

All Saints Parish Church Thornton Hough

The Magazine



February - March 2020

Ash Wednesday is February 26th

We mark Ash Wednesday with a United Service of Holy Communion, with hymns, at 7:00pm on February 26th in All Saints Church.
The service will last about an hour.

World Day of Prayer: Ecumenical Service

Friday 6th March at 2:30pm in All Saints Church. All are welcome.
See page 10 for further information

Sing-in Sunday March 8th at 3:30pm



During this afternoon event we shall be exploring our new hymnbook. You will have the chance to choose and sing old favourites and to try out some of the new hymns / songs in the book. After singing for about an hour we shall go to the Parish Hall for a hot drink and a piece of cake.

Everyone is very welcome to join us.

Mothering Sunday is March 22nd

We are holding a family service for Mothering Sunday at 10:30am on that day.
All are most welcome to come along.

Holy week and Easter Services

Palm Sunday, April 5 th	8:00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	11:00am	United Service at St George's
	6:30pm	Compline
Maundy Thursday, April 9 th	6:30pm	Agapé (fellowship meal) followed by Holy Communion in the Parish Hall.
Good Friday, April 10 th	10:30am	Good Friday Meditation
Easter Sunday, April 12 th	8:00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	10:30am	Holy Communion for Easter Day

Advance Notice: Annual Parish Meetings April 26th

These will take place on Sunday April 26th at 11:30am following the 10:30am service (which will be a Holy Communion Service).
Please make it a priority to attend these important meetings.

From the Vicar

Spring is Sprung!

“for now the winter is past,
and the rain is over and gone.
The flowers appear on the earth,
the time of singing has come,
and the voice of the turtle-dove
is heard in our land.”

(Song of Solomon 2: 11-12)



It seems like we have rushed from the dark days of winter and Christmas festivities and now the days are lengthening and signs of life and new growth are all around us. We have to hope that the rain is indeed over and gone for now, given how wet our fields and gardens have become.

The Anglo-Saxon name for March is “*lenctentid*” – the time of the days’ lengthening. The word has become shortened and more familiar to us as “Lent” – the time of preparation for the joys of Easter. Our period of Lent begins on Wednesday, 26th February this year.

People have different ways of approaching Lent, and you are warmly invited to join in our Lenten services and to use some of the suggestions for how you might make Lent particularly meaningful to you.

Whatever 2019 held for us, we have now moved into a new decade and are surrounded by the promise of new life. The passing of the seasons is a reminder of God’s faithfulness, and an invitation to refresh ourselves and be thankful for his goodness. Let’s walk together in faith with our loving God with a spring in our step.

With love and blessings

Vicky



A Prayer for a Lenten Traveller

*Creator of the tides, give to me
Space for stillness
Room for repentance
Place for prayer
Home for happiness
Ways to walk in
Paths with purpose*

*Creator of the seasons, give to me
Minutes of meditation
Hours of holiness
Days of discipline
Weeks of worship
Years for you
Life for love
Aeons of eternity*

(from *Tides and Seasons* by David Adam)

Lent runs for forty days until Easter – not including Sundays. It is traditionally a reflective period of preparation, self-denial and penitence, building up to Easter Day when in the past many would come forward for baptism. The forty days symbolise the forty days that Jesus spent in the wilderness, being tempted by Satan.

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, which this year falls on 26th February. Ashes are an ancient sign of penitence, and from the Middle Ages the custom has developed where people are marked with a sign of the cross in ash to signal the start of this journey towards Holy Week.

Many people choose to give things up for Lent, whilst others may take on new tasks or challenges. Perhaps the most important thing is that any Lent activity should be part of a meditative journey where we make a conscious effort to develop a deeper relationship with God and with others.

Some may choose to sign up to special Lent programmes which can help to focus attention on thankfulness for what you have and encourage donations in response, such as Christian Aid's Count Your Blessings, or participate in the 40 Acts programme, which is designed to develop positive attitudes to others through small acts of generosity and kindness.

You might want to consider having a 40-Day de-clutter, where you remove an item from your wardrobe or cupboard which has been sitting there unworn or unused each day and donate it to charity. You could team up with a partner or larger group to do this, especially if you don't have that much clutter to clear. Do please join us at All Saints' on our journey through Lent this year. We begin with our Ash Wednesday Holy Communion service on 26th February at 7.00. This special service will also include the opportunity to receive the sign of the cross in ashes to signify the start of your Lenten pilgrimage.

We will be starting our Lenten Meditation series, *Jonah: Wot? No Whale?* in the Parish Hall on Tuesday, March 3rd at 7:30pm. Following the story of Jonah, our five-part series will offer time for reflection, and each session will conclude with Compline.

Further Information:

www.christianaid.org.uk/resources/count-your-blessings-2020-adult

40acts.org.uk

www.churchofengland.org/livelent

Revd. Vicky Barrett

New Bibles for Church

You may have noticed that our much-loved and well-used pew Bibles are beginning to show signs of wear which are beyond simple repair. The PCC has agreed that it is time to replace our pew Bibles and retire our existing stock, which have served us for over twenty years.

We will also be replacing our large lectern Bible, so that we can all share the same version and page references.

Some individuals have already made kind donations to support the purchase of new Bibles, but we would like to offer the opportunity to all members of the congregation to make further contributions to our funds.

Would you be willing to donate £11 to buy a new, hardback Bible? The money will not only enable us to purchase 100 editions for use in church, but we will also send a percentage of gifts to help the Bible Society purchase Bibles for parts of the world where they are desperately needed.

Our current set of pew Bibles were gifted to us in memory of loved ones and the bookplates inside commemorate many lives. We want to follow the same pattern with the new Bibles, and you will be able to have bookplates dedicated to the memory of people special to you, or to mark a special occasion.

We aim to celebrate the introduction of our new Bibles with a special "read-in" activity later in the year.

Revd. Vicky Barrett

Lent Meditations 2020

The Book of Jonah – Wot? No Whale?

Starting on Tuesday, 3rd March at 7:30pm in the Parish Hall

Do your thoughts immediately drift to images of a giant-sized whale and get stuck somewhere at the bottom of the ocean? Come and join the journey through this fascinating, challenging, funny and uplifting book on Tuesday evenings during Lent.

Jewish congregations hear a reading of the entire book of Jonah every year at the start of their services for Yom Kippur-the day of Atonement. Rather than simply being a little story for children, it is shared as a tale which offers many insights into human nature, God's love and compassion, and a chance to hold a mirror up to our own preconceptions.

These hour-long meditations on Jonah give us the opportunity to explore how this minor prophet can engage with us today. You can drop in for individual sessions – each one is self-contained. Every session will conclude with the beautiful, simple service of Compline.

Tuesdays at 7:30pm in the Parish Hall

<i>3rd March</i>	Wot? No Whale? An Introduction to the Book of Jonah (Jonah 1: 1-3)
<i>10th March</i>	Jonah and the Sailors – The First Conversion Experience (Jonah 1: 4-17)
<i>17th March</i>	From the Belly of the Big Fish (Jonah 2:1 – 3:5)
<i>24th March</i>	A Merciful God – A Sweet and Sour Story (Jonah 3:6 – 4:1)
<i>31st March</i>	God Speaks – To Whom? (Jonah 4)

Rev. Vicky Barrett

What is Compline?

The ancient service of Compline takes its name from the Latin word meaning "Completion" (*completorium*). It is a beautiful way to round off the day in quietness and reflection. We pray for God's protection through the night and his blessing on ourselves and those around us. The simple service ends with all leaving in silence as we settle down for the night ahead.

Mothering Sunday

Mothering Sunday is celebrated on the fourth Sunday in Lent. It offers a break in the austerity of the Lenten season, and became known as “*Laetare* (meaning ‘praise’) *Sunday*” because of the opening psalm used in many churches:

“Rejoice, O Jerusalem: and come together all that love her...and be filled from the breasts of your consolation.” (Isaiah 66:10-11).

However Mothering Sunday has a rather patchy history, with some sources saying that it was an adaptation of the Roman springtime rite celebrating Cybele, the Roman mother goddess.

From the 16th Century it became a tradition for families who had become scattered across the land to return to their “mother church” on this day, and children in domestic service were given the day off to go home. They would pick wildflowers as they went. Sweet Simnel cakes might also be taken home as a special gift.

The more recent history of Mothering Sunday and Mother’s Day is a poignant one. U.S. President Woodrow Wilson instituted Mother’s Day in 1914 having been influenced by Anna Jarvis, whose own mother had died on May 9th. Enthusiasm for the celebration of motherhood spread across Europe after the catastrophic loss of life in the Great War. Constance Smith, an English High Church Anglican inspired by Anna Jarvis’ campaign and a belief that the liturgy for the Fourth Sunday in Lent fully expressed the sense of a day “in praise of mothers”, wrote a pamphlet in 1921 calling for a “Revival of Mothering Sunday”. By 1938, Mothering Sunday was celebrated in parishes in Britain and in every country in the British Empire. It resonated with people’s feelings after the First World War.

The popularity of Mother’s Day and the revived Mothering Sunday led to a boom in commercialism which continues today. Anna Jarvis noted ruefully, “A printed card means nothing, except that you are too lazy to write to the woman who has done more for you than anyone else”. Jarvis’ aim was not to spawn an industry but to encourage people to take time to remember and express their gratitude to their mothers.

As we celebrate Mothering Sunday this year, let’s remember with thanks not only our biological mothers, but all those women and men who have been like a mother to us, for those women who have lost children, or who have not been able to be a mother, and for our mother church, which continues to sustain us.

Revd. Vicky Barrett

The next Bishop of Chester

The Church of England is looking to appoint the next Bishop of Chester for the first time in nearly a quarter of a century. The Crown Nominations Commission is due to meet on 3rd February and again on the 16th and 17th March. The commission will then forward two names to the prime minister, who will choose one of them, or (exceptionally) requests additional names from the commission. Since 2007 the convention has been that the prime minister will choose the first-named recommendation. If the chosen individual accepts the office, the prime minister will advise the Queen, who will then formally nominate the prime minister's choice. Thereafter, the Diocese's College of Canons will meet to 'formally elect' the new bishop and the process of the Bishop's installation in the diocese will follow. It is anticipated that the name of the new Bishop will be announced in the spring.

Through August and September 2019, the Diocese ran a consultation which asked contributors to share their views on who the next Bishop of Chester should be and what qualities he or she should have and the results of this consultation have been gathered together into our Diocesan *Statement of Needs*. A printed copy of this may be found at the back of church and it is also available online at www.chester.anglican.org/content/pages/documents/1573210673.pdf.

During this period of change and transition for the Diocese of Chester, Bishop Keith is inviting us all to pray with him for the diocese, the Crown Nominations Commission, and the person God is calling to be the next Bishop of Chester.

Come along to one of the prayer meetings organised in the weeks before the Crown Nominations Commission is due to meet for the first, and final time.

- Wednesday 29th January, 2pm at Foxhill, led by Bishop Keith
- Thursday 12th March, 2pm at St Michael and All Saints Church, Macclesfield, led by Archdeacon Ian Bishop

More details at www.chester.anglican.org/yourbishlist.

A prayer for the appointment of the next Bishop of Chester

Almighty God,
who sent Jesus Christ
to be the cornerstone of your Kingdom
and calls us to follow him:
guide your Church, by the Holy Spirit,
to show love and mercy as we build your Kingdom.
We pray for the person you are calling
to be the next Bishop of Chester;
bless, guide and strengthen them to answer your call;
in the name of Jesus Christ
and in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.




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Women, men and children of all ages are called to 'Rise, take your mat and walk' to join this day of prayer. Women of Zimbabwe have prepared this year's service and they encourage us all to reflect on the difficulties and unrest that have plagued their country over many years. They share the challenges they have met and the hopes they have for the future. They encourage us to 'Rise, take your mat and walk' with them as they continue their often-turbulent journey towards full reconciliation.

World Day of Prayer is an international inter-church organisation which enables us to hear the thoughts of women from all parts of the world: their hopes, concerns and prayers. The preparation for the day is vast. An international committee is based in New York and there are national committees in each participating country. Regional conferences meet to consider the service and then local groups make their plans. Finally, at a church near you on Friday 6th March 2020, people will gather to take part in the service prepared by the women of Zimbabwe.

This year's local service will take place at All Saints Thornton Hough starting at 2:30pm on Friday March 6th. You will be made most welcome!

The Day of Prayer is celebrated in over 170 countries. It begins in Samoa and prayer in native languages travels throughout the world, through Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Europe and the Americas, before finishing in American Samoa more than 36 hours later.

More information at <https://www.wwdp.org.uk/>

Notes on the PCC meetings held on 2nd December 2019

This was the last PCC meeting of the year and the PCC engaged in a **review of 2019 and the road ahead**. In 2019 the interregnum had come to an end and a new era had begun with the arrival of Vicky Barrett, our new vicar.

Comparison of the **attendance figures** in 2018 and 2019 revealed that in general there were 10 more adults at the services but 2 fewer children (one had become classed as an adult in the period!). cots2tots is thriving with word spreading and a new wave of youngsters coming along, but there is very little overlap of cots2tots attendees and church attendees. We are also welcoming wedding couples who are coming regularly and building up a connection.

Other **positives** included:

- Trotters Café is a regular fixture.
- ACF is a regular fixture.
- The Parish Hall is used by many different groups.
- The Harvest celebrations were a success and gave a boost to Tomorrow's Women Wirral.
- The coffee morning in the WI Hall, organized by Three Churches Together in aid of the Wirral Food Bank was a success, possibly to be repeated at intervals through the coming year.
- The Christmas Fair raised a good amount, had a sense of fun and of people working together, and brought people in from outside.
- 11 people went to the Service of Hope at Chester Cathedral.

In response to the churchwardens' question about her vision for the church Vicky answered:

- To encourage the whole congregation to greater confidence that they are deeply loved by God.
- To encourage a cooperative trust with the other local churches.
 - To develop a more outward looking focus with the whole parish, the Wirral and the wider world.
- To work with local businesses and care homes etc.
- We should use existing connections to develop new relationships, in the way that a vine sends out new tendrils.
- We should develop deep levels of trust and integrity.

Vicky then went on to analyse the strengths and weaknesses of the church:

Strengths include the energy to cooperate (this was emphasised by the Christmas Fair), a cheerful, positive, friendly atmosphere, the calmness and

beauty of the church and the churchyards, a full SATB choir, a distinctive form of worship and regular BCP services in place.

Weaknesses include the increasing age of the congregation, the pews and the lighting in church can create access problems, the unreliable boilers can leave the church cold when they don't work, the range and style of services can be rather narrow for some.

Taking this further she identified opportunities and threats:

Opportunities.

Vicky is now a governor at Thornton Hough Primary School – a link with children and parents, she has had useful meetings with Leverhulme Estates; there are opportunities from weddings and baptisms, new houses are being built in Thornton Hough and Raby Mere, and there is a constant turnover of property which brings new people into the parish.

Threats

Finances: giving is decreasing, some generous donors have moved or died. We are a busy group of people; there is a culture of dependency on a small number of people and we are in need of some succession planning.

Following this review, the meeting moved on to other items of business.

Bibles for the pews. The current Bibles are well used and wearing out. It would cost about £1,500 to replace the pew and the lectern Bibles. It is hoped that two separate gifts given in memory of loved ones could be used towards the cost of replacing them. The PCC asked Vicky to research a suitable version of the Bible.

The remuneration committee had met in November and brought their proposals to the PCC. The PCC accepted their recommendations to increase the fees for weddings and funerals and the salary for the caretaker.

The **Treasurer** had circulated the **predicted end of year result** and the **proposed budget for 2020** in advance of the meeting. The income is 3% less than the budget for 2019 and the spending is 4% less than budgeted. The actual deficit on the General Fund for the year was estimated as £7,182 which was lower than planned but not good. This figure included income from the Christmas Fair and some donations. The level of giving does not cover the Parish Share and the level of income from our investments is low. The Parish Share for 2020 has increased by 2½% to £67,624pa.

The Finance Committee intend to request a meeting with representatives of the Diocesan Board of Finance at Daresbury (Church House) to discuss the management of the investments. (The Diocese took control of the management

of our investments some years ago; we have no control over them.) We are seeking reassurance that they are being well managed.

The PCC discussed and went on to accept the proposed budget for 2020.

Fabric. The PCC considered a tree survey and risk assessment report and quotes for work which had been circulated before the meeting but no decisions to do work were taken. Other **projects in the pipeline** include repairs to the handrail in the new churchyard and the Parish Hall window, a post box for the Parish Hall and a new church noticeboard for Raby Road.

Work is urgently needed on the spire, including the removal of the rooks that are nesting and replacing the grilles which keep them out; the clock maintenance company had been unable to access the bell mechanism to service it due to the weight of the nesting material etc. on top of the trapdoor.

The PCC were grateful for support from the **Raby School Trust** to buy Bibles for the children being baptized and material for the Crib Service.

The Deanery Synod had not met but Elly Macbeath, one of our Deanery Synod representatives, reminded us that they are planning a big pilgrimage to Lichfield this year. Their next meeting is at All Saints on 25th February (Shrove Tuesday).

Elly, in her capacity as the Electoral Roll Officer, reported that there are now 101 people on **the electoral roll**.

If there are over 100 people on the Electoral Roll at the time of the Annual Meeting, we can have more members of the PCC. Maybe this is a way in which you could serve the Church.

Sue Stinson
PCC Secretary

Wirral Men's' Breakfast at Thornton Hall Hotel

8am start – 10am finish. Tickets £11.50.

Saturday 1st February Speaker Gavin Calver

Gavin says he's from the Christian mafia. His grandfather was one of Tearfund's founders and his father launched Spring Harvest.

"I'm going to have to come up with a good idea!" he jokes. It may have been predictable that he would one day become a church leader but, at 14, he found himself banned from church and, at 18, he was hospitalised for heavy drinking.

In 2019, Gavin became CEO of Evangelical Alliance which joins together 100s of organisations, 1000s of churches and tens of 1000s of individuals – making sense of Christian faith in 21st Century UK society.

All men are most welcome to attend. Book online at wirralbreakfast.co.uk or call 0151 347 5656 or speak with Charles Elphick.



ACF

A church fellowship for anyone from anywhere.

The yearly review of ACF found us with twenty members – and visitors are always welcome. We are financially viable with sufficient funds to give a fee to each speaker and meet our charitable donations of £100 to each of three charities. We continue to have a monthly coffee morning with a sales table and a generous raffle for which gifts are donated as prizes.

Our new secretary is Helen Tankard and we welcome her to this role. I am unable to continue; thank you everyone for their kindness in my recent encounter with the NHS.

The programme for 2020 has been distributed.

A big thank you to everyone who helps each month – those who take meetings, read, give the vote of thanks and do the teas. We could not manage without Tim Allan Price, who does all the heavy work, and Margaret Gamble, who sets up the hall and does all sorts of other things when asked. We are very grateful to you both.

On Wednesday 8th of January, following our short service and the “business meeting”, we had an interesting talk about *Feathered Verse* given by our dear friend Revd. John Oldershaw. John has kindly written a short piece about his talk which is included in this edition of *The Magazine*. In appropriate poets’ disguise, John read some of his own poems and some by other poets. We were interested to hear that he had appeared at a family function attired in pink, standing on one leg, in a pool, eating ice cream – he was a flamingo. Unfortunately, he did not bring photographic evidence, so you’ll just have to imagine it.

Eileen Roberts

Forthcoming ACF events

Fellowship meetings

Wednesday February 12th at 2:15pm in the Parish Hall

Dr Ian Cubbin With an Agatha Christie Theme:

“It wasn’t who did it but how did they do it”.

Wednesday March 11th at 2:15pm in the Parish Hall

A speaker from Wirral Youth for Christ

Chatterbox Club House Group – please see Shirley McEvoy

Tuesday 18th February and Tuesday 11th March

Coffee Mornings

Wednesday February 26th and Wednesday March 25th at 10:30am in the Parish Hall. Tickets/admission 50p.

Coffee / Sales table / Raffle Everybody welcome

Feathered Verse

The word “poetry” evokes different reactions sometimes depending on experience at school but also on personal taste. The beauty of poetry is that words can be ordered differently to prose in exploring feelings and thoughts. A poem can connect us with the whole of our being: heart, head, and gut feelings. When all of these aspects are in harmony we can fully explore the worlds of life and faith, therefore I have often read poems when leading worship.

Now, in retirement, I have had more time for writing and reading my poems at a variety of events. A particular delight was contributing a poem to a collection “The Quality of Mersey”, which describes the flow of the river Mersey from its source to the sea. Being part of this project gave me opportunity to read at the Waterstones Liverpool Bookshop, the Mersey River Festival, Wirral Poetry Festival and a National Poetry Day event at the Museum of Liverpool.

Having spent all of my working life within the church I have now discovered that there is a whole network of groups and organisations where poetry is shared and discussed.

I was pleased to be invited to speak about poetry at the January ACF meeting and to read some of my own work. I called the talk “Feathered Verse” because many of my poems are about birds and the attributes that they share with humans, for example the one below, which was inspired by watching a heron sitting on a weir in Bedford, and it gives a nod to the poem “Leisure” written by the early twentieth century poet W.H. Davies. I offer it to you, with thanks to the ACF for the invitation.

Grey Heron

The old man stands on the weir
in a long-worn grey frock coat.
Seemingly through spectacles on his beaky
nose,
he surveys the landscape with wearied life.

Then with unfurled wings he swoops
somewhere
to find another place to stand and stare.



Revd. John Oldershaw

Wirral Wordsearch

The names of twenty-four places on the Wirral are hidden in the grid below. How many can you find. Answer on page 22.

The hidden word can be positioned in all directions, written from left to right from right to left, horizontally, vertically and diagonally, but is always on one straight line.

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

Please remember that British Summer Time begins at 1:00am on Sunday March 29th and that the clocks go forward one hour.

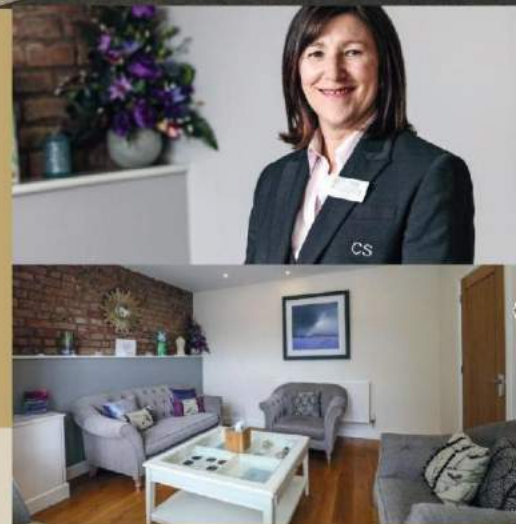




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Hello and welcome to 2020!

We finished 2019 with our traditional Christmas Party with a shared buffet and good entertainment. The following week we enjoyed a pleasant Coffee Morning and exchange of Christmas cards, plus, of course, a good chat. Also in December Vi Hammett and colleagues held a very successful Soup and Sandwich Lunch in aid of Clatterbridge League of Friends.

Val Peter and her team had a wonderful response to the Christmas Shoebox Appeal, with more than 5000 gift-filled shoeboxes being processed on Wirral alone. These boxes were delivered to needy children and families in Moldova, a very poor country between Ukraine and Romania, and Uganda.

A group of our members went to Thornton Manor in December to view the Wirral Flower Club decorations, such a lovely venue to display their talents, plus Gavin Hunter gave a talk about Lever's houses – he is always such an interesting speaker.

Our first 2020 WI meeting was on Tuesday, 7th January, preceded that morning, by the funeral of one of our long-standing members, Joan Francis – a much-loved person whom we will miss.

Our speaker that evening was from Emergency Blood Bikers, who spoke from the heart about this very important work. The group has grown from 2 bikes and 12 volunteers when it started in 2012 to today with 8 bikes and 120 volunteers, working all year round on a rota basis, delivering much-needed blood supplies. What we did not know, is that they also deliver mothers' milk for premature babies. This wonderful charity has recently been awarded the Queen's Award for Voluntary Charity Work.

Forthcoming events at our WI include:

- Tai-Chi Taster Evening, Tuesday, 21st January, 7 – 8 pm
- Cheese Scone and Pudding Lunch, Tuesday, 28th January, midday - £5
- Afternoon Tea, Tuesday, 18th February, 2 – 4 pm, £5 – not just Tea, but a *WI Afternoon Tea!*

Our regular evening meetings, held on the first Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm, are:

- Tuesday, 4th February - Jill McKeen will speak about Living in a Hostile Environment
- Tuesday, 3rd March - Mary Costello will tell us about The Hoylake Lifeboat.

You are very welcome to join us at any of our meetings. Hope to see you sometime.

Ann McTigue

Important notice about All Saints' Calendar 2020

It has come to our notice that there are two months where the dates in the 2020 calendar are in error. We wish to draw this to your attention. Please accept our sincere apologies for this error.

The dates for the fourth and fifth weeks of **June** are incorrect. The fourth week is shown as (starting on the Sunday) 21 22 23 2 42 5 26 whereas it should be (starting on the Sunday) 21 22 23 24 25 26 27. The fifth week is shown as (starting on the Sunday) 27 28 29 and 30 whereas the correct dates are (starting on the Sunday) 28 29 and ending the month on Tuesday 30th.

June 2020						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 Father's day	22	23	2	42	5	26
27	28	29	30			

The month of **July** is also in error- the calendar incorrectly shows it as starting on a Thursday and ending on a Saturday, when it actually starts on a *Wednesday* 1st and ends on a *Friday* 31st.

July 2020					
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
				1	2
4	5	6	7	8	9

The other months in the calendar are correct.

A number of people have already found this problem and “manually” corrected their calendar.

However, we are aware that a number of people would prefer to have their copy of the calendar replaced with a correct version. We are therefore offering replacement calendars at no charge to those who have already purchased their calendar(s). If you wish to have your calendar replaced, then please bring it along to a Sunday 10:30am service at All Saints and we shall be happy to exchange it for a corrected copy. We shall be offering this replacement service for five weeks beginning on Sunday January 26th. If you are unable to come along yourself, please ask a friend or neighbour to bring your calendar for exchange or call the Parish Office and leave a message. If you have sent copies of the calendar to friends who live away, please come and discuss this with us.

Poetry Corner

Ode On Melancholy - John Keats

No, no! go not to Lethe, neither twist
Wolf's-bane, tight-rooted, for its poisonous wine;
Nor suffer thy pale forehead to be kist
By nightshade, ruby grape of Proserpine.
Make not your rosary of yew-berries,
Nor let the beetle, nor the death-moth be
Your mournful Psyche, nor the downy owl
A partner in your sorrow's mysteries;
For shade to shade will come too drowsily,
And drown the wakeful anguish of the soul.

But when the melancholy fit shall fall
Sudden from heaven like a weeping cloud,
That fosters the droop-headed flowers all,
And hides the green hill in an April shroud;
Then glut thy sorrow on a morning rose,
Or on the rainbow of the salt sand-wave
Or on the wealth of globèd peonies,
Or if thy mistress some rich anger shows,
Emprison her soft hand, and let her rave,
And feed deep, deep upon her peerless eyes.

She dwells with Beauty - Beauty that must die;
And Joy, whose hand is ever at his lips
Bidding adieu; and aching Pleasure nigh,
Turning to poison while the bee-mouth sips:
Ay, in the very temple of Delight
Veiled melancholy has her sovran shrine,
Though seen of none save him whose strenuous
tongue
Can burst Joy's grape against his palate fine;
His soul shall taste the sadness of her might,
And be among her cloudy trophies hung.



Wolfsbane = Monks Hood



Deadly Nightshade



Death's head Hawk moth



Peonies

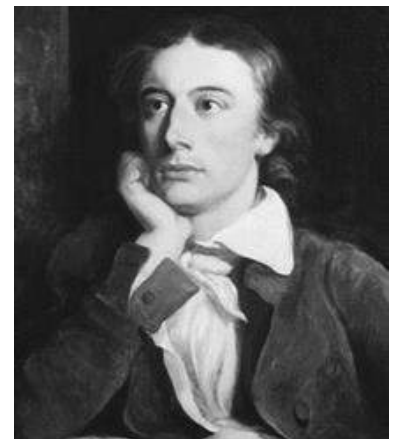
I find this poem a great aid against winter sadness. Keats wrote it in 1820, a year before he died of TB at the age of 26. From the age of 14 he trained as an apothecary and surgeon, so knew all about poisonous plants like wolfsbane (monk's hood) and nightshade, as well as beautiful ones like globular peonies. As in his exuberant sonnet "On First Looking Into Chapman's Homer" he delights in Greek mythology: Lethe is the river of forgetfulness in the underworld, Proserpine (Persephone) is its queen, Psyche is the goddess of the soul.

The three stanzas are like mini sonnets, half an octet followed by a sestet, and they are expertly balanced. The first tells the sufferer from melancholy what not to do when feeling down: don't try to forget by drinking or taking drugs, don't brood on death with fanciful graveyard prayers (rosary of yew-berries) or become suicidally obsessed by symbols of death like beetles, moths and owls. Don't seek to deaden the wakeful anguish of the soul. Don't despair.

On the contrary, the second stanza tells the sufferer what he should do. Relish the misery: enjoy a fresh rose before it withers, glimpse a rainbow by the sea before it vanishes, endure your beloved's fury for her beauty, before she ages. All these things will pass, and so they are suitable subjects for sadness, and he uses words suggesting generous abundance: glut, wealth, rich, deep and peerless, in contrast to the mean thin words of the first stanza: tight, pale, mournful and shade. Melancholy can be a rich experience.

In the third stanza, Keats imagines the emotions as people or gods. He then explains his philosophy: everything enjoyable has a sadness at its heart, for it cannot last, but only those daring and energetic enough to experience great pleasure can experience great sadness. Beauty will die, Joy is fleeting, Pleasure can leave you aching and poisoned (Keats took mercury for a venereal disease). Melancholy is like a goddess who will claim your soul as a trophy, but only if you can enter her shrine, which is in the temple of Delight. And to enter that you need to exert yourself with an almost religious intensity.

I particularly like the elegant way Keats uses the grape as a symbol both of death and of joy: he refers to deadly nightshade as the ruby grape of Proserpine which only has to kiss your pale forehead to kill you; at the end he imagines Joy as a grape which it takes energy and determination, a strenuous tongue, to burst in your mouth against a palate fine, which suggests appreciation of good things.



Keats's life was tragically short, but he manages to make being miserable into a sort of prize for having succeeded in being happy.

Caroline Lancelyn Green

My passion for Volleyball

Volleyball has been a passion of mine since I was very young. I've always found it hard to sit still so I felt I should give it a try. I started playing in primary school at an after-school club, once a week, with a coach who has now watched me grow as a player and still makes the effort to attend some of my games in his retirement. I've now been playing for 11 years so am able to see how far I have come, from not being able to hit a ball over a net to playing division 2 national volleyball and training up to 5 times a week.

Due to a shoulder condition I discovered in late 2018 I've always been scared that my volleyball days will be cut short therefore I decided I wanted to do something different, that would still however keep me involved in volleyball. Although I have also been coaching younger individuals for 4 years, I couldn't help but want more. So, I've now gained a grade 4 distinction qualification as a referee.

On Sunday 12th January I was asked to referee at a local league match at my club in Woodchurch. I can't say I was an Olympic standard referee, but I was pleased with how I did. I found that being in control of a game rather than as a player on the court, helped me view the game differently. Rather than watching the game as a whole, I was more focused with faults and players' attitude towards the game. This was something I found difficult as I love watching the sport, especially when it is live in front of me.

I did however find my experience enjoyable and am so excited to continue improving myself as a referee and hopefully going on to pass my next grading. This will mean that the level of play I can referee is much higher and more intense.



Kerry Hughes

Answers to the wordsearch on page 16

Bidston	Heswall	Parkgate
Birkenhead	Hooton	Prenton
Brimstage	Hoylake	Raby
Bromborough	Leasowe	Spital
Burton	Liscard	Thingwall
Caldy	Meols	Thurstaston
Eastham	Moreton	Upton
Frankby	Ness	Willaston
Gayton	Neston	Woodchurch
Greasby	Oxton	

Efficiency – How to orchestrate it!



I've been inspired by a real efficiency expert in action, here is his report on a concert given recently at London's Royal Festival Hall...

During much of the work period, the four oboe players had nothing to do. Their numbers should be reduced, and their work should be distributed more evenly

throughout the work period, so eliminating peaks of activity.

The twelve violin players were all playing identical notes. This is unnecessary duplication. This section should be drastically pruned. If the resultant cuts lead to a reduction in sound, electronic apparatus will more than make up for the loss in manpower.

Considerable time is spent in the playing of demi-semi-quavers; this seems to be an unnecessary refinement. It is recommended, therefore that all notes be rounded up to the nearest semi-quaver. If this practice was adopted, it would make it possible to employ trainees and lower-grade operatives more extensively.

Similarly, there is excessive repetition of many musical passages. There is wide scope for modification and reduction here. Little contribution is made by repeating on the woodwind a passage that has already been dealt with thoroughly by the strings. If all such redundant passes were eliminated, it is estimated that the whole work period, currently two hours, could be reduced to twenty minutes, which would also obviate the need for an interval.

The conductor has been consulted about these recommendations and is generally in agreement with them, though the opinion was expressed that there might be some falling off in box-office receipts. If this indeed proves to be the case, it should be possible to close sections of the auditorium entirely. This would result in additional savings in overhead expenses, heating, lighting, attendants etc. And if the worst came to the worst, the entire programme could be shut down and the public could attend a similar work period at the Royal Albert Hall instead.



Wanted: Clean jam jars with lids.

454g (1lb) only please.

Please contact Heather Timms directly
or through the Parish Office if you can help.



The Red Fox

Thornton Hough • Wirral



You will find us a classic country pub with open fires, wooden floors, good old furniture and lots of rugs and plants.

The bar sits at the heart of the pub, with an array of cask ales on tap, a back shelf crammed with malts and gins and a decent list of over 50 lovingly chosen wines. Our team of chefs continually develop our daily menu with a spine of freshly prepared classic British dishes, complemented by a few more exotic influences here and there.

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

Shrove Tuesday is February 25th

Don't forget the basic recipe for pancakes!

4 oz plain flour, $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon salt,
1 egg, $\frac{1}{2}$ pint milk or milk and water
mixed,
2oz butter or margarine for cooking.



1. Mix flour and salt in a basin, make a hollow in the centre and drop in the egg. Stir with a wooden spoon and add liquid gradually until all the flour is worked in.
2. Beat well and add the remaining liquid.
3. For each pancake melt a small piece of butter in a frying pan. When beginning to smoke, stir the batter and place 2 tablespoons into the pan.
4. When golden brown underneath, turn and cook the other side.
5. Turn out and serve immediately with sugar or honey and lemon or orange juice.

Flowers in church

Most weeks, a member of the congregation kindly sponsors the flowers we have in church. The flowers add to the beauty of our building and can help inspire our thoughts, praise and prayers. The flower rota is posted on one of the notice boards at the back of church and lists those sponsoring the flowers for a particular week. For major festivals such as Christmas and Easter the flowers are provided through the church flower fund and donations people make to that.

At present there are quite a number of weeks on the rota for 2020 when no one has so far offered to sponsor the flowers for that week.

Would you consider sponsoring the flowers on a particular week, perhaps in memory of a loved one, or to give thanks for a special blessing received or just to give thanks to God for his many blessings to us all?

If you would like to sponsor the flowers, please contact Jane Wilson (328 1408) or one of the churchwardens. You can sponsor the flowers by making an appropriate donation, or by buying them. You might like to jointly sponsor the flowers with another member of the congregation.

If you wish you can arrange them yourself or have one of our regular flower arrangers do it with you or on your behalf – please discuss this with Jane.

Cookery Corner

Hot Milk Loaf

Put

- 1 cup sugar
- 1 cup milk
- 3 oz. butter

into a saucepan and heat till butter melts. Leave to cool.

Whisk 1 egg and add to the saucepan along with 2 cups of self-raising flour and 3 cups of fruit. (I use 1 cup sultanas, 1 of raisins and 1 of cranberries.)

Mix all together and add 1 teaspoon of vanilla extract.

Put into greased loaf tin and bake for 1 hour at 180°C/160 °C fan/ gas mark4.

This loaf can be adapted to date and walnut, fruit and cinnamon etc as long as you keep the cup measures consistent.

It will keep for a week in a tin.



Margaret Crawford

Ham Fricassé



- 4 oz HAM or bacon chunks
- 4 oz MUSHROOMS
- 2 or more skinned and chopped TOMATOES
- 1 deseeded and shredded GREEN PEPPER
- 1 oz BUTTER or margarine
- 2 diced POTATOES
- A little milk and cornflour

Melt butter in frying pan, add ham and mushrooms. Cover and simmer for few mins.

Meanwhile, boil the diced potatoes for a few minutes, drain and save the liquid. Make sauce from the (saved) potato stock, milk and cornflour. Pour over the ham and mushrooms.

Add the tomatoes, potatoes and green pepper. Simmer for 10 minutes.

Season to taste and serve with choice of vegetables.

Patsy Baker

The image features a variety of high-end pastries and chocolates. In the center is a circular logo with the text 'THE LAWNS' in white, surrounded by concentric purple lines. To the left, there's a round macaron with a walnut filling and a chocolate shell. Below it is a square cookie with a crumbly texture. To the right, there's a dark chocolate piece and a macaron with yellow stripes. The background is a light-colored, textured surface with scattered crumbs.

THE
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Coffee Rota

February	March
2 nd Verity and Bill	1 st Ron and Shirley
9 th Jane and Vi	8 th Verity and Bill
16 th Shirley and June	15 th Margaret and Richard
23 rd Syd and Rachel	22 nd Rhona
	29 th Linda and Peter

Trade Directory

Trade / Business name	Name	Contact telephone numbers	
Gardener	Nick Holden	364 0592	07547 341175
Greenhills Garden Services	Will	336 5167	07754 411693
Joiner	Paul Whitehead	353 0493	07762 637374
Painter & decorator	A. Forshaw	327 4788	07979 233422
Health & wellness / Pilates	Peter Heath	644 9279	07808 920813
PAT testing	Joey Farrell		07723 997434
Gas service	Mike Jones	342 5805	07813 137134
ACG General Maintenance	Andrew Glover		07384 466414
Bookkeeping	Russ Smith	208 7126	07463 669 418

Following a suggestion from readers, we have compiled the above list based on their recommendations. If you know of anybody else who would like to be included and who you can recommend to others then please inform any of the editorial team.

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

Register of births, marriages and burials

Extract from the Church Registers November 2019 – January 2020

James Noel KENNEFICK aged 85 died 10th September 2019
cremated remains buried 4th December 2019

Suzanne Elizabeth Moon PAKENHAM aged 81 died 7th December 2019
buried 23rd December 2019

Joan FRANCIS aged 93 died 14th December 2019 buried 7th January 2020

Vera BOWYER aged 81 died 6th July 2019
cremated remains buried 11th January 2020

Parish Diary



January

Wednesday 29 10:30am Holy Communion (Common Worship)
 Friday 31 7:00pm Choir Practice

February

Saturday 1 8:00am Wirral Men's Breakfast: Gavin Calver (Thornton Hall Hotel)
Sunday 2 **Fourth Sunday of Epiphany / Candlemas**
 8:00am Holy Communion (BCP)
 11:00am United Service at St George's URC
 Monday 3 9:00am cots2tots
 7:30pm PCC Meeting
 Tuesday 4 2:30pm Hymn singing at Brimstage Manor Nursing Home
 Wednesday 5 10:30am Holy Communion (Common Worship)
 Friday 7 7:00pm Choir Practice
Sunday 9 **Third Sunday before Lent**
 10:30am Holy Communion (Common Worship) with children's group
 6:30pm Choral Evensong (BCP)
 Monday 10 9:00am cots2tots
 Wednesday 12 10:30am Holy Communion (Common Worship)
 2:15 pm ACF: Dr Ian Cubbins: Agatha Christie - 'It wasn't who did it but how did they do it.'
 Friday 14 7:00pm Choir Practice
Sunday 16 **Second Sunday before Lent**
 8:00am Holy Communion (BCP)
 10:30am Holy Communion (Common Worship)
 Tuesday 18 2:15 pm ACF: Chatterbox
 Wednesday 19 10:30am Holy Communion (Common Worship)
 Friday 21 7:00pm Choir Practice
Sunday 23 **Sunday before Lent**
 10:30am Morning Prayer (Common Worship)
 6:30pm Holy Communion (Common Worship)
 Monday 24 9:00am cots2tots
Wednesday 26 **Ash Wednesday**
 10:30am Coffee Morning
 7:00pm Holy Communion with Ashing (Common Worship)
 Friday 28 7:00pm Choir Practice

March

Sunday 1 **First Sunday in Lent**
 8:00am Holy Communion (BCP)
 10:30am Holy Communion (Common Worship) United with St George's at All Saints
 Monday 2 9:00am cots2tots
 Tuesday 3 2:30pm Hymn singing at Brimstage Manor Nursing Home

Tuesday	3	7:30pm	Lent meditation
Wednesday	4	10:30am	Holy Communion (Common Worship)
Friday	6	2:30pm	World Day of Prayer Ecumenical Service
		7:00pm	Choir Practice
Sunday	8		Second Sunday in Lent
		10:30am	Morning Prayer (Common Worship) with children's group
		6:30pm	Holy Communion (Common Worship - Traditional Language)
Monday	9	9:00am	cots2tots
		7:30pm	PCC Meeting
Tuesday	10	7:30pm	Lent meditation
Wednesday	11	10:30am	Holy Communion (Common Worship)
		2:15 pm	ACF: Martin Bentley (Wirral Youth for Christ)
Friday	13	7:00pm	Choir Practice
Sunday	15		Third Sunday in Lent
		8:00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
		10:30am	Holy Communion (Common Worship) with children's group
Monday	16	9:00am	cots2tots
Tuesday	17	2:15 pm	ACF: Chatterbox
		7:30pm	Lent meditation
Wednesday	18	10:30am	Holy Communion (Common Worship)
Friday	20	7:00pm	Choir Practice
Sunday	22	12:00am	Mothering Sunday / Fourth Sunday in Lent
		10:30am	Morning Prayer for Mothering Sunday (Common Worship)
		6:30pm	Holy Communion (Common Worship)
Monday	23	9:00am	cots2tots
Tuesday	24	7:30pm	Lent meditation
Wednesday	25	10:30am	Coffee Morning
Friday	27	7:00pm	Choir Practice
Sunday	29		Passion Sunday / Fifth Sunday in Lent
		8:00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
		10:30am	Passiontide meditation (Music and readings for Passiontide)
Monday	30	9:00am	cots2tots
Tuesday	31	7:30pm	Lent meditation
April			
Wednesday	1	10:30am	Holy Communion (Common Worship)
Friday	3	7:00pm	Choir Practice
Saturday	4	8:00am	Wirral Men's Breakfast: Archbishop John Sentamu (TBC)
Sunday	5		Palm Sunday / Sixth Sunday in Lent
		11:00am	United Service at St George's URC
		6:30pm	Compline
Tuesday	7	2:30pm	Hymn singing at Brimstage Manor Nursing Home
Wednesday	8	10:30am	Holy Communion (Common Worship)
		2:15 pm	ACF: Revd. Vicky Barrett - An Easter topic

Who to contact about our groups

Bible Study

Monday Group

Bible Study and Prayer Shirley McEvoy 336 3449

Children and young people

cots2tots

Rachel Brothwell 07903 275375
rachel@allsaintsth.org.uk

Sunday Children's Group

Linda Arch linda@allsaintsth.org.uk

A Church Fellowship (ACF)

Helen Tankard 648 0181
hdt1426@sky.com

Church Choir

Iain Stinson 342 4800
iain@stinson.org.uk

The Magazine Team

Patsy Baker 336 3273
John McIver 336 4829
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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
Tuesday 10th March 2020.**

Thank you...

We would like to thank everyone who has kindly made a donation towards the cost of the production of the Magazine for 2020 – your support is very much appreciated.

The Editorial Team

Who's who at All Saints

Vicar	Revd. Vicky Barrett	336 2766 vicar@allsaintsth.org.uk The Vicar's normal day off is Friday.
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Planned Giving Secretary	Sydney Deakin	334 6111
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Health & Safety Officer	Graham Seagrave	health&safety@allsaintsth.org.uk
Church Flower Rota	Jane Wilson	328 1408
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