

ChurchLIFE



Welcome!

Welcome to our new church newsletter! The wonderful Link magazine continues to provide news from around our group however I was keen to give you some more detailed updates about the work going on with our churches.

I'd like to send a newsletter out every couple of months but it will come down to having the spare time - I will try my best! If you would like an update at any time, please don't ever hesitate to get in touch with us!

Our churches have been at the heart of our communities for centuries. They are there for those who have faith - as well as those who have none.

We are passionate about preserving these historic buildings, keeping the history of our villages alive for many years to come.

All Saints' Church update

It was wonderful to re-open All Saints' Church in late 2021 after a period of closure. It had been closed due to concern that plasterwork inside the nave (the main part of the church where the pews are) was loose and may fall.

The closure prompted a call of action and a lot of work was carried out to enable the part re-opening. A new architect was appointed - Christopher Mackintosh-Smith of Nottingham. Christopher has attended to Bucknall church for the past few years and his work and assistance has been exemplary.

A new inspection was carried out by Christopher, known as a 'Quinquennial Inspection'. This has helped identify the issues that need addressing over the next few years.

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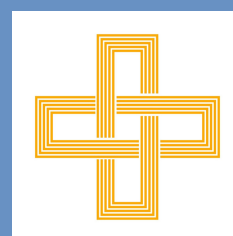
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A new 'group' of benefices planned



Whilst the inspection was expensive, almost £900, it was very much important to allow us to focus our fundraising efforts and target the problems that need work completing as soon as we can fund it.

We have received quotes for repairs to the interior nave roof, as well as repairing an issue to the roof at the base of the tower. Water ingress has caused the wooden beams to rot so they need replacing and a flat section covering with new lead.

The works will cost between £15,000 and £20,000 - with other renovation needed, estimated in total at £50,000.

We are in touch with a team at the Diocese of Lincoln who help support churches (The Diocesan Advisory Group, or DAC). They have given us some useful guidance to help us focus our efforts and approach grant providers who are most likely to support our cause.

We have approached local support networks - such as the Co-op Community Champion Scheme and TESCO Bags of Help scheme - and await their response.

Our funds are limited with approximately £6,000 in the church accounts. Whilst it sounds a fair amount, we have to pay the parish share (£745), insurance (£1,200) and other bills each year and we need to keep some funds for smaller repairs.

The south aisle and Lady Chapel area is currently being used for services whilst the nave and chancel remains out of use and we try to fund the roof repairs.

At our recent Parochial Church Council (P.C.C.) meeting we sadly saw a few of the members step down. We are extremely grateful for the many years of faithful service and hard work they have provided to All Saints' and the community of Horsington.

We have had to review how All Saints' is used moving forward. As our P.C.C. now consists of two members we cannot commit to regular services. With the church only partially in use still, it has made sense to look at changing All Saints' to a 'Festival church'. This means it will open for baptism, funeral and wedding services - as well as special services during the year, where able (Easter, Harvest Festival and Christmas, etc.). It will also be available during the year for anyone who may wish to use the church for private prayer or other special services.

This approach will give us the opportunity to focus our efforts on applying for grant funding to carry out the repairs needed over the next year. It sadly means that there will be no Sunday services in the church for the time being, unless advertised.

Clock and bell plans for Horsington

The sound of the bell chiming on the hour in Horsington is now sadly a thing of the past.

We plan to have the clock and bell inspected and quotes obtained for them to be renovated and repaired.

You may not know that the bell and clock are the village's war memorial, funded after the Great War.

We hope to utilise additional grant funding, specific to war memorials, to enable the repair to be made. This is an ongoing project and the roof repairs will have to take priority for the time being.

If you would like to get involved and help with this project, please get in touch!

OUR RECTOR



FATHER JOSEPH SNELLING

UPCOMING SERVICES Bucknall

**Sunday 13th
February**

MORNING PRAYER
Led by Churchwarden
Andrew Price

Sunday 6th March

HOLY COMMUNION
Led by Rev. Canon
Stephen Holdaway &
Fr. Joseph Snelling

Sunday 13th March

MORNING PRAYER
Led by Churchwarden
Andrew Price

St. Margaret's Church update

We've had some masonry work carried out in January thanks to our superb stonemason, Paul Booth.

The joints in the mortar around the arch over the organ had started to fail, likely from minor earth movement. Whilst the stones shouldn't have fallen, it was a growing concern - especially when playing the organ and having loose stonework above your head! Whilst the repair is barely noticeable, the stones were removed and then replaced with the addition of steel rods to help prevent any issues in the future. This work was unexpected but essential as we need to keep Marie our organist safe! The repair was over £900 but Paul also carried out some additional work in the church which was a massive help. Our chancel roof is in need of repair and we have been able to obtain a quote for repairs. If it's said quickly it's not so bad - approximately £13,800 - plus the likelihood for that to increase if repairs are needed to the wooden battens below the tiles.

We were extremely grateful to the Headley Trust who awarded us a superb £5,250 in late 2021 for the chancel roof repair. We are now looking at other grant providers to help us make up the rest of the funds. We can reclaim the VAT via the government's Listed Places of Worship Scheme.

As with Horsington, our income has been impacted significantly by Covid and our outgoings remain high and we receive no funds from the Church of England or Diocese of Lincoln.

Men Shed plans for Bucknall

It's early days yet but we hope to start a 'Men Shed' in either the Bucknall church or hall (or both) over the coming months which will serve Horsington and the other villages in the group. Started by the Anglican church in Australia, Men Shed's are becoming more commonplace. They are a gathering point for men of all ages to come together and look at fixing things! They are aimed at combatting the growing concern of loneliness and mental health issues in men. More details will follow as soon as things progress.

Group update

Our churches have been in the Woodhall Spa Group of Parishes for some years now but each church has had its own church council. We are looking to change to a new joint council.

This will make life a lot easier as we'll be one big team yet each church will retain its own identity and funds raised will continue go to each respective church.

More news to follow in due course.

In our prayers

We continue to pray for our communities, especially those who are lonely or suffering in body or mind.

If you would like us to pray for you or a loved one, please do not hesitate to get in touch with the churchwardens.

GETTING IN TOUCH

Your churchwardens:

Andrew Price

David Forman

01526 388436

bucknallPCC@aol.com

Your rector:

Fr. Joseph Snelling

01526 351358

rector@woodhallspa.group

Your Safeguarding Officer:

Mrs. Jo Evison

07842 202525

hello@woodhallspa.group

Our website:

www.woodhallspa.group

DONATE TO ST. MARGARET'S BUCKNALL



DONATE TO ALL SAINTS HORSINGTON



Or visit 'A church near you' and search for our churches to find the links to make an online donation.

Alternatively, contact the wardens for information about making a regular donation.

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18