



MARCH

2021



All Saints' Church
Preston on Tees

Hello from the Levinsohns

Greetings,

Before we arrive next month, we thought you might like to know a bit more about who the Lev's are, and the story which has brought me to be your next vicar.

I wonder if, like us, you love a story of a good God story when we see Him at work. In our case the story of moving from where we were in Bournemouth, to the North of England to join you began 8 years ago over a coffee in the school where I was working. A colleague told me how most vicars stay in the South despite the exciting things God is doing in many places in the North. We have always told God, we will go where you call, and immediately felt a sense of excitement which has continued every time we have heard someone speak about the North. I don't know if this is a mixture of my family all being Geordies and a sense of coming home, or God pure and simple, but we have been excited ever since to join a northern diocese and see where God leads.

Last March I was contacted by a clergy friend who told me someone in his church had a parent who was a warden at All Saints and that this wonderful church would need a new vicar at some point. However, he went on to say, when he prayed, my face came to mind and not his! I checked out the church website, watched some services, and had a long conversation with Karen; your then Church Warden. We then visited in April/May.

As we drove around the area and Middlesbrough we felt a sense of peace, and our daughter, as we drove into the road where the church is, explained God had given her a dream of this place exactly as it looked. A friend who had not known what we were doing that day, texted us at that moment to say she had had a dream that night where God had shown her I was going to go that day to visit the place where we were meant to be. Since then we have prayed for you, for doors to open, for God's blessing on this. When we read your profile we realised if we had written it, it could not have been a better match. From the desire to reach people with the love and news of Jesus, to the desire to plant, to the wonderful discipleship you are doing with children and young people, God is a good matchmaker.

But who are we?

Rach: Loves running, tea, and Midsomer Murder.

Passionate about helping people connect with God in prayer and hear him well. Currently volunteer chaplain in the hospital and leads prayer ministry.

Zac: Loves Pixark, Minecraft and whittling as well as making things with wood.

Abi: Loves musicals, the tv show sherlock, and reading. Is in Year 9. Enjoys Soul Survivor, hanging out with friends and making things out of wool. Excited to move somewhere new and meet all of you.

Matt: Enjoys Mountain Biking (of which I hear you have some good places to go!), Wind and Kitesurfing. Plays guitar, drums, and just starting the bass. Like Rach, into murder in a good way.

Anna: Loves gymnastics and can almost do the splits. Enjoys dancing, singing, and climbing frames as well as bodyboarding. In Year 3



The removal van is organised, the school are almost confirmed, the contracts are signed. None of us know what God has in store for us or the church, but we know; that he works all things for the good of those who love him (Rom 8:28), and his desire is that the good we do, and the light we reflect from Him will bring others to know and love Him (Matt 5:16). It's going to be great to join the adventure God has your church on, and to see what He has in store for us all.

With every blessing

Matt, Rach, Abi, Zac, And Anna Levinsohn.

Matt Levinsohn



Children & Families Update

2021 sees Children and families ministry keen to build on 2020 as we continue to adapt to the rollercoaster ride that the pandemic has placed upon us and to think outside of the box.

It is a joy to still be able to engage with and encourage our church children through our weekly Zoom teaching sessions, as well as providing resources and videos with a Bible theme. Visiting families and providing Bible based goodies bag each term will also continue this year with Easter being our next big event. It is really special to be able to stay connected in these and other ways.

Staying connected with our families from the community is also a priority and we have had lovely feedback about our videos, toddler walks in the park (in between lockdowns).

Can't wait to build on this as we share the gospel message in new ways!

Connecting with Schools is not easy at present but after providing pre-recorded assemblies last year at St Mary's a couple of us are about to start leading Zoom assemblies -another new experience!

Please pray for new ventures coming soon including:

I am excited about starting a **LIFE GROUP** for our older children (School years 5 & 6). This will provide opportunity to go a bit deeper with Bible study and prayer, alongside developing friendships and having time to chill and have fun together with their own age group. As Covid restrictions ease we plan on organising **OUTDOOR /MUDDY / PICNIC CHURCH** with activities and invites going to all families we are linked with.

I hope we can start with an Easter story trail in the park.

Our Puppet friends are going to help trial a **ZOOM BIBLE FUN TIME** for under 5's and their grown ups.

Please also pray for:

All the children and families we are linked with -that they will know God's peace, strength and hope in these challenging times. Local school teachers and children. Wisdom for us to know how best to provide support and share God's love.

Thank you.

Jan Peters
Childrens &
families worker



Lent

Recent discoveries have brought changes to our views on the origins of Lent. We can now be confident that the first mention of Lent lasting 40 days is to be found in the Canons of the Council of Nicaea of 325. This empire-wide council of bishops was called and funded by the Christian Roman Emperor Constantine the Great (306-337). It is famous for giving us the Nicene Creed, a significant milestone on the way to Christianity legally being made the Roman Empire's state religion by the Edict of Thessalonica in 380.

Irenaeus, Bishop of Lyon (139-202), the earliest Christian writer to mention the Easter fast, states that there was a period of Easter fasting lasting either one or two days. This fast had taken place since the time of Irenaeus' forefathers. It was to last the 40 hours (Friday afternoon to early Sunday morning) that Christ was in the tomb. The original purpose of the fast was to remind Christians of their coming death and resurrection. To go without food meant death would follow. Famines and poor harvests constantly reminded ancient societies of this fact.

The fast was in preparation for the resurrection festival of Easter Day. It shows that fasting should first and foremost express a longing for God more than anything else, even life-giving food or this earthly life itself.

Following the Council of Nicaea, the Lent fast of 40 days became the standard practice. In those times, a fast day involved eating one meal after 3 pm with no meat, fish or dairy products allowed. Sundays have never been fasting days because Sunday is always a celebration day. It is the day when we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. Hence Lent now lasts 40 days, from Ash Wednesday to Easter Saturday, not counting Sundays. Over the centuries, its character has been changed. Today, it is seen as a time for fasting, penitence, giving something up, or following a spiritual discipline. Its original 1 or 2-day purpose was to remind us of our coming death and resurrection.

**John
Greenwood**



UKHK Church Network

It is my prayer and hope that by December some of us will have entertained angels without knowing it (seriously!) – and given our time, energy and love to Hong Kong migrants coming to England in 2021, the biggest migration to the UK since Windrush, and maybe the biggest ever!

It is estimated that 130,000 people will come to the UK this year, and over 300,000 eventually. The government has generously offered to those born in Hong Kong whilst it was still under UK rule the chance to come and live in the UK permanently, as they have British National Overseas Passports.

Imagine uprooting your family to a new country with a strange language and no chance to return home! This migration gives us a once in a lifetime opportunity to love and welcome these newcomers.

They have had a hard time living under new tough laws unilaterally imposed by China in breach of the treaty agreed in 1997. Christians and others have been threatened and arrested.

UK Christians have launched an initiative UKHK Church Network, asking churches of all denominations to welcome and help every Hong Kong migrant who asks. There is a website and online training. The need is to give a welcome and assist practically with signing up for a GP, finding a school, renting or buying a house and more.

I lived in Hong Kong for many years when young and visited last year just as the troubles really kicked off. As soon as I heard about UKHK Church Network, I knew God was calling me to be involved.

With over 500 other churches, All Saints Church has signed up to offer a welcome. We do not know how many Hong Kong people will want to come to our area, but we want to be ready.

Do you feel called to be part of this team? if so, please could you let Shiromi Davison and me know? it's going to be exciting!

Don't forget to show hospitality to strangers, for some who have done this have entertained angels without realizing it! Hebrews 13.2 NLT

Karen Killick



SUNDAYS MARCH 2021

SUNDAY 7 MARCH

9am Morning Worship
Journey of Faith: No other Gods
Exodus 20:1-17
John 2:13-22
Preacher: David Munby

SUNDAY 14 MARCH

(Mothering Sunday)
11am Morning Worship
Journey of Faith: As God's Chosen
People
1 Samuel 1:20-end
Colossians 3:12-17
Preacher: Sola Adeboye

SUNDAY 21 MARCH

9am Morning Worship
Journey of Faith: A New Covenant
Jeremiah 31:31-34
John 12:20-33
Preacher: Michael Davison

SUNDAY 28 MARCH

(Palm Sunday)
9am Morning Worship
11am Morning Worship
Journey of Faith: Face Like Flint
Isaiah 50:4-9a
John 12:12-16
Preacher: Amy Burns

From Sunday 14 March, you will be able to attend our services in person. **You will need to book a seat**, please email, or call the office. The services will also be live-streamed. From Sunday 28 March, we will be holding two services each Sunday.

office.allsaints@gmail.com

01642 783814 (if you leave a message on the answerphone, we will call you back

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

www.youtube.com/AllSaintsVideo

MORNING PRAYER



EVERY WEEKDAY at 9am via ZOOM,
the Zoom code is: 835 4592 5539
or use this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83545925539>

COFFEE, CHAT & PRAYER



EVERY SUNDAY AT 10am via ZOOM,
the Zoom code is: 878 4408 5000 or use
this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87844085000>