

INSIDE

P4 - The Club



Those who attended The Club in February tell us of the fantastic experience they had.

P6 - Journeys Course details



Journeys Course is set to take place in May. Find details of this series of evenings exploring God's impact on people's lives.

P10 - Holy Week at St. Mary's



Details of the events taking place at St. Mary's, Long Newton, over Holy Week.



Solar panels a Diocesan first

Mayor Coun. Colin Leckenby with pupils from Preston School next to electronic screen

All Saints' landmark solar panels project was officially launched last month. For the first time, Durham's Anglican Diocese has a church generating its own electricity.

Community interest in the issue of carbon reduction has grown since the switch-on last January, and children and students from the two local schools joined civic dignitaries and Stockton South MP, James Wharton, for the March 25 official launch of the £47,000 scheme.

As spring sunlight spread over the 54 solar panels installed on the Church Centre roof, John Lambert led a church service "in praise of creation and thanksgiving" to mark the successful conclusion of the scheme after two years of planning and fund-raising.

Around 60 invited guests, including representatives of Access Renewables, the main contractors, and grant-aiding organisations, joined in the singing of two hymns, 'For the Beauty of the Earth' and 'Jesus is Lord! Creation's voice proclaim it'. All Saints' Rosie Doherty read from the opening verses of Genesis 1, followed by Lizzie Goodchild, from the Diocesan Environment Group on environmental matters, who read a

creation poem by Bishop Timothy Dudley-Smith. Jeremy Atkinson led thanksgiving prayers for the gifts received to make the project possible, and for the creation and stewardship of our planet.

Rev. Andrew Craig, from All Saints', Stranton, and a member of the Diocesan Advisory Group on environmental matters also touched on the issue of stewardship and suggested churches generally had been slow getting up to speed with environment responsibilities. However, he praised John Doherty and All Saints' energy team. "Their dogged persistence has finally paid off. It has been quite a long road, but now you have done it. We have seen spirituality in practice, and God is glorified."

Guests then moved through to the Church Centre where Mr. Wharton and the Mayor of Stockton, Coun Colin Leckenby, unveiled a "green energy" information display which is a complemented by an electronic screen in the foyer recording the amount of electricity being generated from the solar panels.

Bill Cockcroft.

IN BRIEF

The end of March sees the end of the period our students Aian MacPherson and James Green are spending with us. The pair have been on placement from Cranmer Hall in Durham since October, and have helped lead services and preach at both All Saints' and St. Mary's. They now return to Durham where they have just over a year until ordination. We have very much enjoyed their time with us and wish them the best for the future.

We are looking for a volunteer to deliver ten copies of In Touch on the Orchard Estate. Please contact Matt Falcus or e-mail newsarticles.allsaints@gmail.com.

Do you have an idea for a fundraising event to help Sowing Seeds Ministries? They are looking for people with ideas and people willing to have a go at raising money to support the charity. Contact fundraising@sowingseeds.org.uk.

We shall be running a Springboard Mission as part of our Vision between 11-23 July. This will be an opportunity to help our community with household tasks, lifts, company or whatever else they need. More details next month.

All Saints' will have its annual spring clean on Saturday 7 May. If you can help at all between 9am and 3pm, please let Sandra know.

Reasons I Believe

There are many reasons I could give you why I am a Christian, but when it all boils down to the basics my grounds for becoming - and remaining - a believer are essentially twofold.

1. I think that Christianity is true.
2. I observe that Christianity works.

Under the first point I would say, for example:

- that the complex processes needed to form the Earth (with the improbably ideal conditions to sustain life) could not have just happened without a guiding hand.

- that the chances of dead rocks and a swirling chemical soup spontaneously producing complex life forms without a creator are so mathematically implausible as to be disregarded.

- that what the Bible says about sin is right; that's why no one I have ever met, even good people, would cheerfully allow his or her inmost thoughts of even the last week to be displayed for all to see.

- that Jesus does not come across as a lying fraud or a deluded psychiatric case and that therefore his claim to be the Way, the Truth and the Life must be investigated seriously.

- that the best explanation for the empty tomb is that Jesus rose from the dead as he predicted that he would; neither the Romans nor the Jews could produce the corpse that would have halted the Christian movement in its infancy and neither

the eye witnesses nor the first converts would have suffered martyrdom for what they knew to be a fraud.

Under the second point I would say, for example:

- My life has dramatically changed from the day I became a Christian and though I have lost some friends, occasionally suffered personal attack, disappointed my parents and been pitied by my siblings, I feel like I have inherited a feast and lost a trifle.

- I have yet to meet someone who said to me, "My life was going nowhere, I was empty inside and life had no meaning. Then I became an atheist; my life was transformed and now I live to love and serve people in need. I just want to share my experience with others."

- There is no delight on earth that matches the fullness of joy in the presence of the Lord.

- I've watched the Journeys DVD. So many remarkable stories of ordinary people who have had extraordinary encounters with God. There are more details inside if you're interested to find out more.

As we approach Easter, take heart. It's true, it works. Jesus is alive!

John Lambert.

A group of about seven people, including men and women of various ages, are hiking on a dirt path. They are wearing backpacks and casual outdoor clothing. The path is bordered by a wooden fence, and the background shows a lush green landscape with trees and hills under a bright sky.

Parish Hike

Monday, 2 May

Walks of various lengths, games and a chance to relax with people from all congregations. Meet at Lordstones Cafe 10am. Finish 4pm.



Administrative shake-up follows Rob's departure

New administrative arrangements are being put in place following the departure of Rob Pepper after just over five years as Church Operations Manager at All Saints'.

Rob, who has left to become Office Manager with the A Way Out organisation in Stockton, took over business operations at All Saints' in January 2006 after 11 years as Design and Test Manager in the automotive industry with the Hashimoto company.

John Lambert writes: "I have really enjoyed and valued working with Rob. His gifts for processing information, organising people and data, managing projects, solving problems, working in a team and acting as a loyal and wise sounding board have been a real asset to All Saints' for over half a

decade as a member of the staff team. We will miss having him around throughout the week and wish him well at A Way Out where I am sure his many gifts will be hugely appreciated."

Faced with a precariously balanced budget, our Parochial Church Council has decided not to replace Rob in an identical role. Instead, Sandra Griffiths will have an enhanced role through the amalgamation of receptionist/administrator duties and some of the administrative duties previously carried out by the Church Operations Manager.

PCC will be consulting widely about a range of "other duties" not embodied in Sandra's enhanced role which will have to be taken on board voluntarily by church members.

Rob, along with wife Nicky, will continue to worship at All Saints'



Stockton South MP James Wharton, and Mayor Coun. Colin Leckeby unveil the new information board about alternative energy at the official opening of our solar panels on Friday 25 March.

Church elections - your chance to vote

Important elections are imminent at All Saints'. Our church annual meeting on the evening of Monday, April 4, will put in place a new Parochial Church Council.

This is, effectively, All Saints' governing body, charged with a wide range of legal, administrative and financial responsibilities. It also sends representatives to Stockton Deanery Synod which has a wider strategic role in Anglican ministry across the Borough.

The annual meeting will also be voting into office a new churchwarden to replace Bruce Merrick who is

standing down after three very busy years. The person elected will be working alongside our other churchwarden, Karen Killick, now in her second year of office.

In order to vote in these elections, people must make sure their name is on the Church Electoral Roll. If in doubt contact Gill Wake, our electoral roll officer.

The meeting also presents an opportunity to reflect on church activities over the past year and hear something about the challenges and opportunities in the year ahead.



Down at the Club

February half term, and a queue of excited children and grown ups, stretched from way beyond the Centre doors.

With the limit of 250 people, I was anxious that we may need to turn people away, but God is good, and answered my prayer for just the right numbers of people to turn up. Phew!

The whole site was buzzing with people enjoying all the activities, and the wonderful aroma of homemade candy floss filled the church. In the midst of the busyness a number of us still had chance to have really good conversations with

some of the adults and the children, and to invite them to the various activities/ services at church.

The success of the event is dependent on the commitment and support of a large team, and I want to say a HUGE thank you to everyone who helped. It was the most wonderful team of workers, and all they did was greatly appreciated.

Jan Peters.

The 'noses' appeared at 9.20am on Wednesday 23 February, pressed up to the doors of the Centre. They were accompanied by parents, carers and grandparents patiently waiting for the doors to open at 10am. The queue snaked along the wall of the centre, past the side of the church and round the corner. The car park overflowed, as did the surrounding roads. Yes, once again, we would open our doors and welcome in the children. Wow, by 10.25 we were full, yet no one was turned away.

What an experience for us volunteers. Joy and happiness were the order of the day as children bounced, crafted, candy flossed, played various games and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Adults chatted and coffeeed over scrumptious cakes and morning papers. The whole place buzzed. Half way through the morning I went into the church and was immediately struck by the atmosphere; the



Day Two of the Club comes to an end and Jan thanks me for helping. Actually, I'm the one who should be doing the thanking. I've spent two wonderful mornings sitting amongst children at the craft tables, listening as they talk enthusiastically about what they've enjoyed so far, offering encouragement and occasional help with some of the more fiddly bits of trinket-box decoration and marzipan sweet-making and chatting with mums, dads, grandparents and other carers.

On reflection, one word keeps coming to mind: generosity. I'm surprised and touched at the generosity shown by many children; so much for the 'me' generation. These children wanted to give their masterpieces to parents and to share sweets. In the kitchen, a small team graciously worked flat out to serve refreshments. A mum commented "It's amazing. All this and it's only £1 each!". God's generosity is demonstrated here: we give a little and receive back immeasurably more.

Jayne Davies.

bouncy castle was in full swing, yet through the inflatable bars the cross seemed to shine down on the whole proceedings. I felt the warmth of the Spirit and I knew, in my heart, that Jesus was smiling too. At that moment a thought came to my mind that on that inflatable could be a future member of the clergy or, as Brian Wake commented, maybe an Archbishop, whose first introduction to church was bouncing on a huge castle. Fabulous!

The two mornings flew by and weary, but happy volunteers said goodbye to all the families. Choruses of 'thank you' were echoed through reception as sticky hands clutched bags of candy floss, marzipan fruit, bejewelled boxes and paintings, and smiling adults walked out into God's sunshine.

Thank you Jan and all your family, the young volunteers and the young at heart who gave up their time and energy. God bless you all.

Sue Ireland.

Rising to the mashed potato challenge!

five-day sponsored challenge incorporating the humble spud with every lunch and evening meal.

As reported last month, Sarah will be visiting Romania from 6 June - 2 July as a volunteer with Projects Abroad, working initially in a hospital paediatric ward in the town of Brasnov, and later helping in orphanages catering for four to 16-year-olds.

On the mashed potato challenge, Sarah explains: "I don't really like mashed potato but I'm doing it because I've found from previous volunteer stories that the babies at the hospital I'll be working at are fed only mashed potato every day, occasionally with chicken or peas.

Compassion for orphaned toddlers in Rumania drew a bold response from All Saints' Sarah Peters.

Overcoming her strong aversion to mashed potato, the 18-year-old has just completed a



"So, to highlight their situation, and to raise some money for my trip, I'm going to see how I will cope on their diet."

As part of Sarah's fund-raising for the trip, Jennifer Brown baked a special cake cleverly superimposing on the top icing a photo-montage themed around the town of Brasnov.

Jennifer Brown's special cake



God's Grand Design

No, not another home make-over show, but the title of the New Wine Women's Day held on Saturday 5 March in Harrogate.

If you missed it this year, you missed an uplifting, empowering, inspiring and practical day. The speakers were Nadine Parkinson, Ruth Perrin and Ness Wilson.

I would like to share just a little of the wisdom I gained from their talks.

There is one book in the Bible in which God's name does not appear. That's right - the book of Esther. But there are many times when "it just so happened that", showing that God

was working through people.

If we trust God, He will bless us so that we can pass that blessing on to others. We are encouraged to step into God's big adventure for our lives. He uses our areas of brokenness to minister to others. We learn from the experiences He allows us and can use that learning to bless others. Whatever you have God can use in His grand design. God can and does use you.

So open your eyes to the 'it just so happened that'. See God working all around you and be part of His grand design.

Just to see and hear over 1,600 women singing and praising God, as we did that Saturday, was surely part of God's grand design and it is great to know that He wants us all to be part of it. If you were unable to experience this and would like to hear the talks, you can borrow them from the library. If you want to know more speak to myself or Pamela Rushton. I recommend making a date in your diary for next year's New Wine Women's day. There should be one for the men too!!!

Karen Snowden.



Puppets at the Parish Church

One part of the puppet team's vision is to be a blessing to other churches in the area, and in February we had the opportunity to lead a Puppet Party and Tea event at Stockton Parish Church.

There were approximately 25 children there aged between five and 11, some from the church and others from the local community. We began the afternoon by leading a workshop on the basics of puppetry and then divided into two groups to work on two stories from the Bible, the Creation account (nothing like being ambitious) and Noah. We then came together and performed the stories to each other and a number of parents who had stayed for the event. The team then performed a 20-minute gospel presentation entitled "A Voyage of Discovery". In it Pirate Jim went on an exciting journey following clues and listening to songs performed by his puppet friends that helped lead him to discover the best treasure ever.

We had a great time and the children's leaders were really encouraged, particularly as it drew in new people from the community.

Chris Peters.

JOURNEYS

REAL PEOPLE | AMAZING STORIES | CHANGED LIVES

Ian McCormack received five lethal stings from the deadly box jellyfish, went into a coma, was inanimate for fifteen minutes and then revived. He talks about what he remembers about that quarter of an hour after the doctors pronounced him dead.

Sarah McCracken was a talented young violinist whose hand was crushed in a sliding car door. She was told she would never play the instrument again. She talks about what the doctors told her after her hand was completely healed by an



Mark Holmes

apparent miracle in a church healing service.

Mark Holmes was a young father in his prime, suffering from an incurable brain tumour with just weeks to live. He talks about his feelings regarding his immanent and

premature end to life and his expectations of life after death from a Christian perspective.

These are the three stories explored in the first evening of Journeys; a five-week DVD course exploring the Christian faith through real people, amazing stories and changed lives.

The Journeys film clips, made in New Zealand and presented by investigative TV journalist Rob Harley, are an intriguing blend of stories of faith, told by

ordinary people whose lives have been impacted by God.

Week 1 - Is there a spiritual side to me?

Week 2 - If God and heaven exist, what are they like?

Week 3 - Does faith work in real life?

Week 4 - Does God have real power to change things?

Week 5 - Crossing the line - what's that like?

Journeys takes place in a low-key, relaxed atmosphere over drinks and desserts. It's free to attend and anyone is welcome.

Give the church office a call (783814 between 10:00am and 12:00am Monday to Friday) or e-mail office.allsaints@gmail.com if you want to come along.



Ian McCormack

STOP PRESS!

The May issue of In Touch will be available on 30 April. Please send us your articles, stories and news by Sunday 24 April.



US mega-church and "an encounter with the Father's heart"

Thousands of miles from home, children's leader Julia Taylor-Powell found herself the sole UK delegate at a prestigious Christian training course in California.

Here, Julia reflects on her four-day placement with the Children's Leaders Transformation School - part of the 3000-member Bethel Church complex on America's west coast - and writes: "I have come away having had an encounter with the Father's heart."

Looking back I can see how God had orchestrated every divine encounter, every word spoken, every message heard, every prayer said and spoken out. From beginning to even now my walk with HIM is deeper and I hunger still even more for HIM. He knows how to meet your very personal and deepest need. HE is GOODNESS in the very purest form.

My first revelation was all about how we are FULLY forgiven. When I turned to Christ I was forgiven. Never to be rejected by him again. If I sin it affects my intimacy with the Father. Which leads directly to the message about the Fear of the LORD. I discovered that to have the fear of GOD is to be so in love and loved by HIM, that I become so fearful of offending HIM. A way in which allows me to approach HIM with such intimacy and knowledge

that HE will always be ready to receive me when I come to him.

In one session we did some prophecy drawing - asking Jesus for a picture, and then asking whom it was for, and what did HE want to say.

God revealed some amazing things, which led to an incredible encounter. By now I was blown out of the water and messed up by his abundant and overwhelming love for me. The best of it is, it's still continuing today and is growing ever deeper.

I'm planning to hold a small tea and cake evening to share the stories and encounters of GOD, pray and even dive into the depths and goodness of GOD. Please join us if you're free. It will be held at 7pm on Monday April 11, at All Saints'.



Bethel Church, which Julia visited



African "mercy ship" in Teddy Bears appeal

To all those in All Saints' dexterous in the use of knitting needles - opportunity knocks! Cuddly Teddy Bears are needed to cheer up needy toddlers in Africa.

Nichola Main is seeking church-member support for a scheme linked to a hospital "Mercy Ship" which operates along Africa's west coast and is currently berthed in Sierra Leone. The scheme was launched locally in January by Pam Gerretsen from Tees Valley Community Church at the Oakwood Centre.

Pam, who once worked on the ship, explained that often children needing medical treatment are brought from outlying towns and villages to the hospital ship, and each one gets a Teddy Bear as a gift.

Medical teams from the ship also go ashore, visiting inland communities to help establish local clinics and to work alongside local churches with training initiatives and advise on basic personal hygiene.

Knitted Teddies from All Saints' will be forwarded by Pam to the national collection centre in Stevenage for onward trans-shipment to the hospital Mercy Ship. For patterns and further details please contact Sandra at reception or Nichola either on 01642-784644 or Mob: 07930992514.

Bill Cockcroft.



Africa Mercy operating as a floating hospital for Mercy Ships

New chapter for the Newhams

Last year when we visited All Saints' John Belmont asked us whether we knew how long we were going to be in Mongolia. No doubt we then gave him a vague answer, but over the course of this past year the Lord has made His will clearer to us.

As we think about packing up we marvel at the things we have been involved in, and the words, spoken to us years ago, by an elderly friend return to our minds. He described the Christian life as 'an adventure in the Holy Ghost.' And indeed so far it has been.

Living and working in Mongolia has been both challenging and exhilarating. There have been heartaches and struggles, but as we have watched God draw people to Himself and establish His Church, the struggles had paled into insignificance. We've not only had the privilege of walking alongside the Christians as together, we've sought to work out what it means to follow Christ daily, but we've also been involved in the running of an amazing business.

We came to Mongolia with a fairly traditional view of missionary work. We thought we'd primarily be involved with the Church, but God had other ideas; as we found out when we inherited an enterprise that was started to provide Christians with employment.

Despite several false starts the business eventually became more stable after the opening of the cafe, bakery and later the guesthouse. To our utter amazement the whole venture has been incredibly successful. Not only do we currently employ 15 people but we've been able to disciple the Christians who work with us, as well as serving all who come through our doors. The cafe and bakery also give us a high profile in the town. Our bread and cakes are famous, as well as our clean, flushing toilets!

We imagined that we were here for life but slowly it began to dawn on us that the work the Lord had given us



Mark and Gill Newham

had an end, and that we should prepare to move on. Ultimately the plan is to hand the business over to the Mongolians but we were aware that they aren't quite ready for that challenge, and so we started praying, asking the Lord to send us another family to manage this next interim period.

A year ago an Australian family arrived. They've been studying language and adjusting to life in rural Mongolia. In January the company paperwork was changed and Murray Benn, who has his own business in Sydney, became the new director and we moved into a supportive role.

Our time is fast drawing to a conclusion. We've been here for 18 years and we return to England towards the end of June. We haven't a clue what's next? But God knows that we are willing to go anywhere and do anything? And we know that in His good time He will show us what's next.

So to answer John's question; we know when we will be leaving Mongolia but not what comes next. However we trust that our links and friendship with you will continue to deepen as we seek to move into the next part of the adventure of following God. Thank you for your faithful support and your encouragement. You are a part of God's blessing to us.

Gill Newham.

Kitchen Group progress report

Following the grant given in September 2010, which was to be spent by 28 March 2011, the All Saints' Kitchen Group have been busy improving these important facilities.



After a difficult start due to the purchase of a reconditioned cooker and the recovery of the money paid to the firm who sent a cooker different from that which we had ordered, things got a lot better. Tees Valley Community Foundation (TVCF) staff were extremely helpful to us during this time, and the bad experience brought an unexpected gift of a free cooker from Unity College in Middlesbrough as they were about to refit their kitchen.

With TVCF's permission we were able to buy extra equipment from the money not spent on the cooker, to make our many catering projects easier. For example: our youth group now have a retro slush machine; we have been able to increase the numbers of retired people for whom we cook a hot meal once a month; the washing up area has been improved so our volunteers don't get wet clearing up; we have adequate freezing and storage facilities for food; we have enough crockery, glasses, cutlery to serve up to 100 people, rather than 45 previously.

Pemma Littlehailes.

Falling clergy numbers call for a new strategy

The five Anglican churches in Billingham are edging towards closer collaboration as clergy numbers decline. Fifteen years ago the town had five full-time stipendiaries (salaried ministers). By February of this year, that number was down to just one - Tim Parker, Vicar of St. Luke's.

The past year has seen the departure of Stephen Liddle from St. Aidan's and, just recently, the retirement of Richard Smith as Vicar of St. Cuthbert's. As In Touch reported last month, Bishop Mark has now agreed to allow Susie Green to spend the last year of her four-year curacy on placement in Billingham, where she will spend most of her time at St. Aidan's.

The town's five parishes are now putting together a Billingham revival plan, working through a localised steering group of three representatives from each of the five parishes agreed by their respective Parochial Church Councils. David Brooke, Area Dean, chaired the first meeting to set out ground rules for finding the best way forward.

Meeting monthly, the steering group is developing a framework to work across the five churches with the two stipendiaries now left in Billingham, together with four Readers. Their remit is to address the worship needs of the five churches and to plan for localised services, as well as developing

ecumenical links through weekly prayer time.

Responding to Tim Parker's progress report at the March 21 meeting of Stockton Deanery Synod, held at St. Aidan's, David Brook likened it to "barriers falling down", with the outworking of principles examined in discussions on the Stockton Deanery Plan. He saw it marking the start of a whole new phase in Billingham.

In parallel developments for the Roman Catholic Church in Billingham, after six years of painstaking consultation formal consent has now been given to consolidate three separate parishes into one to be known as St. Thomas of Canterbury. Under the agreement, which became law on Sunday, 20 March, the three RC churches remain open but operate under a unified administration covering finance and other matters.

In a helpful address to Synod, Father John Butters, Roman Catholic Priest in Billingham, described a "drip-drip" process as the merger proposal was carried forward over a period of six years, and is likely to be used as a template for the Newcastle RC Diocese. Synod also heard from Rev. Janet Capstick, Billingham Methodist Minister, about progress in getting the town's two Methodist Churches working more closely together for the whole community.

Bill Cockcroft.

Susie welcomed to St. Aidan's



A welcome service for Susie Green took place on the evening of Wednesday 23 March at St. Aidan's Church in Billingham.

Inside, the church was packed with people from many congregations in Billingham and from the rest of the deanery. The service included worship, prayer for Susie by local members of clergy, prayer stations set out around the Church and a talk by Susie where she encouraged the wider Church not to "manage decline" but to step forwards and build the Kingdom in the local community. Susie stressed that the key was not necessarily to do everything in the same way, but for the local churches to work towards the same goal.

There was a great sense of excitement in the service, both from members of St. Aidan's and other worshipers from Billingham, and the need for unity amongst the local churches and congregations was emphasised. The evening ended with food and refreshments provided by the congregation. Susie will now concentrate her work at St. Aidan's and continue to work with St. Mary's Long Newton until July.

Lucy Falcus.

The Besom is a practical equipping ministry. It provides a bridge between those who have time, money and skills or things they wish to give, and those who are in need.



It was started by a business man called James Odgers who had come from lowly beginnings and who decided to reach out to those in need. It is a national organisation which involves churches and other organisations who have a passion for helping the poor and those on the margins of society. The Besom, which has recently started up in Stockton, helps people at home and abroad. As well as carrying out the practical work it arranges for those giving goods to make a connection with those needing them.

Men Who Care recently had a talk from Emile who is running the Stockton branch and hope to be able to assist with their projects in the future. If you would like to know more, there are Besom Newsletters in the coffee lounge. **Bruce Merrick.**



ST MARY'S LONG NEWTON



Holy Week at St. Mary's

The Son of Man is Betrayed

On Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of Holy Week, there will be a short service in St Mary's at 6.00pm each evening. At each, we shall look at Jesus' arrest and trial as recorded by St. Matthew, with the aid of Tom Wright's book,

At 2.30pm on Good Friday we will be reading the whole of St. Matthew's passion narrative interspersed with time for prayerful thought and with something helpful to look at.

Maundy Thursday

At St. Mary's on Maundy Thursday (21 April) we will be remembering the Last Supper as we gather at the Church to eat together, sing gently, pray and think quietly of what happened in that upper room.

An invitation is given to you all - you do not have to book, just come along and if possible bring a simple food (not drink) contribution to the meal. If you are bringing food, aim to be there at about 7.15pm so that we can prepare the meal and be ready to start at 7.30pm.

St. Mary's round-up

Annual Meeting

The annual meeting will be held on Thursday 7 April. Various officers will present reports and the congregation will have the opportunity to elect the Parochial Church Council. Everyone is invited to this meeting which is always an informative and enjoyable occasion.

Hearing Loop

In response to comments from several members of the congregation who have difficulty hearing in the Sunday services, a hearing loop has been added to the sound system. Please speak to Ian Palmer-Jones if you feel you would benefit from this equipment and need further explanation of how it operates.

Storage Facilities

Storage facilities in the church building are severely limited and stored items have been poorly organised recently, with some obstructing access to others. Massive improvements have now been made with the provision of excellent shelving in the space behind the organ. We are all most grateful to Gareth Attwood and Ian Palmer-Jones for this successful project.

Little Ted

We remind everyone that our Toddler Group "Little Ted" meets in St. Mary's Church every Wednesday morning in school term time, from 9.45-11.15am. New members are always welcome to join the very happy and friendly group, so if you know someone who cares for a pre-school child on Wednesdays please tell them to come along and meet us.

Finances

The 2010 Accounts have now been audited. It is pleasing to report that we had a surplus of £2,100 in the year.

Receipts were just under £23,000, 82% of which was regular giving from the congregation (including Gift Aid tax refunds). Outgoings were £21,900. We met all of our bills and commitments. As usual, the biggest items of expense were Diocesan Share, £9,386, Gas/Water/Electricity were £4,050 and Insurance was £1,600.

As usual we gave 10% of our unrestricted income to external mission.

The surplus not only helps the PCC to make improvements to facilities, but enables us to meet our commitments early in the year when they become due.

This is an excellent result. Although costs rose 6% on the previous year, giving from the congregation was 20% up on 2009 and more than compensated. This is a result of the generosity of the congregation plus congregational growth, and we should rejoice in both of these benefits. We must never relax in our commitment to give back to the Lord's work a little of the wonderful bounty that He has given us.

Lewis Ayers.

Exciting prospects

Exciting because.....

The view from Brockley Hall, Saltburn, is great.

The programme for St. Mary's Vision Weekend is very tempting.



Brockley Hall, Saltburn

On Saturday and Sunday, 14 and 15 May, St. Mary's folk will be enjoying fellowship together and seeking God's guidance for the next few years.

The session titles give a flavour of the weekend. 'The story so far' is self-explanatory but 'Mind the gap' is intriguing; 'Priorities' are sometimes difficult but necessary; 'Stepping Out' is energizing.

The aim is for all the St. Mary's congregation to come along and contribute to the vision. If you are a St. Mary's person and have not booked in yet, why not give Christine Burnell a call on 01642 588679?

Inspiring talk for Christian Aid

There will be a service for Christian Aid week at Yarm Parish Church on Sunday 15 May, and members of all churches in the area are invited.

The service will commence at 6pm, and the speaker will be Peter Murray from Darlington. He has been a Christian Aid Organiser in Darlington for ten years and has collected for Christian Aid for forty years. Peter is a retired University Lecturer and is married to the minister of Northgate United Reform Church in Darlington.

A tireless worker for the charity, he took part in a sponsored walk across the Sinai Desert and has been selected by Christian Aid for a volunteer visit to Sierra Leone.



Please come along to the service celebrating the work of Christian Aid, which should be enjoyable and uplifting.

Bruce Merrick.

Choral Evensong

By popular demand from members of both All Saints' and St. Mary's

Sunday 17 April, 3.30pm
St. Mary's Church, Long Newton

If you need transport either from your home or from outside All Saints' in Dunottar Avenue, please call Brian Wake on 782282 or 658741

Sing with all your soul

If you were at the 9am services on 6 or 27 March at St Mary's, or 6 March at All Saints' when the Choral Group were leading the singing, you will have experienced something completely new.

A little while ago John Lambert threw out a gentle challenge to the Choral Group – it would be good if, when we sing parts of the Communion Service, we could do so to tunes which the congregation knows and can join in with.

Richard Spratt, who is probably a better musician

than any of us, girded his loins, laboured long and

hard and produced the goods – setting the sung parts of the Communion Liturgy to familiar hymn tunes. This has involved slightly altering some of the words but without in any way altering the sense of them.

The Group sometimes uses a book called Sing with all your Soul. Our hope is that the new settings will enable everyone at a 9am sung Communion Service to do just that.

Brian Wake.

All Saints' Services

Sunday 3 April

9am - Holy Communion
10.30am - Worship, Word & Ministry
6.30pm - Evening Service

Sunday 10 April

9am - Holy Communion
10.30am - Service of the Word
6.30pm - Evening Service

Sunday 17 April

9am - Service of the Word
10.30am - Engage
6.30pm - Vintage Holy Communion

Sunday 24 April (Easter Sunday)

9am - Holy Communion
10.30am - Holy Communion
6.30pm - Evening Service

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday

9am - Morning Prayer

Wednesday:

9.30am - Holy Communion

St. Mary's Services

Sunday 3 April

10.30am - Holy Communion

Sunday 10 April

10.30am - Service of the Word

Sunday 17 April

10.30pm - Holy Communion

Sunday 24 April

10.30am - Service of the Word

Tuesdays

10am - Tuesday at Ten

Did you know?

All of our rotas and service information are available on our websites:
www.allsaints-church.net
www.stmaryslongnewton.co.uk

Dates for your diary - April

Monday 4 April	7.30pm	All Saints' APCM & PCC
Wednesday 6 April	7.30pm	Growing Leaders, All Saints'
Thursday 7 April	7.30pm	St. Mary's Annual Meeting
Monday 18 April	6pm	Half hour service of prayer, St. Mary's
Tuesday 19 April	6pm	Half hour service of prayer, St. Mary's
Wednesday 20 April	6pm	Half hour service of prayer, St. Mary's
Thursday 21 April	7.15pm	Shared meal, prayer and worship, St. Mary's
Friday 22 April	10.30am	Good Friday Ecumenical Procession, All Saints'
Friday 22 April	2.30pm	Reading of St. Matthew's Passion, St Mary's
Friday 22 April	7pm	Matthew 1-20, All Saints'
Saturday 23 April	2pm	Matthew 21-27 & Holy Communion, All Saints'
Sunday 24 April	All Day	Jesus is Risen!

All Saints' Preston-on-Tees & St. Mary's Long Newton

Rev. John Lambert (Priest-in-Charge) Church Office (in the Centre Foyer)
The Vicarage
Quarry Road
Eaglescliffe
TS16 9BD

Open Weekdays 10am-12pm
Coffee served. Traidcraft goods
and charity cards on sale.

01642 789814
(except Tuesdays)

01642 783814



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