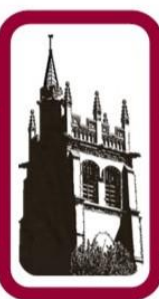


ALL SAINTS'



ALIVE

All Saints' Welcomes Everyone

True priorities

(From Sermon preached 13th October 2024)



Did any of you see the quite frankly stunning display of the Northern Lights a few days ago? There were beautiful streaks of greens, pinks and purples and, unlike last time the Aurora occurred earlier in the year, where the majestic artistry was only visible through the lens of a camera, this time, it was visible to the naked eye.

To get the best views of the night sky, you need to be away from the most built-up areas of our neighbourhoods because streetlights cause light pollution, which in turn reduces how much of the night sky is visible at the best of times, not just for stellar special occasions such as this. The light from our streetlights diminishes, reduces or even distracts our eye from the focus of our attention - the simple and yet stunning beauty overhead.

Contemporary life is as such that psychologists tell us that we are easily distracted; that we are now less able than we were to concentrate on matters in hand. It's like the 'noise' of our social media driven, 24-hour news soaked, visually overstimulated lives has snatched away our focus on what matters in life.

All of that is a bit like light pollution of the night sky. It prevents us from seeing or experiencing the fundamentals of life or faith. We are increasingly less and less *homo sapiens* and more and more *homo distractus*!

Did you notice it? We've heard and read this morning's Gospel many times between us. (Mark 10.17-31) But I've never noticed until this week that the man who approaches Jesus is distracted. He is focussed only on what he

must **do**. Eternal life for him feels like an end product, a prize, something he can possess or attain.

From Jesus' early interaction with him it seems like his law-keeping, which should be about distinctive Godly living, has become light pollution for him. I've kept those commands, onto the next thing. What else do I need to do? His law-keeping has distracted him from seeing the motivation behind the Law - the beauty of God himself.

21 *Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, 'You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.'*

At the start of this exchange the man seems want eternal life because he feels he's earned it by his commandment keeping. Jesus though sees into the heart of the matter and into the man's heart. Mark's Jesus does something rare here that He does nowhere else - he loves this man. It's not the loving that's rare, but the word that Mark uses. It's the same word that God the Father uses to name Jesus at his baptism - beloved. The much loved one. This is the look Jesus gives this man - this much loved one - and it's the look he gives each of us. We are his much loved one. Every single one of us. Beloved. A look that places us in the heart of God.

Jesus looks at us and loves us. Eternal life cannot be bought or achieved through completing a list of tasks but only by being in relationship with God. Loving God is the most important thing we can do, and that must come first.

Friends, as we move into this new season together as a family of faith, we are going to return to our first priority of loving God with all that we are, both individually and corporately. We will be spending time, from All Saints Sunday going forward, doing two

key things that will develop and deepen our loving relationship with God:

1. We will become a community who intentionally prays. We will do this by using a specially written parish prayer which we will pray every time we gather for worship and I would like each one of you to pray it every day at home. As we pray, we will acknowledge God's faithfulness to us in the past and we will be asking God to lead us and love us into new and eternal life and new ways of engaging with our wider community. And
2. We will become a community who intentionally reads and studies the scriptures. At the moment every time the PCC and Standing Committee are meeting, we are studying scripture together using a technique of spiritual reading called Lectio Divina, which experience says, forms us in the ways and purposes of God. But in Advent and beyond, we will be offering all of us the opportunity for us all to gather in small groups to read and study scripture together and explore Advent themes.

The man who encountered Jesus discovered that he, and therefore we, must make loving God above all things our priority. We cannot say we are living the Love of God in this parish if we don't. As each of us knows, love grows by spending time those we love, and the same is true with God. That is why prayer and studying scripture are going to be key for us going forward as we seek to be God's people serving in this place.

Friends, the man who met Jesus thought he'd got faith, but his practise was mere light pollution because he'd not been able to fully see the beauty of God.

As a family of faith here, in this season we need to do likewise - to step away from the light pollution that can so often fill our lives, to prioritise focussing on the beauty of God and His leading and guiding of us in these days and on into eternal life.

Amen.

Simon

ALL SAINTS HERTFORD All Saints Welcomes Everyone	All The Family Service 10.00am Bring and Share Lunch 12.00noon
ALL SAINTS SUNDAY SUNDAY 3 NOVEMBER 2024	At St John's Hall, Churchfields, Hertford, Hertfordshire SG13 8AE
Sign Up at the Back of the Church and please tell us what you are bringing or Contact: wardens@allsaintshertford.org	
ALL SAINTS CHURCH - Queens Road, Hertford, Hertfordshire SG13 8AY www.allsaintshertford.org	

Names for sick list

If you would like someone (possibly yourself) to be included, could you please let Simon or Martin P know. Notice sheets are usually drafted on a Thursday and finalised/printed on Fridays.

The easiest way to do this is to email sick@allsaintshertford.org, which will notify them both.

Thank you!

Advent Groups

Following on from his article, Simon would like to know who would be interested in joining an Advent Study Group and their preferred day/time. Please email him at vicar@allsaintshertford.org or drop him a note. Thank you!

Mark Jennings Guitar 2nd November 19.00

An evening of Virtuoso Classics

Tickets: £15 on sale at the door, under 14s free
Refreshments available

Dr Mark Jennings is a British born classical guitar recitalist, much sought after in the UK and overseas. He has been playing classical guitar for most of his life having begun lessons at an early age. Shortly after starting lessons, his father, himself a talented singer, impressed by his son's progress, supported Mark's musical development by commissioning a well-established local luthier to build a guitar for him using the finest

traditional materials, a guitar he still owns today, over thirty five years later

Following a successful audition Mark was awarded the coveted Dorset Arts Council scholarship to study with the preeminent classical guitarist Carlos Bonell at the London College of Music, part of the Guildhall School of Music, where he also studied harmony, counterpoint and composition with the British pianist and composer John McCabe.

**All Saints Church
Hertford SG13 8AY**

**MARK JENNINGS
ON CLASSICAL GUITAR
THE SPIRIT OF SPAIN**

AN EVENING OF VIRTUOSO CLASSICS

Saturday, 2nd November 2024
7:00PM

Tickets: £15 (under 14s free)
Tickets at the door

Refreshments available (by donation).

Ticket enquiries: music@allsaintshertford.org
markjenningsmusic.com

He later went on to study privately with Forbes Henderson (formerly of the Omega Quartet, and Incantations), Gary Ryan (Royal College of Music) and Graham Devine (Trinity College of Music). As a student Mark performed in many international public masterclasses hosted by such distinguished artists as Roland Dyans (Paris Conservatory), John Mills (Royal Welsh College of Music), David Russell (Royal Academy of Music) and Berta Rojas (Washington DC University).

Greenwatch 9th November

This month's GreenWatch event features Rowan Byrne. The focus will be on a shared responsibility, outline the issues the oceans

face, what we can do and where the future is at and how we can all play our part. Considering the vastness of this topic, Rowan will touch lightly on the issues at hand and be guided by the audience on where they want to take this with questions and more discussion.



Rowan Byrne BSc (Hons) MSc MSc CSci FRSB

Rowan Byrne is successful Irish Marine Biologist and Fellow of the Royal Society of Biology with over 30 years proven environmental experience in marine conservation species and habitats, climate change mitigation and adaptation and sustainability strategies.

As a keen innovator himself, Rowan's focus is very much on legacy and how we can – and should – all work with a wide range of stakeholders and industry partners/governments to integrate environmental and social considerations into all our activities.

Rowan continues to publish papers on solutions to plastic pollution in our waterways and leads on several plastic capture projects across the UK in marine and freshwater riverine and wastewater treatment work environments.

ALL SAINTS HERTFORD
All Saints Welcomes Everyone

GREEN WATCH
A Series of FREE Talks on Environmental Themes

SATURDAY 9 NOVEMBER 2024 at 1.00pm

Coffee from 11.30am
Light Lunches from 12noon

• Produce Stall: Homegrown Fruit, Homemade Jams, locally pressed Fruit Juice and locally gathered Bird Seed.

Threats and Challenges Facing Our Oceans and the Solutions.

By Rowan Byrne
Successful Irish Marine Biologist and Fellow of the Royal Society of Biology

Rowan Byrne is a successful Irish Marine Biologist and Fellow of the Royal Society of Biology with over 30 years proven environmental experience in marine conservation species and habitats, climate change mitigation and adaptation and sustainability strategies. As a keen innovator himself, Rowan's focus is very much on legacy and how we can – and should – all work with a wide range of stakeholders and industry partners/governments to integrate environmental and social considerations into all our activities. Rowan continues to publish papers on solutions to plastic pollution in our waterways and leads on several plastic capture projects across the UK in marine and freshwater riverine and wastewater treatment work environments.

Rowan is currently collaborating on research projects with key global stakeholders to identify and integrate plastics in the environment. His work won him the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment Sustainability Leader of the Year Award in 2020 and his management of the installation of two Seaflex at Heath Haddock in Dublin in 2018 has received multiple media accolades.

He has over 20 years of research experience of a freshwater sea turtle (Desmodylia carolinensis) that lives in the UK and is currently working on a 10% postage stamp in support of these endangered species.

Royal Society of Biology

ALL SAINTS CHURCH - Queens Road, Hertford, Hertfordshire SG13 8AY
www.allsaintshertford.org

Soundbites

The Autumn season continues throughout November.

ALL SAINTS HERTFORD All Saints Welcomes Everyone

Soundbites A Term-Time Series of Concerts on Wednesday Lunch-Times (Light Lunches served from 12noon for Concerts at 1.00pm)

<p>Wednesday 6 November 2024 Thomas Dilley (Organ)</p> <p>Thomas studied at The Queen's College, Oxford and Embury Conservatoire, completing organ scholarship at St John's (Cambridge) and St John's (Leeds). He is currently a member of the Royal College of Organists and is a member of the Royal College of Organists.</p> <p>Music: Requiem Mass - Gabriel Faure</p>	<p>Wednesday 13 November 2024 Seion String Quartet (RCM) With Archie Bonham (Piano)</p> <p>Formed in early 2023, the Seion Quartet has already enjoyed a variety of different performances and opportunities. Recently, they were invited to perform at the Royal College of Music's Super String Sunday, and in the Anniversary Concert at the Royal College of Music.</p> <p>Music: String Quartet in G minor - Schubert</p>	<p>Wednesday 20 November 2024 Schola Cantorum of St Edmunds College</p> <p>French composer, organist and pianist Gabriel Faure (1845-1924) was one of the foremost composers and musicians of his generation. To mark the centenary of his death in his 79th year of commemoration, members of Schola Cantorum perform his glorious setting of the Requiem Mass.</p> <p>Music: Requiem Mass - Gabriel Faure</p>	<p>Wednesday 27 November 2024 Filippo Di Bari (Piano)</p> <p>Korn is honoree, pianist and scholar Filippo Di Bari is a graduate of Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance, Royal Academy of Music, University of London, and the University of Cambridge.</p> <p>Music: Sonata in B flat major (Op. 10) - Schubert</p>
--	---	--	---

ALL SAINTS CHURCH - Queens Road, Hertford, Hertfordshire SG13 8AY
www.allsaintshertford.org

Please leave donations in the big plastic box near the kitchenette.

5. Sell tickets for the Grand Draw

We are really excited for the fair this year. We look forward to celebrating the life of our wider community together!

All welcome always!

COP16 and COP29 two key global conferences at a pivotal moment for God's creation

This autumn, the 196 member states of the United Nations will assemble for two key conferences, COP16 and COP29 which are taking place at a pivotal moment for God's creation. The outcome of these international gatherings of world leaders and experts will affect how the world addresses the two major interconnected crises of climate change and biodiversity loss, and the likelihood of the survival of millions of species. The Anglican Church will be represented at both conferences, reflecting our Christian calling to promote hope, peace, wisdom, justice and health and wellbeing as we address these twin emergencies, and calling on all participants to do likewise.

There are ways in which we also support this critical work, both as churches and as individuals.

What is happening?



The COP 16 biodiversity conference in Colombia, starting on 21st October, will look at progress in implementing the Global Biodiversity Framework agreed at COP15 last year. That Framework sets out key targets to protect our common home, including, by 2030, restoring 30% of degraded ecosystems, and conserving 30% of land, waters and seas.

Full details at <https://www.allsaintshertford.org/concerts.php>

All Saints Christmas Fair

We are really looking forward to welcoming you to the All Saints Christmas Fair! The day is themed around community. We will be serenaded by local school choirs and have contributions on the day from local groups, organisations and schools to celebrate our theme!

Expect some favourite stalls and activities - chocolate tombola, a Grand Draw with superb prizes, table-top games and activities for all ages and delicious refreshments will, be served.

The day runs from 11am-3pm in All Saints.

We are looking for some specific things:

1. Put the date and time in the diary and come along!
2. Invite your neighbours and friends to join you.
3. We will need help on the day in specific ways not least of all in helping set up, staff and take down the event at the end of the day. Watch out for sign-up sheets asking for you to commit to helping.
4. We will be asking for specific things each week in the lead up to the event - this week it is chocolate for the chocolate tombola.

It will aim to move forward on agreeing the funding needed.



The principal focus of the COP29 Climate Change conference, beginning on 11th November in Azerbaijan, will be on agreeing the provision of the necessary finance to tackle climate change and seek to keep global warming to 1.5 degrees Centigrade above pre-industrial levels. It will also look forward to next year when all countries are called on to increase their carbon reduction commitments. These issues are particularly critical for countries in the global south already suffering hugely from climate change, though they have done least to cause it.

Anglican Communion key asks

Key asks from the Anglican Communion to the conferences include that:-

- Governments work with faith groups in mobilising action
- Full funding is provided for national plans for nature restoration and climate change responses, particularly in developing countries, by means of grants not loans; and
- Indigenous land is protected and indigenous wisdom in caring for the environment is recognised, along with a recognition of the natural limits of growth, consumption and extraction.

What can we, as churches and as individuals, do?

- Pray for the Anglican Communion delegations attending the conferences, led by Bishop Graham Usher at COP16 and Archbishop Julio Murray at COP29; and for the world's leaders, that they may have the wisdom and courage to take and

implement the necessary decisions to protect our climate and environment and safeguard the vulnerable

- Call on our political leaders to play their fair part in tackling these issues; and
- Look at how our actions and consumption contribute to the crises, and determine to start, one step at a time, to make changes so that we tread more lightly on God's earth. Ways that we can make a difference could include making room in our gardens for nature, eating less meat and dairy, moving to a 100% renewable electricity provider, changing to a bank that invests less in fossil fuels, driving less, and just buying only what we need.

Diocesan Year of Renewal

The following is part of Bishop Alan's address to the Diocesan symod on 12th October. The full text is available at <https://www.stalbansdiocese.org/news/presidential-address-diocesan-synod-12-october-2024/>

Year of Spiritual Renewal and Wellbeing

Next year we embark on a Year of Spiritual Renewal and Wellbeing. It will be launched on Saturday 11 January by Archbishop Justin who will visit the Cathedral in the morning and Woburn in the afternoon. The year is designed to offer clergy, lay ministers, congregations, schools and chaplaincies a series of enriching opportunities to deepen their spiritual life and grow in holiness and wholeness.

Many things, not least the legacy of Covid, have turned our eyes 'downwards'. It is my belief that the time has come to lift our hearts and minds to God in prayer and thanksgiving, and seek the renewing life of the Holy Spirit. We know from the Emmaus story in Luke's Gospel that the risen Christ travels with us in all times of challenge and uncertainty, just as he walked with the two bewildered disciples, listening to their concerns and renewing them in hope and love. In company with many others, I believe the time is ripe to re-gather with compassion and kindness, to open and

re-engage with the scriptures, 'to break bread' with the risen Lord in our midst, and be transformed.

The Year of Spiritual Renewal and Wellbeing is a golden opportunity for all our church communities to be renewed in grace. Its objectives are to:

- lift our eyes to God and make it a visible priority
- enhance our spiritual and personal wellbeing
- enable spiritual growth which will resource numerical growth
- respond to those issues highlighted by wellbeing surveys
- build on the momentum of this year's Clergy Conferences.
-

An imaginative programme of events has been prepared which will run throughout the year, offering a wide range of events and activities.

For clergy there will be:

- Guided/silent retreats (St Beuno's etc)
- Creative Retreats (Lee Abbey etc)
- Walking Retreats (various lengths and number of days)
- Quiet Days (e.g. day on canal narrowboat etc)

For congregations there will be:

- Funding to support a Parish Quiet Day
- Diocesan-organised Retreat Days

For everyone there will be:

- A School of Theology – a week-long festival of seminars in the spring with speakers from diverse traditions on a wide range of subjects such as doctrine, education, science and technology, and wellbeing
- A School of Prayer – a week-long focus on spiritual practice
- In the summer the Cathedral will host a 'Festival of Ideas' with speakers and panel discussions on themes including disability, music, racial justice, literature, and the environment.
- In the autumn there will be the annual Alban Lecture and an event marking the 800th anniversary of the 1225 Magna Carta.
- For our schools, we are preparing new resources for Collective Worship and Lent, and leading an enrichment day.

I want to encourage everyone to engage with something during the year ahead. Funding has been made available through the generosity of various trusts. So be assured: nothing next year will be met from parish share.

I realise that our front-line clergy and lay ministers are busy people with commitments and obligations stretching months ahead. So to make things as easy as possible, everything on offer will be prepared for you to book via a dedicated website. This site will be launched in the coming weeks. Please do then take a look at the calendar of events and decide what would suit you and your church community. Discuss it with your colleagues and PCCs, and book those things which will nourish you personally and your people.

Finally, I want to record my gratitude to the Revd Oliver Blease, Vicar of Radlett, for chairing the team organising and planning the year. They have worked incredibly hard and very imaginatively.

For more information, please visit: year.stalbansdiocese.org.

Something to think about...

*Hon Mca Ricardo Nyantika:
Nairobi City Council -*

There was a farmer who grew excellent quality corn. Every year he won the award for the best grown corn. One year a newspaper reporter interviewed him and learned something interesting about how he grew it. The reporter discovered that the farmer shared his seed corn with his neighbors. "How can you afford to share your best seed corn with your neighbours when they are entering corn in competition with yours each year?" the reporter asked.

"Why sir," said the farmer, "Didn't you know? The wind picks up pollen from the ripening corn and swirls it from field to field. If my neighbours grow inferior corn, cross-pollination will steadily degrade the quality of my corn. If I am to grow good corn, I must help my neighbours grow good corn."

So it is with our lives... Those who want to live meaningfully and well must help enrich the lives of others, for the value of a life is measured by the lives it touches. And those who choose to be happy must help others find happiness, for the welfare of each is bound up with the welfare of all.

Identification Made Easy

Andy Atkins A Rocha CEO

It's hard to get to know someone if you don't know their name. That's also true of plants and animals, and knowing their name is a gateway to understanding and protecting them. I've discovered that phone apps can be a fun way to help myself and others appreciate God's creation.

A year ago, I was on a countryside walk with about a dozen people. On one stretch of the path with overgrown hedgerows on either side we heard a bird singing loudly nearby. My wife, a friend and I debated what it was, but others showed little interest. Then a friend pulled out her smart phone and opened Merlin, a bird identification app. It soon picked up the sound and flashed its conclusion - Eurasian wren. Scrolling down, she read out more information. At this point others gathered round, intrigued by the app and the so-far invisible bird. Then we spotted it skulking in the undergrowth, just as the app said it liked to do, and we pointed it out to our companions. The app identified a couple more species within its earshot, including a blackcap.

Eventually we walked on, but now everyone was chatting about birds and marvelling at nature, with one member of the group asking, 'How can such a tiny bird make such a big sound?' Perhaps not surprisingly several of the group downloaded the app as soon as we got back to the house.

So even if you have an encyclopaedic knowledge of birds, insects and plants, most people don't. We know that helping people to know and enjoy nature is key to getting more people to protect nature. If you haven't already, why not try a nature app or two, and introduce your friends, children and grandchildren to them? You could even lead

a group round your churchyard or local park equipped with different apps.

Here are two apps that you might like to try. We are not advertising or endorsing them - just letting you know that they exist and telling you a little about what they can do.

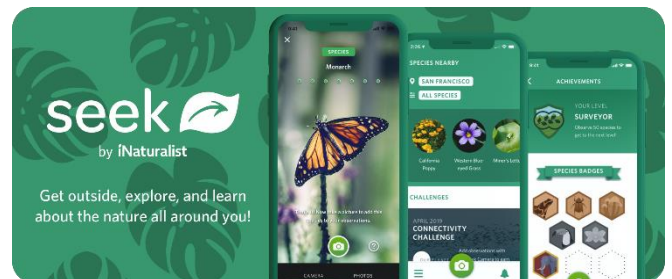
Merlin Bird ID by Cornell Lab



A well known app that helps you identify the birds you hear. Among other things it can also identify birds from photos. It's free.

<https://merlin.allaboutbirds.org/>

Seek by iNaturalist



This uses image recognition to put names to plants and animals. Point your phone's camera at the mystery species and Seek could help you put the right name to it. It's free.

https://www.inaturalist.org/pages/seek_app

Parish Diary November 2024

Saturday 2nd (All Souls Day)

9.30 am Morning Prayer
7.00 pm Guitar Recital
Mark Jennings

All Saints Sunday 3rd

10.00 am All age Patronal Eucharist
12.00 'Bring and Share' Lunch in Church
6.30 pm Evensong with Hymns

Monday 4th

8.00 am Morning Prayer
5.00 pm Evening Prayer

Tuesday 5th

8.00 am Morning Prayer
5.00 pm Evening Prayer

Weds 6th (Leonard)

8.00 am Morning Prayer
12.00 for 1.00 pm Soundbites
Thomas Dilley - Organ
5.00 pm Evening Prayer

Thursday 7th (Willibrod)

8.00 am Morning Prayer
11.00 am Holy Communion
5.00 pm Evening Prayer
7.30 pm All Saints Art

Friday 8th (Saints and Martyrs of England)

5.30 pm Choir Practices

Saturday 9th (Margery Kempe)

9.30 am Morning Prayer
11.30 am Greenwatch Coffee
12.00 noon Light Lunches
1.00 pm Talk 'Threats and challenges facing our Oceans and their solutions' *Rowan Byrne*

Sunday 10th Remembrance

10.53 am Service at War Memorial
11.30 am Parade Service
6.30 pm Choral Communion

Monday 11th (Martin)

8.00 am Morning Prayer
5.00 pm Evening Prayer

Tuesday 12th

8.00 am Morning Prayer

5.00 pm Evening Prayer

Weds 13th (Charles Simeon)

8.00 am Morning Prayer
12.00 for 1.00 pm Soundbites
Seion String Quartet & Archie Bonham - Piano

5.00 pm Evening Prayer

Thursday 14th (Samuel Seabury)

8.00 am Morning Prayer
11.00 am Holy Communion
5.00 pm Evening Prayer
7.30 pm All Saints Art

Friday 15th

5.30 pm Choir Practices

Saturday 16th (Margaret)

9.00 onwards Work Party
9.30 am Morning Prayer

Sunday 17th 2nd Sunday before Advent

10.00 am Family Eucharist
6.30 pm Choral Compline

Monday 18th (Elizabeth)

8.00 am Morning Prayer
1.00 pm Funeral of Rose Louise Ansell
5.00 pm Evening Prayer

Tuesday 19th (Hilda)

8.00 am Morning Prayer
5.00 pm Evening Prayer

Weds 20th (Edmund)

8.00 am Morning Prayer
12.00 for 1.00 pm Soundbites
Schola Cantorum of St Edmund's College
5.00 pm Evening Prayer
7.30 pm PCC

Thursday 21st

8.00 am Morning Prayer
11.00 am Holy Communion
5.00 pm Evening Prayer
7.30 pm All Saints Art

Friday 22nd (Cecilia)

5.30 pm Choir Practices

Saturday 23rd (Clement)

9.30 am Morning Prayer

Sunday 24th Christ the King

10.00 am A Service of Loving Remembrance for the Feast of Christ the King
6.30 pm Choral Evensong

Monday 25th (Catherine)

8.00 am Morning Prayer
5.00 pm Evening Prayer

Tuesday 26th

8.00 am Morning Prayer
5.00 pm Evening Prayer

Weds 27th

8.00 am Morning Prayer
12.00 for 1.00 pm Soundbites
Filippo di Bari - Piano
5.00 pm Evening Prayer

Thursday 28th

8.00 am Morning Prayer
11.00 am Holy Communion
5.00 pm Evening Prayer
7.30 pm All Saints Art

Friday 29th (Thanksgiving for Missionary Work)

9.30 am Xmas Fair set up
5.30 pm Choir Practices

Saturday 30th (Andrew)

9.30 am Morning Prayer
11.00 am – 3.00 pm All Saints Christmas Fair

DECEMBER Sunday 1st Advent Sunday

10.00 am All the Family Service
12.00 noon Holy Communion
6.30 pm **Advent Carol Service**
From Darkness to Light

Contact information

www.allsaintshertford.org

   AllSaintsHerf

Vicar

Rev Simon Cutmore
07885 660653
vicar@allsaintshertford.org

Office

office@allsaintshertford.org

Full list of contacts

www.allsaintshertford.org/contacts.php