

INSIDE

P2 - All Saints' Vision - one year on



All Saints' Church Vision

A year on since our Vision Weekend, how are we doing? John Lambert gives us the low down.

P4 - Solar Panels - the figures so far



An update on the figures from the electricity generated by our solar panels so far.

P8 - St. Mary's Vision Weekend



A review of the vision weekend spent by members of St. Mary's in Saltburn.



Puppet pirates in Osmotherley!

All Saints' enterprising puppet team won over many new admirers when they put on a production in a North Yorkshire village last month.

The nine-member team crossed into York Diocese at the invitation of the Brown sisters, Jackie and Daphne, to entertain an impressive turn-out of around 70 adults and children in Osmotherley Parish Church on Sunday 22 May.

The 60 minute production, Voyage of Discovery featured a friendly pirate, Captain Jim, and his crew sailing the high seas in search of the "best treasure ever" – culminating in the discovery of Jesus.



Jackie and Daphne came up with the idea as a way of encouraging families from the village into their parish church, and were very encouraged by the response. Light refreshments were provided at the end and the puppet team were left in no doubt they had been popular visitors.

Jan Peters, for the puppet team, said the visit fitted it well with the group's outreach aspirations. "They invited us to go because they knew puppets would attract children and families. It was well received and everyone seemed delighted with the production."



IN BRIEF

There will be a prayer breakfast at All Saints' on Saturday 4 June at All Saints'.

Please come along between 8.30-10.30am to support our church and uplift it in prayer, and enjoy a delicious breakfast and fellowship at the same time.

All Saints' web site has been revamped following recent technical problems. It will gradually return the content previously on the site and become more of a news resource for you all. Visit the site at www.allsaints-church.net.

As we went to print this month, news came through of the appointment of The Very Revd Justin Welby to the post of Bishop of Durham. Currently Dean of Liverpool, he undertook training at Cranmer Hall during 1989-1992 and considers this "something of a homecoming." More next issue.

Further news has come through about developments at Auckland Castle - as people will know, the Bishop's ministry will continue the 800 year old tradition of being based at Auckland Castle, with the Bishop continuing to use the Chapel and retaining offices there. However, at its meeting on 14 April the Church Commissioners' Board of Governors decided that Auckland Castle would no longer be the home for future Bishops of Durham. It is hoped that it may be possible to build a new house for the Bishop and his successors in the grounds.

All Saints' Vision - one year on...

A year ago a group from All Saints' went away for a day to think about where God might be leading us as a church. Last month, a group from St. Mary's went away for two days for the same reason. I'll write about St. Mary's vision priorities next month.

All Saints' came back with a specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-framed vision. It says:

Our vision is that every household in our parish will know that we are a vibrant Christian community ready to:

- pray for them
- serve them practically
- invite them to encounter Jesus Christ.

Vision is essential because it closes the gap between where we are now and where we believe God would like us to be. Churches with vision tend to thrive with a sense of purpose and direction. Churches with no vision usually stagnate and decline.

Let me give you two recent examples that illustrate how our vision is taking shape.

1. On Election Day the other week I met an elderly couple who turned up at the church Centre mistakenly believing that All Saints' was the Polling Station. I told them that it was at Preston Primary School and, because they looked a little disoriented, I offered to walk them down. I introduced myself as the vicar and we got talking about All Saints'. Though they had never been

inside the church before that day, they knew a lot about what was happening with families, children, young people and retired folk and told me how marvellous they thought it was.

2. When I went round some of the roads on the Preston estate with the latest Community In Touch, just before Easter, about one in two residents I talked to had heard all about the solar panels project. Many told me how impressed they were that All Saints' was taking the lead and making a difference on environmental issues in our community.

Our vision is becoming reality; what God is doing amongst us is becoming known and talked about. *That's our part; to proclaim the wonders of the Lord. What happens in people's hearts as a response is in the Lord's hands, not ours.*

Springboard, which is coming up in July, will be a major step forward in the implementation of our vision. It's not just about works of service, though that is the main focus. We will be organising a prayer walk around the parish boundary too. Prayer changes things! I want to encourage you to pray and serve as much as you can to maximise the impact of Springboard for the glory of God.

Every home – vibrant Christian community – pray – serve – invite.

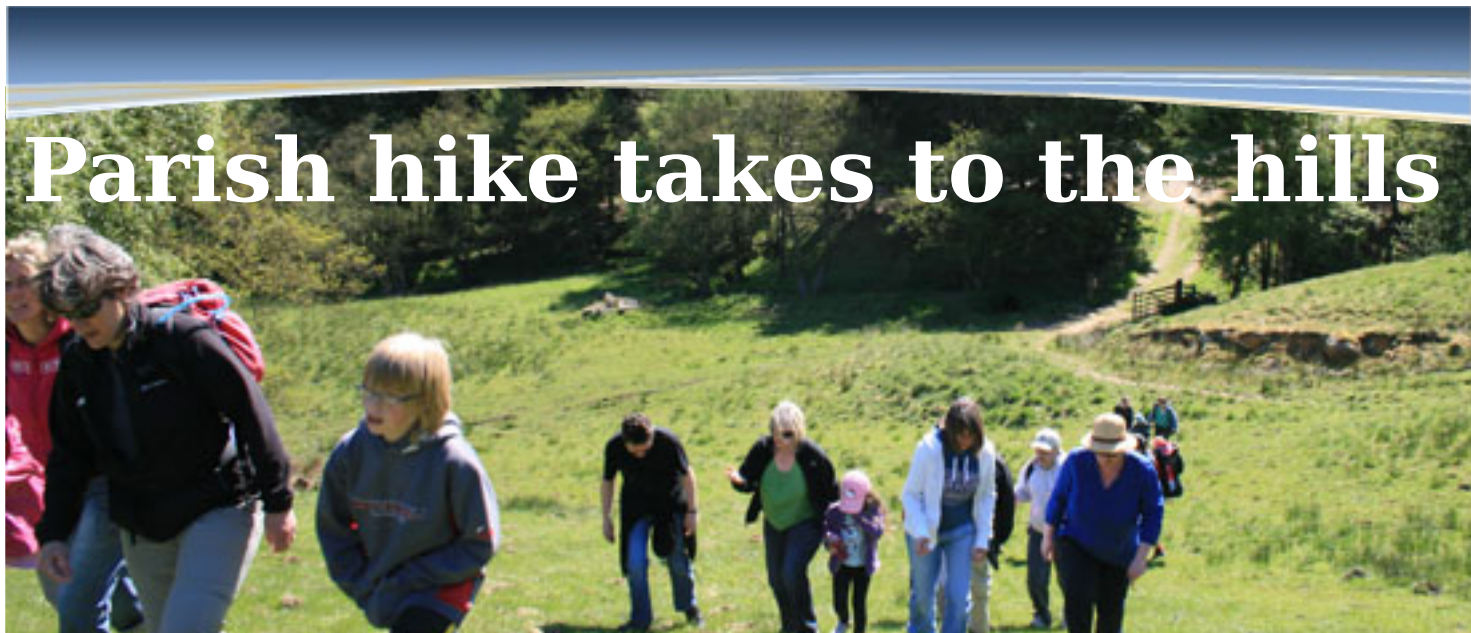
John Lambert.



Birthdays

This month's birthdays amongst our children and youth

2 June	Courtney Sheffield	Age: 12
6 June	Rhianan Anscombe	Age: 6
6 June	Cerian Bridge	Age: 17
7 June	Lauren Dixon	Age: 10
16 June	Katherine Eaglesham	Age: 11
18 June	Shannon Baines	Age: 9
19 June	Ryan Anscombe	Age: 10
19 June	Jessica Goodwin	Age: 6
25 June	Demilade Adeboye	Age: 14
25 June	Lucy Fraser	Age: 13
28 June	Olivia Clayton	Age: 10



Parish hike takes to the hills

Cherished by long-distance walkers, Lord Stones cafe nestles high on the northern escarpment of the Cleveland Hills, with the North York Moors stretching away to the south. I had occasion to visit this splendid refreshment stop early one April morning, driving through Carlton village in thick fog.

Making the approach to Lord Stones up the steep, winding road I abruptly broke cloud level to find myself driving under clear blue skies. To the north east, due to thermal inversion, the entire Tees valley lay hidden beneath a sea of fleecy cloud bathed in bright Spring sunlight.

Bitterly regretting having left the camera behind, I dropped in at Lord Stones for a welcome coffee and chat with the owner, John Simpson, who readily agreed to put some of his land at our disposal for All Saints' parish hike and fun day. This May 2 Bank Holiday event was blessed with fine weather and a splendid turn-out of church families.

With Steve Wilks filling the traffic marshal role in

impressive style everyone made it to the spacious grassed parking area. From this base, walkers formed into two groups. The larger party enjoyed a leisurely ramble by Raisdale Beck, taking a coffee break by a long-abandoned farmstead. The smaller group tackled more demanding terrain to be rewarded by fine views in the clear air.

Both groups re-united at Lord Stones to be joined by other church friends who had come along for the picnic lunch. The afternoon saw some of the walkers re-group and set out for a ramble to Chop Gate, taking in some breathtaking bluebell displays and culminating with a cream tea in the village hall.

Back at base there was enthusiastic support for an introduction to orienteering while the spacious parking area gave ample scope for either organised or informal games. Altogether, an excellent day out in superb surroundings, with thanks to everyone who contributed towards the smooth running of events.

Bill Cockcroft.



Solar electricity generation



Electricity generated last month: 1569 kWh

Carbon saved 894 kg

Understanding the figures

Kilowatt hours:
1 kilowatt hour (kWh) is one unit of metered electricity that you pay for and costs between 9p and 16p on your bill. A one bar electric fire kept on for 1 hour uses 1 kWh.

You can boil a full electric kettle around 6 times with 1kWh

Carbon saved:
Carbon dioxide gas, CO₂, is created when burning fuel like coal or petrol. It is widely believed that increases in CO₂ in the earth's atmosphere are causing changes in our climate so savings in production of this gas can help minimise climate change.

A typical car creates roughly 1kg of CO₂ when it is driven 8 km or 5 miles.

Reasons to be cheerful (Part 2)



Back in February, I wrote an article on the reasons we had to be cheerful during 2010 from a financial perspective and I thought it would be good to follow this as we look at the first half of 2011.

The PCC approved a half-year budget with a deficit of over £6,000, knowing that if the finances came in at this level by June we would have difficult decisions to make for the second half-year. Initial figures compared to this budget are as follows:

	Budget	Estimated
Congregational Giving	£65,700	£67,800
Gift Aid and Interest	£16,500	£17,900
Other Income	£6,300	£6,300
TOTAL INCOME	£88,500	£91,000
Mission Giving	£8,800	£8,800
Diocese & Deanery Payments	£38,300	£38,300
General Upkeep	£15,300	£14,200
Mission and Outreach	£32,600	£31,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£95,000	£92,300

I think you will agree that we still have reasons to be cheerful as we enter the second half of 2011. The PCC will be approving a budget for July to December in the June meeting which is likely to include an end of year deficit of a few thousand pounds. However, I can guarantee that we will work hard to increase our income and keep expenditure under budget. I would be grateful if you would continue to keep the church finances in your prayers and ask God that he would continue to bless All Saints' financially this year.

Thanks,
John Belmont.

Baby joy for the Emertons



Mirren Effie Emerton, born 18 May

Luke Emerton and wife Mim were celebrating the birth of their first child on 18 May.

Baby Mirren Effie was born weighing 9lbs 4oz. Grandparents Linda and David Emerton are naturally very proud.

Luke, formerly a regular at All Saints', now lives near Glasgow with Mim. They were married in 2009.

STOP PRESS!

**The Summer issue of In Touch will be available on 16 July.
Please send us your articles, stories and news by Sunday 10 July.**

Deanery soundings

Church representatives from across Stockton Deanery have now had an opportunity to air their views on the thorny issue of women bishops in the Church of England.

It's almost a year since General Synod in York re-affirmed, without debate, that women can and should be made bishops in the CofE.

Since then, Synod has been devising draft legislation to enable, in part, those not prepared to accept the authority of a woman bishop to remain members of the CofE.

Working papers were tabled at an open meeting of our Deanery Synod, held at St. Paul's Church in Stockton, where speakers set out the pros and cons of the issue and circulated copies of draft regulations which come before General Synod in November. This legislation is of a type that cannot be discussed again until Diocesan Synods have voted.

The Stockton Synod meeting formed part of the consultation process agreed by Durham Diocesan Synod. Deanery representatives, having

"taken the temperature" of their meeting, will be reporting back to a special meeting of Diocesan Synod set for Saturday, 24 September.

At each Diocesan Synod across the country, after presentation and debate, there will be a simple vote on the draft legislation, paving the way for women to be consecrated to the office of bishop and embodying measures which will enable those opposed to women bishops to remain members of the CofE.

If a majority of dioceses approve, final drafting could happen in General Synod in February 2012, with final approval in July 2012. The legislation would then be sent to Parliament, going first to the Ecclesiastical Committee. If "deemed expedient" it is debated in both Houses. If it is passed, it becomes the law of the land.

However, if the draft legislation does not meet the required support of the dioceses and falls, then the whole process will have to start again from the beginning, with a new motion for women bishops being put afresh on the General Synod agenda.

Bill Cockcroft.

Looking back on the Lent Lunches

Each Tuesday during Lent, a group of thirty-plus members of churches in Eaglescliffe, Egglecliffe and Yarm gathered together to share a simple lunch and follow this year's "York Course".

This year's course was entitled "Rich Inheritance – Jesus legacy of love", and the participants on the CD were Archbishop Vincent Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster in the Roman Catholic Church, Dr Paula Gooder, a writer and lecturer in Biblical Studies, Jim Wallis, author, public theologian and frequent speaker on faith and public life, Inderjit Bhogal, a leading theologian and Methodist minister and Dr. David Hope, former Archbishop of York.

We listened to each session while enjoying our lunch, and after this each table discussed a series of questions following on from the subject of that session. Questions were wide ranging, from "You meet a Buddhist who asks you to outline the story of Jesus in the Bible. Rehearse your answers now" to "Share with your group an occasion when your faith brought comfort or direction into your life, perhaps during difficult times".

We felt that as a group of Christians from different denominations we grew together during the sessions, and they were good to study alongside Tom Wright's Lent for Everyone. I would encourage anyone who is available on a Tuesday lunchtime in Lent next year to join us. My thanks go to Bryan Rushton who led the question session on behalf of All Saints' and to Jean Shelton, Pat Snaith and Linda Emerton for preparing lunch on the week that it was our turn to do so.

Bruce Merrick.

Spring cleaning the church

Nine o'clock on a Saturday morning and out come the dusters, buckets and mops. Despite the early hour there was a good turnout of people ready to make the church and centre shine.

Teams of people set out tidying, dusting, hoovering, polishing and scrubbing the whole of the church site, directed by Karen Killick. More people joined in over the course of the morning, and there was time for homemade cake, coffee and a chat too. The inside of the church wasn't the only area to benefit. Outside, Jeremy Atkinson weeded and tidied up the exterior of the church. Inside the day continued with steam cleaning some of the centre chairs, tidying the music group area and other parts of the main church which had accumulated an amazing amount of dust! There was definitely a sense of satisfaction seeing the church and centre tidy and clean.

Overall, it was a very successful day. Many thanks to those who came and gave up their time to serve the Church. Who said cleaning wasn't fun!

If anyone missed the cleaning day or enjoyed it so much they can't wait to do it again, five or six volunteers are needed to help tidy and sort the church garage. Coffee and homemade cake is promised to those who can help on Friday 24 June! If you are free, please speak to Karen Killick.

Volunteer shortage hits some Guide units

Girlguiding in the Eaglescliffe area has some units struggling because of a shortage of volunteer helpers.

More than 100 girls across Stockton borough are on waiting lists to join Rainbows, Brownies and Guides, and recently one Brownie unit was forced to close. This left only four units to cater for all the seven to 10-year-olds keen to join Guiding in the Eaglescliffe area, and led to an appeal in the local press for volunteers to give a helping hand.

Happily, our own 1st Eaglescliffe Rainbows and Brownies unit is thriving, and Christine Brooks, Rainbow/Brownie leader and Girlguiding Cleveland County Commissioner, has filed this update on an action-packed programme of activities:-

1st Eaglescliffe Rainbows and Brownies continue with their action-packed programme of activities. In the spring term the Brownies enjoyed a visit to the Planetarium where they all completed their Stargazer badge. Both Rainbows and Brownies learned about their counterparts in Mexico, taking part in Division collage and model competitions where the Rainbows won their category. They joined with Guiding members from all over Cleveland for a special Thinking Day event to try out a variety of international dance and music workshops including salsa, bellydancing and drumming before reflecting on last year's Centenary year and looking forward to the future.

Our first meeting of this term was a Royal Wedding party for both units. Girls came in red, white and blue, played games on a 'Royal' theme and, of course, enjoyed party food. At the moment both units are busy working on challenges connected to the number 40 as the County Holiday House at Egton is celebrating its fortieth birthday this year.



Girls enjoying the Royal Wedding Party at our Centre

Activities so far have included activities in the dark for 40 minutes, tasting 40 different foods and Keep Fit for 40 minutes. Some girls enjoyed the special 40th Birthday Celebration with activities, cake cutting and a campfire at the property earlier this month.

Future events this term include a visit to Teesmouth Nature Reserve for both units. Brownies are taking part in the County Saxon Surprise event at Kirkleatham Hall where they will dress up as princesses. A Brownie camp under canvas and a holiday at Egton are also on the agenda.

If anyone is interested in finding out more about our activities, has a daughter who is interested in joining or would be interested in volunteering with a Guiding unit, either in the local area or in Cleveland County in general, please contact Christine Brooks, Rainbow/ Brownie Leader and Girlguiding Cleveland County Commissioner, on 01642 760737 e-mail: christine@barwickaccounting.co.uk.



**Now wash
your hands**

Vintage Worship

A new event has been taking place once a month during the 6.30pm service at All Saints' which gives the chance to be completely open in worship and your experience with God.

Vintage is led by worship leader Dave Benjamin, who heads up the worship group alongside Debbie Hird.

No structure is planned to the service, which often sees the church darkened with spaces for prayer, reflection, or worshipping. The band will lead us through a number of songs, with instrumentals and quieter periods that give space for people to share a message from scripture, a word from God, or to simply sit and reflect.

The next Vintage Worship will be on Sunday 5 June, and generally occurs once a month. It is highly recommended as a way to prepare yourself for the coming week in God's presence.



Are you a round peg in a square hole?

You're probably very familiar with the phrase 'round

peg in a square hole' - where something or someone is perhaps not ideally suited to a position or situation. During May's PCC meeting, God reminded us of the relevance of this in our life at All Saints'.

A church as busy and varied as All Saints' relies on so many volunteers to fulfil so many important roles, be it serving coffee after a service, leading prayer intercessions, or helping lead the youth. However, we often forget that peoples' ministries and the roles they're called to change over time; it often becomes the case that people serve in a role much longer than they feel they should, but feel unable to stop for fear of leaving the job undone or upsetting others. Volunteering for something should not mean a life sentence.

The picture God gave reminded us that a church will thrive on its members being dedicated and full of fresh enthusiasm. If someone feels stuck in a rut or lacks enthusiasm, they are not going to give their best work to God. Therefore, it is ok to move on when you feel the time is right.

Having recently taken on a new role myself, I feel

as Churchwarden that it is time to encourage the leaders within All Saints' and all the people who serve in groups and roles. Make sure you are in the role you are feeling God is calling you to, and in which you can serve most enthusiastically and effectively.

Maybe you want to stay in your current role, but it's time to re-commit and look for a fresh perspective going forward.

If you don't currently volunteer for any role, please don't think you're not wanted or needed. There are many to be fulfilled and lots of grateful leaders who could use your help. Keep an eye out for the areas you feel called to, and take the opportunity to bless our church and community. If you're unsure of the commitment, perhaps you could consider volunteering for a fixed period, say a year, to start with.

The most important thing is to ensure you are not a round peg in a square hole.

Over the coming issues of In Touch, we will be running a 'Situations Vacant' column, which is a chance for us to advertise roles which are desperate for volunteers. If you are a leader who would like volunteers for your group, please let us know.

Matt Falcus.

Situations Vacant

Sound Volunteers Wanted

With a commitment of one service per month - preferably 10.30 - you will operate the sound desk during the service. Must be able to handle a slider!

Training offered to willing participants. See any worship leader or sound desk operator to apply.

Tool Box? Apply Within

We need people who are handy with their tools to be on hand for general DIY jobs around the church. If you can fix a door or plaster a hole, you're in!

See a Church Warden or Sandra to apply.

Make a joyful noise!

Do you have a musical gift or a good singing voice? All three services at All Saints' would love more people capable of joining the band and leading in worship.

See Deb Hird or Dave Benjamin for more information.



ST MARY'S
LONG NEWTON



St. Mary's members share vision during weekend retreat

The weekend of 14 and 15 May, St Mary's Vision Weekend – it had been in the diary for months and as it drew near some of the participants admit that they were not altogether looking forward to it. You don't know what to expect, or what's expected of you, and that's an uncomfortable feeling. Mark admitted that he had been looking ahead to the weekend "with trepidation" but by end this feeling had changed to "excitement".

In fact, as soon as we all arrived at Brockley Hall in Saltburn (to be welcomed with our first of many cups of coffee and tea) there was an atmosphere of relaxation and eager anticipation. Our first session was one of worship led by Dee Palmer-Jones, in the style of Godzone, the school and community service which has been so successful in Long Newton. Kath Snowdon, who has never been able to experience this mid-week service for herself, described it as "a lovely service. Now we can understand why the children love coming."



Next, Susie took us back in time to consider where we had come from as a church – always a good starting point if you are looking for inspiration for the future! There was great interest in the video

compilation of interviews made by Lorna Tippett where virtually all the congregation – those who were at Saltburn and those who weren't – expressed their personal thoughts about St Mary's and suggested changes they would like to see.

Happily the descriptions were positive, and several people struggled to find anything they'd like to alter apart from the noisy heating.

After a "light" lunch and a time for getting to know one another better, John Lambert led a session entitled "Mind the Gap" where we worked together to identify the tasks needed to take us from where we are as a church community to where God wants us to be. A very positive factor of the weekend was how all the 20-odd participants contributed to the discussions, as Kathy Beaumont described it, "with openness and honesty" thus enabling the group to develop and grow.

What would a weekend away be without free time? It was Cup Final day after all, and sports fans might have had concentration difficulties if we'd continued "working" throughout the afternoon. Others found plenty of distractions in Saltburn: a wonderful art gallery, great walks through the Valley Gardens with their carpet of wild garlic, or along the beach and the length of the Victorian pier hanging on for dear life in the blustery wind, or just enjoying one of the welcoming cafes.

The final session of the day was led by Dee - a brainstorming exercise to list all the possible changes which would benefit the worship, fellowship and outreach at St Mary's. Again, there was very enthusiastic participation. Some ideas came as a surprise and some with sharp intakes of breath, but it was understood that certain compromises would have to be made.

After dinner there was a very challenging quiz, set by Edie Bainbridge, which John Lambert's team won, followed by our second time of worship. We used the office of Compline, a simple, traditional service for the end of the day.

Continues on next page...



In the morning we enjoyed an excellent breakfast: "The best kipper I've had for a long time" Brian was heard to say. Following this, John Taylor led a session in which he asked us to focus on identifying four or five priority tasks to work on, which would move St. Mary's nearer to the church God wants it to be. We finally agreed:

- To build up our corporate prayer life
- To grow our work with children and families
- To communicate who we are and what we do to the village, reaching out to all ages
- To build up our people (including leaders) by training and development
- To continue to develop quality worship

These inspiring and challenging aims agreed, we had completed the work for the Vision Weekend. We broke for a surprise birthday cake, before our communion service. A little bird had whispered to organiser Chris Burnell that it was Julie Nile's special day, so we celebrated and another step was taken in strengthening bonds of fellowship. Kath Snowdon spoke for us all, I am sure, when she said how good it was to have the Sunday "day visitors" Lorna and



Joan, Antonia and Lili join us for the final sessions.



About 25 people in all were at Brockley Hall at some stage of the weekend. But significantly, because of Lorna's video, the whole congregation had had the opportunity to contribute, which meant it was a shared vision which emerged. As Janet Russell said, there was a "remarkable clarity in the message which God was sending to us". We have identified what is important for the future, and now we need to start work on making the vision a reality. Many thanks to all the organisers and leaders for their planning and arrangements which made everything run so smoothly. Final words go to Chris Burnell to sum up the general feeling, "I left with a sense of achievement and fulfilment. I am certainly going to sign up for the next one".

Deirdre Shaw.

MUSIC IN WORSHIP



The Royal School of Church Music, of which All Saints' is a member, exists to promote just that... Music in Worship. June 26 is the Sunday designated by the RSCM as Music Sunday. So Music in Worship is the theme of the rather special choral Service of the Word at St. Mary's on that Sunday.

In that service we will be exploring how music can enhance our worship, whether the worship is prayerful, contemplative, thankful, adoring or praising. There will be lots of singing, by both congregation and choir, and perhaps even a trumpet or two!

Brian Wake.

All Saints' Services

Sunday 5 June

9am - Holy Communion
10.30am - Worship, Word & Ministry
6.30pm - Vintage Worship Night

Sunday 12 June

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

Sunday 19 June

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

Sunday 26 June

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

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday

9am - Morning Prayer

Wednesday:

9.30am - Holy Communion

St. Mary's Services

Thursday 2 June

7.30pm - Ascension Day Holy Communion

Sunday 5 June

10.30am - Holy Communion

Sunday 12 June

10.30am - Communion with Baptism

Sunday 19 June

10.30pm - Holy Communion by Extension

Sunday 26 June

10.30am - Choral 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 - June

Saturday 4 June	8.30am	Prayer Breakfast, All Saints'
Monday 6 June	7.30pm	All Saints' Standing Committee
Thursday 9 June	7.30pm	St. Mary's MDT (extra meeting)
Monday 13 June	7.30pm	All Saints' MDT
Tuesday 14 June	11.30am	Tuesday Lunch Club, All Saints'
Wednesday 15 June	11.30am	Big Ted, All Saints'
Wednesday 15 June	7.30pm	Growing Leaders
Monday 20 June	7.30pm	All Saints' PCC
Monday 27 June	7.30pm	Home Group Leaders Meeting
Tuesday 28 June		Home and Away
Wednesday 29 June		Home and Away
Wednesday 29 June	7.30pm	Growing Leaders Taster Evening, All Saints'

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
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