

## From the Parish Registers: November 2016



### Baptisms

Florence Suranne Linda Blackburn and Samuel James Collier

### Weddings

James Charles William Evans and Sabina Isobel McNicholas

### Funerals

We extend our sympathies to the family and friends of the late Wesley Rowlands, Ernest Kent, David Jeffs, John Jones, Edna Lloyd and David Griffiths

### Please pray for the long-term sick

Especially for Iris Davies, William Barber, Chris Barrowcliff, Ken Harris, Jean Harrison, Leigh Hepplethwaite, Sarah Fletcher, Gill Holt, Pip Jones, Rachel Kirkland, Ann Kitchin, Len & Mildred Morris, Vicki Morris, Roman Simpson, Mary Symes, Freda Linfield, Phyllis Sharples, Ellie Wheeler, David Roberts, Carl Rathbone, Joyce Kirby, David Pawson, Peter Fabian, Jean Mothersole, Mary Maddocks, Liz Duckers, Mary Lavery, Catherine Wilson and others at home.

### Please pray for those unable to join us

Especially for Muriel Wood, Gladys Heppell, Celia Bennion, Alan Dawson, Frances Eglin, June Hollins, June Roberts, John Speare and others.

### Keep in touch

Office hours 9am-3pm Monday to Friday

There are plenty of ways to contact the church:

Call 01244 322056 to speak to our vicar Rev John Kirkland or our administrator Helen Dymond or email: [office@allsaints.church](mailto:office@allsaints.church)

Call 01244 345649 for church centre bookings or to speak to our centre manager Christina Beveridge or email: [centre@allsaints.church](mailto:centre@allsaints.church)

Our web address is [www.allsaints.church](http://www.allsaints.church)  
Follow us on Twitter [@allsaintshoole](https://twitter.com/allsaintshoole)

TO LIVE  
LIKE  
WITH  
FOR **JESUS**

# DECEMBER 2016 GRAPEVINE



*Oh, I wish it could  
be Christmas everyday ...  
...That's the whole point!  
With Jesus, it is everyday!*

<b>Nativity Treasure Hunt</b> 3pm, 17 <sup>th</sup> December Premier: Roberts Family Store, Cedar Grove	<b>Nativity Service</b> 10:45am, 18 <sup>th</sup> December All Saints Church
<b>Carol Service</b> 6:30pm, 18 <sup>th</sup> December All Saints Church	<b>Crib Service</b> 5pm, 24 <sup>th</sup> December All Saints Church
<b>Midnight Communion</b> 11:30pm, 24 <sup>th</sup> December All Saints Church	<b>Christmas Services</b> 9am & 10:45am, 25 <sup>th</sup> December All Saints Church

For more info call the office: 01244 345649  
Website: [Allsaints.church](http://Allsaints.church)

*John, Kate and the family would like to wish you  
all a joyful Christmas and a peaceful New Year*

### Prayer Focus

For us to be a Biblical church,  
helping every member to grow as  
a disciple of Christ and use  
their gifts in the  
promotion of the gospel



**Phone Number 07711 425 366**

Dawne Rendell  
Care Group Co-ordinator  
Information relating to the Care Group is  
in the leaflet rack in Church

# TIME TO PRAY

Opportunities to pray together this month



## Pause for Prayer

Wednesdays 14 & 28 December at 7.30am

An opportunity to meet together in prayer for the life and work of the church. We meet every other Wednesday in **Sparrow**, from 7.30am to 8.15am (alternating with the Alpha prayer meeting). Caffeine is provided! There will be opportunities for both spoken and silent prayer. Please come along if you think this might be for you.

## Open to God

7.45 for 8.00pm  
on Wednesday  
4th January in the  
church centre

The whole church is invited to pray together once a month.

## Alpha Prayer Breakfast

Wednesdays 7 & 21 December and 4th January

We meet fortnightly in Eagle from 7.30am to 8.15am. Please join us to pray for leaders and guests who will be on the Alpha course next term.



HELEN ELLIS  
FAMILIES  
WORK  
CO-ORDINATOR



Minis finishes on Friday 9th & Monday 12th December with our Nativity and Christmas party. We will start again on Monday 16th and Friday 20th January.



Dinkies finishes on Monday 19th December with a Christmas Bring and Share Lunch and will start back on Monday 16th January.



Why not join us on Thursdays 15th December and 19th January at 9.30am for refreshments, then a short time of worship in the chancel—welcome songs, a Bible story, prayer, and finishing with our special song before our craft activity.



Will meet on Wednesdays 7th & 14th December and 25th January 1-2.30pm for those with adopted/fostered pre-school children  
Contact Helen Ellis:  
[ellis.helen@btinternet.com](mailto:ellis.helen@btinternet.com)



Special  
Message

Sunday

11th

December

4-6pm

COUNTRESS OF CHESTER  
HOSPITAL

CAROL SINGING  
AROUND THE WARDS

ON WEDNESDAY  
21ST DECEMBER

Meeting in the Chapel at 6.30pm  
followed by Refreshments

ALL WELCOME!



## CHRISTMAS FAIR

Many thanks to all who engaged with our church frontline at the Christmas Fair. A great time was had by all! Here's what people said

“great atmosphere”

“friendly”

“welcoming”

Craft Club raised an amazing  
£314.50 for LifeNow

Tombola raised £157.25  
for the Hoole Christmas Lights Appeal

Refreshments raised £227.80  
for the Foodbank



**PRAYER LIST REQUEST FORM** If you would like to add someone to the prayer list, please make sure you complete a green request form from the leaflet rack at the back of church or the office.



A collection crate is in the church centre foyer, along with a list of items that they would like to receive. Thank you for your continued support.



AA MEETINGS

Tues 12-1.30pm & Fri 7-8.30pm All Saints Church Centre



CAP do not have a Centre Manager at the moment so the centre will be closed until further notice. Please join us in prayer as we seek God's guidance about the future.



**Bible in One Year app**  
Highly recommended Bible app developed by  
Holy Trinity Brompton (Home of Alpha)

## CHRISTMAS HITS HEMSWORTH... HARD!

Christmas comes this time each year, and for our fair village of Hemsworth-on-the-Mound; it couldn't arrive with any more calamities!

In the early hours of Saturday morning the village Father Christmas impersonator, Chris Crinkle; was found in the local shop, buried beneath a display of wrapped boxes. One onlooker exclaimed, "Think of the children! Saturday is Hemsworth-on-the-Mounds biggest day for Christmas shopping, and what are they going to see? Their beloved Santa Clause unconscious and unable to hear their Christmas lists!"

Local police have reassured the public that the presence of an empty Sherry bottle at the scene of the incident is purely coincidental, but are not ruling out foul play. P.C. Plod of the Hemsworth mounted division told us, "There are certainly many villages nearby that would happily see Hemsworth-on-the-Mound struck from the map at this years annual village of



The past, Santa had one to many sheries. The present, was on his head. The future, is uncertain.

the year championship. But I have no doubt we will once again win the coveted Lionel Fhartelbury Chalice this year."

In response to this, we sent our intrepid reporter Joe Nurlist to the neighbouring village of Hiddleston Hill, "I wasn't aware there was a village of the year championship, and who is Lionel

Fhartelbury?!" Local milkmaid Daisy Butterly retorted, but does her oblivious nature hide a more nefarious plot? As always, here at The Hemsworth Herald we will be looking for answers!

Reported by Tim Messenger

### BOOK NOW!



Performed by the Bits & Junior Company

7pm | 16th & 17th December

All Saints Church, Hoole | £5 Adult £3 Concession

For tickets head to [theb-ittheatrecompany.com](http://theb-ittheatrecompany.com)

Dear friends at All Saints,



We may feel we've had enough surprises for one year. After all, there was the EU Referendum in June which resulted in Brexit, which came as a big surprise to many. Then there was the American election result last month – which came as a considerable surprise to most people, certainly in Britain. I suspect we don't want too many surprises this Christmas; just the usual pair of socks or a bottle of perfume.

But Christmas is all about surprises. It's the story of God's Son coming in to the world he made – which is a massive surprise in itself; why would he want to do that? Surely it would have been far simpler to wipe it all out and start again on another planet elsewhere in the Universe? It's the story of a teenage single mum giving birth to the King of Kings and placing him in a feeding-trough in the part of the house where the smelly animals lived – surely he should be in a John Lewis crib in a Hampstead mansion? It's the story of God going first to some rather dubious shepherds with the news that the real Chosen One has been born, rather than sending the angel choir to make a guest appearance on a TV Chat Show. It's the story of the One in whom the 'hopes and fears of all the years' meet having to be rescued from the hatred and violence of a power-crazed dictator and taken as a refugee to Egypt.

And so we could go on, noting at each point that God didn't do what we would have expected. There's a saying which has become quite popular lately – 'I didn't see that one coming'; and if we're honest, and if we can put aside the over-familiarity of the story, we have to say that about Christmas. We didn't see it coming; no-one did; not like that.

But, and this is the point, that's God for you. He never does what we expect. He always takes us by surprise.

And the question for all of us this Christmas – and all year round, actually – is whether we are looking for God's surprises? Are we open to him taking us by surprise? Are we still listening for his word when he doesn't say quite what we expect him to? And are we ready to respond when the call comes out of the blue?

So, Happy Christmas – and I hope you get at least one surprise along with all the old familiar things.

Wishing you a joyful Christmas and a faith-filled New Year,

John Kirkland.

PLEASE STOP AND READ

## SHARE FOR PRAYER SECTION

**“If one part [of the body] suffers, every part suffers with it.”**

1 Corinthians 12:26

Please turn what you read below into praise and prayer

Thank you to all who stayed for the ‘bring and share’ lunch last Sunday. It was a great encouragement that so many were able to do so. Thanks also to those who brought food which was, as usual, wonderful. The ministry in word and music at both services was very special and what we saw and heard in the afternoon a challenging blessing. To see how Christians old and young remain hopeful in the face of such adversity was very humbling.

News has emerged that in the USA the present administration took active steps to exclude Arab Christians living in the US from top federal jobs. Arab Christian leaders say that this news confirms what they had long suspected - that Arab Christians had been specifically excluded because they were not Muslims.

Christian children are not shielded from personal (as distinct to indiscriminate) persecution. It is reported that, in October, a 9 year old boy and his mother were arrested in Pakistan and falsely accused of blasphemy – burning pages from the Koran. They were released after 4 days of questioning following interventions from Christian and Muslim politicians. This is apparently far from being the only case of a Christian child or woman being targeted using the ‘Blasphemy Laws.’

In Iraq several Christian villages formerly occupied by IS have been liberated recently. There is news of church leaders returning to ring the bells in their damaged churches or to restore the cross above their town. The liberation of these towns is a sign of hope for the Christians who once lived there. However, this is only the beginning as much needs to be done before people can return to live in their burnt out or seriously damaged homes.

PLEASE PRAY AND THANK YOU FOR DOING SO

More up to date prayer news can be found at [barnabasfund.org/news](http://barnabasfund.org/news),  
[opendoorsuk.org](http://opendoorsuk.org), [samaritanspurse.org.uk](http://samaritanspurse.org.uk), [tearfund.org](http://tearfund.org)

*John Chester*



### Café Manager – Thank you for praying!

As you may have heard, we have appointed Rhiannon Cooke as the new Café Manager and we hope the Café will re-open early in January. We will arrange an opportunity for Rhiannon to introduce herself to the congregation, share something of her journey of faith, and tell us about her vision for the Café, but I'm sure she will be very grateful for our prayers as she prepares to take up her new role. Meanwhile, please let me or Sam DH know if you are willing to continue volunteering in Café, or if you are interested in joining the Café team, and we will pass on your name to Rhiannon.



The CATH sleep-out is now done and dusted. If you kindly sponsored one of the team, and you haven't already paid up, please will you do so as soon as you can? And if you haven't yet sponsored us - it's not too late to do so. See one of the team to add your name (and money!) to the list.

Thanks very much for all the generosity shown so far!



### CAROL SERVICE REHEARSALS FOR OUR CAROL SERVICE ON DECEMBER 18TH

Tuesday Dec 6th, Monday Dec 12th and Thursday Dec 15th [all these at 7.30pm]  
Sunday Dec 18th in the afternoon, before the Service in the evening.



We want to deliver a Christmas card to every home in the parish inviting people to our Christmas services. The cards are bundled in streets and are on the table at the back of church. Please will you take one or two bundles and deliver them before Sunday 11th. Many thanks.

### Christmas Cards for the Church family

can be pinned to the board at the back of church. The money that you save by sending just one card to the whole church can be placed (in an envelope) in the basket. This year we will be supporting WaterAid.

To find out more about the work of WaterAid to go [www.wateraid.org/uk](http://www.wateraid.org/uk)

