

All Saints Church Thornton Hough

The Magazine



December 2018—January 2019



Forthcoming Parish Events

Advent Carol Service

December 2nd
at 10:30AM

More details
on Page 9



A Festival of
**NINE LESSONS
AND CAROLS**

23rd December at 18:30
More details on Page 9

Men's Discussion Group Breakfast

at Thornton Hall Hotel
On December 1st at 8.30am
with Guest Speaker

Mr John Glass

Cost £11.50

Further details from
Charles Elphick

NHS Christmas Carol Concert
December 12th
Full details on Page 27



Details of all our Christmas Services can be found on Page 9





A letter from the Churchwardens

Welcome to the Parish Magazine which will take us through the seasons of Advent, Christmas and Epiphany. At this time of year many of us will find ourselves busily focussed on preparations and celebrations with our families, friends and colleagues. Let us take a moment to reflect on the meaning of these seasons. What is it that we celebrate?

Christmas is a season in which God expresses his perfect love for mankind. We read “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life” (John 3v16 NIV). This verse reminds us that our eternal life does not rely on what we ourselves do, but on the love of the One who made us and that this love is demonstrated through sacrificial giving. It also reminds us that salvation is for all who believe in Him. Faith in Jesus as the Son of God is God’s criterion for salvation.

Perhaps, at this time of year when we celebrate God’s gift to us, we might look for new ways to share the Good News with those around us so that they too might share in the promise of eternal life.

Alice Jones and Patsy Baker

Notes on the PCC meeting on 7th November 2018

Alice Jones (chairman) opened the meeting at 7:30pm with a reading from Psalm 127 and a prayer.

The PCC discussed the maintenance of the New Graveyard and a decision was taken to continue with the current contractor at the moment. Leaves and moles have been causing problems recently.

The level of public liability insurance cover required of our contractors was discussed and it was decided to investigate this further.

Text for the Christmas card to be distributed to houses in the parish has now been agreed by All Saints, St Georges and St Luke's and the card will be sent to the printers as soon as the draft layout has been agreed. Help will be needed to distribute the cards. The cards give details of the additional Christmas services at each of the three churches.

Margaret Gamble has been elected into a vacancy on the PCC. Her term of office will end in March 2019 but she will be eligible for re-election then.

The advert for a new vicar had been out for 12 days on the date of the PCC meeting. The closing date for applications is 10th December and interviews will be held at the end of January.

The new look church website is about to go live. Changes suggested by members of the Website Review Team had been made; the notices from the pew sheet will be put on the website each week. Iain Stinson was thanked by the PCC for all his hard work on the website.

A draft Health and Safety Policy had been circulated in advance of the meeting. It was based on a template by Ecclesiastical Insurance and had been populated by the Fabric, Health and Safety Committee. There was some discussion about the document and some minor changes agreed. A practice evacuation at a church service was carried out in the summer and lessons learnt noted.

The Health and Safety Policy will be amended and re-circulated for adoption at the next PCC meeting. It will then be circulated to all volunteers.



The Fabric, Health and Safety Committee were thanked for all their work in preparing the Health and Safety Policy.

A finance report to the end of September had been circulated to the PCC in advance of the meeting. The latest bank statements had not yet arrived and were needed to complete the October report.

The year to date General Fund showed a deficit of around £872. Giving is falling. The Treasurer is submitting a bill to the Diocese to cover clergy costs since Daniel Howard left.

Giving to charitable organisations (£1,000 is set aside) is usually decided at the December meeting. £200 has already been given in response to the disaster relief fund the Diocese was encouraging us to support. £800 remains to be allocated at the December PCC meeting. In the past our mission partners and the Simeon's Trustees (our patron) have been supported

The budget for next year will be discussed and adopted at the December PCC meeting. If anything out of the usual was being planned members of the PCC were asked to let the treasurer know. The rent for Hirst Cottage was discussed.

3 Churches together will meet again on 24th November. All Saints have a Christmas Coffee morning on 24th November; St Luke's have an event the same day but in the afternoon.

The churchwardens will discuss the dates of the united services so that a calendar of services and readings for next year can be produced. This is needed before the clergy can be approached and the rotas completed.

The electoral roll still stands at 145. There will be a major revision of the electoral roll next year. Forms will appear at the back of the church after Christmas and an article about the revision will appear in The Magazine.

The Deanery Pilgrimage was very successful. It started with Celtic morning prayer in Holywell. Small churches were visited along the way and the pilgrimage ended at St Asaph's Cathedral. There was a coachload of 56 people from the Deanery.

The next PCC meeting is on Wednesday 5th December at 7:30pm in the Parish Hall.



Sue Stinson (PCC Secretary)

All Saints website

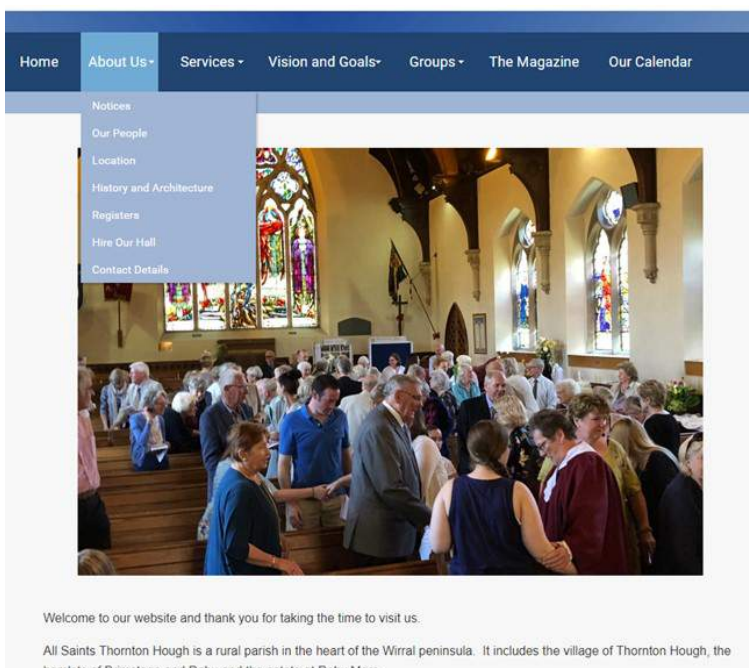
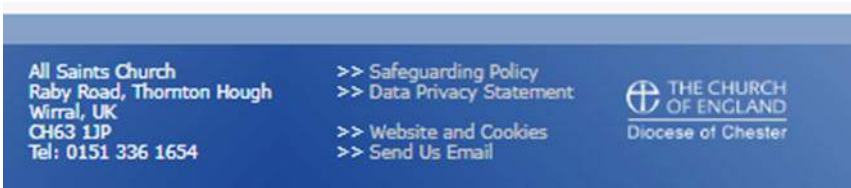


We have recently updated and revised our website. We've "modernised" the appearance and updated the content of the website to reflect the present situation at All Saints.

The site has many more photographs of the church and parish. It continues to have the calendar of services and events and The Magazine; the Magazine section has been enhanced by including recent editions as well as the current edition. In order to provide more up to date information, we are including the notices section from the weekly pew sheet on the website.

The first time you visit the website you are asked to agree that the site can store *cookies* on your device; the *cookies* are need to support some parts of the website.

The bottom part of each page provides links to important information about Safeguarding and Data Privacy; it also provides a link to the Diocese website and a link to send email to All Saints.

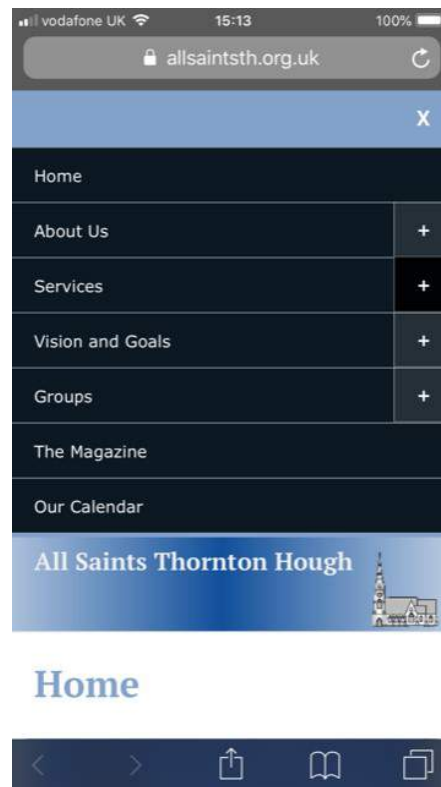
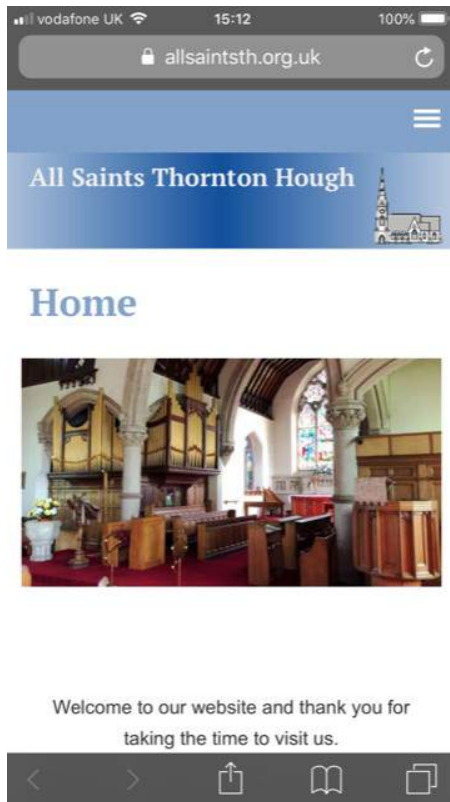



With the increased use of mobile devices such as smart phones and tablets, the website takes the type of device being used to access the site into account, both in how the information is presented and in the way you navigate around the site (the way you access information).

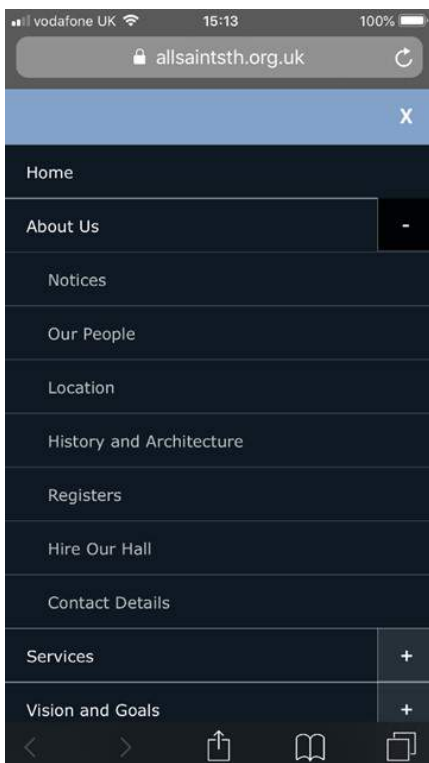
The normal computer based access (laptop or desktop and some large screen tablets) uses drop down menus across the top of the page for navigation. As you move your

mouse (or finger) across the top menu, drop-down menus will appear under each of the main menu items. You simply click on the name of the section of information you want to see.

On a smartphone the navigation is more attuned to the nature of the device.



The menu is accessible by clicking on the symbol  which appears at the top of the page when you go to the site. When you press this symbol the menu items appear. You press the **+** symbol to see the sections of a particular main menu item and touch the title of the section of the information you wish to read.



The website may be found at **allsaintsth.org.uk** with or without the *www.* prefix.

Please take time to look at the information on the website. We would welcome your comments about the updated website and any suggestions of other information you think it would be helpful to have made available via the website. Send any comments or suggestions to

office@allsaintsth.org.uk

or speak to the churchwardens or Iain Stinson.

Iain Stinson

Reading the notation...

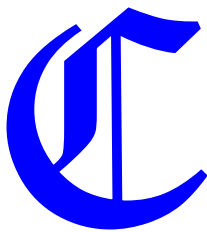
Very often people will describe how to find something on a website or do something in an application by giving you a formula or recipe such as *To read the notices from the pew sheet on the website go to :-*

About Us | Notices

What this means is go to the main menu on the website and click (or tap) the phrase *About Us* in the menu. A submenu (set of choices) will drop down or appears in some other way. Click (or tap) on the word *Notices* from the list which has appeared and you will then see the notices from the pew sheet.

This type of notation is widely used when giving instructions on how to do things with computer and web based applications and even how to use your new television set. Sometimes you have to press a MENU button to show you the main menu before you can begin.

IS



Christmas card from the three churches in Thornton Hough

Once again the three churches in Thornton Hough, St Luke the Physician (Roman Catholic), St George's (United Reformed Church) and All Saints (Church of England) have produced a Christmas card which includes details of the special and additional services which have been arranged for the Christmas season. More than 900 of these have been delivered to homes in the parish by a team of volunteers from the 3 churches. We hope it encourages people to come to one or more of the special services and learn more about the true meaning of Christmas.

Another humorous short story from Church Times!!

Elizabeth asked her Sunday School class to sketch a picture of their favourite Bible stories. She was puzzled by Bert's picture, which showed four people sitting in a plane, so she asked him which bible story it was meant to represent.' The flight to Egypt,' said Bert.

'I see ... and that must be Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus, 'Elizabeth said, 'But who's the fourth person?'

Oh, that's Pontius - the Pilot.'



Advant and Christmas Services

Sunday December 2nd 10:30am Advent Carol Service.

A service with readings and music for congregation and choir to help us begin our spiritual preparation for the Christmas season.

Sunday December 16th 4:00pm Christingle Service.

An informal child-oriented service, for young and old, to rejoice in the coming of Jesus, the Light of the World.

Monday December 17th 10:45am Crib Service.

We hear the Christmas story presented in a way suitable for young children. Children from cots2tots will attend. Adults and other young children are also most welcome to come and join in!

Sunday December 23rd 6:30pm Service on Nine Lessons and Carols.

A chance to hear the traditional nine readings from the Bible which are used in carol services throughout the world, to sing traditional Christmas hymns and carols and to hear some special carols sung by All Saints Church Choir.

Christmas Eve Monday December 24th 11:00pm Holy Communion.

The first Holy Communion for Christmas Day begins a little before midnight. The service includes familiar readings for Christmas and well-known Christmas carols and hymns.

Christmas Day, Tuesday December 25th 10:30am All Age Holy Communion for Christmas Day.

A family oriented service, giving everyone the opportunity to come and celebrate the birth of the Jesus-child.



Revision of the church electoral roll

Six years have passed since the current Church Electoral Roll was created. So, in accordance with the Church Representation Rules, a new Church Electoral Roll needs to be prepared.

What is the Church Electoral Roll?

It is your parish church's register of electors and it is the list of those qualified to attend and vote at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting where elections take place for:

The Parochial Church Council

The parish's representatives on the Deanery Synod.

Any person on the Church Electoral Roll is entitled to attend the Annual Parochial Church Meeting and may legitimately raise any question of parochial or general church interest.

By enrolling, you can vote and so help to ensure that all of the synodical councils of the Church (i.e. The Parochial Church Council, Deanery Synod, Diocesan Synod and the General Synod) are fully representative.

Synodical government gives an opportunity for partnership between bishops, clergy and laity in the life of the church. The system is intended to enable church people at every level to be in touch with the church as a whole and to play their part in decision making. Also, this is intended to try and ensure that the laity have their place in every aspect of church life, including its doctrine and its services.

All persons who wish to have their name on the new Church Electoral Roll are requested to apply for enrolment no later than 1st April 2019. Enrolment forms are available in church.

It is very important to note that no names can be carried over from the old roll and I stress that a new application must be made.



Dr Elly Macbeath
Electoral Roll Officer



A Christmas Quiz

1. What's the name of the period leading up to Christmas?
2. How many Wise Men brought gifts to Jesus?
3. How does Good King Wenceslas like his pizzas?
4. What was the name of John the Baptist's Mother?
5. Who brings presents to children in Holland on the 5th/6th December?
6. How many letters are in the angelic alphabet?
7. In what town was Jesus born?
8. How many presents were given in total in the 12 Days of Christmas?
9. In what decade was the first Christmas Card sent in the UK?
10. What country did the family escape to?
11. How many of Rudolph's eight companions names start with 'D'?
12. What country did Christmas Trees originate from?
13. Who was the 'King of the Jews' who ordered the babies to be killed?
14. What's the second line of "I'm dreaming of a white Christmas"?
15. What was Joseph's job?
16. Who started the custom of Wassailing?
17. Who were first people to visit the baby Jesus?
18. What's lucky to find in your Christmas Pudding?
19. What Angel visited Mary?
20. Where did the baby Jesus sleep?

Christmas Customs - Christmas Trees

The evergreen fir tree has traditionally been used to celebrate winter festivals (pagan and Christian) for thousands of years. Pagans used branches of it to decorate their homes during the winter solstice, as it made them think of the spring to come. The Romans used Fir Trees to decorate their temples at the festival of Saturnalia. Christians used it as a sign of everlasting life with God.



Nobody is really sure when Fir trees were first used as Christmas trees. It probably began about 1000 years ago in Northern Europe. Many early Christmas Trees seem to have been hung upside down from the ceiling using chains (hung from chandeliers/lighting hooks).

Other early Christmas Trees, across many parts of northern Europe, were cherry or hawthorn plants (or branches of the plant) that were put into pots and brought inside so they would hopefully flower at Christmas time. If you couldn't afford a real plant, people made pyramids of wood and they were decorated to look like a tree with paper, apples and candles. Sometimes they were carried around from house to house, rather than being displayed in a home.

It's possible that the wooden pyramid trees were meant to be like Paradise Trees. These were used in medieval German Mystery or Miracle Plays that were acted out in front of Churches on Christmas Eve. In early church calendars of saints, 24th December was Adam and Eve's day. The Paradise Tree represented the Garden of Eden. It was often paraded around the town before the play started, as a way of advertising the play. The plays told Bible stories to people who could not read.

The first documented use of a tree at Christmas and New Year celebrations is argued between the cities of Tallinn in Estonia and Riga in Latvia! Both claim that they had the first trees; Tallinn in 1441 and Riga in 1510. Both trees were put up by the 'Brotherhood of Blackheads' which was an association of local unmarried merchants, ship owners, and foreigners in Livonia (what is now Estonia and Latvia).

Little is known about either tree apart from that they were put in the town square, were danced around by the Brotherhood of Blackheads and were then set on fire. This is like the custom of the Yule Log. The word used for the 'tree' could also mean a mast or pole, tree might have been like a 'Paradise Tree' or a tree-shaped wooden candelabra rather than a 'real' tree.

In the town square of Riga, the capital of Latvia, there is a plaque which is engraved with "The First New Year's Tree in Riga in 1510", in eight languages. You can find out more about the Riga Tree from this website: www.firstchristmastree.com

A picture from Germany in 1521 which shows a tree being paraded through the streets with a man riding a horse behind it. The man is dressed a bishop, possibly representing St. Nicholas.

In 1584, the historian Balthasar Russow wrote about a tradition, in Riga, of a decorated fir tree in the market square where the young men "went with a flock of maidens and women, first sang and danced there and then set the tree aflame". There's a record of a small tree in Breman, Germany from 1570. It is described as a tree decorated with "apples, nuts, dates, pretzels and paper flowers". It was displayed in a 'guild-house' (the meeting place for a society of business men in the city).



The first person to bring a Christmas Tree into a house, in the way we know it today, may have been the 16th century German preacher Martin Luther. A story is told that, one night before Christmas, he was walking through the forest and looked up to see the stars shining through the tree branches. It was so beautiful, that he went home and told his children that it reminded him of Jesus, who left the stars of heaven to come to earth at Christmas. Some people say this is the same tree as the 'Riga' tree, but it isn't! The "Riga tree celebration " originally took place a few decades earlier.

The custom of having Christmas trees could well have travelled along the Baltic sea, from Latvia to Germany. In the 1400s and 1500s, the countries which are now Germany and Latvia were then part of two larger empires which were neighbours.

In Germany, the first Christmas Trees were decorated with edible things, such as gingerbread and gold covered apples. Then glass makers made special small ornaments similar to some of the decorations used today. In 1605 an unknown German wrote: "At Christmas they set up fir trees in the parlours of Strasbourg and hang there - roses cut out of coloured paper, apples, wafers, gold foil, sweets, etc."

At first, a figure of the Baby Jesus was put on the top of the tree. Over time it changed to an angel/fairy that told the shepherds about Jesus, or a star like the Wise Men saw.



The first Christmas Trees came to Britain sometime in the 1830s. They became very popular in 1841, when Prince Albert (Queen Victoria's German husband) had a Christmas Tree set up in Windsor Castle. In 1848, a drawing of "The Queen's Christmas tree at Windsor Castle" was published in the Illustrated London News. The drawing was republished in Godey's Lady's Book, Philadelphia in December 1850 (but they removed the Queen's crown and Prince Albert's moustache to make it look 'American!').

The publication of the drawing helped Christmas Trees become popular in the UK and USA.

In Victorian times, the tree would have been decorated with candles to represent stars. In many parts of Europe, candles are still used to decorate Christmas trees.

Another story says that St. Boniface of Crediton (a village in Devon, UK) left England and travelled to Germany to preach to the pagan German tribes and convert them to Christianity. He is said to have come across a group of pagans about to sacrifice a young boy while worshipping an oak tree. In anger, and to stop the sacrifice, St. Boniface is said to have cut down the oak tree and, to his amazement, a young fir tree sprang up from the roots of the oak tree. St. Boniface took this as a sign of the Christian faith and his followers decorated the tree with candles so that St. Boniface could preach to the pagans at night.

There is another legend, from Germany, about how the Christmas Tree came into being, it goes:



Once on a cold Christmas Eve night, a forester and his family were in their cottage gathered round the fire to keep warm. Suddenly there was a knock on the door. When the forester opened the door, he found a poor little boy standing on the door step, lost and alone. The forester welcomed him into his house and the family fed and washed him and put him to bed in the youngest sons own bed (he had to share with his brother that night!). The next morning, Christmas Morning, the family were woken up by a choir of angels, and the poor little boy had turned into Jesus, the Christ Child. The Christ Child went into the front garden of the cottage and broke a branch off a Fir tree and gave it to the family as a present

to say thank you for looking after him. So ever since then, people have remembered that night by bringing a Christmas Tree into their homes!

Adverts

If you are interested in placing an advert (half or full page) in next year's magazines please contact the Editors.



ACF

A church fellowship for anyone from anywhere



On 10th October, 22 people came to listen to Christa Trollope's talk on "Life under Idi Amin". This most interesting and emotional address is summarised below.

Life under Idi Amin

A brief synopsis of the talk I gave to the church fellowship on 10 October 2018. Our reason for going to Uganda was to do church development work as CMS missionaries.

We went to Uganda in December 1972, after 3 months language school to learn Swahili. Our children were 2 and 4 years old. After language schools we could not go to Kampala due to the Asian exodus in November. We stayed in Kenya over Christmas in a borrowed house in the Taita Hills, about 100 km south of Mombasa. This was the best Christmas we have ever had, very simple, with no presents (as they were still in the trunks we sent 4 months previously to Kampala), steak and kidney pie (meat bought on the local market) shared with a retired missionary who had returned to the hills as she did not like the heat of Mombasa at that time of the year.

Once we got the all clear from CMS, we took the overnight train from Nairobi to Kampala. In order to save CMS money, David travelled 2nd class while I went 1st class with the children. Big mistake! When we reached the border, soldiers with their guns boarded the train and were bullying people about (this was in the middle of the night!). As you can imagine the children and I were petrified despite David joining us in our compartment just for the border crossing. Our first introduction to Amin's soldiers!

On arrival in Kampala in the morning, the guards at the station shook their heads saying: 'the Church of Uganda' bringing in new people while a lot of expatriates were leaving since the Asian expulsion. We were taken to a house on Namirembe Hill, the church's headquarters. It belonged to the Church. The house had basic furniture but nothing else. All our belongings (crochery, clothes for the children and toys for the next 3 years) were still in the trunks we sent over 4 months earlier.



As there were no curtains in the house, we pulled cupboards in front of the windows for some privacy. Our first night I had to get up and saw cockroaches running across the floor. So David and I had to try and get rid of them. Well we ended up with 6 big piles of dead cockroaches!!

In the morning we pulled the dining room table onto the veranda overlooking the beautiful city of Kampala. That morning we saw 10 new species of the most colourful birds. We felt that was a real gift from God and encouraged us to see the beauty of the people and the country.

As we had nothing of our own things, 3 young missionaries offered me a lift to a game park., while David stayed behind with the children. When we got back after a long week-end, I saw our bright orange painted tin trunks on the veranda. You can imagine how overjoyed we were. We bought curtains (best Heals material) and our car from the British Council people as they were all leaving. We made good friends with some of the expatriates who stayed on.

David was not able to do the developing work he set out to do, as the collapsing economy and infra-structure was one step ahead of his plans. So he set up a chicken farm on the land of the theological college Mukono outside Kampala as a Christian based industry that would help the students learn about different types of working practices. This was very successful as it was the only chicken farm still functioning after 10 years, despite 2 coups in the country!

Everyday life became more difficult as time went on. The shelves in the supermarkets were often empty. We could manage without the mod cons, but basics were difficult to get hold of, like sugar, flour, margarine, rice, soap, washing powder, etc. The situation brought people together, we had to rely on one-another and share with those around, whether expatriate or Ugandan. It reminds me of the superficiality of life here and how we cope or don't when everything is stripped away. We did not have mobile phones, no TV, no instant ways of communicating with home. We relied on air letters. We managed on local produce bought on the market, where the Ugandans were very friendly and generous. Uganda could survive because the land is very fertile.

But schooling had collapsed too, so we had to home teach our children. Our daughter was sent as a 9 year old to a Christian boarding school in Kenya where most missionary kids went as well as some of the Ugandan elite's. We had to get permission from government offices to travel to Kenya by car



which meant David sitting in the offices till 5 pm before someone stamped the papers because everyone was frightened in case Idi Amin had another dream and changed the rules..

Once our running water supply stopped as the system had not been maintained. I had to collect water from a well down the road. Luckily, I could put the containers in the car, whereas local people carried them on their head! So we lived without running water for 18 months.

When Amin started to persecute the church leaders and had Janani Luwum (the Archbishop) murdered and we could not bring our children home for their school holidays, we decided it was no longer viable to stay on, especially as David, by that stage, worked a lot with the Archbishop in the different dioceses and a Ugandan could do his job. He accepted a post in Kenya with CORAT Africa. He worked in 14 different African countries evaluating projects (financed from overseas) and training the church leaders in management .

We left with the blessings of the Ugandan colleagues and returned many times to Uganda. The people will always be dear in my heart. Never forget how much you can support people by your prayers.

Christa Trollope



TWW

On Wednesday 14th November, 19 people came to hear of the progress of “[Tomorrow’s Women Wirral](#)” from Maureen Thompson and two of the ladies from the project - Sandra and Jade.

Maureen reminded us of how TWW was set up in 2010 with no money, no premises and no staff. It was officially opened in 2011 by Baroness Corston with volunteers recruited to welcome women, lend a friendly ear and run a breakfast club and refreshments and to teach skills such as Art, Craft and Music etc.

TWW formed a Board of Trustees in 2012 and became a company and achieved charitable status 6 months later.

To date, over 6,000 women have benefited with over 120 attending daily. There are 180 partners, agencies and charities who offer a wide range of empowerment and enabling courses to build up women’s self-esteem, confidence and preparation for employment. Through working with several colleges and universities over 12,000 accredited certificates have been awarded and 1000 women accessed education and employment.

It costs £300,000 to run TWW which equates to 5 women in prison thus saving a lot of public money.

TWW has received widespread coverage in the media through TV appearances, invitation to the Houses of Commons and Lords as well as articles in the national press. TWW has received 35 Local and National awards and only just this month TWW was receiving an award from the Howard League for Penal Reform.

The two ladies gave their account of how and why they attended and the amazing improvement they had experienced. Both are now mentors for TWW. A sales table from TWW with Christmas Wreaths, cushions, candles etc. was very popular. Maureen informed us that 120 women attend the centre each day and altogether over 6,000 have benefited.

Eileen Roberts

ACF Forthcoming Events

Christmas Lunch at Thornton Hall Hotel

Thursday 6th December at 12.30pm

Chatterbox and ACF

Wednesday 12th December at 2.15pm

Christmas Party with Entertainment in the Parish Hall

Fellowship Meeting in the Parish Hall

Wednesday 9th January at 2:15pm

ACF Business Meeting

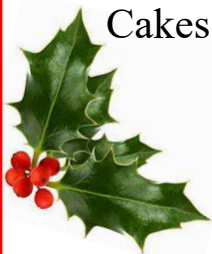
Coffee Morning in the Parish Hall

Wednesday 23rd January at 10:30am

Cakes, Cards, Jams, Chutneys etc.

*Friendly atmosphere with lots of conversation
Everybody welcome to all our activities*

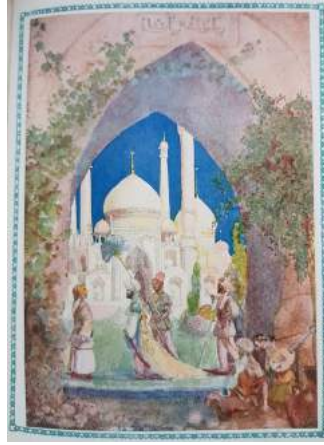
Eileen Roberts



POETRY CORNER - RUBAIYAT OF OMAR KAYAM - Edward Fitzgerald

I

Awake! For Morning in the
Bowl of Night
Has flung the Stone that puts
the Stars to Flight:
And lo! The Hunter of the
East has caught
The Sultan's Turret in a
Noose of Light



III

And, as the Cock crew, those
who stood before
The Tavern shouted—"Open
then the Door!
You know how little while we
have to stay,
And, once departed, may
return no more."



V

Iram indeed is gone
with all its Rose,
And Jamshyd's Sev'n-ring'd
Cup where no one knows;
But still the Vine her ancient
Ruby yields,
And still a Garden by the
Water blows.



XI

Here with a Loaf of
Bread beneath the Bough
A Flask of Wine, a Book
of Verse—and Thou
Beside me singing in the
Wilderness—
And Wilderness is
Paradise enow.

XXXIV

Then to this earthen Bowl
did I adjourn
My Lip, the secret Well of
Life to learn:
And Lip to Lip it murmur'd
"While you live
Drink! - for once dead you
never shall return."



XLIX

Tis all a Chequer-board of
Nights and Days
Where Destiny with Men
for Pieces plays:
Hither and thither moves,
and mates, and slays
And one by one back in
the Closet lays.

LI

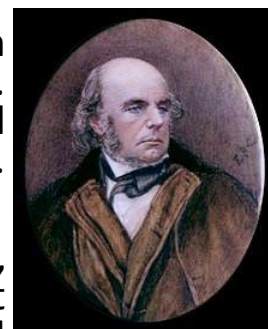
The Moving Finger writes:
and, having writ,
Moves on: nor all thy Piety
nor Wit
Shall lure it back to cancel
half a line,
Nor all thy Tears wash out
a Word of it.

LXXV

And when Thyself with
shining Foot shall pass
Among the Guests Star-
scattered on the Grass
And in thy joyous Errand
reach the Spot
Where I made one—turn
down an empty Glass!



Omar Kayam was a famous 12th century Persian philosopher, mathematician, astronomer, and poet. Hundreds of Persian quatrains have been attributed to him, many written well after his death in 1131. Rubaiyat are traditional four-line Persian stanzas.



Edward FitzGerald (1809-1883) a wealthy scholar, immersed himself in Persian poetry and by "patient scholarly labour" produced his "complete and imperishable masterpiece" consisting of 75 to 101 quatrains, of which I have chosen eight of my favourites. Although the original little four-line stanzas were written by many Muslim poets over several centuries, FitzGerald chose, expanded, contracted and amalgamated the "scattered threads of the Persian original", into a fairly coherent "string of pearls".

Stanza I takes us immediately to the exotic East, with a wealth of glorious imagery. The Sultan's turret conjures a Persian city. The sun is often imagined as a charioteer, and here he is a huntsman with a lasso. The starlit heavens often look like an inverted bowl. I imagine a stone disturbing the reflection of stars in a bowl of water. Throwing a stone into a bowl was the sign for a Nomadic camp to start moving off, appropriate for the start of a caravan of verses.

Stanza III is one of many on the "carpe diem" theme of "eat, drink, for tomorrow we die". It is remarkable that so many Persian poets urge the drinking of wine, when their religion forbids it.

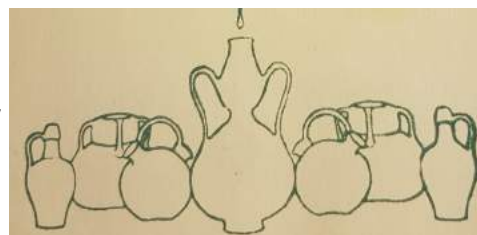
Stanza V is full of Eastern mystery, even if you don't know what Iram & Jamshyd represent. Iram was a mythical garden city, destroyed by God because of the sins of its inhabitants. It was the Persian earthly paradise. Jamshyd was the legendary founder of Persepolis, who had a wonderful cup whose interior showed him the seven divisions of the globe in seven rings. Rubies are the most valuable of gemstones, and gardens with water represent simple luxury in the arid East.

The famous **Stanza XI** expands on the simple pleasures available to a philosopher. FitzGerald re-wrote it many times: "*A book of Verses underneath the Bough/A Jug of Wine, a Loaf of Bread and Thou/Beside me singing in the Wilderness/ O, Wilderness were Paradise enow*" was the final version. By losing the *Here* and changing *Flask* to *Jug* and *is* to *were* he lost the immediacy, authenticity and spontaneity of the first version, which has always been the more popular.

In **Stanza XXXIV** the *earthen Bowl* is one of the **clay pots** which represent men created from earth by God. A whole series of stanzas relate a conversation among a shop full of pots about the nature of their creator, and what he made them for - to receive and dispense wine, which represents the Truth.

Stanza XLIX expresses succinctly and evocatively the idea of men as playthings of the fates, here as chess pieces. The beautifully poignant **Stanzas LI and LXXV** have provided many titles for books.

I possess three of the "countless horrible little editions, bound in suede and decorated with every debased sort of pseudo-oriental illustration" deplored by R. A. Nicholson in 1909, and enjoy them all.



Caroline Lancelyn Green



THORNTON HOUGH WI



Our WI has again had some very good meetings:

- In October Sue Ord spoke about 'The Secrets of Handwriting'. This was a most interesting evening, as she spoke about how age, character and state of mind can be depicted in our writing.
- On Tuesday, 23 October, the Traveller Theatre Group enacted a Murder Mystery play around the room whilst we enjoyed a delicious supper. This was very well-performed and a thoroughly enjoyable evening.
- On the previous Saturday morning, 20 October, we had good, old-fashioned Jumble Sale and raised £140 for a local charity supplying stair lifts for people still trapped in hospital, who would otherwise not be able to manage life at home.
- Our Annual General Meeting was on Tuesday, 6 November, when the business of the previous year was discussed and plans made for future events in 2019. This was followed by a pleasant craft session, tea, cake and a good chat.

Looking ahead we have coming up:-

- Our December meeting, 4 December, is a social evening with a demonstration on making Christmas decorations.
- Saturday, 8 December, will see us enjoying our Christmas celebration buffet lunch.

The New Year begins with a talk about a Hedgehog Sanctuary at our first meeting on Tuesday, 8 January, 2019. We look forward to seeing you then.

Ann McTigue

A humorous short story from Church of England Website!

A friend was in front of me coming out of church one day, and the vicar was standing at the door, as he always was, to shake hands with the worshippers. He grabbed my friend by the hand and pulled him aside. The vicar said to him, 'You need to join the army of the Lord.'

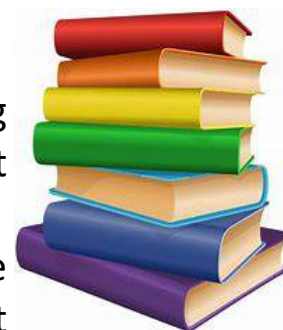
My friend replied, 'I'm already In the army of the Lord, Father.' So the vicar enquired, 'Then how come I don't see you except at Christmas and at Easter?'

My friend whispered back, 'I'm in the secret service.'

A Book Review



I'm hoping to whet your appetite by telling you briefly about a book which I have just read.



In it , Fiona is a respected senior Judge specializing in family law. She is married to Jack. They don't have any children which, perhaps is the reason why she is interested in family court cases.

Adam is a 15yearold who has leukaemia. He is refusing a very necessary blood transfusion on religious grounds. Fiona visits Adam in hospital. What are the results of this visit? Do they bond?

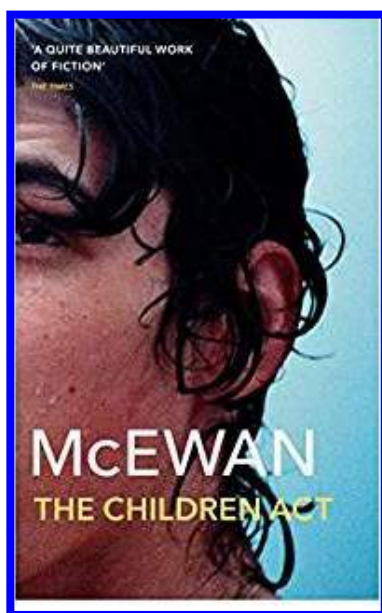
Then there is the dilemma of Matthew and Mark the conjoined twins. Can they be separated? Do they survive?

Apart from a very heavy work load Fiona has another problem :- her marriage is going through a "sticky patch". Can she and Jack sort themselves out?

To find the answers read :-

"The Children Act" by Ian McKewan

A Reviewer



Another Review for the next magazine would be most welcomed. Come on you book readers! Why not encourage others to enjoy the books you like to read. As you can see it needn't be very detailed! Owners of the review can be kept confidential if you prefer.

Calendars

Sadly we are unable to produce a 2019 Calendar. Alan Smathers and Brian Morris thank everybody who have supported the Calendars over the past 10 years which has raised the wonderful sum of **£14,605** for Charity including All Saints Church.

A SPECIAL BIRTHDAY PARTY AT POULTON HALL

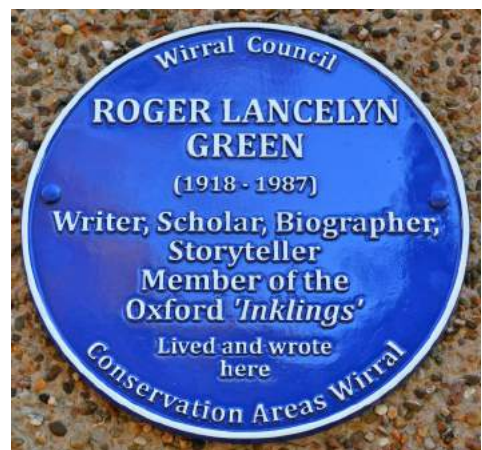
November 2nd 2018 would have been Roger Lancelyn Green's 100th birthday. His widow June (92) arranged a very special party for him with a grand cake.



It consisted of three gateaux: one of lemon and raspberry, one black forest and one coffee and apricot. It was ceremonially sliced with the Lord Lieutenant's sword and forty guests were able to enjoy it after a splendid buffet lunch, all supplied by Zugers of Bromborough.



Guests included the Mayor of Wirral and his wife, the Lord Lieutenant of Merseyside in his uniform, and archers from The Longbow Club, who represented three characters from Roger's book about Robin Hood: Maid Marian, Robin, and King Richard. The Mayor unveiled a blue plaque.



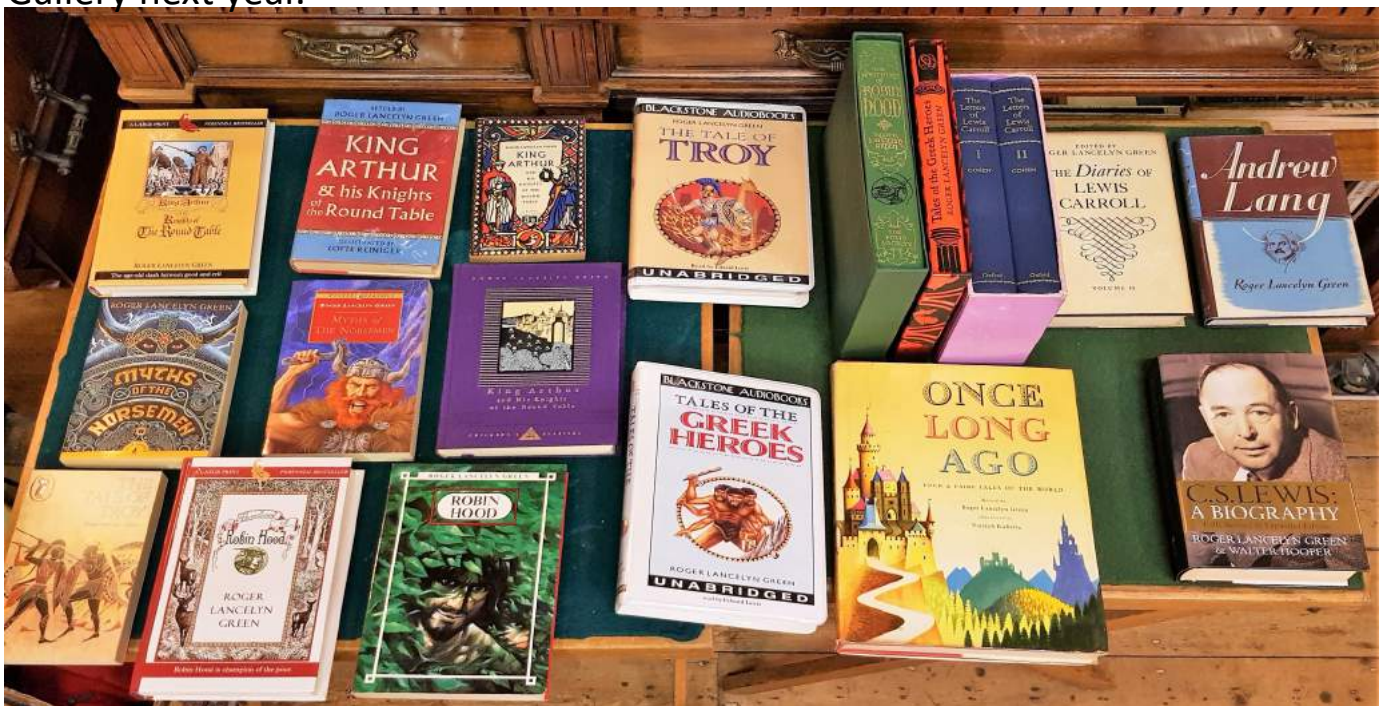
Scirard and the Chair of Conservation Areas Wirral gave speeches and Scirard and his mother June joined the VIPs under the plaque. The sun shone on a great day.

WRITER, SCHOLAR, BIOGRAPHER, STORYTELLER

Roger Lancelyn Green's books have entertained, inspired and encouraged generations of readers. As one of the Oxford Inklings, along with J. R. R. Tolkien and C. S. Lewis, he too experimented with imaginary worlds, but found his particular talent lay not in inventing tales of Middle Earth or Narnia but in retelling the myths and legends of Greece, Rome, Egypt, Scandinavia, Africa, China and Britain in clear, engaging, meticulously researched detail. His stories of *Robin Hood* and *King Arthur* in particular have been reprinted many times, issued as audio books and translated into many languages, and as inspiration for recent films featuring Thor, Loki and Odin; his *Myths of the Norsemen* have become immensely popular - the latest translation being into Polish.



Guests at the plaque unveiling saw a small exhibition of Roger's works, including not only his vast fiction collection but also some of his poetry and biographies of famous writers like C. S. Lewis, Andrew Lang, Lewis Carroll and J. M. Barrie. A major exhibition of his work will be held at the Williamson Art Gallery next year.



Rita Longman

Ron, Claire and family would like to thank everybody for their condolences and sympathy on the passing away of my dear wife Rita. It is nice to know that she had so many friends and that she was so well liked. She is now in happiness living in the Lord's house. The total collected for St. John's Hospice in memory of Rita was £564.

Regards to all,

Ron Longman

A Prayer

A prayer spoken at Rita's committal at Landican by Jack - her grandson

Lord , though knowest better than I know myself, that I am growing older and will one day be old. Keep me from becoming talkative and particularly from the fatal habit of thinking I must say something on every subject and on every occasion. Release me from craving to try to straighten out everybody's affairs. Make me thoughtful, but not moody, helpful but not bossy. With my vast store of wisdom it seems a pity not to use it all, but Thou knowest Lord that I want a few friends at the end. Keep my mind free from the recital of endless details, give me wings to get to the point. Seal my lips from my many aches and pains they are increasing and my love of rehearsing them is becoming sweeter as the years go by. I ask for grace enough to listen to other's pains - and help me to endure them with patience. Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally it is possible that I may be mistaken. Keep me reasonable sweet. I do not want to be a saint - some of the us are hard to live with - but a sour old woman is one of the crowning works of the devil. Help me to extract all possible fun out of life - there are so many funny things around us and I do not want to miss any of them. AMEN.

***A 17th Century prayer written by a Nun
(Found in Rita's personal belongings)***



Teams 4 U

Thank you to all who supported Teams 4 U shoebox appeal this year. We collected 18 boxes and 4 additional bags of items. It was very much appreciated that people had taken the time to fill the shoe boxes and knit lots of hats and scarves.

The shoe boxes and items will be going to children in Romania, Belarus and the Ukraine this year.

Thanks for your continued support.

Judi Cooke

Cheshire and Merseyside NHS Christmas Carols

Why not join with the congregation for traditional carols sung by the NHS Regional Choir of several hundred voices

in

Liverpool Anglican Cathedral

on

Wednesday 12th December at

7.30pm

No tickets or entrance fee



Retiring collection for local charity. Last year the money went to support Blood Bikes, the charity which transports emergency supplies to hospitals by motor bike volunteers.

Quiz Answers

- | | | | |
|----|--|----|--|
| 1 | Advent | 11 | Three - Dasher, Dancer and Donner |
| 2 | More than one, the Bible doesn't say how many! | 12 | Germany - it was Latvia but it was part of Germany then! |
| 3 | Deep pan, crisp and even! | 13 | King Herod |
| 4 | Elizabeth | 14 | Just like the ones I used to know |
| 5 | St. Nicholas | 15 | Carpenter |
| 6 | 25; 'no el'!!! | 16 | The Anglo Saxons - it means 'good health' |
| 7 | Bethlehem | 17 | Shepherds |
| 8 | 364 | 18 | A six pence |
| 9 | 1840s - 1843 by Sir Henry Cole | 19 | Gabriel |
| 10 | Egypt | 20 | In a manger |

Cookery Corner

Pearl Buck's Sweet and Sour Spare Ribs

2 1/2 pounds spare ribs
3/4 pint water (to cook spare ribs),
Salt
4 tablespoons soy sauce
3 tablespoons of Sugar or Honey
3 tablespoons of Vinegar
1 tablespoon of cornflour
1/4 pint water,
2 tablespoons Sake (or dry sherry and water)
1 level teaspoon grated fresh ginger root



Cut ribs into separate pieces and cook in water with soy sauce and salt to taste. Bring to a boil, turn down heat and allow to simmer for 1 hour. Transfer to a frying pan; add remaining ingredients and fry until gravy becomes translucent. Serves 4.



Normandy Charlotte

1 pint unsweetened Apple Puree
1/2 lemon Jelly
1/2 orange jelly
2 tablespoons Brandy
5oz Double Cream
1pkt sponge fingers
1 oz shelled walnuts
8" cake tin - lightly oiled

Dissolve jellies in 1/2 pt water each

Stir in Apple and Brandy

Pour Jellies and apple into 8" cake tin and leave to set

Whip cream. Demould set jelly onto serving dish. Spread sides with the cream (sufficient to hold sponge fingers in place). Cut fingers into same size as Jelly. Spread remaining cream on top of jelly and sprinkle with the walnuts. Stick the sponge fingers round the outside of the jelly and serve

Ginger Snaps

350gms self-raising flour
Pinch of salt, 200gms caster sugar
1tbsp ground ginger
1tsp bicarbonate of soda
125 gms butter, plus a little extra for greasing
75gms golden syrup, 1egg beaten
1tsp grated orange rind



Preheat oven to 160c 325F Gas mark 3 and grease 2 baking sheets.
Sift together the flour, salt, sugar, ginger and bicarbonate of soda into a large mixing bowl.
Heat the butter and golden syrup together in a saucepan over a very low heat until the butter has melted. Remove the pan from the heat and leave to cool slightly, then pour the contents on to the dry ingredients. Add the egg and orange rind and mix thoroughly to form a dough. Using your hands carefully shape the dough into 30 even-sized balls.
Place the balls onto the prepared baking sheets, spacing them well apart and flatten slightly with your fingers.
Bake in the preheated oven for 15 - 20 minutes, then carefully transfer to wire racks to cool.

Butter whirls

175gms butter - softened
50gms icing sugar, sifted
2.5ml vanilla essence
175gms flour
8 or 9 glaze cherries, halved



Cream the butter with sugar and vanilla until light and fluffy. Stir in the flour.
Transfer mixture to a piping bag fitted with a star shaped large piping tube.
Pipe 16 -18 flat whirls on to a greased baking sheet. Put a half a cherry on each one. Bake at 170deg C(325 F) Mark 3 for 20 minutes or until pale gold. Leave to cool for 5 minutes then transfer to a cooling rack. Store in an airtight container when cold.

Mince Pies

Mince Pies, like Christmas Puddings, were originally filled with meat, such as lamb, rather than the dried fruits and spices mix as they are today. They were also first made in an oval shape to represent the manger that Jesus slept in as a baby, with the top representing his swaddling clothes. Sometimes they even had a 'pastry baby Jesus' on the top!

During the Stuart and Georgian times, in the UK, mince pies were a status symbol at Christmas. Very rich people liked to show off at their Christmas parties by having pies made in different shapes (like stars, crescents, hearts, tears and flowers); the fancy shaped pies could often fit together a bit like a jigsaw! They also looked like the 'knot gardens' that were popular during those periods. Having pies like this meant you were rich and could afford to employ the best, and most expensive, pastry cooks.

Now they are normally made in a round shape and are eaten hot or cold. Some people like them hot with ice cream!

A custom from the middle ages says that if you eat a mince pie on every day from Christmas to Twelfth Night (evening of the 5th January) you will have happiness for the next 12 months!



On Christmas Eve, children here in the UK, often leave out mince pies with brandy or some similar drink for Father Christmas, and a carrot for the reindeer.

More humour from the Church Times

“Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our church and community.”



FESTIVE DINING

CELEBRATE THE FESTIVE SEASON IN STYLE AND DINE WITH US
THROUGHOUT DECEMBER IN OUR AWARD-WINNING RESTAURANT.
*Excluding Christmas Day, Boxing Day & New Years Eve Dinner

Our lunch menu can be enjoyed
Monday - Saturday from 12pm until 2:30pm.

Two Courses - £24
Three Courses - £29

Our dinner menu can be enjoyed
Sunday - Friday from 6pm until 8pm.

Three Courses - £29

Available from Monday 26th November
To book call 0151 336 3938 or book online at lawnsrestaurant.com



STARTER

Native Breed Tamworth Pork, Apple, Parsnip, Pickled Turnip
Home Smoked Salmon, Pickled Beets, Cucumber, Oyster Emulsion
Curried Sweet Potato Soup, Crispy Onion, Buttermilk
Duck & Pistachio Terrine, Pickled Orange Jelly, Lovage Emulsion
Mushroom Parfait, Brioche, Truffle Butter

MAIN COURSE

Beef Bourguignon: Slow Cooked Ox Cheek, Creamed Potato, Mushrooms, Red Wine Jus, Pancetta, Pickled Carrot
Pavé of Goosnargh Turkey wrapped in Pancetta, Cranberry Glaze, Christmas Granola with Traditional Garnish
Gressingham Duck Breast, Cherry Sweet & Sour Jus, Roasted Artichokes
Tandoori Spiced Cod Loin, Braised Lentils, Carrot
Caramelised Onion & Goats Cheese Pastilla, Chou Croute, Gnocchi, Butternut Squash, Pumpkin Seed Crunch

DESSERT

Orange Steamed Pudding, Marmalade Whip, Proper Custard
Salted Chocolate Ganache, Morello Cherry, Chocolate Textures
Traditional Christmas Pudding, Brandy Sauce
Winter Berry Pavlova, Cinnamon Cream
Cheese served with Crackers, Fig & Walnut Bread, Quince Jelly, Pressed Fig and Wine Jelly

THORNTON HALL
HOTEL & SPA

★★★★

Neston Road, Thornton Hough, Wirral CH63 1JF
0151 336 3938 | thorntonhallhotel.com

Register of Baptism, Burials and Marriages
Extracts from the Church Registers for October and November 2018

BAPTISMS Joshua Thomas ELLIS 23.9.18

MARRIAGES -

BURIALS Gerard RYAN 14.06.18 48 30.09.18

Rita LONGMAN 17.09.18 89 04.11.18

COFFEE ROTA

December 2018

2nd Ron and Shirley

9th Brenda and Verity

16th Jane and Vi

23rd Shirley and June

30th Linda and Peter

January 2019

6th Rhona

13th Syd and Rachel

20th Shirley and June

27th Heather and Eileen



Trade Directory

Trade	Name	Contact Telephone Numbers
Gardener	Nick Holden	364 0592 mob 0754 734 1175
Greenhills Garden Services	Will	336 5167 mob 07754 411693
Joiner	Paul Whitehead	353 0493 mob 07762 637 374
Painter & Decorator	A Foreshaw	327 4788 mob 07979 233 422
Health & Wellness - Pilates	Peter Heath	644 9279 mob 07808 920 813
PAT testing	Joey Farrell	mob 07723 997434
Gas Service	Mike Jones	342 5805 Mob 07813 137134
ACG General Maintenance	Andrew Grover	Mob 07384 466414

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.”*



Parish Diary

December			
Sunday	2	12:00 am	Advent Sunday
		8:00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)
		10:30 am	Advent Carol Service with children's group
Monday	3	9:00 am	cots2tots
Wednesday	5	10:30 am	Holy Communion (Common Worship)
		7:30 pm	PCC Meeting
Thursday	6	12:30pm	ACF: Christmas Lunch at Thornton Hall Hotel
Friday	7	7:00 pm	Choir Practice
Sunday	9	12:00 am	Second Sunday of Advent
		10:30 am	Holy Communion (Common Worship) with children's group
		6:30pm	Evening Prayer (Common Worship)
Monday	10	9:00 am	cots2tots
Wednesday	12	10:30 am	Holy Communion (Common Worship)
		2:15 pm	ACF Fellowship meeting: Christmas Celebration
Friday	14	7:00 pm	Choir Practice
Sunday	16	12:00 am	Third Sunday of Advent
		8:00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)
		10:30 am	Morning Prayer (Common Worship)
		4:00 pm	Christingle Service
Monday	17	9:00 am	cots2tots (with crib service)
		10:45 am	Crib Service
		2:30 pm	Carols at Brimstage Manor Nursing Home
Wednesday	19	10:30 am	Holy Communion (Common Worship)
Friday	21	7:00 pm	Choir Practice
Sunday	23	12:00 am	Fourth Sunday of Advent
	23	10:30 am	All Age Holy Communion (Common Worship)
	23	4:30 pm	Choir Practice
	23	6:30 pm	Service of Nine Lessons and Carols
Monday	24		Christmas Night/ Christmas Eve
		11:00 pm	Holy Communion (Common Worship)
Tuesday	25	12:00 am	Christmas Day
		10:30 am	Holy Communion (Common Worship)
Sunday	30	12:00 am	First Sunday of Christmas
		10:30 am	Morning Worship (with St George's URC)

January 2019			
Friday	4	7:00 pm	Choir Practice
Sunday	6	12:00 am	Epiphany
		8:00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)
		10:30 am	All Age Holy Communion (Common Worship)
Tuesday	8	2:30 pm	Hymns at Brimstage Manor Nursing Home
Wednesday	9	10:30 am	Holy Communion (Common Worship)
Wednesday	9	2:15 pm	ACF Business meeting
Friday	11	7:00 pm	Choir Practice
Sunday	13	12:00 am	Epiphany 2
		10:30 am	Morning Prayer (Common Worship)
		6:30 pm	Holy Communion (BCP)
Monday	14	9:00 am	cots2tots
Wednesday	16	10:30 am	Holy Communion (Common Worship)
Friday	18	7:00 pm	Choir Practice
Sunday	20	12:00 am	Epiphany 3
		8:00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)
		10:30 am	Holy Communion (Common Worship)
Monday	21	9:00 am	cots2tots
Wednesday	23	10:30 am	Coffee Morning
Friday	25	7:00 pm	Choir Practice
Sunday	27	12:00 am	Epiphany 4
		10:30 am	Morning Prayer (Common Worship)
		6:30 pm	Holy Communion (Common Worship)
Monday	28	9:00 am	cots2tots
Wednesday	30	10:30 am	Holy Communion (Common Worship)
February			
Friday	1	7:00 pm	Choir Practice
Sunday	3	12:00 am	Presentation of Christ in the Temple
		8:00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)
		11:00 am	United Service at St George's UR Church

Who to contact about our groups

Bible Study

Monday Group

Coffee Plus

Bible Study and Prayer

Home Group

Shirley McEvoy

336 3449

Alice Jones

alice@allsaintsth.org.uk

Children and young people

Cots 2tots

Rachel Brothwell 07903 275375

rachel@allsaintsth.org.uk

Sunday School

New Comets

Linda Arch

Association of Church Fellowships

Eileen Roberts 336 3465

Church Choir

Iain Stinson 342 4800

iain@stinson.org.uk

The Magazine Team

Patsy Baker 336 3273

John McIver 336 4829

Iain Stinson 324 4800

Brian Morris 336 1393



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
Monday 14th January 2019.

Who's who at All Saints

Vicar	Vacant	
Churchwardens	Patsy Baker	336 3273 patsy@allsaintsth.org.uk
	Alice Jones	alice@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	Sydney Deakin	334 6111
Prayer Link Coordinator	Rhona Mayhew	334 5637 rhona@allsaintsth.org.uk
Event Coordinator	Rachel Brothwell	07903 275375 rachel@allsaintsth.org.uk
Electoral Roll Officer	Elly Macbeath	
Safeguarding Officer	Linda Arch	
Health & Safety Officer	Lucinda Russell	
Church Flower Rota	Jane Wilson	328 1408
Parish Hall Caretaker and Bookings	Margaret Gamble	336 7540
Director of Music	Iain Stinson	342 4800 iain@stinson.org.uk
Magazine Contributions		editor@allsaintsth.org.uk
All Saints Church Web Page		allsaintsth.org.uk
All Saints Data Privacy Statement		allsaintsth.org.uk/about-us/