

**All Saints' Church Thornton Hough**

# **The Magazine**



**February—March 2026**



All Saints' Church, Thornton Hough

You are warmly invited to a

## **Soup and Sandwich Lunch**

in the Parish Hall on  
**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> February**  
from 12 noon to 1:30pm

**Tickets £3**  
on sale in church  
or ring 0151 336 2766

**Everyone welcome**

*We will be collecting contributions for the Wirral Foodbank.*



All Saints' Church Thornton Hough

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> February**  
at 7pm

A service of  
Holy Communion  
for

## **Ash Wednesday**



All Saints' Thornton Hough

## **Mothering Sunday**

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March**

**10:30am Morning Prayer**

Everybody welcome.  
Please invite your family and friends  
to come along to this special service.

**2:30pm A Quiet Space for  
Mothering Sunday**

A short, contemplative service for  
those who prefer a quieter, more  
contemplative service.



All Saints' Church, Thornton Hough

## **Passion Sunday**

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March**  
at 10:30am

A service of  
readings and music  
for **Passiontide**

Everybody welcome



## Travelling Light

As the days begin to lengthen, you may be thinking of holiday destinations. Do look at Ann Slee-Jones' article about the fascinating country of Slovenia for some inspiration!

One of the biggest challenges I find when going away is packing. What do I want to take? What do I need to take? Those two can be very different things. I might want to take lots of different clothes for every occasion or change in temperature, shoes, accessories and a full wash bag – or even a teddy bear.



But when you are faced with weight restrictions for luggage, especially for fast getaways on budget flights, or the prospect of carrying all these things on a long, remote trek, you have to rethink from what you want to what you really need. There is unlikely to be any room for your favourite plushy toy, or hairdryer.

In our Christian life, making the distinction between what we want and what we need is part of how we grow in faith. We pray as Jesus taught us in the Lord's Prayer, "Give us this day our daily bread." What does this mean for us in practice?

How can we hold more lightly to what we have, so that we can be free to share with others, to avoid getting into the fretful cycle of always wanting more, or the next big thing?

As you prepare for the springtime ahead, what might "travelling light" look like? It's especially helpful to keep this in mind as we journey through the coming period of Lent.

God bless you richly as you travel light through the times ahead.

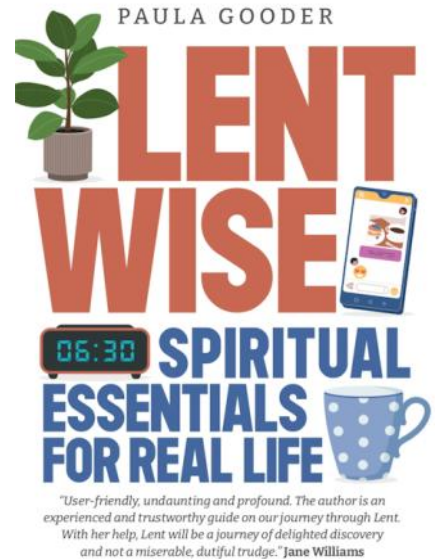
*Vicky*

## Lentwise: Our Lent Course for 2026.

***Tuesdays at 2.30pm from 24<sup>th</sup> February – 24<sup>th</sup> March***

The forty days of Lent between the solemnity of Ash Wednesday (18<sup>th</sup> February this year) and the exuberance of Easter Day (5<sup>th</sup> April) give us the opportunity to explore what it means to be on a journey in Christian faith in more detail.

This year's Lent Course is called ***Lentwise***, written by Paula Gooder, currently Chancellor of St Paul's Cathedral, London.



What are the essentials for our faith journey? In the course of five weekly sessions, we shall be using passages from John's Gospel to help us consider five different 'essentials' to help inspire and encourage us:

Compass: Finding direction	(24 <sup>th</sup> February)
Nourishment: Keeping going	(3 <sup>rd</sup> March)
Light: Gaining wisdom	(10 <sup>th</sup> March)
Shelter: Finding security	(17 <sup>th</sup> March)
Water: Enjoying refreshment	(24 <sup>th</sup> March)

The course will be held at the Vicarage (54 Neston Road) starting at 2.30pm. Refreshments will be provided.

The sessions are about 90 minutes long. They are designed to give plenty of space for personal reflection as well as group discussion, prayer, worship and creative responses. You don't have to come to all five sessions; they all work well as distinct units. You will be welcome whether you come to one or five of them.

**Interested? Contact Revd. Vicky for further information.**



**World Day of Prayer Service**  
**Willaston Methodist Church,**  
**Friday March 6<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm**  
***Everyone welcome!***

The 2026 World Day of Prayer materials from Nigeria bring us a powerful invitation drawn from Matthew 11:28-30. At a time when people worldwide are carrying heavy burdens, our Nigerian sisters offer profound insights into finding rest in God.

More details at <https://worlddayofprayer.net>





## From the churchwardens



We wanted to start by thanking all those who attended and supported the many lovely Christmas services and events held throughout December. We hope you enjoyed them as much as we did. How special it was to celebrate this joyous time together, despite the cold. Thank you to Revd Vicky for bringing the wonderful story to life, to Iain Stinson and the choir for the lovely music and Carols and to Margaret Gamble who once again decorated the Church so beautifully. Thank you also to our team of volunteers.

Now to 2026. Do you ever get that feeling of Deja vu? We do! A new year and a new problem! This time last year, we wrote about facing a number of significant maintenance issues; the boundary wall, the church bell, the need for a survey on the spire to name just a few. Thankfully the repairs to the wall are now complete and we anticipate getting faculty permission for the repairs to the bell very soon, so some progress has been made.

Our new major challenge though, is to replace the church heating system. We are very lucky to be able to hold services and continue to worship together in the warmth of the Parish Hall during these especially cold and icy conditions. We are working to restore heat to the church. This is not straightforward and will be time consuming and expensive. You are no doubt aware that the Church of England has set a target to reach net zero carbon by 2030. This means that we cannot just replace like for like. We must follow the process detailed by the Church of England and explore all potential heating solutions. We will work closely with Chester Diocese, the Diocesan Net Zero Carbon Officer, our church architect and we will be seeking professional expert heating advice. Faculty approval will be required to install a new heating system and so it is absolutely crucial that we demonstrate that we have adhered to the set process. We ask for your prayers and support please as we start that process. We will keep you informed of developments.

***Patsy and June***

## Notes on the PCC meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> January

In January we heard that our **Christmas celebrations** had gone well. Services had been well attended and we enjoyed welcoming new faces. Our visit to the Village Club to sing carols and other Christmas items was a success and enjoyed by all. There was a definite element of competition in the singing of “The Twelve Days of Christmas”! The enthusiastic singing continued at our ‘Merry Christmas! Carols and Mince Pies’ event.

The Vicar and the choir also visited **Brimstage Manor and Westwood Hall** to join with the residents in singing Christmas carols, and this was much appreciated.

Unfortunately the **church heating failed** just before Christmas and was no longer repairable because replacement parts are no longer available. Scirard Lancelyn Green and Iain Stinson looked at the electrical capacity of the church and a temporary solution using existing resources, two new convector heaters borrowed from Scirard and four new convector heaters purchased by the church, was set up and used over Christmas. With all the Christmas decorations and the candles and the people there was enough warmth to get us through the festive season. By the end of the year temperatures were falling. Permission was sought from the Diocese and we are temporarily holding services in the Parish Hall.

We now need to investigate **replacement systems** and have to work with the Diocese and the Church Architect on this. June Allcock has been in touch with Airren Martin, the Diocese of Chester Net Zero Carbon Project Officer. We will need the advice of a heating consultant to help us look at the way forward.

Unfortunately **new church heating systems** are expensive. Until we have some potential solutions it is difficult to say just how much money will be needed. We will need to consider all options, including green solutions. Without this we will not get a faculty.

Before the PCC meeting Iain Stinson, the PCC Treasurer, had circulated the **End of Year Financial Statement for 2025**. Over the year the income from Planned Giving was lower than expected in the budget but Open Plate was higher than expected. We have also received £21,284 in donations, mostly given by members of our congregation. We are very grateful to everyone for their generosity.

The final result is a surplus on the General Fund for 2025 of £3,862. This is better than the projected deficit of £13,895 (less expenditure than expected and more income than expected).

The **wall repair** had been completed (with a great sigh of relief!) and the final cost was £21,484. Money was withdrawn from an endowment held by the Diocese for which All Saints’ is the sole beneficiary. Our future investment in-

come will be lower because of this.

We then moved on to consider the **General Fund Budget for 2026**. The 2025 result had tracked the budgeted costs quite well so the 2026 budget had been produced using the budget for 2025, with allowances for 3.8% increases in spending made for inflation. It is difficult to set the expected income from giving. We have received some generous donations in 2025 but cannot count on this being repeated next year.

The **Parish Share** has increased by 3% and is now £79,932. We pay one 'unit' of Parish Share and for this we get one full time member of clergy. The amount payable depends on the socio economic status of the parish. The stipend for our Vicar and her housing costs are paid by the Diocese. If we don't pay our Parish Share in full then it is unlikely we would get a full-time Vicar the next time the post falls vacant.

The **proposed budget** which was accepted by the PCC has a £12,997 deficit. To cover the cost of the heating project we will need to look at selling some of our investments (which will reduce our future investment income) and potential external grants that might be available.

In the **Fabric Report** we learnt that:

- Remedial work has been done to the flashing on the roof of the Parish Hall; the covering on the flat roof section of the hall needs replacing and we are waiting for quotes.
- Rainwater is not draining away down the grid in the bin area by the church. This has been looked at but needs further investigation to determine the nature of the blockage.
- We expect the faculty for the repair of the bell to be approved before the end of the month. We have been assured that money is available for this repair.
- Routine maintenance checks have resumed in January.

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 **Eco Church** Events. In a recent presentation by the Cheshire Wildlife Trust some suggestions were put forward for encouraging wildlife in churchyards.

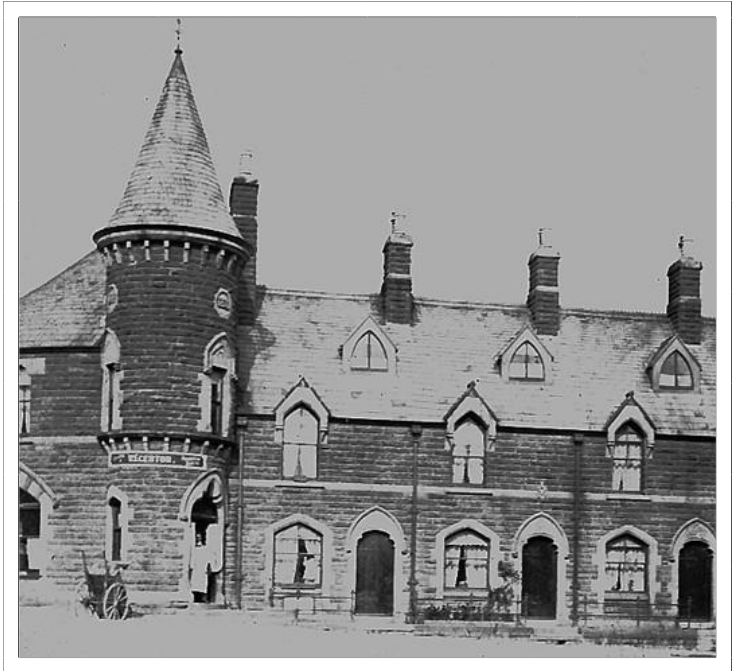
2026 holds challenges for us all. Please keep the church in your prayers as we look to the future and discern the way forward.

**Sue Stinson**  
**PCC Secretary**

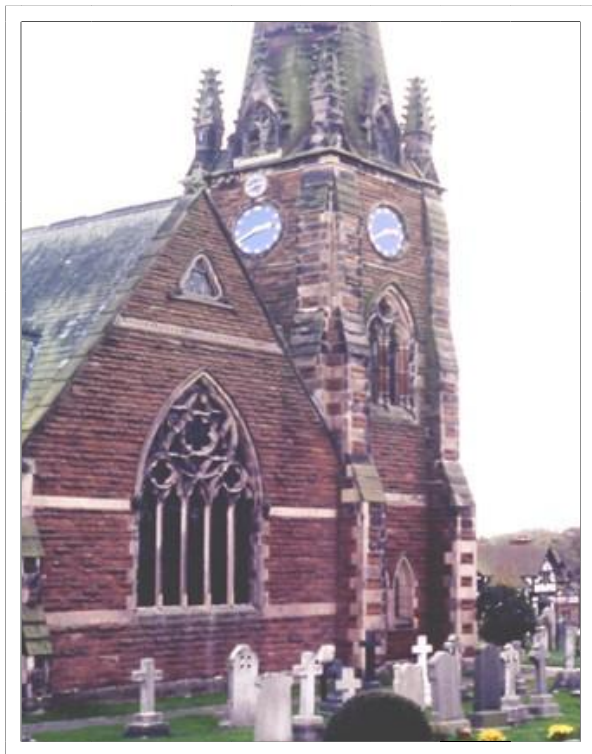
## Looking up in Thornton Hough

How often do you look up when you're walking round Thornton Hough? There's a lot of history up there!

Carved into the stonework on the turret above the recently opened Bluebell Café are the initials **JH** – commemorating Joseph Hirst the man responsible for building it, as well as All Saints' Church itself. On the other side of the turret is the date 1870, the year the cottages were built. Further along is the name, **Wilshaw Terrace**, painted onto the stonework. It's called after the village near Huddersfield where Joseph had his woollen mill. (It's a good job it wasn't in the nearby village of Upperthong!)



Further down Church Road on the left you can see the remains of an old archway which originally enabled Joseph to walk directly from his home in Thornton House to the church he'd just built.



Its high steeple is surmounted by a very simple Celtic Cross, presumably dating from when the church was consecrated in 1868.

Looking up at the steeple there's a small extra clock face high up on the east side. That was added so that Joseph could see the time from his bedroom window – the big clock face was hidden by the tall roof over the nave.

Above the doorway on the opposite side of Church Road is a small date stone 1995 apparently marking the time when the original school was extended for use as the Parish Hall. Behind it is the old school

room and the headmaster's house. The turret which originally housed the school bell is still there but the bell itself is now hanging inside the hall.





Walking round the village you'll see some wonderful chimney stacks and ornate finials on top of the gables. particularly on the cottages on Neston Road and Manor Road. They are mostly decorative, but the one on the corner is the figure of a man, apparently dating from the time it was built and used as a girls'

orphanage. This picture shows that there were two originally but the other one 'disappeared' when maintenance work was carried out on the roof some years ago.

There are also some fine weathervanes around the village. One on the school, one on the Village Club, and one on the Parish Hall, although pictures show there were originally three. But perhaps the most interesting weathervane is on St George's Church. A traditional cockerel and a bugle!



This is the heraldic crest of William Lever, the first Lord Leverhulme, who was responsible for building St George's church. The French verb *se lever* means to get up, or to arise. So the family crest symbolically depicts a cockerel to crow the dawn and a bugle to sound reveille.

There are probably a lot more interesting features up there on buildings that record significant events from the village's history !

**Gavin Hunter**



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		5						
			9					
2	9			1			5	7
6			3		8			

## 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.

## Musical instruments wordsearch

Can you find the 25 instruments hidden in the grid below?  
If you need the list of instruments to help you find them, then see page 13.

U	J	T	P	T	A	K	Z	W	B	O	E	Z	V	S
L	R	R	J	D	R	Y	L	V	E	R	U	T	I	A
G	F	I	Y	Y	V	U	B	P	L	G	P	K	O	X
L	L	A	G	K	I	F	M	P	L	A	H	X	L	O
O	U	N	T	P	O	G	C	P	S	N	O	X	I	P
C	T	G	R	I	L	U	L	B	E	C	N	Y	N	H
K	E	L	O	C	A	I	A	A	H	T	I	L	R	O
E	C	E	M	C	Z	T	R	S	O	V	U	O	H	N
N	E	P	B	O	G	A	I	S	R	Z	M	P	Y	E
S	L	I	O	L	O	R	N	X	N	B	B	H	T	O
P	E	A	N	O	N	C	E	L	L	O	P	O	H	D
I	S	N	E	A	G	K	T	P	V	J	G	N	M	H
E	T	O	T	I	M	P	A	N	I	C	V	E	W	F
L	A	X	O	V	C	D	R	U	M	Q	J	Y	F	G
R	J	G	O	K	X	Y	Z	B	A	S	S	O	O	N



**Solutions on page 25**

## Origin of Hymns No 12: “We have a Gospel to proclaim”

Most of the hymns I have researched in this series were written many years ago. I was surprised to find therefore, that a favourite of mine ***We have a Gospel to proclaim*** was written as recently as 1968, and that the author (as far as I can determine) is still with us. We have sung this often at All Saints’, and at the two Methodist churches where I play the organ.



Christ Church Fulwood, Preston

The author was Edward Joseph Burns who was born in Nelson, Lancashire in 1938. He was educated at a grammar school in Poulton-le-Fylde and at the Universities of Liverpool (BSc Chemistry) and Oxford (MA Theology 1961). He took Holy orders in 1961 (as a Deacon) and became fully ordained as a priest the following year.

He returned to his native Lancashire, serving as Curate in Leyland and Burnley before becoming a Vicar in Chorley

(St Peter’s) and Preston (Christ Church, Fulwood), later serving at Durham Cathedral. Subsequently he became an Honorary Canon of Blackburn Cathedral from 1986 until his retirement in 2003. The hymn *We have a Gospel to proclaim* first appeared in the 1975 ‘New Standard’ edition of ‘Ancient and Modern’.

Edward (always known as ‘Eddie’) wrote the hymn while serving in the Diocese of Durham. He wanted a



Durham Cathedral



Blackburn Cathedral

song that would boldly declare the core message of Christianity in a simple, memorable, and uplifting way. His goal was to create a hymn that could be used during mission services, processions, evangelistic gatherings, and church events that emphasized outreach.

What makes the hymn unique is its straightforward storytelling of Jesus’ life, His birth, ministry, death, resurrection, and reign, summed up in a way that encourages believers to share this “gospel” (good



news) with the world. It avoids overly poetic language and instead uses clear, strong statements of faith. Since its publication, the hymn has become popular in churches across many denominations. It is especially loved for its uplifting tune ('Fulda') and its strong call to action - Christians are not just to believe the gospel, but to proclaim it fearlessly and joyfully.



William Gardiner

Today, *We Have a Gospel to proclaim* remains one of the most widely used mission-themed hymns in the modern era, simple, bold, and inspiring.

The tune 'Fulda' is rather older. It was written by William Gardiner. Born in Leicester in the same year (1770) as Beethoven, he worked in the hosiery trade but was also a keen amateur musician of some consequence who claimed to have introduced the music of Beethoven to Britain in 1794. Gardiner is best known for his hymn tunes. He published two collections of his works: *Sacred Melodies* (1808) and a book *Music and Friends* (1838). In *Music and Friends*, Gardiner tells the story of how the first work of Beethoven became known in Britain after arriving in a violin case of a priest fleeing the French Revolutionary army.

Gardiner was for much of his life a teetotaler and a vegetarian. He lived on a milk and vegetable diet for several years but gave it up after a life-changing experience. Gardiner stated that on one occasion he was dining with a Mr. Brooke (an eccentric) who placed a beefsteak on the table. He was offended that Gardiner refused to eat meat. Mr. Brooke put a pistol to Gardiner's head and declared he would shoot him if he did not eat the beefsteak. After this experience Gardiner gave up his vegetarian diet and resumed his former mode of living. He died in Leicester in 1853.

**Brian Moate**

### Musical instruments hidden in the wordsearch grid (see page 11)

BASS	EUPHONIUM	ORGAN	TRIANGLE
BASSOON	FLUTE	PIANO	TROMBONE
BELLS	GLOCKENSPIEL	PICCOLO	TRUMPET
CELESTA	GONG	RHYTHM	VIOLA
CELLO	GUITAR	SAXOPHONE	VIOLIN
CLARINET	HORN	TIMPANI	XYLOPHONE
DRUM			




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## The Quiz



1. In Greek mythology, who is the god of love?
2. What's the name of the significant male character who forms a romantic connection in the Jane Austen book *Pride and Prejudice*?
3. What does *Ich liebe dich* mean in English?
4. Complete the rest of this sentence from the Robert Burns poem: "My love is like a red, red rose..."
5. St Valentine is the patron saint of love. What else is he patron saint of?
6. What is the best-selling love song of all time, spending 15 weeks at the top of the UK charts? Who recorded the song?
7. Who was the first person pictured on a British postage stamp?
8. Which Royal Botanical Gardens were awarded World Heritage Site status by UNESCO in 2003?
9. Minsk is the capital city of which former soviet country?
10. Who was the former lead singer with The Smiths?
11. Which major river flows through Vienna?
12. What 'B' is another name for sulphur?
13. According to the Beatles, what was the occupation of 'Lovely Rita'?
14. On a British Ordnance Survey map, what does a pink triangle represent?
15. How many balls are there on a snooker table at the start of a game?
16. In 1664, the Dutch Republic surrenders what is now known as New York City to Britain, but what was it known as at the time?
17. First shown in 1998, on which TV show might you have found *Dead Metal*, *Sergeant Bash*, *Shunt* and *Matilda*?
18. In which stage show would you hear the 'The Lambeth Walk'?
19. What medical term describes a shortage of haemoglobin?
20. Which British city was once called *Duroliponte*? Was it Colchester, Carlisle, Cambridge or Canterbury?
21. *Sesquipedalophobia* refers to a fear of what?
22. What was opened in 1931 by George Mottershead and his family at Upton by Chester?
23. Which town in Cheshire derives its name from the King of England who ruled from 1016 to 1035?
24. Charles Lutwidge Dodgson was born on January 27, 1832, in Daresbury, Cheshire; by what pen name is he better known?
25. Macclesfield was once the world's biggest producer of which finished material?
26. Name the singer, songwriter, record producer, actor, and television personality born on 20 January 1971 in Frodsham, Cheshire?

**Answers on page 25**

## Poetry Corner from *The Shepherd's Calendar* by John Clare

The mavis thrush, wi' wild delight,  
Upon the orchard's dripping tree  
Mutters to see the day so bright -  
Spring scraps of young hope's poesy.  
And oft dame stops her burring wheel  
To hear the robin's note once more  
That tutles while he pecks his meal  
From sweet briar hips beside the door.

The hedgehog, from its hollow root,  
Sees the wood moss clear of snow  
And hunts each hedge for fallen fruit -  
Crab hip, and winter-bitten sloe -  
And oft, when check'd by sudden fears  
As shepherd dog his haunt espies,  
He rolls up in a ball of spears  
And all his barking rage defies.

Thus nature of the spring will dream  
While south winds thaw, but soon again  
Frost breath's upon the stiffening stream  
And numbs it into ice. The plain  
Soon wears its merry garb of white,  
And icicles that fret at noon  
Will eke their icy tails at night  
Beneath the chilly stars and moon.

Nature soon sickens of her joys  
And all is sad and dumb again  
Save merry shouts of sliding boys  
About the frozen furrow'd plain.  
The foddering boy forgets his song  
And silent goes wi' folded arms  
And croodling shepherds bend along,  
Crouching, to the whizzing storms.



Mauvis, Old French for thrush, the song thrush, whose song is sweeter than that of the mistle thrush.



Robin tootling its flutelike song.



Hips of the wild *rosa rubinosa*, known as sweetbriar or eglantine.



Hedgehogs are omnivorous and eat anything they can find on the ground, but they prefer slugs, caterpillars, and bugs.

These are the last four of twelve stanzas of February, one of twelve poems which constitute John Clare's masterpiece The Shepherd's Calendar (1827). It was written, like all his poetry, with dialect words and without any punctuation, so I have inserted some that I hope helps. He uses simple personification, with rhyme and iambic meter, here tetrameter, to make it poetic, but it is plain, unembellished.



Fruit of the crab apple  
malus "rose hip".

He contrasts the harsh life of the farm worker with the joyful play of children. Nature is fickle. The thaw won't last. The song thrush chirps merrily but mutters suspiciously, the spinner can hear the robin sing, the hedgehog finds food, but "Nature soon sickens", the icicles regrow at night, the ploughed fields are icy, the boy with the cattle feed stops singing and shepherds still have to rescue new-born lambs from the storms, hunching over to cradle and comfort (croodle) them.



Sloes, fruits of blackthorn  
prunus spinosa, bitter and acidic until sweetened by being frost bitten.

His early poetry made him a novelty. Born to illiterate impoverished parents, he learnt to read and write at evening school. By 1820 he was publishing his meticulous descriptions of rural life, and wealthy enough to marry and start a family (of 7 children). By 1827, when The Shepherd's Calendar was published, Romantic nature poets like Wordsworth were more to the Victorian taste for sentimentality and grander ideas in poetry, and his message - the dangers to the land, and society, of enclosures and industrialisation was not popular. He became penniless, dependent on sponsors, patrons and wealthy friends.



Icicles are eroded by the sun but lengthen themselves and their lives in the cold of night.

The delightful rural traditions and customary festivals he described so charmingly were already mostly obsolete. He felt out of place, alien, both in London literary society and in the country, with his illiterate neighbours. His last 26 years were in an asylum, thinking he was Byron, or Shakespeare.

Recently he has had more interest, for his warnings about social inequality, the environment and mental health.

**Caroline Lancelyn Green**



John Clare (1793 - 1864)  
The Northamptonshire  
Peasant Poet.



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## The Wonders of the Karst Region

I hear you ask, “where is the Karst region?” Before this summer I had no clue either - it is in Slovenia, a country that you have probably heard of but may not know exactly where it is either!

Nestled between Austria, Italy, Croatia and Hungary, Slovenia has only existed in its current state since the early 1990's following the breakup of Yugoslavia. It has an eastern European language and buildings in some areas that resemble Soviet architecture. It is now firmly in the EU and is benefitting from an influx of investment.



The capital, Ljubljana, has a castle on a hill (think Salzburg), a river through its centre and all the trappings of a modern capital city. The history goes back to Roman times and everyone speaks English. There are quirks of course, the dragon bridge, a fantastic outdoor food market and some rather strange street art that harks back to darker days.

The country is still updating itself and whilst there has been a lot of building work, the centre of the city resembles a building site when it comes to the railway and the main station. There is a hole several stories deep and lots of work across the country to improve the very aged infrastructure that is the railway system. I am not sure that we fully appreciated this when we decided to use the trains to get to the Karst region (the bottom left hand quadrant!) and the Adriatic coast (about 25 miles of it!).

So the train took a rather long time to get to Divaca and the station we were heading for - Povir. It turned out to have a platform with a bus shelter, a church, a few houses, a bar/restaurant and miles of forest and wilderness (with bears - that we didn't see luckily). The whole village knew that we had arrived on the train and they were all a tad non-plussed (and told us), apparently it is not the done thing! Given

the speed of the journey and the state of the track we now know why; but you do see a lot and we encountered some lovely people who were incredibly helpful and friendly.

The whole region is formed of limestone with the associated rock formations, caverns and unexplained holes in the ground when cave roofs cave in! Why Povir? We could get



to the stations that are close to the two main cave complexes that are a magnet for visitors from all over the world. There are day trips from surrounding countries to visit them as they are so spectacular. The most interesting for me was the Stocjan complex - we travelled one station and then walked about two miles on local footpaths (up a hill in 25°C heat) to get there. The cave is a UNESCO World Heritage site and it deserves the listing.

The visit was all on foot, 2.5km underground. We were divided into language groups and spent about two hours walking through the underground caverns. It was a relief to be in 12°C rather than in the heat outside!

The complex houses one of the largest discovered underground canyons in the world. It was first explored in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century; how they managed to see what they had found is beyond me - magnesium lights were used despite the danger. The sheer size of the canyon is incredible and the noise from the river Reka flowing through is deafening at times.



We started the visit with wandering through various smaller caverns adorned with stalactites and stalagmites of every size and shape imaginable. 1cm of the

formations takes around 100 years: the sheer size of some is testament to how long the caverns have been forming. The initial caves were peaceful and easy to wander around - in the background the roar of the river was getting louder and louder as we got closer to the main cavern, and wow the first view was spectacular.

The cavern is around 90 stories high with a path running around the edge; equally interesting are signs of the old paths cut out when it was first discovered. Lucky for us the new one is very easy to negotiate and mostly down! The bridge over the gorge was scary but compared to the original it is very robust.



The cavern does flood when there is significant rain in the region - the last time, in 2019 when Slovenia had significant and damaging flooding, it completely filled. The river rises in Croatia and after the complex runs underground before emerging near



Trieste in Italy.

The Italian border is only around 5 miles from where we stayed and whilst you might expect the area to have some overlap that is not the case.

The Italian descendants living in the area were 'expelled' by the Tito regime in a mass migration that is very little discussed.

Nowadays you are likely to see Italian cars in the villages close to the border and spaghetti is back on the menu!



The Italian or rather Venetian influence is evident across the area - the church towers resemble St Mark's in Venice and the town of Piran on the Adriatic coast feels like Venice without the canals. It is remarkably un-changed and is largely traffic free. There are local salt pans with lots of bird life and despite the large container ships heading to Trieste and Koper ports the area has a sea side feel.

Most people seem to drive through or ignore Slovenia - if you get the opportunity, it is well worth the visit.

*Ann Slee-Jones*

**All Saints' Church Thornton Hough**

# Coffee Mornings

2026  
28<sup>th</sup> January  
25<sup>th</sup> February  
25<sup>th</sup> March  
22<sup>nd</sup> April  
27<sup>th</sup> May  
24<sup>th</sup> June  
22<sup>nd</sup> July

Wednesday at 10.30am  
in the Parish Hall

Refreshments  
Conversation with friends  
Raffle  
Entry 50p

Everybody welcome

Two white ceramic cups filled with coffee, each on a matching saucer, with several dark coffee beans scattered on the surface around the cups.



# A REFRESHING TAKE ON LEGAL SERVICES

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2026 already! It doesn't seem five minutes since we welcomed in 2025; Happy New Year to you all from Thornton Hough WI. Our new programme for 2026 is on our noticeboard outside the hall, and also on our Facebook page. If you see anything you find of interest please join us, we look forward to welcoming you.

We had a fabulous party at our Christmas meeting with an amazing selection of tasty sandwiches, savouries and scrumptious cakes. The Secret Santa was great fun and the mystery raffle put together by Simone provided some 'interesting' prizes. Everyone joined in and made it a really sociable and fun evening.

Despite the drizzly weather our trip to Tatton Hall got off to a good start with a friend from Ness WI, celebrating her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday! She was presented with a card and poinsettia, and we all treated her to a rendition of Happy Birthday. Arriving at Tatton Hall in time for lunch we had a lovely venison hotpot, followed by apple crumble and custard washed down with a cup of tea or coffee. Fortified for our visit we then had free time to explore the mansion and gardens. The mansion house rooms were beautifully decorated with themes from the film *Frozen*, the ballet *Nutcracker Suite*, the Christmas carol *The Holly and the Ivy* to name but a few. We had time for a little retail therapy, of course, and a coffee and cake in the restaurant before departing for home.

Our ladies got together and spent a very creative afternoon making a beautiful selection of Christmas Wreaths. They enjoyed tea and cake and took home some professional looking wreaths for Christmas. You can see photographs of these on THWI Facebook page. If you haven't already, click on the link address below and take a look.

Thornton Hough WI took part in the St John's Hospice £50 Challenge and raised a massive £850 from two events held at the WI Hall, a super *Step into Autumn* clothes sale and a fabulous cream tea. We were welcomed to the awards with refreshments and also got to meet other participants from the £50 Challenge. To our surprise and delight we were presented with the Award for Community Impact. You can see photos of the award presentation on THWI Facebook page and on St John's Hospice Wirral website. Well done to all our ladies! Thanks also go to our ladies who volunteered to take part as bucket collectors at Tesco, Heswall and M&S, Heswall during December braving the very cold weather.

Our final event of 2025 - Christmas Afternoon Tea at Thornton Hall Hotel. We enjoyed a scrumptious afternoon tea in the Oak Room, served on individual cake stands, of sandwiches, scones, jam and clotted cream with a top tier of Moorish macaroons, cakes and truffles.

On **Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> February at 12.30pm** a Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) training session by North West Ambulance Service will be held at **Thornton Hough WI Hall**. This will also include a demonstration on how to use a defibrillator. This important training event is open to all, friends and neighbours are all welcome.

It is a hundred years since Thornton Hough Women's Institute was inaugurated in March 1926 and we are looking forward to celebrating, with a year of exciting events to mark this special occasion. We would like to share our celebrations with you, so please check our noticeboard for regular updates of upcoming events.

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](http://www.facebook.com/ThorntonHoughWI1926)

email: [thwi.thorntonhough@btinternet.com](mailto:thwi.thorntonhough@btinternet.com)

*Janet Gaywood*

		<b>All Saints' Church, Thornton Hough</b>	
<b>Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2026</b>		<b>£2 per family</b> Toybox meets in the Parish Hall from 10am to 11:30am	
<b>Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2026</b>			
<b>Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2026</b>			
<b>Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2026</b>			
<b>Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2026</b>			
<b>Monday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2026</b>			
<b>Free play, craft, story, songs and refreshments</b> <b>Babies and toddlers with their carers (mums, dads, grandparents etc)</b> <b>All welcome.</b>			

**A verse from the Bible**

**Jesus said: "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."** (Matthew 11: 28)

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.



## Solutions

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

**Sudoku**



**Musical instrument wordsearch**

List on the instruments on page 13

## Answers to The Quiz

1. Eros
2. Fitzwilliam Darcy
3. "I Love you."
4. "...that's newly spring in June."
5. Bee keepers
6. "Love is all around" sung by *Wet Wet Wet*
7. *Queen Victoria*
8. *Kew*
9. Belarus
10. Morrissey
11. Danube
12. Brimstone
13. Traffic Warden
14. Youth Hostel
15. 22
16. New Amsterdam
17. Robot Wars
18. Me and My Girl
19. Anaemia
20. Cambridge
21. Long words
22. Chester Zoo
23. Knutsford
24. Lewis Carrol
25. Silk
26. Gary Barlow

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  
Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March**

## COOKERY CORNER

### Multi Bean Chilli (serves 6)

4 x 400g tins mixed beans (or equivalent dried bean mix, soaked overnight in cold water)

1 tblsp olive oil

2 onions, chopped

4 garlic cloves, chopped

2 medium chillies (adjust to taste)

2 tsp smoked paprika (adjust to taste)

1 tsp ground cinnamon

1 tsp ground cumin

3 x 400g cans chopped tomatoes

2 red peppers, deseeded and cut into chunks

2 yellow peppers, deseeded and cut into chunks

2 medium carrots, finely chopped

2 stalks celery, finely chopped

4 rosemary sprigs

750ml chicken or vegetable stock



If using dried beans (after soaking overnight), boil them rapidly for 10 minutes in a pan of fresh water, then lower the heat and simmer for 1 hour, topping up with boiling water from a kettle if necessary.

Fry the onion and garlic in olive oil and cook, stirring occasionally, until the onion is softened and golden. Add the chillies, smoked paprika, cinnamon and cumin and cook for 2 minutes more.

Stir in the tomatoes, peppers, carrots, celery, rosemary and stock and bring to the boil. Drain the beans and add to the pan. Partially cover with a lid and simmer for a further hour or so until the beans are tender and the sauce has thickened.

Serve with brown rice.

Ideal for batch cooking, as it can be frozen in portions.

### Winter Pudding

3 oz left over white bread crumbled into a bowl in small pieces.

¼ pint milk and 2oz butter melted together. Pour over bread and stir.

Add:

3 oz currants

3 oz sultanas

2 oz sugar

2 teaspoons lemon juice

2 large pinches of mixed spice

1 large egg.

Mix well, put into a greased bowl and smooth the top.

Cook 180°C, 350°F, gas mark 4, for 45 minutes till golden.

Sprinkle top with sugar before serving with cream or custard.







# The Red Fox and Little Fox

## Thornton Hough



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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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## Bible Readings

### February—March

#### February

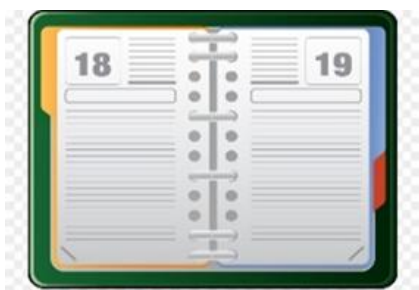
1	<b>Fourth Sunday of Epiphany</b>	
	1 Kings 17:8-16	John 2:1-11
8	<b>Second Sunday before Lent</b>	
	Genesis 1:1-2:3	Matthew 6:25-34
15	<b>Sunday before Lent</b>	
	Exodus 24:12-18	Matthew 17:1-9
18	<b>Ash Wednesday</b>	
	Psalms 51: 1-18	Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
22	<b>First Sunday of Lent</b>	
	Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7	Matthew 4:1-11

#### March

1	<b>Second Sunday of Lent</b>	
	Genesis 12:1-4a	John 3:1-17
8	<b>Third Sunday of Lent</b>	
	Exodus 17:1-7	John 4:5-42
15	<b>Mothering Sunday / Fourth Sunday of Lent</b>	
	1 Samuel 1:20-28	Luke 2:33-35
22	<b>Passion Sunday / Fifth Sunday of Lent</b>	
	Ezekiel 37:1-14	John 11:1-45
29	<b>Palm Sunday</b>	
	Psalms 118:19-24	Matthew 21:1-11

#### April

2	<b>Maundy Thursday</b>	
	Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14	John 13: 1-17, 31b-35
3	<b>Good Friday</b>	
	Isaiah 52:13-53:12	John 18:1-40
5	<b>Easter Day</b>	
	Acts 10:34-43	John 20:1-18



## Parish Diary

### February—March

#### February

1	Sunday	<b>Presentation of Christ in the Temple</b>
		8:00am Holy Communion
		10:30am Holy Communion
4	Wednesday	10:30am Holy Communion
6	Friday	7:00pm Choir Practice
7	Saturday	12 noon Soup and Sandwich Lunch
8	Sunday	<b>Second Sunday before Lent</b>
		10:30am Holy Communion
		6:30pm Choral Evensong
9	Monday	10:00am Toybox
10	Tuesday	7:30pm PCC Meeting
11	Wednesday	10:30am Holy Communion
13	Friday	7:00pm Choir Practice
15	Sunday	<b>Sunday next before Lent</b>
		8:00am Holy Communion
		10:30am Holy Communion
18	Wednesday	<b>Ash Wednesday</b>
		7:00pm Holy Communion
20	Friday	7:00pm Choir Practice
22	Sunday	<b>First Sunday of Lent</b>
		10:30am Holy Communion
25	Wednesday	10:30am Coffee Morning
27	Friday	7:00pm Choir Practice

#### March

1	Sunday	<b>Second Sunday of Lent</b>
		8:00am Holy Communion
		10:30am Holy Communion
4	Wednesday	10:30am Holy Communion
6	Friday	2:00pm World Day of Prayer service at Willaston Methodist Church
		7:00pm Choir Practice



## March

8	Sunday	<b>Third Sunday of Lent</b>
		10:30am Holy Communion
		6:30pm Choral Evensong
9	Monday	10:00am Toybox
10	Tuesday	7:30pm PCC Meeting
11	Wednesday	10:30am Holy Communion
15	Sunday	<b>Mothering Sunday / Fourth Sunday of Lent</b>
		8:00am Holy Communion
		10:30am Mothering Sunday Service
		2:30pm A quiet space for Mothering Sunday
17	Tuesday	Parish Magazine deadline (April-May)
18	Wednesday	10:30am Holy Communion
20	Friday	7:00pm Choir Practice
22	Sunday	<b>Passion Sunday / Fifth Sunday of Lent</b>
		10:30am Service of readings and music for Passiontide
25	Wednesday	10:30am Coffee Morning
27	Friday	7:00pm Choir Practice
29	Sunday	<b>Palm Sunday</b>
		10:30am Holy Communion

## April

1	Wednesday	10:30am Holy Communion
2	Thursday	<b>Maundy Thursday</b>
		7:00pm Holy Communion
3	Friday	<b>Good Friday</b>
		10:30am Good Friday Meditation
		7:00pm Choir Practice
4	Saturday	
5	Sunday	<b>Easter Sunday</b>
		8:00am Holy Communion
		10:30am Holy Communion

**British Summer Time** starts at 1:00am on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March.  
The clocks go forward one hour at 1:00am.



## Who's who at All Saints

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