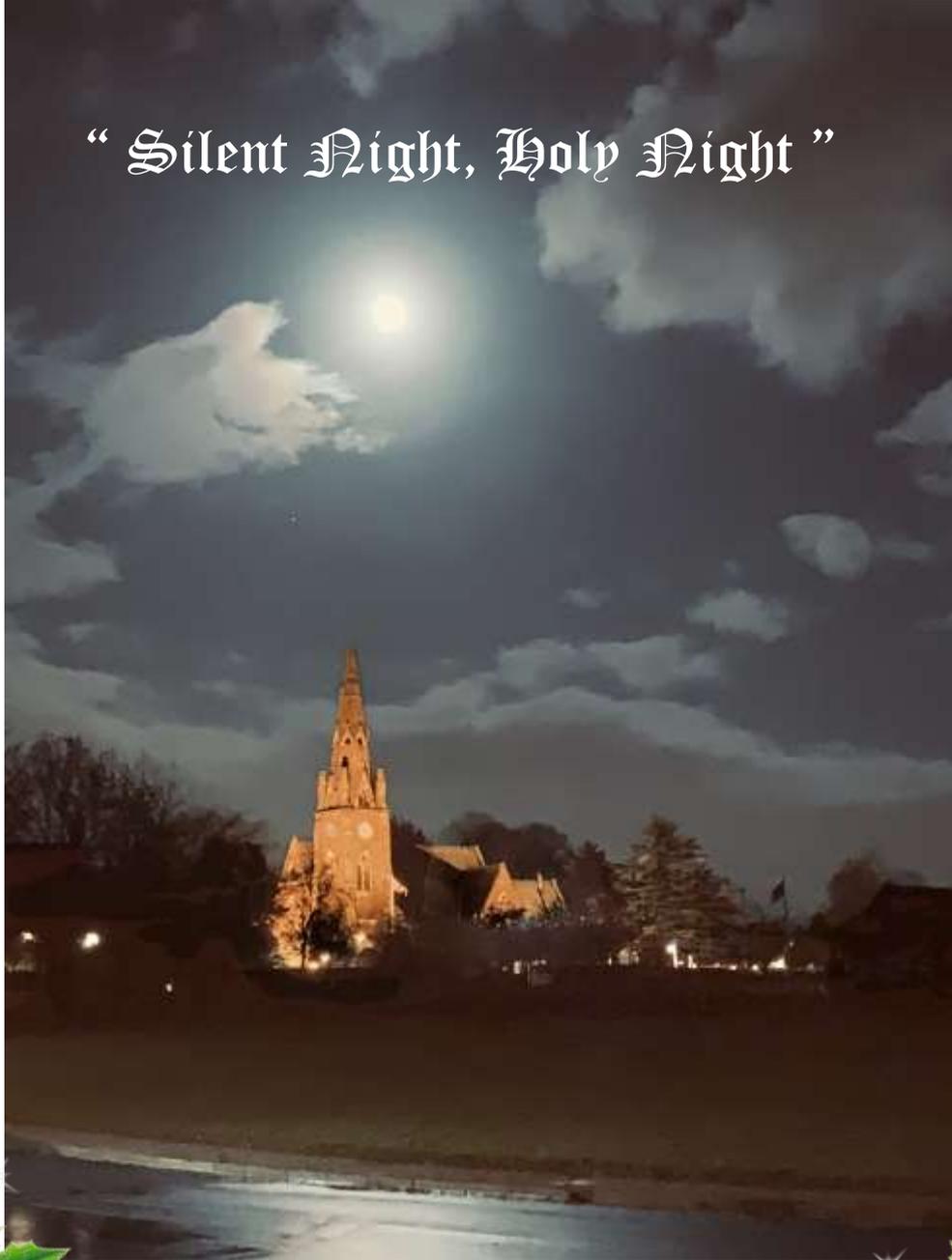


All Saints Church Thornton Hough

The Magazine

“ Silent Night, Holy Night ”



December 2020 - January 2021

Parish events

All church services are provisional at time of printing due to the changing Coronavirus situation

Advent Carol Service

Sunday 6th December at 10.30am

A service of readings and music

See page 8 for more details

Christmas Carol Service

Sunday 20th December at 4.30pm

A service of readings and music

Booking Required

Full details on page 9

Christmas Day

Holy Communion Service at 10.30am

Friday 25th December

More details on page 8

Christmas Eve

Holy Communion
Service at 11.00pm

Thursday

24th December

More details on page 8

Epiphany

Holy Communion
Service at 10.30am

January 3rd 2021

More details on page 8



Post Office Van - update

The Post Office Van will be in the Village Hall car park on Fridays as well as Tuesdays (9.30 - 11.30am) until the new year as it has been so well supported.



Welcome letter from the Vicar

Tales of the Unexpected

Most people love to plan: to have a sense of pace and order, to have things to look forward to. However, the events of 2020 have meant that our plans have been frustrated in so many ways. As I write this piece, we have no idea as to what the situation will be like after “Lockdown 2” and how any new instructions may affect our plans for this festive season. But that doesn’t mean that Christmas and New Year won’t happen.



Christmas is not cancelled! The good news of Jesus’ birth has not changed.

Christmas is the ultimate tale of the unexpected, of plans being disrupted.

Did Mary, a young girl with plans to marry her fiancé Joseph, expect that she would give birth to the Son of God?

Did the shepherds out on the hillside expect that they would be visited by angels with the good news of the Saviour’s birth?

Did the wise men, having followed the star to seek a new-born king, expect to find him lying in a stable?

Did a rag-tag band of women, fishermen, revolutionaries, tax collectors and even a Pharisee expect that they would be the ones to spread the message of Jesus?

My prayer for us all as we celebrate Christmas and embark on a New Year is that we will discover God’s amazing love for us in all kinds of unexpected times and places. Jesus, the Saviour of the world, comes to us as a little child in a stable, not as a prince in a palace as we might expect, but as the Prince of Peace.

Do please continue to look out for those around you who may be finding this time especially hard. Small acts of kindness, in a phone call, a card through the door, a friendly word, smile or wave are all precious gifts – and all the more so because they are often spontaneous, unplanned, unexpected.

“Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.” (Luke 2: 11-12)

Wishing you love, joy and peace

Vicky



Notes on the PCC meetings on 13th October and 10th November

The PCC has risen to the challenges thrown up by the pandemic and continued to meet. On 13th October we held a hybrid meeting with some members meeting (socially distanced, with ventilation) in the Parish Hall and others participating via Zoom. On 10th November we were in a national lockdown and we were not allowed to meet in person, so we held our first meeting totally on Zoom. I think everyone was very impressed with how well it went.

Elly Macbeath was re-elected as the **Electoral Roll Officer** in the October meeting. We then considered the PCC's requirements for a new Independent Examiner who could scrutinise the accounts for 2020. The Independent Examiner does not need to be an auditor but would need to be financially aware. Ideally the person should be familiar with using a computer-based accounting system. Vicky shared the sad news with the PCC that Rod Backhouse, who had been our Independent Examiner for many years had recently died. We were very grateful to Rod for all he had done for us.

The next topic on October's agenda was **worship** and this was discussed again in November. For many people attending, church is providing some sanity in an upside-down world and Vicky commented that to stop would have a severe impact on people.

The **All Saints' Day Service** was held at 10:30am on Sunday 1st November and was a time of celebration for the church. **A separate service to remember those who had died**, particularly in the last twelve months, was held in the afternoon of the same day. It was well attended and was a very moving event with music provided by the choir and the organist. A recording of the service was made available through the church website.

We then moved on to discuss **Remembrance Sunday** on 8th November. No-one was arranging a civic service with the mayor attending this year; the challenges of social distancing and the age profile of the attendees were making the risk management very difficult and it was decided to just hold our own Service of Remembrance at the 10:30am service. Everything changed at the beginning of November when we began another lockdown and were no longer able to meet in church. In the end Vicky recorded a reflection and the service and, with music from the choir recorded before lockdown, we produced a service which could be accessed from the website. A link to the service was sent to those on our contact list who receive emails.

During the lockdown it is necessary for our worship to revert to reflections, which will be available online or printed and posted out, plus recorded items.



Planning for Advent and Christmas was becoming increasingly difficult. The original date for the Advent Carol Service was 29th November which is in the lockdown period. It was suggested that we could hold the Advent Carol Service on 6th December if we were allowed back into church then. It was agreed to plan to do this but recognise that we may have to change our plans at the last minute.

The Carol Service is scheduled for Sunday 20th December at 4:30pm. A booking system will be used for the **Service of Lessons and Carols for Christmas** because we may well have more wanting to come than we can accommodate safely. If we are very oversubscribed, then a second service could be held at 6:30pm.

Because of the uncertainty this year we will not send out a **Christmas card** with the services on but instead put up posters, advertising the services, in the school, the Village Hall, the local pubs /restaurants etc. We will also publish information in The Magazine, on service sheets and on the website, and include flyers with the reflections. Booking forms for the Carol service will be available in church, on the website and in The Magazine.

We are planning to hold the **Midnight Communion** service on Christmas Eve and a Holy Communion Service on **Christmas Day** but, following an email from Chester Diocese saying that we do not need to hold a service on **27th December** this year, the PCC decided that we would not hold a service on that day. Attendance is often low on the Sunday after Christmas and there may be a heightened risk of a spike in coronavirus cases this year after the Christmas celebrations.

In October the PCC decided to replace the **telecoms services** in the Parish Hall using a mobile modem / router, a new up to date network switch and a mobile data SIM. This should save money and give a better service. They also approved expenditure on **equipment to use Zoom**. The equipment would be funded from the PCC's designated fund "Projects approved by the Vicar" with the balance from the grant from the Diocese which was given partly to help with communications during the pandemic. All the equipment will benefit the church even when the pandemic is over.

Calendar update. Vicky expressed her gratitude to Brian Morris, Iain Stinson and Sue Stinson for all they had done. Brian has obtained sponsorship from 11 sponsors (at £50 each), he has put the calendar together and is now marketing and selling it. Sales have been going well. The calendar is a good fundraiser and promotes a 'feelgood' factor.

In the October meeting it was reported that the quinquennial inspection of the church building had taken place. We are waiting for the report from Mark Pearce, the church architect. We may be needing a lot more fundraising!



In the November meeting the PCC decided that the **charities** we support this year should be St John's Hospice, The Church Urban Fund, the Royal British Legion, CMS (The Church Missionary Society) and Charles Thompson Mission.

The finance reports were approved by the PCC. In October the treasurer reported that we had started to receive money again from hall rentals but by November this had stopped again. Challenging times!

The Fabric Team reported that the **handrail at the new churchyard** has been replaced. We are hoping that the ones at the church will be done soon.

The **Prayer and Pastoral** team were keeping in contact with each other. If anyone else would like to join the group, please let Alan Splitt or Vicky know. Vicky has contacted those who were ringing round and asked them to start ringing people again during the current lockdown.

It was also emphasised that *The Magazine* is an important pastoral tool too. We are very grateful to Brian and the team who produce the magazine and to all those who contribute articles.



Sue Stinson
PCC Secretary

To the congregation at All Saints, Thornton Hough

It is with great sadness that I am writing to let you know that, after a period of reflection and prayer, the members of St. George's URC have reluctantly made the decision that we are unable to continue as a local congregation. St. George's will therefore be closing in July 2021.

St. George's has been an integral part of the village life of Thornton Hough for over a century, and it is with great regret we will be unable to continue this. We hope to be able to hold an act of worship to mark the closure of the church next summer, although as you will appreciate we will not be able to confirm what form this will take until nearer the time due to the ongoing Covid-19 restrictions.

I would like to thank the whole congregation at All Saints for your warmth and fellowship over the years. We have valued your friendship, and in particular it has been a joy to worship together regularly, and also to work together in all sorts of different ways. We of course appreciate your ongoing prayers and support, and we wish you every blessing, particularly at this very challenging time for the church when our lives are so disrupted.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours in Christ

Rev. Nick Jones, on behalf of St. George's URC



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

Services for Advent and Christmas 2020

Please note that all these services are subject to cancellation or change at short notice should this be required because of Government Covid-19 pandemic regulations.

Sunday 6th December, Second Sunday in Advent

10:30am: Service of readings and music for Advent

As Advent Sunday is within the lockdown, which is presently scheduled to end on December 2nd, we have moved our Advent Sunday service of readings and music to the 2nd Sunday in Advent.

As the introduction to the service says: we shall *meet to celebrate anew the coming of God's Kingdom, to hear revealed the mystery of God's loving purpose for us - how that when we were far off, he met us in his Son and brought us home; how he humbled himself to take our human nature, that we might share his divine glory.* This is a great preparation for Christmas, with readings from the Old and New Testaments and music sung by our choir. (The service will last about 50 minutes.)

Sunday 13th December, Third Sunday in Advent

8:00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

10:30am Morning Prayer

This service will have a "Nativity" theme. All are welcome to come along and join in as we explore the Nativity together. The choir will sing at this service.

Sunday 20th December, Fourth Sunday in Advent

10:30am Holy Communion (Common Worship) with music sung by the choir.

4:30pm Service of readings and carols for Christmas

Come and share the joy and wonder of the Christmas story in a slightly shortened version (about 50 minutes) of this traditional service. The readings will be taken from the Authorised Version of the Bible and the choir will sing carols and hymns.

With the capacity of our church reduced to make it "Covid-19 safe", we need you to book in advance if you would like to come to this service.

Instructions on how to book are given below – please follow them carefully. The service will take place at 4:30pm. If bookings exceed the capacity of the church, we shall repeat the service at 6:30pm.

Thursday 24th December, Christmas Eve

11:00pm Holy Communion for Christmas Eve (Common Worship)

with music sung by the choir.

Friday 25th December, Christmas Day

10:30am Holy Communion for Christmas Day (Common Worship)

with music sung by the choir.

Sunday 27th December, First Sunday of Christmas

There will be no service at All Saints' on this Sunday

Sunday January 3rd, Epiphany / Second Sunday of Christmas

10:30am Holy Communion for Epiphany (Common Worship)

with music sung by the choir.



Booking for the Carol Service on Sunday 20th December at 4.30pm.

You must book places if you wish to come to the Carol Service.

You can do this in several ways which are set out below. We shall allocate places on Monday 14th December and contact you to confirm your booking soon after that day.

If you could come to a 6:30pm repeat of the service, please do say so when you reply. This will give us the greatest flexibility to accommodate all of those who want to come along.

Book on-line. You can book a place or places at the Carol Service for yourself or family group / Covid-19 bubble by completing the booking form on the church website. There will be a link to the form on the home page (www.allsaintsth.org.uk) from December 1st.

Book by email. You can book by sending email to office@allsaintsth.org.uk. Please put *Carol Service* in the subject line of your message. ***In the email you must provide the following information:***

Your name.

The number of people in your family group or Covid-19 bubble who are coming with you to the service.

Your contact telephone number.

(Your contact email address if it is different from the one from which you are sending your request.)

Please clearly state if you could attend a repeat of the service at 6:30pm (also on December 20th) rather than the 4:30pm service.

For example, email to book for John Smith and family might look like:

John Smith

3 people

0151 987 1234

Yes – we could come to a repeat at 6:30pm rather than at 4:30pm.

Book by completing and returning a booking form. You can also book by completing the booking form included with The Magazine and leaving it in the box in church or by sending it to the address given on the form. Please complete the form carefully and *completely*.

A Seasonal Prayer

God of all times and seasons,
you are with us as we begin this New Year.
Guide us as we journey on:
warm our hearts with your love,
refresh our spirits when they become weary,
that we may bring refreshment to others,
fill us with your peace, so that even in the storms of life
we will know that you will bring us safely home.



The 12 Days of Christmas



The Twelve days of Christmas refers to the 12 days that are between the celebration of Jesus' birthday on the 25th of December and the celebration of Epiphany on the 6th of January. There are many theories on the origin. Below is one example



The “**partridge in a pear tree**” is Christ Jesus upon the cross. Christ is symbolically presented as a mother partridge. A mother partridge would pretend to be injured to decoy a predator away from her nestlings. She was even willing to die for them, just as Christ died.



The “**two turtle doves**” refer to the Old and New Testaments.



The “**three French hens**” stand for faith, hope and love — the three gifts of the Spirit that remain no matter what happens.



The “**four calling birds**” refer to the four apostles who wrote the Gospels—Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. These four books tell the story of salvation through Jesus Christ.



The “**five golden rings**” represent the first five books of the Bible, also called the Jewish Torah: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy.

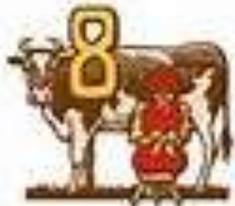


The “**six geese a-laying**” are the six days of creation.



The “**seven swans a-swimming**” refer to the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit: wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety and fear of the Lord.





The **“eight maids a-milking ”** are a reminder of the eight beatitudes listed in the Sermon on the Mount.



The **“nine ladies dancing”** were the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit found in Galatians 5:22-23: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control.



The **“ten lords a-leaping”** represent the Ten Commandments



The **“eleven pipers piping”** refer to the eleven faithful apostles.



The **“twelve drummers drumming”** were the twelve points of belief expressed in the Apostles’ Creed.

Like many Christian traditions around Christmas, the twelve days of Christmas originated from older traditions, such as the Norse or Germanic traditions around Yule and the twelve days of Yule. Each of the days between Christmas and Epiphany were supposed to correspond with the months of the new year. People looked for signs of what each month would bring them.

The Yule log would be lit on Christmas Eve, and then its fire would burn every night until January 6th, when it would be extinguished. A rich Twelfth Night cake, made of eggs, butter, raisins, fruit, nuts, and spices, would be eaten on the first night. Inside the cake was a dried pea or bean and the person who found it would be Lord or Lady of Misrule. This person led the celebrations. The closest thing to this cake today is Italian Panettone. On the Twelfth Night there was often carolling and partying. During the parties that occurred, roles were reversed: the servants were served by the wealthy and the rich cared for their servants. Epiphany Eve culminated with people leaving out images of the three wise men, or leaving out shoes or other containers that the wise men could fill with gifts.

With Thanks to Eileen Roberts for the suggestion



Each of the 12 days celebrates a different holy day within Christianity :

- **December 25th** is the celebration of Christmas, which honours the birth of Jesus.
- **December 26th** celebrates St. Stephen, who was the first Christian martyr. *The British celebrate Boxing Day on this day and they typically visit people who they did not see on Christmas Day. Its origin comes from the day after Christmas, when servants and tradesmen were allowed to return to their families, rather than wait on their masters (as they did on Christmas Day). Also it was the day that the servants received their Christmas Box hence—Boxing Day.*
- **December 27th** is the feast day of St. John the Apostle, one of the more well-known of Jesus' apostles.
- **December 28th** is "The Feast of the Holy Innocents". On this day, the Catholic Church honours and remembers the infants that King Herod killed as his soldiers searched for the baby Jesus to kill.
- **December 29th** remembers St. Thomas Becket, who was the Archbishop of Canterbury and martyred on December 29, 1170 for disagreeing with King Henry II over how much authority he had over the Church.
- **December 30th** is the feast day of St. Egwin of Worcester. He was the protector of orphans and widows and made 2 pilgrimages to Rome.
- **December 31st**, or New Year's Eve, honours John Wyclif a reformer and St. Sylvester, one of the earliest Popes. His holy day is celebrated in many European countries, where the day is seen as one of feasting and gifting. In Scotland, the night is known as Hogmanay.
- **January 1st** celebrates naming and circumcision of Jesus and the solemnity of Mary as the Mother of God. This day specifically honours her motherhood.
- **January 2nd** is the feast day of St. Basil the Great and St. Gregory of Nazianus.
- **January 3rd** honours the feast of the Holy Name of Jesus. This would have been the day that Jesus was named in the Jewish temple and given his official name.
- **January 4th** is the feast day of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, the first American saint.
- **January 5th** is known as Epiphany Eve, the night before the wise men reached Jesus.

Epiphany January 6th is the special day when the three wise men came to visit Jesus and brought their gifts of Frankincense, Gold, and Myrrh.



The time between Christmas and Epiphany, **the Twelve Days of Christmas** is certainly time for celebration and reflection.



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Duck Liver Parfait, House Chutney, Toasted Brioche

Mushroom and Chestnut Parfait, Tarragon, Brioche (vg)

Free Range Turkey, Traditionally Garnished, Cranberry Stuffing, Bread Sauce

Ox Cheek Bourguignon, Smoked Mash, Baby Carrots

Creedy Carver Duck, Orange, Braised Chicory, Choucroute, Beetroot

Plaice Grenobloise, Shrimps, Marsh Samphire, Ratte Potatoes

Pastilla, Spiced Squash & Goats Cheese, Puree, Pac Choi, Soy & Mirin Dressing (v/vg)

Christmas Pudding, Brandy Espuma, Cranberries (vg)

Custard Tart, Poached Rhubarb, Rhubarb Sorbet, Nutmeg

Warm Chocolate Fondant, Garden Mint Sorbet, Tuille

Cheesecake, White Chocolate, Passionfruit, Sorbet

Selection of British Cheese, Biscuits, Fig & Almond Wheel, Quince



Hogmanay' – What is it?



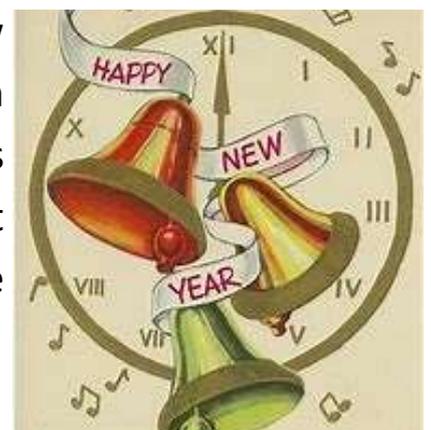
So much has been said about Christmas recently, that, as a proud Scot, I feel that I should write about another important event – HOGMANAY!

The word Hogmanay is Scottish for New Years' Eve, with the word having its roots either in French, Anglo-Saxon or Norse/Scandinavian (experts can't agree – no change there). Correct pronunciation is more like 'hug-man-ay' than 'hog'. Celebrated on December 31st each year Hogmanay is a time for clearing out the old and welcoming in the new.

These celebrations began during the Middle Ages when celebrating Christmas was discouraged, and in Cromwell's time banned. At that time Christmas Day was NOT a national holiday so instead Scots celebrated on December 31st with singing, dancing and a number of traditions and customs passed from one generation to the next. They even exchanged gifts as they rung in the New Year.



The term 'Ringing in the New Year' is in regard to the church bells which ring out in villages and towns across Scotland at midnight to mark the change from one year to the next.



Many of the customs and traditions have their roots in pagan festivals such as the Norse Winter Solstice, the Viking Yule and the Gaelic Samhain. Although some of the more ancient traditions are no longer commonly practised, there are still a few on the go.

I will mention a couple.





‘First footing’ – what is it? The designated ‘first-footer’ is literally the first person to set foot inside your home on New Year’s Day. It can be a friend, relative, neighbour or even a family member BUT that person cannot be INSIDE the house when the clock strikes midnight. Traditionally, first-footers would carry a lump of coal, some salt, black bun, shortbread and, most importantly, a ‘dram’ of whisky. These are all for good luck! Traditionally first-footers are preferred to be dark-haired men as there was a time when Viking invaders were a real threat and finding a blond man on your doorstep was more likely to cause fear than joy. Regrettably I was fair-haired as I have my roots in an ancestor called Harald Skullsplitter – but that’s another story!

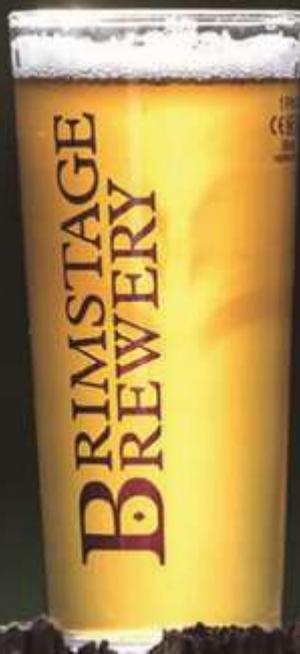
For all of us New Year is synonymous with a clean slate or a fresh start – ‘New Year Resolutions’? Out with the old and in with the new sums it up well and the Hogmanay tradition called ‘Redding’, which includes cleaning the house, paying bills and erasing debt which all fits in. It’s bad luck any other way.

Let me finish with one more tradition. In 1788 Robert Burns wrote the famous ‘Auld Lang Syne’ which is sung all over the world when the clock strikes midnight on December 31st, wherever you may be. I might just be doing that this year again.



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Away in a Manger by Mary Levick-Atkins

The little black cat knew her time had come.
But she was a stray and had no home.
The leaf-lined hollow where she lay was chill,
The wind –blown bracken thin, and offering little shelter,
Boding ill for her coming litter.



She sensed that near was warmth and
Shelter from the winter's bitter blast,
And watched the ladies with their secateurs
Trim and cut the holly in the church's Porch,
And twine the ivy, and arrange the pure whiteness of
The flowers until, at last they left.



The open door invited, and she crept within
With footfall soft and deft.
She sniffed the strange sweet harshness of evergreen,
The incense of chrysanthemum, a whiff of fresh warm straw
And what is more,
Quite near her quivering whiskers,
She leapt into the welcoming safety of the manger
And pushed the Christ-child just a little further on,
Making room for her, the Stranger.

Christ's Mass dawned
And choir and congregation sang, and Heaven with jubilation rang,
And in the crib's strawed comfort curled the little stray
Amber eyes a-blink with love and ecstasy
On this, HER infant son's birth day.

The children crowded round as children will;
But in that Holy place she had no fear,
And joined her rapturous purring song with theirs,
Just loud enough for God to hear.



"Reprinted from The Cinnamon Trust newsletter, with permission"

Memories of Autumn

Pumpkins - What can you do with a pumpkin other than make soup or a pie ?

Well here are a couple of good ideas



Rachel Brothwell thought they would make wonderful vases for her flowers.



Kerry Hughes decided to design a lovely picture of her father's tractor on the pumpkin.

A Time to Remember



Painted by Sarah Hughes on her window.



The Cenotaph after a very different Remembrance Day.



The Red Fox

Thornton Hough • Wirral



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

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

We hope you can pop in and see us soon.

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



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Thornton Hough
2021 Calendar
£5.00 each**



Available from :-

Brian Morris on 07732644861

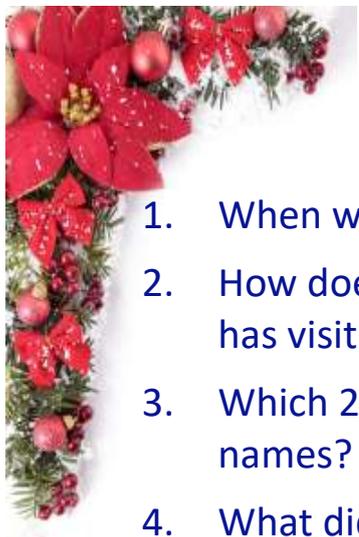
email — *brimorris@sky.com*

Margaret Gamble on 0151 336 7540





A Fun Christmas Quiz



1. When was Christmas Day first celebrated in the UK?
 2. How does Father Christmas keep track of the fireplaces he has visited?
 3. Which 2 of Father Christmas' reindeers have meteorological names?
 4. What did the Kremlin send to MI6 in their Christmas Hamper?
 5. When was the first Christmas Day swim organised ?
 6. What is the origin of Boxing Day?
 7. Popular in Victorian England at Christmas what is "smoking Bishop"?
 8. Who wrote the first ever King's Christmas Day message in 1932?
 9. In what year was the song " Do they know it's Christmas?" written?
 10. In which ocean can you find Christmas Island?
 11. What Christmas connection do the American states of Georgia, Arizona and Indiana have?
 12. What was created by Robert May in a 1939 booklet?
 13. Which country was the first to use the tradition of the Christmas tree?
 14. What was dissolved on Boxing Day 1991?
 15. Which famous playwright was frightened of Christmas?
- 
- 

What is faster Hot or cold? hot, because you can catch a cold.



You have two parts of the brain, "left" and "right"
– in the left side, there's nothing right and in the right side, there's nothing left.



I'm on a whiskey diet.....I've lost three days already.

POETRY CORNER

Ode to the West Wind Percy Bysshe Shelley (1792—1822)

Stanza 1 O wild West Wind, thou breath of Autumn's being,
Thou, from whose unseen presence the leaves dead
Are driven, like ghosts from an enchanter fleeing,
Yellow, and black, and pale, and hectic red,
Pestilence-stricken multitudes: O thou,
Who chariotest to their dark wintry bed
The wingéd seeds, where they lie cold and low,
Each like a corpse within its grave, until
Thine azure sister of the Spring shall blow



Her clarion o'er the dreaming earth, and fill

(Driving sweet buds like flocks to feed in air)
With living hues and odours plain and hill:
Wild Spirit, which art moving everywhere;
Destroyer and preserver; hear, oh hear!

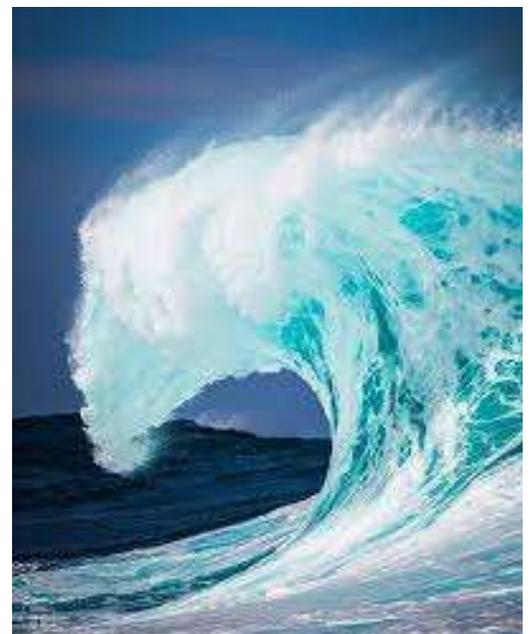


Stanza IV If I were a dead leaf thou mightest bear;
If I were a swift cloud to fly with thee
A wave to pant beneath thy power, and share
The impulse of thy strength, only less free
Than thou, O uncontrollable! If even
I were as in my boyhood, and could be

The comrade of thy wanderings over heaven,
As then, when to outstrip thy skiey speed
Scarce seem'd a vision; I would ne'er have striven
As thus with thee in prayer in my sore need.
Oh, lift me as a wave, a leaf, a cloud!
I fall upon the thorns of life! I bleed!

A heavy weight of hours has chain'd and bow'd
One too like thee: tameless, and swift, and proud.

Stanza V Make me thy lyre, even as the forest is:
What if my leaves are falling like its own?



Will take from both a deep, autumnal tone,
Sweet though in sadness. Be thou, spirit fierce
My spirit! Be thou me, impetuous one!

Drive my dead thoughts over the universe
Like wither'd leaves to quicken a new birth!
And, by the incantation of this verse

Scatter, as from an unextinguish'd hearth
Ashes and sparks, my words among mankind!
Be through my lips to unawaken'd earth

The trumpet of a prophecy! O Wind,
If Winter comes, can Spring be far behind?



Using the distinctive rhyme scheme associated with Dante's *Divine Comedy*, but using it to dramatically frantic effect, Shelley conjures an autumn which is neither dreamily satisfied, like Keats's "Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness" nor guiltily anguished like Binyon's "time for stripping the spirit bare". This is a breathless, desperate plea from a man whose ideas were so dangerously blasphemous and revolutionary that few of his poems were published in his tragically short lifetime.

Shelley was born an aristocrat but like his friend the "mad, bad, and dangerous to know" Lord Byron he advocated social reform, rights for women and the working classes and redistribution of inherited wealth. In the first stanza he sees "pestilence-stricken multitudes" in the leaves but "living hues and odours" in the seeds which the wind disperses, as if by a magnificent funeral, to await the spring resurrection. The wind can only preserve by destroying first.

In the second and third stanzas, which I omit, he sees "loose clouds" the "angels of rain and lightning" blown into "the dome of a vast sepulchre" from which "Black rain, and fire, and hail will burst" and the "crystalline streams" of the "blue Mediterranean" are made to "tremble and despoil themselves" by the wind which makes the Atlantic ocean's depths "cleave themselves into chasms".

In Stanza IV he begs the wind to treat him like the leaf, cloud and wave: he has lost his youthful ability to imagine himself flying above "the thorns of life". In Stanza V he begs the wind to blow the ashes and sparks of his dead thoughts into life. This is a terrific poem, and this is only part of it. Ironically, Shelley's prayer to the West Wind was answered after his death, in that his ideas went on to influence Karl Marx, Leo Tolstoy, Mahatma Ghandi and Martin Luther King, among others.

Caroline Lancelyn Green

Christmas Cakes for Sale



Rachel Brothwell has generously offered to make and sell Christmas Cakes in aid of All Saints' Church. A 6" decorated fruit cake will cost £12 and an 8" decorated fruit cake will cost £15. Please contact **Rachel** on **07903 275375** to place an order.



ACF

A church fellowship for anyone from anywhere Thornton Hough

As I write these few words to you we are half way through a second lockdown with a great amount of uncertainty for December, Christmas and into the New Year. Even when we come out of Lockdown early December I think we will still be under strict restrictions: hopefully these can be relaxed for a few days over Christmas. I have been hopeful over the last two months that ACF meetings could resume in January 2021 but this looks unlikely to be so.

However I do have a full programme of events throughout next year and I look forward to seeing you all again in the Parish Hall when it is safe to do so.

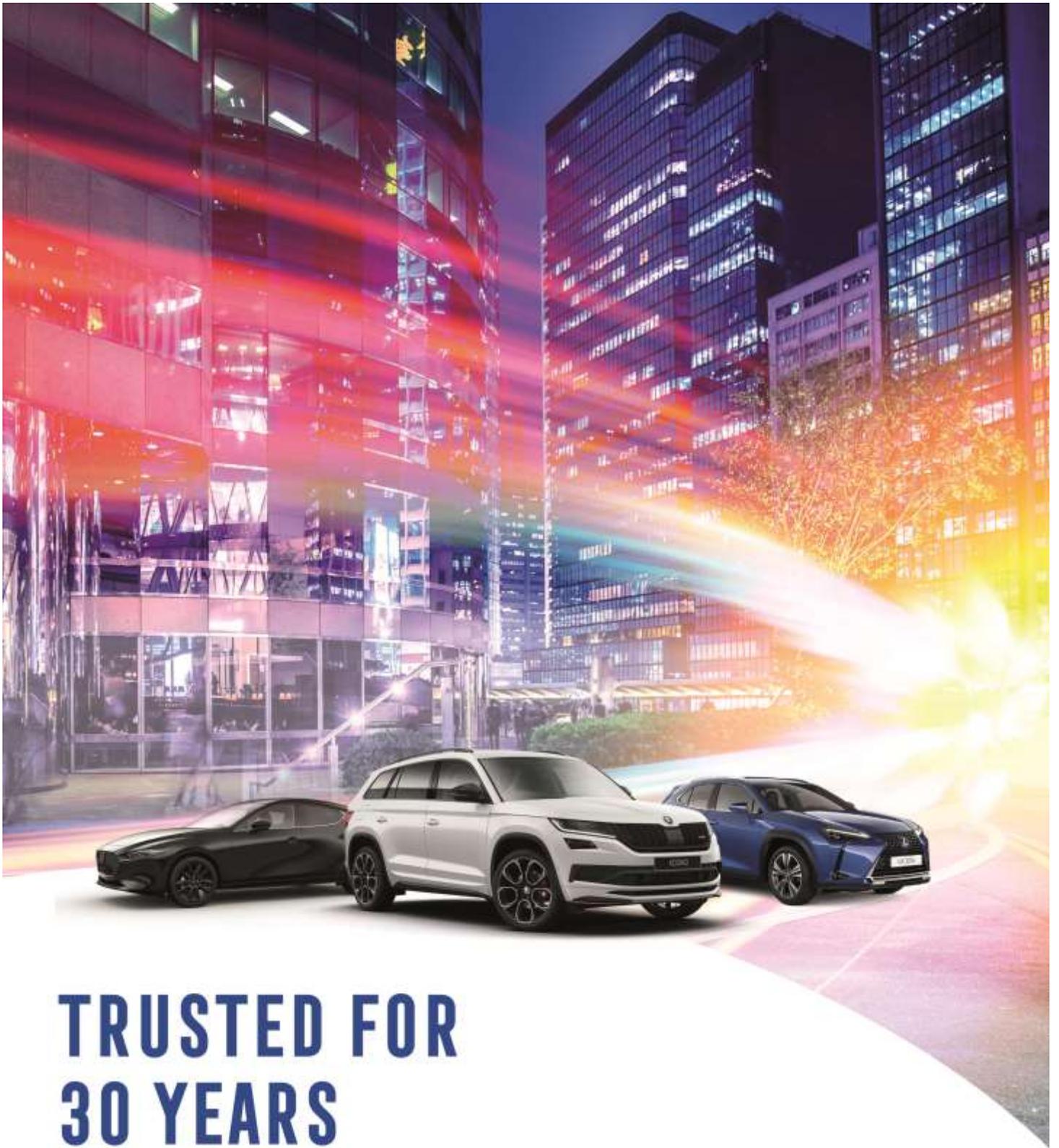
Our first meeting on 13th January 2021 we have a business meeting followed by a talk by Maureen Thompson about "The Big Story" .

On 10th February 2021 our meeting is another talk from Dr. Ian Cubbin this time on the theme "Early Exploration of Central Africa".

If these are unable to go ahead I will make sure the speakers can return in 2022.

Can I take this opportunity to wish everyone well and hope that you are able to celebrate Christmas with friends and family.

Helen Tankard



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Thornton Hough Community Trust Chairman's Annual Statement 2020

Well where to begin? This year started with great promise.

When we honoured our war heroes in 2019 we certainly didn't realise that in 2020 it would not be possible in our traditional way. This year we laid the Trust Wreath with the local school's at 11am on Armistice Day in a small ceremony led by Rev Barrett. The Trust assisted the Royal British Legion in arranging last year's act of remembrance. We will again in 2021.

We enjoyed our Christmas event in the WI entertained by the Port Sunlight Brass Band and with a packed Hall with a queue to enter. We promised to repeat it in 2020 but alas events took over.

Throughout the first lockdown our whole community came together to help those who were shielding by running errands including shopping and collecting prescriptions etc. Despite the difficult circumstances the sense of community was heart warming. I want to thank all those who volunteered to be "on call" via our helpers WhatsApp group. Despite the restrictions we have continued to support and represent our community. It will take more than a worldwide pandemic to stop the Trust!

We Kept in touch with WGSA in relation to to the local plan. We consulted with **Conservation Areas Wirral** regarding gaining conservation status for Brimstage. We regularly wrote to third party carriers about their vehicles passing through the village. These articulated HGV's are still causing serious damage to the listed buildings in our conservation area, especially St George's Church. We urge anyone seeing such vehicles to photograph them and email to Karen@thctrust.co.uk.

We saw the closure of our village Post Office, a sad day for our community. The Trust actively lobbied the Post Office HQ to reinstate a postal service within our community as did other groups in the Village. It is a compromise to see a new mobile service on the Village Hall car park now twice a week; of course, this does not wholly replace an actual Post Office but does ensure our population can access the service without leaving the village.

We have now successfully adopted the telephone box by the school. This will be repainted and turned into a community library – more details of this will follow in due course.



This week we launched our Christmas Lights Campaign: although we haven't added any new lights this year we have had to maintain and connect them etc, which is costly.

It would be fantastic to light up our whole community with Christmas Spirit this year more than ever.

Please remember the Trust is here to support our community so please get in touch if you need help or notice something that needs attention.

Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year!

Geoff Dale
Chairman, Thornton Hough Community Trust



Churchwardens

From Monday 23rd November we officially welcome Pam Machin as our new Churchwarden. Pam has been very active behind the scene since her appointment. She will join our other Churchwarden, Alice Jones who has been working conscientiously and quietly on behalf of the church.

We also wish Patsy a happy retirement from being our Churchwarden for many years. We thank her for her time and efforts which she has given to the church in her usual kindly, gracious and unassuming way. She can now have a well deserved rest from her warden's duties. Thank you Patsy.



The Carving of the Ent by Simon O'Rourke from the dead Monkey Puzzle (araucaria) at Poulton Hall.



The cherry picker arrived and Simon's nine chainsaws were ready in the back of his van. He drew a few red lines and started on the owl.



Then came the woodpecker, fox, squirrel, rabbit mouse and stoat. They were all life size and it became clear that the owl was too big, so its head came off and it was carved smaller, and so to face visitors arriving over the drawbridge. The Ent, which Simon named Araucarius, faces visitors coming up the drive, as they ENTER Poulton.



A VERY BIG THANK YOU FROM THE WIRRAL SHOEBOX TEAM

This year has been like no other, but what is so re-assuring is that at this very difficult time, folk in our Parish have found time and resources to produce shoeboxes for our annual Shoebox campaign.



I want to thank you all for your generosity in contributing your gifts and donations for the shoeboxes we send each year to needy children and their families in Eastern Europe. As we say each year, our gift-filled shoeboxes may be the only presents the children receive.

This year the first lorry-load of boxes will go to Romania, which is where the idea of sending shoeboxes originated 30 years ago. The second delivery will be to Moldova, the destination of some of our boxes for the first time last year. The third one will be to Belarus.

We are still in the middle of collecting and processing the shoeboxes, but it looks likely that we will be able to despatch 2,000 boxes, which is quite an achievement, considering the difficulties we are facing. With our thanks to you all.

Val Peter and the Wirral Shoebox Team



How lovely it is to have the choir back making our services more meaningful. Their singing is such a delight to hear. We did miss them.



Wizzi's Womblings

Chow! I am Patsy's Sunday dog. My Mum, Eileen would like to thank everybody who sent cards, good wishes and gifts during her recent encounter with the NHS. Best wishes to everybody for Christmas.

'God is.
All things pass.
All will be well.'

Eileen Roberts



COOKERY CORNER

An Impossible Savoury Pie (from The Royal Flying Doctor service in Australia)

Ingredients

1½ cups milk ½ cup plain flour
1 chopped onion ½ cup grated cheese, mixed
 herbs, salt & pepper to taste
60gms melted butter or marg.
2 tble spoons French onion soup powder (cup
soup)
4 eggs Chopped bacon to taste

Method

Fry bacon and drain on paper towel. Fry onion until soft. Mix together all other ingredients and add the bacon and onions and pour into greased oven proof dish. Bake in moderate oven 30 — 45 minutes



An Impossible Sweet Pie (from The Royal Flying Doctor service in Australia)

Ingredients

1 cup sugar, 1 cup desiccated coconut,
½ cup plain flour, 1 tsp vanilla essence,
4 eggs, 2 cups milk 4ozs melted butter

Method

Mix all together and put in greased oven proof dish
Cook for 30 — 45 minutes in moderate oven. You can sprinkle a little extra coconut on the top if you wish.



Both dishes end up with a pastry bottom and a egg custard mixture on top!

Courtesy of Heather Timms

2021 Magazines

We hope you are enjoying the Magazines which, for the past 12 months, have been made available without charge. We have enjoyed composing the Magazine and especially bringing you some of the stories provided by members of the congregation.

If you would like to contribute towards the costs of producing the 2021 Magazines, please place your contribution in the envelope provided with this Magazine and return it to your distributor. Thank you.

The Editorial Team

Trade Directory

Trade	Name	Contact Tel	Mob
Greenhills garden Services	Will	336 5167	07754 411693
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."*

Answers to Christmas Quiz

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| 1. 6th Century | 9 1984 |
| 2. He keeps a log book | 10 Indian Ocean |
| 3. Donner (Thunder) and Blitzen (lightning) | 11 They have towns called Santa Claus |
| 4. A Mince spy | 12 Rudolph the red nosed reindeer |
| 5. Christmas 1864 | 13 Germany |
| 6. Servants were given their Christmas Box | 14 The Soviet Union |
| 7. A mulled wine | 15 Noel Coward !! |
| 8. Rudyard Kipling | |

Register of Baptism, Burials and Marriages

Extracts from the Church Registers for October and November 2020

BURIALS	Age	Died	Burial of Ashes
Barbara Mackenzie WILSON	81	25 th September 2019	17 th October 2020

A big thank you is given for the generous anonymous donation to cover the cost of new handrails at the church and at the Raby Road Graveyard in memory of Betty Gault.



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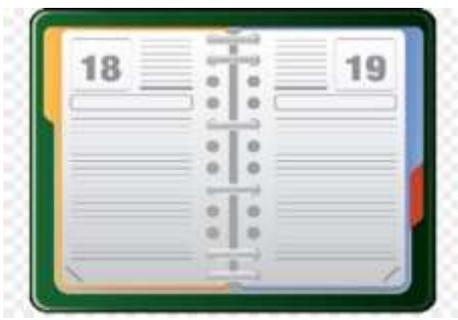
or email reception@charles-stephens.com



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Parish Diary

November

Sunday 29

Advent Sunday

No services. Church services are not permitted during the current lockdown

December

Wednesday 2 10:30am

No service (lockdown).

Friday 4 7:00pm

Choir Practice

Sunday 6

Advent 2

8:00am

Holy Communion (BCP)

10:30am

Service of readings and music for Advent

Tuesday 8 7:30pm

PCC Meeting

Wednesday 9 10:30am

Holy Communion (Common Worship)

Friday 11 7:00pm

Choir Practice

Sunday 13

Advent 3

8:00am

Holy Communion (BCP)

10:30am

Morning Prayer (Common Worship)

Wednesday 16 10:30am

Holy Communion (Common Worship)

Friday 18 7:00pm

Choir Practice

Sunday 20

Advent 4

8:00am

Holy Communion (BCP)

10:30am

Holy Communion (Common Worship)

4:30pm

Service of Lessons and Carols for Christmas
Advance booking is required for this service.

6:30pm

Service of Lessons and Carols for Christmas
Advance booking is required for this service.

Note: This service will only take place if it is required to meet bookings.

Thursday 24

Christmas Eve

11:00pm

Holy Communion for Christmas Eve

Friday 25

Christmas Day

10:30am

Holy Communion for Christmas Day

Sunday 27

Christmas 1

No services at All Saints' Church.

January 2021

Sunday	3		Epiphany / Christmas 2
		8:00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
		10:30am	Holy Communion (Common Worship)
Wednesday	6	10:30am	Holy Communion (Common Worship)
Friday	8	7:00pm	Choir Practice
Sunday	10		Baptism of Christ / Epiphany 1
		10:30am	Holy Communion (Common Worship)
Wednesday	13	10:30am	Holy Communion (Common Worship)
Friday	15	7:00pm	Choir Practice
Sunday	17		Epiphany 2
		8:00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
		10:30am	Morning Prayer (Common Worship)
Wednesday	20	10:30am	Holy Communion (Common Worship)
Friday	22	7:00pm	Choir Practice
Sunday	24		Epiphany 3
		10:30am	Holy Communion (Common Worship)
Wednesday	27	10:30am	Holy Communion (Common Worship)
Friday	29	7:00pm	Choir Practice
Sunday	31		Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas)
		10:30am	Holy Communion (Common Worship).

Please note that because of the present situation, all dates are subject to change at short notice. Any changes will be announced on the website and on the weekly service sheets.

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.

Who to contact about our groups

Bible Study

Bible Study and Prayer

Shirley McEvoy

336 3449

Home Group

Alice Jones

alice@allsaintsth.org.uk

Children and young people

Cots 2tots

Rachel Brothwell

07903 275375

rachel@allsaintsth.org.uk

Sunday School

New Comets

Linda Arch

linda@allsaintsth.org.uk

A Church Fellowship (ACF)

Helen Tankard

hdt1426@sky.com
648 0181

Church Choir

Iain Stinson

342 4800

iain@stinson.org.uk

The Magazine Team

Patsy Baker

336 3273

Iain Stinson

324 4800

Brian Morris

336 1393



The Editorial Team would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and peace, joy and good health for the New Year.

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

Friday 15th January 2021

Who's who at All Saints

Vicar	Revd Vicky Barrett	336 2766 vicar@allsaintsth.org.uk
Churchwardens	Alice Jones Pam Machin	alice@allsaintsth.org.uk 625 5820 pam@allsaintsth.org.uk
Verger	Margaret Gamble	336 7540
PCC Secretary	Sue Stinson	342 4800 sue@allsaintsth.org.uk
PCC Treasurer	Iain Stinson	342 4800 iain@stinson.org.uk
Planned Giving Secretary	Sydney Deakin	334 6111
Prayer Link Coordinator	Rhona Mayhew	334 5637 rhona@allsaintsth.org.uk
Event Coordinator	Rachel Brothwell	07903 275375 rachel@allsaintsth.org.uk
Electoral Roll Officer Safeguarding Officer	Elly Macbeath Linda Arch	safeguarding@allsaintsth.org.uk
Health & Safety Officer	Graham Seagrave	health&safety@allsaintsth.org.uk
Church Flower Rota	Jane Wilson	328 1408
Parish Hall Caretaker and Bookings	Margaret Gamble	336 7540
Director of Music	Iain Stinson	342 4800 iain@stinson.org.uk
Magazine Contributions		editor@allsaintsth.org.uk
All Saints Church Website		allsaintsth.org.uk
Data Privacy Statement and Safeguarding Policy		allsaintsth.org.uk/about-us/ <i>and via the footer of each web page</i>