

# BAUBLES, BANGLES & BEADS BAZAAR

A crisp autumn day was a perfect backdrop for the St Faith's Christmas Fair.

This year's theme was.....CHRISTMAS.....and what a wonderful sight the church was, festooned with red and gold, tinsel, decorations and Christmas trees. Everyone had thrown themselves into the occasion, including an elf wearing a florescent hat who turned out to be Pat Webb.



So festive was the experience that even perennial grumps like me who refuse to accept that Christmas has arrived until 26th December, had to feel a bit Christmassy and that the end of November was perfect timing to enable people to pick up Christmas presents and cards well in time for the last post.

Stalls included a plant sale, incorporating many indoor plants for the winter season; the cake stall is a regular favourite and unmissable, positioned immediately after the entrance. There was Bric-a-Brac as well as games and activities, a number of tombola's with some stunning prizes including hampers laden with St Faith's goodies. At the lucky dip, I was the recipient of two prizes, both of which remain in their wrapper – Someone is going to be either very pleased or upset on Christmas morning!



The toy stall was, as ever, overflowing with all sorts of diverting paraphernalia for the young or young at heart. I mused over the purchase of a Radio 4 Archers Board game, with ideas of playing it with the family over Christmas, until sense kicked in as I realised that others in the house might not share my enthusiasm and might banish me to the shed.

The knitting stall did a particularly good trade in tea cosies this year and another highlight was the "pin the tail on the donkey" – I thought that people seemed to be doing quite well until I was told that it wasn't a tail and they were supposed to be aiming for the nose!

But what can be better than a leisurely lunch of tomato soup and egg baguette with time for a chat with friends. I will forget my momentary pique on hearing the announcement "bacon rolls are sold out!" as I was next in line to place my order.



The event closed with the everlasting raffle draw which usually takes long enough to give stall holders time to pack down – but some great prizes were won and excited punters stayed right to the bitter end, clinging on to their cloakroom tickets as hope faded.

Far too many people were involved in the event to thank them by name – but there must be one exception and that is Mary Goose, who along with her group, works tirelessly to organise this fabulous event each year to raise money for the running of St Faith's. Thank you Mary, and the Fellowship Group.

Here's to the same theme next year, but let's invite Father Christmas too!

