

All Saints Newsletter



The Rambling Rector



Dear Friends,

What a year we have shared together in 2024. There was plenty to reflect upon and for which to give thanks in the first nine months, and the last three more than kept pace.

It was a joy to be a part of the group supporting Ann as she was confirmed at St Mary Magdalene, Brampton on 29th September along with candidates from Hilton and Brampton. We moved into October celebrating Harvest Festival. November began with a moving service on All Souls' Day remembering, cherishing and giving thanks for our loved ones departed and trusting them and ourselves to the love and care of God.

Sunday by Sunday it has been a joy and encouragement to welcome new members to our church, to share faith and to get to know each other as we offer our worship and work together.

Plans were already in place for the Christmas Fayre, Enchanting Concert and Nativity Exhibition, and oh yes, the installation of the new lighting system, and then somehow, we found ourselves digging out the old roses beside the

AT A GLANCE



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church path along with the soil, replacing the soil with fresh and planting 39 new roses! The Lord blessed us. We shared two glorious days in the churchyard. The sun shone and there was much mutual encouragement, shared endeavour, joy and achievement.

We were blessed too in the appeal for funds for the lighting and limewash project. The target of £20,000 was achieved in a matter of a few weeks and a grant of £10,000 from the Mick George Community Fund completed the fundraising. The electricians from Church Lighting Systems installed the new lighting efficiently and tidily, and the church is now capable of being lit in an almost infinite variety of ways. We look forward to the work of limewashing beginning in January.

Planning for the Nativity Exhibition began in January and included the making of 360 beautiful angels by the Crafty Saints – one for each child from Hartford Infant and Junior Schools. It was a delight to welcome the children to the church – two classes at a time. One class experienced the exhibition whilst the other did a craft activity in the church room, and then they swapped.

There was delight, joy, interest, learning and conversation. I talked with a boy whose parents are Nigerian, and he politely taught me to pronounce the name of the tree from which the Nigerian nativity set was carved 'the way his parents pronounce it' (i.e. not the way I read it). Charlotte enthused about many of the pieces and with conviction pointed out that the label beside one nativity which read 'Mary, Joseph and the baby' needed to be corrected – 'he's not just any baby, He's Jesus'.

The children appreciated being trusted and they appreciated the gift of an angel as they left. They sent us a lovely card in appreciation signed by all the children.

Meanwhile Amanda was rehearsing the children of the White Swan Academy for a dance Nativity using the script 'The Grumpy Owl and the Joy of Christmas'. The children performed beautifully and meaningfully to the delight of a packed church.

Thank you all for the fellowship of these three months. Thank you for all that you have done, all that you have contributed, which has enabled such a rich variety of activity and care of our church and churchyard. Thank you for being yourselves individually and as community to the glory of God.

with love and prayers

Geoff

GLANCING BACK



**Lent Lunches
Raised £239**

FEATURE PAGE

Lighting and Limewash

What an amazing few weeks following the launch of the Appeal for £20,000 for the Lighting and Limewash Project! In just four weeks we had received over £20,000 of donations. The Appeal raised £21,188 and a very sincere and heartfelt 'thank you' to everyone who gave with such generosity.

Your support and encouragement are greatly appreciated in helping us to preserve and enhance our beautiful church building for ours and future generations.

We were successful in our application for a grant of £10,000 from the Mick George Community Fund for the limewash. We will receive the money in three monthly payments as the limewash progresses. One of the conditions of the grant was that we made an upfront donation of £1,116 as a contributing third-party under the Terms for Landfill Communities Fund Grants.

When the Lighting and Limewash Project was approved by the PCC in May the total cost was budgeted at £66,000. However, we will incur some additional costs including the work by Hirst Conservation to assess the state of the walls, the trial application of limewash by Albion Decorators and the cleaning of the roof trusses as the new lighting shows a lot of cobwebs and dust! The overrun in cost should not be more than 10% of the budgeted cost.

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The new Lighting

The new Lighting covers the nave, chancel, north and south aisles. The font, lectern, pulpit and altar have focussed illumination, and the roof is now illuminated.

A Faculty was issued on the 16th October in the Consistory Court of the Diocese of Ely by HIS HONOUR JUDGE ANTHONY JAMES LEONARD KC one of His Majesty's Circuit Judges Chancellor of the Diocese and Official Principal of the Right Reverend STEPHEN DAVID lately Lord Bishop of Ely to The Reverend GEOFFREY JOHN BOUCHER Rector of the Parish of Hartford and PAUL FEARON and SUSAN MARY CRAVEN Churchwardens of the Parish of All Saints Church Hartford.

Until this had been issued the work couldn't start as faculty gave us the authorisation to carry out the work and is part of the Church of England's own system of building control for Listed Buildings.

CLS Electrical Services who specialise in Church Lighting started the installation of the new lighting on the 28th October and completed it within a fortnight. Quoting from their Facebook page:

'CLS Electrical Services Ltd is thrilled to announce the completion of our latest internal lighting project at the beautiful All Saints Church in Hartford. Tom, Ryan, James, and Josh have done a fantastic job with the new scene-setting DALI installation, bringing flexible lighting control to this historic space.'

'Our team worked meticulously to ensure all cabling was discretely installed. Where cabling was visible, it was carefully painted to blend seamlessly with the building's interiors. The result is a modern lighting system that enhances the church's atmosphere while respecting its heritage.'

And our reaction to the new lighting in thanking Jamie Swan, owner of CLS, was:

'We are delighted with the lighting installation and the way in which your team have worked and thank you to them for leaving the church so tidy. A great reaction from a few members of the congregation who have seen the new lighting this afternoon.'

'Our reaction is that the lighting has absolutely transformed the interior of the church making it look bigger. It has opened up the roof space and brought so many other things into focus. The improvement in the level of lighting is fantastic and we are now able to appreciate some of the features which until now we were failing to fully realise were there.'

At the handover meeting we were able to select several scenes - lighting options for different services – and we have the option of programming many others as well using the great flexibility which the new lighting system offers.

One thing that the new lighting system confirms is that the walls are in great need of attention!

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Refreshing The Limewash

Limewash needs to be kept in good condition to protect the walls and enhance the appearance of the church. It is more than 40 years since the walls were last limewashed. Limewash is one of the most effective materials for use on old stone walls and plaster. It is the most vapour permeable option, is easy to apply and touch up, is relatively inexpensive and readily obtainable. It is applied in several very thin layers. Limewash is breathable which is essential for the materials which were used in the construction of our church walls.

A List B faculty is required for these works to be done, and approval was given by the Archdeacon in August. Our Quinquennial Architect, Jerry Lander will oversee the work as one of the conditions of the List B approval.

Hirst Conservation carried out light and chemical tests to confirm that the wall surfaces in the church are in a satisfactory condition for receiving fresh applications of limewash. A trial was recommended as part of their report, and this was carried out by Albion Decorators when no issues were discovered.

One concern is that the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme (LPW Scheme) which enables us to reclaim VAT is due to end in March 2025. It is funded by the Department of Culture, Media and Sport who are currently assessing individual programmes, including the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme, during their departmental Business Planning process following the Chancellor's recent budget. There is a risk that the scheme which was set up by Gordon Brown in 2001 when he was Chancellor may not be renewed.

We have now agreed with Brown & Ralph, the contractor for the limewash, that there will be three stage payments for the limewash which should minimise the impact of not being able to reclaim the VAT if the LPW Scheme ceases at the end of March.

A pre-contracts meeting was held on 4th December and the work is scheduled to start on the 13th January and should be completed by the 14th of March.

The work will be done in two phases starting with the Chancel and the Tower which will take about four weeks. The second phase will be the Nave and the Aisles. The walls will be rubbed down and prepared and the roof trusses cleaned to remove dust and cobwebs! Several thin coats of the limewash will be applied with time for drying in between coats. Brown & Ralph, who have carried out several pieces of work in the church, including the Tower, during the last six years are the lead contractor for the limewash.

Compared with the installation of the lighting the work in refreshing the limewash includes the need for scaffolding which will be more intrusive. At the same time care will be taken to protect the church fabric including the organ and the organ pipes from dust. The good news is that we will be able to continue to use the church for Sunday services while the limewash is being refreshed.

The Lighting and Limewash Project will be completed in time for the Easter Services, and we will be able to give thanks for everything that has been done while reflecting on the suffering and death of our Lord Jesus on the Cross followed by his glorious resurrection.

Paul Fearon

Revd Sam Perez

Sam left us in September to become Rector of the Shingay Group of six parishes consisting of St. Michael and All Angels, Abington Pigotts; St. Catherine's, Litlington; St. Mary the Virgin, Guilden Morden; St. Peter and St. Paul, Steeple Morden; St. Giles, Tadlow; and All Saints', Wendy and Shingay. The parishes are situated in the Southwest corner of Cambridgeshire and are part of the Diocese of Ely.





Sam was instituted by The Bishop of Huntingdon and Acting Bishop of Ely, The Rt Revd Dr Dagmar Winter and The Archdeacon of Cambridge, The Ven Dr Alex Hughes at a service in St Catherine's Church, Litlington, on 2 October.

It was a wonderful and meaningful service and a good number from our congregation went to support and encourage Sam as he started his new ministry as Rector.

During the service Sam presented a cape to Geoff as a 'thank you' for all the support that Geoff had provided him with during his time as curate with us. Sam had been an active member of the Crafty Saints group, where he had embroidered several pieces on to the cape. The embroidery is fantastic and the picture of the cape which Geoff is holding in the picture is a wonderful gift which Geoff will always treasure.



Money Matters January 2025

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

or from Other Income.

Summary for the period 1st January to 30th November 2024:

Income: £ 99,546

Expenditure: £96,891

Surplus: £2,665

General Funds: £7,471

There is a forecast surplus of £6,138 in the management accounts for the year.

During the year we have transferred £22,000 from reserves towards the cost of the new lighting installation. In the end of year accounts the transfer of £22,000 will be shown below the line and the Annual Accounts will show a deficit of circa £15,000 depending on when we receive the VAT refund from the final payment for the Church Lighting.

The feature article gives a full update on the Lighting and Limewash project including the funding for it.

We continue to be heavily dependent upon the income from Church Room Letting, Fundraising and Parochial Fees which is 35% of our total core income with the balance coming from Direct Giving. 85% of our financial reserves are held in either Restricted or Designated Funds which can only be used for specific purposes.

This will be my last Money Matters for the Newsletter as Pam and I are moving to Cornwall in the New Year to be close to family. It has been a great privilege to be the Independent Examiner for All Saints Hartford for five years before becoming Treasurer in 2017. A lot has happened in financial terms during this time and perhaps the most significant financially was the sale of the Grazing Land in November 2022. Most of the sale money is held in a Restricted Fund. It has been placed in an Investment Fund at the CCLA which is providing a far greater return financially than the £300 rental income we were receiving prior to its sale each year.

A special 'Thank you' from me for being asked and elected to serve in these roles – it's been a privilege to do so and to serve All Saints Parish Church in this way.

Paul Fearon

Churchwarden and Treasurer

Hartford Chronicles January 2025



Here we are at the end of another year 2024. It is so hard to believe that 25 years ago we were all celebrating the millennium. Can you remember what you were doing? I watched all the exciting celebrations from around the world on the television it was quite amazing, and the 25 years seem to have flown by. So much has changed within our families and the world. Sadness and laughter, not always in equal quantities but we carry on with the memories.

The last year for our church has been extremely busy, as a church we love to give to charities and support them wherever we can. Our mission giving is very important to us, we support 12 charities and to be able to do this we fund raise. Many events are arranged cream teas, concerts, harvest lunch and of course our biggest fund raiser the Christmas Fayre. We all work so hard to bring these events to you, keeping everyone informed by Hartford Connects. Without the dedicated help of so many people these events would not happen so to take a moment to say a sincere thank you to those who give their time to help is important. I hope you are already for a busy 2025.

One project we undertook, under the guidance of Lesley and Genevieve was the replacement of all the roses in the flowerbed leading up to the main doors of the church. The roses that were there had been donated many years ago by a family who attended our church. A group of volunteers gathered, and all the old roses were dug out as well as all the soil. This was replaced with fresh soil and compost and then 39 new rose bushes were placed in the flowerbed. The whole project brought many people together and the atmosphere of great friendship and support was tangible. We can all look forward to the spring and seeing the wonderful display of roses that have been planted. Also, the happy memories of all being together and working so hard to create what will be a path of beauty.

In December we had the very special Nativity Sets Display. There were 130 sets from all around the world. These are owned by Marjorie Carrier who loaned them to our

church for a week. Again, a group of helpers set about displaying all the sets one Sunday afternoon. The exhibition was visited by the Hartford Schools before being open to the public. Each of the children after seeing the displays were given a hand knitted angel, made by Crafty Saints as they left the church.

We had the magical group Enchanting making a return visit. This very popular choir sang to a very full church who looked forward to their return and also hoped for a repeat next year. Refreshments were served after this event of tea, coffee and mince pies. The musical dance nativity performed by Amanda's Dance Academy was a joy to see. The children were so happy performing and it really was a delight to see their little faces so happy. Well done and thank you Amanda.

I cannot close without a mention of the Lighting and Limewash Project. This is a massive project for our church to undertake but we are never shy of a challenge. It is possibly 40 years since the church was last lime washed and is looking very tired in places. We had to make an appeal for funds towards the cost and also apply for a grant. We did all of these and secured the funds to be able to carry out the work. A great deal of forward planning has had to be done, with the lighting it needed to be finished before the Christmas Fayre. This was achieved, in fact a week earlier than expected. Our church now has beautiful lighting which can be controlled for any event taking place. The Lime Wash will start on 13th January with the erection of the scaffolding. When finished All Saints Hartford will look so very special with freshly limewashed walls and the beautiful lighting.

As I close, I hope this gives you all an idea of what we do during the year to give to others and maintain our beautiful church. For me it is good-bye as Paul and I will be moving to Cornwall in the New Year. We have family there and are finding the 620 miles round trip a little testing as we get older. There will also be the joy of seeing two lovely grandsons growing up. Our time at All Saints Church, Hartford has been a very lovely experience, we are so lucky to have such a wonderful ministry team who look after us all. A very special thank you to Geoff for all you do so tirelessly. We will miss you all.

Love and Best Wishes for a Happy New Year.

Pam Fearon

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

All Saints Special Events

March

Tuesday 4th March 2025 - 2.00 PM- Lent Lunch
 Wednesday 5th March 2025 - 7.00 pm - Ash Wednesday Service

April

Tuesday 1st April 2025 - 2.00 PM- Lent Lunch

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



The Rose Team in action!

Over many years the roses by the path through the churchyard have been much admired. They were a lovely and generous gift to the church by the Bath family. In recent years they have become old and in need of replacement.

Encouraged by the enthusiasm of Andrew Bath, Genevieve Triggs and Lesley Grant the PCC agreed to their replacement in November. The soil and skip were funded from the Church Wish List Fund and the purchase of the new roses from David Austin covered by a good number of donations which were greatly appreciated.

Thank you to the team of around fifteen people who helped dig out the old roses, replace the soil and plant the 39 new roses. Here's a couple of comments from the Rose Team:

Just wanted to add my thanks for letting me take part in this great project. Yes, it has been hard work but most of it is behind us now and for the past two days it's been a joy to be part of the team and experience the comradeship between us all and the wonderful atmosphere. Can't wait for next Summer to see them all bloom.

Wonderful day working on the rose beds today. 14 people working together and enjoying each other's company and completing 75% of the job very efficiently.

The pictures tell the story of their replacement.



The Soil and Compost delivered.



The Skip filling up with the old roses and soil!



Taking a well earned rest!



Ready for the New Roses



39 New Roses!

Christmas Fayre

Despite Storm Bert on the day of the Christmas Fayre the number attending was as many as in 2023, and we raised £1,704 which is slightly more than we raised in 2023. A wonderful occasion, friendly conversations, great refreshments and interesting stalls.



Enchanting Concert

Another storm! This time Storm Darragh with high winds and heavy rain on the day of the concert didn't put folk off almost 100 people coming to listen to the Enchanting Singers presenting their Christmas Concert 'Singing to the Lamb'.

This was the third year that the Enchanting Singers have sung at All Saints Hartford and yet again we were enchanted. This A Capella Group perform just four concerts each year during the first weekend in December always to celebrate Advent and the coming of Christmas. They rehearse by zoom through the year with some members living in Sweden as well as the UK.



Our Mission Giving

All Saints Parish Church gave over £5,000 to charities and good causes in 2024. Many of these organisations are based in and around Huntingdon.

We have supported and given to the following organisations:

- Fusion
- Huntingdon Area Money Advice
- Hinchingsbrooke Hospital Chaplaincy
- Godmanchester Food Bank
- Kings Ripton Court
- Mid-Cambs Women's Refuge
- Winter Comfort
- Embrace (Bethlehem Carol Sheets) for the Middle East
- EACH (East Anglian Children Hospices)
- Children's Society
- Royal British Legion
- Mission to Seafarers
- Faith in Business
- Star School, Kigali in Rwanda

Prayer Support

During 2025 we will continue with our prayer support for all these organisations and will do so in several ways:

- ❖ We will be inviting some to come and talk to us about their work and mission.
- ❖ Each month in the Prayer Corner one organisation will be featured.
- ❖ One organisation will be included in the Weekly Sheet for each month to remind us to pray for them.

It is always a joy to receive the appreciation from the organisations we support. As well as the financial support please continue to support them with your prayers.

Paul Fearon



Dear all

It has been another very busy term. We have been working on exam work in the Children's classes, and then we turned our efforts to the Nativity which we took to Hunters down on the 14th December and then performed it in the Church on 21st December. I honestly think I dreamt about sheep, angels, shepherds and donkeys for the whole of December! Yasmin made a wonderful owl and with Steph, our curate and her daughter Beth as a fox, we told the story of the Grumpy Owl and the Joy of Christmas. Somehow I got the job of playing the donkey and my husband Vic did marvellous puppetry with a sheep and a camel! My thanks go to everyone who helped us produce the Nativity this year.

We took a young group to see the Nutcracker at the Corn Exchange, we had a lovely time, and we all wore tiaras!

We have had great fun in all our adult classes, they are such a joy and we look forward to our classes every week.

Looking forward to more dancing this year!

Love and best wishes

Amanda and Yasmin.





