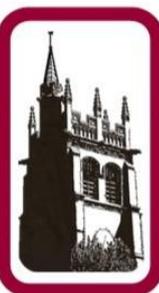


## ALL SAINTS'



## ALIVE

All Saints' Welcomes Everyone

## Stairway to Heaven

Dear Friends,

This is our Summer Newsletter, and over the years many of us have been used to going on holiday at this time. This time it feels different as we haven't been able to have a holiday for most of the last two years. My breaks over that period, when permitted, have been entirely family visits with some restrictions even then. I imagine that it has been the same for all of us. But in early June we managed to actually go away for a week on an actual holiday. We stood on the bridge crossing the Douro in Porto and realized that, yes, we are really on holiday, I think I remember this sort of feeling from the distant past.....

Porto is a delightful place to visit, though it helps if you are a hillwalker. And it's probably a vital place of pilgrimage if you are a true Harry Potter fan. We loved it, the whole city, including the Port Lodges on the South side of the river. What a rich history. Just don't ask about the Francesina!



I prefer to avoid "bus driver's holidays" where possible, but it is rarely an option considering the wonders to be found in many churches. In Porto they often have wonderful blue tiles on the interior and exterior, some are rich in golden decorations, there is so much evidence of devotion to God's ways including some all-too-accurate representations of the Crucifixion.

In two churches, where all that glitters is indeed gold, I noticed an unusual feature behind the altar. A set of 7-10 white stairs, becoming slightly smaller as they rise. I asked



it's a good one.

The idea of the stairway rising could sound mundane - most homes have one -but in its setting the perception of an open way to rise to heavenly places is a helpful one. In its own way it speaks of transcending the ordinariness of life to aspire to something much greater.



a Portuguese guide what it was and he replied that it was a Stairway to Heaven. Admittedly that is just what it looked like, but I hadn't expected precisely that phrase. Perhaps the Church of God was right to use that concept after all, because

Being aware that we are called to a higher form of devotion and service is inspiring, even though going upwards can require additional energy. It can also help us to think of coming closer to God as our journey through life continues.

The Book of Psalms has numerous ancient hymns described as "A Song of Ascent", between 120 – 134. They are some of the most delightful and encouraging writings in that old "Hymn Book of the Second Temple". They are literally 'uplifting' and they were used as the people of Israel ascended Mount Zion to the holy city of Jerusalem. It was seen as a time of coming together to celebrate and encounter the presence of God, symbolized in the Temple itself. For us, a pilgrimage or sacred journey can be valuable in seeking to understand ourselves better and to look afresh at our faith in God. And a break from routine

on a holiday can give us cause for reflection about what is important in our daily living. It is also true, of course, that any time of joining with others in worship, any time of leaving ordinary life for a sacred place and ceremony, can fulfil this need (including our normal church attendance).

We need to be aware that our spiritual journey can – and ultimately will be - a joy but it needs our willingness to engage with the weights that hold us down, our human nature which is estranged from God. We cannot just go blithely “Running Up That Hill”, for the weight of our sins will hold us back. It is Jesus – crucified just outside Jerusalem’s city walls – who carried our sins to the cross to gain our forgiveness. He wants to draw us to himself, upward in the sense of transcending the pains and evils of this world, and that Stairway to Heaven is open for us all to enter into the fulness of eternal life.

With love and prayers, Jo

## Pick that hymn

Do you have a favourite hymn or two that you would like to sing in August?

We're keen to ensure that we have as many hymns that have some special significance as possible.

Please let Martin or Jo know what you'd like and we will do our best to include them all over the month of August.

## Green Watch 9<sup>th</sup> July



**ALLSAINTS HERTFORD**  
All Saints Welcomes Everyone

**GREEN WATCH**  
A Series of Talks on Environmental Themes

**Swifts in Hertford**  
By Clive Fleming  
Hertford Swift Group

**SATURDAY 9 JULY 2022 at 1.00pm**

**Coffee Morning from 10.30am**  
**Light Lunches from 12noon**

• Home Made Cakes • Books • Cards • Gifts • Produce in Aid of the Ukraine  
• FREE Admission and Parking at the Church

**ALL SAINTS CHURCH - Queens Road, Hertford, Hertfordshire SG13 8AY**  
[www.allsaintshertford.org](http://www.allsaintshertford.org)

This month's talk at 13.00 will be given by Clive Fleming of the Hertford Swift Group  
( <http://Facebook.com/HertfordSwifts> )



**ALLSAINTS HERTFORD**

**Summer Celebration of the Big Band Sounds**

Award winning singer **Robert Habermann** returns to All Saints with the **Phoenix Jazz Orchestra** to sing original big band arrangements including

☆ *Girl From Ipanema*  
*Lazy River*  
*Lady Is A Tramp*  
☆ *Mack The Knife*  
☆ *Bad Bad Leroy Brown*  
*and many other great hits!*

**Thursday 28th July 2022**  
**at 7.45 p.m.**  
Admission £10  
Proceeds in aid of All Saints Church

**ALL SAINTS CHURCH - Queens Road, Hertford, Hertfordshire SG13 8AY**  
[www.allsaintshertford.org](http://www.allsaintshertford.org)

## What's coming at All Saints

Plans for the foreseeable future include:

- Coffee Morning for Bike n Hike  
10<sup>th</sup> September
- Environment Climate Hope Day  
24<sup>th</sup> September
- Start of Autumn Term of Soundbites  
28<sup>th</sup> September
- Harvest Festival Sunday  
2<sup>nd</sup> October
- Trafalgar Day Service  
16<sup>th</sup> October
- All Saints Sunday  
30<sup>th</sup> October
- Remembrance Sunday  
13<sup>th</sup> November
- Christ the King/Commemoration  
20<sup>th</sup> November
- Advent Carol Service  
27<sup>th</sup> November
- Service of Lessons and Carols  
18<sup>th</sup> December

We are also planning the following, dates yet to be set:

- Joining one of the series of Big Church Reads - *How to Hear God*

Having addressed God's silence in *God on Mute*, and then *How to Pray* in his previous bestseller, Pete Greig is back to bring wisdom and guidance to one of the most pressing and perplexing aspects of universal Christian experience—*How to Hear God*. Join Pete for 5 sessions as he explores the story of Christ's playful, poignant conversation on the road to Emmaus, Pete draws deeply from the insights of a wide range of Christian traditions. He weaves together the evangelical emphasis upon hearing God in the Bible, and the charismatic commitment to hearing God in the prophetic, with the contemplative understanding of God's still, small voice within.

This could be in person or on Zoom - please let Jo know your preference.

- Listening to a recording of Sir David Suchet reading St John's gospel, with a break for lunch and time together
- Parish Lunch
- Afternoon tea
- Launch of Friends of All Saints

## Soundbites in Autumn Term

Our Autumn Concert Series will start on 28<sup>th</sup> September and run until November 30<sup>th</sup>.

The first concert will be given by Open House Music, a new ensemble of critically-acclaimed musicians,

Rachel Chaplin (oboe),  
Jane Gordon (violin),  
Robert de Bree (oboe/recorder) and  
Jan Zahourek (double bass).

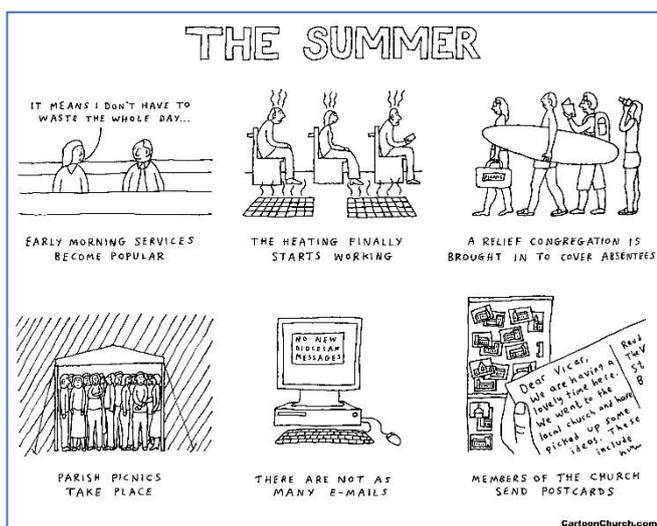


They will present a programme of reimagined baroque music, including music by Bach, Scarlatti and Purcell, interwoven with their own contemporary inventions.

## Services in August

Due to family holidays, we have only been able to roster sides people for one service each week in August so evening services will run to 31<sup>st</sup> July and re-start on September 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Also the morning service on 7<sup>th</sup> August will be a Family Eucharist.



## Contact information

[www.allsaintshertford.org](http://www.allsaintshertford.org) AllSaintsHertf

### Vicar

Rev Canon Jo Loveridge BA MTh AKC,  
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01992 584899

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### Full list of contacts

<https://www.allsaintshertford.org/contacts.php>

# Parish Diary for July/August 2022

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> (Henry John & Henry Venn)**  
5.30 pm Choir Practices in Church

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> Thomas**  
8.00 am Holy Communion  
10.00 am All the Family Service  
6.30 pm Choral Communion

**Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup>**  
11.00 am Morning Prayer on Zoom

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup>**  
11.00 am Holy Communion in Church

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup>**  
5.30 pm Choir Practices in Church

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup>**  
10.30am. Coffee Morning  
1.00 pm GreenWatch: Swifts in Hertford

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> Fourth Sunday after Trinity**  
10.00 am Parish Communion  
12.00 noon Holy Baptism  
6.30 pm Choral Evensong

**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup>**  
11.00 am Morning Prayer on Zoom

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> (John Keble)**  
11.00 am Holy Communion in Church

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> (Swithun)**  
5.30 pm Choir Practices in Church

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> Fifth Sunday after Trinity**  
10.00 am Family Eucharist  
3.30 pm Messy Church Picnic  
6.30 pm Choral Compline

**Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup>**  
11.00 am Morning Prayer on Zoom

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> (Gregory and Macrina)**  
11.00 am Morning Prayer

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> (Mary Magdalene)**  
12.00 Noon MU: Lunch at Pearces Farm Shop.

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> Sixth Sunday after Trinity**  
10.00 am Parish Communion  
12.00 noon Holy Baptism  
6.30 pm Evensong

**Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> (Anne & Joachim)**  
11.00 am Morning Prayer on Zoom

**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup>**  
11.00 am Holy Communion in Church  
7.45 pm Concert by Phoenix Jazz Orchestra and Robert Habermann

**Friday 29<sup>th</sup> (Mary, Martha & Lazarus)**  
4.00 pm Wedding of Matthew Newton & Sarah Hart

**Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> Seventh Sunday after Trinity**  
10.00 am Parish Communion  
6.30 pm Evensong

## AUGUST

**Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
11.00 am Morning Prayer on Zoom

**Thursday 4<sup>th</sup>**  
11.00 am Holy Communion in Church

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> (Transfiguration of Our Lord)**  
2.00 pm Wedding of James Back-Coward and Ellen Ratcliff

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> Eighth Sunday after Trinity**  
10.00 am Family Eucharist

**Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> (Mary Sumner)**  
11.00 am Morning Prayer on Zoom

**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> (Clare of Assisi)**  
11.00 am Holy Communion in Church

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> Ninth Sunday after Trinity**  
10.00 am Family Eucharist

**Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup>**  
11.00 am Morning Prayer on Zoom

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup>**  
11.00 am Holy Communion in Church

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> Tenth Sunday after Trinity**  
10.00 am Parish Communion

**Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup>**  
11.00 am Morning Prayer on Zoom

**Thursday 25<sup>th</sup>**  
11.00 am Holy Communion in Church

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> Eleventh Sunday after Trinity**  
10.00 am Parish Communion

**Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> (John Bunyan)**  
11.00 am Morning Prayer on Zoom

## SEPTEMBER

**Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> (Giles)**  
11.00 am Holy Communion in Church

**Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> (Martyrs of Papua New Guinea)**  
5.30 pm Choir Practices in Church

**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> (Gregory the Great)**  
1.00 pm Wedding of James Brown and Hayley Branston

**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> Twelfth Sunday after Trinity**  
10.00 am All the Family Service  
6.30 pm Choral Communion