

December 2025

Featherstone Community Church Magazine



JOY

CHRISTMAS IS SALVATION

Christmas is the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ, and it carries profound spiritual and historical significance for Christians worldwide. At the heart of this season is the concept of salvation, a word rich with sacred and secular meaning throughout history.

The word salvation has had a wide historical use. Caesar Augustus adopted the title Soter (in Greek) to emphasise his role in saving Rome from civil war and restoring peace. The word salvation derives from the Latin salvatio, meaning “to save” or “deliver.” Its root, salvus, translates to “safe” or “unharmful.” In antiquity, salvation carried primarily secular connotations associated with physical rescue or preservation from harm. In the Roman world, emperors and

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generals were often celebrated as saviours (soteres in Greek) for their military victories, safeguarding their people and lands. The Jewish tradition, too, infused the concept of salvation with spiritual significance. The Hebrew term Yeshua, often translated as “salvation,” emphasised deliverance by God, particularly in moments of national crisis or exile. This understanding is expressed in the Exodus story, where God rescued the Israelites from Egyptian bondage and in the prophets’ promises, who foretold a Messiah to bring ultimate salvation to Israel.

With the advent of Christianity, salvation changed its earlier meanings. It became deeply personal, eternal, and universal, a divine gift offered through Jesus Christ to all humanity. This transformation redefined the word and anchored it at the heart of the Christian faith. The birth of Jesus is celebrated as the arrival of salvation into the world. In the Gospel of Luke, we find the angel’s proclamation to the shepherds: “Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you, he is the Messiah, the Lord” (Luke 2:11). This declaration reveals the dual nature of Christ’s mission: to rescue humanity from sin and to restore the fractured relationship between God and His creation.

Christmas, therefore, is a celebration not just of Jesus’ birth but of the hope and redemption he brought. It reminds believers of God’s profound love and willingness to enter the human experience, to suffer and triumph for the sake of salvation. The Christmas story expresses the joy of salvation in worship and wonder. Mary, in her Magnificat, glorifies God for His mercy and faithfulness. After encountering the Christ child, the shepherds return glorifying and praising God. This joy invites all people then and now to experience the peace and purpose that salvation brings. In our day, the word salvation may seem distant or theological to some, yet its essence remains relevant. To save is to rescue, deliver, restore, and heal. In a world still marred by conflict, division, and despair, the message of salvation is as urgent as ever. At Christmas, the call to receive salvation becomes a call to embrace hope, extend grace, and reflect the love of Christ to others.

As we celebrate Christmas, let's marvel at the wonder of salvation. It is a gift freely given yet infinitely precious, rooted in history and reaching into eternity. Salvation is not merely about escaping darkness but stepping into the light of God's love, experiencing the fullness of life, and sharing it with others. The angel's proclamation still rings true today: "A Saviour has been born to you." This Saviour offers peace to the restless, joy to the sorrowful, and redemption to the broken. In this light, Christmas is not just a remembrance but a renewal, a time to rediscover the splendour and responsibility of being saved and to rejoice in the Saviour who makes all things new. May the spiritual depth of salvation fill your heart with awe this Christmas, reminding you of the boundless grace and everlasting hope in Jesus Christ.

Your priest & friend, Joseph

November Round up

Tuesday 11th November was Remembrance Day with a service held at the War Horse memorial on the 11th month at the 11th hour.

On Wednesday 12th November we welcomed Bishop John Msuma of Tarime Tanzania at All Saints church. We were joined by the Mayor of Featherstone, the deputy mayor, councillors, All Saints school children, members of both All Saints and St. Thomas churches and other guests. Following the service the bishop answered some questions from the school children and members of the churches about his Church, Diocese and life in Tanzania.





Christmas Messages

Christmas messages to everyone from the congregation. Each person has made a donation to our link church in Tanzania instead of buying Christmas cards.



Peace and joy to everyone at Christmas
Jenny and Brian

Wishing everyone a joyous and peaceful Christmas
Sue and Steve Rhodes

Merry Christmas
from Josie.

Happy Christmas
from Janice and David

Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas
Love Helen, Rob and Family

To all have a blessed and peaceful Christmas
Gail

Wishing everyone a peaceful Christmas and New Year
Julie

May peace and love be at the heart of your home this Christmas
Alex and Rhiannon Vignes

Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year
Jayne and John Wyard

Best wishes to all for Christmas
Elizabeth Jordan

Beechwood fires are bright and dear
If the log are kept all year

Oaken logs burn steadily
If the wood is old and dry

Birch and fir logs burn too fast
Blaze up bright and do not last

Chestnuts only good they say
If for long it's laid away

But ash new or ash old
Is fit for a Queen with a crown of gold

It is by the Irish said
Hawthorn bakes the sweetest bread

Poplar gives a bitter smoke
Fill your room and makes you choke

Apple wood will scent your room
With an incense like perfume

But ash wet or ash dry
You're a King to warm his slippers by

Christmas Wordsearch

X S A D U X H G I E L S H Z H
 O O L L T S S B T S C G F O G
 R S L Q U N N R A H M S F A N
 N Q P A S S X N E K M J Q M I
 A Z L Y T Q T X E I Q K Z A K
 M C G O H A S Q L N N O X E C
 E Y Q J G D T L O R A D T E O
 N T W S I N L O R A C T E E T
 T P K S L I T R S W Z C M E S
 B U W G I F T S P E E A K I R
 H B R S G N E V J E N N A K Z
 M I J O R F D P R P D D J A S
 M K R E B L M T N B W Y T X T
 Q I F N V E P Y L L O H Q Y H
 C Z M I S T L E T O E C W Y H



CANDY
 CAROL
 CLAUS
 ELF
 GIFTS
 HOLLY
 JOY
 LIGHTS

MISTLETOE
 ORNAMENT
 REINDEER
 SANTA
 SLEIGH
 STOCKING
 TREE

Why does Santa go
down the chimney?
Because it soots him!

What do you call an old
snowman?
Water.

What do reindeer say
before telling a joke?
This one will sleigh you!



Why was the Christmas tree bad at knitting?
It kept dropping its needles.

What's Santa's favourite type of music?
Wrap music!

Why was the snowman looking through the
carrots?
He was picking his nose!

What do you call a reindeer who tells jokes?
Comet-ian!

Why did the Christmas tree go to the barber?
It needed a little trim-ming before the big day!

Christmas Cheesecake

Base

300g/10 ½ oz Crushed Digestive Biscuits

1 tbsp. Cocoa

¼ tsp. Nutmeg

4 tsp. Cinnamon

125g/4 ½ oz melted Butter

Filling

500g/18 oz Cream Cheese

150g/5 ¼ oz Sugar

3 eggs

190g/7 oz mixed fruit

1 tbsp. Brandy (I use 3)



- Soak mixed fruit in the brandy overnight.
- Mix crushed biscuits with cocoa, nutmeg and cinnamon, then add melted butter and mix well.
- Put into 28cm spring form tin, press down.
- Refrigerate while making the filling.
- Beat the cream cheese and sugar together until smooth. Add the eggs on at a time and beat.
- Add the fruit and brandy. Spoon the mixture onto the chilled base.
- Bake in a preheated oven 160C/Gas 2-3 for 1 hour or until firm.
- Cool with oven door ajar until cheesecake is cold.
- Refrigerate overnight.

TIP - Original recipe is in grams and is the most accurate.

This continues to be busy and raises lots of funds for Charities. People donate home made cakes and savouries, such as quiche and sausage rolls. We also have toasted teacakes and sometimes bacon sandwiches as we try to provide variety. We keep our charges very low as we want everyone to be able to afford to come We choose a different charity each month and usually send them £100. Last month our charity was our link church of Kemange in Tanzania.



This link was formed 20 years ago after we visited Tanzania and saw how poor people were. We pray for them and send them money to help with whatever projects they have at the time. Over the years this has meant many things. We paid for a clean water scheme, which we felt was vital as they were collecting water from the river to use. They have asked for help with paying for lots of things from bicycles for the teachers to use to get to school, building their first small church, vicarage, goats to provide milk for their children (cows are very expensive to buy and keep) and their latest venture building a much bigger church as Christianity is spreading fast.

Do come and join us if you are free. If you can bake and donate that even better!

Forthcoming Events in All Saints and St. Thomas

DECEMBER

7th SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT: Services at the usual time: 9 a.m. A.S. 10.30 a.m. S.T. & 3 p.m. SONGS OF PRAISE (CHURCHES TOGETHER) in the Town Hall hosted by The Chapel of Light.

8th WEDNESDAY 7 p.m.: LIGHT UP A LIFE SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE organized by the Prince of Wales Hospice in All Saints church North Featherstone.

9th TUESDAY: 6. p.m. SINGING AROUND THE CHRISTMAS TREE opposite "Bradley Arms".

11th THURSDAY: 6.30 p.m. CIVIC CAROL SERVICE in St Thomas church.

14th THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT: Services at the usual time: 9 a.m. A.S. 10.30 a.m. S.T.

16th TUESDAY: 6. p.m. SINGING AROUND THE CHRISTMAS TREE at the Christmas tree in Ackton.

21st FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT: Services at the usual time: 9 a.m. A.S, 10.30 a.m. S.T.
2 p.m. CHRISTINGLE SERVICE FOR CHILDREN & ADULTS in All Saints church.

24th CHRISTMAS EVE: 7.30 p.m. CHRISTMAS EVE MASS in All Saints church.
11 p.m. MIDNIGHT MASS (for both S.T. & A.S. congregations) in St Thomas church.

25th CHRISTMAS DAY: Services at the usual time: 9 a.m. A.S, 10.30 a.m. S.T.

JANUARY 2026

1st 12 noon NEW YEAR'S DAY SERVICE (for both S.T. & A.S. congregations) in All Saints church.



We're looking for enthusiastic singers to join our choir.

If that sounds like you please speak to Alex for more details

Share Your Thoughts & Ideas

We believe that every voice matters. Whether you've been uplifted by a sermon, inspired by a community event, or have ideas to help us improve this magazine — your feedback will help us.

Tell us:

- What touched your heart this month?
- How can we improve our magazine?
- Any stories or articles you'd like to share?

Drop us a note via email at mmillermatthews@yahoo.co.uk or speak to Mike or Father Joseph.

Let's build a stronger, more connected church family — together.

PARISH MASS

Sunday 9am at All Saints' Parish Church North Featherstone
and at 10.30am at Saint Thomas' Parish Church, Purston

Father Joseph Grosu

Saint Thomas' House

32 Victoria Street, Purston

WF7 5EZ

Telephone 01977 792288

Midweek Masses

Wednesdays 9.30am All Saints Church

Wednesdays 12pm St Thomas Church

Baptism enquiries

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Churchwardens

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All Saints; Mrs Jane Wyard, Mrs Wendy Wilson

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Telephone: 01977 706063

All Saints Church of England Academy

Headteacher Mr Phillip Burton

Telephone 01977 780225