Prayer in churches, communities and cities in over half the countries on earth.

Reflections from Cornwall

We're here at last! It's been a long journey after several delays along the way. We moved on the 5th March which is St Piran's Day, the Patron Saint of Cornwall. It's the national day of Cornwall, a day of large celebration of all things Cornish and the great Cornish traditions.

We are now in our new home in Tywardreath, a mile from the sea and just three miles from our family in Fowey. Tywardreath is a 'proper' Cornish village. It's a friendly community supporting a school, pub, butcher, grocer, hairdresser, two churches (Anglican and Methodist) and a British Legion. The Cornish name "Tywardreath" means 'House on the Strand'. A book of the same name was written by Daphne du Maurier in 1969.

Tywardreath first appeared in the Domesday Survey in 1086, and a Benedict priory was established after the Norman Conquest. The village once had a natural harbour and around the end of the 18th century would have been busy with fishing, trading and mining. Many interesting buildings remain, particularly St Andrews church which is built on the site of the priory. Like All Saints Hartford, St Andrews the Apostle is a Grade 2* Listed Building.



St Andrews the Apostle, Tywardreath

The Revd Shona Head is the priest in charge of a benefice of three small churches at Tywardreath, Golant and Tregaminion. Martin her husband is a Licenced Lay Minister. The congregation at St Andrews averages just over thirty. It is a very friendly church, and we have been made very welcome. In contrast to All Saints Hartford the church is large inside with a lot of air space which makes it difficult to heat especially with a broken boiler!

The architecture of St Andrew's has changed from its original structure: a tower was added in 1480, and the church underwent several significant renovations in the 18th and 19th centuries.

The churchyard is slightly more recent than the church itself, with the oldest grave dating back to 1636. From then, the memorials stretch to modern day, including a commonwealth war memorial.

Inside the church is a memorial of another kind: in the Lady Chapel there are two pieces of stone far older than the church itself. They are remnants of a trough and a gothic window tracery, believed to have belonged to the Benedictine priory that stood alongside the church. Accompanying these stones is a brief history of the priory, detailing its rise, fall, and rediscovery.

It has been a real privilege for us to serve at All Saints Church Hartford in various roles. It has been an honour to do so, and Pam and I have very special and fond memories of our fifteen years spent as part of the church congregation.



Pam and Paul Fearon

Thank you to everyone for the lovely gifts of the garden vouchers, a beautiful hamper and the bouquets of flowers. We felt quite overwhelmed when we said goodbye on the 2nd February and receiving these lovely gifts meant so much to Pam and I.

All Saints Special Events

April

Tuesday 1st April 2025 - 2.00 PM- Lent Lunch
 Saturday 26th April - 7.00 PM - Music Concert - Fourtissimo

Holy Week Services

Sunday 13th April - Palm Sunday 11.00 AM Holy Communion
 Thursday 17th April - Maundy Thursday 7.00 PM Holy Communion
 Friday 18th April - Good Friday 12.00 PM Devotional Hour
 Sunday 20th April - Easter Day 11.00 PM Holy Communion

No Healing Eucharist on Wednesday 16th April

Prayer Stations in Church

Monday 14th, Tuesday 15th, Wednesday 16th April 2.00 PM - 3.00 PM and 7.00 PM - 8.00 PM

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 - Holy Communion for the 5th Sunday

MUSIC

C O N C E R T

*A spectacular evening of music with a variety of styles, including well-known songs from musicals and operas performed by **Fourtissimo**, featuring performers: Alison Charlton-West (Soprano), John Barratt (Baritone), Matt Phillips (Baritone), Adam Potts (Tenor) and Fraser Goulding (pianist).*

At **All Saints Hartford Church**, The Hollow, Hartford, PE29 1YF on **Saturday April 26th 2025** at 7:00 PM
(Doors open at 6:15 PM)

Tickets: £10 Book early to avoid disappointment!

Get your tickets here:

allsaintshartford.org.uk/tickets/order.php



Do you tune into our local radio: Huntingdon Community Radio. HCR104 FM?

Elaine Levitt, our LLM (Licensed Lay Minister) at All Saints, tells us how she prepares a Thought for the Day.



From Mondays to Fridays around about 9.15 a.m. there is a *Thought for the Day* offered by folk from across the area. And there are some well-known voices from Hartford Church to be heard! I am one of them, having been part of the team since at least 2012, which is roughly when it began. Thanks to Hazel Shellens of the Quakers, who sorts out the rota, there are now a goodly number who contribute. I do not know how some set about it. it is a challenge in some ways because we must record the previous week in order for Peter Rogers the programme presenter, to edit and prepare it. It was good recently to meet him and a few other contributors in All Saints Church, Huntingdon.

Clifford asked me to write something about how I go about doing my thoughts!

Now that is a challenge! It varies.

I look at the date to see if anything in the Church fits. It was a privilege to do one for Remembrance Day last year. It also made the task easier! I try to think well in advance. And hope no major event disturbs things and thinking.

Sometimes something in the news triggers off a thought. Sometimes someone says "how about....?"

If a thought comes to mind, I might jot down a few words or phrases and I always look to see what the Bible says. Words of wisdom lie within, especially the Psalms where all life and its emotions are to be found. And google quotes can help too. A fair bit of prayer can take place as I prepare.

A fair bit of discipline is also needed as our recordings can only be up to three minutes in length. So that means we have to get our thought over without too much wandering from the point!

I am conscious listeners are from all walks of life, with the worries and joys we all have. So, I do like to offer a thought to lift the spirits, although that is not always easy. So much of the news we hear can be distressing but it seems to me that we should always try to look to the positive. I am a glass half-full person.

One thing that would be nice, it to have feedback! Not only bouquets, but brickbats- done nicely- might help all of us who do it know we are making a difference and perhaps helping people to have a good day. So do listen in: Monday to Friday 0915 HCR104fm on Peter Rogers Morning

Show.....*Elaine*

(Before Lockdown we all used to be live in the studio in the town centre. Since 2020 we have all had to record on our own laptops and send our 'thoughts' up to a week in advance. This means that if there is a major event, we might miss weaving it in.....*Ed.*)



A birds eye view of Hartford church from the scaffold during the limewashing operation.



Hello everyone

We have had a super term with lots of lovely classes. I love the variety of teaching both adults and children along with the different genres of dance.

For the children we are working towards RAD ballet exams, everyone is trying hard. In the adult classes the work is so varied, we are studying Russian National Dance in Silver Swans Level 2, Lyrical work in Silver Swans Level 1. Adult ballet has been looking at discovering Rep with particular regard to Coppelia Spanish dance using a fan and a beautiful lyrical dance from RAD grade 8. The tap classes are so different, we have blues, swing, dances with hats, all very creative and great fun. Our ballet fitness class keeps us all in shape and we are all feeling the benefit.

The best bit is teaching in such a special place, we can see the spring coming, leaves emerging on the trees, colourful flowers showing their faces, birds busy nesting, squirrels racing about trying to remember where they have buried their nuts all accompanied beautiful music, lovely people and the Church rooms echoing with the sound of laughter. How lucky we are.

Keep dancing everyone

Love and best wishes

Amanda and Yasmin.

Photos taken from Folk Costumes of the World - Robert Harrold and Phyllida Legg



Poland - from Krakow



Poland - from Lowicz - famous for its striped woollen material



Hungary - The woman is From Gederlak, famous for its embroideries



Woman on right is from Byelorussia and the couple are Lithuanian



|Woman on left is from Latvia and other woman wears one of the many Estonian costumes



Woman on right wears the sarafan of the RSFSR, the couple are from Ukraine



The woman on the left is from Moldavia and the other woman is dressed in the costume from Georgia