



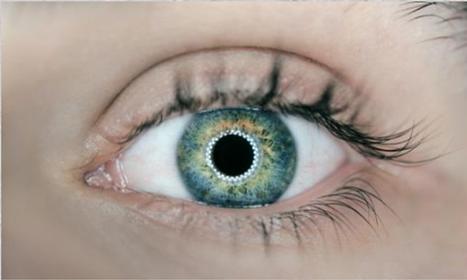
APRIL
2022



All Saints' Church
Preston on Tees

Resurrection

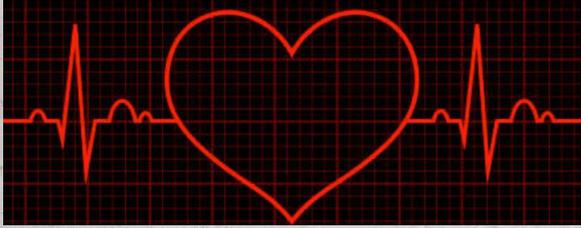
How and when do you experience God? People will have many different answers, and even among Christians there are varying ways we can experience God. For some people it is at the moment they receive bread and wine and I have been struck how emotionally impacting it has been for people as we start to be able to receive bread and wine for the first time in a long time. For others it is when they read the bible. Certain passages strike home. I have been particularly struck recently by the phrase in Luke 10 'Rejoice that your names are written in heaven'. There is a certainness, a security, an unchangingness about scripture. It is a good bedrock on which we can rely. For others it will be in worship. When the band or a track comes on and you find yourself lifted and drawn closer to God.



For a long time, and probably naturally, I have experienced God most with my eyes shut. Whilst shutting your eyes is great in that it shuts out distractions, I wonder if at times it somehow causes us to see a separation between the physical and the spiritual. The spiritual for me has for the most part been dependable. As long as I have not walked away from Him, experiencing God with my eyes closed has been fairly constant in my life.

Eyes open experiences of God are perhaps more challenging.

Some days I am very much aware of what God is doing around me, people he is bringing across my path, situations he is changing. But there are perhaps fewer times when God intervenes in the physical in such ways that even the most hardened atheist might have to concede.



The resurrection though is one of those moments. As Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 15:17 'If Christ has not been raised, your faith is in vain'. 'But (vs20) Christ has indeed been raised from the dead'. It is hard to argue with a heartbeat! It is hard to argue with witnesses who saw him before and after his death and went to their (often painful) graves unswervingly holding to that conviction and certain knowledge that Jesus is alive!

Our God is alive. And he is the one who gives life to us and will give life to others as He draws them to Himself. So, whatever you are facing, whether triumph or difficulty, whether a situation that seems hopeful or hopeless; take joy today, it is difficult to argue with a heartbeat. Our saviour is alive. He is the first-fruits, the very best reason to be hopeful. The future is certain, a future no Putin, or Covid, or challenge, or atheist can change. A future full of hope where Jesus will return, where God will fulfil all He has promised. Where every eye will see, and where we will find he has gone ahead of us and where we will live eyes wide open in his presence. My prayer is that this year we grow in confidence in the Jesus who rose, not just spiritually, not just physically, but in every sense, and will one day remake this whole world and draw us to the Father. Amen.

Matt Levinsohn



Life Groups

We joined the group over 10 years ago as a way of getting to know more people and deepening our relationship with God and those in the group. More recently we have taken over the running of the group.

We have found the group to be very supportive when we have been through difficult times both practically and prayerfully.

We also find them to be encouraging within our family life and our spiritual life. The nature of our group and many members having younger children means that not everyone comes to each meeting. We have often done standalone sessions for this reason. That being said we have recently finished the 'prayer course 2', which we really enjoyed and found very useful and down to earth and are at present working our way through 'just10' a study by J. John that works through the 10 commandments; incidentally the talks were filmed at Preston Park about 14 years ago... we have spotted a few church members in the audience!!

We enjoy meeting socially and chatting over a cuppa and would highly recommend joining a life group if you are not already in one. We meet on the 1st, 3rd & 5th Wednesday evening of each month at 8pm. You would be most welcome to join us.

Vikki & Martin Howard



The Life Exhibition Mission Week

What a great week we had at the Life exhibition!

Having invited local schools and gathered teams, a large van turned up on Saturday 19th March with a team of us were ready to set up the exhibition and do the training for the sessions. The large inflatable pods, Life café, and video dens looked very colourful and inviting.

On the Sunday our Trailblazer children enjoyed exploring the exhibition and then from Monday to Friday 15 classes (just under 400 children & 30 teachers) visited from local schools including Preston, The Links, Durham Lane, Egglecliffe, St Mary's, Teesside High and St Francis. Unfortunately, Junction farm had to cancel classes coming but I have arranged an alternate Easter story event.

What a joy to welcome the pupils and hear the excitable chatting as they approached. A lot of the children and teachers were pleasantly surprised as they entered the hall and we got plenty of "Wow`s" along the way. The children loved learning about the life, death and resurrection of Jesus through the multimedia presentation including videos, activities and music on their own tablet, exploring Bible stories in the various Life pods, a quiz and refreshments.

As well as looking back at the historical prophecies about Jesus, the children looked at Jesus miracles, parables and more!

A great opportunity to introduce children to Jesus, and to build on that in future months.

A huge thank you to the fantastic team who helped during the week.

Excerpts from teachers feedback include:

"Great interactive session. All children were engaged and enjoyed it. Great delivery from church staff. Such a well organised event"

"Wonderful, immersive experience. Accessible to all children from all abilities. Staff are wonderful. very helpful and couldn't do more! "

"Wow! The children loved the use of technology, and the videos were fantastic. They learnt lots"

" A super way to engage the children and learn more about Jesus"

Jan Peters



Electoral Roll

What is the Electoral Roll? It is a list of people committed to regular worship at All Saints and who consider themselves a member of the Church of England, which is required by the Diocese as part of the organisation.

There are conditions for having your name on the Electoral Roll the main ones of which are:

1. You must have been baptised
2. You must be aged 16 years or over
3. You must fill in and sign an application form.
4. You must have been attending All Saints' for at least six months.

Other conditions are printed on the application form.

A new Electoral Roll is completed every six years; the next date when a completely new one is required will be 2025, so if your name is on now, you do not need to sign a new form now, only new people need to do this.

Forms (yellow) are available in the church entrance. When completed please place in the envelope marked Electoral Roll to be found in letter W of the pigeonholes in the entrance.

For this year the Electoral Roll must be completed by 9th April in order to display it before the Annual Meeting on 24th April where it will be used to check names attending and voting at the Annual Meeting.

Gill Wake,
Electoral Roll Officer



The Community Engagement Group

We are a sub-group set up by the PCC (suggested by Matt Levinsohn) to increase the recognition of the church as an important part of our local community.

Currently there are three of us, all PCC members, but we are keen to expand our group, and any member of the church who finds in this an echo in their thinking about the church would be very much welcomed. We have contact with, and are now a part of, a local organisation (the Yarm, Eaglescliffe and Country Parishes Group) organised through the Stockton Council. With their help we will be setting up a “pop-up” within the Centre, to which various organisations which provide valuable services within the community will come to give advice and help to local residents.

A trial is under way elsewhere of a more specific equivalent, addressing the problems of fuel poverty triggered by the rises in the costs of gas and electricity, allowing people (in confidence) to seek advice and help. If this proves successful it will be rolled out across the Borough, and, again, we hope that the Centre, which would provide an ideal place for such an event, will allow the church to help our neighbourhood. Another initiative which is under way is to provide information and help for those with dementia (a growing problem) and for their carers.

We feel that this is important work: if you feel the same, and would like to take part, please contact one of us.

Debbie Bunford, John Littlehales, Anne Rolfe.



Why We Love New Wine

We have been going to New Wine as a family for about 10 years now and this is why we keep going back.

The morning and evening sessions of worship and teaching are a highlight for us. You learn so much and come out buzzing, feeling that you've really encountered God. The different speakers are all excellent, and there are a variety of venues and seminars to choose from, or you can tune in on the radio and listen from your tent/caravan.

The community aspect is a huge part of it, camping together with your church family, spending time eating together or sitting in the evenings chatting with a glass of wine helps you get to know each other so much better.

For us though, the effect it has on the kids is by far the best part. Here are some of the reasons they get so much out of it:

Zac says:

"New Wine is great, it has helped to widen me in my faith. The sessions are really amazing, I especially like hearing all the voices joined together into one massive voice singing to God. The talks are really good and help you to understand the Bible passage they're talking about. Generally they make it as fun as possible but there are sessions to slow down and feel the presence of God.

I also love Stomping Ground (open at different times for your particular age group) full of inflatables to play on and climb, circus toys, a massive ball pit and an area for gaming.

Anna says:

“The groups are big, you have a talk and then do different activities in your smaller group. There’s a band and the leaders do funny dramas about the Bible theme. You can take your parents along to some evening sessions and I volunteered Dad and he got pie’d in the face! It was really funny! I like the tent with snacks where they show a film in the afternoon”.

Abi says:

“The venues for teens and older kids are a bit more like the adult meetings but with more small group time. I like to walk around the site with my friends in the evening to visit the marketplace and cafes to buy hot chocolate and churros”.

We hope to see as many of our church family members as possible there this summer! Go ahead and book your tickets.

Matt, Rach, Abi, Zac and Anna.



If you would like to book, please go to: <https://www.new-wine.org/events/united22/>

The Early Bird Discount for bookings end on 6 April.

The Life Shapes
Course

Tues 26 April
& Tues 3 May
7.30pm

Please speak to
Geoff Jowett
for more
information



Sunday Picnic & Fun Day, April 10th
12.30 onwards

We would like to invite you to bring a picnic lunch to the Vicarage garden after church on Sunday April 10th. After lunch we will head into Preston Park for some games. Feel free to invite friends along. This is an open invite, including those who come on Sundays, to our toddler group, Play & Praise and Messy Church.



DATES – APRIL 2022

LEADERSHIP

Standing Committee

Mon 4 Apr 7.30pm - Centre

PCC

Mon 18 Apr 7.30pm – Centre

PRAYER

Morning Prayer

Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri, 9.10am, by
Zoom: 835 4592 5539,

Prayer & Worship Meeting

Sat 9 Apr 10am-11am
Meeting Room

Encounter

Sun 17 Apr 6.30pm-8pm
Church

OTHER

Easter Joyful Craft

Sat 2 Apr 6.30pm-9pm Centre

Picnic & Fun Day

Sun 10 Apr 12.30
Vicarage Garden

MIDWEEK

Informal Holy Communion

Wed 9.30am - Centre

Life Groups – various days/times

see noticeboard in Centre

Connect Lunch Club

Next on 10 May 11.45am

Connect Seated Exercise

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

Joyful Craft

Thurs 1.30pm-3pm, Centre

Drop-In Coffee Mornings

Mondays
9.30am-11am Youth Room

Pioneer Think Tank

Weds 6 April 8-9pm Vicarage

Life Shapes Course

Tues 26 April & 3 May
7.30pm Meeting Room

YOUTH

Youth Life Groups *term time*

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

Youth Club *term time*

Fri, 7-9pm – Centre

Youth Church – during our Sunday

10.30am service, – Youth Rooms

Boys' Club *term time*

Mon, 4-5.30pm - Centre

Doulos Youth Leadership Training

Mon 4 Apr 7pm-9pm – Youth &
Meeting Rooms

Café Church, Next on Tues 17 May

Refresh

Sun 24 Apr 6pm-8pm Centre

Youth Apprenticeships

Sun 17 Apr
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, Next on Sun 8 May

Y5 & Y6 Life Group

Mon 4 & Mon 25 Apr
4.15pm-5.15pm Meeting Room

SERVICES – APRIL 2022

SUNDAY 3 APRIL

Seeing and Not Seeing

Luke 18:31-43, 2 Corinthians 3: 7-

189am Morning Worship

10.30am Morning Worship – Baptism
Service

Preacher Matt Levinsohn

SUNDAY 10 APRIL

Palm Sunday

Jesus Arrest

Luke 22:31-46, Luke 9:43b-45

9am Communion

10.30am Morning Worship

Preacher Michael Davison

SUNDAY 17 APRIL

Easter Day

Jesus death and resurrection

Luke 23:32-24:12

9am Morning Worship

10.30am Morning Worship

Preacher Sola Adeboye

SUNDAY 24 APRIL

APCM

Jesus Appeared and Ascended

Luke 24:36-53, 1 Corinthians 15:12-
28

10am Joint service APCM

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

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

www.allsaints-church.net/

Email: office.allsaints@mail.com

Tel: 01642 783814