

All Saints Thornton Hough Newsletter

June 22nd 2020

All Saints Church, Raby Road, Thornton Hough, Wirral. CH63 1JP

allsaintsth.org.uk



All Saints' Church now open for private prayer



*"I was glad when they said unto me,
let us go to God's house..." (Psalm 122)*

All Saints' is now open each day between 10am and 12 noon for private prayer, meditation and for a time of quiet reflection. This is now possible following the advice from the Government and the Church of England. The church has been made *Covid secure* with the spaces available for prayer socially distanced from each other (by at least 2 metres). Hand sanitiser should be used on entering and leaving the building and people should sit alone or with members of their household or "bubble". Please use the designated seating areas. Pews will be taken out of action once used and cleaned. Only the designated seating places should be occupied. All the recommended risk assessments have been carried out (and will be made available on the website).

You should only come to the church if you are well and have not been in contact with anyone who has Covid-19 symptoms.

At present services cannot be held in church. When public worship is again permitted, we'll let you know about it via the website and our contact list.

With thanksgiving...

All Saints' has been most fortunate to have received a number of generous donations of money which will help us through the time when we can't have services and so have not been receiving all of our regular donations. We are very grateful to those who have given these special gifts to support God's work in the parish – we are so blessed.

All parishes in the Diocese of Chester are to receive a grant of £2,000, made possible thanks to a World War II investment fund maturing. The announcement was made in a letter from the Diocesan Secretary to parishes on 15th June. Diocesan Secretary, George Colville, said: "The generosity of past generations has made this gift a reality today. So, as we give thanks for the old, and prepare and look forward to a new chapter in the history of our diocese, it is my prayer that these acts of generosity in the past can advance our collective mission to those in our care today."

More good news

A mobile Post Office van is now providing a service in the Village Hall car park, Thornton Hough on **Tuesday morning 9.30-11.30am.**

Please support this initiative so that it can be maintained or perhaps even be extended by longer hours or extra mornings.



Giving envelopes

Weekly giving envelopes for the next twelve months (starting June 21st) are available at the back of church. If you use the envelopes and decide to visit the church for private prayer, please pick up your new set of envelopes or pick them up when services begin once more.

The Icon of Tenderness in Truro Cathedral



This icon was written (icons are written rather than painted) in 2010 by John Coleman especially for Truro Cathedral during a year in which it was exploring the relationship between art and faith.

The original Icon of Tenderness image was written by an unknown iconographer in Constantinople around 1125AD. It is perhaps one of the best known of all icon images and is also one of the most profound expressions of love between God and humans found in any art.

Icons are typical of the Eastern Orthodox traditions and have characteristic stylisations including challenging eye to eye contact with the viewer; the Christ figure is often painted as an adolescent rather than as a baby suggesting a spiritual maturity; and Mary's left hand gesturing toward Christ indicating 'He is the One'.

The best way to look at this icon is to stand still and let Mary's beckoning eyes draw you into the closeness there is between a child and its mother. As you remember what is before her, and the sadness she will face, perhaps you could remember a sadness of your own, or of another. Now look at how Christ comforts His Mother, and as you look, imagine Him comforting you or the person or people you are remembering. Pray to Christ and His Mother as you look.

(The text is from a panel in Truro cathedral)

Archbishop lays down his crozier

The Archbishop of York Dr John Sentamu, accompanied by his wife, the Revd Margaret Sentamu, laid down his crozier of office on the high altar of York Minster on Sunday 7 June. The Dean of York, the Rt Revd Dr Jonathan Frost and Head Verger Alex Carberry were witnesses to this final act as Archbishop.



The Dean of York said: "Today, in the simple and symbolic act of laying down his crozier, Archbishop Sentamu brought his ministry as Archbishop of York to a close. In current circumstances, we have been unable to fulfil our hope to gather together for a service. However, in households and communities across the Diocese of York, the North and Nation, those whose lives have been graced by Archbishop Sentamu and Margaret give thanks for their witness to the joy, simplicity and compassion of the good news of Jesus Christ."

On 8 June 2020, Archbishop Sentamu concludes nearly 15 years in his role as Archbishop of York. He has served in ordained ministry within the Church of England for 41 years. The Archbishop will continue to live in the North of England and has said he will continue with his work on the case for income equality and sustainability.

(from Chester Diocese Website)

Be vigilant...

Whilst email can be very useful, it is unfortunately sometimes used for criminal activity. Most junk or spam email is a harmless time waster but some unwanted email (known as "phishing") pretends to come from a friend or other trusted entity and is sent to defraud you by trying to obtain sensitive information such as usernames, passwords, bank or card details, by asking you to buy something for the sender and so on. You can sometimes spot these emails because the *from* address may not be the "usual" email address the supposed sender uses. They may be written using poor grammar and/or include spelling errors. They may be "out of character" for the supposed sender. They may request urgent help and so on. If you have any suspicions, don't reply to the messages, don't open (click) on any links in the message, don't call any telephone numbers given in the message and delete the message. Remember banks and other financial institutions will never ask you for personal account details by email or in an unsolicited phone call. Please enjoy using the Internet but be vigilant.

Cathedral re-opens for supervised prayer and reflection



Having made appropriate adjustments, Chester Cathedral opened its doors and welcomed people back into the building for private prayer and reflection on Monday 15 June 2020.

Measures to keep people safe will include limiting the number of people allowed inside at any one time, hand sanitisers at appropriate points, and signage to remind people of the health and safety around social distancing. For the time being, the Cathedral will open limited hours of 10am – 4pm daily.

The Refectory Café, gift shop and toilets will not be open at this time and will re-open as part of a later phase. The Cathedral Gardens re-opened a number of weeks ago, to allow people space within the city to pray, relax and reflect.

The Dean of Chester, the Very Revd Dr Tim Stratford said, “We welcome the announcement that places of worship can open from Monday 15 June. Here at Chester we have been working towards a phased reopening and our primary concern is the safety of everyone – the public, our worshippers, our visitors, staff and volunteers.”

(from Chester Cathedral website)

Answers to the countries quiz

1. Canada	2. West Indies	3. Iceland
4. Russia	5. Mozambique	6. Bahamas
7. Taiwan	8. New Zealand	9. Holland
10. Columbia	11. Brazil	12. Cuba
13. Wales	14. Portugal	15. Romania
16. Japan	17. Liechtenstein	18. Bali
19. Iraq	20. China	21. Belgium
22. Singapore	23. Bahrain	24. India
25. Hungary	26. North Korea	27. Kampuchea
28. Sweden	29. Italy	30. Hong Kong
31. Botswana	32. Grenada	

Who was John Newton?

John Newton was born in London in 1725 into a Christian home, but his godly mother died when he was seven, and he joined his father at sea when he was eleven.

His licentious and tumultuous sailing life included a flogging for attempted desertion from the Royal Navy and captivity by a slave trader in West Africa. After his escape he himself became the captain of a slave ship.

Several factors contributed to Newton's conversion: a near-drowning in 1748, the piety of his friend Mary Catlett, (whom he married in 1750), and his reading of Thomas à Kempis' *Imitation of Christ*.

In 1754 he gave up the slave trade and, in association with William Wilberforce, eventually became an ardent abolitionist. After becoming a tide-surveyor in Liverpool, Newton came under the influence of George Whitefield and John and Charles Wesley, and began to study for the ministry. He was ordained in the Church of England and served in Olney, Buckinghamshire (1764-1780) and St. Mary Woolnoth, London (1780-1807).

His legacy to the Christian church includes his hymns as well as his collaboration with William Cowper in publishing *Olney Hymns* (1779), to which Newton contributed 280 hymns, including “Amazing Grace”, “How sweet the name of Jesus sounds” and “Glorious things of thee are spoken”. Newton wrote, “I can see no reason why the Lord singled me out for mercy...unless it was to show, by one astonishing instance, that with him 'nothing is impossible'.”



Newton's wife Mary Catlett died in 1790, after which he published *Letters to a Wife* (1793), in which he expressed his grief. Plagued by ill health and failing eyesight, Newton died on 21 December 1807 in London. He was buried beside his wife in St. Mary Woolnoth in London. Both were reinterred at the Church of St Peter and Paul in Olney in 1893.

(from hymnary.org and Wikipedia under the Creative Commons Licence)

Technologies for mission during the lockdown

During the lockdown caused by Covid-19, there have been many challenges for churches to keep in touch with their congregations and parishioners. At All Saints' we have made some use of Information Technology (IT) to help us keep in contact and provide some spiritual nurture whilst there are no services in church. Twice a week our vicar, Rev'd Vicky Barrett, has written a short reflection or meditation which we have published through our website (<https://www.allsaintsth.org.uk/spiritual>). These have often taken the lectionary reading and discussed the passage, sometimes with a helpful illustration. The Bible passages have been linked from the Bible Gateway website. To make these more accessible we have published these as *pdf* documents.

Our occasional newsletters have also been published as *pdf* documents on our website.

We've used email messages to notify people when new material is available; these messages have been sent to those on our contact list who opted to receive email from All Saints'. For others, who perhaps don't have Internet access, we have gathered together these reflections and meditations, and, along with the newsletter, sent them by post.



Rev'd Vicky has produced a number of video messages which she "filmed" herself, in the vicarage garden and more recently in church. These have been minimally edited and published on YouTube. Where possible, transcripts of the video message have been printed for those who do not use the Internet.

We've also recorded some hymns and published these as YouTube videos. Our YouTube output has all been linked to the church website to provide easy access and we've used email to notify people that these are ready to view in the same way that we've told people about the reflections, meditations and newsletters. We've purchased the necessary licence to publish material on YouTube.

We've ventured into the world of video conferencing. Zoom enables people in different locations to meet over

the Internet and see and hear all the meeting attendees. Zoom works with most Internet connected smart phones, tablets and computers; it uses their cameras and microphones to enable the meeting attendees to interact. The vicar has taken part in a number of Zoom meetings with other clergy in the Diocese and the announcement of the new Bishop of Chester was made via a Zoom meeting with hundreds of participants. Our own standing committee has met twice using Zoom. As we developed our Zoom etiquette we found that, like most meetings, Zoom meetings benefit from having a chairman to stop everyone trying to speak at once!



None of these technologies are really groundbreaking; they've been in use in other sectors for many years – and indeed we've been using some of them at All Saints' for a long time. We know many use FaceTime and Skype to keep in touch with family and friends who perhaps live a long way from us. During the lockdown period at All Saints', we have begun to make use of these technologies to help us keep in touch and to nurture our community. They have been a real blessing.

About 70% of the email messages we have sent to our contact list have been read and more than 50% of the links in the email message have been used to access the materials being provided. (The email list system, MailChimp, provides us with these statistics.) People have told us that they appreciate receiving the printed copies of the material we have sent them by post. Some of our online material has been used by others outside our area and they have sent us some positive comments.

Some of our congregation have been keen to embrace email and discovered how easy it is to access the All Saints' material from the email messages sent.

There are some interesting longer-term questions to consider. Do we want to continue some of this use of technology once the pandemic is over? Does it reach those we don't reach normally? How can we help more people use this technology? What other technologies could we effectively deploy to help with our mission to the Parish of All Saints' Thornton Hough?

Iain Stinson



This lockdown has brought some good news in that it has brought people closer together to help in adversity. Shopping has been bought and regular checks made on people's health, especially for neighbours with no close family to support them. People have been more inclined to speak to others as they go out exercising. Let us hope that this new, friendlier approach to each other can be maintained long after the pandemic has disappeared.

Cheesy puns

“If you’d driven through Indian Hills , Colorado USA, over the past few years, chances are you would have noticed a sign on the side of the road with humorous, oftentimes punny phrases. It’s the brainchild of Vince Rozmiarek, a local resident who decided to take it upon himself to switch up the status quo while working as a volunteer for the Indian Hills Community Centre.”



A bike in town keeps running me over – It’s a vicious cycle

Saw a baguette at the zoo – it was bread in captivity

Auto correct made me say things I didn’t Nintendo

The love triangle soon turned into a wreck tangle

Turning vegan would be a big missed steak

I have a chicken proof lawn - its impeccable

I ate a frozen apple - hard core

When the smog lifts in California – UCLA

I’m terrified of elevators and I’m taking steps to avoid them

Drink wine - it isn’t good to keep things bottled up

People are making apocalypse jokes like there’s no tomorrow

Cows have hooves because they lactose

Huge fight at local seafood diner!

Battered fish everywhere

I’m friends with 25 letters of the alphabet -

I don’t know Y

For chemists alcohol is not a problem it’s a solution

My relationship with whiskey is on the rocks

Electricians have to strip to make ends meet

Well to be Frank I had to change my name

Dogs can’t operate MRI scanners but catscan

Our mountains aren’t just funny they’re hill areas

Life and beer are very similar - Chill for best results

Cow stumbles into pot field! The steaks have never been higher



Double negatives are a no-no in English

Irony. The opposite of wrinkly

The problem with political jokes is that they sometimes get elected

I’m pining for a good tree pun - I wish they were more poplar

Just because you are offended doesn’t mean you are right

Sweet dreams are made of cheese – who am I to dis a brie

See them online at

https://videos.files.wordpress.com/VmG1PLSm/puns-4-fun_dvd.mp4

and see an interview with Vince at

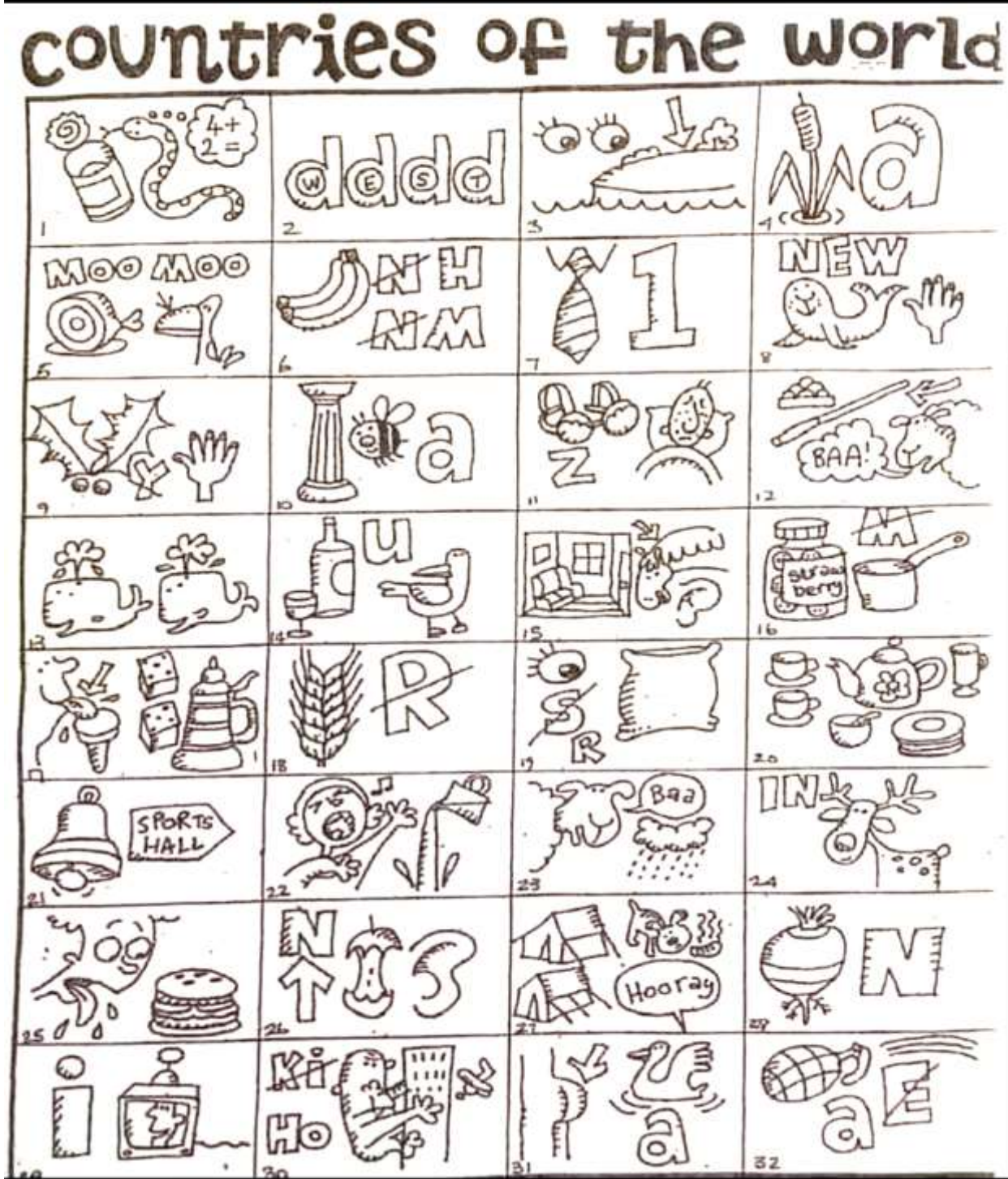
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xEpYI2GRI7M>

Cooling off



Countries of the world quiz

Can you name the 32 countries identified by the cartoons in the grid below. Just to help the first one is Canada.?



Quick and Easy Carrot Soup

- 6 to 8 large carrots sliced
- 1 Litre of water
- Small bunch of parsley— chopped
- Black pepper
- ¼ teaspoon cinnamon
- ¼ pint skimmed milk
- 1 vegetable stock cube



Put all the ingredients except for the milk and a little parsley in a large pan. Bring to the boil and simmer until vegetables are cooked, stirring occasionally. Puree in a blender and return to the pan. Stir in the milk and serve with the remaining chopped parsley.