

SEPTEMBER 2022



C.S Lewis: 'When I was ten, I read fairy tales in secret and would have been ashamed if I had been found doing so. Now that I am fifty, I read them openly. When I became a man, I put away childish things, including the fear of childishness and the desire to be very grown up'

Perhaps, like me, at various times you too have been called immature. This always makes me wonder, what is the measurement of maturity I am being accused of not reaching? What are we expected to mature into? In particular there are a few traditional elements of maturity I would encourage us all to dispel as I am not convinced they tally with a Christian description of maturity.

The first is that at all times we should be reasonable and moderate. Reading again some of the prophets; reading some of the heroes of our faith; they were not reasonable or moderate. They were passionate, unbending, unreasonable people. They chased after their God given dreams and did not take no for an answer. What dreams do you have on the back burner? Is it time to revisit them?

Secondly, at the New Wine festival in the summer we were challenged to continue to have fun; to keep a lightness about us. This was diminished over lockdown. As part of living for Jesus, my desire is to live life in such a way that those yet to discover Jesus look on and say 'that does look a great way to live life'. Rest, fun, prayer, living with purpose. These should not lead to an absence of joy, for joy is good for our hearts. Are you seizing those moments in life which make you feel alive and joyful?

Thirdly, I kick against anxiousness and carefulness. There is much to be said for not climbing on the railway line or not driving carelessly. But an over precaution in avoiding all risk, managing all the outcomes, planning for every potential future saps joy. Somewhere at its base is the ancient lie in Genesis 2 that God is not to be trusted, that our futures are better in our own hands and that risk should be avoided at all costs. This does not look like New Testament Christianity, which changed the world, changed lives, brought thousands to faith. Are there areas in which God is calling you to trust Him?

The final reason I find myself kicking against the labels of adulthood is that often they are borne out of comparison. As Jon Tyson writes 'a fast from comparison, and a feast on biblical identity could move your life into a place of freedom and delight'. Are you holding yourself ransom to comparison with others? If Jesus were to speak to you today about your heart, about your life; what would He say?

So, I hope as we enter this new academic year, you are finding time to enjoy life. I hope you are rediscovering or discovering for the first time some God given unreasonableness that causes you to live for His kingdom above all else. And I hope you will enjoy placing trust into His hands again, for there are none better.

Bless you friends.

Matt Levinsohn



Giving Thanks

“And now, brothers and sisters, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord’s people.”

2 Corinthians 8:1-4 NIV

As we begin this new academic year it seems right that we should celebrate, amongst other things, all the youth and children’s provisions here at All Saints’. The role of church treasurer can sometimes be a daunting one, but over the last couple of years, as I have been temporarily holding the reigns before someone else is called to the job, I have witnessed the blessing of being part of such a generous congregation. We have around 90 families giving regularly, and we receive around £17,000 each month: including congregational giving, gift aid and other income. Some of which we give away to further the mission of the diocese and to support our mission partners - the rest goes to see God’s kingdom come in this place.

As I mentioned at the start, we should thank God for the number of children and young people who we connect with through assemblies, toddlers, messy church, life groups, youth club and detached youth work; all in addition to groups that meet on a Sunday. The fruit that we see from these ministries is directly linked to the financial investment over many years and hopefully many years to come. Please pray for increased fruit and vision as we continue to seek God for the work.

If you are new to All Saints’ and want to know more about giving or how to give, please chat to me on a Sunday or email treasurer.allsts@gmail.com with any questions you might have.

“Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”

2 Corinthians 9:7 NIV

John Belmont



The All Saints' Walkers Group

In 1996 some people got together, recognising that there was a need for a way for single people to meet as a group apart from the many arrangements in place which were designed around families. They decided that they would walk together. It wasn't long before they were joined by other walkers, single and married, who were also looking for opportunities to walk, and numbers swelled. There were, after a while, two walks a month, one for stronger walkers, and one for those looking for a less strenuous option. The walks were open to all, whether members of All Saints' or not.

By 1997 the enthusiasm was such that we went away for a weekend. This went well, and we did some more. This first few were so successful that we moved to two a year, ending up in larger properties, one in the spring, and one in the autumn, (a total of 41, including 6 full weeks away), while continuing our programme of walks twice monthly, with long and short walks. There were also weekly very short walks on Wednesdays, local, and ending at a place to eat. We also put in place an annual meal (in the Centre) for anyone who had walked with us during the year.

Then along came Covid, and with the lockdowns the walking stopped (except for one walk snatched between lockdowns). We have now restarted a programme of walks, initially with one walk a month, and details of the walks are being published on the church events pages. We get such pleasure from the fellowship and being out in God's wonderful creation that we hope to rebuild the momentum of walking within the Parish. If you, or someone you know, would like to be added to our circulation list, to learn well in advance of proposed walks, (and to get reminders of imminent walks), please contact me at johnlittlehailes77@gmail.com.

John Littlehailes



New Wine United

At the end of July, a group of 52 people from All Saints and St Paul's headed off to Peterborough for New Wine. We had a fantastic time, the worship, teaching, children's, and youth work were amazing and the times of fellowship and friendship we shared were very special.

There is so much that we could tell you about the week - the easiest way is to share some quotes from those who went:

"For me it was just a time of resting in what God was doing and being prepared for what is to come"

"We felt very blessed, God knew just what we needed and provided it"

"I felt invigorated and ready for the next step of our adventure with God"

"I thoroughly enjoyed the worship in the big events but also times of quiet reflection"

"Eating and socialising together in our camping area, helping each other in practical ways and having a chance to reconnect after the last two disrupted years was also special and memorable."

"New Wine has absolutely reignited my burning love for Jesus, especially after the last 2 years...feeling reconnected to our amazing God"

"I asked for prayer for my right arm which had restricted movement. I thought the lady praying for me was lifting my arm, but it was the Holy Spirit. My arm moved slowly until it was completely upright. Then it curved a little way over my head before returning by my side in the same way. An amazing experience that I have never experienced before. Movement returned and no longer painful. Praising God."

"I didn't feel I had anything to give apart from showing up and being willing as I was exhausted from working on a team. Turned out this is all God required. I was asked to pray for a young woman in her early 20s who was paralyzed. I just knelt before her and asked Jesus to just use me somehow to bring healing. The next day she told me she normally wakes at 5am having to take her pain meds but she didn't wake till 9am with no pain. I truly learnt the reality of when we are weak, HE is strong!!!"

“The thrill of seeing God at work in prayer ministry”

“God told me to free myself from all the baggage I carry round and labels people have given me, I wrote them down and went forward for prayer that I would feel freedom. I left the meeting feeling considerably lighter than when I arrived.”

There were words from God which spoke to all of our hearts, in particular a word shared by one of the speakers, Jon Tyson calling out specifically to ‘Men With Workshops’ – this spoke directly to the heart of at least two of our group and we are excited to see how God uses them going forward.

And from our Children & Young People:

“The worship was outstanding, and the talks were very good and not repetitive”

“We loved 0-4 Families and Jesus is My Superhero”

“It was amazing”

“I loved the worship”

“I liked my group”

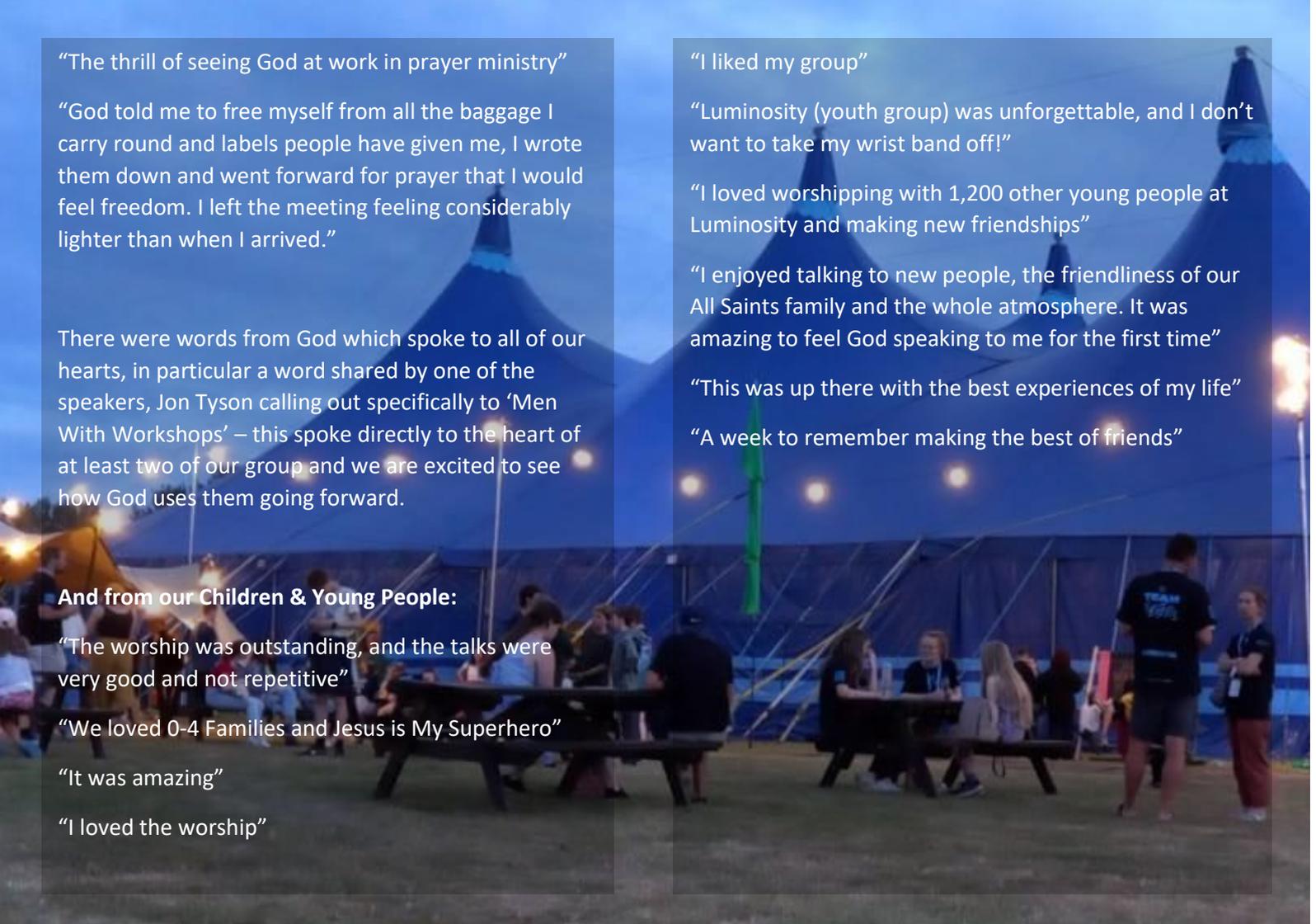
“Luminosity (youth group) was unforgettable, and I don’t want to take my wrist band off!”

“I loved worshipping with 1,200 other young people at Luminosity and making new friendships”

“I enjoyed talking to new people, the friendliness of our All Saints family and the whole atmosphere. It was amazing to feel God speaking to me for the first time”

“This was up there with the best experiences of my life”

“A week to remember making the best of friends”



Friday Night Life Group

Next time you board an aircraft, and before you take off, you will hear the words “put your own oxygen mask on first” as part of the safety briefing. By law, this information must be given. It does not matter if it is your first or hundredth flight, your safety – knowing how to look after yourself and others is every airline’s number one priority.

In a busy church family, it is easy to lose sight of this – especially when family, work and other responsibilities and demands are added. After joining All Saints’ our immediate focus was on making sure our children were happy and settled into their activities, and though we knew we needed to look after ourselves, something always got in the way.

Our children grew and eventually joined ‘Youth’ (year 7+) group, meaning we ended up doing multiple church trips every week, spending lots of time in the carpark and waiting for them to emerge. And that is where the idea for our Life Group came from. While the children are doing their thing, why not have a Life Group for those with similar challenges?

From humble beginnings – two dads, meeting for coffee – sometimes in the church, at Teesside Park or a well-known coffee venue, we have slowly and steadily grown.

If we are asked what defines us, it would be our focus on practical sharing and caring. Yes, we spend time on Friday evenings thinking about God stuff, but mostly, our focus is in being real, authentic, and vulnerable about the challenges of raising families and adult responsibilities. We have prayed for big stuff, little stuff and seen wonderful answers to prayer. During the week, we connect through WhatsApp and yes, still bumping into each other in the carpark!

If any of this resonates, and you recognise the need to put your proverbial oxygen mask on and look after yourself and are looking to connect with ordinary people in a relaxed setting, we would love to see you. Come along, check us out and receive a warm welcome - Friday evenings 7-9pm in the Meeting Room.

Mikey Davison



Satellites

Our youth group has just spent an amazing week away at a new summer camp called Satellites! The heart behind Satellites is:

We want to see young people living with God at the centre of their lives. Everything else is secondary to that. We live in a world where Christianity is often seen as a lifestyle choice for young people, another element of our compartmentalised lives. But God doesn't exist to revolve around us, to serve our needs when we ask him. It's designed to be the other way around.

We were always meant to be in His orbit. Like satellites.

Kiera and Elliot would love to share their experiences with you!

'Satellites was an amazing experience for me to grow in my relationship with God. Inspirational and encouraging speakers encouraged us in our faith and told us about their real-life struggles, showing us how we can always find God in the dark of the storm. Everything about the week was incredible, including playing games at camp after dinner and worship in the main meetings.

Most of all, I enjoyed the 'orbit' sessions which was a morning devotional where we would study a story in the bible. This helped me be more encouraged to delve further into the history of the bible' – Kiera

'I had A LOT of fun and learnt A LOT about God. I also had A LOT of great conversations with God and connected with him in ways I haven't really done before.

The Meetings helped me think about the ways I can grow in my relationship with God and how to tell others about Him too!

I enjoyed the seminars, camping and having time to talk to friends and think at camp (and let's not forget playing Mafia and the slip n slide!)

After hours at the outdoor cafe and the headstrong lounge (Moooooo!) were my favourite places to hang out. We took part in bingo, a pub quiz and karaoke.

It was nice to only have 2,500 people instead of 10,000 as it felt more friendly.

Satellites was amazing and worth the money!' - Elliot

Please come along and join us for a great weekend, along with our friends from St Mary's Long Newton and St Paul's Newtown!

Church Camp 2022
Fri Sept 23-Sun Sept 25



Hollybush Christian Campsite

£20 per adult. £10 per child,
additional children free

You can camp all weekend
or just join for the day.

Please email
office.allsaints@gmail.com
if you would like to come along

September Dates				
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 from 8 Sept</i> 9.45am -11.30am - Centre	Walkers Group Sat 17 Sept, Please see ChurchSuite calendar for details
Prayer & Worship Sat 10 Sept 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 from 9 Sept</i> 10.15am-11.45am – Centre	Church Camp Fri 23-Sun 25 Sept more details above
	Connect Lunch, Tues 13 Sept 11.45am -2pm	Skate Park Outreach Tues 5.30pm-6.30pm Preston Park	Messy Church, Sun 11 Sept 3.30pm-5.30pm Centre	
	Connect Seated Exercise Tues 1pm (2pm on Lunch Club days) - Centre	Youth Church – during our Sunday 10.30am services – Youth Rooms	Gems (up to reception) and Trailblazers (Y1-Y6) , during our Sunday 10.30am service – Centre & Meeting Room	
	Joyful Craft From Thurs 8 Sept 1.30pm- 3pm, Centre	Refresh, <i>next on Sun 16 Oct 6pm-8pm</i>	God's Giants (Y5&6) <i>back in Sept (details to be confirmed)</i>	
	Monday Night Social Mon 26 Sept 7.30pm, Centre	Café Church, <i>Back soon, more details to follow</i>	Puppet Practice Mon 7pm-9pm – Centre <i>term time</i>	
	Drop-In Coffee Mornings Mondays 9.30am-11am Youth Room	Youth Apprenticeships Sun 18 Sept during the 10.30am service		
	Ukraine Support Café Thurs 1, 15 & 29 7pm-9pm Youth Room	Doulos Youth Leadership Training Mon 19 Sept 7pm-9pm – Youth Rooms		
		Doulos Graduation Sun 4 Sept 6pm-8pm, Church		

Standing Committee Mon 5 Sept 7.30pm, The Vicarage, PCC Mon 19 Sept 7.30pm Meeting Room

SERVICES – SEPTEMBER 2022

SUNDAY 4 SEPTEMBER

Introduction to the context of the book of Ezekiel, his call, vision, and situation.

Ezekiel 1:1 & 2:1-3:15, Mark 12:1-12

9am Communion

1030am Morning Worship

Speaker - Amy Burns

SUNDAY 11 SEPTEMBER

Complacency, punishment, and reform.

How can we stay faithful to God?

Ezekiel 11:13-25, Luke 6: 39-45

9am Morning Worship

1030am Morning Worship

Speaker - Matt Levinsohn

SUNDAY 18 SEPTEMBER

False prophets. Discerning God's voice.

Ezekiel 13, Matthew 23:23-28

9am Communion

1030am Communion

Speaker - Kathryn Belmont

SUNDAY 25 SEPTEMBER

As this is the weekend of our Church Camp there will be no Service at All Saints'.

Please join with the church family at St Mary's Long Newton for their service at 10.30am

St Mary's Church

Darlington Road

Long Newton

TS21 1DD

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

www.youtube.com/AllSaintsVideo

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