

All Saints Newsletter



Not The Rambling Rector



Dear Friends,

I have recently been thinking about the concept of Christian pilgrimage. I have done several pilgrimages in the past. Every time was different, and the experiences were also distinct. But somehow all those pilgrimages have some things in common which qualify them as pilgrimage.

A pilgrimage is an invitation into the wilderness or the desert. No, I do not mean literally. I am not suggested that we all become like Bear Grylls and we get on survival mode. What I mean is that a pilgrimage invites me to consider a metaphorical desert or wilderness as a platform. It requires of us to be away from the routine of every day, the

AT A GLANCE



**William Frazer
Garden**
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people we engage with every day (or at least in the same way as we relate daily).

A pilgrimage is a time to walk away and take stock. At times, people cannot walk, but that does not stop them from being on pilgrimage. In that walking away, we are confronted with our personal shortcomings and our imperfections. It is a space for vulnerability and defencelessness. This is difficult and challenging. I do not enjoy being faced with my sin in a state of vulnerability because the result is always brokenness.

In my Christian context, brokenness is a good thing. Scriptures talks about having a heart of stone that needs to be transformed into a heart of flesh (in Ezekiel 36). You may have seen that beautiful scene in the Pixar's movie Moana, when the protagonist restores the heart of the villain and how she -the villain - is transformed so beautifully. In my pilgrimages I have been heart broken, I have sadly broken the hearts of others, and I have created an environment where brokenness can take place in a safe way and the result has been always for the better. I have become more me.

For such transformation to take place, challenge has to take place along the road. There is a beautiful thing to be challenged by travellers -when it is done with love – and to challenge others with our own experiences and thoughts.

The Way of St James is the route where I have done almost all my pilgrimages. In it I have met the most wonderful people! I have walked for kilometres day after day. Just for a moment, the Way -as is normally called – became the epitome of my whole life. I learnt there that the manner in which one walks is as important as the destination.

This spring a bunch of us from the community will be going on our own pilgrim journey. We will spend a week serving pilgrims in a 400-year-old house in northern Spain to assist them with their needs. We will be stationed, rather than walking, but the pilgrimage will be no less transformative. I look forward to seeing what God has in store for us this time.

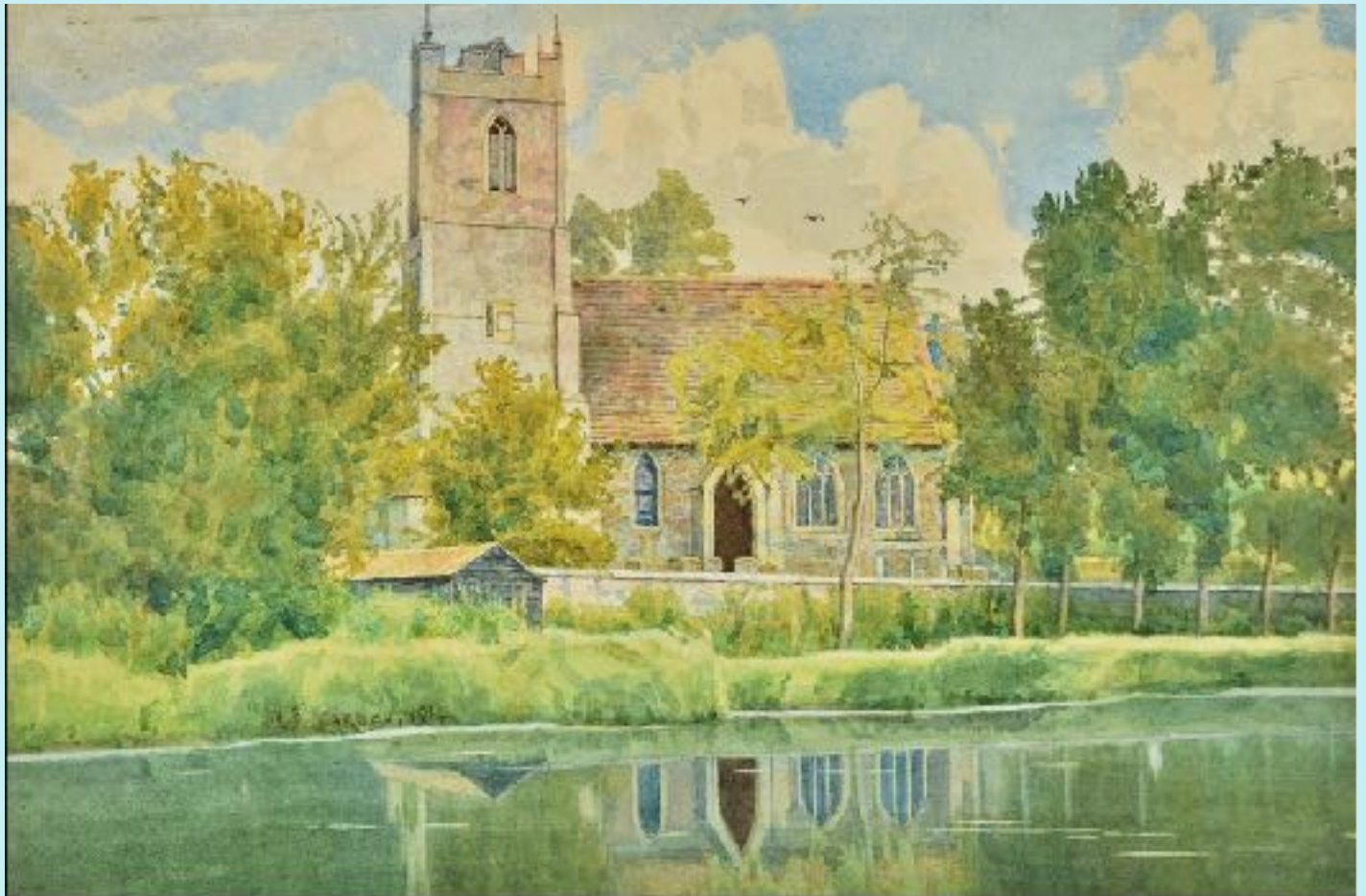
*Samuel Teresa
Giado*

GLANCING BACK



Lent Lunches
Raised £239

FEATURE PAGE



William Fraser Garden | Hartford Church, near Huntingdon (1914)

FEATURE PAGE

A Painting of All Saints Church hanging in Baltimore Maryland

We recently received an enquiry through the website from Joan and Charles Lawrence who live in Baltimore, Maryland in the US. *My husband and I are traveling from Baltimore, MD to London in April of this year. We have a painting of your church by **William Fraser Garden** and wish to see the actual church.*

So, we did a little research and found the painting and some information about the artist:

WILLIAM FRASER GARDEN (1856-1921)

William Garden Fraser was born at Chatham, Kent, shortly before his father retired from the Army Medical Department. The Frasers were a Scottish family, but the Surgeon Major, his wife and nine children settled in Bedford where their seven sons were educated at Bedford School. Six of the seven boys became artists, and Garden changed his name to William Fraser Garden in order to distinguish himself from his brothers. Garden settled at the House in the Fields near Hemingford Abbots, Huntingdonshire until 1898. He married Ethel in 1889 but she was not overly fond of Huntingdonshire life and Garden's somewhat eccentric ways and left him in 1904. Garden lived at the Ferryboat Inn in Holywell towards the end of his life, paying his bills with drawings. His eccentricities led him to a nocturnal existence and one night, in January 1921, he missed his step outside the inn and died from head injuries two weeks later. The almost photographic detail and crisp colouring demonstrate the late nineteenth-century revival of painstakingly observed realism. His landscapes are rendered with a precision which can capture the stillness of a calm day or the cool clarity of a winter's afternoon.

William Fraser Garden was a local artist, and some of his other local paintings include:

- The Bridge at St Ives
- St James Church Hemingford Grey
- The Ouse Bridge Huntingdon
- The Ferry Boat Inn Holywell
- Houghton Mill

We hope the Lawrences will be able to visit the church when they visit the UK later this year.

The Hartford Chronicles



Hartford Chronicles.

April 2024

This time last year I was writing about all the beautiful plants that I had lost in my garden due to the severe frosts we had. This year, dare I say the word *rain*. We seem to wake most mornings to rain having closed the curtains or blinds the night before with it raining. When we do have a day with sunshine in it we are delighted and a whole day of sunshine is just wonderful and we all begin to feel brighter. Saturated gardens, grass too wet to cut and fields flooded. Some of us would love to see a frost!

At the PCC Meeting in March we look back on all the events we have held during 2023, the monies raised to be able to support the charities we enjoy helping and perhaps a little harder what we can do to raise funds to help us with the upkeep of our church and also to give where possible.

To do this we need your help. Could you arrange a social event or have the idea for one and just need some help to organise it. Are you able to make a cake for a coffee morning or make an item of craft to sell at a coffee morning sale. There are so many ways of helping and we would love to hear from you with your ideas and suggestions. Today 12th March we have had our last Lent Lunch. Sadly they have not been as well attended this year, possibly because of the *rain*. We look forward to cream teas, Huntingdon Male Voice Choir, a Beetle Drive with a fish and chip supper, and more. A list of events that have been arranged will be available quite soon.

On Wednesday 13th March we planted the replacement Rowan Tree in the churchyard. The original tree was planted in 2022 to mark the late Queens Platinum Jubilee. Sadly the tree did not survive so the replacement was

arranged. Revd. Geoff Boucher, Revd. Sam Perez took part in the planting with Sam saying prayers and giving a blessing. We must thank Peter Haynes from Huntingdon Town Council for his help in supplying us with the tree and being there for its planting. Also to Peter and all his team for maintaining our churchyard so beautifully.

With Easter fast approaching the flower arrangers will be busy decorating the church for Easter Sunday. This is an absolute joy to do, the church looks so sad without flowers and then suddenly it comes alive as beautiful arrangements are made and spring flowers appear along with the Easter lilies.

Pam Fearon

PCC Secretary.



April 2024 Money Matters

Money Matters

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

Summary for the period 1st January to 29th February 2024:

Income: £8,128

Expenditure: £7,645

Surplus: £499

General Funds: £8,519

The Accounts for 2023 have been examined and were approved by the PCC at its meeting on the 18th March 2024. They can be viewed on the church website.

The total income for the year ended 31st December 2023 was £66,964 and total expenditure was £66,883 resulting in a surplus of £80 for the year.

Total funds held in the four bank accounts were £120,552 at the 31st December 2023, an increase of £5,255 compared with the 31st December 2022.

Whilst the church does have strong financial reserves 85% of our financial reserves are held in either Restricted or Designated Funds and can only be used for specific purposes.

The global financial situation continues to be unstable. This is principally caused by the war between Israel and Gaza compounded by the continuing war in Ukraine. It is having a significant impact on commodity prices, inflation, and the cost of living. Our church is certainly not immune from this.

Paul Fearon

Churchwarden and Treasurer

History Snippets

Lady Olivia Bernard Sparrow

In Huntingdon's County Record Office there are some undated plans, which since they do not show the present organ chamber, I assume were prepared for the 1861 restoration. Rolled in these plans is a 'Specification of works required to be done in the restoration of the Chancel for the Lady Olivia Bernard Sparrow'. They noted 'to take of the old roof and clear away the old pews in Chancel to be the property of Lady Olivia Bernard Sparrow'. The timber for the roof was to be best Douglas yellow fir and the oak for the pews and door was to be English and five years seasoned. These were to be finished with linseed oil, mixed with a little red lead.

Lady Olivia Sparrow did not live in Hartford, but was a landowner with resulting responsibilities for All Saints' Church. According to Robson's Directory 1839 entry for Hartford she was 'Lay Rector & Impropiator of Great Tithe' and was therefore responsible for the upkeep of the chancel.



Lady Olivia Bernard Sparrow, here painted by Richard Buckden in 1854, courtesy of PRO Huntingdon, lived in Brampton Park until 1863 when she died in her eighty fifth year. She was left a widow with two young children when her husband, Brigadier-General Robert Bernard Sparrow who she married in 1797, died at sea on his way home from army service in Barbados in 1805.

According to *Brampton: A History Of A Huntingdonshire Village*, which can be borrowed from Huntingdon library, she was an extremely religious women, who was a generous benefactor, especially to Brampton village

The APCM and PCC

The Annual Church Meeting (APCM) is on **Tuesday 23rd April at 7.00 pm** in the Church Room - please put the date in your diary.

Do come:

- and give thanks to God for his goodness to us.
- and be informed about what we do as a congregation and in the community.
- and be involved in the work of the church and its mission.
- and share ideas about the future.

Every parish is legally required to hold an **Annual Parish Meeting** to elect Churchwardens followed by an **Annual Parochial Church Meeting** to conduct other parish business including appointing people to be members of the PCC.

Anyone who is on the church electoral roll may attend and vote at the APCM.

Time for Limewashing

At its meeting in January the PCC approved a proposal that the interior walls of the Church should be limewashed. It is some forty years since it was last done and needs to be redone to keep the church in good condition.

We have met with Jerry Lander the Church Architect who will oversee the work and he has drawn up a tender which has gone out to three contractors.

Our church is a Grade 2* listed building and has stood in its present position for many centuries. Few pre-20th century historic places of worship have a damp-proof course, so let any moisture in the walls evaporate naturally.

Many modern paints contain plastics which form a skin on the wall surface, trapping damp inside the wall and leading to blistering plaster and paint. Traditional coverings such as limewash permit greater evaporation and can be safely used on masonry or plaster.

Mixing quicklime with water makes lime putty which can be used for mortar or further diluted to make limewash. Limewash is breathable which makes it ideal for rubble masonry walls with no damp-proof course. If the limewash has fully cured or carbonated, it should not dust or rub off.

As the work is like for like we do not need to apply for a full faculty for the work to be done but this work will come under List B which only requires the approval of the Archdeacon.

There are some funds available towards the cost of the work although it is anticipated that some fundraising will be needed to top up depending on the tender costs.

All Saints Special Events

May

Saturday 11th May - 6.30 pm - Beetle Driver with Fish and Chips supper

June

Saturday 8th June - 7.30 pm - Huntingdon Male Voice Choir Concert

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

Staying Safe online and elsewhere

We now have a page on the website which gives you information that will help you keep yourself safe both online and elsewhere.

This Staying safe advice is now available at:

<https://www.allsaintshartford.org.uk/onlinesafety.htm>

or via the site top menu, **The Church** then **Staying safe**. The advice covers general and online safety tips. There is fun online quiz where you can test your knowledge and a series of informative articles.

This advice will help you to avoid scams and being the victims of fraud.

A big 'Thank you' to Pat Hawkins, our Data Protection Officer for putting all this together.

Rowan Tree

Early in 2022 we planted a Rowan Tree in the Churchyard to commemorate the Late Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Sadly, the tree was poisoned late last summer along with some more in neighbouring churchyards. We have just planted a replacement which was generously provided for us by the Town Council.





Hello everyone

I love this time of the year and always feel I am in such a privileged position to be teaching in the Church Rooms. All of a sudden winter begins to let go of its hold and the signs of spring start to arrive. The trees come into bud, the leaves start to appear, blossom fills the air and when the wind blows, pink confetti is everywhere. The birds are singing, you can just feel the optimism in the air. I am surrounded by music and so lucky to have so many people come to my classes, both children and adults, with all their smiling faces and lots of laughter as we work through all our routines.

Pat and Haleema designed us a new website with a members section. It is great and our grateful thanks go to them both for all their input and hard work. Yasmin and I have a new uniform which we are very excited about and hope to launch a range of branded clothing. Also in the pipeline is tap classes for the children. They have been asking us for ages, so a taster class in tap and hip hop is on the horizon, along with ballet birthday parties for younger children!

We were finally able to put on our first show for the children at The Comrades Club in Godmanchester. This was the first time the children danced on a stage. It was well attended, about 90 parents and family members came and once the children had got over their nerves, a good time was had by all!



Before Christmas I adopted a little black cat from Woodgreen Animal Shelter. She had experienced a lot of trauma but is settling in well. So we decided to donate some of the ticket money to Woodgreen and I am pleased to say the final total amounted to £100.00

Many thanks to everyone who came and supported both the children and the charity!

Best wishes from Amanda and Yasmin



The children from the WhiteSwan Dance Academy performing in the Comrades club Concert Hall in February 2024.

White Swan is a friendly and inspirational local dance school based in Hartford Huntingdon, offering RAD children's ballet classes, (tap coming soon!). Along with a range of adult classes in ballet, tap, dance fitness, silver swans ballet and silver tap.

You can contact them at:
enquiries@whiteswandanceacademy.com

