



All Saints Church Thornton Hough



The Magazine



December 2021 & January 2022



Welcome letter from the Vicar

Gifted!

“And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory.” (John 1:14)

It will be good to enjoy Christmas together without such tight restrictions this year. I am sure that many of you will be looking forward to seeing family and friends and gathering together, even if those gatherings may still be somewhat cautious and measured. Sharing the gift of time together, and sharing food and gifts, are going to be particularly precious this year. After last year's Christmas in lockdown, preparations for this year appear to be starting very early.

Preparations for Christmas can leave you in a mixture of emotions: wild excitement, the nagging thoughts about what you may have forgotten to do, or about finding yourself double-booked between much-anticipated engagements, the dread of joining the snaking supermarket queues or of getting a booking slot for online deliveries, tempers fraying. There is often the sense that you are being catapulted towards The Big Day at such pace that when 25th December finally comes you are exhausted – and then it's all over for another year. Time to pack the decorations away and get ready for the January sales and returning those gifts which didn't quite hit the mark.

It's easy to get swept along in all the busy-ness of the season. I hope that you will find time to draw aside and come to some of the services at All Saints' this year, and that you will find the deep well of peace and joy in singing hymns and carols and hearing the readings from the Bible which tell us that God's promise of love and reconciliation for the world has come in human form: Jesus Christ.

This edition of The Magazine covers both December and January – so why focus on Christmas, you may ask. Because we don't simply pack away Christmas at the end of 25th December. The Christmas season in the church year takes us right the way through to the start of February.

But the gift of Christ to us doesn't end there. We remember with joy this loving gift of God in human form which continues to give us peace and hope throughout the year and whatever our circumstances.

God bless you richly,

Vicky



The Vicar's new assistant!

Notes on the PCC meetings held on 12th October and 9th November

In the October meeting the churchwardens reported that they had been **successful in recruiting sidespeople** to welcome people to the church services and ensure the smooth running of the services. An afternoon training session was held on 23rd October when afternoon tea (including Margaret Gamble's roulade) was served. The PCC expressed their thanks to the churchwardens for organising this and to all the volunteers.

The PCC were updated on the wall repair in both meetings. A further quote to repair it, which met the specifications of the architect, had been received from a local firm. Discussions with the architect confirmed that he was content that the contractor had the required experience. The previous quotes had expired but the PCC was keen to ensure that the proper procedure was followed. Vicky agreed to speak to the architect. It is hoped that we can take this forward as soon as possible.

In the October meeting we discussed 'Clergy wellbeing'; this was in response to a Diocesan request. There was a useful conversation amongst the PCC members and with Vicky. The PCC are very grateful for all that Vicky does and were pleased when Vicky said that it was lovely to be here and she appreciated the support she had.

In October we discussed the timing of the **special services and events up to Christmas**, the Advent Carol Service, the Christingle Service and the Carol Service. In addition a new venture *Coffee and Carols* would be held on the first Saturday in December, and on 21st December an outside group is using the church as a venue for a candlelit concert.

The Christmas card. It was agreed to continue to send out a Christmas card to all in the Parish, with details of the Christmas services.

In October it was reported that the boilers had failed again but a generous donation has been received and we have been able to get them working again.

The General Fund was in deficit by £4,322 on 1st November; this was lower than had been estimated when the budget was set. The open plate figure had included a substantial figure given at a funeral for which we are very grateful. We are also grateful for a gift of £2,000 from the Leverhulme Trust. Rental income from the Parish Hall, receipts from PCC fees (for weddings and funerals) and calendar money starting to come in have all helped. It was good to see the calendars selling well and being popular; Brian Morris and others involved in its production were thanked.

Fabric. Slipped tiles on the church roof have been replaced and the gutters will be cleared once the leaves have fallen. Brian Morris was thanked for scraping off the moss and painting the steps up to the church from Raby Road and Church Road. Locks have been repaired and replaced, fire extinguishers have been inspected. We are now looking for someone to re-varnish the front door of the church.

Thanks are due to Scirard Lancelyn Green for his ongoing work on the lights inside and outside.

St George's Church. In October it was reported that a letter had been received from the Mersey Province Trust about 'the building of the former Thornton Hough United Reformed Church'. This explained their position. As charity trustees, they have to secure the best terms for the disposal of St George's. They would like to develop some kind of community use. John Oldershaw is leading this and a meeting will be held in January. Vicky asked members of the PCC to share this with others. Any ideas should be conveyed back to Mr Neil Mackenzie or John Oldershaw.

Charitable donations. The PCC decided that this year the charitable donations from the church, allowed for in the budget, would go to:

Claire House, the local children's hospice.

Ferries Families Group. This local charity supports families in crisis, provides peer support, helps to strengthen families etc.

Mary's Meals: this charity provides life-changing meals to some of the world's poorest children every day they attend school. They use local resources and monitor the provision to ensure that the food gets to the children.

The Barnabas Fund. They work to provide hope and aid for the persecuted church, from Christians, to Christians, through Christians. They support Christians in Afghanistan.

The Simeon's Trustees, our patron which provides support to parishes and clergy.

Each charity will receive a donation of £200.

During the November meeting Peter Arch resigned from the PCC. Peter was thanked for all the work he has done whilst a member of the PCC and the Fabric Committee.

Bishops' visit. Finally the PCC welcomed the news that Bishop Mark and Bishop Julie are touring the deaneries. They will be visiting All Saints' on 30th November. There will be a meeting of the Deanery Chapter, a service of Holy Communion at noon, then lunch in the Parish Hall which the churchwardens and the Vicar will attend. After that they will tour the parish. Vicky has arranged for them to say 'hello' to the Headteacher and the pupils of the primary school.

Special Christmas services and events



Friday 26th November at 7.00pm: Thornton Hough Village Christmas Lights.

An evening of carols and mulled wine with mince pies is planned by the Community Trust for the “official” lighting up of the village. The Port Sunlight Lyceum Brass Band will play carols and people are invited to sing along.

Sunday 28th November, 10:30am: Service of readings and music for Advent

Saturday 4th December: Coffee and Carols (in the Parish Hall)

There will be two sessions of Coffee and Carols, one at 10:00am and the second at 11:15am. There will be programme of “entertainment” for the Christmas season including a seasonal quiz, a raffle and a chance to sing some Christmas songs and carols. The number of attendees at each session is limited to 42 people to ensure that social distancing can be maintained. *Please ensure you buy tickets for the session you wish to attend.* Tickets cost £3 per person and £1 for young people aged 16 years or under; this includes a coffee or other drink and a mince pie.

Sunday 12th December, 4:00pm: Christingle Service

Sunday 19th December: Service of Lessons and Carols for Christmas

The service will take place at 3:00pm and be repeated at 5:30pm.

Booking for these services is required. You can book on the church website or by requesting a place on the list at the back of church. We shall let you know the time of the service for which you have been allocated places.

Tuesday 21st December 7:30pm: Wirral Chamber Music Festival Concert in All Saints' Church: “The Four Seasons”. Tickets £15. Book online <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/wirralchambermusicfestival/599545> or contact Iain Stinson.

Friday 24th December, 11:00pm: “Midnight” Holy Communion

Saturday 25th December, 10:30am: Holy Communion for Christmas Day



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ACF

A church fellowship for anyone from anywhere

For our two latest meetings in October and November we have been on interesting but very different journeys.

At our meeting on October 13th Dr. Elly Macbeath took us on a guided tour through Russia and Siberia travelling on the Golden Eagle Trans-Siberian Express train from Moscow to Vladivostok; a distance of 5772 miles and passing through 10 time zones.

This was followed on 10th November when Iain Stinson took us on a journey of Christmas music of very different styles through the ages starting at the earliest church music and finishing with modern music such as Band Aid's "Do they know it's Christmas". Listening to a variety of styles of Christmas music we saw how the influence of the Victorians led to many of our favourite Christmas carols. Iain has very kindly written a short piece about his talk in this edition of *The Magazine* following on from the October write up.

Elly set the scene explaining her love of Russia and the Russian Imperial Romanov family after reading a book again and again about Nicholas and Alexandra who had a son Alexei who had the inherited disorder haemophilia.

Elly has been lucky enough to visit Russia 3 times:

1998 River Cruise from Moscow to St Petersburg

2017 Baltic Cruise

2019 Trans-Siberian train journey on the Golden Eagle Express. This was a 16-day journey which Elly took in August 2019; she showed us wonderful photographs and gave interesting descriptions of the trip as follows:



Moscow with visits to the Kremlin, Red Square, St Basil's Cathedral with its onion shaped domes, the GUM Department store complex and the Moscow Metro which showcases Socialist art. It was then time to board the train at the Moscow Kazanski Station.

Kazan is situated on the River Volga and is the capital of Tatarstan. The highlight of this part of the trip was a visit to the stunning Kul Sharif Mosque located in the Kazan Kremlin.

Yekaterinburg is the capital of the Urals and these mountains create a natural border between Europe and Asia. The city tour visits the site where Tsar Nicholas II and his family were executed by the Bolsheviks in July 1918.

Novosibirsk is situated on the River Ob and Elly was able to visit the Mineralogical Centre to see a display of beautiful Siberian minerals.

After a day on board the train learning some Russian and enjoying refreshments the next place Elly visited was **Irkutsk** which is the capital of Eastern Siberia and visits to the Prince Volkonsky museum took place and the travellers could try their hand at some Russian cookery.

Lake Baikal is very beautiful; it is the deepest lake in the world and holds 20% of the world's freshwater. Following a 5-hour trip along the lake a boat trip on the lake to the village of Listryanka followed, where visitors were shown beautiful patchwork quilts. Elly was also introduced to the local mosquitoes!

Ulan Ude is in Eastern Siberia in the Buryat Republic. A visit to a traditional village proved very interesting and Elly was able to see inside a yurt and tasted yak milk.

Ulan Baatar is in Mongolia and a visit was made to the Gandan Monastery an important Buddhist Monastery that houses up to 500 monks. A visit to a cashmere factory followed!

The travellers then returned to Russia and enjoyed time on the train eating, drinking and learning Russian and finally arrived at **Vladivostok** which is on the western shore of the Sea of Japan and is home to the Russian Navy's Pacific Fleet. This was the end of the trip and time to fly home.

A lively discussion followed and Elly showed us certificates she had received for her Russian cookery and language proficiency. She ended the talk by saying "Thank you and goodbye" in Russian!



ACF Wednesday 10th November:

Nowell sing we... a quick dash through some Christmas music

Our talk began by listening to a sequence of contrasting pieces of Christmas music; this helped us appreciate that there were very many different styles of music for Christmas. We briefly considered some of the earliest church Christmas music – this was plainsong, sung in Latin and sung by the monks, nuns and priests not by the people who were allowed to listen to it.

In the northern hemisphere, the season of Christmas often coincided with winter/mid-winter festivals: these had their own traditional music and dance pieces which were in the vernacular and sung by everyone. Over time, some of these songs began to include Christmas (Christian) words, though not always with the approval of "the Church". This coming together of Christian Christmas themes and local folk tradition was accelerated when in the thirteenth century the Franciscans introduced "nativity scenes" (not in the church) and the local folk music, with Christian words, became an aid to preaching the Christmas story. The music associated with the medieval mystery plays often used local folk songs with Christian words to illustrate the story.

We heard some examples of these “carols” (“Tomorrow shall be my dancing day”, “Gaudete”) which are now included in the Christmas repertoire. We heard how, in the late 18th and 19th century, some of these medieval words “cleaned up” were (made more appropriate) for use in church and set to folk tunes or indeed new tunes composed for them. This morphing of folk carols into items acceptable to be used in church is a great part of the evolution of our Christmas music.

We noted that “While shepherds watched” was the only Christmas item included in a book of music which could be used in church (published in 1696). This book did not include music and the songs it included were often sung to different tunes in different localities. There are many different tunes used for “While shepherds watched” and to some extent this is still the case today. We listened to some of these. It was a bit of a surprise to learn that the tune Cranbrook (probably written in the area around the village of Cranbrook in Kent) was quite widely used in Yorkshire for this carol. Perhaps more surprising was that some 50 years after Cranbrook was written, a choir from Leeds, on a day trip out, used this tune for a new set of words, “On Ilkley Moor baht’at”.

We also heard how some of the tunes noted down by folk song collectors at the beginning of the twentieth century had been used as the tunes for carols and hymns we associated with Christmas. For example “O little town of Bethlehem”, written by an American bishop, is traditionally sung in England to the tune of “The Ploughboy’s Dream”, heard and noted by Ralph Vaughan Williams from a Mr Garman of Forest Green, Surrey,

We listened to a variety of Christmas music, including music by John Rutter, Band Aid, G.F Handel, Benjamin Britten, William Matthias, Leroy Anderson and Irving Berlin.

Forthcoming ACF events

Fellowship meetings at 2.15pm in Parish Hall

Wednesday 8th December 2021

Christmas Carols and Party

Wednesday 12th January 2022

Business Meeting followed by “Tales in Israel” with Margaret Crawford

Coffee Mornings at 10.30am in Parish Hall

There is no Coffee Morning in December so our next coffee morning will be January 2022

Wednesday 26th January 2022

Coffee/Sales Table/Raffle Everybody welcome



Helen Tankard



Richard Burnett,
Partner, Hillyer
McKeown

Hello Everyone!

It strikes me that, as our population is living longer, it is more important than ever to think about our mental and physical health and wellbeing. Below, I have put together some practical steps you can take to protect yourself and your loved ones.

Making a Will can be a difficult thing to think and talk about, but putting in place well thought out plans can offer peace of mind, knowing your wishes will be carried out in the way you want them to be.

My advice is to not wait until things change, but to plan ahead. Welcoming a grandchild, downsizing your home or thinking about care home fees are life events that can typically remind people to update or make a Will. We also help people through difficult moments in their lives, following the death of loved ones.

Trust & Estate Planning

Seeking advice on planning for the future for you and your loved ones?

We regularly support people who are seeking advice about inheritance and succession planning, or who are unsure what to do if a family member has become ill or can no longer make their own decisions.

You might also want to consider a Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA) legal document. An LPA allows you to choose one or more people to make decisions for you including about property of finances, or act on your behalf if you cannot deal with matters yourself.

Business Wills

If you have a Will, does it protect both your personal and business assets?

If you (or a family member) own a business our unique Business Will service can set out detailed plans for you and your business.



Speak to us about protecting yourself, your loved ones and your business should something unexpected happen.



What to do next?

Contact us for a free, no obligation discussion with a member of our Wills and Probate team in Birkenhead, Chester or if you prefer, in your own home.



rhb@law.uk.com



01244 318 131

It has been good to be able to meet up at the WI Hall in September and October at our usual meetings. We have also managed to resume our Craft Afternoons on the second Tuesday of every month 2 – 4 pm, plus our Social Afternoons on the third Tuesday of every month, 2.30 - 4.30 pm.

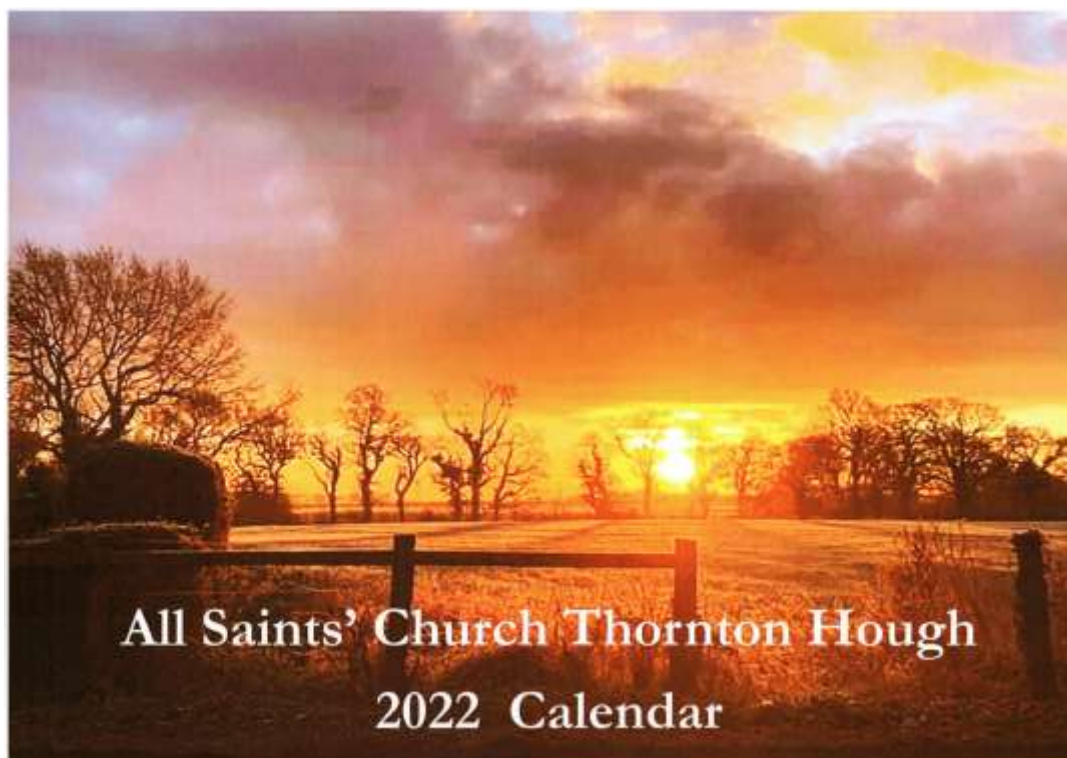
We had a very belated WI Birthday Dinner at Prenton Golf Club on 16th November, originally planned for 2020 but suspended due to the pandemic. A good time was had by all! We are looking forward to the Thornton Hough Christmas Light Switch On at the WI Hall on Friday, 26th November.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 7 December, 7.30 pm at the Hall. This will be a social occasion when members are asked to 'bring a plate' of food. It will be interesting to see what we have!

Our January meeting is on Tuesday, 11th January, at 7.30 pm when our speaker will present a talk on 'Easter Island'. All are welcome to these events, and we look forward to seeing familiar and new faces.

Best wishes from all of us at Thornton Hough WI for a wonderful Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Janet Gaywood



On sale now from Brian Morris (07732 644 861) or Margaret Gamble (336 7540) only **£5.00**. Money raised helps to support our church.

Poetry Corner CHRISTMAS - John Betjeman (1906 -1984)

The bells of waiting Advent ring,
The Tortoise stove is lit again
And lamp-oil light across the night
Has caught the streaks of winter rain
In many a stained-glass window sheen
From Crimson Lake to Hooker's Green



The holly in the windy hedge
And round the Manor House the yew
Will soon be stripped to deck the ledge,
The altar, font and arch and pew,
So that the villagers can say
"The church looks nice" on Christmas Day.

Provincial Public Houses blaze,
Corporation tramcars clang,
On lighted tenements I gaze
Where paper decorations hang,
And bunting in the red Town Hall
Says "Merry Christmas to you all."



And London shops on Christmas Eve
Are strung with silver bells and flowers
As hurrying clerks the City leave
To pigeon-haunted classic towers,
And marbled clouds go scudding by
The many-steeped London sky.

And girls in slacks remember Dad,
And oafish louts remember Mum,
And sleepless children's hearts are glad,
And Christmas-morning bells say "Come!"
Even to shining ones who dwell
Safe in the Dorchester Hotel.



*Tortoise stove by Portway 1830.
"Slow but Sure" to heat churches.*



Everyday Oil lamp



*1940's Girls started wearing
loose-fitting trousers, called slacks*

And is it true? And is it true,
This most tremendous tale of all,
Seen in a stained-glass window's hue,
A Baby in an ox's stall?
The Maker of the stars and sea
Become a Child on earth for me?

And is it true? For if it is,
No loving fingers tying strings
Around those tissueed fripperies,
The sweet and silly Christmas things,
Bath salts and inexpensive scent
And hideous tie so kindly meant.

No love that in a family dwells,
No carolling in frosty air,
Nor all the steeple-shaking bells
Can with this single Truth compare -
That God was man in Palestine
And lives today in Bread and Wine.

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John Betjeman was knighted in 1969 and Poet Laureate from 1972 until his death. His huge success as a poet, and preserver of Victorian heritage (he helped save St Pancras Station from demolition in 1967) was despite his failure to gain a degree (after several attempts) from Magdalen College Oxford, where his tutor C. S. Lewis called him an “idle prig” - which he never forgot - and where his teddy-bear “Archie” inspired Evelyn Waugh to create “Aloysius” for Sebastian Flyte in *Brideshead Revisited*.

He knew poets Louis MacNeice and W. H. Auden, and before Oxford he was taught at Highgate School, London, by T. S. Eliot. His own poetry specialises in things rather than ideas, often in meticulous detail, as in mentioning the particular water-colour green that botanical illustrator William Hooker (1799-1832) developed for painting leaves. Betjeman wrote this much-loved poem in 1954, and it is very much of its time. Trams and stoves and oil lamps and slacks are no more. He was keen to preserve old things of quality, and deplored much modernity (“Come friendly bombs and fall on Slough”) but ensured his parish church went over to electric light, and embraced the opportunity to become a popular television personality.



The last Corporation tram, (Car 293 No. 6A), ran from Liverpool's Pier Head to Bowring Park on 14



Betjeman statue at St Pancras Station

The Empty Chair

My wife and I arranged to meet a close friend for lunch and chose a restaurant we had enjoyed on a previous visit to the area. We sat down at the table for four and started to chat. Subsequently we panned through the large menu and made our decisions as to what looked the most inviting from a large choice. As we talked about various things, I looked at the empty chair opposite to me and thought about the person who would in the past have occupied that place: our friend's husband who had sadly passed away just a few weeks previously.

An empty chair is not normally a situation for thought, but in this instance, it brought to mind so much that had happened over many years of contact and closeness with these particular friends. We met on a holiday tour of Austria more than twenty years ago and resumed contact with them some years later. This led to many years of meetings together, which is not too easy when the distance between our homes is something like 150 miles.

There was a special bond that was evident as conversation took place that wiped away the times we had let slip by without contact. The empty chair took on a new meaning. It was not really empty as memories would still come to us from that chair as we shared stories of the meetings which we had enjoyed so much. Memories of loved ones are the special times we can still bring out to sustain us through the times that we miss their presence.

The expression "Absence makes the heart grow fonder" does not really fit in with the absence of those who have passed away, but it can mean that our thoughts of them are lovingly preserved for us to reclaim at any time in the future. That empty chair can be in many different places wherever we find ourselves and it will offer us more chances to remember special experiences we have shared with loved ones.

A chair is usually regarded as an inanimate object, something like the empty wine bottle, but when we bring to mind the former content, the memory is enhanced and savoured. Everything that has gone is never lost to memory and when the empty chair is looked upon, its former content: a loving, vibrant and independent person, the sadness can be regarded as a token to be used as an open door through which our reconnection can be made.

We understand the expression "The Seat of Learning."

The chair, our chairs, are the "Seats of Memories" and may they always offer us the opportunities to re-connect with those we shared our lives with.



Les Shepherd (November 2011)



Christmas and New Year Quiz



1. The village of Allendale, famous for its New Year fire festival, is in which English county?
2. In which English county is it an old tradition to say 'black rabbits, black rabbits, black rabbits' just as the clock is about to strike midnight on New Year's Eve?
3. On January 1st, 1899, Spanish rule ended in which country?
4. Which sovereign state became independent of the United Kingdom on New Year's Day 1984?
5. If you're born on Christmas Day, what's your star sign?
6. In which year was the first Christmas card sent – **1743, 1843 or 1943**?
7. Which one of Santa's reindeer has the same name as the god of love?
8. What was Frosty the Snowman's nose made out?
9. What is the name for the shortest day of the year?
10. Which famous scientist was born on Christmas Day in 1642?
11. There are more than 110 different varieties of which popular winter vegetables?
12. What must-have item for the Christmas table did Tom Smith invent in the early 1850s?
13. What year was tinsel invented – **1610, 1710 or 1810**?
14. Which country celebrates the New Year first?
15. It is customary in some parts of the world to eat black-eyed peas on New Year's Day for which reason?
16. In which nation would banging walls and doors with bread at New Year dispel bad luck from your house?
17. The Christmas wreath originated as a symbol of Christ – **True or False**?
18. Which country joined the EEC on January 1st 1981 becoming the tenth member state?

Answers on Page 27





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The Garden in Winter

You might think that there is not much to do in the garden in wintertime but in reality there is much you can do and needs to be done to keep your gardens healthy and ready for new growth in Spring. Below are a few suggestions for consideration:-



- Collect the leaves which still fall off the trees and shrubs and place to rot in leafmould bags for use in the Spring.
- Repair any damage to fences , trellis and sheds.
- Carry out winter digging so that the frost can help brake up the soil. This will make it easier to prepare seedbeds in March / April.
- Ensure that the potted plants are raised from the ground to protect them from frost and scatter straw around vulnerable plants in the borders.
- Avoid walking on the lawns if possible when they are covered with frost. The lawns should have been aerated in the Autumn but if you are too late it can be done in Spring although some aeration can be done using a fork to loosen the turf so that it can breathe more easily during December and January. Do repair any damage to the lawns if the weather allows.
- Wash and clean birdbaths and feeders and don't forget to keep feeding the birds during these months. Keep an eye on the underneath of plant leaves for greenfly and white fly which overwinter there.
- Your greenhouse may benefit from a little attention such as washing the window panes to allow more light to get through, cleaning the gutters of and brushing the floor. Throw away old seed packets which are out of date and tidy up the shelves and wash any pots ready for a fresh start in a few weeks' time.



An enthusiastic Gardener

A Little humour!

Pig says: My name is Bacon - Chris P. Bacon.

"Doctor, there's a patient on line 1 that says he's invisible."

"Well, tell him I can't see him right now."

Popular Sayings and their Origins

1. **“Waking Up on the wrong side of the bed”** (wake up in a bad mood)

The left side of the body or anything having to do with the left was often associated with something sinister. To ward off evil, innkeepers made sure the left side of the bed was pushed against a wall so guests had no other option but to get up on the right side of the bed.

2. **“Sleep tight”** (Sleep well)

During Shakespeare’s time, mattresses were secured on bed frames by ropes. In order to make the bed firmer, one had to pull the ropes to tighten the mattress.

3 **“Rub the wrong way”** (To irritate, bother, or annoy someone)

In colonial America, servants were required to wet-rub and dry-rub the oak-board floors each week. Doing it against the grain caused streaks to form, making the wood look distressed and irritating the homeowner.

4 **“No spring chicken”** (Someone who is past their prime)

New England chicken farmers generally sold chickens in the spring, so the chickens born in the springtime yielded better earnings than the chickens that survived the winter. Sometimes, farmers tried to sell old birds for the price of a new spring chicken. Clever buyers complained that the fowl was “no spring chicken,” and the term came to represent anyone past their prime.

5. **“Go the whole 9 yards”** (To try one’s best)

World War II Fighter pilots received a 9-yard chain of ammunition. Therefore, when a pilot used all of his ammunition on one target, he gave it “the whole 9 yards.”

6. **“Caught red-handed”** (To be caught doing something wrong)

This saying originated because of a law. If someone butchered an animal that didn’t belong to him, he had to be caught with the animal’s blood on his hands to be convicted. Being caught with freshly cut meat did not make the person guilty.

7. **“A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush”** (Having one certainty is better than 2 or more hopefuls)

This medieval proverb comes from the sport of falconry, where the 'bird in the hand' (the preying falcon) was worth more than 'two in the bush' - the prey.



8. **“Put a sock in It”** (Be quiet and stop talking)

Talking of volume and sound, here we have yet another one of those old sayings from the late 19th Century. Gramophones used to have large trumpet-shaped horns which provided the sound. However, there was no way to adjust the volume in those days so the only way to lower the sound was to literally put a sock in the horn.

9. **“Spill the beans”** (Tell me your secret)

Back to Ancient Greece again for this old saying. During elections, voters would place a bean into a jar designated to the candidate of their choice. Sometimes the jar would be knocked over and the beans would spill out, revealing the result of the voting.

10. **“Honeymoon”** (The period immediately after a newly-wed couple’s marriage.)

It was a tradition for just-married couples to drink honey for a month to increase their chances of good luck throughout the marriage.

11. **“Give a cold shoulder”** (Ignore or reject)

At medieval banquets, the host would give his guests a cut of cold meat, usually the shoulder, to indicate the feast was over and it was time to go home.

12 **“At the drop of a hat”** (To do something without delay)

In the 19th century, a hat was used to indicate the start of a race or a fight. A hat would be dropped or swept in a downward arc and participants would begin.

Remembrance Day Service Thornton Hough

Sadly we have to report that the civic service of remembrance on Sunday 14th November had to be cancelled by the police. No explanation was given at the time but afterwards it became clear that the incident that morning at The Women’s Hospital in Liverpool had an impact on the police’s decision to stop the event taking place. All involved were very understanding and accepted the decision without complaint. The safety of all involved was paramount. The people who had gathered there or were on their way to the service felt very sorry for the organisers and participants who had worked so hard to bring it all together that afternoon.





The Red Fox

Thornton Hough • Wirral



You will find us 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.

We hope you can pop in and see us soon.

www.redfox.pub ~ 0151 353 2920 ~ [f/redfoxpub](https://www.facebook.com/redfoxpub)

The Red Fox, Liverpool Road, Thornton Hough, Wirral, CH64 7TL

A Special Christmas Blessing

Just over 50 years ago, Margaret and I stood before Lancelot Reginald Healey, vicar of St. Hilary's Parish Church, Wallasey, on the occasion of our wedding. The church was full with family, friends and interested onlookers, including the vast majority of girls from my scholarship class at Somerville Junior School, accompanied by their mothers. So it was with some trepidation that I slipped the golden wedding ring on Margaret's finger.

Over many years, the ring stood the test of time and because it was expertly engraved it stood up to the usual demands of the household tasks, without losing any of its original quality. However, as life moved on, we grew, the family grew, but the ring remained the same size as it was the day it was slipped onto a slender finger.

Something needed to be done, so we decided to approach the Liverpool jewellers where it was bought. To our delight, we found it was possible to insert an additional piece of gold, to enable it to sit more comfortably on Margaret's finger.

However, we felt something was missing. After some thought we decided that we wanted the ring to be blessed. It was close to Christmas and by tradition we frequently attended the Christmas Eve service at the Liverpool Anglican Cathedral with friends. Margaret decided to write to the Bishop to see if anything could be arranged. Almost by return a reply arrived from Canon Noel Vincent agreeing to our request and suggesting a time prior to the Cathedral's Christmas Eve service. We were so pleased and agreed to meet Canon Vincent in the Lady Chapel for a short service to bless the ring.

The service was beautiful in its special setting with a sense of spiritual serenity pervading the Lady Chapel. As the ring was blessed and slipped onto Margaret's finger, a shaft of light struck the ring, causing it to sparkle and glitter as never before.

Canon Vincent smiled. We knew we had caught the moment and that our actions had been endorsed.

Brian Frost.

Thought for the Winter Months

In these difficult times of Covid and colder weather do try to help your neighbours especially if they are old and infirm. Bring joy into their lives. December is a time of celebration—see the Diary for special services at All Saints' and come and join us to remember the coming of Jesus into our lives.

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Cookery Corner

YORKSHIRE PARKIN

6 oz self raising flour
6 oz medium oatmeal
5 oz syrup and treacle (mixed)
5 oz sugar
5 oz margarine
Half teaspoon ground ginger
1 egg
Half teaspoon bicarbonate of soda



Melt syrup, treacle and margarine in a pan or in a bowl in the microwave.
Mix the dry ingredients and combine with the melted ingredients.
Add the beaten egg and mix well. Put into a greased roasting tin, about 8"×12"
Cook in a slow oven for 30 to 40 minutes.
Allow to cool in the tin, then cut into 24 squares.
Transfer into an air tight container. It keeps well for a few weeks.

SWEET AND SOUR PORK

4 or 5 slices of belly pork
Season and part roast in a hot oven for 20 mins at 200⁰ C along with some baking potatoes.
Meanwhile, mix 2 tablespoons each of tomato purée, vinegar, soy sauce, salt and pepper with 1 tablespoon of brown sugar in 1/4 pint of hot water.

Drain the fat off the part cooked meat and pour the sauce over the slices.
Put back into the oven at 200⁰ C for 30 mins or until the sauce has thickened.
Baked potatoes should be ready at the same time.



2022 Magazines

We hope you are enjoying the Magazines. 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 contribute.

If you would like to contribute towards the cost of producing the 2022 Magazines, please place your contribution in the envelope provided with this Magazine and return it to your distributor. Thank you

The Editorial Team

The Four Seasons

Tuesday 21st December, 7.30pm

All Saints, Thornton Hough

An evening of candlelit classical music, including Vivaldi's Four Seasons

Soloist: Thelma Handy - violin

Tickets: £15 Adult / £0 Child

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Trade Directory

Trade	Name	Contact Tel	Mob
Greenhills garden Services	Will	336 5167	07754 411693
Joiner	Paul Whitehead	353 0493	07762 637374
Painter & Decorator	A Foreshaw	327 4788	07979 233 422
Health & Wellness - <i>Pilates</i>	Peter Heath	644 9279	07808 920 813
PAT Testing	Joey Farrell		07723 997 434
Gas Service	Mike Jones	342 5805	07813 137 134
ACG General Maintenance	Andrew Grover		07384 466 414
Book Keeping	Russ Smith	208 7126	07463 669 418

Following a suggestion from various readers, we have compiled the above list based on their recommendations. if you know of anybody else who would like to be included please inform any of the Editorial Team.

Disclaimer *"The above are not recommendations of the editorial team and neither All Saints PCC nor the editorial team can accept any liability resulting from using these organisations/trades people."*

The Editorial Team would like to wish you all a very peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year. We hope that this season of "Good Will" brings good health, joy and much happiness to everybody.

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.

Register of Baptism, Burials and Marriages for September-November

Burials	Died	Age	Burial/Ashes
Amy REAY	23/8/21	83	27/9/21
Richard <u>George</u> WOODS	4/9/21	85	28/9/21
William (Bill) GAULT	14/6/21	94	9/10/21
Anthony (Tony) BOWYER	26/3/21	84	23/10/21
The Hon. Victoria TOWER	4/10/21	76	1/11/21
James Glen HOUGHTON	26/8/21	87	20/11/21

May they rest in peace and rise in glory

BAPTISMS

Bobby George Derrick CROSSLEY	7/11/21
Seraphina Sylvie NUGENT-HOBBS	21/11/21

Quiz Answers

1 Northumberland	7. Cupid	13 1610
2 Yorkshire	8. A Button	14 Tonga
3 Cuba	9. Winter Solstice	15 To bring prosperity in the coming year
4 Brunei	10. Isaac Newton	16 Ireland
5 Capricorn	11. Brussel Sprouts	17 True
6 1843	12 Christmas Crackers	18 Greece



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Sunday Bible Readings

December 2021 – January 2022

December

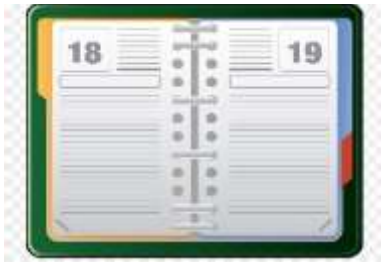
- | | | |
|----|---|--------------|
| 5 | Second Sunday of Advent
Philippians 1:3-11 | Luke 3:1-6 |
| 12 | Third Sunday of Advent
Philippians 4:4-7 | Luke 3:7-18 |
| 19 | Fourth Sunday of Advent
Micah 5:2-5a | Luke 1:39-45 |
| 24 | Christmas Eve
Acts 13:16-26 | Luke 1:67-79 |
| 25 | Christmas Day
Isaiah 52:7-10 | John 1:1-14 |
| 26 | First Sunday of Christmas / St Stephen
Colossians 3:12-17 | Luke 2:41-52 |

January 2022

- | | | |
|----|--|--------------------|
| 2 | Epiphany
Isaiah 60:1-6 | Matthew 2:1-12 |
| 9 | Baptism of Christ / First Sunday of Epiphany
Isaiah 43:1-7 | Luke 3:15-17,21-22 |
| 16 | Second Sunday of Epiphany
Isaiah 62:1-5 | John 2:1-11 |
| 23 | Third Sunday of Epiphany
Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10 | Luke 4:14-21 |
| 30 | Presentation of Christ in the Temple / Candlemas
Malachi 3:1-5 | Luke 2:22-40 |

February 2022

- | | | |
|---|--|-------------|
| 6 | Fourth Sunday before Lent
Isaiah 6:1-8 | Luke 5:1-11 |
|---|--|-------------|



Parish Diary

December 2021 – January 2022

December

- | | | | |
|----|---------------|---------|---|
| 1 | Wednesday | 10:30am | Holy Communion (Common Worship) |
| 3 | Friday | 7:00pm | Choir Practice |
| 4 | Saturday | 10:00am | Coffee and Carols (Parish Hall) (i) |
| | | 11:15am | Coffee and Carols (Parish Hall) (ii) |
| 5 | Sunday | | Second Sunday of Advent |
| | | 8:00am | Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) |
| | | 10:30am | Holy Communion (Common Worship) |
| 8 | Wednesday | 10:30am | Holy Communion (Common Worship) |
| | | 2:15pm | ACF Christmas Meeting (Parish Hall) |
| 10 | Friday | 7:00pm | Choir Practice |
| 12 | Sunday | | Third Sunday of Advent |
| | | 10:30am | Holy Communion (Common Worship) |
| | | 4:00pm | Christingle Service |
| 15 | Wednesday | 10:30am | Holy Communion (Common Worship) |
| 17 | Friday | 7:00pm | Choir Practice |
| 19 | Sunday | | Fourth Sunday of Advent |
| | | 8:00am | Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) |
| | | 10:30am | Holy Communion (Common Worship) |
| | | 3:00pm | Service of Lessons and Carols for Christmas (i) |
| | | 5:30pm | Service of Lessons and Carols for Christmas (ii) |
| 21 | Tuesday | 7:30pm | Wirral Chamber Music Festival:
Concert in All Saints' Church |
| 24 | Friday | 11:00pm | Christmas Eve
"Midnight" Holy Communion |
| 25 | Saturday | 10:30am | Christmas Day
Holy Communion for Christmas Day |
| 26 | Sunday | | First Sunday of Christmas / St Stephen |

January 2022

2	Sunday	Epiphany
	8:00am	Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
	10:30am	Holy Communion (Common Worship)
5	Wednesday	
	10:30am	Holy Communion (Common Worship)
7	Friday	
	7:00pm	Choir Practice
9	Sunday	Baptism of Christ / First Sunday of Epiphany
	10:30am	Holy Communion (Common Worship)
12	Wednesday	
	10:30am	Holy Communion (Common Worship)
	2:15pm	ACF Meeting (in the Parish Hall)
14	Friday	
	7:00pm	Choir Practice
16	Sunday	Second Sunday of Epiphany
	8:00am	Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
	10:30am	Holy Communion (Common Worship)
19	Wednesday	
	10:30am	Holy Communion (Common Worship)
21	Friday	
	7:00pm	Choir Practice
23	Sunday	Third Sunday of Epiphany
	10:30am	Holy Communion (Common Worship)
	6:30pm	Choral Evensong
26	Wednesday	
	10:30am	Coffee Morning in the Parish Hall (No service in church)
28	Friday	
	7:00pm	Choir Practice
30	Sunday	Presentation of Christ in the Temple / Candlemas
	10:30am	Holy Communion (Common Worship)

February 2022

2	Wednesday	
	10:30am	Holy Communion (Common Worship)
4	Friday	
	7:00pm	Choir Practice
6	Sunday	Fourth Sunday before Lent
	8:00am	Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
	10:30am	Holy Communion (Common Worship)

Please note that all dates are subject to change at short notice.

Who to contact about our groups

Bible Study and Prayer	Shirley McEvoy	336 3449
A Church Fellowship (ACF)	Helen Tankard	hdt1426@sky.com 648 0181
Church Choir	Iain Stinson	342 4800 iain@stinson.org.uk
The Magazine Team	Patsy Baker	336 3273
	Iain Stinson	324 4800
	Brian Morris	336 1393
	Revd Vicky Barrett	336 2766

Prayer for Christmas and the New Year

May the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the perseverance of the wise men, the obedience of Joseph and Mary, and the peace of the Christ-child be yours this Christmas and throughout the year to come.



The Magazine

Thank you to all those who have contributed articles, photographs and ideas for this edition of *The Magazine*. Contributions for future editions of *The Magazine* are very welcome. Please contact any member of the editorial team with your ideas and articles. 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

January 18th 2022

Who's who at All Saints

Vicar	Revd Vicky Barrett	336 2766 vicar@allsaintsth.org.uk
Churchwardens	Pam Machin	pam@allsaintsth.org.uk
	Alan Splitt	336 3573 alan@allsaintsth.org.uk
Parish Office		336 1645 <i>From 9th December</i> 245 4986 office@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
Prayer Link Coordinator		
	Rhona Mayhew	334 5637 rhona@allsaintsth.org.uk
Electoral Roll Officer	Elly Macbeath	
Safeguarding Officer	Linda Arch	safeguarding@allsaintsth.org.uk
Health & Safety Officer	Graham Seagrave	health&safety@allsaintsth.org.uk
Parish Hall Caretaker and Bookings		
	Margaret Gamble	336 7540
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All Saints Church Website		allsaintsth.org.uk
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