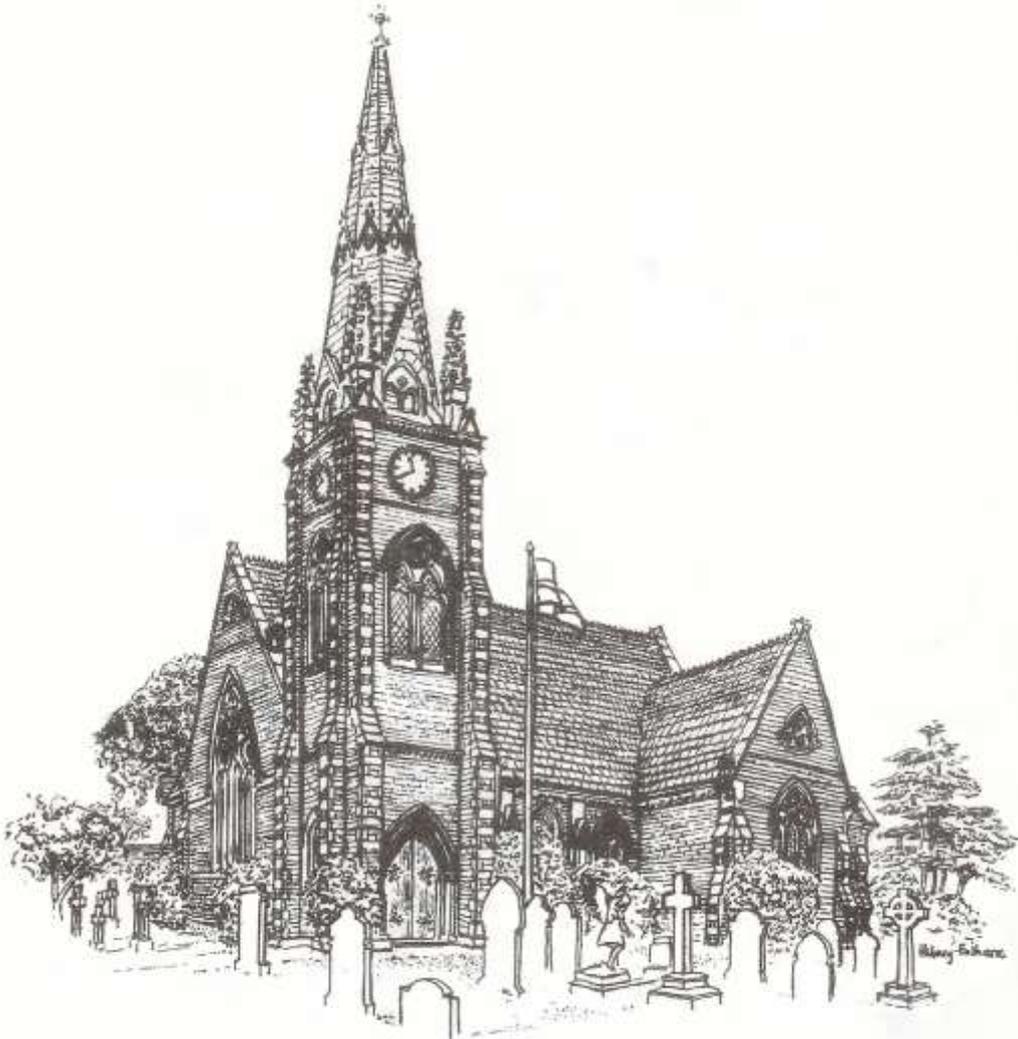


# All Saints' Church Thornton Hough



**Service for Christ the King**

22<sup>nd</sup> November 2020

## The Greeting

Grace, mercy and peace be with you.

This Sunday marks the end of the Church year. And what a year it's been! As we reflect on the stresses and challenges of life under the shadow of Coronavirus, where lockdowns have restricted our ability to gather and celebrate freely, it is fitting that we celebrate the fact that nothing changes the fact that Christ is King. We can rejoice in the fact that he is both the risen King now, and we also anticipate a time when the whole earth will see him come as ruler and judge – the fulfilment of our prayer that “thy kingdom come”.

At a time when we may feel downcast and oppressed by the cares of the world, we join with the cry of joyous revolution: “Christ is King!”

All the Church seasons and the Bible readings we have followed throughout the year take us through the pattern of life-giving hope which is Christ's story. Next week we will return to the start of the process, as we prepare through the season of Advent for the coming of Christ the King in the form of a vulnerable, helpless baby.

## Acclamation

Lift up your heads, O gates;  
be lifted up, you ancient doors;  
***and the king of glory shall come in.***

‘Who is the King of glory?’  
***‘The Lord, strong and mighty,  
the Lord, who is mighty in battle.’***

Lift up your heads, O gates;  
be lifted up you everlasting doors;  
***and the King of glory shall come in.***

‘Who is this King of glory?’  
***‘The Lord of hosts,  
he is the King of glory.’***

## Hymn: Christ triumphant ever reigning

1 Christ triumphant, ever reigning,  
Saviour, Master, King!  
Lord of heaven, our lives sustaining,  
hear us as we sing:  
*Yours the glory and the crown,  
the high renown, the eternal name.*

- 2 Word incarnate, truth revealing,  
Son of Man on earth!  
power and majesty concealing  
by your humble birth:  
*Yours the glory and the crown,  
the high renown, the eternal name.*
- 3 Suffering servant, scorned, ill-treated,  
victim crucified!  
death is through the cross defeated,  
sinners justified:  
*Yours the glory and the crown,  
the high renown, the eternal name*
- 4 Priestly king, enthroned for ever  
high in heaven above!  
sin and death and hell shall never  
stifle hymns of love:  
*Yours the glory and the crown,  
the high renown, the eternal name*
- 5 So, our hearts and voices raising  
through the ages long,  
ceaselessly upon you gazing,  
this shall be our song:  
*Yours the glory and the crown,  
the high renown, the eternal name*

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## Confession

Jesus says, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' So let us turn away from sin and turn to Christ, confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

The kingdom is yours,  
but we turn away from your just rule:  
Lord, have mercy.

***Lord, have mercy.***

The power is yours,  
but we trust in our own power and strength:  
Christ, have mercy.

***Christ, have mercy.***

The glory is yours,  
but we fall short of the glory of God:  
Lord, have mercy.  
***Lord, have mercy.***

### **The Collect**

God the Father,  
help us to hear the call of Christ the King  
and to follow in his service,  
whose kingdom has no end;  
for he reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, one glory. ***Amen.***

### **First reading Ezekiel 34: 11-16, 20-24**

“For this is what the Sovereign LORD says: I myself will search for my sheep and look after them. As a shepherd looks after his scattered flock when he is with them, so will I look after my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places where they were scattered on a day of clouds and darkness. I will bring them out from the nations and gather them from the countries, and I will bring them into their own land. I will pasture them on the mountains of Israel, in the ravines and in all the settlements in the land. I will tend them in a good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel will be their grazing land. There they will lie down in good grazing land, and there they will feed in a rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will tend my sheep and make them lie down, declares the Sovereign LORD. I will search for the lost and bring back the strays. I will bind up the injured and strengthen the weak, but the sleek and the strong I will destroy. I will shepherd the flock with justice.

“Therefore this is what the Sovereign LORD says to them: see, I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you shove with flank and shoulder, butting all the weak sheep with your horns until you have driven them away, I will save my flock, and they will no longer be plundered. I will judge between one sheep and another. I will place over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he will tend them; he will tend them and be their shepherd. I the LORD will be their God, and my servant David will be prince among them. I the LORD have spoken.

## Hymn: May the mind of Christ my Saviour

- 1            May the mind of Christ my Saviour  
                 live in me from day to day,  
                 by his love and power controlling  
                 all I do or say.
- 2            May the word of God dwell richly  
                 in my heart from hour to hour,  
                 so that all may see I triumph  
                 only through his power.
- 3            May the peace of God my Father  
                 rule my life in everything,  
                 that I may be calm to comfort  
                 sick and sorrowing.
- 4            May the love of Jesus fill me,  
                 as the waters fill the sea;  
                 him exalting, self abasing —  
                 this is victory.
- 5            May I run the race before me,  
                 strong and brave to face the foe,  
                 looking only unto Jesus  
                 as I onward go.

*Words Katie Barclay Wilkinson (1859–1928)*

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## Second reading: Matthew 25: 31 – 46

‘When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

‘Then the King will say to those on his right, “Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was ill and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.”

‘Then the righteous will answer him, “Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you ill or in prison and go to visit you?”

‘The King will reply, “Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”

‘Then he will say to those on his left, “Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was ill and in prison and you did not look after me.” They also will answer, “Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or ill or in prison, and did not help you?” ‘He will reply, “Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.” ‘Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.’

### **Prayers of Intercession**

Let us with confidence present our prayers and supplications to the throne of grace.

We pray for all those in positions of power, that they may govern with wisdom and integrity, serving the needs of their people.

May your reign come;

***Lord, hear our prayer.***

We pray for the Church, the sign of your reign, that it may extend your welcome to people of every race and background.

May your kingdom come;

***Lord, hear our prayer.***

We pray for Christians of every denomination, that together we may come to understand the royal priesthood you bestowed on us in baptism.

May your dominion come;

***Lord, hear our prayer.***

We pray for those whose commitment to truth brings them into conflict with earthly powers, that they may have the courage to endure.

May your rule come;

***Lord, hear our prayer.***

We pray for this community of faith, that attentive to your word we may always worship in spirit and in truth.

May your reign come;

***Lord, hear our prayer.***

We pray for those who are struggling under the burden of cares,  
for those who are suffering in body, mind or spirit:  
that they may be released to healing and wholeness.

May your kingdom come;

***Lord, hear our prayer.***

We pray for those who are mourning,  
that they may know your comfort  
and the assurance of heaven.

May your rule come;

***Lord, hear our prayer.***

Loving God,  
you have taught us that the power of the heart  
is greater than the power of wealth and might.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ our King;  
to him be glory and power for ever.

***Amen.***

Gathering all our prayers together, we pray together with  
confidence as Jesus taught us:

***Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;***

***thy kingdom come;***

***thy will be done;***

***on earth as it is in heaven.***

***Give us this day our daily bread.***

***And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.***

***And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.***

***For thine is the kingdom,  
the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever.***

***Amen.***

## **The Blessing**

Christ our exalted King pour upon you his abundant gifts  
and bring you to reign with him in glory:  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you, and remain with you always.

***Amen.***

**Hymn: At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow**

- 1           At the name of Jesus  
              every knee shall bow,  
every tongue confess him  
              King of glory now:  
'tis the Father's pleasure  
              we should call him Lord,  
who from the beginning  
              was the mighty Word.
- 3           Humbled for a season,  
              to receive a name  
from the lips of sinners  
              unto whom he came,  
faithfully he bore it  
              spotless to the last,  
brought it back victorious,  
              when from death he passed:
- 5           Name him, Christians, name him,  
              with love strong as death,  
but with awe and wonder  
              and with bated breath:  
he is God the Saviour,  
              he is Christ the Lord,  
ever to be worshipped,  
              trusted, and adored.
- 7           Surely, this Lord Jesus  
              shall return again,  
with his Father's glory,  
              with his angel train;  
for all wreaths of empire  
              meet upon his brow,  
and our hearts confess him  
              King of glory now.

**Caroline Maria Noel (1817–1877)**

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