

Notices

As part of the **Christmas Tree Festival** on December 20th in Church, there will be a **Memory Tree** where you can remember your loved ones. Decorations will be there to add a name and possibly a small photo if you wish. The tree will be in church from December 16th, and you can add to it for just those 9 days before Christmas when the Church is open. If you want to use your own small ornament that's ok too. The tree will be stripped and removed from Church on January 6th so if you want to reclaim your decoration please do so in that time.

We are looking for volunteers to steward and help on Sat 20th Dec between 10am and 5pm for the **Holbeach Community Christmas Fayre**. Please sign up on the sheet at the back of church.

There are many **opportunities for friendship and fellowship** at All Saints. I would like to thank in particular everyone who has helped with welcoming, stewarding and serving refreshments on Saturdays, Sundays and school holiday weekdays in the last few months. I am starting to prepare rotas for 2026. It would be wonderful to have a few more people willing to do any of these roles to help us. Even if you only want to commit to having your name on a rota once every 2 or 3 months, that would be really helpful. Just let me know when you see me at a service or contact me by phone: 07944 248851 or email: gill.graper@googlemail.com Gill Graper

Due to antisocial behaviour within the building when it is unattended the PCC regret that the church will now only be open for visitors and private prayer at the following times:

Term Time

Weekdays 9am-3pm

Saturdays 10am-12pm

Sundays for Services Only

We are sorry for any inconvenience that this reluctant decision has caused.

Vicar - In Vacancy

The Vicarage, 5 Church Street, Holbeach. PE12 7LL

Rural Dean

01778 703093

Revd Carolyn Bailey

ness.rector@gmail.com

Ass Rural Dean

01406 478523

Revd Paul Carey-Slater

rev.paulcareyslater@yahoo.com

Church Wardens

Leslie Crowson 01406 381250

Roger Jennings 01406 423974

wardens@allsaintsholbeach.org.uk

Deanery Administrator & Safeguarding Officer Caz Dennis

01406 423460 eedeanery@lincoln.anglican.org

Office hours Monday - Thursday 9.00-3.30

Deanery Youth & Children's Worker

Micki Carey-Slater

07935 380880 micki.carey-slater@lincoln.anglican.org

Website

www.allsaintsholbeach.org.uk

All Saints Church, Holbeach Advent 3 14th December 2025



We are an inspiring and inclusive place of worship at the heart of the community. We hope and pray that you will find this place a blessing to you, a place of worship, a place to encounter God, a place of community and above all, a place of welcome.

Gluten free wafers available on request.

Do join us for refreshments after the 10.30 service.

Today

10.30am Holy Communion

Leader and Preacher Revd Ian Walters

Hymns 259 Hail To The Lords' Anointed

60 Beauty For Brokenness

264 Hark, My Soul, It Is The Lord

Anthem Hark, The Glad Sound

Hymns 83 Bread Of The World, In Mercy Broken

687 Through The Night of Doubt And

Sorrow (v.1-4 & 8)

3.30pm Christingle

Leader and Preacher Micki Carey-Slater

Hymns Orange of Christingle

Hope Of Heaven

Light A Candle In The Window

776 Away In A Manger

For your Prayers

For the Sick Ruth, Raymond & Anastasia Winter, Matti Corrado, Sarah Abiss, Julie, Roger Qusted, Harry Pollard, Ann Onyett, John Bambury, Matthew Watkins, Andrew Dean, Mick Walker, Nicki Thomson, Revd Barbara Hutchinson, Marion Goodman

The Recently Departed Patricia Ashley

In Memoriam Derek Venni, Percy Taylor, Brian Bowell, Mary Congreve

The week ahead

Monday 15th - 11.30am - Funeral of Patricia Ashley
Tuesday 16th - 9.30am - WS School Christmas Service
Tuesday 16th - 4.30pm - HPA Nativity
Wednesday 17th - 09.30am - Holy Communion
Wednesday 17th - 10.30am - HPA Christmas Service
Thursday 18th - 2.00pm - Bell Ringing Practice
Saturday 20th - Christmas Tree Festival & Fayre

Services for 21st December - Advent 4

10.30am Holy Communion with Bishop Nicholas
18.30pm Blue Christmas Service

COLLECT

O Lord Jesus Christ, who at your first coming sent your messenger, to prepare your way before you: grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries, may likewise so prepare and make ready your way, by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world, we may be found an acceptable people in your sight; for you are alive and reign with the Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING Isaiah 35.1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They shall see the glory of the Lord,
the majesty of our God.
Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.
Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
'Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God.
He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.
He will come and save you.'
Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;
the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.
A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God's people;
no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray.
No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.
And the ransomed of the Lord shall return,
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

PSALM 146.4-10

⁴ When their breath departs, they return to the earth;
on that very day their plans perish.
⁵ Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the Lord their God,
⁶ who made heaven and earth,
the sea, and all that is in them;
who keeps faith for ever;

⁷ who executes justice for the oppressed;
who gives food to the hungry.
The Lord sets the prisoners free;
⁸ the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.
The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;
the Lord loves the righteous.
⁹ The Lord watches over the strangers;
he upholds the orphan and the widow,
but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.
¹⁰ The Lord will reign for ever,
your God, O Zion, for all generations.
Praise the Lord!

SECOND READING James 5.7-10

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

GOSPEL Matthew 11.2-11

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?' Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.' As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you." Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

POST COMMUNION

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts;
kindle in us the fire of your Spirit
that when your Christ comes again
we may shine as lights before his face;
who is alive and reigns now and for ever.