

All Saints Thornton Hough Newsletter

May 24th 2020

All Saints Church, Raby Road, Thornton Hough, Wirral CH63 1JP
www.allsaintsth.org.uk



Hope and thanksgiving



The NHS has received wonderful support for their unstinting devotion to caring for people and the village Smith showed his support for the NHS by making a rainbow from horseshoes and displaying it on his door.

The new Bishop of Chester

On Tuesday May 12, more than 500 people across the Diocese of Chester joined a Zoom meeting hosted by Rt Rev'd Ian Bishop, one of our Archdeacons, to hear the announcement of the name of the new Bishop of Chester. Rt Rev'd Keith Sinclair, Bishop of Birkenhead told us that the **Rt Rev'd Mark Tanner** has been named by Downing Street as the next Bishop of Chester.



Bishop Mark is currently the Bishop of Berwick in the Diocese of Newcastle, a post he has occupied since 2016.

"It will be hard to say goodbye to the North East," he says, "however, Lindsay and I are really excited to return to Chester where I was ordained, and both of our children were born." Bishop Mark was a curate at St Mary's Upton.

Bishop Mark is married to Lindsay and they have two teenage children.

Mark says: "It is an honour and a joy to be appointed to the Diocese of Chester at such a key time in the life of our communities, nation, and Church. In Christ, God offers a gift of hope beyond our imagining; there is no greater joy or privilege than enabling others to step into this freedom and life, whether in deeply practical service or beautiful wonder and worship. God is here for all."

There is more information about the new Bishop on the [Chester Diocese website](http://www.chestediocese.org.uk).

A first anniversary...

On May 16th 2019, Rev'd Vicky Barrett was installed as Vicar of All Saints' Thornton Hough. After a comparatively short interregnum, we were delighted when Vicky agreed to become our new vicar. The installation service on May 16th was conducted by The Bishop of Birkenhead, Rev'd Keith Sinclair. It was a wonderful, joyful, uplifting service with good hymns to sing, thought provoking comments from the Bishop and a great sense of anticipation for the coming years. The service was followed by a splendid supper in the Parish Hall.



Twelve months on, what about the "new" vicar?

We are so blessed to have Vicky with us. She leads our worship in gracious, thoughtful, and prayerful ways. She can be challenging, inspiring, relevant, and often humorous, as she clearly explains the Bible passages to us. Vicky helps us follow the rhythm of the Christian Year, leading us through the times and seasons. In one-to-one and small group encounters Vicky is always engaged, listening and taking part in a thoughtful and appropriate way. Vicky has got to know many people in the Parish, not just those who come to church. Who can forget her appearance as an elf at the Christmas Fair?

Richard Gillard's much-loved hymn reminds us all of our responsibilities as a part of the church.

Brother, sister let me serve you.

*Let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.*

*We are pilgrims on a journey,
and companions on the road;
we are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.*

*I will hold the Christ-light for you
In the night-time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you;
speak the peace you long to hear.*

*I will weep when you are weeping;
when you laugh, I'll laugh with you.*

*I will share your joy and sorrow
till we've seen this journey through.*

*When we sing to God in heaven
we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together
of Christ's love and agony.*



"Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these." (Matthew 6:28-29)

The art of considering is something which has taken on a new significance over the last two months. We are all looking at our world in different ways now.

I have been taking photos of flowers in the garden and on my daily walks since lockdown started. I never cease to be fascinated by their mesmerising shapes and formations, yet I don't think I ever stopped to look at them so closely before.

What have you begun to consider in these times? How might you share your discoveries?

Vicky Barrett

No Eggs Orange Fruit Cake

Ingredients

8oz SR flour
2oz margarine
8oz dried fruit
4oz sugar
1 large orange - grated rind and juice
milk
½tsp bicarb



Method

Heat oven to 140°C (Gas mark 3).

Line and butter 2lb loaf tin.

Mix flour and bicarb and rub in the margarine. Add the sugar, orange rind and fruit.

Make up the juice of the two oranges with milk to make ¼ pint, then add to the rest and mix well (if too wet add a little more flour).

Bake for 1 hour.

John McIver (1937-2020) - a very good friend

As many of you know John sadly died on the 11th May after a long battle with cancer. He will be missed by all who knew him. He was such a good friend to everybody - so kind and considerate and thoughtful. We became very good friends with him and Bobby when they returned to live in Thornton Hough in 1999, after John had been working in Glasgow and London for many years. Since then we have enjoyed each other's company going on holidays and sharing meals with many other close friends.

John was such a knowledgeable man who could enthral you with anecdotes and stories from his own experiences especially in ship building. He had great faith in Christ and enjoyed being at church services. John tried to help anyone whenever he could - volunteering for any work needed around the church. He became a valuable member of All Saints joining the PCC where he served for 6 years. Whatever John did, he did wholeheartedly. He had a wonderful sense of humour teasing the ladies with "I haven't had my hug today". We will miss his infectious laughter as he was always the life and soul of the group and cheered everybody up with his smiling face and just the right comment at the right time in conversations. Nothing was ever too much trouble for John, always there to give freely of his time to support others.

God Bless you John for coming into our lives. We will miss you as will so many. Rest in Peace.

Lesley and Brian Morris

cots2tots

I had this photo sent to me today from one of the Grandads from cots2tots.



We grew sunflowers last year, some more successfully than others. This Grandad is very proud of this year's attempt that he has grown for his grandchildren while he is in hibernation.

Rachel Brothwell

The best selling books are cook books.

The second best selling books are dieting books. They teach you not to eat what you have just learnt to cook!

From "A Box of Delights" by J. John & Mark Stibbe

Christian Aid Week

May 10th - 16th was Christian aid week and whilst we may not be able to meet together in church at the moment, we can still support Christian Aid and its partner organisations as they work with some of the world's most vulnerable people. Christian Aid is very dependent on the funds raised during Christian Aid Week and this year, because of the pandemic, its work amongst the most vulnerable may be at risk because of a shortage of funds.

Can you help? Any donations, however small, will help to make a big difference. You can make your donation:

on-line at <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/give-money/make-donation>

or by telephone - call **020 7523 2269**

or by direct bank payment - call **020 7523 2269** for details.

or by sending a cheque (payable to Christian Aid) to
Christian Aid, 35-41 Lower Marsh, London SE1 7RL

Thank you so much!



The coronavirus outbreak threatens the health of our neighbours near and far. Together we must respond quickly to help the most vulnerable.

Coronavirus has shown us that our futures are bound more tightly together than ever before.

And now it is spreading across the world's poorest countries, putting people living in poverty at great risk.

These people are already facing a lack of water, food and healthcare. Some are homeless. Some are living with underlying health issues such as HIV.

As coronavirus infection rates speed up, they will feel the impacts of the virus deeply. We must respond now.

Coronavirus impacts all of us. But love unites us all.

Christian Aid's response

Together with our local partners, we are working quickly to limit the impact of coronavirus in some of the most vulnerable communities around the world.

- We are drawing on our experience from the Ebola crisis and helping communities to prevent and delay infection.
- We are providing essential soap, water and hand-washing training.
- We are ensuring urgent health messages get through to help keep people safe.
- We are working through our networks of church partners and faith-based organisations to reach the most vulnerable at this critical time.

With your help we can do even more.

Please donate today.

Forty days and forty nights – the first reference in the Bible (retold)

God saw that a new illness had arisen on His earth. He said to mankind, "Make yourself a protection against this illness that may destroy you. I will make it so that you will have to isolate."

Now that everyone who was going to be ready was ready, God said, "Set yourself aside." (16 March). "Seven days from now (23 March) the illness will expand upon the earth to the extent that you will now need to isolate yourselves."

The illness ravaged the earth for forty days and forty nights (to 2 May) until eventually it abated.



The significant consequence of the new illness lasted upon the earth for a further one hundred and fifty days (to 30 September). During this time God looked after the people until the severity of the illness had receded.

In another ten weeks or so (mid-December) the way out of the isolation seemed possible. After another forty days (late January) the people seemed confident to try to leave their isolation. After three weeks of testing that the illness really had receded (mid-February) the people finally left their isolation to begin "normal" life again.

But the earth and all things on it had changed and so they had to restart their life along a new normal pattern. The people noticed that at each household a rainbow was visible.

Note that the first three dates shown in brackets were key pronouncements by the Prime Minister that followed the pattern of the experience of Noah and his family. The later dates follow the pattern in the same story in the Bible.

Peter Arch

Financial update

All Saints' is continuing to meet its financial obligations during the pandemic: this includes our Parish Share (which meets the costs of clergy and the costs of running the Diocese), insurances, council tax (on the vicarage), utility costs, ground maintenance and other expenses. It costs around £7,450 per month to meet these obligations.

Our income has been reduced: we are not receiving collections given at services (we are not holding services), we are not getting rental income from the Parish Hall and so on. We are still receiving income from donors who give by standing order and one or two regular donors have either sent us a cheque or deposited their gift into our bank account. One regular envelop donor has transferred their giving to use a standing order: this is really helpful, and I would encourage others to think about doing this too. The "regular income" we are receiving is around £3,320 (including Gift Aid). This leaves a shortfall of around £4,130 per month. Of course, many of the donors who give through the envelopes are probably keeping their gifts until we again have services, and this is fine. We are

fortunate that we can temporarily manage the cashflow challenge we are facing.

We have also received a few generous donations from our congregation to help our financial situation. One donation was from someone we do not know and we are trying to find them to say thank you. These gifts are very much appreciated.

The Standing Committee, acting on behalf of the PCC, is receiving reports to monitor the financial position.

If you can provide some financial help to All Saints', this would be most welcome. You can do so by either making a payment into our bank account or by sending a cheque to the Parish Office. If you donate by bank transfer, please use your surname as the reference and please send me a note via the parish office. If you have completed a Gift Aid Declaration, we shall treat your gift as being eligible for Gift Aid unless you tell us otherwise.

Iain Stinson, PCC Treasurer.

Details for making a gift directly to All Saints'

Sort code	40 52 40
Account number	00020545
Account name	All Saints PCC
Reference	<i>Please use your surname</i>

The Archbishop of Canterbury:

"Prayer is not desperation: desperation is when we try to do things without prayer."

Cardinal Vincent Nichols:

This time when we can't go into church doesn't mean that nothing is happening. Rather, it's an inspiration to be out and see where God is working: "God's spirit hidden in the field of the world."

Flower word search

Can you find the names of 19 flowers hidden in the word search grid?

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

Technology should never be a barrier

When the news began to reach us regarding Covid-19 in Italy and Spain my thoughts were for my mum of 83. Living alone I was so concerned about her wellbeing with regard to social isolation during the twelve weeks of staying at home.

In the past we had tried to encourage mum to have the Internet and an iPad but despite various attempts mum always declined. I felt it was due to lack of confidence and not that she was not able to adapt to using technology.

Mum is an avid reader and as she could no longer visit the library, we were able to persuade her to use a Kindle (electronic book reader). My husband drew diagrams and with written guidance within a few days mum was a fan and actually questioned why she'd never used one sooner.

The success of the Kindle and the increase in mum's confidence enabled me to suggest to mum using an iPhone. I also highlighted that with a third great grandchild due at the end of June it would enable her to FaceTime and see her great grandchildren.

Mum agreed which was so reassuring. Once again my husband wrote a step by step guide and, socially distancing, we talked my mum through calls, messaging, WhatsApp and FaceTime.

Mum always asks that we call her when we arrive home from visiting her. I could not believe it when I called her after taking the phone to her to discover she had FaceTimed her brother and sister in law in Canada. They were thrilled as mum is the eldest of six and her brother the youngest. Mum always calls him "baby brother" and he's 70.



I feel so relieved that mum has embraced new technology. It will, I'm sure, help to reduce the risk of loneliness and it's lovely for me to see my mum's smile each day.

On a lighter note in the first week my mum FaceTimed my son twice in one day. I received a message from him asking was I the culprit who introduced nan to new technology? He said, "as much as I love nan, it's great she's FaceTiming but mum, can you explain to nan the concept of working from home?" This made us all chuckle.

So please, anyone out there who feels that modern technology is not for you, please reconsider. As I say to mum, if all else fails just press the home button and start again.

Tracey Heaps

Thank you...

Bobby McIver and family would like to thank all those who have sent flowers and messages of sympathy to them at this sad time. They have been very touched with everybody's kindness and thoughtful words by letter, cards and telephone.

Can you receive the newsletter by email?

Where possible, we are sending the newsletter to people on our contact list by sending them an email message containing a link to a copy of the newsletter on the church website.

Sending the newsletter electronically saves the cost of postage and the effort in printing and sending out the copies (around £1.20 a copy).

If you presently receive the newsletter by post and would be happy to have it sent electronically instead, please let us know by either sending an email message to office@allsaintsth.org.uk or by going to the church website, www.allsaintsth.org.uk and following the link under *Contact List* on the home page.

We are still happy to send copies of the newsletter by post to people without Internet access or who prefer to receive the printed copy.

If you know of anyone who would like to receive their own copy of the newsletter, please ask them to join our contact list.

During the pandemic we are using the contact list to send out appropriate important news and material to help with our spiritual nurture. Those who receive the newsletter by post are also sent copies of Rev'd Vicky's reflections and meditations.

Please send your contributions for future newsletters to editor@allsaintsth.org.uk or to Newsletter, 8, Eton Drive, Thornton Hough, Wirral, CH63 1JS.

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My Wonderful Body Quiz

My body is wonderfully made because I have

- 1 A carpenter's tool box.
- 2 Two lids.
- 3 Two musical Instruments.
4. Twenty articles used by a carpenter.
5. Two lofty palms.
6. A number of shell fish.
7. Two established measures.
8. Whips without handles.
9. Fine flowers.
10. A fruit.
- 11, Two scholars.
12. Two places of worship.



THY KINGDOM COME

Thy Kingdom Come is a global prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray from Ascension to Pentecost for more people to come to know Jesus.

Since its start in May 2016, just three and a half years ago, God has grown Thy Kingdom Come from a dream of possibility into a movement. In 2019 Christians from 172 countries took part in praying 'Come Holy Spirit', so that friends and family, neighbours and colleagues might come to faith in Jesus Christ.

This praying together has been across our diversity and differences, as every person, household and church are encouraged to pray in their own way. Whilst an astonishing 92% of people said they were praying for family and friends to come to faith in Jesus, and 40% of those taking part in 2019 did so for the first time, we recognise there is much more we can do together to help *Thy Kingdom Come* be fully in the lifeblood of the Church.

During the 11 days of Thy Kingdom Come, it is hoped that everyone who takes part will:

- *Deepen their own relationship with Jesus Christ.*
- *Pray for five friends or family to come to faith in Jesus.*
- *Pray for the empowerment of the Spirit that we would be effective in our witness.*

Solution to the flower word search

AQUILEGIA, AZALEA, BEGONIA, CARNATION,
CLEMATIS, FUSCHIA, GAZANIA, GERANIUM,
HEATHER, IRIS, LILY, LOBELIA, MAGNOLIA,
NEMESIA, PETUNIA, PHLOX, ROSE,
SNAPDRAGON, WALLFLOWER.

My wonderful body quiz answers

1	A carpenter's tool box.	chest
2	Two lids.	eye lids
3	Two musical Instruments.	drums (ears)
4.	Twenty articles used by a carpenter.	nails
5	Two lofty palms.	hand palms
6.	A number of shell fish.	muscles (mussels)
7.	Two established measures.	feet (Also, Horses measured in Hands)
8.	Whips without handles.	eye lashes
9.	Fine flowers.	iris (tulips-two lips)
10.	A fruit.	(Adam's) apple
11.	Two scholars.	pupils
12.	Two places of worship.	temples

We are not publishing **The Magazine** at present as we have been advised by the Church of England not to distribute printed material by hand because of the risk of infection from Covid-19 and to protect our distributors. When this advice changes, we shall again publish The Magazine. In the meantime, we hope you enjoy these "occasional" newsletters.

Thanks to all those who have contributed to this edition of the newsletter.

