

All Saints' Church Thornton Hough

# The Magazine



April—May 2024

## **Revd. Vicky to be the new Rural Dean of Wirral South Deanery**

The Bishop of Chester, the Rt. Revd. Mark Tanner, has appointed Revd. Vicky to be the next Rural Dean of Wirral South Deanery, in succession to Revd. Beth Glover, Vicar of St. Mary's, Eastham, who has served the Deanery in this role for the past 12 years.

There will be a special Commissioning Service on Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> April at All Saints' Church at 7.00pm with the Bishop of Birkenhead, Rt. Revd. Julie Conalty.

### **What does this mean?**

Vicky is still very much Vicar of All Saints' Church, Thornton Hough. Indeed, a retired Bishop from another diocese advises, "You cannot be a good Rural Dean if you are not being a good parish priest."

### **Which Parishes are part of Wirral South Deanery?**

The Deanery covers a wide range of parishes: Backford and Capenhurst, Bromborough, Burton and Shotwick, Eastham, Ellesmere Port, Saughull, Great Sutton, Hooton, Neston, Thornton Hough, Willaston. The Deanery Chapter brings together clergy colleagues to support one another in prayer, good practice in ministry and mission, information sharing and informal collaboration.

### **What is a Rural Dean?**

They are appointed by the Bishop of Chester after consultation with the Deanery clergy and Lay Chair and other diocesan staff colleagues. The role is in the gift of the Bishop, for an initial term of five years from the date of licensing. Responsibilities include:

- Leadership, encouragement and advice to the clergy and parishes of the Deanery
- Pastoral care for clergy and their families
- Liaison with Bishops and the Archdeacon
- Planning and chairing Deanery Synod meetings, in partnership with the Chapter Clerk and Lay Chair
- Working with Churchwardens in parishes when their church is in vacancy, helping to prepare the Parish Profile and in the appointment process of new clergy

Your prayers and support are much appreciated at the start of this new appointment.

**Please come to the Commissioning Service on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April at 7pm if you can.**

## Welcome letter from the Vicar

### Come on and Celebrate!

One of the features in our new Vision Plan is simply, “More parties.” For, as we look at the troubles in our world and closer to home, the temptation is to turn inwards, to keep quiet and hunker down.

There is so much to celebrate: during April and May we are still in the joyful Easter season, when we mark the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. Our church year is rich with celebrations at this time. All Saints’ Church will be decked in white altar cloths and colourful flowers. We celebrate Jesus’ ascension to heaven

on Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> May, and Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup> is Whit Sunday, when we remember the coming of the Holy Spirit. May rounds off with the celebration of the triune nature of God, where Father, Son and the Holy Spirit are often pictured as dancing together, inviting us to join in their wonderful party.

Nature itself is busy with growth and beauty, as new growth bursts forth, fresh green leaves hang from the trees and the birds sing joyfully in the lengthening days.

We have our Annual Meetings at 11:45am on Sunday, 12<sup>th</sup> May. There is much to celebrate and give thanks for in our reports, and it would be good if as many as are able come along to share in the blessings from 2023 and help to make 2024 a further year of encouragement and growth in faith, sharing the good news of the risen Jesus Christ more widely. It would also be good if you would consider whether you are able to offer your support as a member of the PCC, helping to develop our vision and bring fresh insights to the team.

I will have been your Vicar here in our parish for five years on 16<sup>th</sup> May. This is also something to celebrate, and I am going to be holding a party in the Parish Hall on Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup> May at 3:00pm to say “Thank you” to everyone and to give us all the opportunity to count our blessings over a period which included a lengthy lockdown. More details will appear in pew sheets nearer the time, but put the date in your diary.

We are Easter people, and that means that we should be looking outwards, and, whilst not being naïve about the suffering in our world, sharing the joy of resurrection and re-creation wherever we can.

*Vicky*



## Notes on the PCC meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> February and 12<sup>th</sup> March

During the first meeting of 2024 we looked to the future. A new Vision Document had been circulated in advance of the meeting; this was the culmination of discussions and ideas which had been put forward during previous meetings. We agreed that we need to consider 'How, Why, For Whom' we are doing what we are doing. There were no timelines in the document which left room for the Holy Spirit. We don't want to get too rigid. We need to bring people along with us- we can't just impose things. During the discussions It was suggested that a 'Welcome to the parish' card and a copy of The Magazine could be put through the doors of people moving in.

Vicky expressed her gratitude to all who had contributed to the new Vision Statement and the PCC accepted the document as the way forward. The new Vision Statement will appear in the Annual Report, which will be circulated in advance of the Annual Meetings in May.

The diary for 2024 was filling up. A Soup and Sandwich Lunch which was being organised in February has since been enjoyed. Another successful litter pick has taken place.

On 16<sup>th</sup> May this year Vicky will have been in post for 5 years and she is planning a party in the Parish Hall on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May, in the afternoon. We were unable to celebrate her first year in post due to Covid so this gives us even more reason to show Vicky how much we appreciate her now!

March was a busy month and we looked forward to special services for Mothering Sunday, A Service of Readings and Music for Passiontide, Palm Sunday and Easter.

In the February meeting Iain Stinson, the Treasurer, circulated a draft End of Year Finance Report. The PCC agreed that the End of Year Report for 2023 could be passed to the independent examiner, Verity Smith.

We then moved on to 'Carbon Footprint Reduction: next steps'. Linda Arch reported that she had been attending 'Cool Wirral' meetings via Zoom and she had written an article for The Magazine. A Climate Café was being held at St Peter's Church in Heswall. Vicky noted that Creation was a thread running through future Bible readings and suggested that Lent could be a good time to think about the environment.

In March Linda highlighted the Waste Management Workshop which was scheduled for the 20<sup>th</sup> March at Christ Church, Higher Bebington and encouraged people to attend.

Linda Arch had circulated safeguarding updates in advance of both meetings and she reported that no safeguarding issues had been brought to the attention of the Safeguarding Officer. She reminded us that PCC members are required to follow up the Safeguarding Basic Awareness Training with the Foundations module and the Awareness of Domestic Abuse module.

In March the Fabric, Health and Safety Committee told us that their chart covering routine tasks has now been launched. They also reported that they are actively seeking a bespoke solution for a unit to house a new sink in the Vicar's Vestry. A grant application has been submitted to Chester Diocese to cover 50% of the cost of repairing the lintel above the church door and levelling the uneven area at the bottom of the steps from Raby Road. We now have to wait to see if we are successful.

A cedar tree which overhangs Church Road is causing problems with the wall. The lean on the wall has been monitored by Peter Arch and no change noted since 2019. Chris Frankland of Frankland Tree Services has been asked for advice and an estimate. June Allcock agreed to consult the Church Architect on the best way to proceed based on Chris's response.

Problems with Church lights, first aid boxes, an electrical inspection, vegetation growing on the church spire and clearing the silt from the drain by the bins have also been addressed recently. The PCC expressed their thanks for all they are doing.

In February the PCC heard that, after much thought, Helen Tankard has decided that she wants to step down from leading ACF after the Annual Meeting in May. Handover documents are ready and the programme is in place for 2024. A team, or an individual, is being sought to take this on. Vicky expressed her gratitude to Helen for taking ACF on and waking it up again after lockdown, for the lovely Christmas "do", the Summer tea party and the interesting programme. Her hard work has been appreciated by everyone.

The Annual Report for 2023 was ready for the March meeting. Thanks were expressed to all the contributors and it was accepted by the PCC as a true record. A lot happened in 2023!

In March Iain Stinson reported that the End of Year Finance Report for 2023 had gone to the Independent Examiner. The high energy bills for the coldest months had been received and the new, higher level of Parish Share was being paid. As a result the Management Accounts were looking depleted but as the year progresses this should level out. Toybox had received a grant to buy new mats for the meetings and Beginner's Bibles to give to children that are leaving to move on to nursery; this money had been paid into a new Toybox account. The Toybox children are now enjoying using the new, colourful mats for their story and singing sessions. Brenda Elphick has sadly died and Helen Tankard reported that the Electoral Roll now stands at 98.

The year is racing on and in March we started to look forward to the Annual Meeting in May. Alan Splitt will be stepping down as Churchwarden and some members of the PCC will also be stepping down. Please give some careful thought to whether you could contribute in either of these roles. We always welcome new faces and fresh ideas!

**Sue Stinson**  
**PCC Secretary**



## A Church Fellowship for Everybody

On Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February our members welcomed Emily Tucker from **Wirral Youth for Christ (Wirral YFC)** to speak to us. The charity works under the banner of “The British Youth for Christ”. It follows the same vision and strategies but is its own charity and shares the Good News of Jesus to young people in schools around Wirral.

The team is made up of:

Emily Tucker who is Director of the Team, youth workers and leaders from local churches, volunteers and 5 Trustees.

The schools they regularly visit include:

- ◆ South Wirral High
- ◆ Upton Hall Convent
- ◆ Calday Grange Grammar School
- ◆ Weatherhead High School
- ◆ Wirral Grammar School
- ◆ West Kirby Grammar School
- ◆ Birkenhead Sixth Form College
- ◆ Birkenhead School

They visit the above schools to help young people develop an understanding of Christianity and explore faith through:

assemblies, RE and PSHE lessons, PULSE, prayer and mentoring.

In assemblies Christian Festivals such as Christmas and Easter maybe discussed along with topics such as British values, Christian values and the pupils’ own values such as respect and tolerance (recent discussions on the parable of the Good Samaritan). They have recently been to do assemblies at Birkenhead School for the juniors and will be visiting again in Holy Week to talk to the seniors.

RE lessons are in the National Curriculum for secondary schools and are compulsory until the pupils are aged sixteen.

At Key Stage 3 they may cover topics such as Christian Festivals, Christianity, Churches and Worship, friendship, and Identity & belonging.

At Key Stage 4 topics such as Experiencing God, Barriers to Faith, “The Existence of God” and “Who is Jesus?” may be covered.

PULSE has been set up as a place to have fun, make friends and eat together at lunch time; it is similar to the Christian Union. It allows churches and schools to connect with each other and the young people can explore their faith through sharing stories and asking questions. These young people may

be Christians or they may have no faith at all but have questions they want to ask. Wirral YFC currently run seven of these groups in local schools.

Outside of school Wirral YFC have started a youth event called “Alive” for Christian young people and is a place they can bring their friends along at Hope Church, Hoylake. It was started because not every Church has a lot of young people attending or they may not know any other Christians in their school, so it is a place to meet likeminded people and is a youth worship service with a guest speaker. The first “Alive” event attracted 26 young people to join in games and worship whilst enjoying a tuck shop and being with friends. They plan to run them every two months.

Emily then explained that Wirral YFC can train young people to be leaders within their own churches and also support churches with youth work. They also support church groups if they don't have enough volunteers and meet regularly with church leaders to discuss strategies.

In the academic year 22/23 Emily and her team visited ten secondary schools and three primary schools. They also organised PULSE groups in seven schools and reached approximately 3,000 young people.

Emily read passages from Judges 2:6-10 and Romans 10:14 to explain that there are a generation of young people that don't know about God and currently only 4% have been to Church.

How can we support Wirral YFC?

- ◆ Prayer
- ◆ Signing up for their Newsletter
- ◆ Volunteer
- ◆ Donate

**Helen Tankard**

On Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March a lively group of 22 ACF members and friends settled down to hear an Easter topic by Vicky. The talk has been summarised by Vicky and included in this edition of *The Magazine*.

### **Forthcoming ACF Events**

#### **Fellowship meetings at 2.15pm in Parish Hall**

**Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> April**      Marc Bamber from Emmaus

**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May**      Jamie-Leigh Burgess from Wirral Hospice St Johns

#### **ACF Coffee mornings at 10.30am in Parish Hall**

**Wednesday April 24<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May.**

Tea/coffee and biscuits. Raffle/ sales table. Entrance 50p.

**Everybody welcome**

## 13<sup>th</sup> March ACF Talk Easter People: Breaking the Silence

Revd. Vicky's talk encouraged us to look at the "silences" in the Easter story. Whose version of events do we hear, and who are those who are silent – or silenced? How do we respond to this?

We began by reading two passages from the Bible: Luke 24:1-14 and Luke 8:1b-3.

We told stories from our everyday life to one another in pairs/triplets, and then some volunteered to recount their partner's story to the whole group, without any prompting. The storytellers tried very carefully to give a faithful account, but it was still tempting to either ask for prompts or for the originator of the story to offer them. Then Revd. Vicky gave a version of the morning at Holy Communion – and there was a ripple of protest at what she said from those who had been there!

We reflected on the way that our stories were getting further away from the first-hand account. We thought about who ended up "owning" the story, if those original witnesses' versions were being changed. If the new teller of the tale is someone who seems to have authority, like the Vicar, or, for thousands of years, men-folk, then voices get silenced. When we look at history, these silent voices often belong to women.

By contrast, Jesus helps the women find their voices. We were reminded of the Syro-Phoenician woman, who leaves Jesus lost for words with her smart response. His mother Mary's song, The Magnificat, is a celebration shared through the ages with the downtrodden, and especially women, who are most likely to be the exploited, the ones who are ignored. He lets his friend Mary come and sit at his feet to listen to his teaching, and doesn't send her back to the housework. She is doing what is normally reserved for the men-folk only.

We held the silence with Jesus buried in the tomb on the Sabbath day, and saw the contrast with the noise and confusion of the women arriving to see the disciples with the story of Jesus' resurrection.

But unlike Jesus, the disciples dismiss them: "their words seemed to them like nonsense."

We thought about why this was the case. Women had no legal rights at the time. Their word would not be accepted as a fair account as witnesses in court. This was a culture in which women were routinely silenced.

Our focus moved to the way in which women continue to be silenced in some societies. Even in Britain, women did not have equal voting rights to men un-



til 1928. And the biological fact of having a womb has led many cultures, including our own, to view women as inherently unstable: the word “hysterical” comes from the Greek word for “womb.”

We returned to the women who told Peter and the disciples about Jesus’ resurrection, and thought about how people might look down on them: Mary Magdalene, who suffered from some kind of psychological disorder, for Jesus is said to have delivered her of seven demons. Mary, mother of James – still looking after her boy? Joanna, wife of the manager of Herod’s household. Given that Herod demanded loyalty of his subjects, loyally supporting Jesus’ ministry was a very brave thing to do.

Whilst Peter’s report of the resurrection is the one which would have had authority and weight at the time, there is something of the silencing of those who were gifted with the first news of the resurrection in the report in Luke 24:34: “It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.”

We concluded with a lively and wide-ranging discussion about who are the silenced people in our modern society: the elderly, those without internet access, refugees, those suffering abuse, those waiting for healthcare, and how the Easter story might encourage us to help those people find their voices.

Revd. Vicky Barrett



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## Origin Of Hymns No 3—‘Guide Me O Thou Great Redeemer’

My first two articles covered hymns which originated in Ireland and Germany. This time its Wales. (I’ll do an English one next!) There are many fine Welsh hymns, but none greater than ‘Guide me O thou great Redeemer’. In some translations Redeemer becomes Jehovah, and we sing it to that magnificent tune ‘Cwm Rhondda’.

The hymn was written by the acknowledged greatest Welsh hymn writer William Williams Pantycelyn (1717-1791) from Carmarthenshire.

(Pantycelyn was the name of a farm inherited by his wife). It was first published in Welsh in 1762, with six verses. Peter Williams (not related but a contemporary) translated some of it into English and it was published in ‘Hymns on various subjects’ in 1771. There is a Memorial Chapel dedicated to William on the main street in Llandovery.



William Williams Pantycelyn



William Willams Memorial Chapel

This hymn is really a product of the Welsh revival movement which swept through the eighteenth century led by a 24-year-old Calvinistic preacher called Howell Harris. It was William Williams, who at 20 years old was touched by Howell’s preaching, and travelled all over Wales himself on horseback preaching (usually outdoors) and singing the Gospel in his native tongue.

The hymn uses symbolic imagery of the Israelites travelling through the wilderness from the escape from slavery in Egypt (Exodus 12-17) and their arrival some forty years later in the land of Canaan. Their needs were supplied by God, in the form of ‘manna’, referred to in our hymn as ‘Bread of Heaven’. Twice they became faint through lack of water. Moses struck a large rock in Horeb with his staff, and out of it flowed a pure crystal stream. ‘Open thou the crystal fountain whence the healing stream doth flow’ we sing now. God guided their journey by a pillar of cloud by day, and a pillar of fire by night. . We sing ‘Let the cloudy, fiery

pillar lead us all our journey through’. Miners in the Rhondda valley were said

to sing it in their daily work, and it was used in the 1941 film 'How Green was my Valley' based on a 1939 novel by Richard Llewellyn. It was also sung in many events of State such as weddings and funerals.

Our famous tune was composed by John Hughes (1873-1932) in 1907. Hughes was born in Dowlais, and brought up in Pontypridd. At the age of 12 he began work in Glynn Colliery in his hometown and subsequently became a clerk at the Great Western Railway in Pontypridd. He served as a deacon and leader of the congregational singing in Salem Baptist Chapel in Pontypridd.

The hymn and tune are both in some circles often called 'Bread of Heaven' because of the repeated line in our usual translation. The first version was written for a 'Cymanfa Ganu' (Hymn Festival) in Pontypridd 1905, at which time the Welsh Revivalist movement still remained. Its present form was for an organ inauguration in Hopkinstown in the Rhondda Valley.

Some scholars have detected a similarity between the tune and Haydn's String Quartet Op76 no 3 (2<sup>nd</sup> movement) from 1797, which was later used as a basis for the German National Anthem. We know that as the hymn tune 'Austria' (sung to several hymns including 'Praise the Lord ye heavens adore Him'). But the tunes first use was for a Welsh hymn by Ann Griffiths which translates as 'Lo, between the myrtles standing'. It was to those words that it was first published in 1907.

There is also another later hymn 'God of Grace and God of Glory' which also uses the tune 'Cwm Rhondda'.

*Biblical References: Exodus 12-17 in particular Exodus 13:17-22, and 16. Joshua 3. Isaiah 58:11 .*



**Brian Moate**

## **Annual Parish Meetings Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May**

These will take place on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May at 11:45am, following the 10:30am service. Please make it a priority to attend these important meetings.

Nomination forms for churchwardens, and PCC members and will be available at the back of church. Please consider who might be able to serve in one of these roles at All Saints'. For further information please contact the Vicar, Churchwardens or PCC Secretary.

Copies of the Agenda for the meetings, the Annual Report and the Accounts for 2023 will be available to collect from church towards the end of April (and on the church website).

# BRIMSTAGE BREWERY

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## An invitation to join me on my 2024 eco journey

In the last edition of *The Magazine* I explained how I came to be on a journey to reduce the Carbon Footprint of our household by 1 tonne. I invited comments and have been delighted by the feedback received so far. Over the year, I will share the highs and lows of my own carbon journey, continuing to invite advice and (polite) criticism either in person or through *The Magazine*.

I appreciate that a reduction of 1 tonne by 1 household won't have much of a global impact, so now could be the time to consider how this could translate into an All Saints' congregation or "church family" activity.

I would like to encourage **5 parishioners** to estimate their own carbon footprint with a view to reducing their personal or household emissions by half a tonne. It would be even better if more people joined in. Those with the necessary expertise will be able to do this, but for others there are user-friendly websites to easily estimate individual Carbon Footprints; I went down this straightforward route, discovering my own Footprint was probably 2.5 tonnes above the UK average. These websites include:

**The World Wildlife Fund** (<https://footprint.wwf.org.uk/>)- this was the first calculator I tried. (*Editor: I tried it out— it was very easy to use and prompted some interesting ideas..*)

**Giki Zero** (<https://zero.giki.earth/>) – I subsequently used it and I also receive email eco- hints, without being "bombarded".

**Climate Hero** (<https://carbon-calculator.climatehero.org/>) – which I haven't tried but was highly recommended by a very enthusiastic participant during a recent Cool Wirral Zoom meeting. It sounds very similar to Giki Zero with useful eco-tips.

When it comes to calculating a half tonne reduction, I am happy to loan out my "How bad are bananas? – the carbon footprint of everything" book and/or explain my dietary change calculations.

In addition, it would be great if a number of people, who wouldn't want to do the calculations, could consider **small lifestyle tweaks** - because even small changes undertaken by many people have a collective significant impact.

Some of these changes also make good economic sense, like reducing food waste and using less domestic energy. I would love to hear your own thoughts on how we can put these ideas into practice, so we can share our collective knowledge and expertise. Others changes will have an environmental –only benefit and indeed may cost more than the less environmentally friendly alternative.

Finally, I can report that we have adapted well to our 4 out of 7 vegetarian diet commitment. When we know in advance of days when we won't be in full

control of what we eat, we “bank” vegetarian days in the week before. (Last week we had some really interesting and varied food, with fish and meat on only 1 day.) So far we haven’t needed any “pay back” days, but that wouldn’t be a problem.

Limited space in *The Magazine* prevents me from describing some amusing “stumbling blocks”, but I promise to recount them soon.

Linda M Arch

A *carbon footprint* is the measure of greenhouse gases released in the atmosphere that are generated by our actions. Greenhouse gases (GHG) keep the earth warm and make it habitable for living organisms. An increase in carbon dioxide – a GHG, can lead to increase in global temperature.

A Carbon footprint is usually reported as the equivalent weight of carbon dioxide in tonnes (1,000 kilograms, equivalent to about 2,200lb or to about 98% of an *imperial ton*).

Global warming causes climate change, which poses a serious threat to life on Earth in the forms of widespread flooding and extreme weather. Scientists continue to study global warming and its impact on Earth.

Taking care of the environment is one of the Church of England’s **Five Marks of Mission**.



In aid of  
Wirral Hospice St Johns

# Nearly New Clothing Event

at  
Thornton Hough Women’s Institute Hall  
Neston Road, Thornton Hough, Wirral, CH63 1JL

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2pm to 4pm

**Please bring new/nearly new items, clothes, scarfs, jewellery, shoes and hats that you no longer need**

You may want to leave a donation and choose something to take from items kindly donated by our members

Tea, coffee and cakes will be available

This event is open to everyone. Please come along and support our local charity



# The Red Fox and Little Fox

## Thornton Hough



## A classic country pub and welcoming event space

The Red Fox is 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.

Whilst nestled right next door, the Little Fox is a completely separate space, with our own bar, amenities and a gorgeous courtyard and garden to make your own. Our aim is to help you create those special memories and ensure your occasion is just how you imagined. Our highly experienced and committed team are on hand the moment you view our beautiful venue right up until you leave. We welcome bookings for wakes, birthdays, anniversaries, weddings, and other occasions.

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## 'Springfield House'

Built in the 1850s on land previously owned by Baron Mostyn from Flint, 'Springfield House' stood on the site now occupied by Thornton House. It was once the home of Joseph Hirst who was the man responsible for building All Saints' Church.



Next time you go to the Parish Hall pause for a moment, turn around

and look at the high sandstone wall opposite. You can just see the outline of a tall arched gateway, long since blocked up. That was the way Joseph would have walked between his home and his church.

Advertised in the Liverpool Mercury in 1865 for sale as part of the 'Springfield House Estate' *'The house has recently been erected, and is very delightfully situated on the high ground between the rivers Dee and Mersey, and commands one of the most magnificent views of the county, including Welsh scenery.*

*There are pleasure grounds and lodge, vineries, conservatories, melon pits, kitchen garden, and orchard well stocked with fruit trees in full bearing. The house contains breakfast, dining, and drawing rooms, a large kitchen and scullery, butler's pantry and store room on the ground floor, nine bedrooms above, hot and cold baths, and is replete with every convenience suitable for a gentleman's family.*



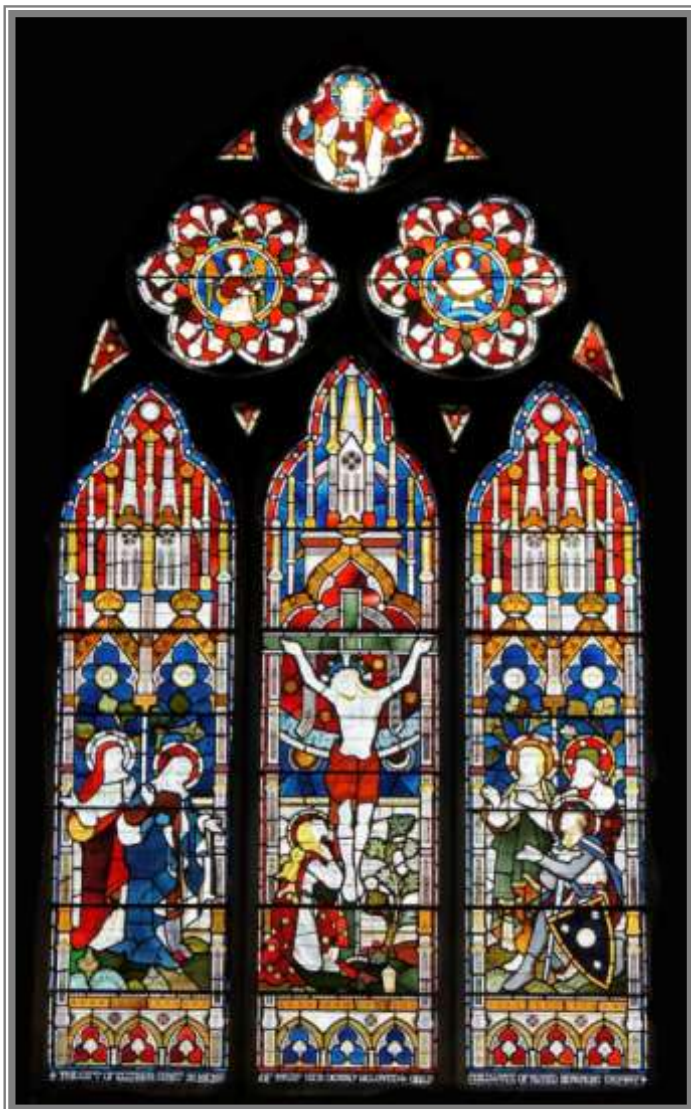
Joseph and his wife Eleanor Ramsey, who was originally from Chester, were described as 'occasional residents' of Thornton Hough. Their main home was at Wilshaw near Huddersfield in Yorkshire. They bought Springfield House in 1867 later renaming it 'Thornton House'.

Joseph was a woollen manufacturer. He built



a church, a school, and cottages for his workforce in Wilshaw. Having bought Springfield House, he then proceeded to build a church, a school, and cottages for the people of Thornton Hough on land that he'd bought from the local farmer a year earlier.

The school, now the parish hall, and the adjoining headmaster's house were finished first. The cottages, named Wilshaw Terrace after his home village, were built in 1870, and the church was completed and consecrated in 1868. With its 120 foot high spire, the church originally had just four clocks, but unable to see any of them from his bedroom window due to the tall pitched roof of the church, Joseph had the smaller clock added higher up the spire.



When the church was built there was only one stained glass window; the one over the altar dedicated to their daughter, Mary, who died in childbirth. She is buried in this elaborate mausoleum in the graveyard at Wilshaw, together with Joseph who died in 1874, and Eleanor who passed away seven years later.



When William Lever came to live in Thornton Hough in 1888, the former Springfield House became the home of his brother James Darcy Lever, his wife Annie and their children; Alice, James Darcy Junior, Robert, and their daughter Annie. The original Victorian house was demolished and the first section of the new Thornton House was built in about 1894. It was later extended in 1905 by adding a billiard room, library, and further bedrooms to



create the existing building, which has since been divided up into multiple occupancy.

James Darcy was not a well man and died at the house in March 1910. Annie his widow continued to live there until she moved to London twelve years later.

**Gavin Hunter**

## The Parkland and Gardens of **Poulton Hall CH63 9LN**

will be open to visitors from **2 to 5 pm**

**Saturday and Sunday May 25th & 26th**

in aid of The Red Cross (Saturday) and Local Charities

Storyteller, Wildflower Meadow, Plant Sales

A round walk of about 1.2 km.

Adults £6 Cream teas £4 CHILDREN FREE Well-behaved dogs welcome

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# Puzzle Corner

## Transport

Your transport is all mixed up.  
Can you sort them out?

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rlstkoeslra	
oesrh	
ykn DOE	

### Number puzzle

2	0	8	5	3
2	7	4	4	6
2	8	9	3	9
<b>2</b>	<b>?</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>?</b>

Which numbers should replace the question marks and why?

*Solutions on page 30*

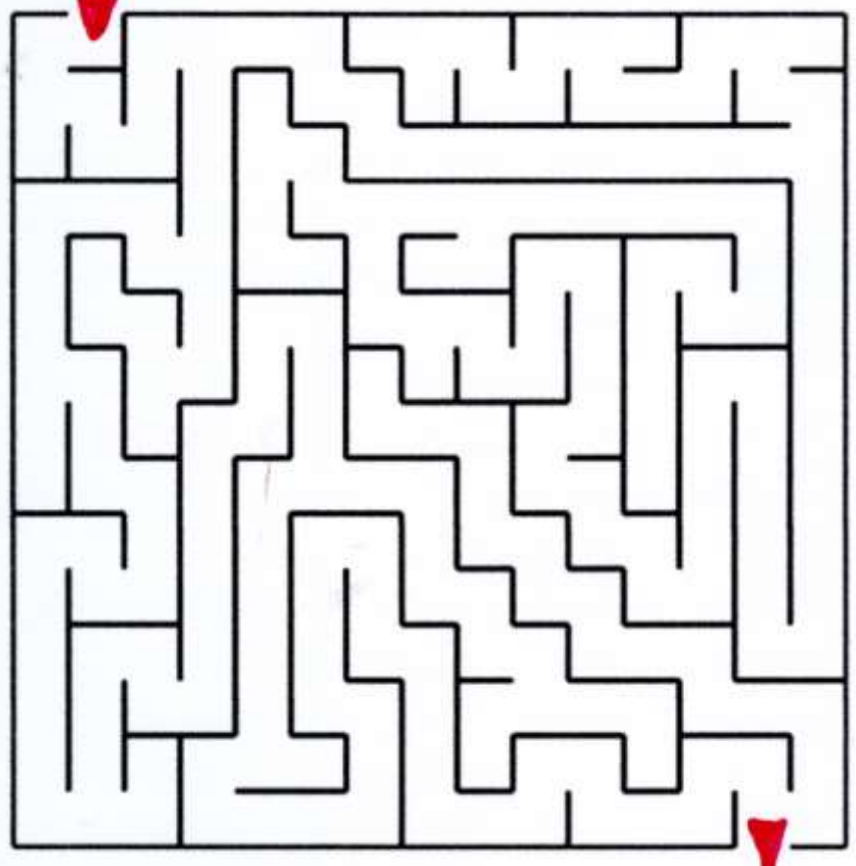
		8	1	9	4	3		
	3	9	5		2	1	6	
	5						9	
				4				
3			2		9			5
		5				9		
		2				6		
		3	9	2	8	5		
7				3				2

### Sudoku

Fill in all the squares with the numbers 1- 9 using them only once horizontally, vertically and in each block of 9 small squares.



Can you find the bus route to the Depot?





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## Life in Burundi

In Burundi, malnourishment and poverty affect more than 70% of the population, making survival a daily struggle. Jobs and food are hard to come by, and those who have homes often have no electricity or running water.

For Aline, life was a constant struggle. She was married young and gave birth to her eldest son, Fisto, when she was just 14 years old. Aline experienced constant abuse at the hands of her violent husband.



A few years later, Aline faced even more devastation. Her husband married another woman, forcing Aline to flee. He prevented her from taking their children with her, and in a further act of cruelty, told the local community that Aline was mentally ill and unable to care for her children.

## How Christian Aid stepped in

Hungry, scorned and alone, Aline took her first step towards her new life. She started by participating in a transformative three-day community workshop, funded by *Christian Aid*.

'I came out with amazing knowledge and skills. The trainer restored a sense of hope and energy in me,' says Aline.

She was taught how to form a Village Savings and Loans Association (VSLA) and establish a steady income. VSLAs mean people can save for their future and borrow money to kickstart small rural businesses. With all she had learned, Aline's dream of getting her children back finally felt possible.

With a small start-up loan, Aline started trading avocados and peanuts locally. With her profits, she bought a bicycle so she could transport greater quantities of goods to markets further afield. Eventually, her hard work had final-



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ly paid off, and she had earned the money she needed to rent a house. Once Aline secured a home for herself, her three eldest sons were able to escape their father and join her. They told Aline that their father had abused them and sent their three young siblings to live with different members of his family.

Aline still hopes that she'll be reunited with her youngest children in time. Today, Aline lives peacefully on her own plot of land in a remote village in the Kayogoro Commune in Makamba Province. She's baked her own bricks and is building a strong home for her and her children in every sense.

Now Aline can afford food, clothes and essential healthcare for her family. She's also purchased solar panels so her children can do their evening homework by electric light. *(from the Christian Aid website)*

The Christian Aid web site has a lot of information about the work the charity undertakes (<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/>) and details of their campaigns across the world.

**We shall be collecting for Christian Aid at our services on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May and Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May.**



**Jonathan Frost  
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## Poetry Corner: Home thoughts from abroad

Robert Browning

*Oh, to be in England  
Now that April's there,  
And whoever wakes in England  
Sees, some morning, unaware,  
That the lowest boughs and the brushwood sheaf  
Round the elm-tree bole are in tiny leaf,  
While the chaffinch sings on the orchard bough  
In England—now!*



Elm tree

*And after April, when May follows,  
And the whitethroat builds, and all the swallows!  
Hark, where my blossomed pear-tree in the hedge  
Leans to the field and scatters on the clover  
Blossoms and dewdrops— at the bent spray's edge—  
That's the wise thrush; he sings each song twice over,  
Lest you should think he never could recapture  
The first fine careless rapture!  
And though the fields look rough with hoary dew,  
All will be gay when noontide wakes anew  
The buttercups, the little children's dower—  
Far brighter than this gaudy melon-flower!*



Sheaf (of corn)



Chaffinch singing



Whitethroat



Whitethroat nest



Swallows in their nest

This charming and much-loved poem evokes a bygone era, when there were stately elm trees all over England, chaffinches were a common sight, along with swallows and their nests under eaves in barns and porches, and hedgerows bordered small fields, with hedgerow trees allowed to flourish.



Elms like limes grow multiple sprouts (suckers) from their bases, and in the elm's case these curve outwards when they reach about two feet (60 cm) so they look like "sheaves". Browning is describing a scene he clearly knows well, as it is "my blossomed pear tree" drooping over the field margin, which is left unploughed so the grass is left to grow with wild flowers. A "bent spray" would now be a can of herbicide to control unwanted bent grass, but here it is the wild grasses sprouting round the edge of the field.



Lime suckers

The poem's lines are not regular in length but they do have rhymes and rhythms, and the short line "The first fine careless rapture" is a masterly description of the thrush's marvellous melodious repetitive singing. And there's the very short line "In England—now." It reads well aloud.



Pear tree blossom

Browning seems apologetic about the state of the fields at first "rough with hoary (old and grey) dew" but assures his reader (or listener) they will soon cheer up, when buttercups open with the sun (along with daisies and sunflowers which are also heliotropic).



Song thrush

Calling buttercups the little children's "dower" is an example of a characteristic of Browning's poetry which annoyed many of his critics and probably accounts for his not being as popular as he might be. A dower is the property or money a woman is due on her husband's death. Using such a legalistic word for children is very peculiar. I suppose it suggests the children have an acknowledged right to pick and enjoy them. Critics would call it "careless and obscure".



Buttercups

Robert Browning (1812-1889) wrote this while he was visiting Italy in 1845, just before he eloped there with Elizabeth Barrett in 1846. It is a fine example of his more accessible dramatic poetry, which includes *My Last Duchess* and *The Pied Piper of Hamelin*.



Melon flowers

**Caroline Lancelyn Green**



Robert Browning  
1812—1889

## A Browning Quotation

**If you get simple beauty and nought else  
You get about the best thing God invents  
That's somewhat,  
and you'll find the soul you've missed  
Within your heart, when you return Him thanks**

This quotation is from a dramatic monologue in which the Italian painter Brother Fillippo Lippi is arguing with the watchmen who are trying to arrest him for being near a house of ill repute. He may have been a monk, but his life was a series of scandals and imprisonments, illegal children and escapades, ending in his murder.

He insisted on painting from life, instead of producing “soulful” presentations of religious themes. His paintings are full of people so finely painted you imagine you could recognise them. The angels in this picture are cheekily peering at the viewer. He had disagreements with all his patrons, but they could not deny that his works are superb, moving, memorable and beautiful.



Fra Lippo Lippi's *Madonna and Child with two angels* (one peeking through the child's legs)

Through his character, Browning argues that a work of art can have a life that has nothing to do with its creator. The viewer or reader interacts with it and his or her response completes the art.

His monologues like *Porphyria's Lover* and *My Last Duchess* are remorseless admissions of murder.

One of his best loved poems is the narrative fable *The Pied Piper of Hamelin*, with its message that breaking a promise can have catastrophic consequences.



A Kate Greenaway illustration for Browning's *Pied Piper of Hamelin*

**Caroline Lancelyn Green**

## A Pope Quotation

**A little learning is a dangerous thing  
Drink deep or taste not the Pierian spring.  
There shallow draughts intoxicate the brain  
And drinking largely sobers us again.**



Alexander Pope

The Pierian spring is the source of knowledge and inspiration for the nine Muses, who in Greek mythology live at the base of Mount Olympus in Pieria. They are daughters of Zeus, chief of the Greek gods. They were born (according to Hesiod) on nine consecutive nights Zeus spent with Mnemosyne, Titan goddess of memory. Each goddess is the Muse of a particular branch of art:



Calliope:	Epic Poetry and Music
Erato :	Love Poetry
Euterpe:	Lyric Poetry
Polyhymnia:	Sacred Poetry
Urania:	Astronomy
Clio :	History
Terpsichore:	Dance
Thalia:	Comedy
Melpomene:	Tragedy

Drinking from the Pierian spring thus becomes a metaphor for acquiring artistic knowledge and inspiration, but Pope is recalling Publius Syrus, writing in the first century BC “Better be ignorant of a matter than half know it.”

His *Essay on Criticism* has given us many well-known quotations, including this one, advising people not to rush into print without bothering to establish the facts, because they are liable to exaggerate and mislead. Three centuries later this advice is still relevant.

Pope’s most popular work is *The Rape of the Lock*, a satirical retelling of a true event, in heroic couplets (rhyming iambic pentameter) as if it were a major catastrophe on a par with Classical Greek Tragedy.

**Caroline Lancelyn Green**



The snipping of the ringlet  
by Aubrey Beardsley



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We enjoyed a very informative talk from make-up artist, Jen Hunter, at our February meeting on how to apply make-up, including tips on how to achieve the best effects. We are looking forward to seeing our 'more glamorous than ever' ladies! We were expecting a talk from Greer Lacey from Wirral Animal Rescue at our March meeting; unfortunately due to unforeseen circumstances she was unable to attend. Instead, we had a wonderful speaker in Revd Hugh Burgess who led us through everyday life in Uganda using fabulous images of the country and its people.

We enjoyed fabulous pancakes on Valentine's Day at the WI Hall - tasty Keema, a type of savoury mince, and moreish caramelised pineapple and ice cream, as well as traditional lemon and sugar - mmmmm! Many thanks to our ladies. This was followed by a fun quiz and lots of socialising, of course.

On Wednesday 20 March we celebrated Easter early with a social event of tea and scrumptious cakes prepared by our talented ladies. There was an opportunity to create an Easter-themed, decorated egg, hat or biscuits with prizes for each category and an Easter quiz with of course an Easter Egg for the winner!

**THWI Meeting Times:** THWI monthly meetings will return to 7.30 pm start time from our meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> April, 2024.

### Dates for your Diary

On **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> April** 2.00pm at the WI Hall: ***Clothes Shwop***, proceeds to St John's Hospice. A perfect way to recycle new and nearly new items that are no longer required and perhaps pick up a new outfit to take home. Tea and cake available. All welcome!

In the last two years we have enjoyed successful evening entertainment at the hall with *Port Sunlight Sea Dogs* in 2022 and in 2023 *The Western Approaches Swing Singers*. This year on **Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 7.00pm** at the WI Hall we welcome entertainment by the *Homebirds Duo*; the evening will include supper, great raffle prizes and lots of fun. Bring your own booze. Cost £16.00, all welcome. Please contact Betty Hodges, telephone 336 3572 for tickets.

**Our next evening meeting** will be on **Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30 pm**. Sue Byrne from **The Wardrobe** in **Neston** will tell us all about **Personal Style and Colour**.

If you would like more information about Thornton Hough WI please contact us:

[www.facebook.com/ThorntonHoughW.I1926](https://www.facebook.com/ThorntonHoughW.I1926)

email: [thwi.thorntonhough@btinternet.com](mailto:thwi.thorntonhough@btinternet.com)

website: <https://thorntonhoughwi.org>

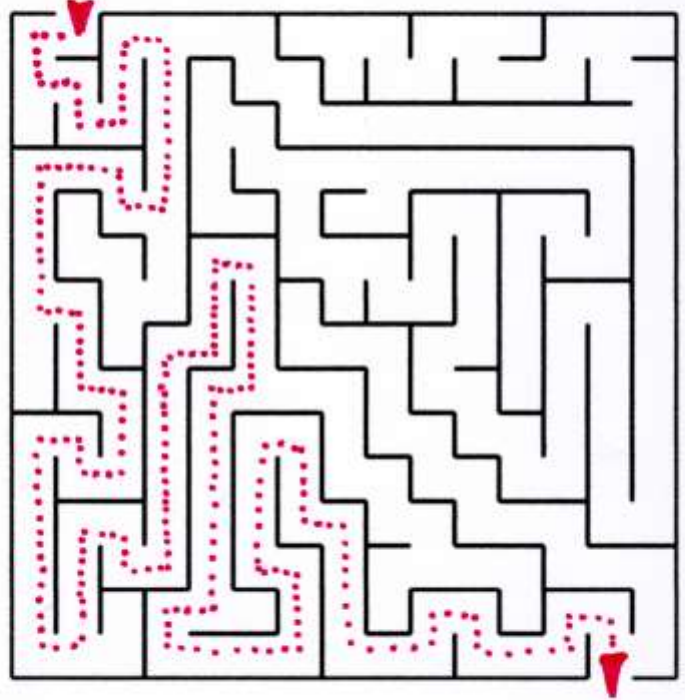
**Janet Gaywood**

## Solutions to the puzzles

### Sudoku

2	6	8	1	9	4	3	5	7
7	3	9	5	8	2	1	6	4
1	5	4	6	7	3	2	9	8
9	1	6	3	4	5	7	8	2
3	8	7	2	6	9	4	1	5
4	2	5	8	1	7	9	3	6
8	9	2	7	5	1	6	4	3
6	4	3	9	2	8	5	7	1
5	7	1	4	3	6	8	2	9

### Bus route to depot



### Mixed-up transport

car, boat, submarine, bus, aeroplane, yacht, motorbike, scooter, bicycle, jet, aerofoil, helicopter, catamaran, feet, wheelchair, coach, lorry, van, tram, dinghy, skis, rollerskates, horse, donkey.

### Number puzzle

The bottom number of each column is the average (arithmetic mean) of the other numbers in the column. The numbers are 5 and 6.

**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2024**

## Your favourite hymns

*Come and sing your favourite hymns at our special service at 6:30pm on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> June.*



To mark *Music Sunday*, we are having a service where you can request that we sing a hymn that is some way “special” to you. It may be a hymn that reminds you of a significant event or of a special person, a hymn that has given you encouragement, a hymn that fills you with joy or just your favourite hymn. At the service we shall invite members of the congregation to request a hymn and, if they are willing, to share the reason they would like us to sing that particular hymn. Further details will be announced near the time.

*Music Sunday* is an initiative by the Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) to help promote awareness of music in worship. The RSCM is an educational charity that promotes the best use of music in worship, church life, and the wider community.

All Saints' Thornton Hough is affiliated to the RSCM and at this special service there will be a collection to support the work of the RSCM.

## Cookery Corner

### Cauliflower Cheese

One cauliflower  
Small leek  
Vegetable stock cube  
Half pint milk  
Cornflour  
3 or 4oz Cheddar or Red Leicester cheese  
Smoked paprika and seasoning



Split the cauliflower into florets and cook for a few minutes in salted water. Drain and tip into a greased casserole.

Slice the leek and simmer in milk with the vegetable stock cube till softened.

Mix a dessertspoon of cornflour with a little milk or water, stir into the leek and milk mixture and bring to the boil, stirring until thickened.

Add the cheese in slices and stir until a smooth sauce is formed.

Pour this over the cauliflower and sprinkle with smoked paprika.

Bake at 350°F, 180°C for 20 minutes.

### Bun Loaf

12oz self-raising flour  
1 teaspoon mixed spice  
¼ teaspoon salt  
4oz butter  
4oz sugar  
4oz currants  
2oz sultanas  
2oz raisins  
1oz peel  
½oz chopped walnuts  
3 tablespoons marmalade  
1 egg  
¼ pint milk



Sieve flour, salt and spice together and rub in the butter. Stir in the sugar, fruit, nuts and marmalade.

Beat the egg and add with the milk and other ingredients.

Beat well and put into a 2lb greased loaf tin.

Bake at 350°F, 180°C for 1 hour, or until done.



## Sunday Bible Readings

### April—May 2024

#### April

#### 7 **Second Sunday of Easter**

Acts 4: 32-35

John 20: 19-30

#### 14 **Third Sunday of Easter**

Acts 3: 12-19

Luke 24: 36b-48

#### 21 **Fourth Sunday of Easter**

Acts 4: 5-12

John 10: 11-18

#### 28 **Fifth Sunday of Easter**

Acts 8: 26-40

John 15: 1-8

#### May

#### 5 **Sixth Sunday of Easter**

Acts 10: 44-48

John 15: 9-17

#### 9 **Ascension Day**

Acts 1: 1-11

Luke 24: 44-52

#### 12 **Seventh Sunday of Easter**

Acts 1: 15-17, 21-26

John 17: 6-19

#### 19 **Pentecost Sunday**

Acts 2: 1-12

John 15: 26-27, 16: 4b-15

#### 26 **Trinity Sunday**

Isaiah 6:1-8

John 3: 1-17



All Saints' Church,  
Thornton Hough

Toybox meets in the Parish Hall from 10am to 11:30am,  
usually on the second Monday of the month (but not always!)



#### Dates of future meetings

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2024  
(3<sup>rd</sup> Monday)

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2024

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2024

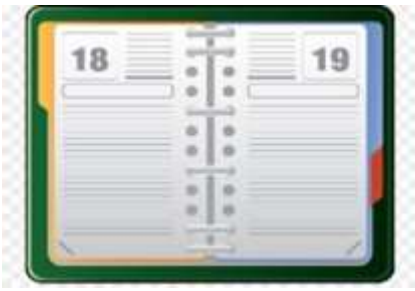
Monday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2024

£2 per family

Free play, craft, story, songs and refreshments

Babies and toddlers with their carers (mums, dads, grandparents etc)  
All welcome.





# Parish Diary

## April—May 2024

### April

1	Monday		Bank Holiday
3	Wednesday	10:30am	Holy Communion
<b>7</b>	<b>Sunday</b>		<b>Second Sunday of Easter</b>
		8:00am	Holy Communion
		10:30am	Holy Communion
10	Wednesday	10:30am	Holy Communion
		2:15pm	ACF: Emmaus (Marc Bamber)
12	Friday	7:00pm	Choir Practice
<b>14</b>	<b>Sunday</b>		<b>Third Sunday of Easter</b>
		10:30am	Holy Communion
		6:30pm	Choral Evensong
15	Monday	10:00am	Toybox
16	Tuesday	7:30pm	PCC Meeting
17	Wednesday	10:30am	Holy Communion
		7:00pm	Commissioning of Revd Vicky Barrett as Rural Dean
19	Friday	7:00pm	Choir Practice
<b>21</b>	<b>Sunday</b>		<b>Fourth Sunday of Easter</b>
		8:00am	Holy Communion
		10:30am	Holy Communion
24	Wednesday	10:30am	Coffee Morning
26	Friday	7:00pm	Choir Practice
<b>28</b>	<b>Sunday</b>		<b>Fifth Sunday of Easter</b>
		10:30am	Holy Communion

### May

1	Wednesday	10:30am	Holy Communion
3	Friday	7:00pm	Choir Practice
<b>5</b>	<b>Sunday</b>		<b>Sixth Sunday of Easter</b>
		8:00am	Holy Communion
		10:30am	Holy Communion
6	Monday		Early May Bank Holiday

## May

8	Wednesday	10:30am 2:15pm	Holy Communion ACF: Wirral Hospice St Johns (Jamie-Leigh Burgess)
<b>9</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Ascension Day</b>	
		7:00pm	Holy Communion
10	Friday	7:00pm	Choir Practice
<b>12</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Seventh Sunday of Easter</b>	
		10:30am	Holy Communion
		11:45am	Annual Church meetings Start of Christian Aid Week
13	Monday	10:00am	Toybox
15	Wednesday	10:30am	Holy Communion
	Thursday		5 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Vicky's appointment
16			
17	Friday	7:00pm	Choir Practice
18	Saturday		End of Christian Aid Week
<b>19</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Pentecost Sunday</b>	
		8:00am	Holy Communion
		10:30am	Holy Communion
		3:00pm	Party to celebrate the 5 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of Vicky's appointment as our Vicar
22	Wednesday	10:30am	Coffee Morning
24	Friday	7:00pm	Choir Practice
<b>26</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Trinity Sunday</b>	
		10:30am	Holy Communion
27	Monday		Spring Bank Holiday
29	Wednesday	10:30am	Holy Communion
31	Friday	7:00pm	Choir Practice

## June

<b>2</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>First Sunday of Trinity</b>	
		8:00am	Holy Communion
		10:30am	Holy Communion

## Who to contact about our groups

<b>Bible Study and Prayer</b>	Shirley McEvoy	336 3449
<b>A Church Fellowship (ACF)</b>	Helen Tankard	hdt1426@sky.com 648 0181
<b>Church Choir</b>	Iain Stinson	iain@stinson.org.uk 342 4800
<b>The Magazine Team</b>		editor@allsaintsth.org.uk
	Patsy Baker	336 3273
	Revd Vicky Barrett	336 2766
	Brian Morris	336 1393
	Iain Stinson	342 4800

## 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.

### From the Registers March 2024

#### **Baptisms**

17<sup>th</sup> March

Molly Doris MAIRS and Isaac Gregory MAIRS

#### **Burials**

1<sup>st</sup> February

June PIGGOTT (Aged 93)

*May she rest in peace and rise in glory*

Thank you to all those who have contributed to this edition of *The Magazine*. Contributions for future editions of *The Magazine* are very welcome. 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  
May 15<sup>th</sup> 2024**

## Who's who at All Saints

<b>Vicar</b>	<b>Revd Vicky Barrett</b>	336 2766 vicar@allsaintsth.org.uk <i>The Vicar's normal day off is Friday.</i>
<b>Churchwardens</b>	<b>Alan Splitt</b> <b>June Allcock</b>	alan@allsaintsth.org.uk 353 1079 June@allsaintsth.org.uk
<b>Verger</b>	<b>Margaret Gamble</b>	336 7540
<b>PCC Secretary</b>	<b>Sue Stinson</b>	342 4800 sue@allsaintsth.org.uk
<b>PCC Treasurer</b>	<b>Iain Stinson</b>	342 4800 iain@stinson.org.uk
<b>Planned Giving Secretary</b>	<b>Brian Morris</b>	336 1393 brimorris@sky.com
<b>Prayer Link Coordinator</b>	<b>Rhona Mayhew</b>	
<b>Safeguarding Officer</b>	<b>Linda Arch</b>	safeguarding@allsaintsth.org.uk
<b>Health &amp; Safety Officer</b>	<b>Graham Seagrave</b>	health&safety@allsaintsth.org.uk
<b>Parish Hall Caretaker and Bookings</b>	<b>Margaret Gamble</b>	336 7540
<b>Director of Music</b>	<b>Iain Stinson</b>	342 4800 iain@stinson.org.uk
<b>Toybox Coordinator</b>	<b>Sue Stinson</b>	342 4800 sue@allsaintsth.org.uk
<b>Magazine Contributions</b>		editor@allsaintsth.org.uk
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