



JANUARY

2021



All Saints' Church
Preston on Tees

Parish Vacancy



It's been an odd year for our parish to be in vacancy, although it would be safe to say it's been an odd year for just about every reason! I think a lot of us will be happy to turn our backs on 2020 and look forward to brighter things in 2021...

Speaking of which, progress in searching for our next vicar has continued according to our planned timetable, with exciting news just before Christmas that we did indeed have applications to the role, and we did have candidates who meet the person specification which came out of the points raised in our Parish Profile.

The Parish reps from All Saints' (Scott Linnett and Lucy Falcus) met on zoom with those from St Mary's Long Newton (Lewis Ayres and Cheryl Moore) as we unanimously agreed which candidates we thought should be interviewed. This was fed back to our Archdeacon Rick Simpson who, with Bishop Paul, made the final decision and offered interviews.

We are therefore interviewing for the post on 28th January, with the interview panel comprising of the four Parish Reps, Bishop Paul, Rick Simpson our Archdeacon and Paul Neville our Area Dean.

As this goes to press the format for how we do this is being worked out, but it is looking likely we may need to interview in a virtual way.

We would value your prayers over the next few weeks for the following:

- The interview process to allow the candidates to express themselves and come across clearly despite possibly having to do so on screen rather than in person.
- The interview panel to have open ears to the Holy Spirit and clear direction whether any of these candidates are the one He is calling to All Saints' and St Mary's.
- For both All Saints' and St Mary's in this time of change and transition, that both parishes are prepared to be open to the leading of the Spirit and the change a new incumbent will bring.

- For both congregations, although apart at present due to Covid restrictions, to continue to find ways to engage with each other and our communities and not forget our calling to share the gospel and make disciples.

Watch this space! Although interviews are happening on the 28th January there is often a lag between someone being offered and accepting the post, and the news being allowed to be shared with the parishes involved; please be assured as soon as news is allowed to be shared, it will be!

Lucy Falcus
Parish
Representative



It's Been Formotional

So here I am, my last piece in the programme before my family and I leave for St Paul's. Yet this is not goodbye, more farewell and thanks for all the gingerbread skateparks!

Looking Back

That great theologian Vinny Jones in his near Oscar winning performance in Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels said it best, "It's been emotional." We had a phrase for everything thrown at us in college "it's formational." I look back over my time with you and realise how 'formotional' this has all been.

Together we have seen some monumental highs: seeing REACH stages one and three completed; receiving SDF approval for our bid to plant out; watching people give their

lives to Christ in baptism and lives transformed through contact with the Church family.

We have also seen some monumental lows: the losses of Alan and Donna – whose anniversaries are fresh in our minds – people who have been foundational to how this church sees itself; John and Kathie moving to Darlington – whilst a big change for the church more generally, also a major difficulty for any curate during their time in a church – let alone one whose job is to prepare a different church for major change; and of course, Coronavirus.

The lockdown started just as we were finishing a course on church planting, perhaps one of the biggest

cultural changes of our time just as we had finished planning to revitalise St Paul's in a context that is now very different.

Yet through the whole rollercoaster of ups and downs God has been evident with us. Providing at times of need, guiding at times of challenge, protecting at times of difficulty, comforting in times of loss. We have seen it in the planting work: the immense gifts of the team that have felt the call to come to St Paul's, the strong sense of call to this mission for each and every one of us, the provision of funds for the re-ordering and missional work God has set before us.

Where are we now?

As we get ready to go, we know that God has got firm control, we know that he is restoring things to his Glory, we have seen his Grace poured out on us all and his Goodness to us. We know that we can step forward firm in that knowledge. All Saints is extending its family to an overlooked part of Stockton. Work has already begun on the physical building to create a community hub – we know that God has called for this because of how he has prepared the way for it all along.

In the meantime our job right now is to build a sense of that family which we hold so central in All Saints – we don't want to be a house divided we want to be all together, all real, all gospel, and all in.

That starts with being all together as family. Our team will be building links with the current congregation over the next few months, and they will need to be released to do that. So you will begin to see a withdrawal as the team begins that important work.

What's in store?

We look forward to being a highly invitational family where people in the community feel that they 'belong', where they experience God's beating heart of love for Stockton. As we build on community links: celebrating creativity, freeing people from the oppression of poverty, mending broken lives with the power of the Gospel, helping the communities in the area to recover from this difficult and challenging time with a deeper sense of who God is and

why he loves them so much.

As that grows we will be sending people out to plant new communities of faith in the area, we look forward to partnering with All Saints and across the Deanery as we begin the strategic planning for the transformation of Stockton through the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

We don't know everything that is going to happen, but as long as the Holy Spirit is leading us, we know that it will be as exciting if not even more so, than this first phase of mission has been. So thank you, we have had truly 'formotional' time together...and we have loved every minute of it!

Paul Arnold
Planting Curate



SUNDAYS JANUARY 2021 - 9am & 11am

All our services will be live-streamed only during lockdown

SUNDAY 3 JANUARY

9am Holy Communion
11am Morning Worship
Encountering God: Among us All
Jeremiah 31:7-14
John 1:10-18
Preacher: David Munby

SUNDAY 10 JANUARY

9am Morning Worship
11am Shorter Morning Worship
Encountering God: The Spirit
Genesis 1:1-5
Acts 19:1-7
Preacher: 9am Scott Linnett
Preacher: 11am Sandra Griffiths

SUNDAY 17 JANUARY

9am & 11am Holy Communion
Encountering God: The Word
1 Samuel 3:1-10
John 1:43-end
Preacher: 9am Andrew Killick
Preacher: Amy Burns

SUNDAY 24 JANUARY

9am & 11am Morning Worship
Encountering God: Provision and Sacrifice
Genesis 14:17-20
John 2:1-11
Preacher: Michael Davison

SUNDAY 31 JANUARY

9am Holy Communion
11am Morning Worship
Deuteronomy 18:15-20
Mark 1:21-28
Preacher: Paul Arnold

Our live streamed services and any of our previous services can be watched on our YouTube Channel:

www.youtube.com/AllSaintsVideo

JANUARY SERMON SERIES:



Encountering God

MORNING PRAYER



EVERY WEEKDAY at 9am VIA ZOOM
please contact the office if you
would like to join in by Zoom or
phone.