

A misty landscape with tall grasses in the foreground and a line of trees in the background. The scene is overcast and has a soft, hazy quality.

NOVEMBER

2021



All Saints' Church
Preston on Tees

Hello Friends,

Last month I announced the creation of working parties which have started with people on the PCC but are open to other people to join. They came out of a desire to see this Church be all it can be, both for the benefit of those who come, for new members, but also for our community.

All Saints has a great history, and this is about seeing where God will lead us as we continue to fix our eyes on Jesus and to love God and love our neighbour with our whole heart. It is a vision of church which transforms and enriches the community. A vision where your Monday to Saturday is every bit as part of what Jesus is doing as on a Sunday.

As you may remember, the key word I used at the APCM was Connection. Connection to one another in the family of God, connection to our friends including Sharing Faith, connection to our community, and connection to the wider church and encouraging ministry to grow in other places. Working with our existing wonderful ministries, these working parties will be looking at how we are going to be a more Connected church. Some great progress has already been made. Over the last 6 months, we have run Sharing faith workshops, started to meet more socially with beach days, walks, gardens parties, sent teams to start to be trained to plant churches, been involved in more schools, started to join community engagement groups, restarted many of our existing ministries and of course through it all have been praying for God to do what only He can do. In the coming season we will be continuing the work that has started, focussing on these 6 areas. Perhaps there is one you would like to be involved in? A God given passion, ability, opportunity which will help us as a church step into all God has for us? Bless you and have a great November.



Matt Levinsohn

	<i>Discipleship</i>	<i>Engaging with Our Local Communities</i>	<i>Communication</i>	<i>Social</i>	<i>Buildings</i>	<i>Environment</i>
Purpose	To think how we can encourage each other in growing in faith.	To partner with others in our community for the good of the community.	To communicate more widely, clearly, and so people hear what we and Jesus are about.	To arrange and co-ordinate opportunities to have fun and connect with each other and those outside the church.	To ensure our buildings are maintained and are tools for mission.	To model to the world a care for the environment and engage with those in and outside the church who have a heart for it.
PCC Members	Geoff, Pam, Kevin	Debbie, Anne, John	John, Matt	Lucy, Tim, Simon	Mark, Martin, Rob	Karen, Paul, Margaret

Encouraging Stories and Testimonies

We're a group of around fifteen, led by David Emerton and Jayne Davies. Aged 61, I'm one of the youngest members. Almost all of us have been in some kind of Christian work, be that voluntary or full-time. Our combined "length of pilgrimage" is around 600 years (!)

However, we are far from "experts" We face life challenges, some big, some on-going, some big *and* ongoing. Nevertheless, we don't struggle on in grim, tight-lipped determination. There are causes to rejoice in The Lord (more or less) always (Philippians 4:4). Here are two snapshots:-

Sam Breaks Through. The grandson of members simply did not speak. Diagnosed with some health challenges, there seemed to be no likely solution nor hope. We prayed (and prayed). We didn't give up. Sam now speaks enough to complain about not wanting to go on holiday. There is no medical explanation for the miraculous change. We prayed. Father God answered.

Sharing Hard Words. One of my relatives, stuck in a cycle of self-destructive behaviour, estranged from his wife, was on my mind for some time. Unfortunately (!), I felt convicted to share some "truth" about his ultimate accountability to God. He lived 160 miles away, and was generally elusive. What next? This could all end badly. I asked the group to pray. I found him, and delivered the "word" graciously but firmly. Slowly, his life is regaining some order.

The Blessings of "Each Other". Those are two significant results. However, in many small ways, we bless and encourage each other every time we meet, sharing burdens, praying. Some issues seem immovable, but we pray on, a body, pilgrims, a family. The Holy Spirit often speaks through encouraging prophecy. Sometimes the presence of God, as we wait on him, is sublime and literally heavenly.

The Challenge of Mystery. Some group health issues remain mysteriously immovable. We pray, face deadlock, or even reversal. We rejoice as we bear one another's burdens. Situations often make no human sense, but cause fellowship to be sweeter, and trust in Father God more profound. For this, we give thanks.



Rob Govier



Remembrance

For some, Remembrance Day is a day of flags and medals, uniforms and parades, bugles and gun salutes.

For others, it is stories of the trenches of the Somme, the slaughter at Gallipoli, the Blitz, the streets destroyed in our cities, the great cultural centre of Dresden destroyed. It is stories of the horrors of Belsen and Dachau and Auschwitz concentration camps.

For all it is an opportunity to say thank you to those who fought in defence of our way of life, and for the freedoms of those who could not fight for themselves. We say thank you to those who fought, and for those who continue to serve in our armed forces and for their families, and as we do so, we look forward to that picture we are given at the end of the bible when war will be no more, when suffering and pain and death will cease.

For me, Remembrance Day is the memory of my father sent East to a land still at peace to run an indefensible dockyard for a Fleet that didn't exist. Yet even in that difficult situation we have records of how he led prayers and maintained his integrity throughout.

Within a few weeks of the Japanese attack on the US fleet at Pearl Harbour he died off the coast of Sumatra when the unarmed tug he was travelling in, like many of the other small escape vessels, was sunk by a waiting Japanese cruiser.

Others will not have known the fate of their loved ones, or have heard stories too painful to repeat.

Lest we forget . . . we remember them.

But we do forget. New generations strike the same poses and make the same threats. We continue to make difficult choices of who we trade with, who we are willing to arm, and who we feel should be removed from power. Acting with integrity and conviction continues to take careful thought and to require courage.

Member Of All Saints Congregation

Would we do it again...?

It's a challenging question. But when asked to write a piece about how things are going at St Paul's it was the first one that hit me. It certainly has been a rollercoaster ride so far and it is far from over. Like many rollercoasters there is the start of the ride. As the mechanical arm comes down to hold you in place you wonder 'What have I got myself into?' For us it was starting on placement in January. By the second week the only church warden had left, two members of the PCC had also stepped down for very separate reasons. Our team had lost some key pastoral people and I was feeling the administrative burden of just keeping what was there going. It felt daunting and dark.

Then there is the uphill climb as the ride ratchets up bit-by-bit getting ready to gain momentum. By the end of month one, we had a whole new online presence (thanks to Matt Falcus). Richard Spratt and Faye Thompson agreed to stand as wardens. Scott and Dunc joined the three members of St Paul's to form the PCC along with Diane as temporary Safeguarding Officer and we became balanced.

I was licensed as Priest in Charge at the end of July and we dove into a new phase of re-acquainting ourselves with one another, reminding ourselves what it means to be the beating heart of God's love for Stockton. We spent the summer recruiting a wonderful staff team, we began Alpha, and culture began to change as people talked about the church 'coming to life' and people being 'genuinely loving.' People have been healed, and lives transformed already – how awesome! Yet there are some complaints as we do things differently but that is part of change.

Now we are looking forward to moving out – starting missional communities and inviting people in to share life with us. I would do it again. But this time we all have the wisdom of experience. Please keep praying for us as we hit this next loop in the rollercoaster.



Paul Arnold

DATES – NOVEMBER 2021

CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Toddlers

Thurs (term-time),
9.45am -11.30am - Centre

Play and Praise *returning on 5 Nov*

Fri (term-time),
10.15am-11.45am – Centre

Gems (babies - reception) and
Trailblazers (Y1-Y6), during our
Sunday 10.30am service
– Centre & Meeting Room

Puppet Practice

Tues 7pm-9pm – Centre

Discovery Church –
returning in 2022

LEADERSHIP

Standing Committee

Mon 1 Nov, 7.30pm – Meeting
Room
Mon 29 Nov, 7.30pm – Meeting
Room

PCC

Mon 15 Nov, 7.30pm – Centre

PRAYER

Morning Prayer

Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri, 9.10am, by
Zoom, the Zoom code is: 835
4592 5539, or use this link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83545925539>

Prayer Meeting

Sat 12 Nov 10am-11am
Meeting Room

OTHER

Preaching Team Training

Thurs 4 Nov, 7.30-9.30pm -
Church

YOUTH

Youth Life Groups

Wed, 6-8pm – everyone to start
in the Youth Rooms

Youth Club

Fri, 7-9pm – Centre

Youth Church – during our Sunday

10.30am service, – Youth Rooms

Boys' Club

Mon, 4-5.30pm - Centre

Doulos Youth Leadership Training

Mon 8 Nov, 7pm-9pm – Youth &
Meeting Rooms

Café Church

Tues 9 Nov, 6pm-7.30pm – Yarm Costa

MIDWEEK

Informal Holy Communion

Wed 9.30am - Centre

Life Groups

Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs
see noticeboard in Centre

Connect Lunch Club

Tues 9 Nov, 12pm - Centre

Connect Seated Exercises

Tues 1pm (2pm on Lunch Club
days) - Centre

Sharing Faith Made Easier

Thurs 18 Nov, 7.45-9. 15pm
Session 2 – Centre

Mon 22 Nov, 7.30-9pm

Session 2 - Church

DECEMBER EVENTS - We have a couple of events at the start of December



Men's Christmas Meal
Weds 1 December 7pm
Falcon Inn at Hilton

Tickets are £20 each and include a 2 course meal, tea/coffee, mince pies & mints. Plus, an After Dinner Speaker. Christmas tie/ jumper optional!

This is a great opportunity to bring a friend along, Christian, or non-Christian, as it's purely a social event, so they can feel relaxed & enjoy themselves!

Please contact Ian Taylor for more information or to book your tickets: 51iantaylor@gmail.com or 07727 736774

Please contact Kathryn Belmont to book your tickets:

kathrynbelmont.allsaints@gmail.com



PAINT AND POUR 
BUILD HOME MEXICO FUNDRAISER
Join us for an evening where you become the artist

SATURDAY 4 DECEMBER 2021 • 7PM-9.30PM • ALL SAINTS' CENTRE

INCLUDED : MICHAEL DAVISON FROM 'ART AND SOUL' WILL GUIDE YOU STEP-BY-STEP TO CREATE A BEAUTIFUL PIECE OF ART FOR YOUR HOME

ART, DRINKS, CANAPES AND A WONDERFUL NIGHT!

SEE KATHRYN BELMONT FOR TICKETS [£30]



SERVICES – NOVEMBER 2021

SUNDAY 7 NOVEMBER

Raising others in faith
Deuteronomy 6:1-9 Acts, 16:25-34

9am Morning Worship
10.30am Youth Led Service

SUNDAY 14 NOVEMBER

Speaking up for the poor and making sure
we are building society on good
foundations.

Matthew 7: 24-27 Proverbs 31: 8-9

**9.45am service including Act of
Remembrance**

Preacher Matt Levinsohn

SUNDAY 21 NOVEMBER

Engaging our communities.
Jeremiah 29:1-14 Matthew 13:31-33

9am Communion
10.30am Morning Worship

Preacher: Lee Trevorror

SUNDAY 28 NOVEMBER

The light is coming (to our communities too!)
John 3: 1-21, Isaiah 51:4-6

9am Morning Worship
10.30am Morning Worship

Preacher Michael Davison

You can also watch our live-streamed services on our YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/AllSaintsVideo>

Details of the Sharing Faith Session 2
dates:

Sharing Faith Made Easier



2 simple sessions to help you help your
friends to connect with Jesus.

Session	Date / Time	Venue
2	18 th Nov 19.45-21.15	All Saints
2	22 nd Nov 11.00-12.30	St Mary's
2	22 nd Nov 19.30-21.00	All Saints
2	24 th Nov 19.30-21.00	St Mary's

Come to any Session 2 no matter which church you are in

If you missed Session 1, please watch this
YouTube video from Matt Levinsohn:

<https://youtu.be/FENaZJDOQI8>

www.allsaints-church.net/
office.allsaints@mail.com
Tel: 01642 783814