InTouch

Your Parish News
May 2011

Fraught end to holiday for procession organiser

Organiser Bruce Merrick had to move quickly when illness put him out of action on the eve of the local Good Friday procession of witness from All Saints'.

Half-way through a two-week Spring break with Janet in the Caribbean, Bruce's ongoing bronchial condition deteriorated, possibly as a result of a local infection. The couple completed the return flight from Costa Rica on 21 April, by which time Bruce was almost voiceless.

Back home, with the Good Friday event less than 24 hours away, Bruce sent out a flurry of emails to local clergy and lay members to ensure eleventh hour adjustments to the planned schedule were safely in place.

In the event, and with the promise of another fine and warm morning ahead, everything went smoothly. As Bruce went in search of emergency medical advice, John Doherty led worship outside All Saints' to get the procession under way. Geoff Mankin stepped in as cross bearer, a role often filled by Bruce in recent years.

For this inter-denominational act of Christian witness - supported by churches across the Eaglescliffe-Yarm area - stops were made at two local shopping precincts and at Egglescliffe Cenotaph. Numbers had grown significantly by the time the procession moved into Yarm for the closing service outside the Town Hall.

At each point passages were read from Matthew's Gospel covering the period from Jesus' trial to his crucifixion, the clergy taking part being Father Patrick Hartnett, from St. Mary and St. Romuald RC Church in Yarm, Canon Tim Ollier, Rector of St. John's CE Church, Egglescliffe, and Rev. Moira Peters. Methodist Minister for Yarm and Eaglescliffe, together with Avril Rhodes, Reader at St. Mary Magdalene Church in Yarm.

Bill Cockcroft.

INSIDE

P5 - Test driving the Energy Group

An event held by the Energy Group saw visitors taking a test drive in a hybrid car whilst learning how well our solar panels are performing.

P6 - Community In Touch released

The second issue of our colour Community In Touch has been delivered throughout the parish.

P7 - St. Mary's GodZone

The success of the new service for children from St. Mary's school has a great response.

IN BRIEF

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.

Do you receive In Touch as a hard copy? Please consider switching to the e-mail version to save our resources. The e-mail version is full-colour, and you can always print it off if you don't like reading it on the screen. Simply e-mail us at: **newsarticles.allsaints@gmail.com** if you'd like to switch.

We are currently looking for some extra people to operate the sound desk, particularly during the 10.30am service. If it's something you're new to, training can be arranged. The commitment would be one service per month if we get enough volunteers. See Matt Falcus or a worship leader for more information.

Spring is here and volunteers are needed for cutting the grass at All Saints'. Please let Sandra know if you are able and willing to help with cutting the lawns.

Mary Thompson Fund: please keep up your generosity by filling the boxes at the back of church as often as you can.

Our Pastoral Care Team are available on 07892 870670 on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Sundays. Pastoral Care drop-in is on Monday and Tuesday mornings in the Centre.

How Peter shows us the way

I have been reading the accounts of the appearances of Jesus after the resurrection. John, in his gospel, provides many convincing stories.

In one appearance Jesus speaks directly to Peter. You will remember that Peter had told Jesus he was prepared to die with him; however as Jesus had predicted Peter denied him three times. In John 21 on the shores of the sea of Galilee Jesus asks Peter three times 'Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?' 'Yes Lord, you know I love you' he replied. Jesus charged Peter to 'feed my lambs', take care of my sheep, then 'feed my sheep.'

Three times, in his fear, Peter's love for Jesus had failed, now Jesus gives Peter the opportunity to once again affirm his love for his friend. Not only was he allowing Peter to make amends but he was also showing him that love is so much more than words or feelings; it is courageous and serving action.

Later on, in 2 Peter 1, the very courageous and servant-hearted Peter pleads with us to get to know Jesus better, so that his divine power will give us everything we need to live a godly life (v 3). In verse 5 he encourages us to make every effort to apply the benefits of God's promises to our lives. He goes on 'then your faith will produce a life of moral excellence', which leads to knowing God better which in turn leads to self control. Self control leads to patience and patience to godliness and godliness leads to love for others. Peter encourages us to grow in love for everyone so that we can become more productive and useful in our knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.

All of this from the man who denied Jesus and who was then charged with looking after Jesus' lambs. Peter's earlier bold promises had wilted in the face of fear, and who among us can say we would have done otherwise? But Jesus challenged him to make his love concrete by serving others and Peter did not let him down a second time.

Jesus taught Peter that love for God is expressed most powerfully in committed, courageous and obedient service. If today Jesus asked you 'do you love me?' how would you answer?

Sylvia Wilson.

Birthdays

This month's birthdays amongst our children and youth

5 May	Caleb Seed	Age: 11
7 May	Mia Clayton	Age: 7
15 May	Tonnika Wilkinson	Age: 13
17 May	Samuel Falcus	Age: 7
26 May	Alice Griffiths	Age: 17
27 May	Hannah Dodsworth	Age: 18

We hope you all have a fantastic day!

Churchwarden Matt our youngest ever?

All Saints' annual elections on April 4 produced what is believed to be our youngest ever Churchwarden.

At 30, In Touch editor Matt Falcus takes over from Bruce Merrick who has stepped down after three very busy years.

An active member of All Saints' Young Adults' group, Matt can almost certainly lay claim to another All Saints' 'first' at officer level: he is the holder of a private pilot's licence!

On the new Parochial Church Council he will be serving alongside his mother-in-law, Karen Killick, who was elected churchwarden for a second year. And to complete a singular family contribution to church administration, Matt's wife, Lucy (nee Killick), the daughter of Andrew and Karen, stays on PCC by virtue of her election to Stockton Deanery Synod.

Completing the new PCC membership are the other three Deanery Synod representatives: Gill Clayton, Bruce Merrick and Margaret Vaughan; Janet Atkinson from Diocesan Synod, and nine elected lay members: Karen Bates, John Belmont, John Doherty, Mark Harrison, Sue Jennings, John Littlehailes, Pamela Rushton, Kevin Sexton and Wendy Sheffield.

New warden, Matt Falcus

Immediately after the APCM the new PCC met to elect the following officers for 2011: Chair, John Lambert; vice-chair, John Littlehailes; secretary, Margaret Vaughan; treasurer, John Belmont; electoral roll officer and recorded, Gill Wake; Gift Aid Secretary, Jon Bates.

Bill Cockcroft.

All Saints' Website Update

We've experienced a number of ongoing problems and security breaches with our website over the past month. This led to the existing site being removed.

As a temporary measure, we have a basic website at the same address which has contact details for the church, and the current set of rotas for each service.

The website address is www.allsaints-church.net
A new site is in development which will remedy the security problems, and give the whole look and functionality of the site a makeover.

WILL ... it be possible to make sense of this??

The point at which you start to pay Inheritance Tax is £325,000. When someone dies, the first £325,000 of their Estate is inherited tax-free. Anything over that amount is subject to 40% tax.

There are some ways of reducing the amount of Inheritance Tax, but most of these are complicated and are probably too difficult to explain in this article.

In the 2011 Budget, the Government made some changes to the Inheritance Tax laws in order to encourage people to give some of their Estate to charity. If you leave 10% (or more) of your net Estate to charity, you are rewarded with a 10% reduction on your Inheritance Tax rate.

Sounds good? Too good to be true?!!

The two examples below show firstly a person who gives nothing away to charity, and secondly a person who leaves 10% of their net Estate to a charity (say All Saints' Church!).

Example 1:	
Total Net Value of Estate:	£500,000
Amount subject to Tax:	£175,000
Tax at 40%:	£70,000
Final Inheritance:	**£430,000**

Example 2:	
Total Net Value of Estate:	£500,000
10% left to All Saints' Church	£50,000
Amount subject to Tax:	£125,000
Tax at 36%:	£45,000
Final Inheritance:	**£405,000**

Let me be honest here. The only real winner here is All Saints' Church! Taking a closer look at the numbers above, however, you can see that in Example 2, £50,000 has been donated at an effective cost of only £25,000!!

If the person in Example 1 decided to give away 10% of their inheritance, they would give £43,000 away and therefore only actually receive £387,000 for themselves. The person in Example 2 has ended up being £18,000 better off having given more money away!!

If you want to speak to me about this further I would be more than happy to give advice.
John Belmont.

Moorland haunt of Victorian tea trader

Now and again, fell walkers come across tales of the unexpected. All Saints' walkers unearthed one while exploring part of the North Pennines near Alston in March.

Pausing for a breather after an uphill stretch, one of the group spotted a toppled signpost at a footpath junction. What was distinctive about this post was a small directional plaque for "Isaac's Tea Trail." All Saints' walkers - well familiar with their Biblical Isaac - were intrigued. Who was this Isaac and what, historically, had been his involvement with tea in this remote area of the Pennines?

Later, all became clear when Bryan Moss, one of our walk leaders, did a search on the internet. Isaac's Tea Trail, it transpired, is named after an itinerant tea seller and fund raiser called Isaac Holden. Isaac's career began as a lead miner. When his health deteriorated and earnings from the mines fell, he was forced to find another livelihood. In the dramatic ups and downs in Victorian life, his Scottish-born cousin (another Isaac), invented and developed looms for the woollen industry.

Isaac Holden and Sons made a fortune and created the Holden dynasty. Their factories in Bradford processed the wool from eight million sheep, with further production at St. Denis in Paris as well as the highly profitable outlet at Roubaix in North-East France

The 36-mile Tea Trail is a circular walk starting in Allendale at Isaac's Well then climbing over to Nenthead and Alston before returning via Ninebanks, and has been described in the Independent Newspaper as "one of the last great undiscovered wilderness treks in England."

Our 14 walkers thoroughly enjoyed this return visit to Mark Close Farmhouse, a self-catering property splendidly located a mile north of Alston. The three-night break was blessed with excellent weather for late March, Saturday being set aside for group walks in the South Tyne Valley. On the Sunday morning we joined local celebrants at Holy Communion in Alston St. Augustine Church, before tackling an attractive walk in the lower Nent Valley, incorporating part of Isaac's Tea Trail.

Once again the group is hugely indebted to Pemma Littlehailes for her meticulous planning and for excellent back-up support at the catering and walks' organisation levels.

Bill Cockcroft.

Skeil short hello

A letter on Palm Sunday from our mission partners Hugh and Debbie Skeil comes on the verge of their return to the UK.

The auction of their house in Newcastle took place on 18 April, and their hope was that it would raise enough money to allow them to purchase a place to live when they return on 24 May.

Whilst their visit is initially for practical reasons - to visit fellow Christian Mission Society colleagues, friends and supporters around the country, and to attend a retreat - they will then begin praying and discerning what steps to take next.

The pair are grateful to have received enough financial support through CMS for the year. However, they ask for our prayers for the future, and their time back in the UK.

Support 'sanctuary seekers'

"The word 'asylum seeker' has, in some sections of the tabloid press, become a term of abuse. Sadly, it has created a perception in the minds of the public that someone who is fleeing persecution and exercising their right to claim asylum under international law is somehow illegal and intent on gaining economic advantage by deception."

This is a quotation from the Mary Thompson Fund Spring Newsletter. They go on to report that the International Asylum Commission, after a public survey, is suggesting that the phrase 'sanctuary seeker' is less hostile and better reflects the situation of those needing protection. A sanctuary was originally a Church, or other place of refuge. Unlike Durham Cathedral, we do not have a Sanctuary Knocker on the door of All Saints', but we have for some time been collecting items for MTF who provide a bag of basic food every week to each of their destitute clients – seekers of sanctuary from persecution in their own countries. MTF say: "As you know, the cost of food has soared recently, so any help with our bag contents is welcome". We would like All Saints' to help more effectively. The basic items that go into the bags are tins of fish, tomatoes or chickpeas, followed by tea, coffee and sugar. If you feel you could commit to a regular gift of one or more of these items, weekly or monthly, please sign up on the list behind Sandra's desk, or get in touch with Bruce (657121) or Jeremy (782292).

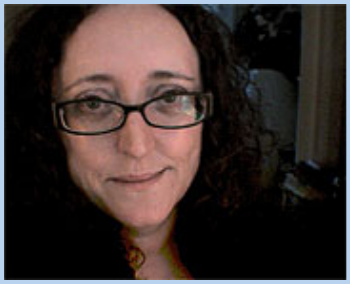
Jeremy Atkinson.

A testimony to God's faithfulness

I have been a Christian for 11 years and the last three years have been a real challenge to my faith. I have had recurring depression for about ten years; sometimes stable and other times quite debilitating.

One of my biggest challenges came in the summer of 2010, when I was told that my home would be repossessed if I did not sell it within six months. In human terms, for a single mother with two children, that is not what you want to hear. I was fortunate, though; I had someone bigger than any of my issues on my side and that was God.

With help from many lovely people at All Saints' Church, I started the long road to selling my property and clearing and packing my home. When I had moments of real stress God walked with me; He did amazing things. When I actually found my new home and it was time to move, I was so calm and moved with no drama at all. 'Wow', I thought, 'Life is changing for the better, thank you Lord!'



The trials of life can be hard but if we put our trust in The Lord and leave our concerns and worries at the foot of the cross then we can achieve so much in Him.

I now am out of debt, I rent a beautiful home and I am beginning to feel better than I have in a very long time. I truly believe that God is healing me. The process has started and I am excited at what the future holds, with God at the helm.

In good times and bad, I have found from experience that if you praise God and thank Him for everything He is doing in your life, then things start to change. Keep your eyes fixed on Him, amazing things happen!

Psalm 62 v 1 – 2
'My soul finds rest in God alone, my salvation comes from Him. He alone is my rock and my salvation; He is my fortress, I shall never be shaken.'

Gill Ollet

Test driving the Energy Group

All Saints' Energy Group (Community Action for Energy Eaglescliffe) organised an open day on 20 April to show off our solar electricity installation and to demonstrate the incredible mileage from electric and hybrid cars.

We had visitors from other community centres and churches who might like to do something similar, as well as the support of RMB Toyota to show visitors how economical their hybrid cars are. Stockton Council also sent their plug-in electric car.

Visitors were invited to take a test drive around a 3 ¾ mile route in a Prius or an Auris to see how economically they could drive. John Lambert took this very seriously and went on to come second with 72.5 mpg equivalent. Melanie from the council, who counts as semi-professional because she is used to driving an electric car, only beat him by a narrow margin.

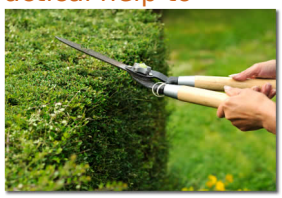
Dave Bunford after his test drive

Our solar panels aroused a lot of interest from visitors, many of whom are considering something similar either on their homes, schools or churches. We were able to give some interesting facts to them, especially since our installation is now three months old and has saved us £75 from our electricity bill and earned around £310 from electricity sold back to the Grid. The good publicity it has earned our church and churches in general has been of enormous value.
John Doherty.

Springboard Project

Springboard is a 'Big Society' idea from All Saints' and is part of our four-year vision to reach out to our community over a two week period this summer.

It is an opportunity for members of All Saints' to offer practical help to those in the parish who need it. This could be through help around the house, DIY work, gardening, giving lifts to appointments or to visit family,or doing some shopping.



The project will take place over a two week period between 11-23 July. We have already set things in motion by announcing the project in the Easter issue of the colour Community In Touch which went out to every house in the parish. People were encouraged to ask for a particular need by contacting the church office, or by sending in a simple tear off slip.

In order to make this project work and to show the residents of our parish how much we care for them, we will need volunteers to sign up and be ready to give some time.

Sandra will be collating names and details of what you could help out with, and what times you'd be available, ready to match them up with requests we have from people. Please consider offering some time to give to people who may really need some help.

Past and Present Youth Workers Working Together

In September 2010 I was given funding to run a project called 'Raising Up Young Female Leaders Across the Tees Valley'. The first step of this project has been running a course called Growing Leaders (Youth Edition).

The course was opened up to girls around the Tees Valley who have shown signs of being a leader in their church, community, school life etc. We have seen girls from All Saints', Norton, The Tab, and TVCC during the time the course has been running, which has been very encouraging. It is a fantastic opportunity for young Christian girls to come together with other girls their age and grow in their faith and relationship with God together, and seek His plan for their lives. The girls are being encouraged to think about areas where God may be calling them to leadership, and then look at how to be a leader and what comes with that. I have already had girls talk to me about running radio shows, preaching in church, organising events and much more, so I really believe that God is working in them through this ministry.

May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Romans 15:5.

One of the most encouraging aspects of this project comes through bringing so many people together. I have been fortunate to meet so many amazing female youth workers and other people who are passionate about girls ministry from across Stockton. It has encouraged us to work together more, share ideas and resources, come together with our young people and to support each other. In November I was able to organise a networking event for anyone that had a passion for working with girls in ministry. It was a great night of connecting with other people and hearing of the great work that is going on in the Tees Valley. I long to see more of this happening – God's people coming together, from all around the Tees Valley, with one heart to see God's Kingdom grow in our communities.

One of the most recent developments of this project is that I am able to work more closely with Amy Burns. Amy was the Youth Worker at All Saints' between September 2003 and December 2006. She was my Youth Worker when I was a young person, and now I am blessed to be able to work alongside her. Amy runs a ministry called G:em (Girls Empowered). G:em longs to see young girls equipped and encouraged to be young women of God – this is done through a series of events which are run especially for girls in the Tees Valley. I am fortunate to be on the G:em leadership team, and through this work together, and our own friendship, we were able to discuss the idea of working together more closely, which has resulted in Amy agreeing to come and co-lead the Growing Leaders Course with me. She is an inspirational leader and a phenomenal teacher, and I therefore think it is an amazing step forward.

As G:em and Growing Leaders are able to work in conjunction with each other, girls from the course will be given opportunities to grow in leadership in the various events G:em runs – we would love to see them leading events, organising events, leading worship, preaching – released into the calling that God has placed upon their lives.

If you would like to know more about G:em, or the project to raise up young female leaders I'd love to talk to you about it. We would also really appreciate your support in prayer – that more girls in our area would be equipped and empowered to do the work that God has planned for their lives. We are holding another networking event on 11 July which will be an information evening about all of the girls ministry that is happening in the Tees Valley – we would love to see you there. More details to follow.

Kathryn Belmont.

Second Community In Touch sent out at Easter

The second issue of our special colour Community In Touch has been delivered in time for Easter, detailing a range of the great things happening at All Saints' over the holiday period and early Summer.

As part of All Saints' four-year vision we feel it is important to take every opportunity to promote the church to those who live around us. Therefore, like the previous issue in December, we have sent this issue to all 1270 houses in the parish.

This issue covered the official launch of the solar panels, and CONNECT activities such as seated exercise classes, Tuesday Lunch Club and Home and Away event. It gave advanced notice of the Journeys Course, and of course advertised the Easter services happening at All Saints'. We also had space to mention Toddlers, the Real Easter Egg, and to mention the Springboard Project, offering people the chance to sign up for help from one of our church members (see separate article on this).

ST MARY'S
LONG NEWTON

St. Mary's School and Community Service - GodZone

In February 2010 a small group of six members of St. Mary's congregation, including Susie Green, the curate, met to plan a service for the children from St. Mary's School, to be held in church and open to the community.

We had already visited St. Luke's Church in Hartlepool, to experience their Sunday afternoon family service, which gave us lots of ideas.
We knew we wanted the service to be active, fun and one that would support the school in developing the children's spiritual lives. The school had suggested that the service should be held towards the end of the school day, so that parents and carers could pick up the children from the church, or join us for the service.

We decided that we would start with a short service of praise, prayer and a talk, and then the children would be free to explore the zones set up around the church. These were the Prayer zone, where prayers could be written, or candles lit and a prayer said; Giving zone, which had a display about the various causes the church supports; Blessing zone, where children could ask for a blessing from Susie, Praise zone, led by Debbie Hird, where children could experience praise in a variety of creative ways; Belonging zone, where children looked up the meaning of their names, and added a small figure representing themselves to the belonging tree which remains in church, Learning zones (2) in which activities were offered, (making bookmarks, a quiz about the church, making and decorating faith boxes etc.), Baby zone, an activity area for babies and toddlers, and Sorry zone, where children could say sorry for things they had done.

The first service was held on 3 March 2010, and we were overwhelmed with the response: the church was packed with children and adults, and the feedback was very positive. The children responded with great interest and sensitivity, and all the zones were well used. We continued to run a service each term, keeping the zones the same, but changing the activities in the learning and praise zones, to suit the theme of the service. In the May service we

added the Creation zone, where the children planted up pots of seeds to take home.

We noticed that at each consecutive service the numbers of children who used the prayer zone and the blessing zone increased, and there was a real sense of excitement before each service began. In spring this year Mr Moorfoot asked if the service could be more frequent, and we have planned to have a service each half term between now and December 2011, then review the frequency again. On the 14 March 125 adults and children were present at a service jointly planned and led by members of the church and the school staff on the theme of "Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth and the life". The children had made musical instruments which were used to great effect in the final song, and many went out with the paper daffodils they made in the learning zone. Several had been out in the village with cameras taking images of signs of new life. It was a very happy and joyful occasion, and everyone involved in the service feels privileged to witness the deepening of faith and worship in the young people.

Dates of future services:

Wednesday	18 May, 2.30pm
Wednesday	13 July, 2.30pm
Monday	3 October, 2.30pm

Dee Palmer-Jones.

STOP PRESS!

The May issue of In Touch will be available on 4 June.
Please send us your articles, stories and news by Sunday 29 May.

All Saints' Services

Sunday 1 May
9am - Holy Communion
10.30am - Worship, Word & Ministry
6.30pm - Worship, Word & Ministry

Sunday 8 May
9am - Holy Communion
10.30am - Service of the Word
6.30pm - Vintage Worship Night

Sunday 15 May
9am - Service of the Word
10.30am - Engage
6.30pm - Holy Communion

Sunday 22 May
9am - Holy Communion
10.30am - Service of the Word & Baptism
6.30pm - Worship, Word & Ministry

Sunday 29 May
9am - Holy Communion
10.30am - Holy Communion
6.30pm - Joint service at Stockton Parish Church

St. Mary's Services

Sunday 1 May
10.30am - Service of the Word

Sunday 8 May
10.30am - Service of the Word

Sunday 15 May
10.30pm - Weekend away. at Saltburn No service at St. Mary's.

Sunday 22 May
10.30am - Service of the Word

Sunday 29 May
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 - May

Monday 2 May	7.30pm	All Saints' Standing Committee
Thursday 5 May	7.30pm	St. Mary's MDT
Thursday 5 May	7.30pm	Journeys Course, All Saints'
Monday 9 May	7.30pm	All Saints' PCC
Tuesday 10 May	11.30am	Tuesday Lunch Club, All Saints'
Wednesday 11 May	7.30pm	Journeys Course, All Saints'
Monday 16 May	7.30pm	All Saints' MDT
Wednesday 18 May	7.30pm	Growing Leaders, All Saints'
Thursday 19 May	11.45am	Big Ted
Thursday 19 May	7.30pm	St. Mary's PCC
Wednesday 25 May	7.30pm	Journeys Course, All Saints'

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

Rev. John Lambert (Priest-in-Charge)
The Vicarage
Quarry Road
Eaglescliffe
TS16 9BD

01642 789814
(except Tuesdays)

Church Office (in the Centre Foyer)

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

01642 783814

Please send your news, comments etc. to **newsarticles.allsaints@gmail.com**
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