

All Saints' Church Thornton Hough

The Magazine



December 2025 — January 2026

All Saints' Church Thornton Hough

Christingle Service



**Sunday 7th December
at 4pm
in All Saints' Church**

A collection will be taken in aid of the Children's Society



All Saints' Church
Thornton Hough

Wednesday 10th December

**Merry Christmas!
Mince Pies
and Carols**

2:30pm to 4:00pm
in the Parish Hall

Come and join us for a good sing!

Admission includes a drink and a mince pie or biscuit

Everybody welcome

Tickets £2

All Saints' Church, Thornton Hough

*Service of
Readings and Carols
for Christmas*

*Sunday 21st December
at 6:00pm*

*Please join us for a drink and mince pies
after the service*

Everybody welcome



All Saints' Church, Thornton Hough

Christmas Services

Christmas Eve, Wednesday 24th December

11:00pm "Midnight" Holy Communion

Christmas Day, Thursday 25th December

10:30am Family Holy Communion

Sunday 28th December

10:30am Holy Communion

Epiphany, Sunday 4th January

10:30am Holy Communion



Being Present

In his autobiographical book, “Cider with Rosie,” Laurie Lee recounts how he came home from his first day at school in a state of furious, bitter disappointment. Why? Because at the start of the morning, his teacher had told him to sit at a desk “for the present” – and he never got a present!

It’s a lovely, innocent picture of a child misunderstanding an adult’s words. However, there is something more profound here as we approach Christmas. Our advertisements on TV, social media and the press are full of sparkling suggestions for the perfect meal or gift idea.



It is indeed a delight to give and receive presents, the excitement of choosing just the right thing for someone, of seeing the joy on people’s faces as they unwrap a gift. It is a delight to share a meal and sing familiar carols together.

But we miss the point every bit as much as young Laurie did if we only wait for the “present”: the gifts, the ‘stuff.’ We can be so busy as we scurry about that we forget that the most important thing is **being** present.

Being present: taking time to listen and be in one another’s company, to be present with, and for one another. To be present to receive and be part of those unexpected, joyful and deeply moving moments which can occur if we allow our busy “things to do” list to be set aside.

The story of Christmas is all about being present: we celebrate the coming of the Christ-child: Emmanuel, ‘God with us’. Jesus comes to be present with us, in all the different twists and turns of life. He is present not in the flashy, palatial places, but in the dusty, dirty, messy stable. He is here with us, fully human even as he is fully God.

It’s a reminder that Christmas is not about being picture-perfect, or having all the right answers. It’s about being present, and giving thanks for the greatest gift of all: Jesus.

Love and blessings this Christmas and for the New Year

Vicky



From the churchwardens



We have been reflecting on the amazing gifts that people have bestowed on All Saints' Church. These gifts have taken many forms: regular donations, which are absolutely essential in keeping the church functioning, the support, kindness and generosity in helping to raise much-needed funding through our recent Autumn Fair. Thank you to all who gifted their time, money, items and enthusiasm to make it a success. What a lovely, enjoyable and companionable morning we had.

We were also overwhelmed by the generosity and support of local businesses. Although facing challenging times themselves, they donated wonderful prizes for our raffle. Thank you so much to all who were able to help us. (You will find a full list of these later in the magazine.)

On the subject of much-needed funding, have you seen the newly repaired section of boundary wall in Church Road? Sincere thanks to our church architect Jennifer Chambers and to local contractor Brian Ebbrell and his team for bringing this to completion before the worst of the winter weather arrives. How satisfying it is to see it restored again – and straight!

Our Faculty Application to restore the church bell to full working order is progressing and you may have noticed that at the time of writing we have now entered the 28 day public notice period. If all goes smoothly we hope that we will be able ring out a welcome to services by Spring time.

On a final note, may we wish you a happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year. We look forward to celebrating with you at the forthcoming festive events and to worshipping together at the lovely Christmas services during this very special time.

Patsy and June



A REFRESHING TAKE ON LEGAL SERVICES

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Notes on the PCC meetings held on 21st October and 18th November

In October the PCC was updated on the quotes that had been received to **repair the boundary wall**. The Standing Committee had favoured the lower quote from the local firm, Ebbrell Construction, who had repaired the previous section of wall and they had been awarded the contract. In the November meeting we were pleased to hear that the repair had gone smoothly and was very nearly complete. The threat of imminent collapse has been causing much anxiety!



The October meeting was one of looking forward. Plans for the **Autumn Fair** were in hand with offers to run stalls, publicise it and procure raffle prizes in hand. I am pleased to report that the fair was a success. It was an enjoyable event and **raised about £880** for church funds. Thank you to everyone who helped to run it and contributed to it.

A **litter pick** was planned and has now gone ahead with the help of the local community. The items found included a pair of Hugo Boss slider sandals, large foam domino pieces and a floodlight!

Our annual Service for the **Faithful Departed** took place on 2nd November. Vicky reported that it was well attended and much appreciated. 27 candles were lit for loved ones who are no longer with us.

The **Remembrance Services** went well. The poppy arch and the poppy altar cloth served as reminders of lives that have been lost. The road closure for the service at the War Memorial made things a lot easier and safer. (Pictures on page 32.)

It was decided to produce our own **Christmas card** again this year. This is a good way of reaching out to the local community and inviting them to join us at our Advent and Christmas Services (details of these are elsewhere in this magazine). The cards were ordered and arrived quickly- they will be bundled and ready to deliver shortly. Thank you to those who help us with the mammoth task of delivering all the cards.

In October we also ensured that plans were in hand for the **Christingle Service**.

Following the success of last year's light-hearted **Merry Christmas! Mince Pies and Carols** it was decided to repeat it again on 10th December. Plans were finalised in November. We have some exciting prizes for a raffle.

The **Carol Service** on Sunday 21st December is a time to come together and

celebrate the birth of Jesus. It is a special time with readings, music from the choir and the opportunity to join together in singing favourite well known carols. Mince pies, tea and coffee will be served afterwards.

Other events planned include (after the success of last year) **carols** in the **Village Club** (date to be confirmed) and carol singing in **Brimstage Manor** and **Westwood Hall** on Wednesday 17th December.

Each year we allocate money in the budget to **support charities**. The PCC and the congregation were asked, over several weeks, to nominate charities for consideration. We aim to support local, national and overseas Christian charities and in November the PCC voted and chose the following charities to support this year. Each charity will receive £240.

Charity	
Charles Thompson Mission charlesthompsonsmission.org	<i>Since 1892, the Mission has been dedicated to providing care and support, food and clothes, to those across the Wirral who are living in poverty.</i>
Mercy Ships (Match funding available) https://www.mercyships.org.uk	<i>Mercy Ships is a faith-based international development organisation that deploys hospital ships to some of the poorest countries in the world, delivering vital, free healthcare to people in desperate need.</i>
Mary's Meals (Match funding available) https://www.marysmeals.org.uk	<i>Mary's Meals provides life-changing school meals to children living in some of the world's poorest communities. The promise of a good meal brings hungry children into the classroom, where they can gain an education and better opportunities for the future.</i>
Wirral Hospice St John's https://www.wirralhospice.org	<i>Wirral Hospice St John's provides specialist care and support for people with a range of life-limiting conditions.</i>
Kind (Liverpool) https://kind.org.uk/	<i>'Since 1975 we have been making a difference in the lives of thousands of disadvantaged children and families from across Liverpool and Merseyside'.</i>

In the November meeting Scirard Lancelyn Green was appointed as our **Independent Examiner** for our accounts as Verity Smith can no longer carry out this role because she is now a member of the PCC. We are very grateful to Verity for the work she has done in this role for a number of years.

The Fabric Team reported that the **Faculty** application for the **bell** has now reached the 28 day Public Notice phase. If there are no objections we expect to get final approval to proceed. The PCC were assured by the Vicar and churchwardens that the money for the repairs would be available.

The **heating** continues to throw up challenges. Only two boilers out of three are working and it becomes more and more of a challenge to repair them. Two boilers are not enough to heat the church adequately and we need to give some serious thought to how we move forward.

June Allcock also highlighted an issue with the flashing and general

deterioration of the flat roof of the Parish Hall which we will need to address. No sooner has one problem been resolved than another one arises!

In an earlier meeting the PCC had decided that we should **re-invest** our money from the fund that had closed in the M&G Charifund and the CCLA's CBF Church of England Property Fund. The Treasurer, Iain Stinson, reported in November that we are now waiting for the re-investment to be completed on our behalf by the Diocese Finance Office.

Linda Arch continues to keep on top of safeguarding, ensuring that DBS checks are done and safeguarding training is up to date. She also engages with Cool Wirral and working towards the A Rocha Bronze Award, an award which encourages churches to be more aware of their responsibilities to the environment.

Christmas is approaching fast. We hope that it is a time a time of peace for you and that you are able to join with us as we celebrate the true meaning of Christmas.

Sue Stinson, PCC Secretary

We are very sad to announce that the **Revd Derek Seber**, our vicar from 1997 to 2008, died on Tuesday 18th November aged 82. He had been unwell for some time and died at home with his family. We offer our most sincere condolences to Pat, his wife, and all his family and remember them in our prayers.



Before becoming a priest, Derek had served in the Royal Navy. He came to faith through meeting Christians in the Naval Christian Fellowship. He became a Lay Reader in 1965 and was ordained in 1973. When Derek first came to Thornton Hough he divided his time between being our vicar and being an industrial chaplain; later, he became full time vicar of All Saints'. His time in the navy prepared him for his industrial work in the factories and as a union representative for clergy and lay ministers. He was instrumental in establishing Thornton Hough's Scarecrow Festival and out of this came a group of stories that Derek wrote for children about the Scarecrows at Scarecrow Manor. He may even have shared them with the congregation one Sunday.

He could be strong and forthright but equally gentle and kind, particularly when visiting those in nursing homes or the housebound. He was a good pastor and cared deeply for his flock. Derek lived a full life and looking back there are so many achievements. He was a man of God who showed his faith in action in many different settings. Social Justice was a key theme for him.

May he rest in peace and rise in glory!

Derek's funeral will take place on Tuesday 2nd December at 11:30am in St Margaret's Church, Hornby, Lancaster.



The Red Fox and Little Fox

Thornton Hough



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The Red Fox is a classic country pub with open fires, wooden floors, good old furniture and lots of rugs and plants. The bar sits at the heart of the pub, with an array of cask ales on tap, a back shelf crammed with malts and gins and a decent list of over 50 lovingly chosen wines. Our team of chefs continually develop our daily menu with a spine of freshly prepared classic British dishes, complemented by a few more exotic influences here and there.

Whilst nestled right next door, the Little Fox is a completely separate space, with our own bar, amenities and a gorgeous courtyard and garden to make your own. Our aim is to help you create those special memories and ensure your occasion is just how you imagined. Our highly experienced and committed team are on hand the moment you view our beautiful venue right up until you leave. We welcome bookings for wakes, birthdays, anniversaries, weddings, and other occasions.

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Origins of Hymns No 11: *While Shepherds Watched*

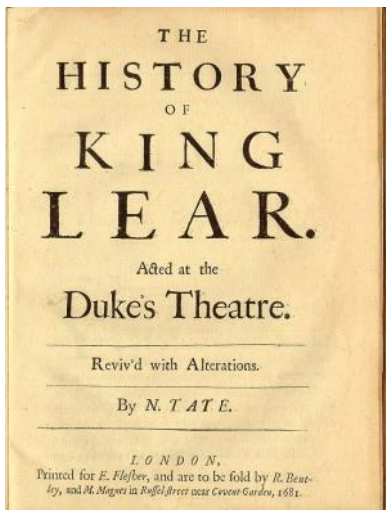
As we approach Christmas, it is appropriate I write about one of our best-known carols describing the annunciation to the shepherds, with words attributed to Nahum Tate (1652-1715), who became Poet Laureate in 1692, and Royal Historiographer in 1702.

Nahum Tate was born in Dublin in 1652, the son of Puritan clerics, his father being Faithful Teate (ie not Tate). After living in Provost's lodgings at Trinity College, Faithful moved the family to England (firstly East Greenwich) then became a preacher in Sudbury, Suffolk from 1654 to 1658.

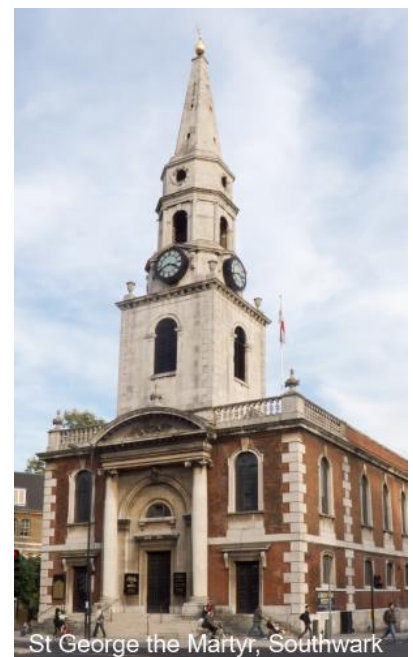
They moved back to Dublin by 1660 where Nahum attended Trinity College from 1668, graduating in 1672. Returning to London later that year he began making a living as a writer, taking the name "Tate". He published a volume of poems in 1677, and wrote regularly for the stage, including 'The Enchanted Lovers', the story of Dido and Aeneas, which was adapted for Purcell's opera of that name in about 1688. He also wrote the words for Purcell's birthday ode (for Queen Mary) 'Come Ye Sons of Art'. (including that wonderful duet for two counter tenors 'Sound the Trumpet').



Another work was a version of 'King Lear' omitting 'the Fool' and performed at the Duke's Theatre in 1681. He was closely connected with 'New Version of the Psalms of David' (published 1692), to which his licensed supplement in 1702 included hymns *While Shepherds Watched*, *As Pants the Hart*, and *Through all the Changing Scenes of Life*, all in our hymn book today. At the time of its publishing, *While Shepherds Watched* was the only Christmas hymn authorised to



be sung by the Anglican Church, others being regarded as 'too secular'. This continued for much of the 18th century. Nahum Tate was poverty stricken for much of his life and died in 1715 at the 'Mint', Southwark (a location which had become the haunt of debtors) where he had taken refuge from his creditors. He is buried in St George the Martyr, Southwark.



Almost universally the tune which has been used for our hymn was 'Winchester Old' which first appeared in 'Este's Psalter' (called 'The Whole Book of Psalms') in about 1592 as simply 'Winchester'. Christopher Tye rearranged some of the psalms, then George Kirbye, a madrigalist from East Anglia was employed by Este to arrange tunes from his psalter. This is possibly the origin of our tune. That tune as 'Winchester Old' first appeared in Hymns Ancient and Modern' in 1861, in a newer arrangement by William Henry Monk. Being of a common metre (CM), *While Shepherds* has been sung to many other well-known tunes including 'Lyngham' and 'Martyrdom'.

Becoming more popular and rather more lively is the tune 'Cranbrook' written



in 1805 in the Kent village of that name by a Canterbury shoemaker. A favourite of mine, it was well known as having been adapted by Yorkshire folk for their anthem "*On Ilkla Moor baht 'at*" (standard English: "*On Ilkley Moor without a hat*"). (I was born in sight of Ilkley Moor!). I also use 'Cranbrook' for *O for a Thousand Tongues to sing my Great Redeemer's Praise*.

Sadly, it is one of those hymns which have been the subject of parody in various versions by mischievous school children, often referring to the washing of socks, but they are not for publishing here!

I wish all my readers a Happy and Spiritual Christmas and prosperous 2026.

Brian Moate

2026 Calendar - on sale only £5
from Margaret Gamble or in the Village Hall or in Church



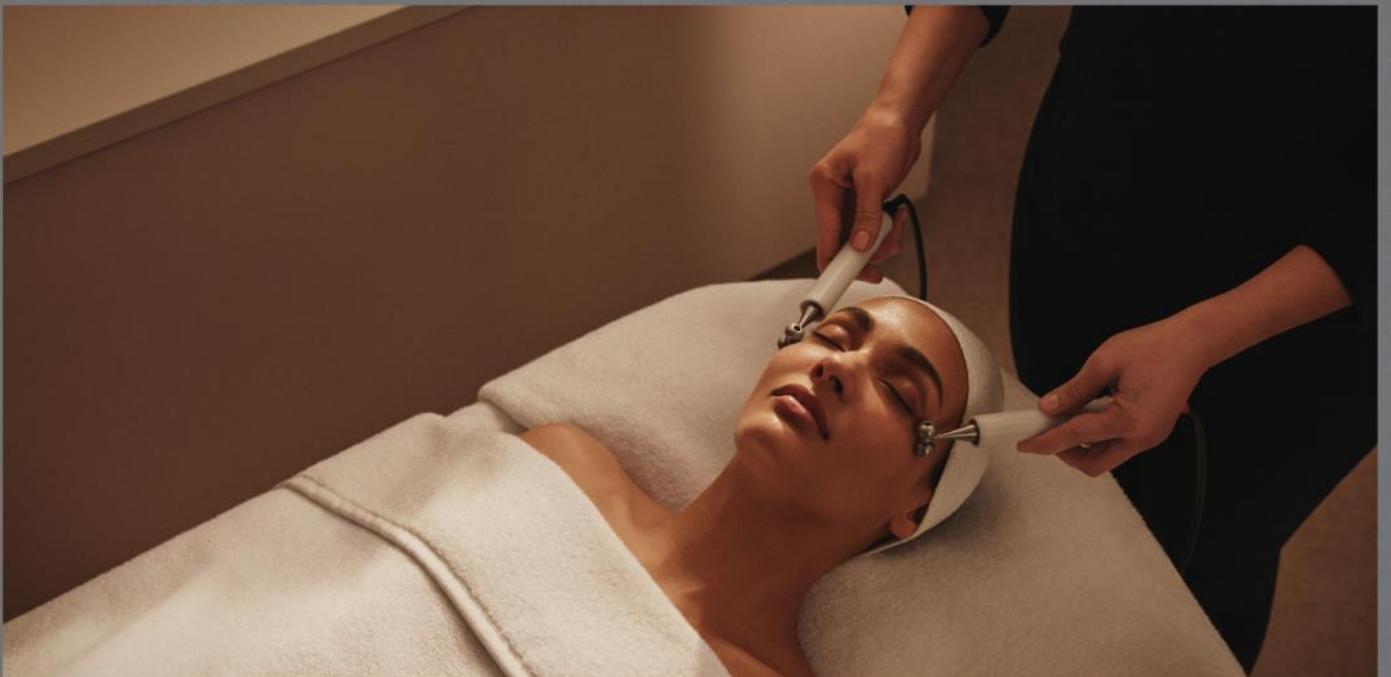
The Calendar team wish to thank all those who submitted photographs of the parish including those that were not selected for this year's calendar. It was not an easy task but the team tried to be objective in making the final selection. Please continue to take interesting photographs around the Parish ready for next year's edition.



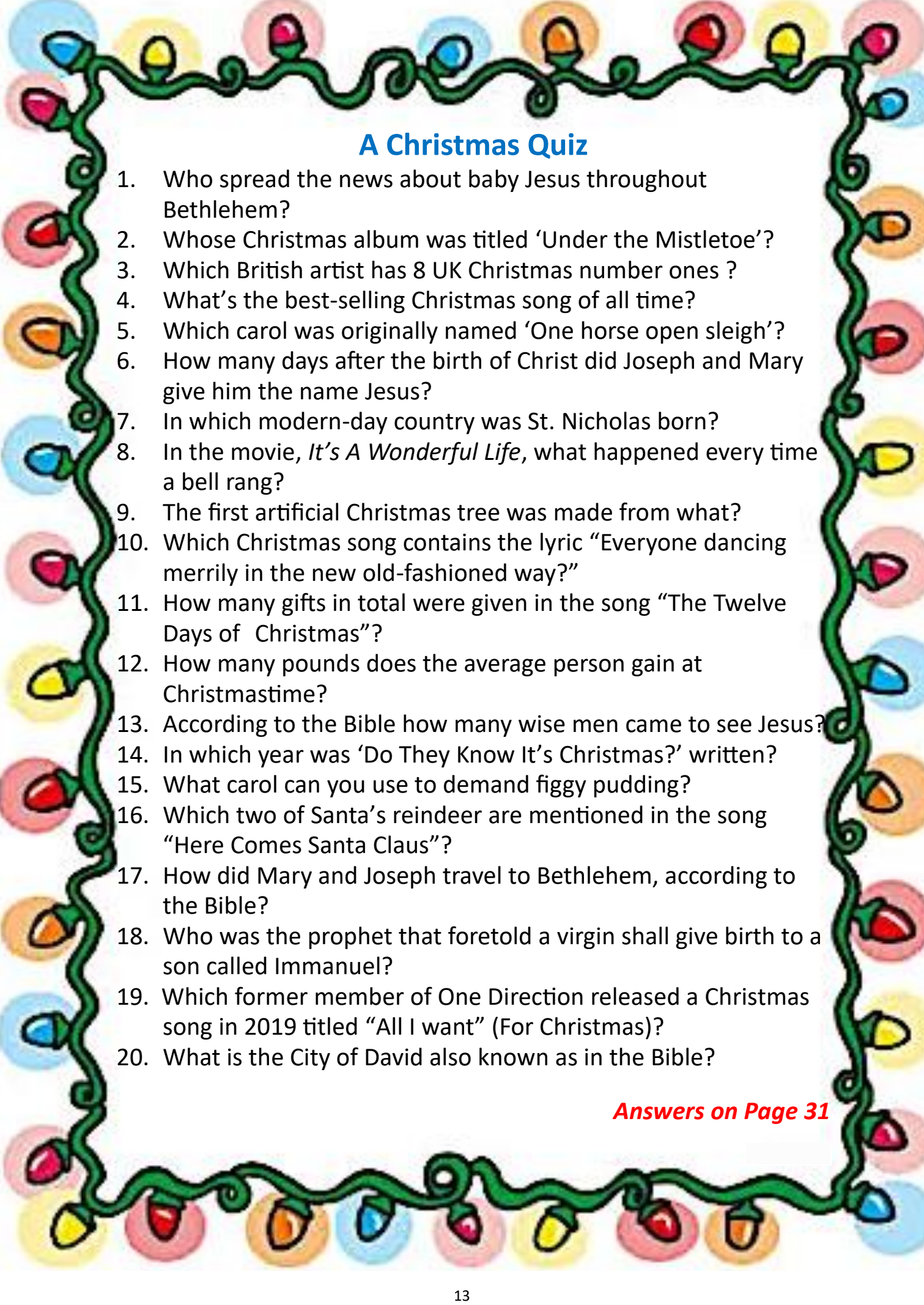
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A Christmas Quiz

1. Who spread the news about baby Jesus throughout Bethlehem?
2. Whose Christmas album was titled 'Under the Mistletoe'?
3. Which British artist has 8 UK Christmas number ones ?
4. What's the best-selling Christmas song of all time?
5. Which carol was originally named 'One horse open sleigh'?
6. How many days after the birth of Christ did Joseph and Mary give him the name Jesus?
7. In which modern-day country was St. Nicholas born?
8. In the movie, *It's A Wonderful Life*, what happened every time a bell rang?
9. The first artificial Christmas tree was made from what?
10. Which Christmas song contains the lyric "Everyone dancing merrily in the new old-fashioned way?"
11. How many gifts in total were given in the song "The Twelve Days of Christmas"?
12. How many pounds does the average person gain at Christmastime?
13. According to the Bible how many wise men came to see Jesus?
14. In which year was 'Do They Know It's Christmas?' written?
15. What carol can you use to demand figgy pudding?
16. Which two of Santa's reindeer are mentioned in the song "Here Comes Santa Claus"?
17. How did Mary and Joseph travel to Bethlehem, according to the Bible?
18. Who was the prophet that foretold a virgin shall give birth to a son called Immanuel?
19. Which former member of One Direction released a Christmas song in 2019 titled "All I want" (For Christmas)?
20. What is the City of David also known as in the Bible?

Answers on Page 31

A Lighthouse and a Priory

There is something magical about visiting Penmon on Anglesey - the view across to the mountains of Snowdonia and the Great Orme seem immense - you can see the weather in all its glory, the sea, the Menai straight and wildlife abounds. Penmon Point Lighthouse used to add a soulful bong to the area as the bell tolled every minute but sadly it



Penmon Point Lighthouse and Puffin Island

has now been silenced and replaced by a more modern fog 'horn' that only plays its tune when it's misty.

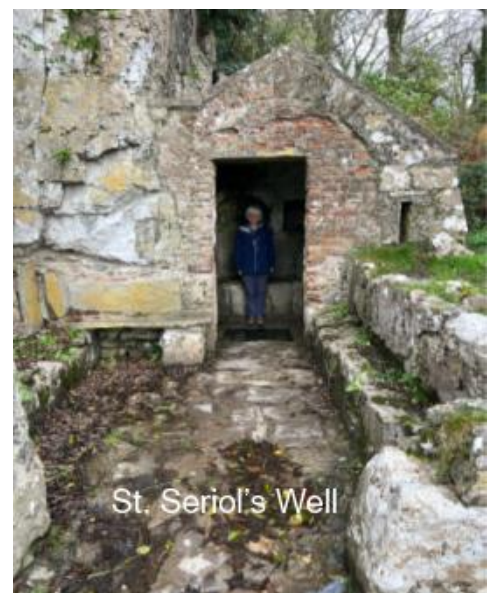
The lighthouse guards the channel between the point and Puffin Island - the currents and eddies are dangerous. In the 19th century any boats venturing into the Menai straight had to have a local pilot on board by law. The original pilot cottages at the point remain and are now a café!



Penmon Priory and the Dovecot

The point is part of the Baron Hill estate that comes with quite a history. The route to the point takes you past the deer park that formed part of the Bulkely family estate and the quarry from which the stone used to build Beaumaris Castle, Dublin's wharves, the old Menai Bridge and Penmon Priory.

The Priory dates back to the 13th century. Before that its origins lie with St Seriol who came across from Ireland in the 6th century. St Seriol's Well remains to this day still full of clear water, although there is a more recent surround. Seriol's name is also used to describe Puffin Island or Ynys Seriol where there was originally a monastic settlement.



St. Seriol's Well

The Priory remains are fascinating to walk around as is the 16th century dovecot—apparently the doves were allowed to grow to around 4 weeks and were then eaten! The inside had space for several hundred nests. The post in the centre enabled the eggs and/or the birds to be collected by the monks walking up the steps on the outside of the pillar.

The 13th century church and its later extension can also be visited. Inside are a couple of very old stone crosses - one from around 1000AD which has now been moved to inside the church to protect it from the elements.



The organ has lead pipes - very unusual these days—and the font is also lined with lead. The church is very plain today but has hints at older decoration as there are some lovely carved arches that probably formed part of the cloisters.

Visiting Anglesey is always lovely - it is quieter in the winter but nonetheless still lovely. There is always something new to see and plenty of wildlife no matter the time of year. If you get a chance to visit - with friends is even better - go for it!

Ann Slee-Jones

Verse 17

Ring out ye crystal spheres!
Once bless our human ears
(If ye have power to touch our senses so)
And let your silver chime
Move in melodious time,
And let the bass of Heav'n's deep organ blow;
And with your ninefold harmony
Make up full consort to th'angelic symphony.

Verse 22

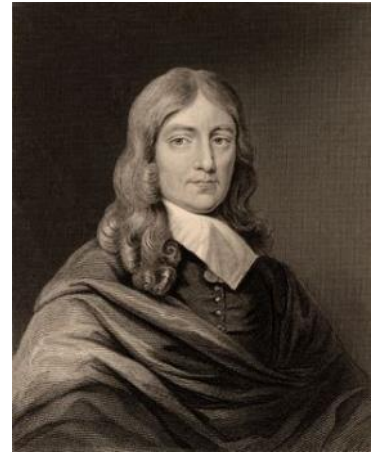
And then at last our bliss
Full and perfect is,
But now begins; for from this happy day
Th'old Dragon under ground,
In straiter limits bound,
Not half so far casts his usurpéd sway,
And, wrath to see his kingdom fail,
Swinges the scaly horror of his folded tail.

Verse 24

The lonely mountains o'er,
And the resounding shore,
A voice of weeping heard and loud lament;
From haunted spring, and dale
Edg'd with poplar pale,
The parting Genius is with sighing sent;
With flow'r-inwoven tresses torn
The Nymphs in twilight shade of tangled thickets mourn.

Verse 31

But see, the Virgin blest
Hath laid her Babe to rest:
Time is our tedious song should here have ending.
Heav'n's youngest-teeméd star,
Hath fix'd her polish'd car,
Her sleeping Lord with handmaid lamp attending;
And all about the courtly stable,
Bright-harness'd angels sit in order service-able.



John Milton 1608 - 1674



Christ surrounded by musician angels



William Blake: *The Night of Peace*

These are verses from Milton's magnificent *Christmas Ode*. The 31 verses are only a little tedious. They are an enthusiastic list of the many consequences of the birth of the Christ Child. These four are favourites of mine, not only because they demonstrate his superb poetic technique, creating memorable sights by memorable sounds, but also they introduce some of the ideas which the 21-year-old Milton would go on to develop in his later masterpieces, such as *The Masque of Comus*, *On His Blindness* and *Paradise Lost*.

In *verse 17* the idea that the stars and planets move to music was first suggested by Pythagoras in the 6th century BC. By the 16th century AD this idea of heavenly harmony had progressed to a vision of 7 planets circling the earth: Moon, Mercury, Venus, Sun, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn, each set in its own individual sphere of some fifth element - quintessence - transparent and ethereal, clear as crystal, and these spheres were nested one inside the other like Russian dolls around the solid Earth.



Petere Aplan's 1539
Cosmographia : Antwerp

Encasing the seven moving spheres with their planets was the Firmament of fixed stars, the teeming thousands which all seem to move together, and encasing that the heavens, the Empyreum. As all these nine crystalline spheres moved against each other, their bell-like sounds would join with the choirs and music of the angels, to make a full heavenly symphony orchestra.

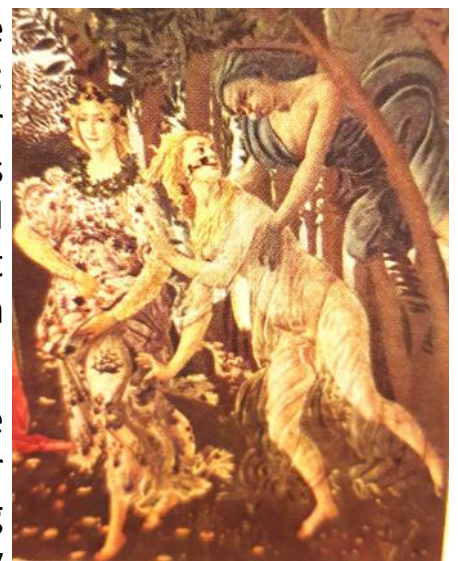


Destruction of Leviathan
Gustav Doré 1865

In *verse 22*, although our bliss is not yet perfect it begins now, for the devil ("hero" of *Paradise Lost*) has lost much of his power and is reduced to a dragon-monster like the Leviathan of Isaiah 27:1, thrashing his tail in anger.

In other verses Milton lists bloodthirsty entities like Biblical Baal and Moloch, "brutish" Egyptian gods like Anubis and Horus, Greek gods with their misleading oracles, Roman vengeful ancestral spirits like Lemures - all pagan personifications now banished by Christianity.

In *verse 24* Milton sounds rather sorry that the harmless pagan mythological creatures must go as well: there is sadness as the nymphs and satyrs, minor deities and spirits (Geniuses) of trees, streams, groves and springs, are driven out of little valleys surrounded by quivering aspens (white poplars). They later inhabit his *Masque of Comus*, where the water nymph Sabrina is a saviour. (And C. S. Lewis has them in Narnia.)



Detail of Botticelli's 15th
century *Primavera*: two
nymphs and a satyr

In *verse 31* he imagines the star of Bethlehem, the latest created heavenly body, as a lady stopping her shining chariot, and descending to hold a comforting nightlight for the baby. Although angels in Mystery plays wore harnesses to enable them to be winched up to fly, I'm sure Milton means the angels here are armoured and ready to fight. As in *On His Blindness* "They also serve who only stand (or sit) and wait".

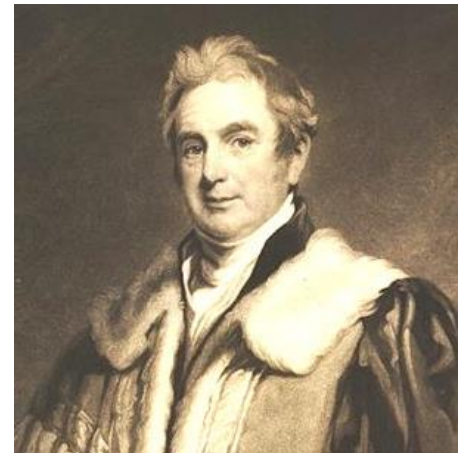
Caroline Lancelyn Green

The Red Fox



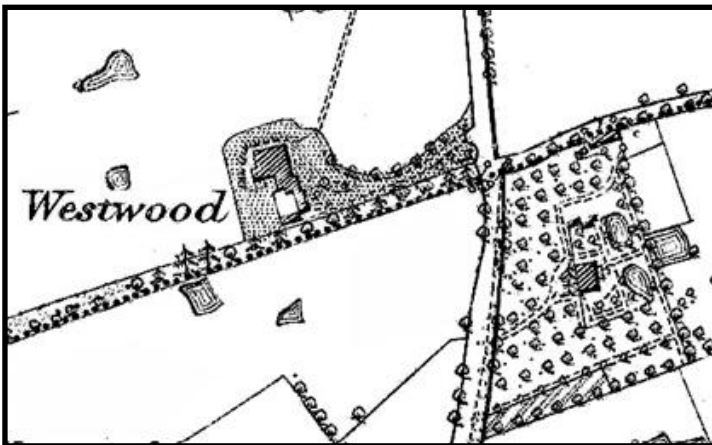
I'm sure there will be lots of people celebrating Christmas and the New Year over the next few weeks at the Red Fox – or as many of you will remember it 'The Grange', and before that 'Westwood Grange'.

Originally just called 'Westwood' it was one of the many large houses built on plots of land sold when the great Parkgate Estate owned by Baron Mostyn of Mostyn in Flint was broken up and sold in separate lots at an The original house was built in the 1860s on an area of land known as 'Mill Hey' and appears on this ordnance survey map from 1875.



Edward Pryce—Baron Mostyn

The first recorded occupant of the house is James Sawers in the 1870's. Described as a "worthy and honourable gentleman", he was a wealthy local



merchant and a prominent member of the local community. Unfortunately his business went bankrupt in March 1879 and the 7½ acre estate including the house, gardens, and conservatories was sold at auction in Liverpool to Mr Nathaniel Birtles Fogg, a railway contractor from Southport. He only

owned the property for four years before returning to live in Southport.

Ownership then passed to the Johnson-Houghton family who occupied the property for some fifty years. Originally from Crosby in Liverpool, John Johnson-Houghton trained as a farmer, and was previously living in nearby Leighton Hall with his wife and their three children. They moved to Westwood in early 1883 and three more children were born there.

John Johnson-Houghton died in March 1910 aged 60, but his widow, Margaret, continued to live at Westwood for the next twenty six years until she passed away in October 1936 aged 86. Six months later the land and farm were sold by the trustees to a Mr. and Mrs. George Anderson. The house, lodge, and grounds remained in the ownership of the Johnson-Houghton family, but the occupation of the house over the next few years is unclear.

During the 2nd World War the house is rumoured to have been requisitioned by the army, but there is no evidence for this and it's not clear what it would have been used for. By the end of the war it had been bought by William Leonard Horbury, a former cotton-broker, toy manufacturer and a mobile chipshop operator! Apparently he used the place as a family residence, offices, and a depot for his 'catering establishments' – two converted army wagons, painted green and fitted with coal-fired fish and chip fryers, which he used to park on the driveway when he wasn't touring local Wirral villages selling his wares.

In May 1949 the 2nd Viscount Leverhulme, William Hulme Lever, died. His son Philip inherited the title, became the 3rd Lord Leverhulme and moved into the family home at Thornton Manor. The dowager 'Viscountess, 'Freda' Leverhulme, William Hulme Lever's second wife, was then faced with finding a new home, and she purchased Westwood Grange from William Leonard Horbury for the sum of £8,000. She took possession of the property in April 1950, at which time it was described as *"dark, dreary and full of mid--Victorian touches"*.



Freda, Viscountess Leverhulme

Hampered by post-war material shortages, extensive work was carried on the house over the next few months but by September 1950 Freda was living at Westwood Grange. By the time she moved in, the house was described as presenting a *"light, airy, and tasteful atmosphere without any way detracting from its real character."*



Westwood Grange in the 1960'ss

At this time the property comprised the house, gardens, paddock and entrance lodge which stood alongside the original driveway. Freda, Viscountess Leverhulme, died in February 1966. The property was divided into two lots and sold by auction at The Blossoms Hotel Chester in July that year.

Lot 1, comprising the house, gardens, and paddock. was bought by Elizabeth Joan Evans who ran the Wirral 100 Club in Heswall which she then transferred to Westwood Grange.

Lot 2 was the old entrance lodge and was sold separately.

Liz Evans had the new entrance and driveway constructed, and a swimming pool dug behind the house, which was apparently very popular with the local community. In 1975 she sold part of the land to what is now known as Westwood Stables, but kept the house and paddock.

In April 1973 Westwood Grange and the remaining land was sold to three North Sea divers. One of them, Derek Lilley, later the co-founder of the Est Est Est restaurant group, ran it as a night club.

In 1987 the Barnes family, who formerly owned the Devon Doorway in nearby Heswall, bought the property and turned it into a restaurant, building the Westwood function suite in 1991, the 'Skybar' extension in 2000 and adding the front porch in 2005.



The Grange

'The Grange' was well known locally, and was a very popular wedding venue, though it's fair to say the basement nightclub had a bit of a reputation for its sticky carpets and general shenanigans.

In 2014, Brunning and Price added the property to their growing portfolio, renamed it 'The Red Fox', and over the next six months carried out extensive

alterations to create this attractive and popular addition to their restaurant chain. Internal walls were removed, the entrance remodeled, and the old nightclub converted into state-of-the-art kitchens.

It continues to flourish, with the opening of The Little Fox and the Outfoxed Bar and Pizza Kitchen, and will be the venue for a whole host of special events over the coming festive period.



Gavin Hunter

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Christmas Word Search



How many of the words printed below can you find in this Word search?

Angel	Baby	Candles
Carols	Festive	Decorations
Holly	Gold	Frankincense
Jesus	Joseph	Judea
Magi	Manger	Mary
Myrrh	Nativity	Nowell
Presents	Shepherds	Stable
Tree		

Solution on page 29



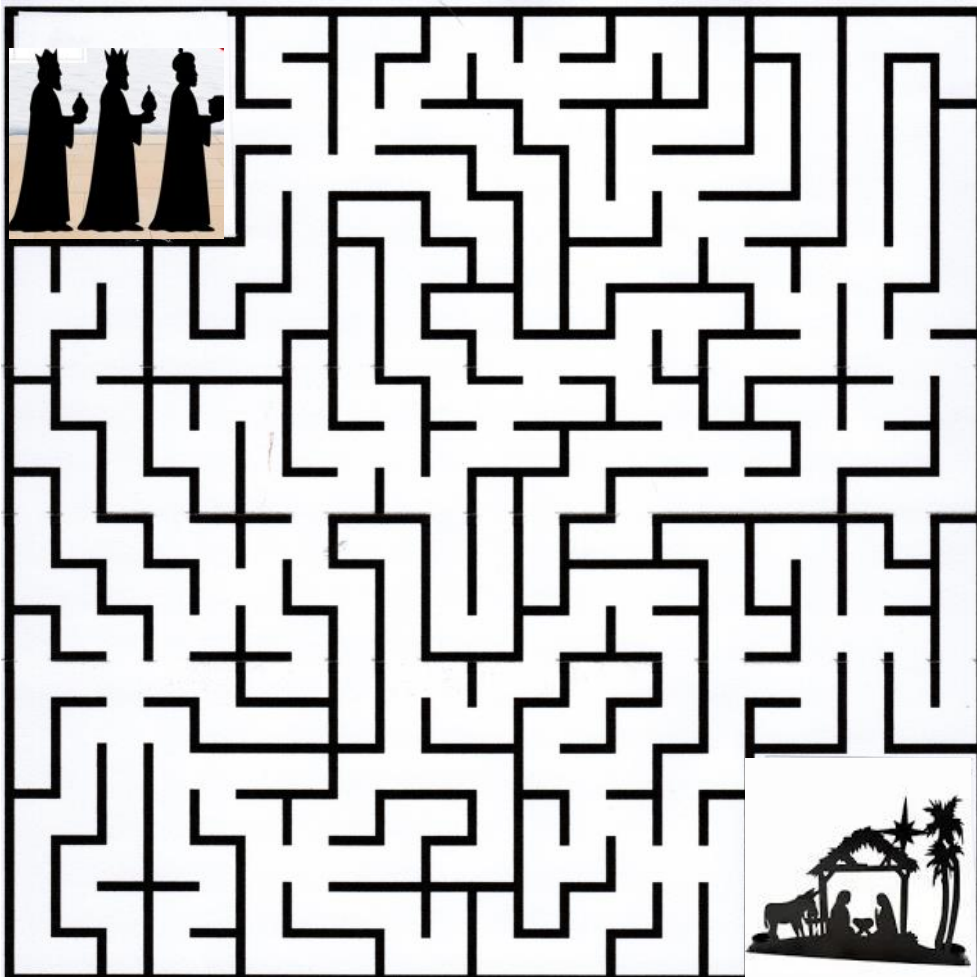
						9		
2		9				5	7	
6			4					
9					2	6		
		7		8			9	
5							8	
		5			3		2	
				7				
		8	1	4	6			

Sudoku

Fill in all the squares with the numbers 1- 9 using them only once, horizontally, vertically and in each block of 9 small squares.

Maze

Can you help the three Wise Men find their way to Bethlehem?



Our speaker, Nick Birchall from The Cheese Shop, Nantwich, took us on a tasting session with his speciality cheeses. He had chosen three from one of his suppliers and explained the different methods and gave us a taste of each in turn so that we could appreciate them and was happy to answer any questions afterwards. Needless to say we had some wine available to anyone wishing to cleanse their palate between tasting! A very sociable and enjoyable evening.

Our very talented ladies knitted poppies and decorated the gate at the WI Hall for Remembrance Sunday. They looked fabulous and brought a splash of colour to a very important if sombre date in the year, remembering all those who fought and died in two World Wars to protect the freedoms we continue to enjoy today.

It's a privilege to host the Thornton Hough Community Trust annual Christmas lights switch on again, at the WI Hall on Friday 28 November. Look forward to seeing you all there.

If this Newsletter reaches you in time, we have a Second hand book sale at the WI Hall on Saturday and Sunday 29 and 30 November from 10.30am to 3.00pm. This two day event will have a wide selection of books for sale, all at a bargain £1 each. Find that elusive Christmas gift or take a seat and enjoy choosing your favourite read with a cup of tea/coffee and a biscuit for only £3.00 per person. All welcome.

We are looking forward to starting the festive season with a visit to John Lewis Liverpool, for an evening of talks and masterclasses on Home Design, party wear and makeup tips for Christmas.

A trip to Tatton Hall Park to see the mansion house decorated for Christmas and a Christmas Afternoon Tea at Thornton Hall Hotel, are just a few opportunities to celebrate the festive season in the company of our friendly and inclusive ladies.

We would like to wish every one of you a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year, with best wishes from Thornton Hough WI.

See you in 2026!

If you would like more information about Thornton Hough WI and to see photographs of our activities and events please go to:

www.facebook.com/ThorntonHoughWI1926

email: thwi.thorntonhough@btinternet.com

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COOKERY CORNER

BEEF MEATBALL CASSEROLE

1lb meatballs, 1 large onion
2 carrots, 2 sticks of celery
½ pint beef stock

1 or 2 sliced potatoes or pasta if preferred.

1 tablespoon flour, salt and pepper

Fry the meatballs in cooking oil to brown and seal them.

Put into a casserole dish.

Fry the sliced onion to soften. Stir in the flour and seasoning and cook for 2 minutes before adding the stock. Bring to the boil stirring all the time.

Add the other vegetables, potatoes or pasta.

Put this mixture over the meatballs.

Cover and bake for an hour at 350°F, 175°C .



POLISH APPLE CAKE

Peel and chop 3 or 4 apples.

Add 1 cup of sugar and squeeze/rub together with the apples.

Add 1 cup of self raising flour and 1 teaspoon of bicarbonate of soda and 1 teaspoon of baking powder. Mix in some dried fruit and 2 eggs.

Put into a square tin and bake at 320°F, gas mark 3, 160°C for 30 minutes.

Serve as cake squares or as a pudding.

Autumn Fair

On Saturday 15th November we held a very successful Autumn Fair with stalls and competitions and a warming cup of tea or coffee and of course biscuits. Thanks to the generosity of local businesses we had a raffle full of interesting and worthwhile prizes. The marvellous sum of £880 was raised for the work of the church.

Our thanks go to these generous local businesses:

Brimstage Brewery

Linghams Bookshop

Sue Huntington

MASUIT

The Harry Beswick

Inglewood Manor

"Self" Wellness

B&Q

Hallmark Jewellers

Thornton Hall Hotel

The photographs on the next page display the various stalls and the goods available with the stall holders and some of the visitors already in attendance.



The Autumn Fair



TOYBOX

All Saints' Church,
Thornton Hough

Monday 8th December 2025

Monday 12th January 2026

Monday 9th February 2026

Monday 9th March 2026

Monday 13th April 2026

Monday 11th May 2026



Monday 8th June 2026

Monday 13th July 2026

£2 per family

Toybox meets in the Parish Hall from 10am to 11:30am

Free play, craft, story, songs and refreshments
Babies and toddlers with their carers (mums, dads, grandparents etc)
All welcome.

All Saints' Church Thornton Hough

Coffee Mornings

2026
28th January
25th February
25th March
22nd April
27th May
24th June
22nd July

Wednesday at 10.30am
in the Parish Hall

Refreshments

Conversation with friends

Raffle

Entry 50p

Everybody welcome

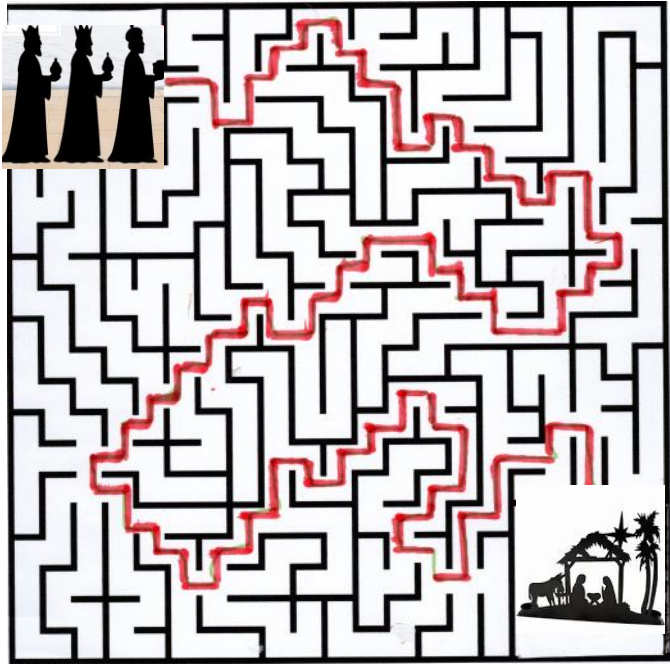


Solutions to the puzzles

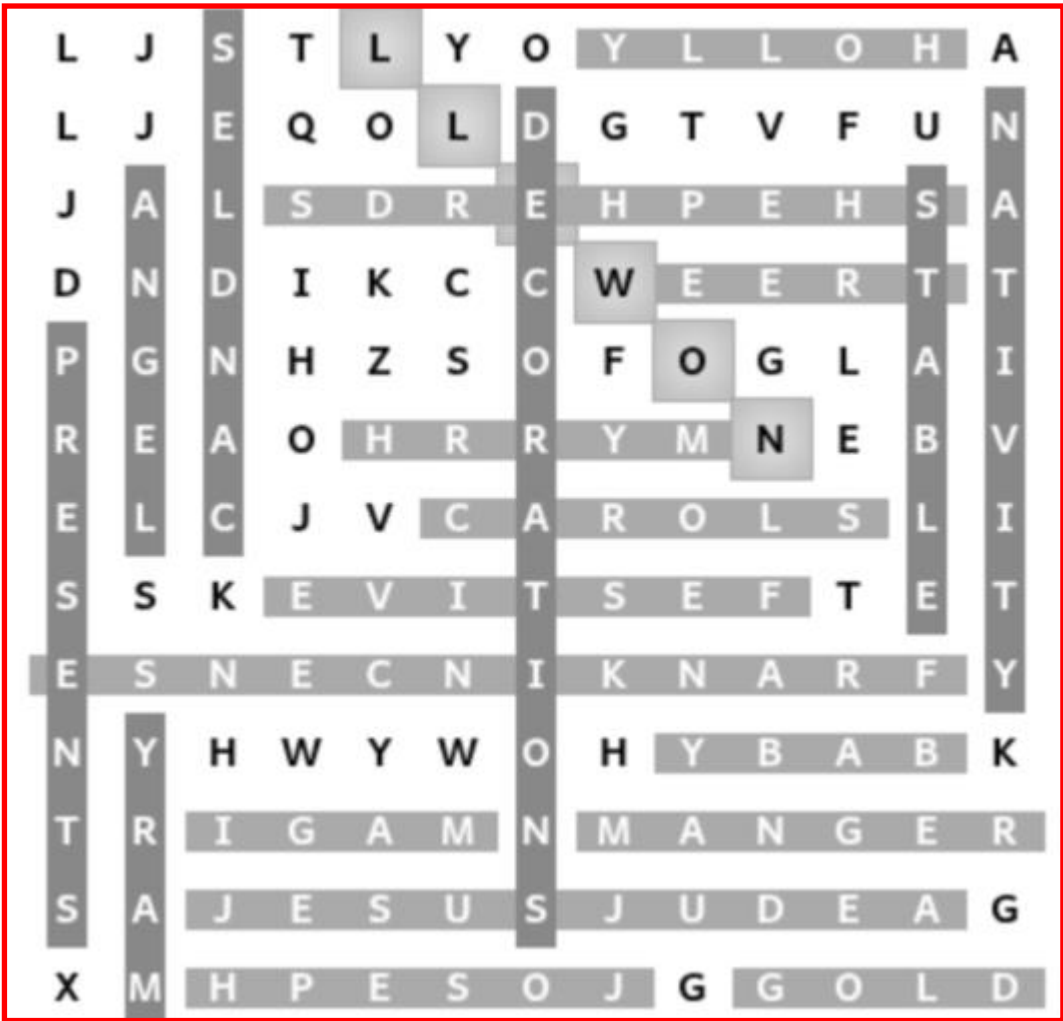
Sudoku

8	5	3	7	2	1	9	6	4
2	4	9	3	6	8	5	7	1
6	7	1	4	5	9	8	3	2
9	8	4	5	3	2	6	1	7
1	3	7	6	8	4	2	9	5
5	6	2	9	1	7	4	8	3
4	1	5	8	9	3	7	2	6
3	9	6	2	7	5	1	4	8
7	2	8	1	4	6	3	5	9

Did you find the route through the Maze?



Christmas word search





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Christmas Quiz Answers

1. Who spread the news about baby Jesus throughout Bethlehem? *The shepherds*
2. Who's Christmas album was titled 'Under the Mistletoe'? *Justin Bieber*
3. Which British artist has 8 UK Christmas number ones? *Paul McCartney*
4. What's the best-selling Christmas song of all time? *White Christmas*
5. Which carol was originally named 'One horse open sleigh'? *Jingle Bells*
6. How many days after the birth of Christ did Joseph and Mary give him the name Jesus? *8*
7. In which modern-day country was St. Nicholas born? *Turkey*
8. In the movie, *It's A Wonderful Life*, what happened every time a bell rang?
An angel got his wings
9. The first artificial Christmas tree was made from what? *Goose feathers*
10. Which Christmas song contains the lyric "Everyone dancing merrily in the new old-fashioned way?"
"Rocking Around The Christmas Tree"
11. How many gifts in total were given in the song "The Twelve Days of Christmas"? *364*
12. How many pounds does the average person gain at Christmastime? *One to two pounds*
13. According to the Bible how many wise men came to see Jesus? *It doesn't say*
14. In what year was 'Do They Know It's Christmas?' written? *1984*
15. What carol can you use to demand figgy pudding? *We wish you a Merry Christmas*
16. Which two of Santa's reindeer are mentioned in the song "Here Comes Santa Claus"?
Vixen and Blitzen
17. How did Mary and Joseph travel to Bethlehem, according to the Bible? *It doesn't say.*
18. Who was the prophet that foretold a virgin shall give birth to a son called Immanuel?
Prophet Isaiah.
19. Which former member of One Direction released a Christmas song in 2019 titled
"All I want" (For Christmas)? *Liam Payne*
20. What is the City of David also known as in the Bible? *Bethlehem*

Morning Prayer at All Saints'

Why not join Vicky for a Morning Prayer service in church on

Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays
at 9.15am.

It is a very peaceful way of starting the day.

From the Registers

Weddings

6th October: Nicholas Oliver VIZOR and Isabella Rosie MABBS

11th October: John VICKERS and Jenny KOLVIK

Burials of Ashes

	Died	Age	Burial of Ashes
Nita MIDDLEFELL	23 February 2025	87	12 October 2025
Ethel BRIDGEMAN	25 September 2025	94	26 October 2025
Maria BLAND	27 September 2022	90	} ashes buried together
Peter BLAND	12 October 2024	94	} 8 November 2025
Jennifer Baldwyn NEEDHAM	9 August 2025	83	15 November 2025



Remembrance Sunday 2025



2026 Magazine

We hope you are enjoying the Magazine. We have enjoyed composing them and are delighted to bring you some of the stories provided by members of the congregation and magazine readers. Please continue to support us.

If you would like to contribute towards the cost of producing the 2026 magazine, please place your contribution in the envelope provided with this magazine and return it to your distributor. Thank you.

Thank you to all those who have contributed to this edition of *The Magazine*. Contributions for future editions of *The Magazine* are very welcome. Articles may be submitted in any reasonable format and should not be subject to any copyright restrictions.

**The deadline for submission of materials for the next edition is
Thursday 15th January 2026**



Bible Readings

December—January

November

30

Advent Sunday

Romans 13:11-14

Matthew 24:36-44

December

7

Second Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 11:1-10

Matthew 3:1-12

14

Third Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 35:1-10

Matthew 11:2-11

21

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 7:10-16

Matthew 1:18-25

24

Christmas Eve

Isaiah 9:2-7

Luke 2:1-14

25

Christmas Day

Isaiah 52: 7-10

John 1:1-14

28

Holy Innocents

Jeremiah 31:15-17

Matthew 2:13-18

January

4

Epiphany

Isaiah 60:1-6

Matthew 2:1-12

11

Baptism of Christ

Isaiah 42:1-9

Matthew 3:13-17

18

Second Sunday of Epiphany

Isaiah 49:1-7

John 1:29-42

25

Conversion of Paul

Acts 9:1-22

Matthew 19:27-30

February

1

Presentation of Christ

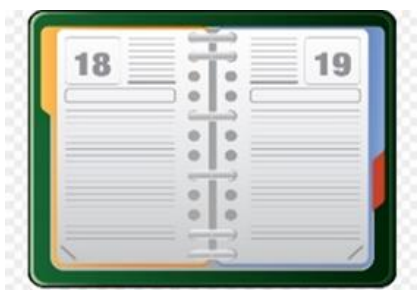
Malachi 3:1-5

Luke 2:22-40

A verse from the Bible

“Be still and know that I am God” *Psalm 46 : v10*

Do you have a favourite verse in the Bible? Please send it to us so we can include it in one of the forthcoming editions.



Parish Diary

December 2025—January 2026

November

28 Friday 7:00pm Choir Practice

30 Sunday **Advent Sunday**

10:30am Service of readings and music for Advent

December

3 Wednesday 10:30am Holy Communion

5 Friday 7:00pm Choir Practice

7 Sunday **Second Sunday of Advent**

8:00am Holy Communion

10:30am Holy Communion

4:00pm Christingle Service

8 Monday 10:00am Toybox

10 Wednesday 10:30am Holy Communion

2:30pm Merry Christmas! Mince Pies and Carols

12 Friday 7:00pm Choir Practice

14 Sunday **Third Sunday of Advent**

10:30am Holy Communion

17 Wednesday 10:30am Holy Communion

19 Friday 7:00pm Choir Practice

21 Sunday **Fourth Sunday of Advent**

8:00am Holy Communion

10:30am Holy Communion

4:15pm Choir Practice

6:00pm Service of readings and music for Christmas
(Carol Service)

24 Wednesday **Christmas Eve**

11:00pm "Midnight" Holy Communion

25 Thursday **Christmas Day**

10:30am Family Holy Communion for Christmas Day

28 Sunday **Holy Innocents / First Sunday of Christmas**

10:30am Holy Communion

January 2026

2	Friday	7:00pm	Choir Practice
4	Sunday	Epiphany	
		8:00am	Holy Communion
		10:30am	Holy Communion
7	Wednesday	10:30am	Holy Communion
9	Friday	7:00pm	Choir Practice
11	Sunday	Baptism of Christ / First Sunday of Epiphany	
		10:30am	Holy Communion
		6:30pm	Choral Evensong
12	Monday	10:00am	Toybox
13	Tuesday	7:30pm	PCC Meeting
14	Wednesday	10:30am	Holy Communion
15	Thursday	Deadline for material for the Magazine (February / March)	
16	Friday	7:00pm	Choir Practice
18	Sunday	Second Sunday of Epiphany	
		8:00am	Holy Communion
		10:30am	Holy Communion
			Start of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
21	Wednesday	10:30am	Holy Communion
23	Friday	7:00pm	Choir Practice
25	Sunday	Conversion of Paul / Third Sunday of Epiphany	
		10:30am	Holy Communion
			End of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
28	Wednesday	10:30am	Coffee Morning
30	Friday	7:00pm	Choir Practice

February

1	Sunday	Presentation of Christ in the Temple	
		8:00am	Holy Communion
		10:30am	Holy Communion
4	Wednesday	10:30am	Holy Communion
6	Friday	7:00pm	Choir Practice
8	Sunday	Second Sunday before Lent	
		10:30am	Holy Communion
		6:30pm	Choral Evensong

Who's who at All Saints

Vicar	Revd Vicky Barrett	336 2766 vicar@allsaintsth.org.uk <i>The Vicar's normal day off is Friday.</i>
Churchwardens	June Allcock	353 1079 june@allsaintsth.org.uk
	Patsy Baker	336 3273 patsy@allsaintsth.org.uk
Safeguarding Officer	Linda Arch	safeguarding@allsaintsth.org.uk
Verger	Margaret Gamble	336 7540
PCC Secretary	Sue Stinson	342 4800 sue@allsaintsth.org.uk
PCC Treasurer	Iain Stinson	342 4800 iain@stinson.org.uk
Planned Giving Secretary	Brian Morris	336 1393 brimorris@sky.com
PCC Electoral Roll Office	Tom Mairs	
Health & Safety Officer	June Allcock	353 1079 june@allsaintsth.org.uk
Parish Hall Caretaker and Bookings	Margaret Gamble	336 7540
Director of Music	Iain Stinson	342 4800 iain@stinson.org.uk
Toybox Coordinator	Sue Stinson	342 4800 sue@allsaintsth.org.uk
Magazine Contributions		editor@allsaintsth.org.uk
All Saints Church Website		allsaintsth.org.uk
Data Privacy Statement and Safeguarding Policy		allsaintsth.org.uk/about-us/ <i>and via the footer of each web page</i>



www.allsaintsth.org.uk

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