

All Saints Newsletter



AT A GLANCE



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The Rambling Rector



Curate's Corner

Welcome to our summer from Revd. Steph Pedlar

Unfortunately, the Rambling Rector is rambling away somewhere, so to start off the newsletter this quarter you have me, Steph, who writes the Curate's Corner.

Welcome to the Newsletter that encompasses our summer months. This year we cannot complain we haven't had a summer can we, as we are already melting from the heat.

The heat brings with it, its own challenges to each of us. It slows us down, it changes the synthetics of the earth beneath us, as it dries it up.

The farmers struggle with their crops and many of us and the animals are too hot to do anything.

I think this year, it has been particularly hot, and I must say I haven't ever seen schools close with heat before, but I may be wrong.

It's been a busy few months here in Hartford church with weddings, baptisms, our concert excellently performed by Tapestry, and lots of other services that happen weekly.

At a recent wedding, we read a verse from Colossians 3, that gave us an insight into how we should clothe ourselves. Paul tells us that in our old clothes we can be dressed in anger, malice, slander and abusive language. This shows us how easy it is, especially in the heat, to get angry with others and annoyed. Paul then tells us instead to put on new clothes, like amazing wedding clothes. We take off our old clothes because we want to follow what Jesus asks to do. So instead, we clothe ourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness and patience. Then we make sure we do this all with love at the centre.

We need to make sure that the power of positivity remains with us always. We can easily slip into negative words. So, we remember to check in with ourselves and with others, to keep words of hope and love and compassion within us.

This summer, I think that there will be many times that we have to choose our words and follow Jesus being kind and caring to all those around us. It is amazing to know that we can do this and we have these instructions.

Changing the subject, I wonder as I write this, whether we will be looking at football coming home to us as well.

Enjoy the matches, keep cool and let those positive words keep you all thinking and speaking as we treat each other with respect and most importantly with love.

...a lookback over my journey this last year:

Well as I write this, it will have been a year since I was ordained a priest. I am thankful that it wasn't as hot last year as it was this June 27th !

Becoming a priest means that I can take more responsibility. I am able to take the communion services and weddings.

It is such an honour to me that I am able to serve as your priest in Hartford and as Geoff's curate.

AT A GLANCE



Sea Sunday
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**Licensed Lay
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**Thank you for all
your contributions!**

I started by taking my first communion service a year ago, it was very nerve wracking I can tell you. I have learnt how to conduct a funeral and a wedding. I have grown in my confidence, and I have very much felt part of the community of Hartford and especially within the church.

I knew I was in the right place, when I became a priest. In that moment I just felt, yes, you are doing what God has called you to do.

It is so rewarding when this happens to you and you just know, this is it, you are where you should be.

I wonder, how many of you have had an experience like that? What did it feel like?

For me it is as though I am walking in the authority of God. That he placed me where I am because he wanted me there. I love my role and I want others to feel the same.

God is who I serve and being obedient is what I am called to be. What are you called to be?

It could be that you are learning how to live a better life for yourself and or others. It could be that you feel you are ready for a new challenge. It could be that you know that right where you are now is where you should be. Then may you be blessed in that every step of the way.

For others of you, you may find you need to change some attitudes that you have, a job you don't like, or you are going into a new season. Then I pray that God guides you and gives you direction.

We know that life can be hard, but we also know that with God by our side we can talk with him and know we don't walk alone.

For those who care for loved ones, you are noticed. For those of you who have children that need you, you are seen. For those who struggle just to get up each day to feed your family, you are held.

Whatever season you are going into, may it be one of fruitfulness, enjoyment and strength.

God loves each one of us, no matter who we are. May you know this as you enter this summer season.

Enjoy the newsletter and Geoff will be back next time.

Stay cool

Steph

FEATURE PAGE

BEHIND THE FACE
Avis Owen talks to Patrick Hawkins



Pat Aged 19



And 69

FEATURE PAGE

Avis Thank you for agreeing to be interviewed for the Hartford newsletter. Can we start with your childhood memories?

Patrick My grandfather came from Cork in Ireland and later moved to London. I was born in Manchester but we moved to Wilbraham in Cambridgeshire when I was young. My father was a distinguished specialist and pioneer of interventional Neuro-Radiology in the UK, at Addenbrookes Hospital in Cambridge. In his retirement he became Dean of Cambridge University's school of clinical medicine (1979-1984) and later Master of Hughes Hall in Cambridge. While studying medicine at St Mary's, London, during the Second World War he treated casualties from the Normandy landings at Park Prewett hospital, where he met my mother, and later was one of the first doctors to arrive at Bergen-Belsen concentration camp after its liberation.

I attended the local primary school, but at six moved to St John's preparatory school in Cambridge and became a choir boy. I also sang in the church choir at Little Wilbraham and clearly remember singing the solo Once in Royal David's City at the Christmas service, on several occasions.

Then at 12 years old I attended Gresham's public school in Norfolk. I generally had a happy time. I had two brothers but they went to Cambridge schools and a sister, who sadly died from Epilepsy in her 30s.

Avis Did you go to college?

Patrick No I did not go to College. From school I wanted a complete change and volunteered at an Approved school in Paisley, Scotland for a year. My next job was in Cambridgeshire as a Houseparent helping handicapped children.

I then became a Buyer for Heffer's, a well known book shop in Cambridge. In this time the ZX80 computer was marketed and I taught myself computer programming. I was offered a job with Telecomputing who ran Heffers computing infrastructure, which I took to launch my IT career. Later in my career I completed an online MBA course and achieved an MBA (Masters of Business Administration). I always preferred teaching myself and I still enjoy learning and doing new things.

FEATURE PAGE

Avis Where did your knowledge of computing lead you?

Patrick Ultimately it led to a 40 year career in Information Technology. I started as a computer operator and programmer for a small software house. I ended my career as a Senior Service Delivery Manager for a multi-national French company, managing and working with teams in the UK, India, Romania and Poland, and on call 24 hours a day. Initially I moved to Huntingdon to work for Anglian Water and was living in Hartford. This is where I met Haleema; an interesting story because she was one of the candidates I interviewed for a position at Anglian Water. And to cut the story short we fell in love and were married shortly afterwards.

Avis Did you say it will soon be your 30th wedding anniversary?

Patrick Yes, and although I never expected to get married, it is a decision I have never regretted. Every day I am grateful for my wife's love, faithfulness, humour and kindness to others. She has inspired me to be a better version of myself.

Avis How did you develop our church website?

Patrick A former Vicar of Hartford, Revd Mark Savage, took up my offer of developing a church website some 18 years ago. Whilst it was my idea, Haleema has done most of the hard work, teaching herself how to use the software to build a website and it has carried on ever since. She was an excellent systems developer when I met her.

Avis Our Church has benefitted from all your and Haleema's expertise in communication and technology. We really are truly grateful to you both for your tireless work producing the website, the weekly sheets, and the online recording of our church services. It means so much to those who no longer can attend Church because of ill health. Also you circulate the Newsletter and Hartford Connects to name but a few. Also, I have learnt today that you are willing to help people with small computer problems

Patrick For us it is fun most of the time. You have to keep your brain cells exercised, as well as your body. We have skills built up over a lifetime and are happy to use them to benefit others.

Avis I hear and see how you both help those who are unable to do small jobs or who need a visit or a lift to church.

Patrick The world is a better place when we all help each other. TEAM (Together Everyone Achieves More) was the motto at work and it's something I believe. We manage the web site for Houghton church and some other sites. I'm also the co-Chair of the Priory Fields PPG (Patient Participation Group).

Avis You are both willing and very busy. So do you have any hobbies?

Patrick We both follow sport, primarily football. Cambridge United is my team and Haleema never walks alone (LFC). I enjoy learning, problem solving, gardening and of course helping others.

SEA SUNDAY is on July 12th.

At All Saints Hartford we will be holding our third annual service to remember seafarers worldwide. If you've not been to this service before, do come along. The service still retains something of that Parade formality from pre-Covid days when the service was held as a naval parade service in Huntingdon Town Hall Square.

My favourite bit is the act of memorial for seafarers at the end when we gather at the river to cast flowers into the Great Ouse. The flowers may not reach Kings Lynn but the water will! The water flowing past All Saints helps to connect our minds and hearts with all seafarers.

This year Hugh McCurdy, our former archdeacon, will be our guest preacher and he has specially written an article for the newsletter of his work in connection with cruise chaplaincy.

A day in the life of a SAGA Cruise Chaplain

by Ven. Hugh McCurdy



Former Archdeacon of Huntingdon and Wisbech

I was watching a boat navigate round a small rock in the Mediterranean. The sea was a fabulous azure blue and there wasn't a cloud in the sky.

I was on a small island as the ship had docked for the day. I was transfixed by the beauty of it all when I heard a voice. "You're the Chaplain on the SAGA ship, aren't you".

I was and I hadn't met this couple before, but they knew who I was. After exchanging pleasantries, I asked what made them come on this particular cruise. I was somewhat taken aback when they simply said that it was the first anniversary of the son's death and they wanted to get away. The rest of the conversation was profound, deep and at times tearful but in a cathartic way.

I mention this, because as a chaplain on board a ship, this sort of conversation is not that unusual. When people are away and think they may not see you ever again, they seem to be very open and willing to talk.

This year I was Chaplain on board on Good Friday. The service was reflective and moving. One man came up to me afterwards to thank me for the service and said that for the first time since his wife died he was able to cry - a year on.

It is a huge privilege being a Chaplain with SAGA. It is our role, as is the case with a prison, army or hospital Chaplains to be available to all- those with a faith, a faith different to Christianity or no faith at all.

We are “guest facing” but we are also there for the crew. There are over four hundred staff on board - one for every two guests. They often spent a long time away from their families - sometimes nine months of the year and inevitably in that time, crisis can occur back at home. SAGA are an excellent employer, and they are very supportive of their crew when tragedy strikes at home - often flying them back to the Philippines. Many of the crew have a deep faith and so welcome the opportunity to speak to the Chaplain or join the crew service on Sunday evening.

I have taken funeral services for guests unable to attend the service back home. We try and make sure these “shadow funerals” take place at the same time as the service back in the UK so guests feel they can be there even if they are hundreds (sometimes thousands) of miles away. We also conduct services of Thanksgiving around wedding anniversaries, burial of ashes at sea, and on this last cruise I took a Service of Commitment for two crew members who had just got engaged.

I believe we follow in the footsteps of Jesus. In the gospels he goes out of his way to care for the vulnerable and marginalised. He is often stopped in his tracks and gets diverted. He is present with us even now and as Chaplains our aim and delight is to respond to whatever (and whenever) the guests and crew need us.

I believe SAGA are the only cruise company who want to have Chaplains on every cruise and as you can see we are kept very busy - even when we are in port.

Special feature on Licenced Lay Ministry:

I originally asked Mary to write about her acceptance for LLM training for the Easter newsletter. However certain formal procedures were not completed by the time we went to press, so I hung the article over until now. In the meantime I learned on the grapevine that an LLM from my old Worcestershire parish (Pat) was about to have a 25th anniversary party of licensing. So I asked her for a reflection on her 25 years as an LLM. Then to put some more ‘icing on the cake’ I asked Jackie from Greece to tell me how her 10 years of LLM ministry has gone. One influential connecting clergyman in these stories is Patrick Hobson. He was my immediate predecessor at Clifton-upon-Teme and he also figures in Mary’s story.

Finally I asked Lay Canon Elaine to offer a reflection to round off these lovely stories. Who can doubt that ‘God is working His purpose out as year succeeds to year’ (Clifford – Editor)

My Journey to LLM Training by Mary Blackhurst-Hill



I really had no idea of becoming a Licenced Lay Minister: the call came out of the blue. But first I have been invited to share something of my Christian Journey.

I was brought up to go to church but had very little faith of my own until we had a change of rector and the wonderful Peter Cutting came on the scene. He was a strong evangelical and preached the Christian message straight from the shoulder and so, at fourteen, I made my own commitment to Christ.

The Hull University Christian Union continued this strong Evangelical approach and promoted “Baptism in the Spirit,” and I had an experiential baptism there. At university I also asked for a spirit of prayer, which has been amply given to me – prayer is rather my “thing.”

I married my first husband at university. We were both far too young to know what we were getting into and although we were both active church members, the marriage didn’t last. I felt a failure as I had prayed so hard that we would stay together, and I felt let down by the church and God.

I got a job in North London and went down there from Hull, wondering where I was going in my faith. I found refuge in Waltham Abbey, where Patrick Hobson was vicar. He told me just to rest in the church; and allow the church to minister to me. Waltham Abbey was (and probably still is) a High Church with all the “bells and smells” and robed clergy, which was very strange to me, but I found I loved it.

When I met my now husband, we discovered that neither of us were sure where we were with our faith so we attended an Alpha course at Holy Trinity, Brompton and then their Marriage Preparation Course, which has been an ongoing benefit to our twenty-seven years of happiness.

We married, moved to Huntingdon to be nearer my family and joined our local church at Hartford. I became involved with a group called Moodscope, which helps people with depression and bipolar disorder (I have bipolar disorder myself) and soon began writing a weekly blog for them. I have now written over 700 blogs. Of course, we can't bring in religion or politics, and I find it frustrating not being able to include the former, as my faith has been such a help in enduring the bad times.

Which brings me back to my "call." Hartford Church needed a new treasurer. I have an accountancy qualification and so was ideally suited to the job. I didn't want it, however. I was praying very hard about it: "Lord, I don't want to be the treasurer, but if you want me to then I'll take it on." From behind my left shoulder – just as clearly as if God had been in the room with me, I heard a voice say, "Not the Treasurer, but Licenced Lay Minister" I was utterly shocked for a moment and then I thought about what it involved. Did I want to lead services? Yes. Did I want to take funerals? Yes. Did I want to preach? Oh yes indeed!

When I approached people in the church and other friends, including three clergy members, I received an overwhelmingly positive response. In fact, one of my friends asked, "What took you so long?" So the compulsory year of discernment before being accepted for training has been a joy. Doors have opened before me, including my hours at work being altered so I can attend the training sessions. I was naturally thrilled on the presentation day to be unanimously recommended to the bishop to start my training in September.

I am full of trepidation as I have not done any academic study since university, but I have been assured I will soon pick it up again. I know that God will be with me as I undertake this journey and I look forward to being able to lead my church in worship and preach God's word to our lovely congregation.

PAT SNELLING's Faith Story.



(Pat and husband Mike live in the lovely Worcestershire village of Clifton-upon-Teme. Pat conducted the funeral of Clifford's mother in 2013)

My journey of faith and prayer is and always has been very important to me, and I was very pleased to be invited by Rev Clifford to share this.

I have lived in Clifton upon Teme since my early twenties and always attended the parish church of St Kenelm for Sunday services and as a young mother the pram service. Gradually I was invited to read lessons and to be a sidesperson. Next came an invitation to serve on the PCC and to my great honour to become a chalice assistant.

But I always felt a calling to serve in a fuller capacity. I prayed for a possible answer over many weeks looking for a sign from God for guidance and the direction he wanted me to serve. Then Rev Clifford joined the benefice and we got on well. One day he called me into his study and asked if I would consider training to be a Reader! I told him I had been praying for some time for guidance and I saw this as the answer to my

prayers, this was the direction God had planned for me, so with much trepidation I embarked on the training.

To begin with I did a Bishops Certificate course, followed by a two year Reader training course; two whole years of training and learning. I found it amazing, despite the nerves which were always with me prompting questions like was I up to it, could I meet the challenge, would I ever be able to write and preach a sermon? What I did not realise was how powerful the Holy Spirit was, and would God have called me if He did not believe in me? So I put my trust in Him and completed the course. Now I needed the strength to go out and preach the wonderful kingdom values of God's love, compassion and constancy taught to us by Jesus Christ his Son.

I was licensed and admitted into the Worcester Diocese in 2001 By Bishop David Walker, then Bishop of Dudley, now Bishop of Manchester and regular contributor to Radio 4 Thought for the Day. I have now served God and all people for 25 years, and am so pleased and privileged to have done so, but with much help and support from God and, in the power of the Holy Spirit.

My ministry has been and still is been full of beautiful and many blessings, I really do sense that God has affirmed me in ministry, giving me so many other opportunities. I was invited to become a Day Chaplain in Worcester Cathedral, which I find a great joy, and also completed training for funeral ministry. Last year I was invited by the Chaplain of St Richards Hospice, Worcester to be a Voluntary Spiritual Care Minister, which I am finding very fulfilling.

So thank you Clifford for seeing something in me that I could not see myself; you set me on this journey. And thank you God, I know you are always with me when the going is tough and I stumble, you pick me up, and on I go, on my journey as I endeavour to be 'A Little Christ' as mentioned by CS Lewis in his book 'Mere Christianity'.

Jackie Dallos LLM

(Jackie lives in Lefkada in the Ionian Islands, where her husband, Spiro, is managing director of the Marina)



Revd. Clifford Owen was the chaplain at Holy Trinity Corfu (HTC) when we met. I had moved from HTC to Lefkada and together we started a church group on the island. During a visit to my home church in Bradford, the organist (whom I didn't realise was an LLM) asked me if I had ever thought of becoming a Reader? She told me to ask Clifford about it and to cut a long story short, I did my training and was licensed in 2017.

The training was both invaluable and necessary for me personally. From the very first module (Old Testament) a foundation was being laid on which to shape and mould existing faith. The material was well presented and opened up avenues of thought, question and discovery which led to the growth; and in my case more confidence, in all knowledge gained.

The LLM role is so many things in so many ways. It is both a challenge and a joy to teach and preach to our group here; and through Zoom, with the congregation in Corfu. I often preach online for the HTC main Sunday service.

Being a Reader is both a privilege and an opportunity to serve God in a unique way. Some ask if it's a stepping stone to ordination. For some it can be. But in its own right it forms an important part of the life and faith of the church and community. It should also be a great support where possible to the ordained minister. We are 'boots on the ground' as it were; seeing opportunities to bring the Lord into the lives of those around us often in very ordinary but fruitful ways...

praying for and with those in need, encouraging those who may not have the best sense of their own worth, uplifting people in challenging times and through it all maintaining your own faith and growth.

Currently I lead online Morning Prayer for HTC on Wednesdays and Fridays; a Tuesday morning Prayer meeting from Athens, and on Thursday morning, I join the clergy and LLMs of Anglican churches in Greece for morning prayer and a catch up.

I lead monthly services here on Lefkada and Jules, our HTC chaplain, comes once a quarter to lead Holy Communion.

I have recently acquired a spiritual director (she prefers the title 'Spiritual Companion') after the loss of both parents and several other relatives over the course of a year. It has helped me discover a latent talent for writing poems, songs and short stories, (all scripture based) This has enabled me to go deeper into His word for myself whilst also providing material suitable for talks and Bible Studies.

To be honoured with the portfolio of tasks that LLMs have is something which I wish I could have done sooner. Yet I know that God's timing is always perfect and that everything being an LLM brings to me makes my life richer and fuller by all that I can do for Him.

Elaine Levitt adds 'I am an LLM of many years standing, beating Pat by a few years! Reading these different stories of how God has called each of them, and equipped them too, it has been wonderful to see the rich variety of talents and skills offered by them. In each of them I sensed echoes of my own journey and many others I know who have felt called to Lay Ministry. A well-known priest, Fr. Gerard Hughes, wrote a book called "God of Surprises" and reminds me that God wants everyone to be involved in spreading the message we have through Jesus, to offer a better way of living.

God chooses ordinary people to show and tell one another the way to live lives rich and enriching. As Mary embarks on her training (and I am excited for her) I hope our church family will hold her in prayer.

And Clifford adds one last comment:

Mary mentioned Revd. Peter Cutting in Hull. Peter was a contemporary student with me at Ridley Hall in 1971. Even at Ridley other students noticed Peter's special evangelistic ministry.

**"Spring is sprung, the grass is rizz, I wonder where the mowers izz?"
Was this your reaction to the temporary 'wilding' of the church yard?"**



What is No Mow May?

No Mow May is an annual campaign, first launched by the UK conservation charity Plantlife in 2018, that asks homeowners and green space managers to stop mowing their lawns for the month of May. The goal is to allow grasses and wildflowers such as clover, dandelions, violets, and creeping plants to bloom, providing essential nectar and pollen for bees, butterflies, and other pollinators during a critical early-season period.

Unfortunately in All Saints' case the 'wilding' continued into June ("Too Soon June"?) and concern was mounting especially with regards to scheduled weddings and access to the grave yard.

But then "Hallelujah"! The Council Green Team and the green spaces returned... to their usual summer glory.

Happy days!

Mike Humphrey



🦢 Dancing Swans 🦢

Hello everyone

Well what a heatwave we have had! It has been a challenge keeping our classes going, adapting the content to keep everyone dancing but safe and as cool as possible and catering for such a wide age range from 4 years old to a much higher number! I especially liked the yoga flow class we did in the ballet fitness class, so peaceful with the doors open and a warm breeze and the birds singing.

We have been very thankful that we could do the children's classes in the church where we looked at how to hold our hands in a balletic way and then employing the help of the Church teddies who normally sit so quietly at the back in the children's corner. Next time you pass them just look for the gleam in their eyes!! Don't think they have had so much fun in ages!

We have 4 children in our little tap class who have really progressed and are about to take their first tap exam end of the summer term. We will be travelling to another dancing school and tagging on to the end of their session. We wish the children well in this great adventure.

All the other children's groups are working towards their RAD ballet exams next year. We have held several workshops on Sunday afternoons which has been brilliant.

Yasmin and I will miss everyone over the summer but are looking forward to taking a well earned break, time to be with nature and relax and recharge.

Wishing you all a very happy Summer holiday. Amanda and Yasmin



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All Saints Special Events

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



Joking aside!

Bishops and churchwardens:

A Yorkshire churchwarden met the new vicar: ‘ee lad I guess you’re the new vicar. Well I’m ye churchwarden. It’s your job to try to get your way...and it’s my job to try and stop ye’!

A bishop went to a parish to carry out the institution of a new vicar. He was introduced to an elderly churchwarden .

‘I gather’ said the bishop ***‘...that you have been churchwarden for some sixty years. My...you must have seen many changes in that time.’***

‘I have’, the churchwarden replied. ***‘and I have resisted every one!’***

A bishop (not the one above) **was scheduled to visit and preach at a church in his diocese. When he arrived he was embarrassed and angry to find that the congregation was in single figures. He turned to the vicar and said: ‘Didn’t you inform your people that I was coming?’ ‘I’m afraid I forgot to’ replied the vicar. ‘But someone must have told ‘em’!**

You may have noticed earlier in the magazine a line from a popular rhyme. The version I received came to me from our American Verger in Corfu.

*Spring has sprung, the grass has rizz. Who knows where the boidies izz?
Why the boidies is on the wing. But that’s absoid. The wing is on the boid!*

And one of my favourite religious jokes:

An Irish Catholic priest was going through the customs. ‘Morning Father, have you anything to declare?’ said the officer.

‘No nothing to declare’ replied the priest.

‘May we have a peep into your case Father’

‘Yes, no problem; go ahead’.

‘Father what the liquid in that bottle there?’

‘Oh that’s holy water’

‘May we have a taste please Father?’

‘Go ahead..no problem’.

‘Father, that’s whisky!’

‘Ah...Glory be to God! He’s done it again!’

**THANK YOU to all our contributors for this issue. and not forgetting our regular team: Amanda Smith for formatting and page setting. Helen Dowzall for proof reading..and Pat Hawkins for distribution.
NEXT ISSUE DUE ON October 1st.**

Clifford

All Saints Coming Up!



12th July (Sunday) 11am SEA SUNDAY SERVICE

With Guest preacher : Archdeacon Hugh McCurdy



18th July (Saturday) 2pm to 4 pm CREAM TEAS



22nd August (Saturday) 2pm to 4 pm CREAM TEAS



27th September (Sunday) Harvest Service and Harvest lunch (tickets in advance)

and well in advance



14th November (Saturday) CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Unwanted items for FOR 'GOOD AS NEW STALL'; please contact Sue Craven.

and finally:

a. Do forward this newsletter on to a friend or neighbour who may enjoy looking at it.

& b. Do have a click on the Church website www.allsaintshartford.org.uk