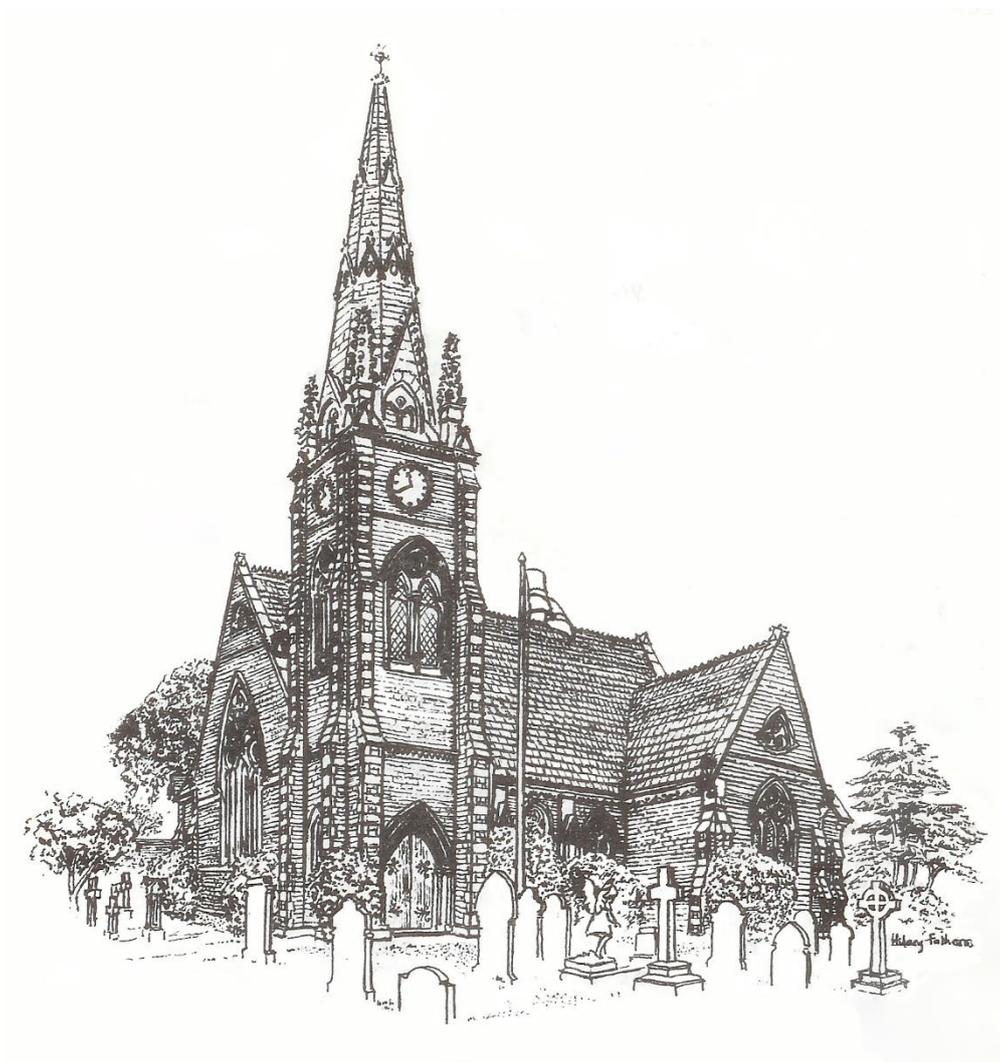


All Saints' Church Thornton Hough



Morning Prayer
Third Sunday after The Epiphany
Sunday 24th January 2021
Online (from 10:30am)

The greeting

The Lord be with you

and also with you.

Let us worship God.

Hymn: Hail to the Lords' anointed

- 1 Hail to the Lord's Anointed,
great David's greater Son!
hail, in the time appointed,
his reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression,
to set the captive free,
to take away transgression,
and rule in equity.
- 2 He comes with succour speedy
to those who suffer wrong;
to help the poor and needy,
and bid the weak be strong;
to give them songs for sighing,
their darkness turn to light,
whose souls, condemned and dying,
were precious in his sight.
- 3 He shall come down like showers
upon the fruitful earth,
and love, joy, hope, like flowers,
spring in his path to birth:
before him on the mountains
shall peace, the herald, go;
and righteousness in fountains
from hill to valley flow.
- 4 Kings shall bow down before him,
and gold and incense bring;
all nations shall adore him,
his praise all people sing:
to him shall prayer unceasing
and daily vows ascend;
his kingdom still increasing,
a kingdom without end.

James Montgomery (1771–1854) based on Psalm 72

Prayers of Penitence

Lord, direct our thoughts and teach us to pray.
Lift up our hearts to worship you in spirit and in truth,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The sun of righteousness has dawned with healing in his wings.
Let us come to the light of Christ, confessing our sins in penitence
and faith.

***Most merciful God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we confess that we have sinned
in thought, word and deed.
We have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
In your mercy
forgive what we have been,
help us to amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be;
that we may do justly,
love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God.
Amen.***

May the God of love and power
forgive you and free you from your sins,
heal and strengthen you by his Spirit,
and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord.

Amen.

A Song of Joy (Jubilate) Psalm 100

As God's loved and forgiven people, we join together in saying:

***O be joyful in the Lord, all the earth,
serve the Lord with gladness
and come before his presence with a song.
Know that the Lord is God;
it is he that has made us and we are his;
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.
Enter his gates with thanksgiving
and his courts with praise
give thanks to him and bless his name.***

***For the Lord is gracious; his steadfast love is everlasting,
and his faithfulness endures from generation to generation.
Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.***

Bible Readings

Revelation 19:6-10

Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting:

‘Hallelujah!

For our Lord God Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory!

For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready.

Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear.’

(Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of God’s holy people.)

Then the angel said to me, ‘Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!’ And he added, ‘These are the true words of God.’

At this I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, ‘Don’t do that! I am a fellow servant with you and with your brothers and sisters who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For it is the Spirit of prophecy who bears testimony to Jesus.’

John 2:1-11

Jesus changes water into wine

On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus’ mother was there, and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine was gone, Jesus’ mother said to him, ‘They have no more wine.’

‘Woman, why do you involve me?’ Jesus replied. ‘My hour has not yet come.’ His mother said to the servants, ‘Do whatever he tells you.’

Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from eighty to a hundred and twenty litres.

Jesus said to the servants, ‘Fill the jars with water’; so they filled them to the brim.

Then he told them, ‘Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet.’

They did so, and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realise where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. Then he called the bridegroom aside and said, 'Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now.'

What Jesus did here in Cana of Galilee was the first of the signs through which he revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

Reflection: Earthy glory!

Weddings are times of great celebration. For many, this is the culmination of years of preparation. The happy couple and their families will have planned and saved up for some considerable time for their special day. Relatives and friends will come from far and wide to join the celebrations.

Weddings in the time of Jesus were every bit as celebratory. There would be long nights of partying with extended family and neighbours, with lots of wine. No expense would be spared; indeed, any attempt at skimping on the booze would be considered an insult to the guests and could result in guests bringing lawsuits against their hosts.

This account of the wedding at Cana is full of earthiness. It's a reminder of the way Jesus is present in the full spectrum of human life. He didn't avoid such raucous occasions as wedding parties, but rather was steeped in them. He's present as a family member, under his mother's instruction and authority. He's present with his friends, his disciples, who are witnesses to this event, which is both part of the ordinary passage of family and community living, and extraordinary in the transformation which Jesus brings to it.

Look at the earthy acknowledgement from the master of the banquet that there is an expectation that people will get drunk on the rough wine which is brought out after the good stuff has been finished.

Jesus is initially reluctant to intervene in the problem of the lack of wine at the party. He tells his mother: 'My hour has not yet come.' Yet she sees a different possibility, that Jesus' hour has come. There is something wonderfully earthy in her faith, the gentle push of a mother who knows her son, but who also knows he is truly the Son of God.

We see here how Jesus' promise to Nathanael which we read last week – "You shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man." is being fulfilled. In Jesus, heaven has come to earth, and the things of earth are transformed, not just once, but over and over again, down

through time. This is indeed earthy glory, the glory of God earthed in the everyday, however chaotic and stressful that may be.

The Wedding at Cana reminds us that Jesus meets us and our needs right where we are. We see the joyous, lavish abundance of his love and glory. We also catch a foretaste of the superabundance of what is to come, when we will be part of that ultimate wedding celebration in heaven.

When we feel that we are mired in the depths of daily living, let's remind ourselves that Jesus is here with us, and we are called out of despair. Let's take up Mary's command to the servants, and "Do whatever he tells you", for the obedience of servants at the wedding feast meant that they were part of the miracle of transforming the things of earth into something glorious.

The Apostles' Creed

We declare our faith together:

***I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.***

***I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended to the dead.***

***On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.***

***I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.***

Amen.

Prayers

The Collect for the Third Sunday of Epiphany

God of all mercy

your Son proclaimed good news to the poor,
release to the captives,

and freedom to the oppressed:
anoint us with your Holy Spirit
and set all your people free
to praise you in Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has 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.***

Hymn: Take my life and let it be

- 1 Take my life, and let it be
 consecrated, Lord, to thee;
take my moments and my days,
 let them flow in ceaseless praise.
- 2 Take my hands, and let them move
 at the impulse of thy love;
take my feet, and let them be
 swift and beautiful for thee.
- 3 Take my voice, and let me sing
 always, only, for my King;
take my lips, and let them be
 filled with messages from thee.
- 4 Take my silver and my gold;
 not a mite would I withhold;

take my intellect, and use
every power as thou shalt choose.

5 Take my will, and make it thine:
it shall be no longer mine;
take my heart: it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne.

6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure-store;
take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee.

Frances Ridley Havergal (1836–1879)

A Blessing

God the Holy Trinity make you strong in faith and love,
defend you on every side, and guide you in truth and peace;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

Bible reading from New International Version - UK (NIVUK) Holy Bible, New International Version® Anglicized, NIV®

Copyright © 1979, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.® Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

Material in this service is drawn from *New Patterns for Worship* ©Archbishops' Council 2002 Church House Publishing
Words of the hymns are reproduced under the CCLI licences 874163 & 874170

Contact information

Vicar	Revd. Vicky Barrett	336 2766	vicar@allsaintsth.org.uk <i>The Vicar's normal day off is Friday.</i>
Churchwardens	Alice Jones Pam Machin	alice@allsaintsth.org.uk 625 5820	pam@allsaintsth.org.uk
Parish Office		336 1654	office@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
Events Coordinator	Rachel Brothwell	07903 275375	
Safeguarding Officer	Linda Arch	safeguarding@allsaintsth.org.uk	
Health & Safety Officer	Graham Seagrave	health&safety@allsaintsth.org.uk	
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	
Fabric, Health & Safety		buildings@allsaintsth.org.uk	

www.allsaintsth.org.uk