

ALL SAINTS CHURCH, HANDLEY

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Parish Newsletter Autumn 2025

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sunday 21 December 4.30pm
Carol Service & Blessing of the Crib

Thursday 25 December 9.15am
Christmas Day
Communion Service

from Father Lameck:



“And We Will Remember Them”

11th November is always a time for us to remember those who gave their lives in the first and second world wars. We also remember those who have died in recent wars because they all gave their lives in order that we may have peace. We are currently living in a very fragile world where war is becoming increasingly a daily routine in other countries. Here in the United Kingdom, we are grateful to the Lord for the peace we continue to enjoy. But this peace did not simply appear: it was earned through loads of sacrifices. My visit a few years ago to France and Belgium gave me an insight as to the importance of peace. I could not believe what I saw for it was like the whole world just crumbling on me. I stood silent at each war grave site we visited and realised why we have to say this day and always “We will remember them”. These were young men who died in a war fighting for peace that they themselves finally never enjoyed. Some died just as they entered the warzone on the first day of mission. The book of Micah predicts terrible times of war for the people of



Israel. But then he goes on with this amazing vision – the day when peace will replace warfare and swords will be made into ploughs. Well, after 2000 years we are still waiting! Of course ultimate peace and justice and joy will come only at the end of time in the Kingdom of God. But that doesn't mean that we just sit and wait – it is never too soon to start cultivating the oasis of peace in the desert of our war mongering world. “They will beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore. (Micah 4:3)

HARVEST FESTIVAL 2025



A huge deep clean of the church took place in preparation for the harvest festival last month. Parishioner Libby can be seen above in action.

The service was well-attended with an abundance of donations which were taken as in previous years to local charity Save the Family.

CEO Tracy White has written a short piece for the newsletter telling us a little more about the charity's work.



Save the Family provides safe, supported accommodation for families that are homeless, or at risk of becoming homeless, and who have multiple and complex needs. Challenges faced by vulnerable families in our communities are complex and interconnected - from homelessness and poverty to domestic abuse, poor mental health, and school disengagement. We provide a vital safety net, stepping in where traditional systems can fall short. Our aim is to empower families to overcome barriers, increase their independence, grow in confidence, and reach their true potential. Our service includes the delivery of trauma-informed mentoring, parenting programmes, domestic abuse programmes, and a structured resettlement plan to build skills. Supporting this person-centred delivery, we provide opportunities for individuals to grow through CV workshops, woodwork skills, craft clubs, after school clubs, outdoor activities and people can explore the countryside or get fit in our gym. We support all family members to be able to thrive in this environment and learn how they can emerge from their trauma, carve out a brighter future for themselves and through time have built up levels of emotional resilience so that when they move on, they can make better and more positive decisions for themselves and their family.

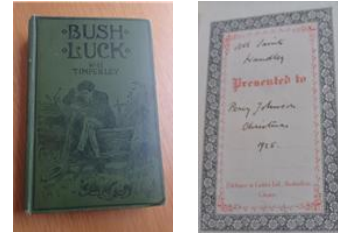
A SAD FAREWELL to Joyce Meredith 'Friend' of All Saints:

We recently celebrated the life of Joyce who died peacefully last month aged 95 years. Her funeral service was held at Grappenhall Independent Methodist Church, where she had worshipped for over 70 years, as well as being a leading member of the Ladies Fellowship and running a Ladies Keep Fit Club in the church hall for 30 years. She had been a Friend of All Saints since its inception. Her son, Neil, is buried in the church yard and she was mother-in-law to Judy and wonderful grandmother to Philip, Christopher and Richard, as well as great grandmother to Finn. She had found life increasingly difficult over the last 2 years and moved into a local care home at the start of 2025. We trust that she is now resting peacefully with her husband, Eric, who passed away 9 years ago.

THE ORGAN

Despite our very best efforts, it has unfortunately not been possible to repair the organ so our electronic keyboard remains in use.

SERENDIPITY



Some time ago, a visitor to a London rare books seller picked up a book entitled *Bush Luck: An Australian Story* by W H Timperley, published in 1892. Described as a 'colonial adventure story for boys', a label inside showed that it had been presented at Christmas 100 years ago to 10 year old Percy William Johnson at All Saints' Church Handley. The buyer, who now lives in the Chester area, recently invited churchwarden Chris to come and collect it, thinking it may be of interest to us. It remains a mystery, for now, as to how the book made its way to a London bookshop and why Percy was its recipient. Our sleuth Robert however has established that Percy was the son of John and Jane Johnson of The Square, Handley and he suggests there may be a connection with Handley Sunday School for which records are held in the Chester Archives Office. We shall wait and see.

THE NEWSLETTER

The newsletter is produced twice yearly by the PCC. It is available on the church website and paper copies are sent to **Friends**. If anyone has items they would like to put forward, please contact a member of the PCC.

If you would like to become a **Friend**, please contact a member of the Friends' Committee (see below). Cost remains at £20 per person per annum, £30 per couple.

CONTACTS

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