

All Saints' Church Thornton Hough

The Magazine



April—May 2025

All Saints' Church, Thornton Hough

Holy Week

13th April Palm Sunday

10:30am Holy Communion
with distribution of palm crosses

17th April Maundy Thursday

7pm Holy Communion

18th April Good Friday

10:30am A Meditation for Good Friday

Easter

20th April Easter Sunday

8am Holy Communion (BCP)
10:30am Holy Communion



All Saints' Church, Thornton Hough

Passion Sunday

Sunday 6th April
at 10:30am

**A service of
readings and music
for Passiontide**

Everybody welcome



Annual Parish Meetings

Sunday 11th May

at 11:45am

following the 10:30am service.

*Reports, election of churchwardens
and PCC members.*

***Please make it a priority to attend
these important meetings.***



Have you noticed the notices?

There are lots of notices around our church. We have been working to compile a brand new Electoral Roll and had to put up notices for at least two months to tell everyone about it. There are notices about our Annual Meetings on Sunday, 11th May. We have notices about Safeguarding, and lots of our activities and events in church and the wider community.

Have you noticed the notices? Or do they go unnoticed?

Things grow or die back in our gardens, and we barely notice, until either the bloom is so full or the decay so evident that you can't **not** notice. People vie for our attention: through curated images on social media, through the noise and bustle around us. It becomes a blur.

Jesus noticed. When people tried to hustle him away from those in need, such as the blind beggar Bartimaeus, or even tried to hide from him (Think of Zacchaeus climbing a tree to catch a glimpse of Jesus Luke 19!) he still noticed. Jesus stopped to look up and told him that "I must stay at your house today."

His parables are peppered with remarks which invite us to take note as he did: to consider, to look again, to stop and really notice.

What might noticing mean for you at this time? It might mean taking time to listen and observe more deeply when someone responds to the question, "How are you?" with, "Oh, fine." It might mean making a point of thanking someone for something they have done for you, recognising their contribution or effort. It might mean taking our gaze away from our own world and considering someone else's view.

It might mean simply taking a deep breath, slowing down for long enough to enjoy the life and world around us, being thankful. It might mean reflecting that you are noticed by Jesus. This is the joyful message of Easter: you are loved, you are precious, you are welcomed with Christ's open arms.

Love and blessings,

Vicky



Notes on the PCC meetings held on 11th February and 11th March

The first major topic on the agenda in February was ***Carbon footprint reduction: the next steps***. Vicky asked that we record her gratitude to Linda Arch for keeping this topic in our consciousness, for writing the articles in The Magazine and for bringing it to the PCC.

A Rocha UK's Eco Church programme equips churches in England and Wales to care for creation. The new A Rocha Eco Church survey provides a framework to support churches and their leadership to take practical action on caring for God's earth. The survey covers five key areas of church life:

- Worship and Teaching,
- Buildings and energy,
- Land and nature,
- Community and global engagement,
- Lifestyle.

The survey would guide us and help us to assess our progress towards a Bronze, Silver or Gold Eco Church award! Vicky suggested that we should register. Caring for the environment is one of the five Marks of Mission.

The **End of Year Finance Report** for 2024 was approved by the PCC in February. In March Iain Stinson, the Treasurer reported that the accounts and all relevant materials had been passed to the Independent Examiner, Verity Smith, for examination.

We are now on the **new energy tariffs** and recent energy bills have looked terrifying! There are challenges with heating the church efficiently. It is a single brick building with no insulation, draughty windows and doors and possible damp. The church is currently heated to 6°C overnight and 8°C during the day. The heating is boosted for 4 hours before a service to a target temperature of 16°C. The frost protection system cuts in when the temperature drops to 4°C. The Treasurer currently adjusts the timers in the church and tries to keep the expenditure in check.

Temperatures in the Parish Hall are harder to regulate. The controller is a basic twenty-four hour controller with two periods (one for daytime and one for nighttime). There are two zones, 1 - the main hall, and 2- the small hall, office and entrance corridor. Each of the two zones has its own thermostat. We rely on setting the thermostats to manage the temperature in the building. A more sophisticated controller could be helpful but we would need someone to program it and to monitor it. If you use the hall please 'do your bit' by turning the thermostats down afterwards!

In March it was reported that a broken **church heating boiler** had been repaired (at a cost of £2,300) but the heating continues to be a potential problem due to the difficulty in sourcing parts. The heating system in the church is nearing the

end of its life and we need to start looking at our options for the future.

The **Fabric, Health and Safety** team have been working hard to keep up with routine maintenance, obtain quotes for much-needed roof repairs at Hirst Cottage and to address the problem of the unstable wall in Church Road. We need a **Faculty** before we can go ahead with the wall repair. June Allcock has been in touch with the Diocese and with the Church Architect. She was thanked for her work in taking this forward. We also need a spire survey and June has approached the Church Architect about this.

These **major projects are presenting challenges** to our finances. The Treasurer has estimated that we might need a total of £49,000 that we do not have readily available to cover the cost. The PCC agreed that we should approach the Chester Diocese Board of Finance and ask them to sell parts of the trusts that they hold on our behalf.

The Treasurer had put in a claim to recover some of the VAT we have paid; the government's **Listed Places of Worship Scheme** allows the VAT on certain expenditure for the maintenance and repair of "listed" places of worship to be repaid. All Saints' is a grade II listed building and so we can, subject to certain rules, claim the VAT back on qualifying expenditure.

For open plate collection, we are able to claim Gift Aid under the **Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme** up to a limit of £8,000 each tax year. We reached the limit in January and are now not able to claim Gift Aid on our open plate collections. We are likely to miss out claiming on perhaps around £300. If those donors who currently give through the open plate instead signed a Gift Aid declaration and made their gifts using either Standing Orders or Weekly Giving Envelopes, then we would be able to collect Gift Aid on their donations (without limit). If you pay enough tax please think whether this is something you could do.

Linda Arch, the Parish Safeguarding Officer continues to be proactive in keeping **safeguarding** high profile and monitoring our compliance with the requirements.

In the March meeting the PCC welcomed Kate Allen as a **new co-opted member of the PCC**. We are very grateful to Kate for agreeing to join us.

We need to produce a completely new **Electoral Roll** in 2025 and the forms are now at the back of church. The deadline for inclusion on the roll before the Annual meeting is 20th April. Please remember to fill in a form and to encourage others to do so. As Vicky has said, this is a way of showing that 'this is my church'.

The next few weeks are important ones in the church year. We heard that the Lent Course had started and was being well received. Arrangements were in hand for Mothering Sunday, the Passion Service this year will have readings from John's Gospel and music by Bob Chilcott. At Easter there is a service planned for Maundy Thursday (in the evening), there will be a service of meditation starting at 10:30am on Good Friday and on Easter Sunday we celebrate the risen Christ with

services of Holy Communion at 8am and 10:30am.

Also in March the **Annual Report** for 2024 was approved by the PCC. It will be distributed to people in the church before the Annual Meeting. It provides a record of the year locally but is also a formal document which is uploaded to the Charity Commission website and sent to the Diocese.

Thank you to all the people who have contributed to the report. It reflects just how much is happening in our growing church. As we look to the future we have much to say thank you for and we pray that Christ will be at the heart of all we do in 2025 and beyond.

Sue Stinson, PCC Secretary



Christian Aid Week 11th – 17th May

In Guatemala, the climate crisis is killing Amelia's precious crops. She relies on the land to feed her eight-year-old son, Lázaro, and four-year-old daughter, Yakelin. Amelia says: 'I worry about what my children will eat.'

A river passes through Amelia's farm, but deadly heatwaves are causing it to run dangerously low. Both communities and crops stand to lose life-giving water. The cruel injustice is that Indigenous communities like Amelia's have done the least to cause the climate crisis, yet they endure its impact the most.

Amelia's hopeful that she can combat extreme weather by changing the way she farms. With the support of specialist training from our partner, Congcoop, Amelia's planting resilient crops, conserving water and making fertiliser.

Amelia's also a leader in her community, sharing her knowledge with other households, so that one day, no family will worry about their children going without food. This is the unstoppable power of Amelia's hope in action.

Christian Aid, now in its 80th year, and with 7 days to make a difference, every gift, act and prayer counts.

Will you demonstrate the unstoppable power of hope and help fund vital tools and training, so farmers like Amelia can push back against the climate crisis and beat hunger?



At All Saints' we shall be collecting for Christian Aid at our services from May 11th to 18th — please give what you can.



From the churchwardens



I'm sure we're not alone in thinking that in many ways the last 12 months seem to have flown! Can you believe that we are fast approaching the Annual General Meeting and the appointment of people to roles, such as PCC members and churchwarden.

Volunteers are such an integral part of our English way of life, providing essential support and services across all areas of our lives, such as helping children with their reading, caring for the sick, animal welfare, caring for our environment and so many more – including helping to keep our parish churches up and running.

Whatever your background, whether in employment, or running a household, you will have developed all sorts of skills. Patsy worked as a physiotherapist in the NHS for over 40 years, assisted with "Riding for the Disabled" as a helper, group, and regional physiotherapist for over 40 years and was a volunteer with "meals on wheels" for many years. She has served in the church choir since 1983.

June worked for the Inland Revenue for over 40 years and assessing and collecting tax (sorry!) was just a part of that. Management, investigation work, complaints handling, project management, process improvement, governance and assurance to name but a few of the other types of work undertaken during her career. She also volunteered as a Special Constable and was a National Trust Volunteer for a number of years.

You will all have a wealth of skills and experience. If you would like to find out more about volunteering opportunities at All Saints, do speak to Revd Vicky, us, or one of the PCC members. We would love to welcome you to the team.

Patsy and June

Annual Parish Meetings Sunday 11th May

These will take place on Sunday 11th 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).

England — People and Places

So you think you know this country?

1. Which is the only English county to border only one other?
2. Which Derbyshire town is famous for its Church with the twisted spire?
3. How many counties share a border with Bedfordshire?
4. Which is the largest island in the Bristol Channel?
5. Which is the oldest of the Cambridge University colleges that is still in existence?
6. Which city is the administrative centre for Cumbria?
7. Auckland Castle in County Durham was whose official residence?
8. In which English county is the public school of Eton College?
9. In which Greater Manchester town was the Co-operative Movement founded in 1844?
10. Which is the most visited zoo in the UK?
11. Which part of Britain was known by the Romans as Vectis?
12. Which Herefordshire town is often referred to as "The Birthplace of Tourism"?
13. Which motorway crosses Berkshire East to West?
14. What is the only city in Buckinghamshire?
15. Which town in Gloucestershire is home to the Royal Agricultural University?
16. Which Cambridgeshire town houses a branch of the Imperial War Museum?
17. Where in the UK is the longest pleasure pier in the World?
18. The Roman road known as the Fosse Way starts and ends in which two English counties?
19. From which King did the Dorset town of Lyme Regis receive its Royal charter?
20. In which Cumbrian town was the UK's first nuclear-powered submarine built?

Answers on Page 27



A REFRESHING TAKE ON LEGAL SERVICES

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Origins of hymns No 7 – ‘Angel Voices’

I have always enjoyed singing or playing *‘Angel Voices, ever singing, round thy throne of light’*.

It was written in 1862 (published 1866) by Revd Francis Pott, born in Southwark in 1832. His father ran the family vinegar factory, though his great grandfather Percival Pott had been an eminent surgeon. He studied modern languages at Brasenose College, Oxford (BA 1852, MA 1857), but was ordained in 1856, and appointed to the Curacy in Bishopsworth, Gloucester, and later vicar at Ardingly, Berkshire, then Ticehurst in Sussex.



St John's Church Wingates

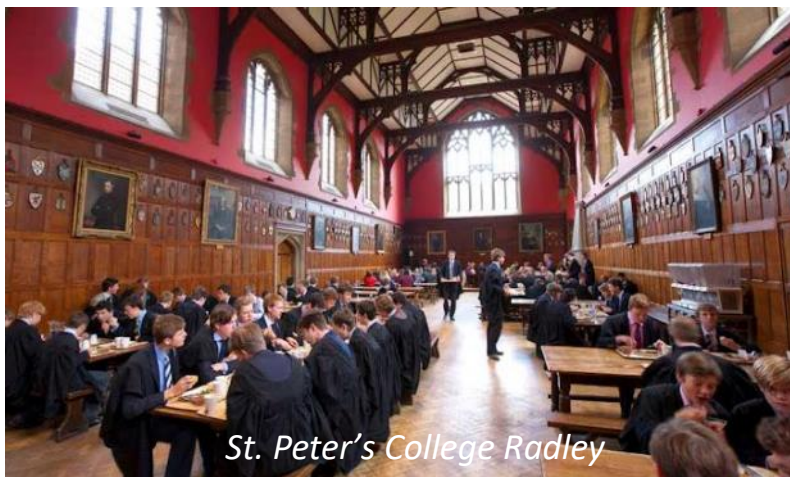
It was in his time at Ticehurst in 1861 that he was invited to write a new hymn to celebrate the installation of a new organ at St John's at Wingates (west of Bolton), Lancashire. It was labelled 'For the dedication of an organ or meeting of choirs.' The text is a typical Victorian evocation of angels around the throne of God in heaven. Aled Jones writes that it seems to him to catch beautifully the experience of standing up in church and singing hymns. The hymn became particularly popular in America and it was our own Arthur Sullivan who composed the original tune used there. Pott took a strong interest in the music used to set his words, but he expressed a dislike for the tune (called 'Angel Voices') penned by Sullivan. He described it as 'a trivial though pretty unfit tune' and he subsequently made it a condition of publication of his hymn that it should *not* be set to Sullivan's tune. His good friend from the Oxford days, Edward G Monk wrote the tune we know today, also called 'Angel Voices' and which has been widely used ever since.

Having studied languages at Oxford, Pott is perhaps better known as a translator than a writer of original hymns. One example of this is 'The strife is o'er, the battle done' (from the Latin 'Finita iam sunt Proelia').

In 1891, Pott was forced to resign from active work as a priest due to his increasing deafness. He went to live at the Birchetts, Speldhurst, Kent, where he continued his hymn-writing work. He died there in 1909.

Turning now to composer Edwin George Monk (1819-1900). He was a native of Frome, Somerset, and studied at both Bath and London. In his early career he was organist at St John's, Midsomer Norton and at Christ Church, Frome. In

1844 he began an association with St Columba's at Rathfarnham (Dublin), then returned to England at St Peter's College, Radley, Oxon. In 1847 he moved to Oxford University where he pursued an academic career and was awarded a doctorate in 1856. During his time there he founded a Motet



and Madrigal Society. In 1859 he was appointed organist at York Minster and collaborated with Robert C Singleton (an old friend from Rathfarnham) in editing a new 'Anglican Hymn Book'.

Later, he also oversaw the rebuilding of both the organs at York. Retiring after 25 years at York, he returned to Radley. He is perhaps best known for his editorial work rather than his original compositions. The only hymn tune he has in 'Ancient and Modern' is 'Angel Voices', though it is used not only for 'Angel Voices, ever singing' but also 'Advent Candles tell their story'. The Methodist hymn book 'Singing the Faith' sets to it a hymn 'Come to us, Creative Spirit'. Some of his psalm chants are however still in use, and he also composed five anthems and some choral works for concert use.

Brian Moate

Local Speed reductions on Wirral Roads

Wirral Council are introducing speed reductions for road users on the Wirral and it is hoped that the local roads in Thornton Hough will have their speeds reduced to 20mph in April or soon after. The roads concerned are the estate of Eton, Oxford and Radley Drives, Smithy Hill, Church Road, Raby Road as far as Woodville and Thornton Common Road from North Lodge to the end of Smithy Hill. New 40mph restrictions from Parkgate Lane to Neston Fiveways are planned and are awaiting confirmation from Cheshire West for the cross-border reduction.

Wartime Childhood Memories

I was seven years old when the War began. One of my first memories was being fitted with a gas mask during the first weeks of the war, as we were made to carry a mask with us all the time, for fear of mustard gas bombs being dropped. We were also taught to listen for the air raid sirens.

The first war experience was the bombing of London which began early in the first year. I lived in a small village in Kent called Wrotham, which was on a direct line to London from the coast. Our house was built on the Pilgrims Way. This road was used by Chaucer pilgrims on their way from Lambeth in London to Canterbury Cathedral.

The bombing was never-ending and lit up the skies every night. Our childhood nights were spent hiding under tables and in cupboards situated under the stairs. We were bombed out of our house three times by land mines. They were being dropped all around us. We had to tiptoe out of our homes and seek refuge with nearby relatives or friends. We were sometimes twenty people in a house.

During the bombing, children from London were billeted with us, and our school was very overcrowded; as a result, not much school work was done.

The Battle of Britain had started and it was fought over the skies of Kent. The scenes of fighting Spitfires were very graphic and left an imprint on my memory. One experience I had was when we were picking fruit in an orchard and an enemy aircraft dived down towards us firing bullets, which spattered the Pilgrims Road each side of us.



We witnessed convoys of battered troops dragging their tired feet through my village on their way back from the Expedition Forces leaving France. A flotilla of small boats went across the English Channel to rescue them from the German army. They were very dark and sombre times.

Eventually the bombing of London and the Battle of Britain by our heroic fighter pilots of Spitfire fame came to an end. Life became quieter as everyone sensed that a turning point had been reached and the fight for freedom entered other parts of the world and conflicts.

Our evacuees from London returned home and the children here in the Kent countryside were given the chance to have a holiday in the west of England.

My mother gave permission for me to go, and my cousin Ena accompanied me. We left our village with a small suitcase each and took the train very early one morning for London. Arriving there, we were transported to Paddington Station to be marshalled with hundreds of other evacuees to board a train taking us all to Somerset, in the west of England.

It was a long journey and we arrived very late in the small town of Chard.

I remember feeling very homesick for the first time in my life. We were ushered into the Town Hall, where we had to sleep on straw mat beds on the hard floor of the clock tower. Our night was interrupted by the clock striking every hour.

Next day, we were taken to the nearby British Restaurant in the town for breakfast. These were cafés for all displaced forces and persons during the War. Afterwards, we were taken back to the Town Hall to be dispersed with various families.

My cousin Ena and I were billeted with Mr and Mrs Board of Shires Farm, Buckland St. Mary. They were a young couple with a small son, Gordon. He adored my cousin and I and would call us "his Girlies." We teased him no end.



Mr Board was exempt from the army as he was doing farm work necessary for the War Effort. On the farm I learned a lot: how to milk cows, a job that was necessary for me to do every morning and evening, as Mr Board had injured his hand. I rode the Shire horse, 'Duke' to be shod at the local blacksmith, a round trip of ten miles. I also drove the farm lorry around the fields during harvest time. I was only eleven years old!

After six months, we returned home. During the time we were away, Hitler sent his Doodlebugs to terrorise us. These were guided missiles packed with explosives designed to intimidate the population. They were mostly unsuccessful as the anti-aircraft guns brought them down before they could do any damage.

The next part of the war was spent trying to catch up with our schooling and education. I managed to win a scholarship to a Technical College in Maidstone and spent many happy years there until I was nineteen and ready to start my catering career in London.

Kathleen Weir. (93 years old.)



The Red Fox and Little Fox

Thornton Hough



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COOKERY CORNER

MUSHROOM FLAN

4 oz pastry small onion
2 oz bacon 1½oz butter
2 eggs ¼ pint milk
2 oz grated cheese Salt and pepper
8 oz mushrooms

Line a 7 inch flan tin with pastry. Chop the onion finely, dice the bacon and cook in butter until soft. Add the sliced mushrooms and cook until just tender. Season well with salt and pepper and put into the flan case. Beat the eggs and milk together, add most of the cheese and pour over the mushroom mixture. Sprinkle with the remaining cheese and bake at 350°F,

180°C (gas mark 4) for 40 mins.



EASTER BUNNY BISCUITS

3 oz margarine 4oz caster sugar 1 egg
8oz plain flour Pinch salt 2 teaspoons mixed spice
1 oz currants egg white Desiccated coconut

Cream margarine and sugar until light and fluffy. Beat in the egg and fold in the flour, salt, spice and currants. Mix well, form into dough and roll out on floured board to ¼ inch thickness. Cut with rabbit shaped cutter, brush with egg white and dip in coconut. Add a currant to mark the eye. Bake on lightly oiled tray or with parchment 375°F, 190°C, gas mark 5 for 15 to 18 minutes. Cool on a wire rack.



**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 7th April (not the second Monday)

Monday 12th May

Monday 9th June

Monday July 14th



**Free play, craft, story, songs and refreshments
Babies and toddlers with their carers (mums, dads, grandparents etc)
All welcome.**

The Storeton Mission



Thornton Hough, Raby, and Brimstage all lie within All Saints' Parish, but the village of Storeton is in the Parish of Bebington's St Andrews and at one time had its own church, known as 'The Storeton Mission'.

Storeton formed part of an extensive estate acquired by Sir William Lever, later the first Viscount Leverhulme, following the death of the Liverpool shipowner Sir Thomas Brocklebank in 1911. The village and the surrounding land were later transferred into the ownership of Lever Brothers in 1921, but it was the avowed intention of Leverhulme to establish a church there for the local residents. If the original plans for the area had come to fruition, Storeton would have become the centre of a rapidly expanding population.

After Thomas Brocklebank bought the estate from Sir William Stanley of Hooton in the mid-1800s he built a school for the villagers. The schoolhouse is still there and is now a private residence. It consisted of the school mistress' house and a single schoolroom 32 feet by 17 feet. Entrance to the school was

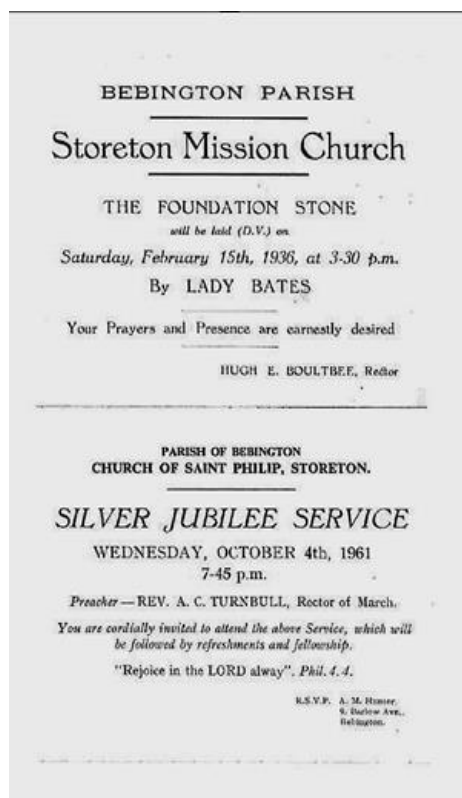
Worshipped In Club

THE late Lord Leverhulme showed great interest in the pretty little village of Storeton, Wirral, which is close to his former residence, Thornton Manor.

Among his many gifts to the villagers was a site for a new mission church. The church has been badly needed, for the villagers have worshipped for years around the billiards tables in the local social club. The scheme to build the church has been held up for a long time; but now the plans are almost complete, and nearly £1,000 has been raised by the villagers.

through the porch of the teacher's house – a Miss Banks who had been there since 1869 when there were some 70 pupils. But, by 1909 attendance was just 39 pupils, the school closed and the schoolroom became the Storeton Working Men's Club. It was here that the local people: farmers, land-workers, and their families, held their church meetings every Sunday for over fifty years. Apparently the clubroom was very draughty, had no warmth, and they met around the billiard table!

St Andrew's parish discussed building a church in the village for a long time. Plans were finally drawn up in 1929 to build between what is now Lever Causeway and Landican Lane, on land which had been donated by the first Viscount Leverhulme before his death in 1925. Dedicated to St Philip, initially the building would accommodate two hundred people.



Ultimately, with the proposed development of the area, this would then become the parish room for a much larger church. Lady Bates, wife of Sir Percy Bates of Hinderton Hall who was the Chairman of the Cunard-White Star Line, laid the foundation stone on Saturday 15th February 1936. The building was completed surprisingly quickly and, on October 19th 1936, The Bebington News reported that *“The new mission church at Storeton, which had been erected at a cost of £2,200 was dedicated by the Bishop of Chester, Dr G.F.Fisher. The little church was filled to overflowing and a large crowd of people stood in the grounds and in the adjoining road to listen to the service, which was relayed by means of loud-speakers.”*

Sir Percy himself donated a ship's bell recovered from the White Star Line vessel 'Mauretania' for use as their church bell.

However, with the exception of some houses on Stanley Avenue, the anticipated development of the area never took place and St Philip's Mission Church was finally closed and put up for sale. Originally planned to serve as a church hall, the building was never consecrated. It was converted into a private residence, and in 1989 the church council donated the bell to the Maritime Museum where it is still on display. Rebuilt after a devastating fire in the 1990s, the house is still there, and the field intended for the church itself is now being grazed by some rather attractive belted-galloway cattle!



Gavin Hunter

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		9						7
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2			4		7		3	
		7		3		6		
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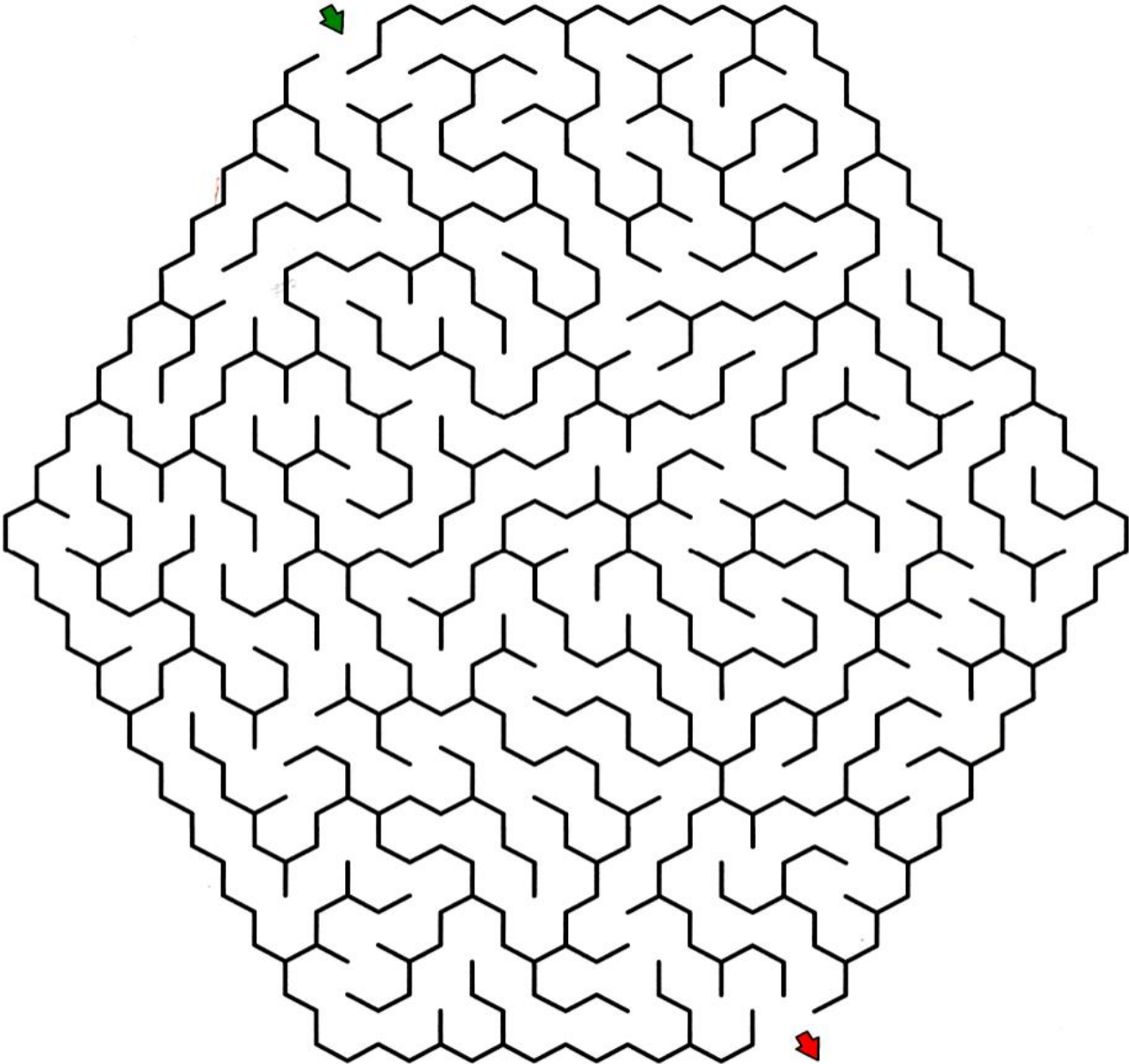
Sudoku

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

Solution is on Page 27

Can you find your way through this **amazing maze**?

Solution is on page 27





THORNTON HALL
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Thornton Hall Grill
Menu

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à la carte creations



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England Word Search

E	G	D	I	R	B	N	O	D	N	O	L	N	B	U
P	H	E	G	G	C	U	B	K	R	O	Y	O	Y	N
E	S	F	K	R	U	S	C	I	B	A	X	D	E	I
E	I	R	O	V	L	A	R	K	G	B	Y	N	L	O
H	F	W	D	E	P	E	R	E	I	B	Z	O	B	N
S	N	N	W	G	N	I	K	D	T	N	E	L	M	J
H	J	E	M	S	S	P	I	H	C	S	G	N	E	A
R	J	L	O	O	P	R	E	V	I	L	E	H	W	C
S	H	A	K	E	S	P	E	A	R	E	N	H	A	K
H	T	C	I	R	T	S	I	D	E	K	A	L	C	M

Can you find the following words associated with England in the box above?

Big Ben, Buckingham, Chester, Crown, Chips, Fish, Guard, Jewels,
Lake District, Liverpool, London, London Bridge, Shakespeare, Sheep,
Union Jack, Wembley, York

*As you look for the hidden words, remember that they can be horizontal,
vertical, or diagonal—forward or backward.*

Solution on Page 27

Electoral Roll

Every congregation in the Church of England has to create a completely new Electoral Roll this year. Even if you have signed up in the past, you will need to do so again to remain on the Electoral Roll. If you haven't done so before, now is a good time to sign up. If you consider yourself a *regular* at our services or live in the parish, then you are encouraged to complete an Electoral Roll form.

By being on our Electoral Roll, you are entitled to vote at our Annual Meeting, and be on the PCC. It's also a simple way of saying, "Yes, this is my church."

Electoral Roll application forms are available at the back of church. Please return completed forms to one of the church wardens or to the PCC Secretary or to the Vicar.

Completed forms must be received by Sunday April 20th (Easter Day).

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When fishes flew and forests walked
 And figs grew upon thorn
 Some moment when the moon was blood
 Then surely I was born

With monstrous head and sickening cry
 And ears like errant wings,
 The devil's walking parody
 On all four-footed things.

The tattered outlaw of the earth,
 Of ancient crooked will;
 Starve, scourge, deride me: I am dumb,
 I keep my secret still.

Fools! For I also had my hour;
 One far fierce hour and sweet:
 There was a shout about my ears,
 And palms before my feet.

G. K. Chesterton is probably best known now for his delightful character Father Brown, the amateur detective Roman Catholic priest to be seen on the popular television series based on 53 short stories, which have previously inspired radio and film versions. He was a prominent writer in the early 20th century, publishing romances, fantasies, parables, poems and allegories all with morals and lessons based on his beliefs, which crystallised in 1922 when he converted to Catholicism.

The Donkey is probably his best-known poem, and it is typical of his other writing: beautifully crafted, witty, mysterious, surprising, with a Christian message and a twist at the end. Some have suggested it's a pity he had to reveal the identity of the speaker by a title at the start.



Gilbert Keith Chesterton
 (1874 - 1936)



Exocoetus "flying fish"

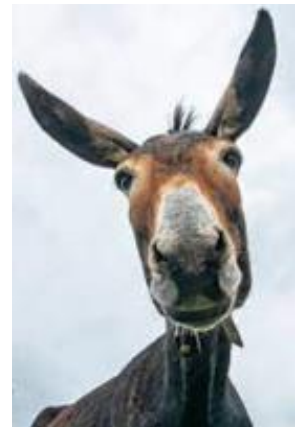


Ent from
The Lord of the Rings II
 by J. R. Tolkien



Blood moon at lunar eclipse

The first stanza conjures a strange and potentially terrifying world: In the real world flying fish don't really fly; only in J.R.R. Tolkien's Middle Earth do forests - unlike Macbeth's Burnham Wood - really walk, (Tolkien admired Chesterton greatly); like the blue moon which rarely occurs, the blood red moon can occasionally be seen, but only in the tropics, where it is an ominous portent; Jesus tells his disciples that good cannot come from bad, just as you can't get figs from thorn bushes.



Ears like errant wings

In other words, this landscape is abnormal, unnatural, menacing and evil. The first surprise (Chesterton was famously witty and surprising) is the use of the first person at the end of the stanza. We wonder who the speaker can be.

The second stanza describes a common view (from writers like Homer and Aesop) of the donkey as a monstrous aberration, a pony gone wrong, stupid, stubborn and servile: a nasty joke by the devil. Bottom in Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream is given a donkey's head to show what an ass he is. In literature, being likened to a donkey is an insult; being likened to a horse is a compliment.



All over the world donkeys are shockingly mistreated because, although related to horses, they have none of their aggressive instincts. Their nature is to suffer. The donkey, or domesticated African ass, is a close enough relative to the horse for a male donkey (jackass) to mate with a female horse (mare) to produce a mule, another much used (and abused) beast of burden. Their refusal to do anything carelessly has given them the reputation of being stubborn, and their patience and willingness to serve means they can bear much pain. Unlike horses they are not pleasing to the eye, or ear: braying raucously instead of gently whinnying, and with ears that resemble wings that have strayed from their proper place.



The "secret" of the donkey is in plain sight, on its back - the cross. Carrier of Jesus on Palm Sunday, foretold by Zachariah 9:9: "Behold O Zion, your king comes, triumphant and riding on a colt, the foal of a donkey." Chesterton wanted the dignity of every creature, even outcast, despised, malformed and shunned humans, to be acknowledged.

Caroline Lancelyn Green




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Isn't it lovely to see some sunshine as the days get longer and watch the garden burst into life? It really gives you a lift and puts a spring in your step. Thornton Hough WI finally caught up with their missed January meeting. In February we held a pudding afternoon; Gavin Hunter gave a very interesting talk on Thornton Hough village from its first mention in the Domesday Book through its development as a village with the arrival of Joseph Hirst, a Yorkshire mill owner and later William Lever, Lord Leverhulme. This was followed by crumble and custard, pineapple upside down sponge, mint-flavoured chocolate mousse, trifle and light as a feather meringues! A lovely afternoon was enjoyed by all.

Our regular monthly meeting fell on the same day as Shrove Tuesday and instead of our usual refreshments of tea and cake we had pancakes with a selection of scrumptious fillings to recognise the day.

Together with friends from Barnston and Neston WI's, our ladies enjoyed a trip to the Tweed Mill in St Asaph for a day of shopping and companionship. It was a lovely sunny day and a good time was had by all!

We're looking forward to our Easter afternoon tea at the WI Hall on 15 April including a themed Easter quiz and super raffle.

In May we hope to have an evening of entertainment at the Hall. Watch this space...

As well as a full programme which is displayed on the noticeboard outside the WI Hall, Thornton Hough WI has activities and events throughout the year. Our Soup and Social on the third Tuesday of every month from 12.30 at the WI Hall is open to all. Soup, crusty bread, tea and cake for only £3.

If you would like more information about Thornton Hough WI and to see photographs of our activities and events please go to:

www.facebook.com/ThorntonHoughWI1926

email: thwi.thorntonhough@btinternet.com

Website: <https://thorntonhoughwi.org>

Janet Gaywood

2026 All Saints' Calendar

Just a reminder to submit any good and colourful photographs that you have of the village or the surrounding area, to Brian Morris or any of the PCC members in the next few weeks. We can then consider them for selection for the new Calendar.

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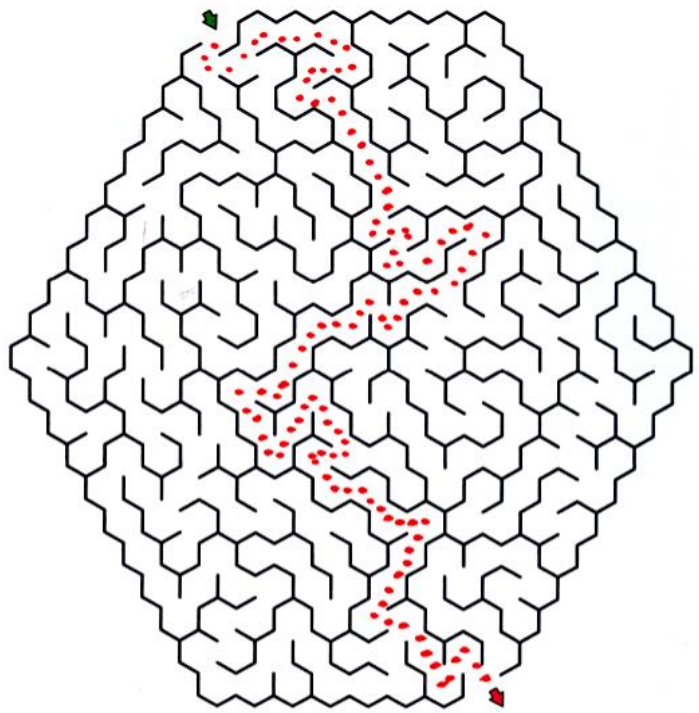


Solutions to Puzzles

The Maze Route — did you work it out?

Sudoku

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



Quiz Answers

- | | | | |
|------------------|----------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Cornwall. | 6. Carlisle. | 11. The Isle of Wight. | 16. Duxford. |
| 2. Chesterfield. | 7. Bishop of Durham. | 12. Ross-on-Wye. | 17. Southend-on-Sea. |
| 3. Four. | 8. Berkshire. | 13. M4. | 18. Devon & Lincolnshire. |
| 4. Lundy. | 9. Rochdale. | 14. Milton Keynes. | 19. Edward I. |
| 5. Peterhouse. | 10. Chester Zoo. | 15. Cirencester. | 20. Barrow-in-Furness. |

Word Search Results

- Big Ben
- Buckingham
- Crown
- Fish
- Chips
- Guard
- Chester
- Jewels
- King
- Lake District
- Liverpool
- London
- London
- Bridge
- Shakespeare
- Sheep
- Wembley
- Union Jack
- York

E	G	D	I	R	B	N	O	D	N	O	L	N	B	U
P	H	E	G	G	C	U	B	K	R	O	Y	O	Y	N
E	S	F	K	R	U	S	C	I	B	A	X	D	E	I
E	I	R	O	V	L	A	R	K	G	B	Y	N	L	O
H	F	W	D	E	P	E	R	E	I	B	Z	O	B	N
S	N	N	W	G	N	I	K	D	T	N	E	L	M	J
H	J	E	M	S	S	P	I	H	C	S	G	N	E	A
R	J	L	O	O	P	R	E	V	I	L	E	H	W	C
S	H	A	K	E	S	P	E	A	R	E	N	H	A	K
H	T	C	I	R	T	S	I	D	E	K	A	L	C	M

St George's Church update

(extract from the Thornton Hough Community Trust minutes)

A planning application for conversion of the church into four apartments had been submitted to WBC APP/24/01631. The church building is in a poor state of repair and needs some major cash injection. It is hoped that this development can generate such an injection.

Original thoughts/discussions included the possible use of the nave for a community space or use but to date there has been no interest shown from any community group.

The building could feasibly be split into nine apartments but the interior alterations needed for such a development would impinge on the internal architecture, most likely detrimentally. Four apartments would fit quite naturally into the space and would be an easier split; the church has the benefit of five entrances, thereby minimising any alteration to the external appearance of the building. These plans are still in the discussion stage with the planners, fire department and English Heritage. Dr Patterson agreed to keep the community updated as to progress.

Questions were raised about the provision of only four car parking spaces and the impact that any additional cars could have on the parking in Manor Road; some residents expressed concern that it was already difficult to park outside their house. Further comments were made about the possible loss of trees within the grounds to accommodate parking. Dr Patterson seemed reasonably confident that this would not be necessary, however the potential is within the plans on the advice of the arboriculturist. The logistics of deliveries and construction needs was touched on but these finer details would need bottoming out in due course.

Dr Patterson agreed to keep the community updated as to progress.

(The Editors thought you would be interested in the progress to date.)

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.

Please send your contributions to editor@allsaintsth.org.uk or hand them to Patsy Baker, Brian Morris or Revd Vicky Barrett.

**The deadline for submission of materials for the next edition is
Thursday 15th May 2025**

A verse from the Bible

“For with God nothing will be impossible”

Luke 1 v:37

Do you have a favourite verse in the Bible?

Please send it to us so we can include it in one of the forthcoming editions.



Bible Readings

April—May

April

6	Passion Sunday	
	Psalm 126	John 12:1-8
13	Palm Sunday	
	Psalm 118:1-2,19-29	Luke 19:28-40
17	Maundy Thursday	
	1 Corinthians 11:23-26	John 13:1-17, 31b-35
18	Good Friday	
	John 18: 1-40	John 19: 1-42
20	Easter Day	
	Acts 10:34-43	Luke 24:1-12
27	Second Sunday of Easter	
	Acts 5:27-32	John 20:19-31

May

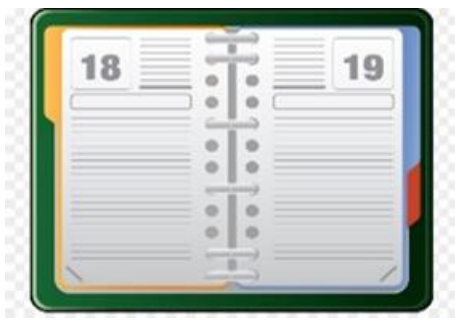
4	Third Sunday of Easter	
	Acts 9:1-6	John 21:1-19
11	Fourth Sunday of Easter	
	Acts 9:36-43	John 10:22-30
18	Fifth Sunday of Easter	
	Acts 11:1-18	John 13:31-35
25	Sixth Sunday of Easter	
	Acts 16:9-15	John 14:23-29
29	Ascension Day	
	Acts 1: 1-11	Luke 24:44-53

Lent Course 2025: “Holy Habits”

Last month we started the Lent Course which is a series on “Following Jesus”, joining in prayer, conversation, reflecting on a Bible reading, worship and going out with a simple “take-home” idea to help support our thinking through the following week.

Interested? Come along to the Vicarage for the final two sessions at **2.30pm Tuesday afternoons** on: **1st April, 8th April.**

Don't worry if you haven't been to the earlier ones. Each one is a “stand-alone” reflection. There will be a course booklet available.



Parish Diary

April—May

April 2025

2	Wednesday	10:30am	Holy Communion
4	Friday	7:00pm	Choir Practice
6	Sunday	Passion Sunday / Fifth Sunday of Lent	
		8:00am	Holy Communion
		10:30am	Service of readings and music for Passiontide
7	Monday	10:30am	Toybox
8	Tuesday	7:30pm	PCC Meeting
9	Wednesday	10:30am	Holy Communion
11	Friday	7:00pm	Choir Practice
13	Sunday	Palm Sunday	
		10:30am	Holy Communion
		6:30pm	Choral Evensong
16	Wednesday	10:30am	Holy Communion
17	Thursday	Maundy Thursday	
		7:00pm	Holy Communion
18	Friday	Good Friday	
		10:30am	Good Friday Meditation
		7:00pm	Short choir Practice
20	Sunday	Easter Day	
		8:00am	Holy Communion
		10:30am	Holy Communion
21	Monday	Easter Monday	
23	Wednesday	10:30am	Coffee Morning
25	Friday	7:00pm	Choir Practice
27	Sunday	Second Sunday of Easter	
		10:30am	Holy Communion
30	Wednesday	10:30am	Holy Communion

May 2025

2	Friday	7:00pm	Choir Practice
4	Sunday	Third Sunday of Easter	
		8:00am	Holy Communion
		10:30am	Holy Communion
5	Monday	Early May Bank Holiday	
7	Wednesday	10:30am	Holy Communion
9	Friday	7:00pm	Choir Practice
11	Sunday	Fourth Sunday of Easter	
		10:30am	Holy Communion
		11:45am	Annual Church Meetings
12	Monday	10:30am	Toybox
13	Tuesday	7:30pm	PCC Meeting
14	Wednesday	10:30am	Holy Communion
15	Thursday	Deadline for Magazine contributions (June/July)	
16	Friday	7:00pm	Choir Practice
18	Sunday	Fifth Sunday of Easter	
		8:00am	Holy Communion
		10:30am	Holy Communion
21	Wednesday	10:30am	Holy Communion
23	Friday	7:00pm	Choir Practice
25	Sunday	Sixth Sunday of Easter	
26	Monday	Spring Bank Holiday	
28	Wednesday	10:30am	Coffee Morning
29	Thursday	Ascension Day	
		7:00pm	Holy Communion
30	Friday	7:00pm	Choir Practice

June 2025

1	Sunday	Seventh Sunday of Easter / Sunday after Ascension Day	
		8:00am	Holy Communion
		10:30am	Holy Communion

Morning Prayer at All Saints'

Come and 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's who at All Saints

Vicar	Revd Vicky Barrett	336 2766 vicar@allsaintsth.org.uk <i>The Vicar's normal day off is Friday.</i>
Churchwardens	June Allcock	353 1079 june@allsaintsth.org.uk
	Patsy Baker	336 3273 patsy@allsaintsth.org.uk
Safeguarding Officer	Linda Arch	safeguarding@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	Brian Morris	336 1393 brimorris@sky.com
Health & Safety Officer	Graham Seagrave	health&safety@allsaintsth.org.uk
Parish Hall Caretaker and Bookings	Margaret Gamble	336 7540
	Iain Stinson	342 4800 iain@stinson.org.uk
Toybox Coordinator	Sue Stinson	342 4800 sue@allsaintsth.org.uk
Magazine Contributions		editor@allsaintsth.org.uk
All Saints Church Website		allsaintsth.org.uk
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