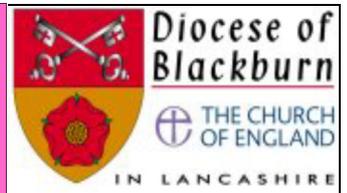




# All Saints Higher Walton

## NEWSLETTER 24th December 2017



For baptisms, weddings or funerals, please contact  
The Vicar Rev. Simon Hunt 01772 335406

Visit our **NEW** website  
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### A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS FROM ALL SAINTS' CHURCH



#### JANUARY SUNDAY SERVICES

7 <sup>th</sup> January <i>6<sup>th</sup> The Epiphany</i>	8.00am	Holy Communion BCP
	10.00am	GOOD NEWS AT TEN
14 <sup>th</sup> January <i>Epiphany 2</i>	9.15am	All-age Worship
	11.00am	Holy Communion CW
21 <sup>st</sup> January <i>Epiphany 3</i>	9.15am	All-age Worship with Holy Communion
	11.00pm	Morning Worship CW
28 <sup>th</sup> January <i>Epiphany 4</i> <i>25<sup>th</sup> Conversion of Paul</i> <i>26<sup>th</sup> Timothy and Titus</i>	8.00am	Holy Communion BCP
	9.15am	All-age Worship
	11.00am	Morning Prayer BCP

#### MIDWEEK SERVICES & MEETINGS

Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> Jan	10.15am	Holy Communion Many Brook House
	10.45am	Holy Communion Arrowsmith Lodge
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> Jan	1.00pm	Ladies' Vicarage Group
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> Jan	<b>Monday Group</b> Meal at Pinocchio's. Meet there at 7.00 for 7.30pm: To join us contact June Hart 01254 854000	
Wed 17 <sup>th</sup> Jan	<b>10am – 12 noon Coffee Mornings restart</b> ☕	
Wed.31 <sup>st</sup> Jan	10.00am	Holy Communion BCP followed by Holy Communion in parishioners' homes
Every Friday	9.00am	"Sanctuary" prayers. See Simon or Margaret for details

#### FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS Funeral 13<sup>th</sup> December Margaret Kirby

Died 4<sup>th</sup> December aged 100  
Committal at Pleasington Crematorium



#### MARY KELLY

Mary and Bill's daughter Mel Hollaway has asked us to let people know that, sadly, Mary passed away peacefully 13<sup>th</sup> December, after a long battle with dementia.

The funeral was held in Chester at the Church where Mary was baptised, married and where she wanted to be buried.

#### A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM SIMON HUNT, OUR VICAR



It's over six years now since I had my "miracle" and lived on when I wasn't supposed to. Not a day goes by without thinking about that. Margaret and I have had many good times since and seen many wonderful things in this world – the Rockies at the turn of spring, great art in Amsterdam, the beautiful Vendee coast of France, ancient Christian Rome. This year, something very special happened – I was able to get in touch with my donor, a young man from Utah, USA, and his family. It's a strange feeling knowing the man whose actions set the seal on me remaining free from cancer. I hope to meet him one day.

But if none of this had happened, I hope I would still have been content with the other miracles that have happened. This is what C S Lewis wrote about Christmas:-

"The central miracle asserted by Christians is the Incarnation. They say that God became Man. Every other miracle prepares for this, or exhibits this, or results from this. Just as every natural event is the manifestation at a particular place and moment of Nature's total character, so every particular Christian miracle manifests at a particular place and moment the character and significance of the Incarnation. There is no question in Christianity of arbitrary interferences just scattered about. It relates not a series of disconnected raids on Nature but the various steps of a strategically coherent invasion—an invasion which intends complete conquest and "occupation." The fitness, and therefore credibility, of the particular miracles depends on their relation to the Grand Miracle; all discussion of them in isolation from it is futile...

In the Christian story God descends to re-ascend. He comes down; down from the heights of absolute being into time and space, down into humanity... But He goes down to come up again and bring the ruined world up with Him..."

And I am part of that ruined world, and I am part of what will be brought back into realignment with how things are meant to be. And one day I will meet the man (and more than a man) who made it possible, just as I hope to meet my merely human bone marrow donor.

And you can meet him too, if you want. Jesus is longing to extend this miracle to include you too.

*Simon*



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**“AND THERE WERE SHEPHERDS. .”**

Luke’s story of the birth of Jesus is brilliantly told – the angel’s visit to Mary to tell her she would be mother of the long-promised Messiah, the old priest in the



Temple told by another angel that his wife would have a son to be called ‘John’, who would prepare the people of Israel for that event, and then Mary and Joseph making the 60 mile journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem, as required by the Roman census. When they got there, no room at the inn, and they settled instead for a convenient stable, where Mary gave birth to a boy child. Suddenly, Luke changes the tone. ‘And there were shepherds ...’ – that’s what he actually wrote, just like that. ‘And there were shepherds’, doing exactly what shepherds do, looking after their flocks by night. But this night was different: yet another angelic message – a call to abandon their sheep and go into Bethlehem to see the baby Messiah. They were given directions and a ‘sign’ to identify Him. He would be lying in a feeding trough. Well, at least they would recognise that. And why the shepherds, in this glorious story of our salvation? Because the event needed witnesses, and the chosen witnesses would be this bunch of scruffy, smelly shepherds straight from the sheep-pen. Nothing could speak more eloquently of God’s purpose than that. This was not a Saviour for the strong, rich and powerful, but for everybody. The carpenter and his wife guarded the Saviour of the world, and the very first witnesses were not kings or priests but a handful of shepherds.

*Rev. David Winter*

**COFFEE & CAKE MORNINGS on 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays monthly from 10.00am to 12.00 noon **restart on 17<sup>th</sup> January** in church**

An opportunity for a chat and to browse our newly launched library section where you can borrow, swap or buy any of the books available.



**DONATIONS – THANK YOU**

- In memory of Michael Entwisle from Mary **£20**
- In loving memory of Albert Anderson from son Stan **£500**
- Winnie Massam **£1**
- Irene Williams **£20**

**THANK YOU** to Stephen Niven who organised the carol singing, to everyone who joined us in singing and collecting and to Margaret Hunt and all the ladies who fed and watered us after we have sung each night .

We collected a very good sum of **£468** to be divided between The Children’s Society and Tearfund

A big **THANK YOU** once again to all those who helped make the Over 80’s Christmas Party on the 9<sup>th</sup> December such a success .

All those who provided food, crackers, wrapped presents, organised transport, provided free use of the Community Centre and took out teas and gifts on the day and helped in any other way.

On a cold and snowy day we had 25 guests ably entertained by Tony and friends, singing carols, tucking into a wonderful spread and just enjoying each other’s company.

We had some new friends who were with us for the first time and if you do know of anybody who might like to come to one of our parties then please do let us know.

Our folks were so appreciative as usual and it was “a reet good do”

Thank you all so much .

Barbara and Stephen Niven

*And of course Thank You to Stephen and Barbara for again organising the party*



Ecclesiastical Insurance Group, who insure most churches, is celebrating its 130th anniversary.

To celebrate they are offering to donate £130 to our church for every new home insurance policy taken out before 31 December **2018**.

Please remember to take explore this offer when your home insurance renewal is due and see the poster at the back of church or visit [www.ecclesiastical.com/Trust130](http://www.ecclesiastical.com/Trust130).

Please note the Church is not authorised to offer financial advice and any decision is the responsibility of the individual.

