



# February 2024



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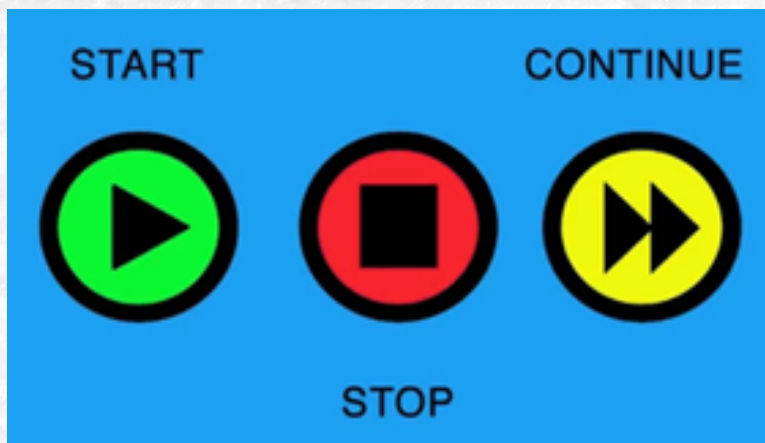
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# The Path Ahead

Dear friends, I hope the New Year has started well with you. January seems to be passing super-fast as I write this, and I can't remember a year with greater contrasts. There are so many stories around at the moment of things that should concern us, and things that might give us renewed hope: Wars in Ukraine, in Israel, and Yemen. The plight of sub-postmasters to achieve justice in the face of significant institutional obstacles. The huge storms which seem to be getting more frequent which may well be caused by us. Ofsted rethinking it's approach and the stress caused to staff. And so on.

It seems like a lot of rethinking of the status quo is needed in lots and lots of areas.



As a Church, we tend to do this rethinking every three to five years and this February is one of those moments where we pause and reflect. What are we doing that is good and wonderful and we should keep doing? What perhaps should we stop doing? Are there things that we should start? It is also a time to think about emphasis. For each one of us, we want to make sure we are using our energy, time, and money for the things that really matter. And so at this time as a church we want to reflect on that question too.

To ask not only 'Are we doing the right things for this season?' but also 'Is our energy, time and resources in line with those things we feel need emphasis at this moment?'



We are by no means the only group who will need to do this sort of reflecting, but something perhaps peculiar to the church is that we want in the midst of this season to be asking God for His guidance. The book of Ephesians says God has prepared in advance things He wants us to do

He will always want to lead the Church to love him and to love other people, but sometimes He encourages us to ask him, what should that look like? Should we be going straight ahead? I.e. Keep the status quo? Or perhaps should we be turning and changing emphasis? One of the things I want to avoid in my own life, is having spent so much time doing the same things, that I fail to realise there was something better I should have been doing.



As well as praying and reflecting beforehand, on February 3rd, we at All Saints' have set aside 9.30am-12.00pm to consider these questions and to seek God for his plans for the next three to five years. If you are part of the church please consider joining us at church and taking part in the thinking and praying which will set the direction for the next part of our journey at All Saints'. But even if you don't, feel free to get in touch and let us know what you love about the church, or what you wish we were involved in.

Bless you. Thanks for taking the time to read this, and if you pray, please do pray for God's guidance for us at this time. By our Annual Meeting on 21st April we will have completed this season of discernment and should be ready to press on with what God has for us next. Exciting times ahead.

**Matt Levinsohn**





# Highlights from Jan's time as Children's Worker


Firstly, as Chris and I leave All Saints' the most important thing to us is to say a HUGE THANK YOU for your overwhelming response to us as we said goodbye in the service on the 21st January and at the shared lunch afterwards. The love and kindness shown to us through your lovely words, memories shared, gifts and cards given have blown us away. We are also incredibly grateful for the extremely generous gift of money you gave as a church towards a holiday abroad.


We feel so blessed to have been part of this church family and thankful for all the friendships, fun, love and support given, and also the wonderful kids ministry teams past and present we have served with. You are an awesome bunch, and we will miss you very much. There are too many highlights and special memories over the past 23 years of being Children's worker to mention but here are a few:

In 1999 when our youngest daughter would soon be starting school and I would need to look for work, I asked God to guide me. Little did I know that God was a few steps ahead and our church was soon going to advertise for a part time Children's worker. I felt called to apply and started in January 2000 and am thankful to God for providing me with a calling I have a big passion for and have loved serving in.

The ministry has grown and changed many times over the years as vision developed, and I have loved the variety – the discipling of our church children, outreach to children and whole families, Schools ministry, Puppet ministry, and more.

'Big Ted' monthly event was a joy and started before my time there (he was our resident teddy who helped us run the popular activities and lunch for toddlers and carers). After many years of it God gave me new vision for 'Play and Praise' which took Big Ted's place and that's also been so special, along with Toddler group.





Back in the day a highlight was taking our older children on residentials - water pistol fights in the woods etc, whilst staying in log cabins were great adventures – (very little sleep though). Hiring the Endeavour ship was my favourite – we slept in hammocks below deck (until the thud of some of us falling off - then we decided an airbed would be best), played hide and seek at midnight all over the ship and treasure hunts.

The yearly Holiday Clubs were great fun. We loved transforming the church into the theme -Jungle, Pirate ship, Under the sea. I still smile about the time Lucy Falcus and I were firing water from super soakers at the children in church and it went further than expected -oops!! hit a light up high, causing the glass to smash and a small ball of fire to shoot down (no children nearby don't worry). Alan the vicar and Norman the curate (both dressed as pirates) ran and did a funny looking dance, stomping out the fire – a memorable scene!! And the end of super soakers in church!

Other highlights include family fun events like the Glow party, and also 'The Club' events which took the place of Holiday club, (as the vision of ministry to reach whole families became the new sense from God) - a great way to get to know the community and share faith, as has been Messy church, and now Discovery church which have been a big, fun part of ministry that I have loved.

Highlights of Schools Ministry over the years are many – Assemblies, R.E. lessons, Life Exhibition and church tours, Puppet based special events in church and in schools and more! Precious time and fun with children in Sunday groups, and at God's Giants, trips out with them, and seeing them grow in faith and as people, are wonderful highlights to treasure.

As I head off to follow a new calling of Children's Pastor at Redcar Baptist with Chris, we will treasure all our memories and pray God's richest blessings upon you. **Jan & Chris Peters**





# Life Groups - people to run the race with

Sometimes we can all get a bit stuck on our spiritual journey as disciples of Jesus. We can find it difficult to connect with God, and also with other Christians. One of the very helpful ways to keep us growing is through being part of a Life Group. The spiritual input, fellowship, friendship, and encouragement we can receive (and give) can be life-transforming. Meeting regularly to study the Bible, worship, pray, and to exercise spiritual gifts are all part of our Life Groups (as well as many socials!). If you aren't yet a member of one yet, please consider joining in on a key element of church life.

Most of our Life Groups have a “missionary link” and are in regular contact with the missionaries associated with All Saints. This is a great encouragement both to those in the groups and to the missionaries themselves. Another Life Group initiative which has developed over the last year or so is helping out at the Ukrainian café on alternate Thursday evenings. This café brings together both Ukrainian refugees and their hosts for a great social time and is one of the few such cafes in the area which is still running. If you/your group would like to help, please contact Judith Evans or Ruth Johnson.

There are 12 Life Groups in All Saints' which meet at different times of the week. They are all different and there is almost certainly one which is suitable for you! Please contact us if you would like to join one.

**Ruth & Stuart Johnson**





# Kintsugi Hope Wellbeing Groups



In autumn 2023, with the backing of the PCC, All Saints' became a partner church with an amazing charity called Kintsugi Hope. It is a Christian charity formed in 2017 by Patrick and Diane Regan who, after several life changing events which impacted their mental and emotional health, established Kintsugi Hope Wellbeing Groups.

## **'Why the name Kintsugi?'**

Kintsugi is the Japanese art of mending broken pots with golden glue. Rather than discarding the broken pots, they are restored with the gold making a feature of the cracks instead of hiding them. This repairs the brokenness in a way that makes the pot more beautiful. All of us have 'broken pieces' which can affect our emotional and mental wellbeing but, instead of hiding them, we can learn from them and know that our scars are what makes us who we are.

Part of the mission of Kintsugi Hope is to equip and enable the Church to set up wellbeing groups.

Please pray for this new venture and if you would like to know more, please come and chat to me, or you can discover more about Kintsugi Hope <https://kintsugihope.com>

These groups are a place where people, both of faith and no faith, can experience:

- A safe and supportive space to grow and flourish.
- An increase in confidence, self-worth and wellbeing.
- A deeper understanding of God's love for them.

## **What progress have we made?**

There is a small team working through Kintsugi Hope's training process. Once this is completed, the aim is to run a pilot group at All Saints, with the intention of starting groups in the summer which will be open to the church and the community.

The team's heart is that these groups will be a blessing both to our church family and the local community. The team's desire is to provide a safe, non-judgemental place where people can know that, despite any weaknesses or struggles, they are still loveable, both by us and by Jesus.



**Elaine Eley**

# Our New Logo

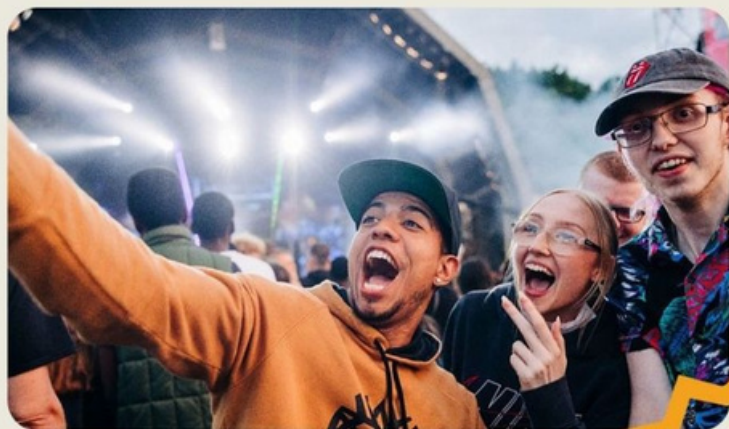


You may have noticed that this month's programme features our new logo, which was launched mid December.

The thought behind our new logo is to emphasise that we are a church where all people are welcomed and valued, where you don't have to have life sorted in order to come, and to have a logo that didn't include the building, as the church is the people wherever we find ourselves and not the building.

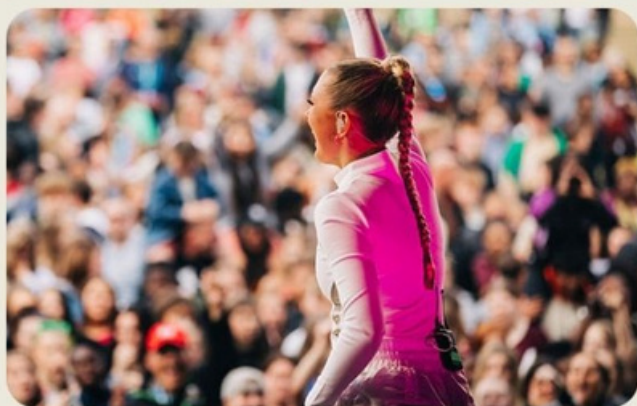
We have started to use it inside the building and on our social media. We will, in time, be updating the signage outside our building too.





# **Festival** **teesside**

**8-9 JUNE 2024**



## **THIS SUMMER!**

A free, family festival with  
extreme sports displays,  
fairground rides, live music  
and much more!

To find out more see:

[facebook.com/festivalteesside](https://facebook.com/festivalteesside)

or

[www.festivalteesside.com](http://www.festivalteesside.com)



**Saturday 3 February 2024**  
**is our Church Vision Day**

**9.30am-12pm**  
**refreshments provided**

Please come along and get involved  
in discerning God's call on our church

**Join Us  
For Our**

# LADIES NIGHT MEAL



**Monday 12th February @ 6.30pm**

**Carpaccio's**

(Opposite the Arc in Stockton)

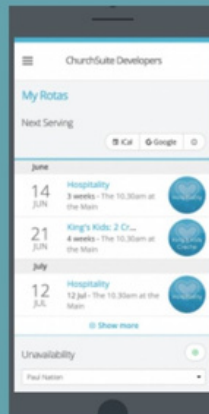
41 Dovecot St, Stockton On Tees, TS18 1LJ

**Let Lucy know by 4th Feb on 07792686879**

## ChurchSuite

**Did you know that there is an app for  
ChurchSuite?**

- You can use ChurchSuite in your browser on your PC/tablet/phone, but lots of people find it easier on the app on their phone.
- It is available to download in the Google Play Store or App Store



## JOYFUL CRAFT EVENT

### TRASH TO TREASURE

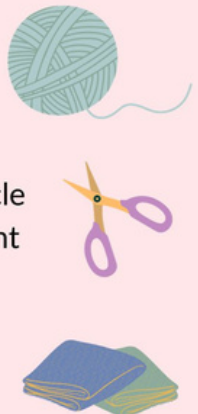
Chris will talk about how he was inspired to recycle and reuse business waste and what this has meant with his work in the Cone Exchange, a textile recycling project.

Afternoon Tea included.

To sign up go to:

<https://allsaints.churchsuite.com/events/ku6ahc66>

Feb 8th 1.30-3.30pm  
All Saints Church  
Suggested £5 donation





# Services Feb 2023

## Sunday 4 Feb

The Church as Bride

Revelation 19:6-10, Mark 2:18-22

9am Morning Worship

1030am Communion

*Speaker: Andrew Killick*

## Sunday 11 Feb

Priesthood of All Believers

1 Peter 2:9-10, Matthew 27:50-54

9am Communion

1030am Morning Worship

*Speaker: Matt Levinsohn*

## Sunday 18 Feb

The Church as The Temple

2 Corinthians 6:16-7:1, 1 Peter 2: 4-5

9am Morning Worship

1030am Morning Worship

*Speaker:*

*9am David Emerton*

*10.30am Sola Adeboye*

## Sunday 25 Feb

The story so far

Joshua 24:1-15, Judges 2:6-10

9am Communion

1030am Morning Worship

*Speaker: Clive Shergold*

**Our 10.30am services are live-streamed  
and you can watch them live or later on:  
<https://www.youtube.com/@AllSaintsVideo/streams>**

Worship	Midweek	Youth	Children & Families	Other
<b>Morning Prayer</b> Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri 9.10am Zoom: 862 4733 2301 Password 316316	<b>Informal Holy Communion</b> Wed 9.30am - Youth Room	<b>Youth Life Groups</b> <i>term time</i> Weds, 6-8pm everyone to start in the Youth Rooms	<b>Toddlers</b> Thurs <i>term time</i> 9.45am -11.30am Centre	<b>Church Vision Day</b> Sat 3 Feb 9.30am-12pm Centre
<b>Prayer &amp; Worship</b> Sat 17 Feb 9am-10am Meeting Room	<b>Life Groups</b> various days/times see noticeboard in Centre	<b>Youth Club</b> <i>term time</i> Fri, 7-9pm Centre	<b>God's Giants Group (Y5&amp;6)</b> Tues 13 & 27 Feb 4.15pm-5.30pm Youth Room	<b>Hymn Singing for All</b> Mon 26 Feb 6.30pm-7.30pm Church
<b>Young Adults Gathering</b> Sun 4 Feb 7.30pm-9pm Stockton Parish Church	<b>Monday Morning Coffee</b> Mondays 9.30am-11.30am Youth Room	<b>Youth Church</b> during our Sunday 10.30am services Youth Rooms	<b>Gems</b> (up to reception) and <b>Trailblazers</b> (Y1-Y6), during our Sunday 10.30am service Centre & Meeting Room	<b>Going Deeper</b> <i>back in March</i>
<b>Encounter</b> <i>back in March</i>	<b>Connect Lunch</b> Tues 13 Feb 11.45am-2pm Centre	<b>Doulos</b> Mon 26 Feb 7pm-9pm Youth Rooms	<b>Discovery Church</b> Sun 11 Feb 3.15pm-4.45pm Centre	<b>Ladies Night Meal</b> Mon 12 Feb 6.30pm Carpaccio's Stockton <i>see above for more details</i>
	<b>Joyful Craft</b> Thursdays, 1.30pm-3pm, Youth Room,	<b>Youth Apprenticeships</b> Sun 18 Feb during the 10.30am service	<b>Puppet Practice</b> <i>term time</i> Mon 7pm-9pm Centre	
	<b>Joyful Craft -Trash to Treasure Event</b> Thurs 8 Feb 1.30pm-3.30pm, Hall <i>see above for more details</i>	<b>Café Church</b> <i>back in March</i>		<b>PCC</b> Mon 19 Feb 7.30pm Meeting Room
	<b>Ukraine Family Support Café</b> Thurs 8 & 22 Feb 6.30pm-8.30pm Youth Room			<b>Standing Committe</b> Mon 5 Feb 7.30pm Vicarage