



NOVEMBER

2020



All Saints' Church
Preston on Tees

OLD MEETS NEW!

Karen Killick interviews Anne Rolfe as she takes up her calling as Church Warden



Tell us a bit about your family and background...

My brother, sister and I were born and bred in London and it was my home for many years, albeit at various addresses. My working life was extremely varied, until I found a career that I loved which was being a specialist worker for people who were blind or visually impaired.

It was during a three-month training placement at a specialist college in Hereford that I met Alan, now my husband for the past 37 years.

We have two children called Fay and Ewan. Fay is our eldest child and the one who is married and who in turn has three children. Although Alan is not a Christian, he has never prevented me or our children from pursuing our faith in Christ.

Looking back on my life, I can see God's guiding hand throughout. However, it wasn't until the 1980's that the Holy Spirit decided to pay a visit when I was attending a child's baptism at St Alban's Cathedral.

The unexpected and unbelievable touch of God's joy could not be ignored and was the turning point of my life.

What brought you to Teesside and have you been here long?

The birth of our first grandchild and our wish to provide childcare on the days our daughter worked was the trigger point of us moving 'up North'. Firstly, to Sheffield and then to Stockton-on-Tees just before our second grandchild was born. I never thought that this southern lass would end up living so far north but in 2015 I did and both Alan (who comes from Wolverhampton) and I love it and feel very settled here

Do you remember the first time you came to All Saints' Church? What made you come back?

I do very clearly. It was only after we purchased our house in Railway Terrace, that I investigated the rear alleyway and saw All Saints' Church across the road. That made me smile because God had obviously done a bit of preparation work before I arrived. It was the welcome extended to me that brought me back. The first time that I attended a service, I sat at the far end of an empty row but was quickly joined by David and Debbie Bunford who were very friendly and made me feel at ease. After the service they introduced me to various members of the Church, who in turn impressed me with the warmth of their welcome.

What verse/passage of Scripture/prayer do you hang onto when times are tough?

A difficult question because there are many. However, Matthew ch6 v34, has been my mainstay. Over the years I have learnt not to waste mental energy worrying about things that may or may not happen. I prefer to wait until they become a reality and then I place them before God.

What do you do to relax?

I have several hobbies but find walking the most relaxing and enjoyable.

Thoughts as you start your time as Churchwarden?

Shadowing the wardens before being elected at the APCM, revealed the reality of undertaking the role in the absence of an incumbent plus the

restrictions of Covid-19. I know that I can only carry out my duties with God's guidance and grace and the patience of the Church Family. I remember John Lambert saying that it takes about a year to know what you are doing. Bear with me!

We will be praying for wisdom and stamina for Anne and her fellow warden Martin Howard especially in these months of incumbency when they have a much more time consuming and demanding of them.



**Karen Killick
Former Churchwarden**

Remembrance Day

Every year Remembrance Sunday in November is a time when the country as a whole gathers together, either in church or at the local war memorial, to collectively remember and give thanks to those who gave their lives for the freedom we have today.

As a Royal Navy Veteran, my thoughts unsurprisingly turn to Sailors, male and female, both Royal and Merchant Navy, who have bravely served their country and lost their lives. Their sacrifice, particularly in WW1 & 2, kept this country running and defended our shores.

HMS Hood was a battlecruiser built in the last year of World War One, for 20 years she was the largest warship in the world. On Saturday 24th May 1941 she and other ships of the Royal Navy engaged the German battleship Bismarck in The Battle of the Denmark Strait. Hood was struck by several

German shells, exploded, and sank within 3 minutes, of her ships company of 1418 only three survived. For most sailors that lost their lives in conflicts, there is no headstone marking where they fell, theirs, is a watery grave.



Sunday 8th November is going to be a very different Remembrance Sunday. We cannot gather at our local War memorial, only a handful of people can attend church. However, we can still remember the sacrifices members of the Royal Navy, Army, Royal Air Force and Civilian Services made in our own way.

A lot of churches are now doing services online. All Saints Church being one. The BBC is covering a much-reduced ceremony at the Cenotaph. There is also a call, nationally, for everyone to stand on their doorstep at 11 O'clock to observe a two-minute silence.

However we individually decide to remember our fallen, can I ask you to do one thing? Please, Pray for peace.

At the going down of the sun and in the morning.

We will remember them.



Duncan Hird
Royal Navy Veteran

Bucking the trend...

Recent statistics suggest that the Church of England, in terms of Sunday attendance, is declining at an alarming rate. Yet in the midst of that we are busy seeking to revitalise St Paul's and to plant new Christ centred communities with big expectations that the church will grow as a result. Bucking the trend?

In short. Yes. But there is more to it.

There is one thing the world doesn't see and one deliberate mistake in these statistics...Deliberate mistake? Growth is not only measured in terms of 'bums on seats' it is about transformed lives and communities: are people growing in discipleship? Are the communities around which these disciples live being transformed by the love of God?...and Yes, is there growth in numbers of disciples.

What brought people to Jesus? Transformed lives of people he met, the community of disciples, transformed together in the early church community. When Jesus said 'follow me' he didn't say 'only on a Sunday' so why do we measure it?

When we go to St Paul's we want to see growth: together as family, as we deepen our roots and grow in discipleship; in transformed communities as we lead things like CAP and outreach to the margins; and yes numerical growth that happens as a result. Jesus said "seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness..." So we will seek that kingdom, God's rule and reign in the lives of people in Stockton, as our top priority.

Then unsurprisingly growth will happen, because the thing the world doesn't see is who gives the growth: God!

We can only sow and water and make the conditions right. That doesn't shift our focus, but it does make our burden light. When the church is filled with people seeking God's kingdom in that place, for that place, then God will grow his church. That is what St Paul's will do.



Paul Arnold
Planting Curate

All Saints' PCC

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is All Saints' main decision-making body.

Chosen by church members at the annual meeting, which was held in October this year, it meets ten times a year, usually on the third Monday evening of the month.

The PCC has prayerful oversight over the church's mission and ministry, is the employer of church staff and carries the responsibility for setting policy and monitoring church finances.

Minutes of each meeting are posted on the All Saints' website.



Karen Killick
Chair



Martin Howard
Church Warden



Anne Rolfe
Church Warden



Paul Arnold
Curate



Diane Backhouse



Jonathan
Backhouse
PCC Secretary



John Belmont
Interim Treasurer



Debbie Bunford



Lucy Falcus
(Deanery Synod)



Rob Govier



Simon Honeywell



Scott Linnett



John Littlehales



Pamela Rushton



Paul Wheeldon



Tim Wye-Williams
Co-opted



Margaret Vaughan
(Deanery Synod)

ALPHA

I'm sure that most of you have heard of the Alpha course. Started by Holy Trinity Church in South Kensington, it now happens in prisons, schools, workplaces and homes, and even churches, worldwide!

I am a particular fan of Alpha, as, 25 years ago, I attended the first course run at All Saints' after having been invited by friends.

On the second week, after hearing the vicar (David Osman) share his story, I was completely blessed, decided to become a Christian and it changed my life forever.

As someone who had only attended church occasionally, growing up there were big gaps in my knowledge of Christianity and especially God, as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Alpha was, and is, informative, challenging and encouraging.

However, the best bit about it, is the relationships that are made. That's what we were made for, with God and each other.

The course is normally run in a building, but an online version has been developed, and is apparently really popular at this Covid time. People are asking questions about life in general and often also have more time on their hands.

The videos are very well presented and relevant, they can be seen on their website.

For some people, the idea of stepping into a church can be daunting, but just clicking and zooming is much less of a problem.

There can be other advantages, e.g. no need to get a babysitter or go out on a cold dark evening and find a venue. The downside is, there can't be a shared meal, but churches have found ways round that, and relationship building can still take place.

The new course begins Thursday 12th November at 19.00 and details are on the Alpha website: www.alpha.org.uk & www.allsaints-church.net which is where you (or friends) can get all information needed and register your interest.

Please think of anyone you know who would like to 'attend', ask for God's prompting, He may show you opportunities. You could zoom with them, if it helps.

You can also email office.allsaints@gmail.com or receptionist.allsaints@gmail.com or ring 01642 783814 between 9-12 weekdays.

Sandra Griffiths,
Church Receptionist



SUNDAYS NOVEMBER 2020

Sunday 1 November 9am

"We Are...Renewed"

Ephesians 4:20-24

Matthew 16:13-28

Preacher: Sandra Griffiths

Sunday 8 November 10am

Remembrance Sunday

"We Are...Equipped

Ephesians 6:10-17"

John 14:5-14

Preacher: Scott Linnett

Sunday 15 November 11am

"We Are...Filled"

Ephesians 5:8-20

John 16:12-24

Preacher: Kevin Storer

Sunday 22 November

9am & 11am

"We Are...Sent"

Ephesians 6:18-24

Matthew 28:16-20

Preacher: Paul Arnold

Sunday 29 November

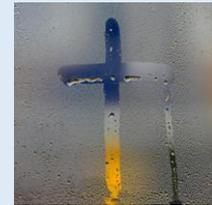
9am & 11am

Details of the readings and speaker to be confirmed.

All our services in November will be live streamed, please see our website for more information.

If you wish to attend a service in person, you will need to book a seat, please phone the Office on 01642 783814 on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursday 9.30-11.30

SERMON SERIES NOVEMBER ALL SAINTS'



"We Are..."

MORNING PRAYER



EVERY WEEKDAY VIA ZOOM please contact the office if you would like to join in by Zoom or phone