



FEBRUARY 2022



All Saints' Church
Preston on Tees

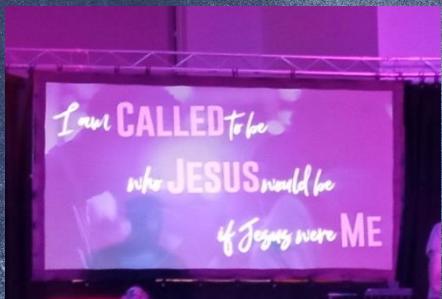
Who would Jesus be if Jesus were Me?

Hello Family

Sometimes you see something that just strikes a chord, and you think 'Wow, that helps make sense of so much for me!'. I had one of those moments recently at Refresh Youth Event which we host.



The speaker Tim Alford summed up what living out our Christian faith looks like with this phrase '*I am called to be who Jesus would be if Jesus were me*'. If you need to re-read it, you are in good company as it took me a while. The thing I love about it is that so often we talk about being changed to be more like Jesus, but we probably don't look like Jesus, our personalities are not all the same and so on.



Making us all like Jesus could lead people to think 'Where is my identity? Does my uniqueness not matter? Am I going to lose something of me in the transformation?'. Of course, we will be changed as the Holy Spirit works in our lives, but we are not called to be clones. We are called to be who **Jesus would be if Jesus were me**. So who would Jesus be if Jesus were you? A parent, a child, a church worker, a nurse, a doctor, a friend... the list could go on.

What would be the same as Jesus of Nazareth, the man we see living in the gospels, and what would be different because of **You**? What would Jesus be like if He were more or less introvert? What would Jesus be like if he worked in a lab?

There are some things that would not change. Jesus would still be all about Connecting. Connecting with his disciples, with his family, with his community. He would still be about honest and open relationships with those who help us grow closer to Jesus. He would still be about connecting with the lost and the last and the least in our communities and doing good. And he would be living in connection with the father as we need to.



So, as we continue to connect with each other post covid, as we continue our vision of Connecting outside our walls and doing good; it will help us to remember who am I called to be? I am not called to be a clone of Jesus. I am called to take on much of his character and holiness and goodness and vision, but I was also made with a uniqueness from God. So take a moment to ask yourself '**What does it mean to be called to be who Jesus would be if Jesus were me?**'

Matt Levinsohn

PCC February Update

Hello, and welcome to the first instalment keeping you up to date with what the PCC has been doing recently. As you may know the PCC is made up of volunteers from the Church. It's remit is broad, but at its heart it helps us to be all God calls us to be in this place, prayerfully keeping in step with his guidance. So, what has it been doing?

The Working Parties have been doing a wide range of things:

Environment group: Taking steps to make us an eco-friendlier church including getting Eco Church status.

Discipleship group: Running the shapes course and working with Stuart and Ruth to help start new life groups.

Community group: Talking to other local organisations which help those in our community and working out how we can work together.

Buildings group: Repairing the roof, pruning the trees, maintaining the flat across the carpark, planning for the future use of what Sandra is calling the prayer room!

Communications group: Designing banners which will go on Yarm Road fence to highlight to people the church and it's work and that it is there for them. Installing the TV in the Centre lobby to advertise our events. Starting the email communication to those not on Facebook.

Social group: Continuing both to plan events and to ensure other events organised by people in the church co-ordinate with the calendar overall.

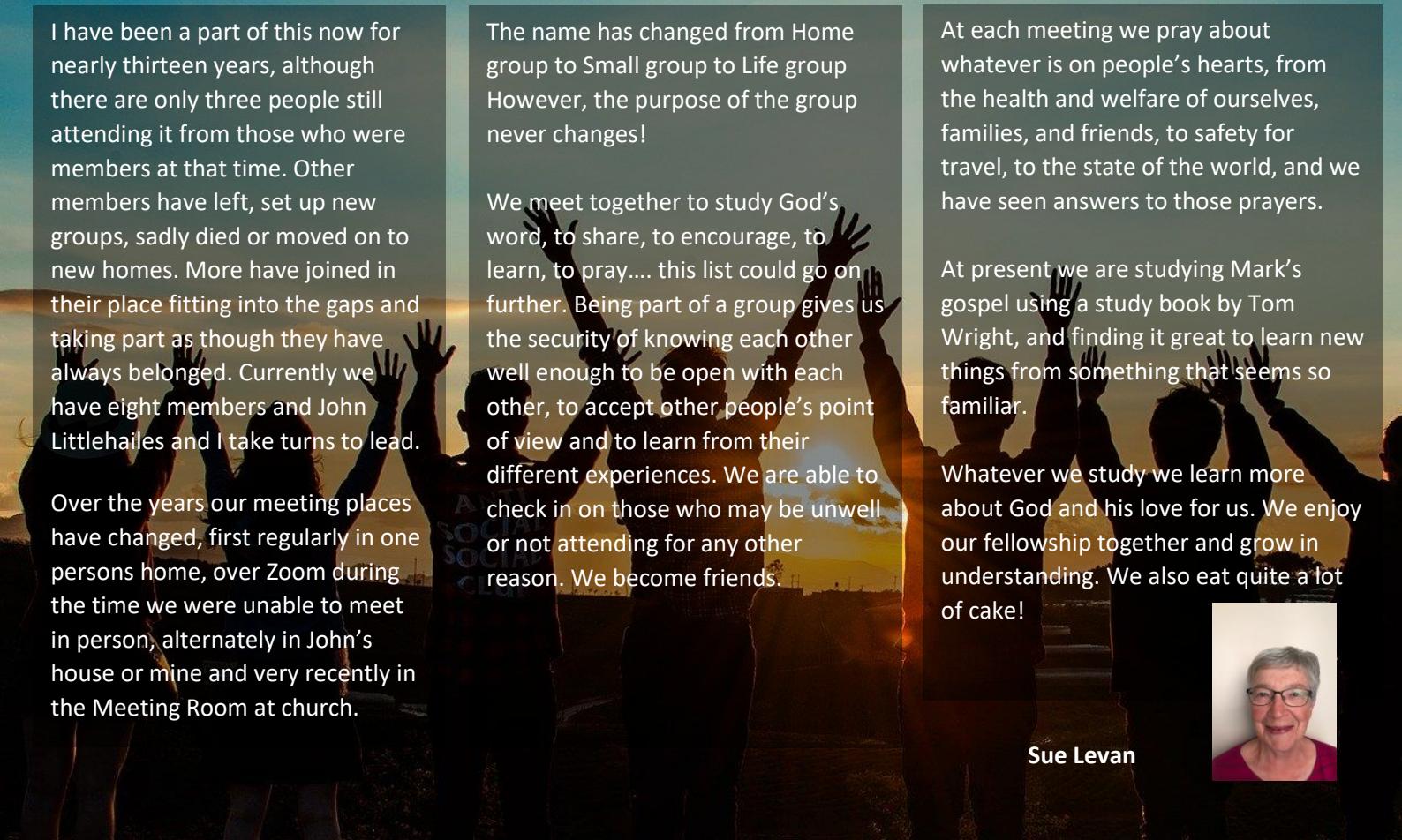
The PCC have also been reflecting on where we are up to in a church and recognise both the desire to move forwards in mission, but also to recognise that for many of us these last two years have been bruising and we need to pay attention to how we pastorally care for people as we emerge from covid. We have been looking at finance and considering how budgets can be used more effectively. The PCC has established how we will work with other organisations and has written a profile for the diocese in the hope a curate may join us at some point in 2023. There is much more in the minutes, but our hope is to give a monthly update of what is going on and to celebrate all God is doing in this place.

If you want to hear more about the PCC or to explore the possibility of being a warden do let me know.

Many thanks

Matt

Thoughts from the Tuesday Afternoon Life Group



I have been a part of this now for nearly thirteen years, although there are only three people still attending it from those who were members at that time. Other members have left, set up new groups, sadly died or moved on to new homes. More have joined in their place fitting into the gaps and taking part as though they have always belonged. Currently we have eight members and John Littlehailes and I take turns to lead.

Over the years our meeting places have changed, first regularly in one persons home, over Zoom during the time we were unable to meet in person, alternately in John's house or mine and very recently in the Meeting Room at church.

The name has changed from Home group to Small group to Life group However, the purpose of the group never changes!

We meet together to study God's word, to share, to encourage, to learn, to pray.... this list could go on further. Being part of a group gives us the security of knowing each other well enough to be open with each other, to accept other people's point of view and to learn from their different experiences. We are able to check in on those who may be unwell or not attending for any other reason. We become friends.

At each meeting we pray about whatever is on people's hearts, from the health and welfare of ourselves, families, and friends, to safety for travel, to the state of the world, and we have seen answers to those prayers.

At present we are studying Mark's gospel using a study book by Tom Wright, and finding it great to learn new things from something that seems so familiar.

Whatever we study we learn more about God and his love for us. We enjoy our fellowship together and grow in understanding. We also eat quite a lot of cake!

Sue Levan



We want to help young people become life-long followers of Jesus

This year we want to help our young people to pursue intimacy with Jesus and to be equipped to live the rest of their life for Him! I am reminded of the need to be rooted in Him, so that when challenges come our way, we will stand firm (Matthew 13). So, I want to do all we can to help our young people to be rooted in Jesus in 2022.

I hope that each of our young people will feel that they are part of the All Saints' family, and that they have the support system they need to grow in faith. I pray that they will have increased boldness so that they can share their faith with their friends.

I hope that the young people in our local community will know that they are so incredibly loved by God and our church, and that we will have opportunities to introduce them to Jesus. I am praying now about what this outreach will look like.

I hope that we will finally make it to Mexico for our mission trip, and that our team will be changed and challenged by what we experience out there. May it affect the rest of our life.

I hope that we will go to Satellites summer festival, that our team will return to Egglecliffe School, that Refresh will continue to grow, that our young people will continue to discover their giftings and enjoy serving the church, and so much more!

Please join me in praying this prayer over our young people for 2022:

"I pray that your love will overflow more and more, and that you will keep on growing in knowledge and understanding. For I want you to understand what really matters, so that you may live pure and blameless lives until the day of Christ's return. May you always be filled with the fruit of your salvation—the righteous character produced in your life by Jesus Christ—for this will bring much glory and praise to God."

Philippians 1:9-11.

Kathryn Belmont



Children & Families Ministry 2022

As 2022 begins my hope and prayer for this year is to be able to fully move forward again with Children's and families ministry, seeking to tune in to all that God wants us to be doing to help children and their families come to know Jesus and grow in faith.

I feel this will involve a mixture of stopping or adapting a few things we did prior to covid, developing other activities further, and potentially expanding the vision plan by launching one or two brand new areas of ministry too.

I feel a priority this year is to re-connect, lovingly support, and build relationships with our children from church, the community, and their families, as well as to newcomers.

Another hope and prayer is that more people will sense a calling to join the various teams which will enable ministry to move forward even more effectively, as we are really short of helpers at present.

Alongside developing our weekly Sunday Xplore Kid's ministry and midweek groups such as Toddler group and Play & Praise, plans for this year (so far) include the re-launch of Messy church in February, with Discovery church following in a few months' time.

We have recently started a Trailblazers 'Kid's club' on a 3rd Sunday morning with a café area, youth club activities, and devotional time which the children are enjoying. Our prayer is that this will develop, and our children will feel confident to invite their friends.

We also have exciting opportunities to be more involved in a few of our local primary schools this year, on top of our usual involvement at St Mary's and Preston Primary. This includes Junction Farm and The Links.

A highlight coming soon will be the hosting of 'The Life Exhibition' in late March. This will be a fantastic mission week during which we invite up to 600 children from 8-10 schools to visit this fun, multimedia, interactive event which is all about the life of Jesus.

Prayers for the ministry & teams will be greatly appreciated. Thank you

Jan Peters



Encounter

I'm very excited to let you know about a new monthly Sunday evening worship service here at All Saints' that we are calling Encounter. Each month will have time for communal worship, prayer, sharing and for a brought word or testimony.

For the planning team, our hope and our intention is that these evenings will be encouraging, enriching, fun and, challenging. Causing our faith to expand, our relationship with our Father God, Lord Jesus, and the Living Spirit to grow, and that our hearts will hear and respond to His call to immerse ourselves in the depth of His Love for each of us.

Psalm 42:7 is guiding my thoughts as we begin to plan, especially where the writer pens "As Deep Calls Out To Deep". My own heart is that Encounter Services will be a place we can safely step down deeper into what God has for us, going beyond the surface and down to the hidden depths of his Love and Calling for us as individuals, as a church and as members of a global body of believers. Right now, we don't have a fixed plan or formula for how each night will run, but we will intentionally be creating space to allow the Spirit to move and lead. There will be a service plan each month, but we will hold on to it lightly and are expectant that God will speak to us as a congregation.

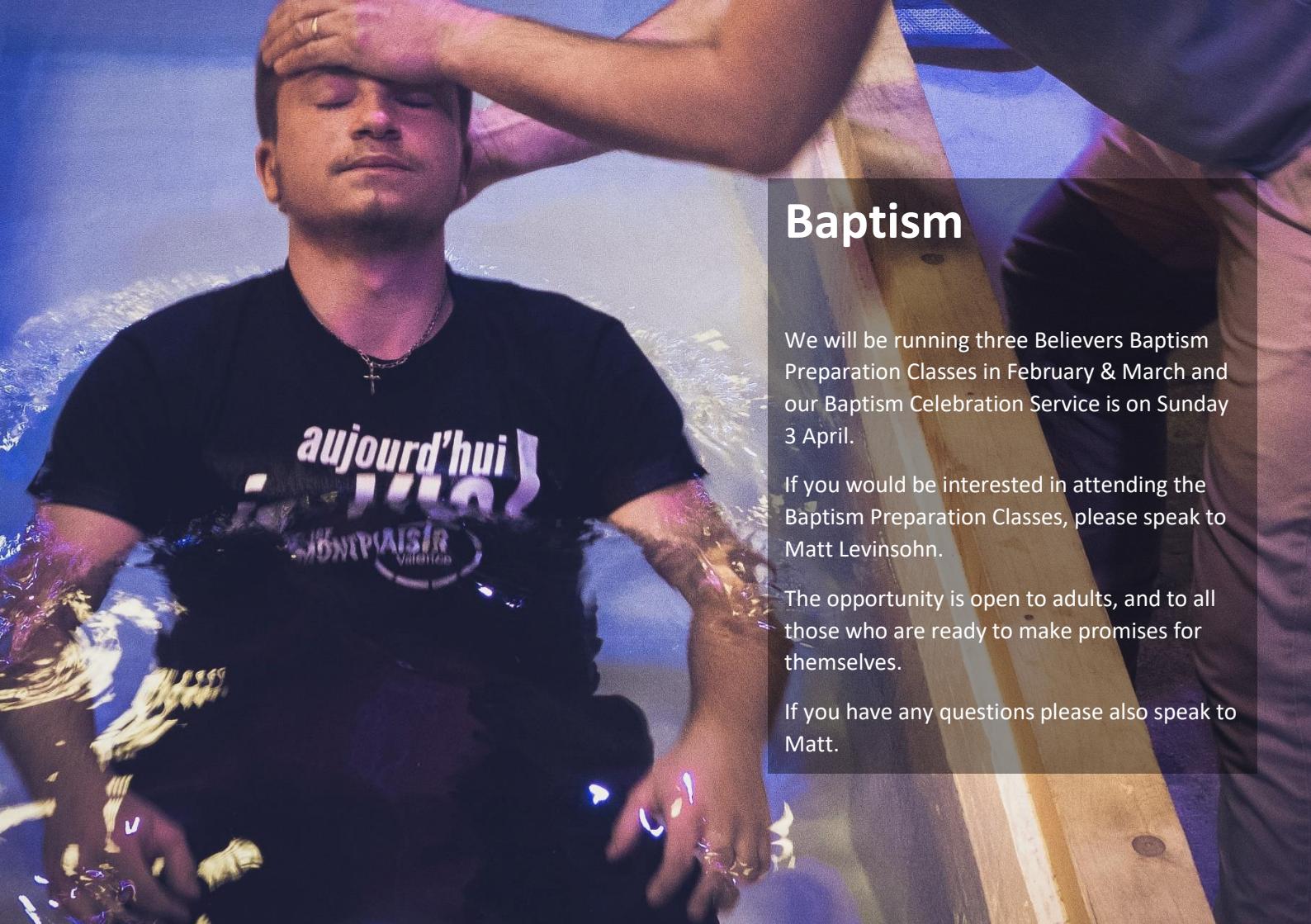
Our first Encounter Service is on February 27th at 6:30pm in the church, and we'll be continuing each month on fourth Sundays. However, in April, we'll bring it forward a week to the 17th and have a great evening of celebration for our Risen Lord on Easter Sunday.

I am really looking forward to gathering with you on these Sunday evenings as we Encounter God together.

If you have any questions or suggestions about Encounter, please drop me an email at encounter.all saints@gmail.com.

Adam Burns





Baptism

We will be running three Believers Baptism Preparation Classes in February & March and our Baptism Celebration Service is on Sunday 3 April.

If you would be interested in attending the Baptism Preparation Classes, please speak to Matt Levinsohn.

The opportunity is open to adults, and to all those who are ready to make promises for themselves.

If you have any questions please also speak to Matt.



DROP-IN COFFEE MORNING

Mondays 9.30-11 am (from 14th February)

Drop in to enjoy a cuppa and a chat with your friends.

Pastoral support and prayer will be available.

JOYFUL CRAFT

A new mid-week group has started on Thursdays 1.30pm-2.30pm

If you like craft and would like to spend time with other like-minded people, whilst being encouraged, this is the group for you.

For more details, please contact Sandra Griffiths:

sandra.griffiths3@ntlworld.com



DATES – FEBRUARY 2022

LEADERSHIP

Standing Committee

Mon 7 Feb 7.30pm - Centre

PCC

Mon 21 Feb 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 & Worship Meeting

Sat 12 Feb 10am-11am
Meeting Room

Encounter

Sun 27 Feb 6.30pm-8.30pm
Church

MIDWEEK

Informal Holy Communion

Wed 9.30am - Centre

Life Groups

Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs
see noticeboard in Centre

Connect Lunch Club

Returning soon

Connect Seated Exercise

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

Joyful Craft

Thurs 1.30pm-2.30pm
Centre

Drop-In Coffee Mornings

Mondays from 14 Feb
9.30am-11am Youth Room

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 7 Feb 7pm-9pm – Youth & Meeting Rooms

Café Church

Back in March

Refresh

Back in April

Youth Apprenticeships

Sun 20 Feb
during the 10.30am service

CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Toddlers

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

Play and Praise

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

Messy Church

Sun 13 Feb 3.30pm-5.30pm

OTHER

Life Shapes Course

Weds 2 Feb 7.30pm

Baptism Preparation Course

Sun 20 Feb 3pm-5pm
Meeting Room

SERVICES – FEBRUARY 2022

SUNDAY 6 FEBRUARY

Jesus and women
Luke 7:36-8:3, Genesis 1:26-28

9am Communion
10.30am Communion

Preacher Rachael Phillips

SUNDAY 13 FEBRUARY

Jesus makes disciples
Luke 10:1-12, 17-24, Luke 22:54-62

9am Morning Worship
10.30am Morning Worship

Preacher Matt Levinsohn

SUNDAY 20 FEBRUARY

Being with Jesus
Luke 10:38-42, John 12:1-8

9am Morning Worship
10.30am Morning Worship

Preacher Kathryn Belmont

SUNDAY 27 FEBRUARY

Jesus invitation
Luke 14:12-24, Luke 8: 4-15

9am Morning Worship
10.30am Morning Worship

Preacher David Munby

You can also watch our live-streamed services on our
YouTube channel:
<https://www.youtube.com/AllSaintsVideo>

www.all saints-church.net/
Email: office.all saints@mail.com
Tel: 01642 783814