

JUNE 2022



All Saints' Church

*Loving Jesus,
Loving Our Communities*

Fanning Into Flame What God Has Given Us



This is my nephew. He has been mountain biking for around a year and a half. By contrast my brother-in-law and I have been biking for over twenty-five years and are not even in the same ballpark. We look at jumps like this, and all we can think of are trips to A & E and recovery times. Our question why? Why are we not better? Why have we not made more progress? Why does he look to be having more fun and doing things we wish we could do?

There are a few answers. The one we fall back on is that he is younger and bounces. But the reality is that we are not ancient ourselves. There are better answers. The first of which is that he spends every waking hour building jumps and doing jumps. He has dedicated a lot of time to improving.

The second is that he has spent a long-time watching videos, learning from other people's successes and failures, riding with friends better than him to pick up tips. And the third, and perhaps more important is that he has been willing to crash.... A lot.

Linking this through to our walk with Jesus, three things stand out:

Firstly, that time with Him matters. I continue to book Him in my diary and to refuse to take him out when life gets busy. It's the only way my life keeps focussed on Jesus. You might want to do the same.



Secondly, this morning Abby McDaniel shared with us as a staff team about how she had grown as a Christian. She showed us pictures of all those people who had mentored her in America, as a child, as a teenager, and as a young adult. People who took her out for a coffee and talked about life and faith, and both encouraged and challenged her. As we watched, the rest of us realised that few of us had never had that same experience, and so perhaps neither did you. But we also recognised that this is what Jesus encouraged us to do; to make disciples, and to be disciplined by someone else. We will be thinking more about this in church, but even as you read this, can I encourage you; who could you approach to regularly meet with you and encourage you and discuss faith with you? Who can you learn from? Who might have something they have learnt about this life walking with Jesus that they could share with you?

Thirdly, the crashing. We all I think live in fear of things going wrong. Of looking silly, Of appearing less than competent. All of us have that fear of others to a greater or lesser extent. But I believe in this season God would say to us, don't be afraid, take my hand, try something new; try that thing you are a bit scared of and see what I will do and make you more fruitful.

So perhaps this week, find someone to meet with, they might be in your life group, they might be someone else. Plan (as I know many of you do) that time to invest in you and Jesus. And try something that could go wrong. Start a conversation about Jesus. Have a go at praying with someone. And let's see what God will do.



Matt Levinsohn

Our New Warden

I am married to my lovely supportive wife Jacky. Jacky is from Stockton, and I originate from the South. We have a wonderful son Joshua who is in his fourth and final year at university. After Josh left for university, we were so devastated we acquired 'Holly' a gorgeous Cockerpool pup, and she now dominates our home life.

I have been attending All Saints since Joshua was 2- 3 years old. I was looking for a Sunday school for Joshua, but after hearing Allan Farish preach, my understanding of Christianity dramatically changed. I thought I understood what Christianity was, I didn't at all, and my preconceived conceptions of Christianity were blown apart and I haven't looked back since.

All Saints has been a place where I and Josh have received so much Christian love and support that I hesitate to think where we would have been without the Christian message in our lives. For many years All Saints has been my sanctuary. We all need a place where we can be recharged and renewed.

I had not (previously) considered becoming a Warden until Matt had suggested it. To be honest I was not sure what a Warden did, so I googled it. It said something about encouraging peace and unity (and other things...) but those words have stuck with me. I am very excited about the future at All Saints and want to thank everybody so much for their encouragement.

I have over 40 years' experience of working in a variety of different settings within the voluntary and statutory sector, and the last 27 years of my career has been in child protection and mental health social work where encouraging peace and unity has always been my goal.

My hobbies are cycling, walking the hills with my family and Holly, watching Formula 1 and watching England play Rugby.

I look forward to meeting everyone and getting to know you. Please do not hesitate to approach me about your views in connection with or promoting our amazing All Saints Church.

Chris Vass



Ukrainian Family Support Cafe

We are pleased to be operating a fortnightly cafe for family hosts and their guests from Ukraine.

This will be on a Thursday evening from 7pm-9pm, during June this will be held on 9 & 23 June. **You can check out the dates on our calendar either on Church Suite or our website.**

Please join us for a drink and an informal chat. The meeting will be in our Youth Room which is on your right as you enter the building from the car park.

We will also be acting as a hub for people to link with other agencies.

For more details, please speak to Judith Evans or Ruth Johnson

Life Groups

Breakfast and Bibles (or 'B n B', as we really are that cool!!) is the name of the life group that meets twice a month on the first and third Saturday mornings, starting at 8.15 and finishing by 9.30am. We meet at Cafe Nero in Yarm which lends itself to a relaxed atmosphere, good coffee, and a decadent breakfast for those who want it.

As our (slightly cheesy) name suggests, we are a sort of Bible book club. After breakfast and chatter we turn to our Bibles and have an open time of sharing what we've been reading, mulling over any difficult passages, and discussing what we have learnt. We are very informal and relaxed- sometimes members of the group haven't read anything that week; that's ok, we can help them decide what to read next. Sometimes members of the group are struggling with a particular book (I recently decided to read Jeremiah and found it very hard going!) but having somewhere to discuss the points it raises was helpful. Sometimes we discuss several small passages, other times one passage and subsequent tangents in the discussion take our whole time, that is also ok, we have no set agenda and no official leader of each meeting, more a simple and open discussion.

Several members of the group follow reading plans on the Bible app and have inspired others to follow them subsequently. Others choose to read a book at a time, others flow between passages as their mood takes them. There is no pressure to have read huge amounts or bring deep theological knowledge and we have a range of members at different stages in their Christian journey. Sometimes we set each other challenges for the next meeting but it's always very gentle and relaxed.

Personally, I leave each meeting filled both physically and spiritually from the food and discussion, having enjoyed spending time with others from church on a deeper level than a Sunday morning service allows. If this sounds like something you would be interested in joining please speak to me or Matt Falcus for further information.

Lucy Falcus



Our Queen and The King She Serves

In our Joyful Craft Group, we have enjoyed celebrating various events throughout the year, by crafting and making fun and attractive decorations. None so far has been as exciting and pleasing for everyone as the upcoming Platinum Jubilee Celebrations. We have been making red, white and blue bunting to decorate church and very special tiaras! We have had many conversations about the Queen and how she has lived out her faith over her life, making it clear that she has relied on God to help her in the ups and downs.

One lady who remembers vividly watching the Coronation of the Queen said that she remembers her promising to do her best with Gods help to serve the country and people to the best of her ability, and she has certainly kept that promise.

One of my earliest memories of the Queen is when my family stopped our day to watch her televised Christmas message each year. It seems that she has become even more open about her faith as the years have gone by. "For me, the life of Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, whose birth we celebrate today, is an inspiration and an anchor in my life. A role model of reconciliation and forgiveness, he stretched out his hands in love, acceptance, and healing. Christ's example has taught me to seek to respect and value all people, of whatever faith or none." (Christmas message, 2014).

In a recent book about the Queens Faith Dudley Delphs says... "Nearing seven decades on the throne, the Queen has faced many personal and public storms - an early and surprising ascension to the throne, the dissolution of the British Empire, political upheavals, international crises, national tragedies, family deaths, and the tabloid travails of her children and grandchildren. But throughout all her trials and triumphs, Her Majesty credits her personal faith in Jesus Christ as the steadying anchor to her life and reign."

We thank God for Her Majesty, for her Godly stability, servant-hearted dependence, endurance, obedience and joy. May she continue to be blessed by Him and continue to create a culture of Godliness.

Sandra Griffiths



PCC

May saw the beginning of the new PCC year with new members joining: Elaine, Alex, and Sarah. As usual we began our meeting giving thanks for all God is doing including the Exploring Faith course, and upcoming baptisms. We spent time evaluating what we have been doing on working parties and began to reflect on the skills and abilities each of us brings to the team.

The PCC agreed to pursue other ways to see if someone would like to join Youth for Christ, serving at All Saints from the UK or elsewhere which is why you will all have received a short advert to forward to people you know. In addition, we looked at our budget to date and gave thanks for the generous giving which continues to enable us to see God's work extended in this place. The Social Working Party told us about the upcoming start of the replacement to what was known as 3G; a monthly social opportunity for those in the church to get to know each other better (more info to follow).

There are a couple of areas in particular where more help is needed at present: The first is a need for new members of the Staff Management team who provide HR support and advice to the vicar and others to ensure our staff team flourish. The second is someone who is skilled in finance which in the long term will join or lead the finance team at All Saints. If more broadly you would like to see what the PCC does, please approach Matt so we can organise for that to happen. We continue to celebrate and be grateful for all God is doing in and through us.

New Social Group

When I first joined All Saints', I didn't know many people. It would have been very easy to just turn up on a Sunday, briefly chat to some old faces (some older than others!) & then go home. To be honest, sometimes it was easier to look busy putting away everything from Trailblazers than have to think about getting to know new people.

Then I began to attend something called 3G led by Dunc & Deb Hird. I got to meet new people over games nights, quizzes, archery, numerous meals, treasure hunts, beetle drives and BBQ's. We even got to play with Jan's puppets once! We laughed, we ate & we shared fellowship, simple! I probably should apologise for being overly competitive at times! I made links, relationships & friendships which remain to this day.

I got to know people I would be unlikely to get chance to spend time with otherwise. Many of whom I have served alongside since in Trailblazers PCC & Standing committee. In all honesty without those relationships, I would have struggled to step out into these areas. For me, getting to know others socially & fellowship with them was a vital step to feeling I belonged

Social activity often provides a place to invite friends or family or those loosely connected to the church through other events. So, when Matt asked PCC to volunteer for working parties Social Activity was top of my list. Coming out of Covid it's been great to see activities begin such as crafts, men's & ladies' meals, family picnics, walks & more...

We are now planning on starting a regular social activity (name to be confirmed!) If you are interested have a chat to one of the team or come along at 7:30pm on the Monday 27 June in the church centre for some games, fellowship and food. More details will be advertised soon... We're open to ideas, so get in touch. I'm looking forward to it, see you there!



Simon Honeywell



**Teesside Churches
UNITY SERVICE**

Pentecost

5TH JUNE, 6PM

Stockton Parish Church, High St, Stockton-on-Tees TS18 1SP
Doors open 5:30pm - 6pm Start
Arrive early to guarantee a seat

Dates June 2022				
Prayer	Midweek	Youth	Children & Families	Other
Morning Prayer Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri 9.10am Zoom: 862 4733 2301 Password 316316	Informal Holy Communion Wed 9.30am - Centre	Youth Life Groups <i>term time</i> Wed, 6-8pm – everyone to start in the Youth Rooms	Toddlers Thurs <i>term time</i> 9.45am -11.30am - Centre	Teesside Churches Unity Service for Pentecost Sunday 5 June 6pm-7.3pm Stockton Parish Church
Prayer & Worship Sat 11 June 10am-11am Meeting Room	Life Groups – various days/times see noticeboard in Centre	Youth Club <i>term time</i> Fri, 7-9pm – Centre	Play and Praise Fri <i>term time</i> 10.15am-11.45am – Centre	Exploring Faith Thurs 2 June & 9 June 7.30pm-9pm venue tbc
Encounter Sun 26 June 6.30pm-8pm, Church	Connect Lunch Club Tues 14 June 11.45am -2pm	Youth Church – during our Sunday 10.30am service, – Youth Rooms	Messy Church , Sun 12 June 3.30pm-5.30pm Centre	
	Connect Seated Exercise Tues 1pm (2pm on Lunch Club days) - Centre	Skate Park Outreach Tuesdays from 7 June 5.30pm- 6.30pm, Preston Park. Please let Kathryn Belmont know if you'd like to be involved.	Gems (up to reception) and Trailblazers (Y1-Y6) , during our Sunday 10.30am service – Centre & Meeting Room	
	Joyful Craft Thurs 1.30pm-3pm, Centre	Refresh , next event is the Refresh Day Festival Saturday 16 July 11am-6pm	God's Giants (Y5&6) Mon 13 & Mon 27 June 4.15pm-5.15pm Youth Room	
	New Social Group Mon 27 June 7.30pm, Centre	Café Church , Tues 12 July 6pm-7.30pm Yarm Costa	Puppet Practice Mon 7pm-9pm – Centre	
	Drop-In Coffee Mornings Mondays 9.30am-11am Youth Room	Youth Apprenticeships Sun 19 June during the 10.30am service		
	Ukraine Family Host Support Cafe Thursday 9 & 23 June 7pm-9pm Youth Room			

Standing Committee Mon 6 June 7.30pm, The Vicarage **PCC** Mon 20 June 7.30pm Centre

SERVICES – JUNE 2022

SUNDAY 5 JUNE – Pentecost

The Spirit Poured Out At Pentecost

Joel 2:28-32, Acts 2:1-12

9am Morning Worship

1030am Morning Worship with Baptism

Preacher Rachel Levinsohn

SUNDAY 12 JUNE

Are We Losing the Value of Friendship?

1 Samuel 20:34-42, Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

9am Communion

10.30am Morning Worship

Preacher David Munby

SUNDAY 19 JUNE

Is God Pro-Business?

Deuteronomy 8:6-18, Ecclesiastes 5:10-15

9am Morning Worship

10.30am Morning Worship

Preacher Michael Davison

SUNDAY 26 JUNE

What should Go Into An Upbringing?

Proverbs 22:6, Hebrews 12:7-11, Joshua 4:1-7

9am Communion

1030am Communion

Preacher Kathryn Belmont

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

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

www.allsaints-church.net/

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