

All Saints' Church Thornton Hough

The Magazine



August - September 2021



Welcome letter from the Vicar

Bear with me...

I can remember a sticker that some Citroen 2CV cars and VW camper vans had on them when they were just seen as slow, noisy vehicles clogging the roads as they struggled uphill: a snail, looking a bit red in the face, and a caption saying: "Bear with me, I'm going as fast as I can." Now, of course, these machines are style icons, and their lack of pace seen as endearing.



Being patient when people are moving at different paces can be challenging, especially if you feel that you are either being hurried along or barely moving.

The relaxation of the Government's coronavirus laws from July 19th sees us move from a firm set of instructions which we must follow, to a set of considerations which we may, or should follow. Some people will want to hurry along, casting aside their masks and need to socially distance, yet others will find this lack of compulsion very unsettling.

Our duty is to ensure that we show care and consideration for one another, recognising that we must continue to take steps to protect one another from coronavirus, particularly as the number of cases is on the rise in our area.

The Bible gives us some wise advice as to how we should look after one another:
Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfil the law of Christ.
(Galatians 6:2)

Our core infection control measures have helped us feel and stay safe. They remain our acts of love for one another. You are therefore asked to continue to:

- Use hand sanitiser on entrance and exit
 - Wear a face covering indoors
 - Continue to participate in Track and Trace, either using the QR code
- or
- completing the forms issued in pews for services
 - Respect personal space – avoid crowding together, especially indoors
 - **Stay home if you feel at all unwell**

You will notice some changes in our services over the coming weeks:

- Congregational singing
- Holy Communion: you may receive in “simultaneous administration”: the Vicar will dip the edge of your communion wafer in the wine and give it to you if you wish. The Vicar will take communion *after* the congregation
- Refreshments after the 10.30am Sunday service in the Parish Hall from September
- No requirement to sit as a household or in “bubble groups” (although we will continue to use alternate pews)

We are moving to a new phase of our life in community. These are our first steps. Bear with one another – we’re all going as fast as we can.

With Love and Blessings

Vicky

Thanks for the Harvest: September 19th – 26th

We will be having a week of harvest thanksgiving, beginning with a Harvest Lunch on Sunday, 19th September at 12 noon. We will be inviting everyone to donate goods for the Wirral Foodbank as part of our thanksgiving. Items may be left in the church porch or in the baskets at the back of church.

For your shopping list:

- **Tinned fish**
- **Tinned potatoes**
- **Squash**
- **Sugar (small packet if possible)**
- **UHT milk**
- **Instant mash**
- **Coffee (small)**
- **Jam**
- **Shampoo**
- **Deodorant**



The Editors are very sad that we have no space for a cookery item in this magazine but we hope to include one in the next.

Notes on the PCC meetings on 15th June and 13th July

With Covid restrictions starting to ease the meeting in June was held in the church where it was easy to socially distance. Then, in July, the PCC made a welcome return to the Parish Hall. Zoom was still available for those who needed it!

The PCC took the opportunity to review what had been happening over the past twelve months and to consider the way ahead for when things start to return to normal. In spite of the challenges of the last year we have managed to keep going, supporting each other and running services, initially on line, then in person, with all the Covid restrictions in place. Our strengths are a lovely church and environment, a grounded and accessible church, good music and a friendly welcome for all who come into the church and to the services.

Over the years society has changed; the sense of community isn't as strong, there is a lack of facilities such as a village shop and library, and and people don't always stay in the village for long.

How can we help to build a sense of community and offer a gathering point? As a church we should be reaching out to people again. Before the pandemic started we had social events, ACF, coffee mornings and cots2tots. People from the wider community did come in. We now need to focus on what we are able to do and to resource. It is hoped that by September we will be able to start ACF again, and resume the social events and the coffee mornings.

Vicky proposed that we should have a series of prayer walks, beating the bounds, walking, chatting, praying for people. Everyone could join in - dog walkers, runners etc. We need to remember that the Parish reaches out beyond Thornton Hough.

It will be good to welcome people back for weddings and baptisms. We have links with the school and would like to build on these. The children contributed to the last edition of The Magazine and we would like to encourage this for future editions. We should not lose sight of the centrality of the message, the good news about Jesus Christ and his message- otherwise we are nothing more than a social club.

Families in church. Many sporting activities now take place on Sunday morning and other activities have taken the place of going to church. Should we be using the late afternoon for a service, maybe once a month? Do we need something more flexible?

The pandemic has led to many people feeling alone and isolated. How can we help to bring people together? Resources (in particular human resources) are needed to run the activities. At the moment we are relying on the same people over and over again. How do we involve others, including some who have expertise but are not necessarily churchgoers? We need to start small and invite people in, building on what we have.

On 15th July we were only days away from a **major relaxation of the Covid regulations** but, with a rising rate of infections, the PCC were very wary of moving too fast and favoured encouraging everyone to continue wearing their masks, using the hand sanitiser and using alternate pews. Maintaining the space between people should enable us to all sing again soon and to distribute both the bread and the wine to people during Holy Communion. If the Vicar and the Churchwardens bring the communion round to the congregation this should minimise the contact between people and help the congregation to feel safe.

On September 12th we hope to have an **evening service of Holy Communion** then review our service pattern and plan the way forward for the following months. We can provide the space - are there others who can provide the expertise when it comes to doing something different some of the time?

Vicky reminded us about the service on the 25th July marking the closure of St George's church and the need to keep the congregation in our prayers. The PCC have valued the fellowship with St George's over the years and wish them well as they move on. They will always be welcome - to worship together and continue to share time in courses, at ACF, coffee mornings etc.

Harvest will be celebrated from 19th to 26th September this year. There is also a baptism on 19th September. It was agreed that we should support the Wirral Foodbank again this year. Vicky also suggested that we should have a collection point at the back of church so that people can have the opportunity to donate at All Saints on a regular basis.

The project **to repair the boundary wall** is slowly making progress. Nearly all the permissions are now in place: we have a scheme for the wall developed by the church architect, we have the faculty from the Diocese and we now have permission to remove the remains of the holm oak on condition that we replant another holm oak. We now need to follow up on the quotes submitted to the church architect. Peter Arch was thanked for his work in liaising with the different parties involved in the wall project. Although the potential costs appear eye-wateringly high, we are bound by the faculty conditions and ultimately need to trust the experts advising us and move on with the project.

At least with the faculty system we would be protected if anything went wrong. As trustees we need to use our money wisely, but we also have an obligation to keep our precinct tidy and safe. Peter will go through the tenders to make sure that we are comparing like with like.

The Leverhulme Trust is being approached to ask if they can help us with financing the cost of the repair.

Clergy wellbeing. In response to a national initiative members of the PCC were asked to think about how we could ensure the well-being of the clergy, and in particular Vicky, our vicar. How can we support her? Are our expectations realistic?

Further discussions will take place in September when, hopefully, we will have a document from Chester Diocese to consider.

A Finance report had been circulated in advance of the meeting. The PCC welcomed the news that Brian Morris is prepared to consider helping with the Gift Aid.

The PCC are very grateful to the family of Bill Gault for a generous donation of £3,000.

The deficit on the General Fund could be around £14,000 at the end of the year. Money is going to be released from the church's investments and a plan is needed of how the money will be used, taking into account the need for essential repairs etc.

Routine maintenance is still needed; a slipped slate has been fixed, the blocked drains are being addressed and the handrails at the churchyards, the postbox for the Parish Hall and the need for a new church noticeboard are still 'on the radar'.

The next PCC meeting will be in September. Hopefully by then things will be starting to return to some semblance of normal and we can look forward to a brighter future, celebrating together once more and working to spread the good news of Jesus Christ in our community.

Sue Stinson
PCC Secretary

Helpers needed! Could one of them be YOU?

Sidespeople needed to help welcome people as they arrive in church and assist the Churchwardens.

Helpers to join the Refreshments Rota. Could you help make tea and coffee for people after the 10.30am Sunday service?

-Please speak to Pam Machin, Alan Splitt or Rev Vicky if you would like to know more about either of these roles.

Can you spot our Vicar!

Vicky agreed to join 4 others in running 52 miles (yes 52 miles!) over 6 days in June and completed the course and has a medal and a T shirt to show for it. I wonder how many of you could run the equivalent of 2 Marathons in a few days!

Well done Vicky and the others Ana, Suzie, Francesca and Nic. I wonder if they found the Yellow Brick Road?



Vicky and friends ready to set off at Otterspool Promenade for the Fancy Dress run

Each year on the last Sunday in June, the Tour of Merseyside kicks off with the Southport half marathon. It is a unique running experience with runners building a great sense of friendship and belonging over the course of the week and Vicky the Vicar, as she was called all week, was a fabulous addition to the tour family!

The 13.1 mile Southport half Marathon on Sunday was followed by 6 mile a trail run along Thurstaston Beach and up Heswall Dales on Monday, then a 10 mile run



Skipping and Dancing when they should be running!

along the Ralla in Liverpool on Tuesday evening. (*The Ralla is a Wild Life Site in North Liverpool*)

After a rest day on Wednesday, another 5 miles along Otterspool prom in joyful fancy dress on Thursday then a 6 mile trail run at Stadt Moers in Knowsley on Friday. The finisher to the 52 mile

running week was a 12 mile run from New Brighton to Hoylake beach and back followed by celebration drinks and food at the Derby Pool.

52 miles in the bag, a huge medal, a new t- shirt and those aching, aching legs.

By a Special Correspondent

George Dobb celebrated his birthday with his daughter Pauline and friends



A Small Bundle of Memories

Having recently celebrated my 97th birthday, I was asked to comment on a few memorable changes that I can recall during my lifetime.

Born in Liverpool in 1924, I still remember seeing real poverty with women walking to the wash-houses with their washing in baskets on top of their heads. When the old age pension was introduced it remained at 50p (10 shillings in those days) per week for many years. There was no sign of high inflation before 1965. Law and order was more effective than it is today with policemen patrolling the streets “on foot” and usually alone — they were men to be respected. A doctor would make his house-visits by bicycle (before motor cars and motorbikes became common). His prescription / treatment was very often just a green or brown liquid—no such thing as antibiotic! Thankfully there has been a great advancement in the world of medicine. In the 1920’s and 30’s no one would have thought that organ transplants were possible. How fortunate we are to have the N.H.S. which provides such an excellent service to the whole nation.



The Overhead Railway

Public transport has truly improved, moving from the bone-shaker tramcar to the more comfortable trams. I seem to remember very uncomfortable buses being introduced in about 1928. Today they are most comfortable even for long distance travel.

What a shame the Liverpool Overhead Railway was dismantled. This ran from the Dingle to Seaforth. Underneath the Overhead Railway (known locally as the Docker’s Umbrella or “the Ovee”) was a road railway which transported goods/ materials from ship to warehouse and vice versa. (These warehouses are now blocks of flats!). Can you remember like I can, the clanging bell and the man with a red flag warning people to get out of the way of the trains travelling very fast at **3 MPH!**

Sad that the great Ocean Liners Companies such as Canadian Pacific, Alfred Holt and Brocklebank bringing imports from all over the world, cease to use the Port of Liverpool.

We must not forget that to cross the River Mersey (Liverpool / Wirral) up to 1934 was only possible by ferry or underground railway but now the options have increased with the addition of the two road tunnels which are great engineering achievements. There is no need now for the “luggage “ boats as they were known—packed with horses and carts and lorries— the deckhands were very skilful at parking their cargoes.

I remember the very busy cake shop at the bottom of Water Street Liverpool which sold wonderful Eccles cakes. However the windows were plastered over with flies! - No food inspectors or Health and Safety in those days!

For business people, cafes in Liverpool were always “them” and “us”. For the “Principals” or bosses, it was very often Andersons (delicious sandwiches with no crusts). For the office juniors and clerks, it was Harry Pettys and for the dockers, warehousemen and carters it was very often Liverpool City Caterers or McConnell’s. In my early childhood if you owned a motor car then you would be considered to be a person of wealth—no such thing as Hire Purchase! Gone are the days of people buying or renting a house, when they looked forward to having a lovely front garden—today they want that space to just park their car.



An early Television

I first heard the “cats’ whiskers” (a wireless) at my grandmother’s house in Pensby in 1928 and in 1948 Doris and I saw our first TV news being broadcast at the Daily Mail Ideal Home Exhibition (on a 9 inch screen). Thanks to the Technology Era today we have too many channels for the average viewer.

Thanks to inventors such as Mr Dyson and others, technological changes are taking place almost daily. My favourite invention is the Zip fastener (until it breaks down!). I remember the Biro Pen coming on the market in 1948 at a cost of £5 (which included the presentation case). Now they give them away!

Travel is now the desire of many people and because of the great expansion in aircraft and cruise ships and the availability of a variety of holiday resorts the world is a much smaller place. Doris and I were lucky enough to travel to many parts of the world but as youngsters we never went out of the country and only visited London when we were on our honeymoon in 1948. At that age I was fortunate to have some knowledge of foreign countries because of my interest in collecting foreign stamps from an early childhood.

Great changes have taken place in entertainment, not always for the better as the tuneful melodies of songs written by Irving Berlin, Ray Noble, Ivor Novello etc have been replaced by, in my opinion, “just noise”, although some good musicals are still being produced such as *Les Miserables*, *West Side Story* and *My Fair Lady*.

Entertainers such as comedians have moved from theatres to television shows. This was not always to the benefit of some eg ventriloquists. As a youngster the silent films were a great joy to me as I “laughed my head off” at the antics of Charlie Chaplin, Buster Keaton and the Keystone Cops.

In sport, local teams were represented by local people, who were known to everybody in the area, whereas now teams such as Liverpool and Everton have players from all over the world. Many foreign millionaires and Sky TV have brought great wealth to the sport and brought with them gamblers and “Win at all cost” attitudes. Loyalty is not what it was.

One of the greatest amateur goalkeepers of my time was Howard Baker, who played football for Everton and Corinthians, became an Olympic High-jumper and then took over his father’s business in Binns Road when he retired, manufacturing Aunt Sally Liquid Soap. How many of you have washed your doorstep with that well known product! Incidentally Ken Dodd was one of the salesmen for the soap before he became famous! Also situated in Binns Road were the works and offices of Meccano, Hornby Trains and Paton Calvert (manufacturers of tin trays and boxes with a workforce of over 700.

High Streets have changed considerably in recent years as more and more people buy “on line” and it is very sad to see the demise of large department stores such as Debenhams and John Lewis. With so much “online” shopping it is no surprise to find that cash and cheques are being replaced by credit and debit cards, thus reducing the number of bank branches in the high street. Gone are the days of “Service” (and Green shield stamps!) from the small shopkeeper to be replaced by big supermarkets with their loyalty points encouraging future shopping with them.



Up to 1936 I was only used to gas lighting at home before it was replaced by electricity - instant light at the click of a switch. Now wind power and solar power are playing an important part in providing the nation with heat and light. In 1936 I used a telephone for the first time remembering that you must press button B for the return of your money if no connection was made with the person you wished to speak with. How things have changed - you can now get a telephone on your wristwatch! (Do you remember “Beam me up Scotty”? It’s all coming true!)

In our homes today we have to live with computerised equipment and if you are like me, it is easier to ask a small child to fathom and sort out than trying to grasp the workings myself!

And now we even have Bit Coins—can anybody explain to me what they are?

George Dobb

All Saints Thornton Hough Calendar 2022

We urgently need photographs for our 2022 Calendar.

As in the past the calendar will feature photographs taken in the parish. We are again holding a competition to select the photographs which will be included in the calendar. The “winning” photographs will be selected by a panel of judges and the prize for winning will be having your photograph included in the calendar and receiving a free copy of the calendar.

Everyone is invited to enter any number of photographs. Photographs should be taken around Thornton Hough, Raby, Raby Mere and Brimstage. If possible, we want photographs which cover all the seasons of the year so that the illustrations for each month can be appropriate to the season. The photographs must be in **landscape perspective (longest edge horizontal)** and scalable to A4. We can use photographs taken in previous years. The entrant can retain the copyright to the image but in entering the image into the competition the entrant must agree that All Saints Thornton Hough may use the image without any charge in its publications or on its website providing copyright is acknowledged.

Digital photographs taken on most modern phones, tablets and digital cameras will be suitable. Black and white photographs as well as coloured photographs will be accepted. [For the technically minded: the photographs should be a minimum size of 2500 x 3500 pixels (6 MP). The photographs should be submitted in JPEG or TIFF format, with no or minimal compression to preserve image quality. Digital manipulation should be limited to minor adjustments and cropping and preserve the A4 landscape perspective.] Prints from film cameras may also be submitted; they must be at least 8 x 6 inches (203 x 154 mm) and unmounted.

As in the past please send your photos

by email as an attachment to photos@allsaintsth.org.uk; you should include your name and contact details in the email message. *Always select the maximum file size* (highest quality option)

On a memory stick: put the image as a JPEG or TIFF file on an otherwise empty USB memory stick; place in an envelope which includes your name and contact details and hand it to one of The Magazine editorial team. Your entry will be copied from the memory stick and the memory stick returned to you.

Prints from film cameras: Place the photograph in a suitable envelope, include a piece of paper with your name and contact details in the envelope and pass to one of The Magazine editorial team. Your entry will be scanned and the original photograph returned to you.

We are also hoping to have each page sponsored by local businesses so if you know of any business who might support our venture please ask them to contact Brian Morris on 336 1393 or email brimorris@sky.com. The page sponsored would include an advert and / or logo for their company.

Can you Remember the 60's and 70's ?



- 1 Which London born comic was knighted in 1975?
- 2 Who succeeded John Paul I as Pope?
- 3 Which Czech tennis star defected to the West in 1975?
- 4 Which father of twins was the husband of the British PM?
- 5 Who was Sportswoman of the Year in 1971?
- 6 When did John Curry win an Olympic gold medal?
- 7 When did Mother Teresa win the Nobel Peace Prize?
- 8 Which Second Division football team won the FA Cup in 1973?
- 9 Which Australian won the Women's Wimbledon title in 1971?
- 10 In which city were the 1960 Summer Olympics held?
- 11 How old was President Kennedy when he died?
- 12 Who delivered his 'Wind of Change' speech in 1960?
- 13 Name the British doll created by Pedigree Dolls and Toys as a rival to Barbie?
- 14 In 1967, who was captured and executed by the Bolivian army?
- 15 'Raindrops Keep Fallin' on My Head' was a song written for which 1969 film?

Answers on Page 26

Thoughts for the month of August.

In August we remember the Transfiguration of our Lord (Aug. 6th) . Take comfort from the warmer weather as we strive to cope with everyday problems and stresses placed upon us in the unusual circumstances of this year. Think positively about what the future holds, greet people you meet with a friendly smile and encouraging words and remember this prayer by David Fawcett :-

Merciful God, unlike me you don't dwell on past failures.

Instead, you invite me to acknowledge them openly before you, to receive your pardon and then move on.

Teach me to do just that - to accept your offer for what it is, and, rather than wallow in my guilt, to rejoice in your mercy.

Help me not simply to talk about new life, but to live it joyfully, receiving each moment as your gracious gift.

NEW

BAR & GRILL MENU



THORNTON HALL
HOTEL & SPA

★★★★

A Special Experience: Meeting Vietnamese Boat People in the South China Sea (May 1981) escaping from the clutches of the North Vietnamese Regime.

I had been employed by Mobil for about for years at that time and I was the Second Officer in a product carrier. Around midday we encountered a group of Vietnamese people crammed together in a small boat. The boat was about thirty-five feet in length and relatively crudely built; we estimated that there were approximately eighty people on board. The boat was equipped with both an inboard engine, probably diesel, and an outboard one, which drove a very deep propeller. This latter engine was not running; probably, we believed, because there was no fuel for it.



A typical Vietnamese boat full of men, women and children

In the wheelhouse we were able to see a crudely fitted magnetic compass and a well-worn and probably out of date chart; the boat flew a simple white flag on a bamboo pole. As the boat approached our ship, we had to request that the crew extinguish a small fire they had on the deckhouse, presumably for cooking. This they readily understood and complied immediately.

The boat people comprised women and small children and mainly young men; there seemed to be very few older men. Three youths who stood on the deckhouse appeared to be in charge of the group, although there may have been someone with greater sea experience in the wheelhouse. The main spokesman for the party, however, was a girl of barely twenty, who had an excellent working knowledge of the English language.

When their boat first came alongside ours, the group inevitably asked to board, but because of company rules of the day, we were not permitted to let them do that. If their boat had been unseaworthy we would, of course, have been able to embark them and land them at our next port, which was to be Singapore. We did, however, transfer certain stores to them: fresh water, fuel, milk, rice, bread, butter, some simple medical stores, an up-to-date chart and some cigarettes, all of which they appeared to be very grateful for.

They hoped to reach Malaysia, and we therefore pointed them in the right direction: at the time they were some two hundred miles off the Mekong Delta and about four hundred and fifty miles north east of Singapore.

We had a duty to report their position to the United Nations Refugee Agency in Geneva, and it was expected that they would be intercepted and probably picked up by an American warship, kept in the area specifically for that task.

The great concern of the boat people, however, was that their position should not be made known to the Russians, who were staunch allies of the North Vietnamese at that time – clearly, they hated the Communist regime and were prepared to take the greatest risks to escape from it. We had, therefore, to have the greatest admiration for them.

Sadly, we never heard anything more of them but obviously we would like to think that they were successful in their undertaking.

David Allen



ACF

A church fellowship for anyone from anywhere

Following the announcement in June that there would be no further relaxation measures to the guidelines until Monday 19th July it was necessary to pause ACF and coffee mornings. Therefore, the proposed get together for a cuppa and cake for ACF members on Wednesday 14th July had to be cancelled. It has also not been possible to organise the proposed coffee morning for August.

However, I am pleased to report that we can now go ahead with planning our afternoon meetings of ACF and our very popular coffee mornings for September and hopefully into the autumn.

Our first ACF meeting will be on **Wednesday 8th September at 2.15pm** when we have a speaker from the Children's Society who will be talking about the Beam Project. I hope as many of you as possible will attend this meeting where tea/ coffee and biscuits will be served after the talk. If you know of any friends, family or neighbours who would like to join us then please do extend a warm welcome to them.

Our first coffee morning will be on **Wednesday 22nd September at 10.30am**. Again, I hope that as many of you as possible will attend. Come and enjoy a hot drink and biscuits. Please invite friends, family and neighbours to come and enjoy the friendly atmosphere.

Forthcoming Events

Fellowship Meetings in the Parish Hall

Wed 8th September at 2.15pm

Wed 13th October at 2.15pm

Coffee mornings in the Parish Hall

Wed 22nd September at 10.30am

Wed 27th October at 10.30am

We need to be aware that these meetings are subject to change depending on Government advice nearer the time.

Helen Tankard



Richard Burnett,
Partner, Hillyer
McKeown

Hello Everyone!

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

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

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

Trust & Estate Planning

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

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

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

Business Wills

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

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



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



What to do next?

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



rhb@law.uk.com



01244 318 131

The Wonderful Village Hall Coffee Shop

Did you know that the Village Hall in Thornton Hough serves home-made lunches during the week? Why not visit and enjoy the home-made fare and the beautiful scenery in and around the village. You will be made welcome and know that the proceeds support the upkeep of the Hall, a resource that is available to everyone.

The village is beautiful at this time of the year. There is plenty of parking, easy access and something for everyone to enjoy. If you are travelling from a distance, our postcode is CH63 1JD



The café is open from 10 am to 3 pm, serving breakfasts 10 – 11.30 am and lunches and light snacks from 11.30 am – 2.30 pm. The special offers change regularly but always offer meat, fish and vegetable options. Toasties, sandwiches, soup and baked potatoes are always available.



THORNTON HOUGH WI

We are still unable to hold our regular monthly meetings, but hope to begin again in September. We had planned a social afternoon in June, but it was not meant to be! We are hopeful that we can arrange something in August. On the plus side, two of our groups have been active. The 'Gardening plus Friends' group have recently visited two beautiful gardens – in Mollington and Upton. The 'Ladies Who Lunch' group have also been able to meet in small groups and have enjoyed meals at the Red Fox, the Boathouse and the Ship in Parkgate. We keep the 'flame' alive, but it will be good to meet again without restrictions. Hopefully we will re-start our monthly meetings on Tuesday, 7th September, at 7.30 pm. You are all very welcome to join us and see what we have to offer.

Ann McTigue

POETRY CORNER KUBLA KHAN or A Vision in a Dream

A Fragment by Samuel Taylor Coleridge (1772 - 1834)

In Xanadu did Kubla Khan
A stately pleasure-dome decree:
Where Alph, the sacred river, ran
Through caverns measureless to man
Down to a sunless sea.
So twice five miles of fertile ground
With walls and towers were girdled round;
And there were gardens bright with sinuous rills,
Where blossomed many an incense-bearing tree;
And here were forests ancient as the hills,
Enfolding sunny spots of greenery.

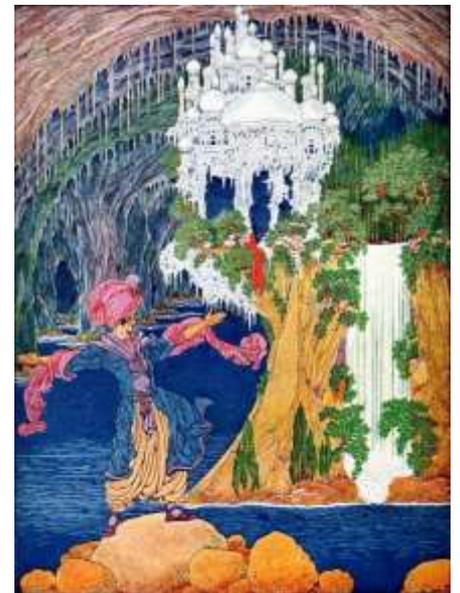
But oh! that deep romantic chasm which slanted
Down the green hill athwart a cedarn cover!
A savage place! as holy and enchanted
As e'er beneath a waning moon was haunted
By woman wailing for her demon-lover!
And from this chasm, with ceaseless turmoil seething,
As if this earth in fast thick pants were breathing,
A mighty fountain momently was forced:
Amid whose swift half-intermitted burst
Huge fragments vaulted like rebounding hail,
Or chaffy grain beneath the thresher's flail:
And mid these dancing rocks at once and ever
It flung up momently the sacred river.

Five miles meandering with a mazy motion
Through wood and dale the sacred river ran,
Then reached the caverns measureless to man,
And sank in tumult to a lifeless ocean;
And 'mid this tumult Kubla heard from far
Ancestral voices prophesying war!

The shadow of the dome of pleasure
Floated midway on the waves;
Where was heard the mingled measure
From the fountain and the caves.
It was a miracle of rare device,
A sunny pleasure-dome with caves of ice!



Young Kublai Khan, Mongol ruler of vast areas of the East



Imaginary Eastern view



A Houri waiting in Paradise

A damsel with a dulcimer
In a vision once I saw:
It was an Abyssinian maid
And on her dulcimer she played,
Singing of Mount Abora.
Could I revive within me
Her symphony and song,
To such a deep delight 'twould win me,
That with music loud and long,
I would build that dome in air,
That sunny dome! those caves of ice!
And all who heard should see them there,
And all should cry, Beware! Beware!
His flashing eyes, his floating hair!
Weave a circle round him thrice,
And close your eyes with holy dread
For he on honey-dew hath fed,
And drunk the milk of Paradise.



Marco Polo, the Venetian explorer, in Tartar costume. He spent 20 years serving Kublai Khan and meeting other mongol warlords.

Samuel Taylor Coleridge (1772 - 1834) wrote this extraordinary, imaginative and evocative poem in 1797 but although he published *Lyrical Ballads* with Wordsworth in 1798 it was not published until 1834. He had been smoking opium and reading stories based on Marco Polo's adventures in the far East with Kubla Khan and el-Hassan. He said he fell asleep and woke up with "two or three hundred" lines of poetry in his head, which he started writing out. He got as far as "Paradise" when "a person on business from Porlock" called, and by the time the business was concluded he had forgotten the rest of the dream.

Kublai Khan, an even more successful and ruthless mongol warlord than his grandfather Genghis, ruled a vast empire bigger than China. During the heat of June, July and August he would enjoy his summer palace in cool Shangdu (Xanadu) province. The first part of the poem follows Marco Polo's description of the walls, towers, gardens and pleasure palaces he built there, but Coleridge has added the river with its tunnels and underground sea and ice cave.

Marco Polo also wrote about El-Hassan, another mongol warlord, known as The Old Man of the Mountains. He would collect young fit men, get them drunk enough to sleep for days, and have them wake in a wonderful garden, to be waited on by beautiful young women, houris, playing music and fulfilling their every desire. He would then promise them that if they fought and died for him they would return to "Paradise", which they had just sampled.

These assassins, named not as many thought for consuming hashish or cannabis but after el-Hassan, would remember “Paradise” and its pleasure gardens as the place where they were prepared for war, and which would be their reward if they died. Kubla’s pleasure palace presumably had a similar function, (he killed many people) so Coleridge runs them together.



Inner Mongolia Remains of Xanadu’s walls and towers, now a World Heritage site

He takes the idea of Kubla’s stately dome and pleasure palace, puts it with el-Hassan’s earthly paradise and then adds in his own imaginative creation - the river Alph - which leaps from the earth with great force, scattering bits of rock, meanders about and finally ends up flowing underground, into a dead sea, but giving a sudden shudder of “tumult” at the end. Most people take Alph to be a metaphor for his own creative process. He left many unfinished poems.

Excitement comes from the sense of danger he conjures with contrast and contradiction. The “sacred river” Alph rises in a “holy and enchanted “ place but the place also evokes doomed love and demonic possession “woman wailing for her demon lover” The pleasure gardens are surrounded by walls and towers, which could be for protection from those outside, or imprisonment for those inside. Even the pleasure gardens are slightly sinister, “bright with sinuous rills” - little streams like glittering snakes. And of course the finest contradictory contrast “A sunny pleasure dome with caves of ice”.

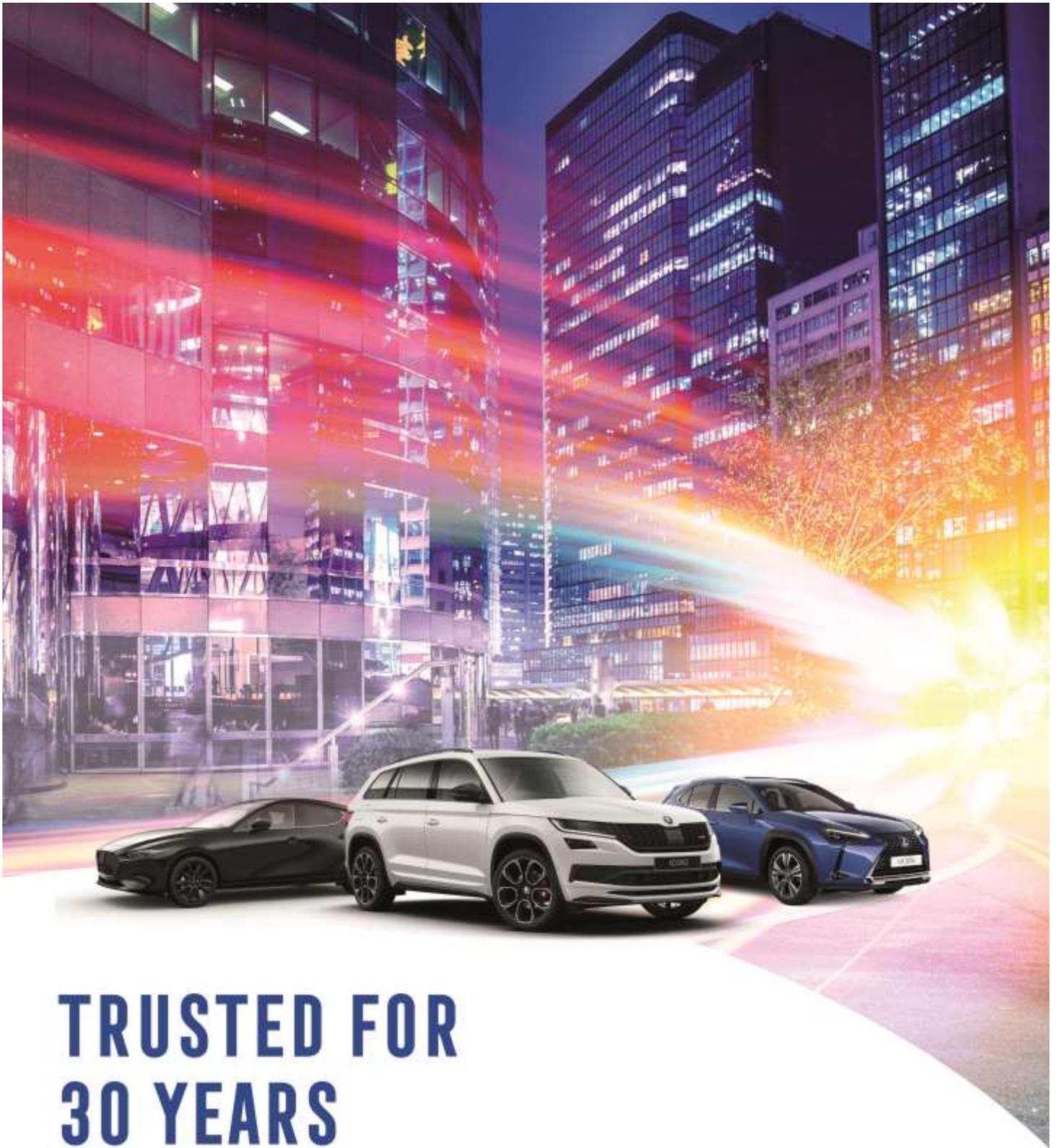
William Hazlitt remarked that Coleridge could be an excellent poet if he would stop preaching sermons. The eight monosyllables in “As if this earth in fast thick pants were breathing” makes the reader breathless. “Amid whose swift, half-intermitted burst” again uses the rhythm to enhance the sense, then the magnificent “Huge fragments vaulted, like rebounding hail” and immediately the other end of the telescope “Or chaffy grain beneath the thresher’s flail”.

Coleridge suffered much ill-health, and was increasingly, and guiltily, addicted to laudanum, the milky liquid opium which can induce euphoria, as well as giving pain relief. This “enigmatic fragment” has become, with *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner* his best-loved work.



Caroline Lancelyn Green

S. T. Coleridge smoking opium in a hookah



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New Ferry Butterfly Park



New Ferry Butterfly Park nature reserve is a haven for urban wildlife, despite formerly being an old railway siding, brickworks, and goods yard.

The Park sits next to Bebington train station and provides an ideal refuge for local wildlife. Over 26 species of butterfly have been recorded on site with at least 17 of those breeding there.



A wide range of flowering plants provide nectar for adult butterflies, places for them to lay their eggs and food for the caterpillars. Bees and other insects are also attracted, as well as several bird species.

Visitors are free to walk amongst the various wildflower meadows and follow the self-guided nature, art and history trails. At the moment leaflets must be downloaded from the Wirral Wildlife website or accessed via a QR code in the Park.



Another attraction is pond dipping - pre-booked and in a socially distanced way just now! Newts and water boatmen abound. Darting over the pond there are damselflies and dragonflies.



The site was acquired by Cheshire Wildlife Trust in 1993 and, after much hard work, opened to the public in 1995. Since then, careful management has created the nature reserve we see now.



The Park had planned to host a silver jubilee celebration last year, but Covid meant that had to be cancelled. However, the Park remains open with social distancing measures in place and it is hoped that there will be a big '25 years plus one' celebration this year (Covid restrictions permitting).

The site is open to the public every Sunday 1 - 4 pm (weather permitting) from May until mid-September and every second Sunday of the month from September – April.



The site is independently managed by a local committee of volunteers, many of whom have been involved with the site since its creation. New volunteers are always welcome. You can be a warden for visitors on a Sunday afternoon or help with maintenance of the site.

Anyone who wishes to visit the Park or volunteer can find more information on the Wirral Wildlife website :

<https://www.wirralwildlife.org.uk/new-ferry-butterfly-park>

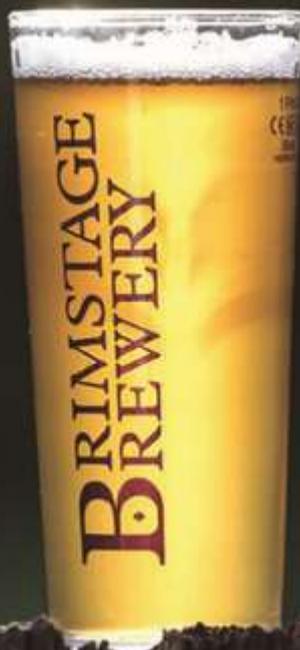
There is also a Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/NewFerryButterflyPark>

Linda Higginbottom

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Trade Directory

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

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

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



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Register of Baptism, Burials and Marriages for March—May 2021

BURIALS	Died	Age	Burial of Ashes
Daphne Enid GRIFFITHS	17/11/20	88	30/5/21
William David DOUGLAS	1/2/06	88	6/6/21
Joan Kathleen DOUGLAS	7/12/19	91	6/6/21
Ruby MACKENZIE	1/11/20	87	16/6/21
John Edwin MACKENZIE	21/4/21	89	16/6/21
David Kerr ROBINSON	6/5/21	77	22/6/21
Rose <u>Doreen</u> HICK	24/5/21	94	1/7/21

When you go down to Eton Drive at night

You never know what you will find !!



A few weeks ago it was a herd of cows who had escaped from a field off Brimstage Road. The herd were seen running down Neston Road at about 10pm and guided onto Eton Drive before being ushered into a field opposite the Vicarage on Neston Road. The following day they were collected from there and returned to their rightful pasture. Although some damage was done on Eton Drive, it could have been much worse.

Quiz Answers

1	Charlie Chaplin	6	1976	11	46
2	John Paul II	7	1979	12	The Prime Minister Harold Macmillan
3	Martina Navratilova	8	Sunderland	13	Sindy
4	Denis Thatcher	9	Evonne Goolagong	14	Che Guevara
5	Princess Anne	10	Rome	15	Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid



Sunday Bible Readings

August - September 2021

August

- 1 **Ninth Sunday after Trinity**
Ephesians 4:1-16 John 6:24-35
- 8 **Tenth Sunday after Trinity**
Ephesians 4:25-5:2 John 6:35, 41-51
- 15 **The Blessed Virgin Mary**
Eleventh Sunday after Trinity
Galatians 4:4-7 Luke 1:46-55
- 22 **Twelfth Sunday after Trinity**
Ephesians 6:10-20 John 6:56-69
- 29 **Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity**
James 1:17-27 Mark 7:1-8, 14 -15, 21- 23

September

- 5 **Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity**
James 2:1-10, 14-17 Mark 7:24-37
- 12 **Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity**
James 3:1-12 Mark 8:27-38
- 19 **Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity**
James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a Mark 9:30-37
- 26 **Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity**
James 5:13-20 Mark 9:38-50

October

- 3 **Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity**
Hebrews 1:1-4, Mark 10:2-16
2:5-12



Morning Prayer at all Saints

Why not join Vicky for a Morning Prayer service in church on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9.15am

It is a very peaceful way of starting the day.



Parish Diary

August - September 2021

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

August

1	Sunday		Ninth Sunday after Trinity
		8:00am	Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
		10:30am	Holy Communion (Common Worship)
4	Wednesday	10:30am	Holy Communion (Common Worship)
8	Sunday		Tenth Sunday after Trinity
		10:30am	Holy Communion (Common Worship)
11	Wednesday	10:30am	Holy Communion (Common Worship)
15	Sunday		The Blessed Virgin Mary Eleventh Sunday after Trinity
		8:00am	Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
		10:30am	Morning Prayer (Common Worship)
18	Wednesday	10:30am	Holy Communion (Common Worship)
22	Sunday		Twelfth after Trinity
		10:30am	Holy Communion (Common Worship)
25	Wednesday	10:30am	Holy Communion (Common Worship)
29	Sunday		Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity
		10:30am	Morning Prayer (Common Worship)

September

1	Wednesday	10:30am	Holy Communion (Common Worship)
3	Friday	7:00pm	Choir Practice
5	Sunday		Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity
		8:00am	Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
		10:30am	Holy Communion (Common Worship)
8	Wednesday	10:30am	Holy Communion (Common Worship)

September

8	Wednesday	2:15pm	ACF meeting with a talk about the Children's Society "Beam" project. (Parish Hall)
10	Friday	7:00pm	Choir Practice
12	Sunday		Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity
		10:30am	Holy Communion (Common Worship)
		6:30pm	Evening Service (<i>Provisional</i>)
14	Tuesday	7:00pm	PCC Meeting (Parish Hall)
15	Wednesday	10:30am	Holy Communion (Common Worship)
17	Friday	7:00pm	Choir Practice
19	Sunday		Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity
		8:00am	Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
		10:30am	Harvest Thanksgiving and Baptism (Common Worship)
		Noon	Harvest Lunch
22	Wednesday	10:30am	Coffee Morning (Parish Hall)
24	Friday	7:00pm	Choir Practice
26	Sunday		Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity
		10:30am	Holy Communion (Common Worship)
29	Wednesday	10:30am	Holy Communion (Common Worship)

October

1	Friday	7:00pm	Choir Practice
3	Sunday		Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity
		8:00am	Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
		10:30am	Holy Communion (Common Worship)





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Who to contact about our groups

Bible Study

Bible Study and Prayer Shirley McEvoy 336 3449

Children and young people Sunday School

New Comets Linda Arch linda@allsaintsth.org.uk

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648 0181

Church Choir

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iain@stinson.org.uk

The Magazine Team

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Iain Stinson 324 4800
Brian Morris 336 1393
Revd Vicky Barrett 336 2766

Thoughts for the month of September

September is the month when we thank God for all the fruits of the earth and the dedication and hard work of our farmers and food producers. Also let us make this month special by spreading our good will to all our neighbours so that in the years ahead we remember this month with pride.

Remember St Matthew the Apostle on September 21st.

Take, Lord, and receive all my liberty, my memory, my understanding, and my entire will, all that I have and possess. You have given all to me; to you, O lord, I return it. All is yours, dispose of it wholly according to your will. Give me only your love and your grace, for that is enough for me.

Attributed to St. Ignatius of Loyola

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

16th September 2021

Who's who at All Saints

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Verger	Margaret Gamble	336 7540
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PCC Treasurer	Iain Stinson	342 4800 iain@stinson.org.uk
Planned Giving Secretary	Brian Morris	336 1393 brimorris@sky.com
Prayer Link Coordinator	Rhona Mayhew	334 5637 rhona@allsaintsth.org.uk
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Safeguarding Officer	Linda Arch	safeguarding@allsaintsth.org.uk
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