

THE POCKLINGTON PARISH MAGAZINE

WELCOME TO ALL SAINTS CHURCH, POCKLINGTON



January 2021

£1

Group Safeguarding Representative: Revd Les Slow 303888

South Wold Deanery Synod Representatives: Revd Bronnie Broadhurst,
Polly Warcup and Hilary Slow.

Members of the Pocklington Parochial Church Council:

Hilary Slow, Nigel Laws, David Brown, Kath Gilbank, Lyn Stanton, Carol Taylor,
Karen Hoop, Polly Warcup, Susan Currier, Pat Herbert.

Church Wardens:

St Giles, Burnby	Mr C Soukup	306154
	Mr J Hewitt	302622
St Ethelburga, Gt Givendale	Mrs M Stephens	01262 678153
St Martin, Hayton	Mrs E Thackray	304317
St Mary, Huggate	Mrs R Braithwaite	01377 288422
	Mrs S Dale	01377 288233
All Saints, Londesborough	Mrs J Fletcher	01430 873554
St Margaret, Millington	Mr J Burley	
St James, Nunburnholme	Dr A Henworth	740915
All Saints, Pocklington	Mr N Laws	304307
	Mrs H Slow	303888
All Saints, Shiptonthorpe	Mrs F Bailey	01430 873318

Christmas isn't over on Christmas Day *by Rodney Nicholson*

There is some excellent Christmas worship on BBC television. At the time of writing, I look forward to Songs of Praise with favourite carols on 20th December, among other programmes. Sadly on the Sunday after Christmas, Songs of Praise will have moved on from carols – a pity, because it is still very much the Christmas season.

Boxing Day is also St Stephen's day, highlighted in a favourite carol, "Good King Wenceslas". It's the only traditional carol to have a social message: "Ye who now will bless the poor, shall yourselves find blessing". St Stephen was the first person to die for his faith in Christ. As he was stoned to death, he was able to look into heaven and see Jesus at the right hand side of God. It's rather appropriate that, just as the veil between earth and heaven was lifted when the angels appeared to the shepherds, so the veil was lifted again at this moment of anguish and death. Stephen was to be the first of countless thousands of martyrs, of whom the greatest number met their deaths in the 20th century.

This year on a Sunday, we have St John's day, 27th December. The John in question is the brother of James, one of the twelve disciples – "the one whom Jesus loved". Whether he also wrote St John's gospel we can't be sure but we can include him in our thoughts. Reputedly he died in old age, unlike most of the apostles, who were murdered. If he is also the author of the Fourth gospel, he ended his account with the words:

"Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written."

It's a slight exaggeration, granted, but a lovely way of speaking of the Jesus whom John loved as the Word made flesh, the one who was with God and who was God. And, of course, we have three letters of John, focusing on the Good who loves us.

Third, we have Holy Innocents day on 28th December when we mark Herod's murder of the children under two. His attempt to kill Jesus failed because an angel warned Joseph in a dream to seek asylum in Egypt. If the border patrols, such as Priti Patel applies with vigour, had been active then, we perhaps wouldn't have had our Saviour.

Roman Catholics often remember at Holy Innocents all the children aborted. We have no shortage of young ones to call to mind: children who will be abused at home this Christmas, girls and boys forced into the sex trade, unaccompanied child refugees, children starving in Yemen, attacked by Saudi Arabian planes.....the list goes on.

So, Christmas, still to come, isn't over on Christmas Day. St Stephen, St John and Holy Innocents extend and enhance the holy season, with another climax as we travel in imagination with the wise men at Epiphany and offer our gifts to the holy child of Bethlehem.

Thank You Messages

People's Pantry send a big *'Thank You'* for all the gifts you kindly donated this Christmas. The box will still be in church for future food collections.

Thank you to everyone who helped raise funds by purchasing cards and gifts from this year's Christmas table and raffle. A total of £326.30 was raised.

Recycle your Christmas Cards

Please bring your cards into church for recycling when you take your decorations down.

A box to collect these will be placed at the rear of the church. Thank you

Rest in Peace

Margot Hobbs, born 1927 died December 15th 2020

Margot and her husband Alan were members of All Saints' congregation for over 30 years, having moved into town from Bishop Wilton in the late 1970's.

She was a well known local artist, teacher of art and other crafts well into her retirement and was an inspiration to those who knew her.

The banners used in church would not have come about without her creativity and encouragement to the untrained group of 'stitchers'.

In recent years Margot had lived near her family in Kings Lynn, Norfolk.

Kestrel

Windhover,
hanging, suspended in the breeze.
Field hover-hunter of trembling wings and fantail,
A graceful free-fall in the vortex plunge to earth.
Dashed, you circle whirl skyward to begin again,
as I pass by.

Watcher on the wire,
your favoured vantage. Locked in regal vigil
of tireless patience in anticipation
of the prize. Casually awaiting the prey, but
poised to plummet at a signal,
as I pass by.

Road hawk,
hovering by the verge's edge.
Your precision-eyed focus unfazed by the unrelenting
tide

Of travellers oblivious to your invisible presence.
Until the death-dive drop to catch the unsuspecting,
as I pass by.

Ruth M. Bellass



EPIPHANY

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ

Happy New Year. This is what we must all be saying with more emphasis than usual on the word “happy”. After the dark days of the pandemic we begin 2021 filled with hope for a better world and looking for the direction God has for our lives.

On 21st December 2020, we were able to see what has been regarded by scientists for hundreds of years as the Christmas Star. The joining of Saturn and Jupiter produce an amazingly large and bright light in the western sky just after sunset. It was the closest to earth in 400 years. The Christmas Star plays a great part in our seasonal celebrations. Many a tree is topped with a star rather than an angel and we read in Luke's Gospel of the shepherds following a special star to find the infant Jesus in the manger at Bethlehem.

The feast of the Epiphany, which we celebrate on 6th January, is a timely reminder of the wise men's search for this special child who is going to change the world for all people, Gentiles as well as Jews. They too followed this special star, having had the insight to recognise that it portends events worth exploring. Nativity plays and many a Christmas card portray the wise men as numbering three, being kings, and arriving at the stable just after the shepherds, but that does not follow the account given to us in Matthew's Gospel.

However, the importance of the Epiphany is the manifestation of our Saviour Jesus Christ to the Gentiles. The magi actually decided to ignore the star near the end of their journey, assuming a king would be found in a palace. This led to their meeting with Herod and the resulting horrendous slaughter of the innocent baby boys. It is actually Herod's advice to “go and search” for the child which puts them back on track. There is a lot of searching and finding in Matthew's Gospel. Jesus tells us that if we search we shall find and tells parables about looking for lost sheep etc.

As disciples of Christ we are charged with helping others to find Jesus and this we must do without the help of a star. How do we achieve this? God will have an answer for us and we must search for the direction He has for our lives.

Matthew encourages us to actively look for God's presence and promises that such initiative will bring joy.

May God go with us as we travel through 2021.

Lord of all journeys, help us each day to have eyes to see your leading, ears to hear your guidance, and a heart of courage, that we may journey faithfully and find your way, even when the path may seem difficult and dark. AMEN



Deacon Bronnie



Mothers' Union Report.

When you read this, Christmas will have been and gone. A New Year is ahead of us. Like me, I'm sure you will all be viewing the coming months with some trepidation. We have a Vaccine now but I'm sure our battle with Corona Virus is far from over. When will we be able to meet again, I wonder.

I came across this New Year Blessing in one of my M.U. Prayer Books:-

May your guardian angel
forever be near
to guide and protect you
throughout the new year.
May your blessings be many,
your failures be few,
as you embrace the future
with hope born anew.
May you live day to day
with nothing to fear,
God bless you and keep you
throughout the new year.
Happy New Year!

With every blessing, Dot



All Saints feature of the month

The Consecration Cross(es)

I've been coming to All Saints for a tad over 65 years and I must have walked (or been pushed in my earliest days) past them a thousand times. I think I might have noticed one of them before, but I've never really stopped to study – All Saints' surviving consecration crosses at the west end.

Perusing Leadman's 1898 history of the church, it grabbed my attention when he noted "on the northwest pier is the Consecration Cross" so I popped into church for a closer look. Leadman may have sparked my interest, but initially he was not that helpful as I pored over the surface of the stone pillar looking for the aforementioned cross without success. I was rescued by Carole in the church office who pointed me to a clearly incised cross on the southwest pier, not northwest as indicated by the good Doctor. However, on my next visit a fortnight later I went back for another look, and sure enough Leadman was right - on the corresponding stone on the opposite side is a similar cross, same style just a bit smaller and less distinct, and scratched into the surface rather than incised.

So what is a consecration cross? It marked an important church occasion in Medieval times, beginning in fifth century Rome and spreading throughout the Christian world. Thereafter, when a church was built, or after major extensions, it had to be dedicated before services could commence; and it was custom to paint or carve 12 crosses (one for each of the apostles) both inside and outside the church. It's said the practice originated in the change from pagan to Christian places of worship – the consecration ceremony cast out the demons and the crosses were furnished to scare them off if they ever tried to return.

The consecration ceremony became a major event 13th century Britain. The archbishop or bishop and his entourage processed three times around the outside of the building, anointing the external crosses with holy oil, or chrism. He then struck three times on the main door with his crozier for the priest to open and bid him enter.

A further cross of ashes and sand was sprinkled on the floor, and the archbishop consecrated the high altar with hallowed water and wine and anointed all the inside crosses with holy oil. Once completed, the bells were rung and the parishioners admitted for mass. Thenceforth, the crosses were treated with some reverence and candles were burned before them on the anniversary of the consecration.

However, though consecration crosses formerly proliferated, today they are quite rare. Most crosses were painted on the church walls, rather than engraved; and the majority disappeared either after the Reformation when many images were whitewashed over, or

in the Victorian era when the fashion was to scrape church walls clean of paint and plaster (which was also the case at All Saints).

And the two existing Pocklington crosses (I am unaware of any others that have survived, in or out, but let me know if you spot another one) are also unusual as they are cross pommée type – a cross with arms of equal length and a ‘blob’ at the end of each one. Most extant consecration crosses are wheel head or Celtic crosses within a circular border; and cross pommée is more associated with heraldry than the church. Nevertheless, it was made popular by the crusades and became absorbed in Christian custom by the four blobs being designated as apples signifying reward for a good Christian life. It also became adopted as the symbolic cross of St Michael.

There is a possible alternative explanation. The incised Pocklington cross are very simple and basic; and it might just be the site of a more elaborate metal consecration crosses with the holes being where the long-gone metal cross was attached to the church wall.

Apart from Leadman’s brief mention, I know of no other reference to consecration crosses or ceremonies at All Saints, so there are no clues for dating the surviving crosses or understanding what they originally looked like. However, they will be pre-16th century when the practice went out of fashion, and from their style and being engraved on the piers at the west end they are most likely associated with the building of the present tower circa 1450.

So next time you are on your way out of All Saints look out for its consecration crosses on the west piers, a direct reminder of a special celebratory service from all those centuries ago.

PASTORAL SERVICES
Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals

To enquire about arrangements for these services
The office will be open on a Tuesday from 10am to 12noon
Please ring the following number or email as below
Church office 01759 306045
Office@allsaintspock.plus.com

PARISH REGISTER

We have commended to God’s sure keeping with thanksgiving:

25 th November	Christine Wilson	Pocklington
30 th November	Clinton Mouland	Pocklington
4 th December	Jack Hodgson	Pocklington
6 th December	Agnes Stephenson	Huggate

January 2021 Services in the Pocklington Group of Churches
(subject to Government guidelines)

Burnby – no services

Great Givendale

10 th January	9.15am	Morning Prayer (BCP)
24 th January	9.15am	Holy Communion (BCP)

Hayton

17 th January	9.15am	Morning Prayer (CW)
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Huggate

3 rd January	9.15am	All Age Worship
10 th January	4.00pm	Evening Prayer (BCP)
17 th January	9.15am	Morning Prayer (CW)
24 th January	9.15am	Morning Prayer (CW)

Londesborough

3 rd January	10.45am	Morning Prayer (BCP)
10 th January	10.45am	Holy Communion (CW)
24 th January	10.45am	Morning Prayer (BCP)

Millington

10 th January	9.15am	Morning Prayer (CW)
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Nunburnholme

3 rd January	10.45am	All Age Worship
17 th January	10.45am	Family Communion CW)

Pocklington

3 rd January	10.45am	Family Service
10 th January	10.45am	Holy Communion (CW)
17 th January	10.45am	Special
24 th January	10.45am	Holy Communion (CW)
31 st January	10.45am	Holy Communion (CW)

Shiptonthorpe

3 rd January	10.45am	Holy Communion (BCP)
10 th January	10.45am	Special
17 th January	10.45am	Family Communion
24 th January	10.45am	Morning Prayer (BCP)
31 st January	9.15am	Morning Prayer (BCP)

A Prayer for the life of our Parishes and Churches

O God, make the door of this church wide enough to receive all who need human love and fellowship; narrow enough to shut out envy, pride and strife. Make its threshold smooth enough to be no stumbling block for children, nor to straying feet, but rugged and strong to turn back the tempter's power. God make the doorway of this house the entrance to your eternal kingdom. Amen

This has been a hard year for everyone, and that includes our church. We're so pleased that we can be here for you, but we rely on your donations to keep our doors open. We are grateful for any contributions you can make towards the work of this church.

Use the QR code below to donate online via our JustGiving page.

Thank you.



Parish Church of All Saints, Pocklington

The office will be open on a Tuesday from 10am to 12noon

Please ring the following number or email as below

Church office 01759 306045

Office@allsaintspock.plus.com

Electoral Roll Officer	Doreen Pea	305552
Flower Team Contact	Ann Theakston	302731
Little Saints Leader	Barbara Myerscough	303331
Magazine Editor	Office Administrators	305521
Magazine Distribution	Rowena Protheroe	304984
Mothers Union Secretary	Dot Townley	318182
Organist and Choirmaster	Michael Cooper	305929
Parish Administrators	Susan Currier and Carole Laws	306045
Pastoral Coordinator	Revd Bronnie Broadhurst	307479
PCC Secretary	Susan Currier	0740 1133219
Planned Giving /Gift Aid	Susan Currier	0740 1133219
Treasurer	David Brown	305521
Verger	Ian Ryder	318640

For more information about the Church, please visit our websites

www.pocklingtongroupofchurches.org

www.pocklingtonchurchfriends.org.uk

www.pockflyingman.org.uk

[The deadline for the January edition is Friday 22nd January 2021 and copy should be emailed to office@allsaintspock.plus.com](mailto:office@allsaintspock.plus.com)